

Outreach Newsletter: September 2026

Welcome to the September 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

Autumn Chemistry Conference **[REPEAT]**



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. We will be offering optional tours which will include an Oxford College and our brand-new self-guided chemistry-focused tour of the Ashmolean Museum (timed-entry applies), created in partnership with the Ashmolean Museum. All tours will run from around 12:00 – 15:15.

More information about the speakers and booking can be found on our [website](#). **OUR IN-PERSON BOOKING IS NOW CLOSED, but please do sign up to join us online.**

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).

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](#).

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](#).

Preparing for Oxford Physics [REPEAT]

What: The Department of Physics' new online course 'Preparing for Oxford Physics' is designed to help students build their problem-solving skills and looks ahead to all parts of the admissions process, including the ESAT, interviews and beyond. While the course is physics focused, they welcome students interested in studying other related subjects at university, such as engineering. The course consists of a series of live, online webinars in June / July and September/ October along with summer assignments, videos and an additional interview focused session in December. It's open to everyone, and is free to take part in.

Where: Microsoft Teams.

When: June to December 2026.

Who: Young people who are in Year 12, or equivalent, in June 2026 and in Year 13, or equivalent in October 2026, and are considering applying to Oxford or other competitive universities.

How: For more information and booking details please see [here](#).

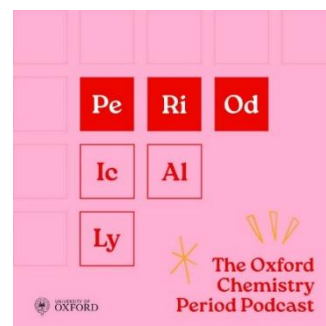
Other Opportunities: Enrichment and CPD

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](#).



Centre for Personalised Medicine Art Competition [NEW]

The Oxford Centre for Personalised Medicine is asking young people in Years 7–9 to create art about talking to family about health and genetics. Sometimes, personalised medicine involves tests that find strong genetic risk factors that might run in families. For example, a person with a heart problem might have tests to explore why this happened, and this might show they have a genetic risk factor that made them much more likely to have heart problems.



Entrants can make a drawing, a painting, a collage, a sculpture – anything goes as long as it's something you can take a photo of. Every entrant gets a certificate, and there are cash prizes for the best artworks. Group entries as well as individual entries are welcomed. [More details here](#), including a short video about the competition, and downloadable information for teachers.

Learning Resource:

£3.7 million award to evaluate technologies for detecting falsified and substandard vaccines [NEW]

Researchers at the University of Oxford have been awarded £3.7 million to evaluate devices designed to detect substandard and falsified vaccines in supply chains.

The three-year programme will independently assess the performance of a range of technologies that could enable medicines regulators, manufacturers and distributors to rapidly screen vaccines and identify products that require further laboratory testing. The work supports the World Health Organization's strategy to prevent, detect and respond to substandard and falsified medical products. Read more [here](#).

