

Outreach newsletter: May 2023

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.

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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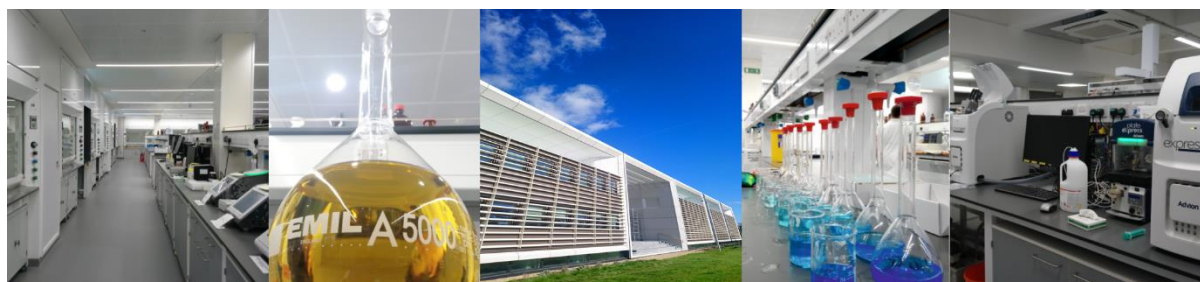
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Upcoming events:

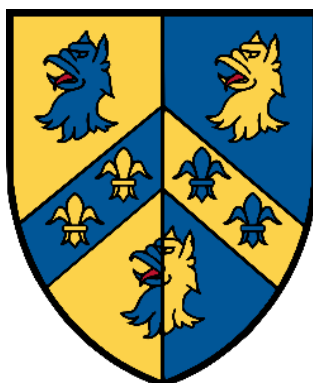
St Catherine's Women* in STEM Day **[UPDATE]**

St Catherine's College will be hosting a Women* in STEM day on **Thursday 1st June**. This is a day designed for Year 12 female-identifying students (16/17 year olds) who want to explore different STEM subjects that they might be considering pursuing at university. There'll be an introduction to STEM options in Oxford, student life and admissions, as well as meeting St Catz STEM alumni and academics.

Applications are now open.

[APPLY HERE!](#)Women in Science Day 2023 **[REPEAT]**

Do you know Year 12 female scientists who are looking to explore the sciences at university? The Oxford colleges of Trinity, Jesus, and Wadham are pleased to announce Women in Science Day 2023! The University of Oxford offers over 20 different undergraduate courses in science subjects, so we want to showcase just how diverse a degree in the sciences can be. On **Friday 23rd June 2023**, we are inviting 100 young female scientists in Year 12 to visit Oxford, where they will hear from Oxford academics about a broad range of science subjects through a mixture of lectures and seminars. There will also be admissions advice and support sessions, empowering young women to make informed decisions about the next steps in their education. The deadline for submitting an application is **23:59 on Friday 12th May 2023**.

[APPLY HERE!](#)

Future Events:

The Creative Chemistry Tent **[NEW]**

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](#).

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 for further information.

UNIQ Academic Module **[REPEAT]**

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 **[REPEAT]**

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.

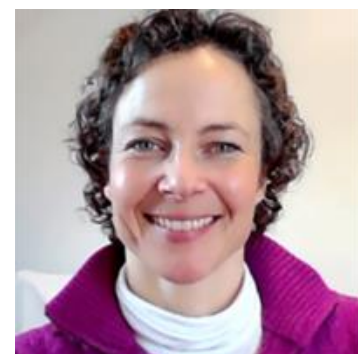
REGISTER HERE!

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.



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.

All workshops for the current academic year are fully booked. 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:

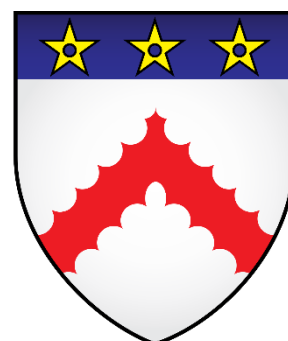
The Oxford Maths Festival **[NEW]**

On the weekend of the **13-14th May**, Oxford Mathematics will be hosting an extravaganza of all the wonderful curiosities mathematics holds. Over two days, you can immerse yourself in a wide range of events with something for everyone, no matter your age or prior mathematical experience. The festival has a wide range of activities to choose from – talks, workshops, craft sessions, board games and hands-on maths.

The main centre of activity on Saturday will be in the **Templar's Square Shopping Centre** (OX4 3XH) and is a drop-in event which is free of charge. On Sunday, the event will be located in **Mathematical Institute** (OX2 6GG). Booking required for Sunday event [here](#) (adults entry £3, free for kids).

Keble Admissions Webinars **[NEW]**

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:

Oxford Explained	Tuesday 30th May 4-5pm
Personal Statements for Top Universities	Wednesday 31st May 11am-12pm
Preparing for Oxford Interviews	Wednesday 31st May 4-5pm
Admissions Tests at Oxford	Thursday 1st June 4-5pm
Oxford Explained	Friday 2nd June 11am-12pm
Ask an Oxford Student – Q&A Panel	Monday 5th June 5-6pm
Preparing for Oxford Interviews	Tuesday 13th June 4-5pm
Personal Statements for Top Universities	Wednesday 14th June 4-5pm
Oxford Explained for Parents & Carers	Monday 19th June 6-7pm
Oxford Explained for Parents & Carers	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 Sustained Professional Development Courses **[NEW]**

Across June and July, 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 courses can be found [here](#).

RSC Women in Chemistry **[REPEAT]**

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 Easter holidays (and beyond), including Science Clubs. Do keep an eye on our [website](#) and [Twitter](#) for further information on future events and activities!

Young Carers' Insight into Higher Education Day **[REPEAT]**

Somerville college are delighted to be hosting an Insight into HE day for Young Carers' in Year 12 at a UK state school on the **31st of May from 1pm to 4pm**.

This informal event is aimed at those who have caring responsibilities in their family and who are considering their post-18 education options. The afternoon will provide opportunities to learn more about university life, find out about the support available and also to meet current students, including those who are also young carers. The information talk will also be live-streamed for those unable to come in person.



APPLY HERE!

The deadline for applications is **5pm** on the **19th May**. If you have any questions or need assistance covering the cost of transport to the event, please email access@some.ox.ac.uk.

Learning Resource: Chemical Demonstrations for Teachers **[NEW]**

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](#).

