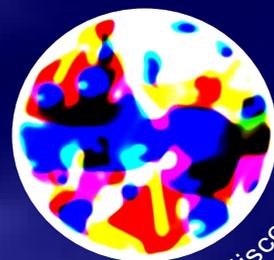


introducing catalyst



catalyst science discovery centre

Catalyst, located in Widnes, Cheshire offers a unique interactive experience linked directly to the National Curriculum. It is the only museum in Europe which explores the science and technology behind the chemical industry and its impact on our lives past and present through a host of hands-on exhibits, activities and demonstrations.

Over 80 interactive exhibits, re-constructed scenes and multi-media programmes stimulate the senses bringing a range of subjects to life from Science, Maths, Engineering and Technology to the Humanities and Geography. Suitable for pupils from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 4. Catalyst offers an entertaining educational experience.

There are three award-winning interactive galleries to explore during a visit.

The award winning **Scientrific** gallery has over 40 hands-on exhibits allowing you to investigate how modern materials and chemicals are made. Test out some of the products of the Chemical Industry, or consider the difference between natural and man-made materials. Discover colourful crystals, magical mixes, light from gas or make giant bubbles and test the ink pigments in felt pens.

Birth of an Industry allows visitors to investigate the development of the Chemical Industry from ancient times up to the 1940's with the aid of fascinating historical objects, life like reconstructions, archive films and computer quizzes which bring the past vividly to life.

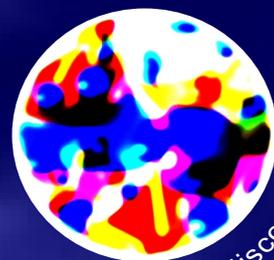
The **Observatory** is a glass walled roof-top gallery. Reached by an all-glass external lift, this gallery offers panoramic views over the local industry and surrounding environment, including the river estuary, making it an ideal spot for a geographical topic based study. Within the exhibition, hands-on exhibits, new computer technology and an extensive photographic collection are used to investigate environmental issues such as waste management, the history of neighbouring industry and its impact on the local landscape including bridge structures and land-use.

Alchemy Theatre and Catalytic Discovery Lab

In Autumn 2006 Catalyst was proud to announce the opening of **Catalyst Alive!** Two fantastic teaching spaces funded by the Millennium Commission. The exciting, state-of-the-art **Catalytic Discovery Lab** hosts a range of workshops and hands-on activities for pupils from 8 years and upwards. With it's modern design and funky colours it's like no other lab you will have ever seen!

The 50 seat **Alchemy Theatre** hosts a number of science talks and shows from Explore Your Universe for KS1 - 4 to Light Fantastic for KS2.

visit options



catalyst science discovery centre

As well as exploring the interactive galleries you can extend your visit with one of the options from our Education Programme which has strong links to the National Curriculum.

- Explore the Museum's three galleries with a FREE science trail (master copy provided for you to photocopy)
- Hands-on workshops on a wide range of subjects ranging from soap making to recycling
- Attend one of our Special Events, combining an interactive demonstration with a tailored topic trail around the exhibitions

Please see the education programme for full details of the Special Events and Workshops available.

Trail

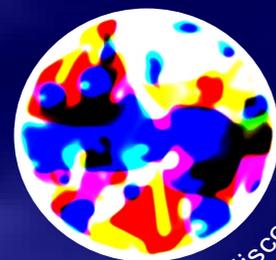
To provide a more valuable educational experience and to help structure your visit around the galleries a trail is available. Several versions of the trail have been prepared which cover aspects such as general Science and Technology suitable for each Key Stage, and also topic related ones on subjects such as Forces, Maths, Environment, Materials, Light and Colour and Industry. **When you make a booking you will receive a master copy which you will need to photocopy for your pupils.**

Preliminary visits

You can make a preliminary visit to Catalyst at any time, FREE access is given to all teachers (Although if you bring family with you, you will need to pay for them). A free visit provides you with an opportunity to preview the superb exhibitions and education facilities at Catalyst.

Accompanying Teachers / Adults during a visit

Admission for teachers / adults within the ratio of 1:5 for KS1, 1:7 for KS2 and 1:10 for KS3, 4 & 6th Form is free. We recommend that teachers / adults within these ratios accompany the party to ensure that the maximum educational value is gained from the visit.



Education Centre

Catalyst offers purpose built education facilities to ensure your visit is enjoyable, convenient and comfortable. Spacious studios, lunchroom, lockable cloakrooms and toilets are all contained within our modern Education Centre. Some shows are delivered in our Alchemy Theatre and where possible practical science lessons are taught in our purpose built Catalytic Discovery Lab.

The Elements Cafe

Catalyst's cafe provides pleasant riverside views. The menu includes hot and cold meals, snacks, tea, coffee, ice creams and sweets.

Snack Packs

Snack packs for school groups are available but they must be booked in advance. These contain a filled bread roll, fruit or chocolate biscuit, crisps and a soft drink. They are suitable for vegetarians. Please contact us for current prices.

Science Shop

Catalyst's shop offers an excellent range of intriguing scientific toys, souvenirs and gifts, as well as a selection of scientific books and educational resource materials.

Access for All

Catalyst has been designed with all visitors in mind. There is ramped access to the building with level access to the cafe, shop, toilets and a lift to all floors.

Parking

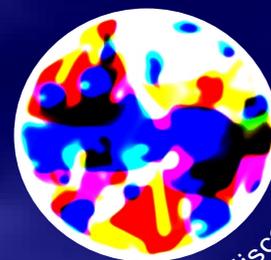
Free car and coach parking is available at the centre.

Cost and Payments

All school visits must be booked in advance to qualify for the special school rate which is less than the normal child entry price.

Call 0151 420 1121 for full price details or to make a booking.

how to find us

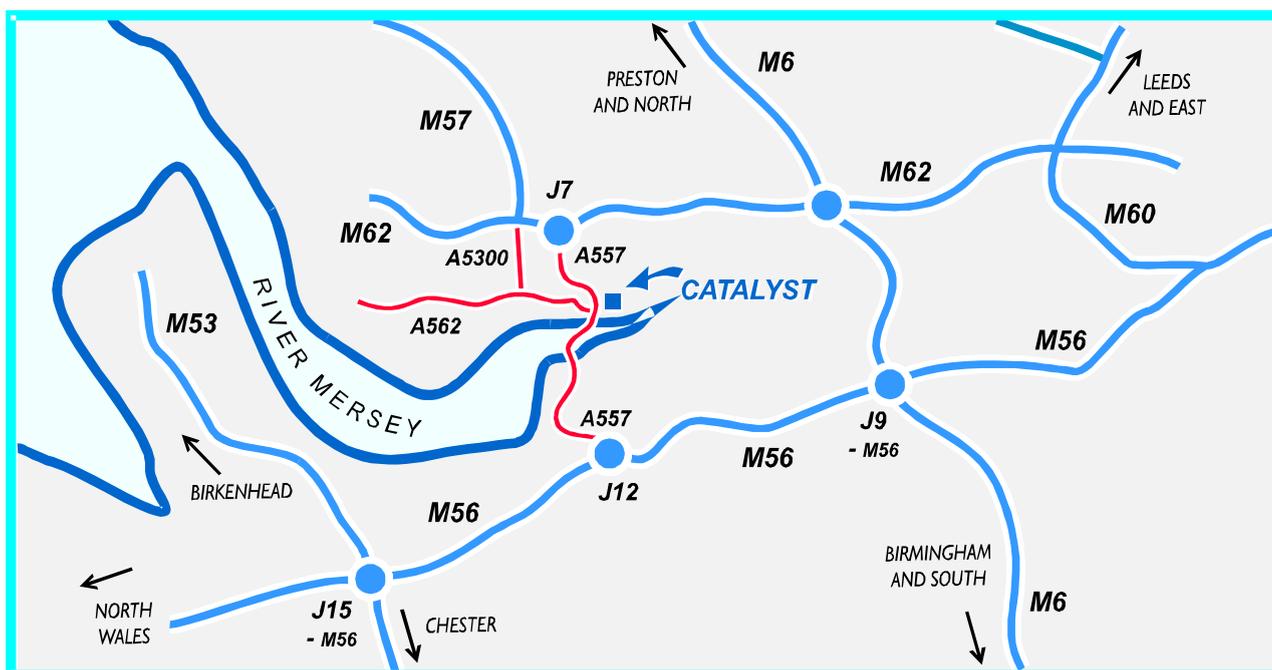


catalyst science discovery centre

Catalyst is located in Widnes, Cheshire just minutes from the Runcorn bridge.

It is easily accessible from Junction 7 M62 / Junction 12 M56.

Head towards Widnes then follow the brown and white tourism signs.



From Junction 12 M56 follow the signs to Widnes which will eventually bring you over Runcorn/Widnes Bridge. Keep in the left hand lane as you come over the bridge and take the first exit. As you go down this exit the road forks again, take the left hand fork and follow the road down to a mini roundabout. Turn right at this roundabout and follow the road up to another mini roundabout. Take the second exit here and continue up this road until the road bends round sharply to the right. Turn left here into Mersey Road. The Catalyst car park is on the left hand side.

From Junction 7 M62 follow the A557 for Widnes (ignoring signs for Widnes North). Go straight through the traffic lights at the big junction then move over into the right hand lane before the road forks. Follow the brown and white tourism signs.

Catalyst has a free, easily accessible car park and roadside/set-down parking is also available

PLEASE NOTE: While the new Mersey Gateway Bridge is under construction there are lots of roadworks in and around Runcorn and Widnes.

Please check this link to plan your journey: <http://www.merseygateway.co.uk/down-your-street/>