

Alexander Fleming at the Polytechnic

Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) spent two years studying in the Commercial branch of the Polytechnic Secondary School from 1895-97.

He is mentioned several times in the *Polytechnic Magazine*:

On 22 July 1896 the magazine records that he received the prize for English subjects and certificates in Mathematics and Mechanics.

On 22 December 1896 he receives his Commercial School certificates.

On 20 January 1897, it is announced that A. Fleming, along with a Percy Davenport, have obtained appointments in the offices of the American Line, Southampton to New York Service.

However he seems to have continued his studies alongside his employment because in December 1897 it is reported that A. Fleming has passed Cambridge University (Local) examination, 2nd cl. hons., certs.

The Polytechnic Magazine has been digitised and is available to view online, free of charge, at <http://westuni.websds.net/>

After his time at the Polytechnic, Fleming worked for 4 years before an inheritance enabled him to re-train as a doctor. He discovered penicillin in 1928.