

Dr. Michael Lamb's effort of donating time, energy and equipment this past month for our Chemistry program at North Catholic is greatly appreciated. Dr. Lamb provided an induction coil with batteries to supply energy to two cathode ray tubes which helped to demonstrate the early experiments of Thomson and Crooke. These experiments showed how the electron was identified in the late 1800's. The early models of the Atom were explained by these two experiments.

The two experiments consisted of a high energy source as supplied by the induction coil to a cathode ray tube. In the first experiment, the induction coil provided the energy to Thomson's cathode ray tube (CRT). This CRT generated a beam of light that was able to be bent by a magnet showing that this beam of light consisted of charged particles (electrons). In the second experiment, Crooke's CRT demonstrated also that a charged beam of light was able to move a paddle wheel in the CRT as well as providing a shadow of a Maltese cross that was within the CRT. Both experiments which had a fluorescent coating within the CRT showed that the beam of light that can be bent by a magnet and move a paddle wheel are composed of charged particles which became known as the electron.

Dr. Lamb provided this equipment and helped his son Joe so he could lead and present these two experiments to all of our chemistry classes. Again, I personally want to thank Dr. Lamb for his time and energy that helped to improve our learning of chemistry at North Catholic.

Bob Henderson
Chemistry Teacher