

Outreach Newsletter: November 2025

Welcome to the November 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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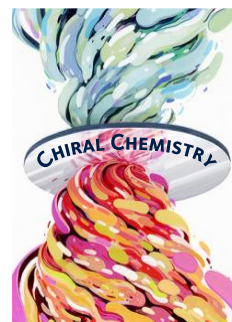
Oxford chemists identify
honey offering in a 2,500-
year-old shrine [\[REPEAT\]](#)



Upcoming Events:

KS5 Chiral Chemistry Workshops **[REPEAT]**

We would like to announce the 2025–2026 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.



Wednesday 3 rd December 2025	15:45–17:00
Tuesday 20 th January 2026	16:45–18:00
Tuesday 10 th February 2026	16:45–18:00
Wednesday 15 th April 2026	15:45–17:00

[REQUEST A SPACE](#)

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

KS5 UK state school students and their teachers are invited to sign up for this series of talks and Q&As. There will be a week to watch a pre-recorded talk (posted online), reflect and note any questions before joining a 45-minute online live Q&A session with the researcher presenting the talk.



Our next talk, **Fantastic drugs and how to 'fish' for their targets**, will take place on Tuesday 2nd December, 17:15–18:00, where DPhil Josh Mealing-Stott will share his journey to Oxford Chemistry and his research on how scientists use clever chemical tools to “fish out” the specific proteins that a drug targets inside living cells, allowing us to better understand how they work and any potential risks and limitations. – please ensure you are subscribed to the mailing list to receive updates!

[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).

UNIQ 2026 [NEW]

UNIQ is the University of Oxford's FREE access programme for UK state school with high academic potential in year 12 (England & Wales), year 13 (Northern Ireland) or S5 (Scotland). They prioritise places for students with good grades from backgrounds that are underrepresented at Oxford and other universities.



Attendees will start their UNIQ journey with an introductory chat before joining one of UNIQ's regional events. Attendees will then experience a one-week, subject-specific residential in Oxford. After the residential, sustained online support for applications to Oxford will be provided.

Applications open on Monday 15th December 2025 and close on Tuesday 13th January 2026. How to apply and further information can be found on the [UNIQ website](#). To stay informed by signing up to the UNIQ newsletter [here](#).

Other Opportunities: Application Support for Oxford

Centre for Personalised Medicine Art Competition [REPEAT]

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 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

Materials Science Open Days [REPEAT]

Applications are open for the Materials Science open days in February and March 2026. Attendees will experience lectures, tour the department, meet students, and more!



When: 17th & 18th February, 17th & 18th March 2026 – in person, 20th February 2026 – online.

Where: Department of Materials/Online (Zoom webinar).

Audience: Prospective Y11 & Y12 students

How:

Register for the 17th & 18th February [here](#).

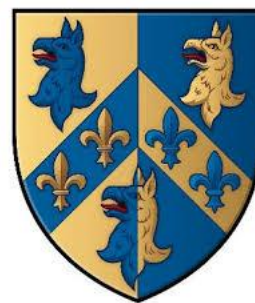
Register for the 20th February [here](#).

Register for the 17th & 18th March [here](#).

To find out more visit their [website](#).

Trinity College Interview Workshops [NEW]

What: Online interview workshops to help this year's applicants to Oxford or Cambridge feel more confident in their academic interview. In the workshops, there will be a general introduction to the interviews followed by walk-through interview style questions led by their undergraduate- student ambassadors.



Who: Year 13 state school students who have made an application to Oxford or Cambridge.

When: Wednesday 19th November 2025, 5:00–6:30pm – Sciences.

Where: Online via Teams.

How: Register [here](#).

Bright Matter: Women and Non-Binary People in STEM [NEW]

Bright Matter is a programme for women and non-binary students in Year 11 and 12 who are interested in studying STEM subjects at university. Bright Matter is run jointly by St Anne's, St Catherine's, St Hilda's, Magdalen, Mansfield, Oriel, and University Colleges, Oxford, and aims to broaden interested in STEM fields.

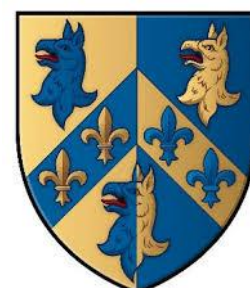
What: 15 online sessions introducing each subject area. Each session will include a presentation about studying that subject at Oxford and a 20-minute academic taster session.

When: Chemistry – Thursday 15th January 2026, 16:30–17:30.

How: Sign up [here](#).

University of Oxford Access Day for Young Women in Year 10–12 with Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage [NEW]

What: Trinity College is collaborating again with the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OCIS) and Jesus college to offer young women in Year 10–12 with Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage an exciting day exploring life as a student at the University. Students will have the opportunity to visit the Oxford



Centre of Islamic studies, Trinity and Jesus College, experience an academic taster, gain guidance and information relating to courses and admissions and hear from current students with shared identities.

Who: Young women from state schools in Year 10–12 with Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage.

When: Thursday 12th February 2026, 09:30 to 15:30, with the option to tour Jesus College at the end of the day.

Where: The day begins with registration at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and ends at Trinity College at 15:30, with the option to tour Jesus College.

How: Register [here](#) by 5pm on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

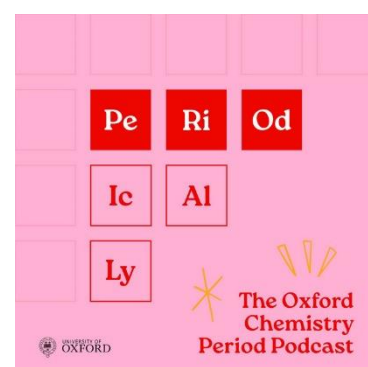
Other Opportunities: Enrichment and CPD

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](#).



Lincoln College Teacher CPD Conference [REPEAT]

Lincoln College have opened their applications for their free one-night, one-day CPD conference for state school teachers and school leaders with responsibility for progression, to help them support and encourage their pupils in all higher education applications. This exciting programme provides up-to-date information and guidance on:



- The Oxford application process.
- Reference writing.
- Personal statements.
- Admissions tests and interviews, and more!

When: 6:30 on Tuesday 16th December, to 16:00 on Wednesday 17th December.

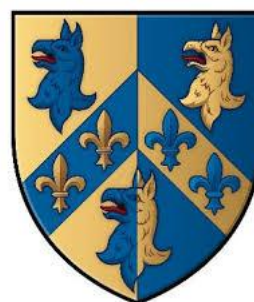
Where: Lincoln College

Other important information: This entirely free event, includes accommodation on the night of 16th December, lunch and dinner in their fifteenth-century hall, and a networking drinks reception. Travel reimbursements are also available for those travelling from outside Oxford.

How: Lincoln College have now reached capacity for 2025's Teacher Conference. However, if you would like to be added to the waiting list, [please fill out the form on their website](#).

Trinity College Teacher CPD Programme [NEW]

What: A programme made up of six sessions, running between January and October each year, that each provide up to date practical information and guidance relating to the Oxford application process and the purpose of each stage, for example, the admissions tests and interviews.



Where: Online.

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

Who: State school teachers with responsibility for and an interest in student progression to university.

How: Register [here](#).

Inspire Critical Thinking **[NEW]**

What: Inspire Critical Thinking is a free online programme designed to help pupils explore supercurricular materials including articles and challenges created by academics at the University of Oxford. Each year group has a different theme to explore, split into 4 smaller workshops. Each workshop also focuses on a different critical thinking skill, with materials to support pupils with their understanding and practice of these key skills. Pupils have the opportunity to submit responses to prize-winning workshops challenges and following the workshops, all registered pupils will be invited to attend St John's Inspire Virtual Summer School.



When: The resources are live between January and April 2026 and pupils can engage with them at their own pace.

Who: Open to all pupils in Yr 9–12 who attend a non-selective state school in the UK.

How: Register [here](#) and find out more [here](#).

Learning Resource:

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



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](#).