



Year Three attended a chromatography workshop at the Head of Steam Museum. Some of us were really lucky and got to look around the museum before it even opened, which was an added bonus of the day! Then it was time to get our lab coats on because we were going to work as forensic scientists to solve a mystery. The museum had discovered a suitcase in its archives and it was Year Three's job to work out who it belonged to. We were given a list of potential owners and some information about their lives, including their jobs and where they lived.

We used magnifying glasses to examine insects that had been found in the case. We identified and classified the insects and studied their habitats to see which suspect might have been in contact with them. This helped us to rule out some of the people on our list, because their jobs or home lives wouldn't have put them in contact with these insects.

Then we carried out a chromatography experiment. We used water to separate ink and reduce it to its original colours. This helped us to narrow down the potential owners of the suitcase further to just three people.

Finally, we examined finger prints to see who had been handling the case. We had to examine the finger prints of the potential owners and match them up to prints found on the suitcase. At last, we identified the owner! We also got to examine our own finger prints using ink and magnifying glasses. We were able to tell whether our finger prints were loops, arches or whorls.

We had a really exciting morning and the experience has encouraged some of us to think about whether we might like to pursue a career in science as adults!

