INTRODUCTION TO CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is one of the major branches of pure sciences. In fact we could say that it is the stem of science along with Physics.

Science is the collection of disciplines or subjects that strive to study nature and the laws and principles that govern it by a method called the *scientific method of enquiry*. The scientific method of enquiry is the method scientists use in their research. It starts first by identifying or observing a phenomenon, thereafter proper studies or literature review is done. Based on the findings from his studies, he could then put up a particular hypothesis, i.e. guess or statement to test. He then designs an experiment to test his hypothesis, then he carries out the designed experiment. Records from the experiment are then analysed to see if the hypothesis is true or not. If it is not, another hypothesis would be used to go over the process again. If the result favours the hypothesis, then the research paper would be

published so that other scientists could test the hypothesis. If several scientists find the hypothesis to be true, then the hypothesis would become an acceptic scientific theory or law that governs nature.

From scientific theory, all that there is in nature are matter and energy. The particular branch of science that deal well with matter particularly is Chemistry. Chemistry has studied matter to such a point that it is broken down further, basically, into physical, inorganic and organic chemistries. Applied chemistry is another branch though but simply refers to the application of chemistry to production and further studies.

A student of chemistry could become employed in teachign service, health services, food processing, manufacturing industry, agriculture, forestry, etc.