

Subject: Outreach support for students from Balliol College, Oxford  
University Academic Year 2025-26 Bulletin No. 5

Dear Colleagues, please share the following events with staff and pupils who you think may be interested:

- Please contact [outreach@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@balliol.ox.ac.uk) if you want more information about the support Balliol College can offer or discuss the possibility of a school visit to Oxford University.

## Admissions Support

[Outreach Talks and Events | Balliol College](#) -

### Try Before You Buy Days

In the Spring and Summer Terms, Balliol College hosts a series of free Try Before You Buy Days for disadvantaged prospective applicants. These sessions are aimed at UK state school students in Year 12, and provide the chance to engage with subject-specific Oxford style tutorials.

#### Who are they for?

Serious applicants in Year 12 at UK state schools, who are studying the [appropriate qualifications](#) required for their chosen course at Oxford.

#### What will the day involve?

Each day will feature an Oxford style tutorial, a guided tour of Balliol College from a current undergraduate student and a talk on the admissions process. A two course free lunch will be provided in the Balliol Hall. **Participants will need to complete work in advance in order to take part in the tutorial session.**

#### Try Before You Buy Day 3 – 1st May 2026

Subjects: Biology, Computer Science, English, History, Medicine, Physics

To apply, please complete this [form](#) by midnight on **5th April 2026**.

### Try Before You Buy Day 4 – 7th May 2026

Subjects: Biochemistry, Computer Science, Law, Maths, Physics, PPE

To apply, please complete this [form](#) by midnight on **5th April 2026**.

### Try Before You Buy Day 5 – 11th May 2026

Subjects: Biology, Engineering, Law, Maths, Physics

To apply, please complete this [form](#) by midnight on **12th April 2026**.

### Try Before You Buy Day 6 – 15th May 2026

Subjects: Biochemistry, Engineering, Law, Maths, Medicine, PPE

To apply, please complete this [form](#) by midnight on **12th April 2026**.

### Try Before You Buy Day 7 – 18th May 2026

Subjects: Computer Science, Engineering, English, History, Law, PPE

To apply, please complete this [form](#) by midnight on **19th April 2026**.

### Try Before You Buy Day 8 – 29th May 2026

Subjects: Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, History, Maths, Physics

To apply, please complete this [form](#) by midnight on **19th April 2026**.

## Subject Taster Days

The College runs free subject-specific Taster Days. These sessions take place on site, and include **academic lectures, admissions information talks and a demonstration of an Oxford style interview** and an opportunity to speak to our tutors and go on a College tour with our undergraduates. A two course hot lunch will be provided in Hall.

Any student who is in Year **12** at a UK state-funded school is welcome to apply. We will prioritise applications from disadvantaged students, and from groups that are currently

under represented at Oxford.

**History Taster Day Thursday 28 May 10.30–4.00** (Deadline 10 May)

**English Taster Day Tuesday 2nd June 2026 10.30–4.00** (Deadline 3 May 2026)

**Chemistry Taster Day Friday 5th June 2026** (Deadline 17 May 2026)

**Engineering Taster Day Tuesday 9 June 2026 10.30–4.00** (Deadline 12 May 2026)

**Modern Foreign Languages Taster Day Monday 15 June 2026** (Deadline 24 May 2026)

## Insight Talk Series

Our Insight Talk Series consists of online academic sessions in which Oxford University Graduates introduce topics that link to their own research. Sessions take the form of workshops, and students will have the opportunity to ask questions. These are super-curricular programmes which will introduce participants to new areas of knowledge.

The programmes are aimed towards students in Year 12, and interested Year 11s. These events are free, and open to any interested applicants. There is no limit to the number of talks that students can attend. The sessions also will be recorded and uploaded at a later date.

Use the links below to sign up to our Maths, Science and Humanities series:

### [Insight into Maths](#)

**Calculus, Covid and Competition: When Maths Meets Biology**  
Wednesday 25 February 2026

### [Insight into Science](#)

**Exploring Space: Searching for Habitable Worlds** – Thursday 26 February 2026

**Hot Mess: Why Climate Change Needs All of Us** - Monday 23rd February 2026

**The Invisible Universe: The Search for Dark Matter** – Monday 23 March 2026

### [Insight into Humanities](#)

Classics/Philosophy – Personal and Political Responsibility in Greek Drama –  
Thursday 12 February 2026

Political Philosophy – What is Justice? Wednesday 18 March 2026

### [2026 Beyond the Classroom Trinity College Oxford Enrichment Programme](#)

**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!

**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.

**When** on Tuesdays at 4:30pm-5:30pm, beginning Tuesday the 10 March 2026, (excl school holidays) for 15 sessions running to Tuesday 7 July. Students can opt in for the sessions of their choice.

**Where** online on Teams.

### [St Anne's Super-Curricular Club | St Anne's College, Oxford](#)

St Anne's Supercurricular Club is our series of online academic taster sessions aimed at Year 12 students who want to broaden their academic interests and gain insight into University-level research and undergraduate-style teaching.

Sessions run each year from March to May to allow Year 12s to gain insight into their proposed study area, ahead of when Year 12s start to put together their personal statement. Use as a springboard for further reading and engagement with your subject.

Each taster session will be one hour long and will introduce students to our researchers' work, and what this subject area might be like to study at Undergraduate level. Open to Y12 students who would like to get a taste of their subject at this level and learn from an Oxford University academic!

### [2026 BAME Humanities Study Day Application Form](#)

Get the chance to explore a Humanities subject with academic sessions, learn more about Oxford admissions and ask our current undergraduates about student life! This

day is for Year 12 students from UK State Schools who have Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic (BAME) heritage.

Participants will get the chance to:

- Explore the Humanities subjects
- Take part in university-style academic sessions
- Learn about applying to Oxford University
- Hear from current undergraduates about student life

**When?** 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Sign up by** midnight 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

[Merton Pathways: Sign Up Form \(Page 1 of 5\)](#)

At Merton College, we are committed to supporting students from underrepresented backgrounds to successfully apply to selective universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

**Who is this programme for?** Year 12 (or equivalent) BME state school students with GCSE (or equivalent) average grades 6+

**What to expect?** A series of bi-monthly online sessions from April to November; Guidance on the application process for Oxbridge, and other selective universities; Support about how to build a competitive application and develop your confidence

**Sign up by** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

#### For Teachers

[CPD sessions](#) Balliol is now offering bespoke CPD for teachers of Biology, Chemistry and Physics who work in state schools. This will be provided in the form of one-hour online sessions which will take place at mutually agreed times. There is no cost for this provision.

[Classical Conversations](#) Please get in touch if you would like an Oxford Classicist to speak to your students about their work and research.

[Oxford English Faculty - 10 Minute Book Club](#) Support and guidance if you are interested in setting up an easy to access Book Club

#### Subject Specific Events and Support:

Archaeology

Who	What	When	Booking Information
Those interested in Archaeology	University of Oxford Archaeology resources	Continuous	<a href="#">Resources can be found here</a>
Biology			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Those interested in Biology	University of Oxford Biology resources	Continuous	<a href="#">Resources can be found here</a>
Those interested in Biology	University of Oxford Biology Events	Continuous	<a href="#">Events can be found here</a>

[Outreach Talks and Events | Balliol College](#) -

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The Invisible Universe: The Search for Dark Matter – Monday 23 March 2026

[Bright Matter Launch Event | University of Oxford](#)

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Oxford.

Bright Matter aims to broaden students' interests in STEM fields, introduce them to STEM at Oxford, and provide a space for them to network and engage with others.

The course consists of 15 online sessions introducing each subject area. Each session will include a presentation about studying that subject at Oxford and a twenty-minute academic taster session. Each online session will run 16:30-17:30. Students who attend at least one of our online sessions will be invited to register their interest in attending an academic taster day at one of the colleges that helps run Bright Matter.

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### Chemistry

Who	What	When	Booking Information
Those interested in Chemistry	University of Oxford Chemistry events	Continuous	<a href="#">Resources can be found here</a>
State school A level (or equivalent) Chemistry students and teachers	Ask a Chemist Q&A series	Now complete, but recordings are available	<a href="#">Further information and videos</a>
Anybody interested in Chemistry	<a href="#">What's On - Oxford Chemistry</a>	Continuous	NA
Royal Society of Chemistry - Women interested in Chemistry	Various events for women interested in Chemistry	Continuous	<a href="#">More information</a>

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### [Covid-19 Chiral Chemistry Workshop | University of Oxford](#)

This workshop from the [Department of Chemistry](#) Department of Chemistry focuses on the 3D shapes of molecules, what the word ‘chiral’ means, the importance of chiral molecules in biology, and about the resources available to research chemists looking at proteins, in particular current research focused on the main protease in SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the recent pandemic.

When? December 2025 - March 2026

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Classics

Who	What	When	Booking Information
Those interested in Classics	University of Oxford Classics events	Continuous	<a href="#">Resources and Events</a>

[Classical Conversations](#) please get in touch if you would like an Oxford Classicist to speak to your students about their work and research.

### Computer Science

Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in Computer Science	<a href="#">Computer Science Department outreach events</a>	Updated regularly	

### [Outreach Talks and Events | Balliol College](#) -

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 Tuesday 24 February 2026

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### English

Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested	<a href="#">English Department</a>	Updated regularly	

in English	<a href="#">outreach events and resources</a>		
Teachers interested in starting a book club for their school	10 Minute Book Club	Continuous	<a href="#">Further information</a>

[Outreach Talks and Events | Balliol College](#) -

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Use the link below to sign up to our Humanities series:

[Insight into Humanities](#)

Political Philosophy – What is Justice? Wednesday 18 March 2026

[Oxford English Faculty - 10 Minute Book Club](#) Support and guidance if you are interested in setting up an easy to access to Book Club.

History			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in History	<a href="#">History Faculty outreach events</a>	Updated regularly	
State secondary school, sixth form and FE college pupils in years 12 & 13 from across the UK.	Online History Skills Workshops	Various events.	<a href="#">Find out more and sign up to events here</a>
Anybody interested in History	<a href="#">Historia Lectures 2024   Faculty of History</a>	Recordings continuously available	NA

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### [Online History Skills Workshops | Faculty of History](#)

History skills workshops last about an hour and are held online via Microsoft Teams. You will require access to a computer, tablet or smartphone with the Microsoft Teams App or a browser that is compatible with Microsoft Teams in order to attend the session.

All history skills workshops are interactive. As part of a presentation, students will debate how historians should interpret thought-provoking primary sources, and will have time to ask questions about history, applying to university, and Oxford.

### [Historia Lectures | Faculty of History](#)

Aimed at students currently studying for A levels or equivalent these lectures are designed to introduce you to new and engaging historical topics and periods. Lecture subjects are drawn from current DPhil candidate research.

Live sessions include an introductory lecture, Q&A and suggested reading materials to help you explore the topic further. Join the mailing list to receive weekly links to the live lectures throughout the Spring Term.

Historia Lectures are recorded and the 2025 series will join the 2023 & 2024 lectures on our website as a resource for students.

### [Online History Teacher Workshops | Faculty of History](#)

The History Faculty recognises the challenges that teachers and careers advisors are navigating when it comes to supporting young people making decisions about their future. We want to work with teachers to better support and understand the needs of students in state secondary schools, sixth forms and FE colleges. Our online teacher workshops are designed to support the development of practical history skills and provide advice on making a competitive application to selective universities such as Oxford. There will also be the opportunity to ask questions and share information.

Law			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in Law	<a href="#">Law Faculty outreach events</a>	Updated regularly	

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Materials Science			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in Materials Science	<a href="#">Department of Materials</a>	Updated regularly	

[outreach events](#)

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Maths

Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in Maths	<a href="#">Maths Institute outreach events</a>	Updated regularly	
Students who are applying for Maths at Oxford	MAT Livestream 2024	Weekly	<a href="#">Further information and joining instructions</a>

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### [Oxford Online Maths Club | Mathematical Institute](#)

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. Our regular host is Dr James Munro, and we often have current Oxford students answering questions in chat and appearing on the livestream to talk about maths.

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. Whether you're the only person you know who's interested in mathematics, or if you're an entire

sixth-form maths club looking for more maths content, we're here for you.

The Oxford Online Maths Club is live each Thursday at 17:00-18:00 (UK time).

[Oxford Maths Festival - Day 1 \(Templars Square\) | University of Oxford](#) and [Oxford Maths Festival - Day 2 \(Mathematical Institute\) | University of Oxford](#)

The Oxford Maths Festival, organised by Oxford Mathematics, is 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.

### Medicine

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### Modern Languages

[Language Competitions | Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages](#)

Our annual Flash Fiction Competitions invite secondary school pupils to submit a complete story of **no more than 100 words**, in French, Spanish, or German, for the chance to win up to £100.

Our 2026 Competition marks the first year in which German will be included and we're excited to be expanding the Competition after many successful years!

Entries are judged by a panel of academics who are primarily looking for creativity, imagination and narrative flair, as well as linguistic accuracy. Pupils' language skills will be considered in the context of their age and year group: in other words, we will not expect younger pupils to compete against older pupils linguistically.

**Essay Deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>**

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Music			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Anybody interested in Music at university	<a href="#">Music Outreach at Oxford</a>	Various events	NA
Physics			

Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in Physics	<a href="#">Department of Physics outreach events</a>	Updated regularly	
Physics teachers	Oxford Physics Talks for Schools	Continuously	<a href="#">Find out more</a>
Aspiring Physicists from year 11 and above	Projects and Mentoring with the Oxford Physics Department	Continuous events	<a href="#">More information</a>

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## Politics and Philosophy

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## Super-Curricular Resources for Students

[Our Springboard videos](#) are designed to introduce students to a range of topics related to A Level and Degree Level study. Each has been designed and produced by our graduate students and each contain activities and suggestions about further resources to explore the subject. Please note we will be adding more videos on a rolling basis. Students need to answer a few short questions to access each video.

Our Insight recordings are now available online. This series of talks is aimed at post 16 students with an interest in science. Each talk was given by an Oxford University post-graduate student, giving the audience an insight into their particular research specialism. Passionate, motivated KS4 pupils looking to challenge themselves academically may also find these talks interesting. Please use the following links for our series on: [Maths](#), [Science](#) and [Humanities](#).

[Our 'Mind the Gap' English lecture](#) addressed the different teaching styles and essay writing conventions at degree level as well as what to look at when considering different undergraduate courses. Viewers can explore how to tackle reading long books and books you don't like, as well as considering what you might read before going to university. The talk is aimed at Year 12 and interested Year 11 students.

A recording of the talk can be found on the Balliol YouTube channel.

[These subject specific super-curricular guides](#) which are available for most A Level and GCSE subjects, contain suggestions for exploring subjects further by watching, reading, listening and doing. Please tell us about any suggestion you have to add to these guides.

[Oxford University Digital Resource Hub](#) - here you can find the best of our digital resources to support learning and exploration. They can help parents and teachers to feed the curiosity of growing minds and inspire them to think broadly.

## Videos from Balliol College

Balliol College's [Admissions Video](#), highlights what our students think about college life and why Balliol may be the perfect choice for Oxford applicants.

[In this video, Balliol tutors talk about undergraduate study](#), sharing insights into how tutorials work as well as the qualities they are looking for in prospective applicants.

[In this video, a third-year medical student gives prospective applicants a tour of Balliol](#), showing the Lodge, Library, Hall, Chapel, Junior Common Room and quads as well as undergraduate accommodation at the Broad Street site and in the new accommodation blocks at the nearby Master's Field site.

### Oxford Mailing Lists

Subject specific mailing lists operate for [Chemistry](#), [Classics](#), [Computer Science](#), [English](#), [Engineering](#), [History](#), [Maths](#), [Materials Science \(Teachers\)](#), [Materials Science \(Pupils\)](#), and [Modern Foreign Languages](#)

Best wishes,--  
Outreach Team  
Balliol College, Oxford OX1 3BJ

[www.balliol.ox.ac.uk](http://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk)

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