Outreach newsletter: June 2023

Welcome to the June 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.

With best wishes,

Dr Malcolm Stewart (Director of the Chemistry Teaching Laboratories), Saskia O’Sullivan (Educational Outreach Officer), Matt Fifield (CTL Administrator) and Natalie Armstrong (Outreach Programmes Manager)

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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, which this year are taking place on **Wednesday 28th** and **Thursday 29th June**, and **Friday 15th September 2023**. 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 [www.ox.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.ox.ac.uk/opendays) for further information.

The Creative Chemistry Tent [REPEAT]

We’ll be bringing our Creative Chemistry Tent to the Oxfordshire Play Association’s Play Days at the following Oxfordshire parks over the summer:

17/06/2023 Wallingford Sports Park
24/06/2023 Edmonds Park, Didcot
08/07/2023 Southern Town Park, Abingdon
15/07/2023 Northway Recreation Ground, Oxford
26/07/2023 People’s Park, Banbury
27/07/2023 Oxford Road Playing Field, Eynsham
29/07/2023 Cuttleslowe Park, Oxford
16/08/2023 Princess Diana Park, Banbury

Families can come and take part in our droplet art activity, using five different plant indicators and a range of pH to create colourful artworks using heraldic symbol templates. There is also a spot-the-difference game with indicator molecules, and a chance to speak to and ask questions of current Oxford Chemistry students and researchers.

You can find more information on the Play Days on Oxfordshire Play Association’s [website](http://www.ox.ac.uk/opendays).
UNIQ Academic Module

As part of the wider UNIQ programme, we run an academic module to provide an opportunity to experience life as a Chemistry undergraduate featuring a mixture of lectures, tutorials, and practical work to give you the full academic experience.

Lectures cover a range of subjects, showcasing the diversity and breadth of the Chemistry degree. Students also participate in tutorials covering physical, inorganic and organic branches of chemistry, designed to give a valuable insight into the Oxford tutorial system. Afternoons then consist of practical activities.

Applications for the 2022–3 programme are closed, but we'll be looking to open applications for the 2023–4 cohort in December/January. You can find further information in the meantime here.

KS5 Autumn Chemistry Conference

We'll be holding our fourth Autumn Chemistry Conference on Thursday 28th September 16.00–18.00 BST. Open to all Year 12 and 13 students (or equiv., 16–19 yrs) and their teachers interested in finding out more about the cutting-edge research happening in the field of chemistry, and hosted online by the Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford. Students are welcome to attend unaccompanied by a teacher.

About the speakers:

Professor Tom Brown is Professor of Nucleic Acid Chemistry in the Departments of Chemistry and Oncology. His research interests centre on nucleic acid chemistry and its applications in biology and medicine. He is co-inventor of several technologies for genetic analysis, is co-founder of three successful Biotech companies; Oswel, Primer Design and ATDBio, and has published over 450 research papers and patents.

Professor Claire Vallance is Professor of Physical Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry, Tutorial Fellow in Physical Chemistry at Hertford College, and until July 2021 was President of the Faraday Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry. She has research interests spanning chemical reaction dynamics, the development of laser spectroscopy techniques for chemical sensing, and the application of mass spectrometry and spectroscopy in clinical medicine.

Register here!
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, whilst undertaking small-scale investigations using materials which have been sent to the school in advance.

Our programme of workshops has concluded for this academic year. Dates for the 2023-24 academic year will be released in the summer term.

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. If you do not hear back from your link college within 14 days, do get in touch with us directly.

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.
“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 – The 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).

You can mix and match Poison Puzzle and Lab Lurker puzzle boxes for groups including 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:

RSC Sustained Professional Development Courses [UPDATE]

Across the next few months, the RSC will be running a series of online sustained professional development courses which will support practical skills, enhance your existing knowledge of key subjects and offer teaching strategies for delivering key areas of the chemistry curriculum. Each module consists of four sessions; exploring common misconceptions, contextualising tricky topics and providing links to classroom-ready resources. Each course is recognised CPD, so you will receive a certificate of attendance for your professional development portfolio/record once you have completed all of your chosen course’s sessions.

Further information and links to book onto the September courses can be found here.

Keble Admissions Webinars [REPEAT]

Keble College will be running a programme of Admissions Webinars between Tuesday 30th May to Tuesday 11th July, recommended for Year 12 students during the upcoming summer term. The sessions will cover various aspects of the Oxford admissions process, including personal statements, Oxford interviews, admissions tests and a Q&A panel with current Oxford students.

The sessions available will be:

- Admissions Tests at Oxford
- Oxford Explained
- Ask an Oxford Student – Q&A Panel
- Preparing for Oxford Interviews
- Personal Statements for Top Universities
- Oxford Explained for Parents & Carers
- Oxford Explained for Parents & Carers

Thursday 1st June 4–5pm
Friday 2nd June 11am–12pm
Monday 5th June 5–6pm
Tuesday 13th June 4–5pm
Wednesday 14th June 4–5pm
Monday 19th June 6–7pm
Tuesday 11th July 6–7pm

Sessions will take place via Zoom and are open to students at any UK state school (teachers and school staff may also register) – with two dedicated sessions for parents/carers.

[APPLY HERE!]
RSC Women in Chemistry

In-between our scheduled RSC Women in Chemistry events, a reminder that there are lots of exciting opportunities to participate in practical work over the summer (and beyond), including Science Clubs. Do keep an eye on our website and Twitter for further information on future events and activities!

Learning Resource: Chemical Demonstrations for Teachers

A series of videos put together by our colleagues at the University of Bristol, designed to support teachers in setting up and delivering engaging chemical demonstrations to support learning in the classroom.

You can find the YouTube playlist of videos here.