**Is Nanotechnology dangerous or a door to a new future?**

In the beginning Nanotechnology was intended to make large things small, very small. There was only one problem, how to build something you can’t see with the naked eye?

Recent advances, such as the electron microscope, have enabled us to do this. Nanotechnology will bring many opportunities to the world, including revolutionising electronic products, targeting cancer cells and the creating ‘smart drugs’ to help cure people faster without side effects.

Many people worry that the booming field of nanotechnology in medicine may involves risks we don’t yet understand. But according to Natalie Wood, post-graduate researcher at the Bristol Centre for Functional Nanotechnology “Scientists are aware of potential risks proven by the amount of research invested into nanotoxicology... Nanotechnology offers non-invasive and specific routes to the treatment of diseases such as cancer...  It is also possible to shield the body from potential negative effects of nanoparticles e.g. through the use of biocompatible polymers asa coating layer”

People around the world are suspicious of this technology, including Prince Charles, who believes that nanoparticles will one day turn us all into ‘grey goo’. Natalie Woodbelieves this is not the case,“Nanotechnology is already everywhere, you just need to see it”. If this is the case, the question I am asking is where is the ‘grey goo’? I believe we need to proceed with the research because it may enhance the lives of many. Nanotechnology can help improve the field of cosmetics, aircraft production and health. This research is also the key to advancing tissue engineering. We need to preach the benefits of Nanotechnology and make nanotechnology our ally, convincing the public to take this opportunity with open arms.

Fatima A

Year 11

St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School