

Outreach Newsletter: January 2025

Welcome to the January 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.

Thank you for reading!

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Upcoming Events:

Explore Chemistry - A super-curricular series **[UPDATE]**

Our next Explore Chemistry talk on **Tuesday 21st January, 17.15-18.00** will feature DPhil Emily Freeman (Schofield Group), who will share her journey to Oxford Chemistry and discuss current research on developing new drugs to combat antibiotic resistance. This is a live session with an opportunity to ask questions.

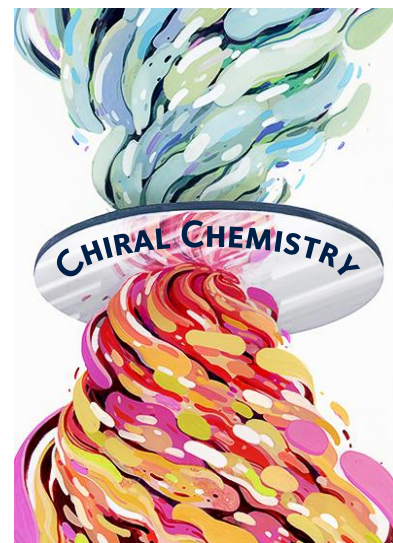


Subscribe to the mailing list to receive updates on all talks, and by 11:00 the day before a scheduled talk to ensure you receive your invitation to attend.

SIGN UP TO THE SERIES

KS5 Chiral Chemistry Workshops **[REPEAT]**

A reminder of our 2024-2025 academic year dates for our Chiral Chemistry workshop. This is our online workshop for UK state school KS5 Chemistry students and teachers, which is delivered by our department ambassadors. Dates and times have been designed to avoid interruption of lessons. The session focuses on 3D shapes, chirality, the role of chirality in biological systems and the resources available to research chemists looking at proteins, such as the main protease in SARS-CoV-2, the latter being an active area of research in our department. There is also an opportunity to ask our ambassadors questions about their research and their academic careers to date. Students may attend without a teacher, provided we have a teacher contact.



**REQUEST A SPACE BY
11:00AM THE DAY BEFORE
THE WORKSHOP**

Tuesday 28th January 2025	15:45-17:00
Tuesday 25th February 2025	15:45-17:00
Tuesday 18th March 2025	15:45-17:00
Thursday 3rd April 2025	15:45-17:00

Please note that for Chiral Chemistry and Explore Chemistry places are limited to students from state schools in the UK, Isle of Man and Channel Islands, and where we are oversubscribed, we will prioritise places for students who meet our widening participation and access criteria. Further information about this can be found at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/increasing-access>

UNIQ 2025 – APPLICATION OPEN! [UPDATE]

UNIQ is the University of Oxford's access programme for state school students. We prioritise places for students with good grades from backgrounds that are under-represented at Oxford and other universities. Every year more students from diverse backgrounds get offered places at Oxford with help from UNIQ.



Apply for UNIQ 2025 (deadline 23rd January).

St John's College Chemistry Study Day – 26th February 2025
[REPEAT]

St John's College is excited to announce that applications are now open for this year's Chemistry Study Day, a free event designed for Year 12 students from non-selective state schools across the UK. The day provides a fantastic opportunity for students to delve deeper into Chemistry and experience academic life. **Deadline 19th January: Sign up [here](#)!**

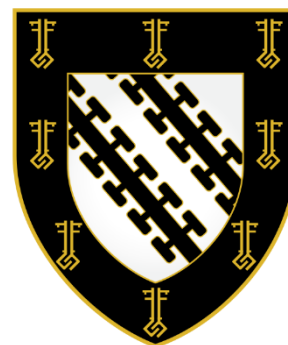
Exeter College STEM Day – Thursday 10th April 2025 [NEW]

For Year 11 and Year 12 students attending UK state schools.

The subject day aims to provide tailored support for students interested in exploring a range of STEM subjects at university level.

Register your interest [here](#) by 5pm on Monday 24th February:

If you have any questions, please get in touch: outreach@exeter.ox.ac.uk.



Balliol College Insight into Science Talks – Applications Open! [REPEAT]

Balliol College is delighted to offer the Insight into Science programme, a series of online academic sessions led by Oxford University graduates. These interactive workshops explore cutting-edge topics linked to the presenters' own research, providing a unique super-curricular learning opportunity.

**Programme Highlights:**

Who: Open to Year 12 students and interested Year 11s.

When: Sessions run from 16:00–17:00 UK time.

Where: Online.

Cost: Free to attend.

Access: No limit on the number of sessions students can join, and recordings will be available later. Participants will have the chance to engage with fascinating topics and ask questions during the sessions. The talks are designed to inspire curiosity and deepen understanding of subjects beyond the standard curriculum.

Chemistry-relevant talks:

Wednesday 15th January 2025: Sustainable Living: The Consequences of Everyday Decision-Making.

Monday 20th January 2025: Learning the Lessons from Covid-19 to Prepare for Future Pandemics.

Wednesday 22nd January 2025: Structure-Based Drug Discovery in Biomedicine.

Wednesday 29th January 2025: Seeing Molecules Through the Eyes of an Organic Chemist.

Thursday 6th February 2025: Complicated Chemists — The Dark History of Chemical Inventions.

Monday 10th February 2025: The Chemistry of Art.

Wednesday 12th February 2025: Drug Discovery — From Benchtop to Patient.

Thursday 13th February 2025: The Importance of Hydrogen to the Present and Future.

Monday 3rd March 2025: How the Structure of Proteins Influences Their Functions — with a Brief Introduction to Molecular Modelling.

Tuesday 22nd April 2025: How to Effectively Read Scientific Papers.

Eligible students can apply using the following [link](#) and can select from any of the talks on offer.

Future Events:

School/Community Workshops [REPEAT]

Online Primary Workshop: Plastic Fantastic?

This workshop is for a class of students in Years 5/6 (England and Wales), P5/6 (Scotland) and P6/7 (NI) in a UK primary school. Co-led with the class teacher, the students will interact with Oxford Chemistry ambassadors via MS Teams or Zoom, whilst undertaking small-scale investigations using materials which have been sent to the school in advance.

Dates for the 2025 will be released in our February 2025 newsletter.

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) 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:

Oxford ACS Year 12 Shadowing Day **[NEW]**

For Year 12 state school students from African and Caribbean Backgrounds

Trinity College, in partnership with the Oxford African and Caribbean Society (ACS) and Brasenose College, is delighted to offer an exciting shadowing day for Year 12 state school students with African and Caribbean heritage on Wednesday 19th February 2025.

Programme Highlights:

- Academic taster lectures with subject choices.
- Shadowing undergraduate students.
- Admissions guidance and Q&A sessions.
- Tours of Trinity and Brasenose Colleges.
- Lunch in Trinity's dining hall.

Details:

- Date: Wednesday 19th February 2025.
- Time: 9:30 – 16:30.
- Location: Trinity & Brasenose Colleges, University of Oxford.
- Deadline to apply: 17:00, Friday 31st January 2025.

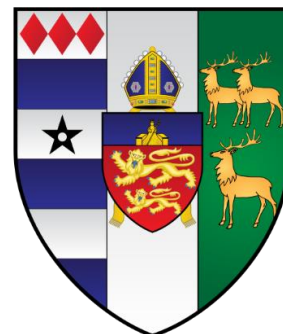
Places will be confirmed as soon as possible or by 6th February 2025. Priority will be given to students eligible for free school meals, care-experienced, or first in their family to attend university. Some discretionary travel reimbursements are available, and students can book places independently.

Encourage your Year 12 students to apply [here](#) for this invaluable opportunity to experience Oxford life first-hand!



Lincoln College Study Days 2025 **[NEW]**

Lincoln College, Oxford, is excited to offer in-person Study Days for Year 12 students from UK state schools. These days are designed for talented students from non-traditional Oxbridge backgrounds interested in Physics/Engineering and considering applications to top universities.



What to Expect:

- Engage with Oxford tutors and students.
- Develop key academic skills like essay planning and critical thinking.
- Prepare for university applications with an admissions workshop and mock interview.
- Accommodation is free, and travel support is available.

Dates & Deadlines:

- Physics and Engineering: August 12–14th ([apply](#) by Thursday 22nd May, 12:00/noon).

Centre for Personalised Medicine Art Competition **[REPEAT]**

The Oxford Centre for Personalised Medicine is asking young people in Years 7–9 to create art about how personalised medicine affects our planet. Personalised medicine aims to use what we can measure about people to help work out the best healthcare for them. If it helps people stay healthy so they don't need lots of hospital stays, that could help lower the NHS's carbon footprint.



But working with lots of measurements needs lots of computers, which need electricity. Research to develop personalised medicine needs labs which use lots of single use plastic.

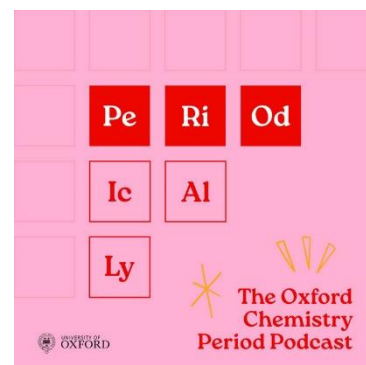
So, what might personalised medicine mean for our planet? They want to see what you think! You can make a drawing, a painting, a collage, a sculpture – anything goes as long as you can take a photo of it. Every entrant gets a certificate, and there are cash prizes for the best artworks. They welcome group entries as well as individual entries. So far, they have displayed some of the best artworks from previous years of the competition in the John Radcliffe Hospital, the Centre for Human Genetics, and St Anne's College in Oxford ([click here](#) to see the winners and finalists for [2022–23](#) and [2023–24](#)).

Entries open on 2nd September, and close on 31st January 2025 at 13:00.

Please see the competition page [here](#), which contains further information, a short video about the competition, and how to apply.

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](#).



Oxford Materials Science Open Days [REPEAT]

Registration is now open for the **2025 Materials Science Open Days at the University of Oxford!**

These events are open to prospective students in Years 11 and 12 who are curious to explore the field of Materials Science. During these sessions, students will enjoy taster lectures, hands-on workshops, a department tour, and the chance to meet current students. Places for in-person open days are limited, and booking is essential. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain insight into Materials Science at Oxford, including advice on applications and a look into the latest research at the department.

The **in-person Open Days** will take place at the Department of Materials on **18th & 19th February 2025** (deadline 5pm 28th January, sign up [here](#)) and **18th & 19th March 2025** (deadline 5pm 25th February, sign up [here](#)).

There will also be an **online Open Day** on **21st February 2025** (deadline 4pm Thursday 20th February, sign up [here](#)) for those who cannot attend in person.



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.

Beyond the Classroom – Online Academic Enrichment Programme **[NEW]**

Registrations are now open for state school students in Years 7–12 to join Trinity College's Beyond the Classroom Online Academic Enrichment Programme.

Start Date: Wednesday 5th March 2025

End Date: Wednesday 9th July 2025

Time: 16:30 (weekly sessions)

Format: Online

Those who attend 7 or more sessions will earn a Certificate of Participation from Trinity College – a wonderful addition to any academic portfolio!



Students can look forward to:

- Engaging mini-lectures on a variety of topics.
- Explore taster sessions – delve into big questions and ideas.
- Talks on academic skills to enhance learning strategies.
- Advisory sessions on preparing for university study, including pathways to the University of Oxford.

Year 12 Extension and Residential

If you're in Year 12, attend a state school, and are seriously considering applying to one of the 19 courses offered by Trinity College at the University of Oxford, you can apply for one of 20 places on their brand-new BTC Extension Programme.

The Extension Programme includes a FREE two day residential (one night stay) taking place at Trinity College on the 10–11th April 2025, where you will take part in a mini tutorial in your subject area, have access to the library, free time for revision and private study to explore your subject in more detail, and meet other participants on the programme. Throughout the year, you'll also be supported to explore your subject in more depth with suggested reading and other materials, take part in online mini tutorials and receive additional support with your Oxford application.



Sign up to Beyond the Classroom (includes the option to select the Extension Programme) by completing the [registration form](#) or scan the QR code.

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](#)



Learning Resource:

The first hexa-valent nickel complex [NEW]

Chemists from the University of Oxford have achieved a groundbreaking discovery, synthesising the first stable complex of hexa-valent nickel. Find out more [here](#).

