

## Outreach Newsletter: August 2025

Welcome to the August edition of our Outreach newsletter!

Please do pass this on to anyone who may be interested in receiving this bulletin. They are very welcome to subscribe using this [link](#). If you wish to be removed, please email [outreach@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@chem.ox.ac.uk).

Thank you for reading!

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## Upcoming Events:

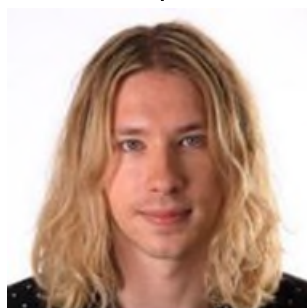


### KS5 Autumn Chemistry Conference **[REPEAT]**

Our sixth Autumn Chemistry Conference will be held on Thursday 25th September 16.00–18.00 BST at the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, Department of Chemistry (and streamed online). This will be open to all Year 11, 12 and 13 students (or equiv., 15–19 yrs) and their teachers interested in finding out more about the cutting-edge currently research happening in the field of chemistry.

Students are welcome to attend in-person unaccompanied by a teacher provided that they are aged 16 or over on the day of the event and have provided emergency contact details. Priority will be given to local state schools.

### About the speakers:



**Dr Josef Boronski** is a Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at Imperial College London and is interested in the chemistry of the elements from the s-, p-, and f-blocks of the Periodic Table. Before this role, Josef graduated with an MChem from the University of York in 2017 and subsequently undertook a PhD at the University of Manchester, which he completed in 2021. In the same year, Josef was awarded a Junior Research Fellowship at St John's College, Oxford. Here, he initiated a programme of research into the chemistry of beryllium. In 2023, Josef won the Dalton Emerging Researcher Prize.



**Dr Shurui Miao** is the Career Development Research Fellow in Chemistry at St John's College. Before this role, Shurui graduated in 2018 with a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Sydney, Australia and he continued to pursue his postgraduate studies there. In December 2022, he moved to the University of Oxford joining Prof. Susan Perkin as a postdoctoral research associate. Shurui's work specialises in experimental physical chemistry and his research interests are centered around sustainability and self-assembly processes in solution. Shurui's current research focus on understanding how carbonate minerals form, which is crucial for carbon capture and storage, mitigating the effects of climate change.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IN-PERSON AND  
ONLINE REGISTRATIONS, PLEASE VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE [HERE](#).**



## Future Chemists' Competition 2026 **[NEW]**

Registration is now open for the brand-new RSC Thames Valley Future Chemists' Competition 2026, taking place at the **Chemistry Teaching Laboratory, University of Oxford** on **Tuesday 13th January 2026** and **Wednesday 14th January 2026**.

The competition, for state schools in the Thames Valley region<sup>#</sup> only, is free to enter and is open to teams of four pupils, two from Year 8, and two from Year 9. The day will involve hands-on practical lab challenges.

<sup>#</sup>The Thames Valley region covers schools in the following postcodes:  
OX (all), RG (all), SL4, SL5, SL6, SL7, GU11, GU12, GU14, GU51, GU52.

There are bursaries available to support school attendance. The programme will take place during the school day and lunch will be provided. Teams need to be accompanied by an adult (this does not have to be chemistry teacher). Register via this [link](#).

## Centre for Personalised Medicine Art Competition **[NEW]**



The Oxford Centre for Personalised Medicine is inviting students in Years 7–9 to get creative and share their thoughts on the meaning of 'personalised medicine' through art.

Personalised medicine means different things to different people – from using genetic information to tailor treatment, to understanding a person's story and what matters most to them. This competition is a chance for young people to express what they think it means.

Students can submit any form of visual art – a drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, or more – as long as it can be photographed. All entrants receive a certificate, and cash prizes will be awarded to standout submissions. Group entries are welcome too!

Winning artworks will be considered for display at prestigious locations across Oxford, including the John Radcliffe Hospital, Churchill Hospital, Centre for Human Genetics, and St Anne's College.

More details, including a short video about the competition, and downloadable information for teachers available [here](#).

## Oxford University Open Days **[REPEAT]**



One of the best ways to decide if Oxford might be right for you is to come to one of our **University Open Days**, with the final one of this year taking place on Friday 19th September 2025. Come and look round our beautiful university city, chat to staff and students and discover for yourself what life here is like.

It is not mandatory to register for an Oxford Open Day, although we strongly recommend that you do in order to receive our newsletters, full of top tips on how to make the most of your day. You may also need to book for some popular sessions in advance.

Please see <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/open-days-and-visits> for further information.

## Creative Chemistry Tents – Summer 2025 **[REPEAT]**

This summer, departmental ambassadors and staff will be attending seven Oxfordshire Play Association playdays, bringing our Creative Chemistry Tent to parks and green spaces across the county. Visitors to the Creative Chemistry Tent will have the opportunity to meet scientists and enjoy our droplet art activity.



Further details, including event dates, locations, and timings, can be found [here](#).



## Oxford College Workshops **[REPEAT]**

You are warmly invited to request a **College Workshop** when arranging a group visit with a College. Find out about your link colleges [here](#). Please note, the inclusion of one of our workshops is subject to the college's capacity to host your visit. Please do copy us ([outreach@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@chem.ox.ac.uk)) into any correspondence with the College team regarding the inclusion of one of our workshops. *If you do not hear back from your link college within 14 days, do get in touch directly with us.*



### Unlock the OXbox – Graffiti Game

A puzzle box workshop for Year 9 (13–14 yrs), featuring a series of practical and theoretical problems. Minimum of 12 students from UK state schools.

### Unlock the OXbox – Poison Puzzle

This is for KS4 (14–16 yrs) and is a series of practical and theoretical chemistry problems. Minimum of 12 students from UK state schools.

*“It is fantastic for the students to have this opportunity to apply their knowledge to a problem-solving activity and so enjoyable for them.” – Teacher*

### Unlock the OXbox – Lab Lurker

A series of practical and theoretical chemistry problems for KS5 (16–19 yrs) students. Would suit a class where at least half of the students are studying A level (or equivalent) in Chemistry. Minimum 12 students (at least six studying Chemistry A level, or equivalent), from UK state schools.

*You can mix and match Graffiti Game, Poison Puzzle and Lab Lurker puzzle boxes for groups including Year 9, KS4 and KS5 students, as long as there is a minimum of 12 students in total (a minimum of three from a Key Stage is required).*

## Other Opportunities: Application Support for Oxford

### Oxford University Islamic Society [REPEAT]

The Oxford University Islamic Society (OUIsoc) is expanding its outreach efforts to support prospective Muslim students applying to Oxford. Their dedicated Access Team runs a range of initiatives designed to ease the transition to higher education, address common misconceptions, and involve parents in the process. To stay up to date with upcoming opportunities, events, and resources, teachers and school representatives are encouraged to join the OUIsoc Access Mailing List.



Who it's for: Muslim students in sixth form, regardless of background or level of spirituality, as well as teachers and school staff supporting them. Stay connected:

- Join the OUIsoc Access [Mailing List](#)
- For more information, visit [OUIsoc's website](#) or email the Access Team directly at: [ouisoc.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:ouisoc.outreach@gmail.com)

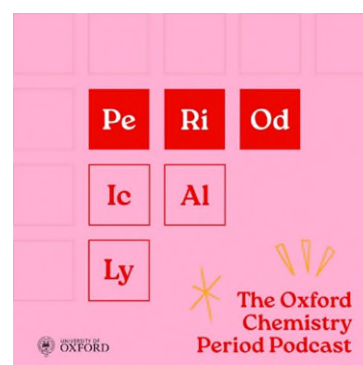
## Other Opportunities: Enrichment and CPD

### RSC Women in Chemistry [REPEAT]

A reminder that there are resources for practical challenges, information about research and profiles of team members available via their [website](#). These are particularly suitable for Science Clubs in schools, community groups, such as Scouts and Guides, as well as for enjoyable holiday challenges.

### PERIODically Podcast [REPEAT]

PERIODically is a podcast created by undergraduate and postgraduate Chemistry students at the University of Oxford to discuss their experiences of how having a period has affected their time studying Chemistry. The podcast aims to discuss how the physicality and intensive nature of studying Chemistry can be affected by symptoms of periods (such as cramps, mental health and medical issues) and seeks to shed light on these problems, tackle stereotypes and misconceptions, and start a conversation on how study can be improved for those with periods. You can find further information and links to listen [here](#).



## Trinity College Teacher CPD Programme [REPEAT]

Trinity College invites state school teachers and colleagues responsible for student progression to university, to participate in their free online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme. This comprehensive programme is designed to provide practical information, guidance, and support for teachers working with students aspiring to apply to Oxford or other higher education institutions.



### What's Included?

- Insights into the Oxford application process, admissions tests, and interviews.
- Strategies for higher education applications, personal statements, and teacher references.
- Flexible attendance with a certificate for completing all six sessions.

**Who is it for?** UK state school teachers, and they particularly welcome teachers from non-selective schools, especially those new to Oxford applications, Russell Group universities, or higher education progression in general.

**When and where:** Sessions from 13th January to October 2025, online. Residential Easter 2026.

**Programme Highlight:** Residential (optional): A free, fully funded three-night Teacher Enrichment Residential during Easter 2026, allowing participants to explore a subject area or teaching practice using the University of Oxford's library collections.

**How to Register:** Sign up [here](#).



Photo by [Elena Diaz](#) on [Unsplash](#)



### Learning Resource:

Oxford chemists identify honey offering in a 2,500-year-old shrine  
**[NEW]**

Researchers from the Department of Chemistry have solved a decades-old archaeological puzzle by re-investigating the molecular composition of an intriguing residue found in bronze jars excavated from a 6th century BCE Greek shrine in Paestum, southern Italy.

In this new study, the researchers used a suite of modern analytical techniques, including mass spectrometry for proteins and small molecule compositional analysis, to determine its molecular makeup. A-Level Chemistry teachers are likely to find the reference to multiple analytical techniques, particularly mass spectrometry, of interest for their classes. Read more about the research [here](#).