

Outreach Newsletter: May 2026

Welcome to the May 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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 Engagement with Research**



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Upcoming Events

Autumn Chemistry Conference **[UPDATE]**



Booking is now OPEN! Our seventh Autumn Chemistry Conference will be held on Thursday 24th September 16.00–18.00 BST at the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, Department of Chemistry (and streamed online). Open to students studying A-level Chemistry or an equivalent qualification (16–19 yrs) and their teachers and parents/carers interested in finding out more about the cutting-edge research happening in the field of chemistry. Those yet to start a post-16 Chemistry qualification are more than welcome to attend however please be aware this conference is aimed at those already undertaking such a qualification.

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.

More information about the speakers and **booking can be found on our [website](#)**.

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

KS5 UK state school students and their teachers are invited to sign up for this series of online live talks and Q&A sessions delivered by researchers. **The series has concluded for this academic year. If you have not done so already, please sign up to the series to be invited to the talks next academic year.**



SIGN UP TO THE SERIES



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>

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

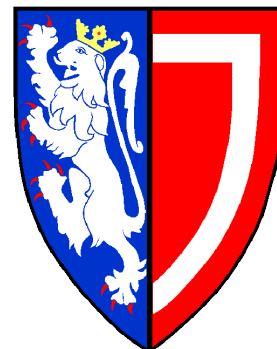
Unlock the OXBOX – Lab Lurker

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).

Balliol College Chemistry Taster Day [REPEAT]

What: This event is aimed at state school students in Year 12 who are seriously considering applying to Oxford to study Chemistry. This event will include an admission session, lectures, a demonstration interview and an opportunity to meet undergraduates who are studying Chemistry at Balliol. A two-course hot lunch will be provided, free of charge. Please note that support with travel costs will be only be available for the most disadvantaged applicants who live in households which fall into POLAR 4 categories 1 or 2 or IMD decile 1 or 2.



Where: Balliol College

When: Friday 5th June 2026.

How: Sign up [here](#). **Deadline to apply 17th May.** Applicants will be notified as to whether their application has been successful or not as soon as possible after the deadline.

Effective delivery of practical work – In-person course [REPEAT]

What: Want to feel more confident when delivering practical work and managing your classroom during experiments? This **one-day, in-person** course aims to increase teachers' confidence in delivering practical work as well as developing strategies for managing their classroom during practical work. The course is designed to be delivered **on a date agreed with your school**.



When: Monday 8th September 2025 – Friday 18th December 2026 (flexible dates).

How: Find out more and sign up [here](#).

Catz Academic Taster Days [NEW]

What: The St Catherine's College (Catz) Academic Taster Days are a fantastic in-person opportunity aimed at Year 12 students (or equivalent) to explore a specific subject area, meet tutors and current students, experience a taste of academic teaching at Oxford, and find out more about studying at university.



Where: St Catherine's College, Oxford.

When: Thursday 28th May 2026 – STEM & Bright Matter for Women and Non-Binary People.

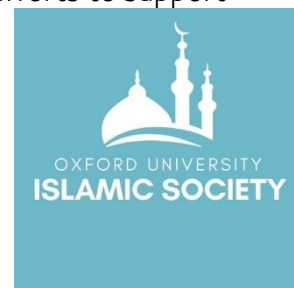
Who: Year 12 state-school students.

How: More information and applications, can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is midday on Monday 27th April.

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, 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.

Oxford Online Maths Club [REPEAT]

What: The Oxford Online Maths Club is a weekly livestream that is free, interactive, casual, and relaxed, and the livestreams are recorded so that you can watch back afterwards if you can't make it to the live broadcast on Thursday afternoons. The regular host is Dr James Munro, and they often have current Oxford students answering questions in chat and appearing on the livestream to talk about maths.

Who: The club is mostly aimed at people about to apply to university or about to start a Maths course, but everyone's welcome and there's no registration needed.

When: Live each Thursday at 17:00-18:00 (UK time).

How: Find out more [here](#).

Maths & Computer Science Open Days [UPDATE]

What: This year, the Department of Mathematics are holding an online Mathematics & Computer Science Departmental Open Day on Saturday 23rd May 2026.

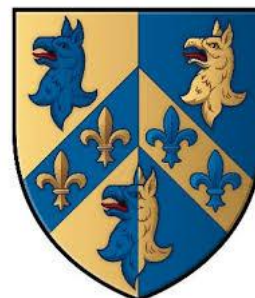
When: Saturday 23rd May (online)

How: Registration is not necessary for the virtual event however you can register your interest [here](#).

Beyond the Classroom! – Online Academic Enrichment Programme

[REPEAT]

What: Online after-school academic enrichment programme new series of mini lectures, Explore taster sessions, academic skills talks and advice about preparing for university study and submitting a competitive application to university and the University of Oxford. Gain a certificate demonstrating your commitment to super-curricular enrichment!



Where: Online on Teams.

When: On Tuesdays at 4:30pm–5:30pm, (excl school holidays) for 15 sessions running to Tuesday 7th July.

Who: Any state school student in Year 7 to 12 who is interested in exploring learning across a broad range of themes and across subjects beyond the classroom, and/or may be interested in applying to Oxford.

How: Find out more [here](#) and register [here](#).

EMPower 2026 [REPEAT]

What: EMPower is a free two-year programme for students of Black heritage which includes online workshops, academic mentoring and, for some, a short residential course in Oxford. Meet scientists, hear their stories, and discover all the amazing things you can achieve in STEM!

Where: Online (with a Y10 residential event in Oxford for some students)

When: 6th & 13th May 2026

Who: UK-based Year 10 state-school students

How: More information and applications, can be found [here](#).

St Hilda's Webinar Series [NEW]

What: St Hilda's is embarking on a webinar series for state school students that will look in detail at the Oxford admissions process, aimed at students at different stages in their applications.

Where: Online.

When: Friday 8th May 2026, 16:00–16:45 – 'How to choose a course and a university' (Y10–12) & Thursday 18th June 2026, 16:00–16:45 – 'An overview of the Oxford admissions process (for students and teachers)'.

Who: State school students (Y10–13) and teachers, depending on the talk.

How: More information and applications, can be found [here](#). **Deadline Registration closes the day before the webinar is due to take place.**



Trinity College School Visits **[NEW]**

What: Visit days for school students to find out about life at a world leading university, meet current undergraduate students, and explore college life. There is also the option of lunch in Hall (if available) and a taught session at one of our museums, i.e. the Pitt Rivers, the Natural History, the Ashmolean, the Old Bodleian or a taster session (depending on date and availability).



Where: Trinity College, Oxford, Broad Street.

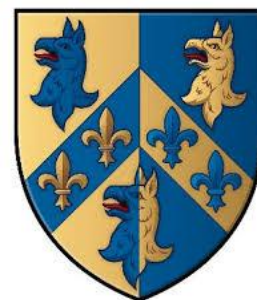
When: March – July 2026.

Who: Up to 30 state secondary school students – all year groups from schools in Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes.

How: Booking requests now **open** via this [form](#). Email any further questions to Access Officer: innocent.otunnu@trinity.ox.ac.uk.

Trinity Oxford Outreach Talks in your School **[NEW]**

What: What Choose from a selection of different talks for school students: Exploring University & Myth-busting; An introduction to Oxford and the Super curriculum; Exploring A Level Choices and University; Applying to Competitive Universities: Oxford and the Application Process; Personal statement workshops.



Where: Your school.

When: March – July 2026.

Who: For all students in state schools in Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes.

How: Booking requests now **open** via this [form](#). Email any further questions to Access Officer: innocent.otunnu@trinity.ox.ac.uk.

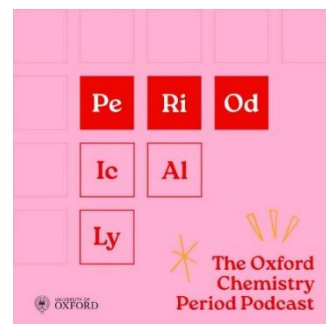
Other Opportunities: Enrichment and CPD

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]

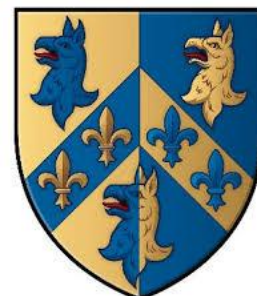
What: A programme made up of six sessions that each provide up to date practical information/guidance relating to the Oxford application process and the purpose of each stage.

Where: Online.

When: Selected dates: Monday and Thursday after school from 12th January to 15th October 2026.

Who: State school teachers responsible for/interested in student progression to university.

How: Register [here](#).



Building Digital Citizens [NEW]

What: Continued Professional Development events hosted by the Centre for Digital Scholarship (Bodleian Libraries) The programme 'Building Digital Citizens', created by [Jonny Tridgell](#), focuses on giving school teachers knowledge around digital citizenship and how this relates to teaching in schools. The events will help participants understand the challenges and affordances that come from digitalisation and what is meant by digital citizenship. Participants will also be able to learn how to weave this knowledge into their curriculum.

Where: Online.

When: Monday 27th April 2026, 16:00 - 18:00 'How should we think about mobile phones?' & Wednesday 10th June 2026, 16:00 - 18:00 'What next in digital citizenship?'.

Who: Teachers.

How: Find out more and register [here](#).

Learning Resource:

King Charles III visits University spin-out OXCCU **[NEW]**

His Majesty The King visited [OXCCU](#), an [Oxford University spin-out](#) developing catalysts and processes to convert waste carbon into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), in March at its laboratories at Oxford University Science Park.

These ideas were explored in our 2021 Autumn Chemistry Conference, where Oxford Chemistry Emeritus Professor Peter Edwards spoke about The Circular Carbon Economy, reframing carbon dioxide not simply as a problem, but as a resource that can be captured, converted, and reused. Revisit the talk and follow-up discussion [here](#).



OXCCU was founded the year the talk was given. By the end of 2026, the company is set to have two facilities in the UK producing SAF. It's a reminder that progress in transformational technologies depends on sustained investment in fundamental research, and the time and collaboration needed to turn ideas into solutions. Find out more about the visit [here](#).

