

Subject: **Outreach support for students from Balliol College, Oxford**
University Academic Year 2026-27 Bulletin No. 1

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

- Please contact 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.

Applying to Oxford Admission Guidance

2026 key dates and deadlines:

- 1 September - UCAS submissions open
- 14 September - Deadline for requesting access arrangements for UAT-UK admissions tests
- 15 September - LNAT test booking deadline
- 16 September - UCAT test booking deadline
- 18 September - Final Open Day
- 21 September - Deadline for requesting a UAT-UK admissions test bursary
- 24 September - Final test day for UCAT
- 28 September - UAT-UK Admissions test booking closes
- 12-16 October - UAT-UK Admissions tests
- 15 October - Final test day for LNAT
- 15 October - UCAS deadline
- View the [full admissions timeline](#).
- View the [full admissions tests timeline](#) (including for the UCAT and LNAT).
- Please see [UCAT guidance for all medical applicants](#) and [LNAT for all Law applicants](#).

UAT-UK admissions tests

Booking update

We have been advised by UAT-UK that the booking process for their October test sitting is working as intended with lots of candidates having already secured bookings.

Candidates requiring complex access arrangements

Some candidates requiring more complex access arrangements are not able to book their test independently online but need to wait for Pearson to contact them. Even when arrangements have been approved, we understand it can take time for suitable arrangements to be put in place. It is important that candidates requiring any access arrangements register as early as possible and by 14 September at the latest.

Finding a test centre

We have been advised by UAT-UK that any candidate (*not* advised to wait for Pearson to contact them regarding access arrangements) who is unable to find a suitable appointment online within a reasonable travelling distance, should contact [Pearson Customer Service](#) for assistance in identifying an available test centre.

Pearson are closely monitoring test centre capacity and have advised that they will continue to release additional appointments as required. We are also aware that there is considerable movement during the booking period, with candidates cancelling and rebooking appointments.

Pearson have committed to providing testing opportunities for all candidates registered to sit the test, with the expectation that UK-based candidates will be able to test within 40 miles of their home postcode ([see Register - UAT UK](#)). They have undertaken to ensure that all candidates have an appropriate test booking by the time bookings close on 28 September.

Candidate support

If candidates continue to experience difficulties after contacting [Pearson Customer Service](#), they should [send a secure message through their UAT-UK account](#) so that the UAT-UK team can investigate and follow up directly. They aim to respond within a few days and as soon as possible.

Preparing for the test

- UAT-UK's [preparation materials for the ESTA, TARA and TMUA](#).
- TMUA livestreams - Oxford's Mathematical Institute is running a weekly livestream focusing on the Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA). The sessions take place each Thursday from 17:00 to 19:00 (UK time). They are free, available for everyone and are recorded so can be watched later if students can't join live. No registration is needed.

[Find out more about the Oxford Maths Admissions Test Livestream.](#)

Before test day

Candidates should [read UAT-UK's online information before test day](#). This covers:

1. Planning their journey
2. Checking they bring the right ID
3. Knowing what to do if something goes wrong.

When they set up their admissions test account, they will be sent a copy of the Candidate Handbook. They should make sure to read through it carefully.

UCAS submissions

Applications can be submitted from 1 September and must be complete, including the academic reference and the application fee paid. Oxford's UCAS deadline is 6pm UK time on 15 October.

Detailed information can be found in our [Guide for applicants](#). Course-specific information is available on [course pages](#).

View a brief overview of our [2027-entry admissions timeline](#) and some useful links:

- [Choosing courses](#)
- [Writing personal statements](#)
- [Writing an academic reference](#)
- [Choosing a college or making an open application](#)
- [Registering for and booking admissions tests](#)
- [Submitting written work](#)
- [Preparing for interviews](#).

Choosing a college

Applicants can put a college's campus code (found on the relevant [college page](#)) on their UCAS form to specify a preference. However, it's important for them to know that every year around a third of successful applicants are offered a place at a college they didn't specify. Applicants might still be shortlisted and offered a place by another college.

Do your students know...?

- Whichever college they join, students study for the same Oxford degree, and their course content and options will be the same.
- All colleges follow the same admissions process for their chosen course and shortlist for interview roughly the same number of applicants for each place.
- Many shortlisted applicants are interviewed by more than one college during the December interview period.
- An [open application](#) won't affect an applicant's chance of receiving an offer. In this case, an application is allocated to a college with relatively fewer applicants for the chosen course that year.
- Choosing a college is about personal preference. Applicants might consider its size, location, accommodation, facilities or simply which one feels right for them.
- Many Oxford students say their own college soon becomes their favourite - whether or not it was their first choice.

[Read more about choosing a college.](#)

Money matters

Do your students know...?

Oxford will offer generous non-repayable bursaries of up to £6,500 to UK first-degree undergraduates from lower-income households starting in 2027.

[Download and share with your students our fees and funding information for UK undergraduates starting in 2027.](#)

How to access this funding

Providing they complete a financial assessment in their application for UK government funding (applications open in early 2027 at gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance) offer holders will be automatically contacted if they qualify for a [Crankstart Scholarship](#) or an [Oxford Bursary](#). Colleges may also offer additional student support funds, e.g., travel grants, book grants and prizes.

UK care-experienced students and UK estranged undergraduates studying without family support

For students who have spent any time in care or who are estranged from their family, Oxford is providing a non-repayable annual bursary of up to £3,500 in additional funding in 2027, to help with costs, including during the vacations.

[Learn more about Oxford student funding.](#)

Academic enrichment and Outreach programmes

Online Open evening for [Year Access Programmes For Year 12](#) students Floreat Humanities Programme, Frontier Science Programme and Fibonacci Maths Programmes Thursday 22nd October 6.00-7.00. Please complete this [form](#) by 20th October 5pm

Super curricular Study

Bringing together a wide range of digital resources, our [super curricular hub](#) supports academic enrichment, independent thinking and subject exploration. Whether students are discovering a subject for the first time or looking to deepen their understanding, the hub offers lectures, articles, podcasts, videos, interactive challenges and more. Resources are organised for students under 12, aged 12-16 and over 16, helping them explore subjects in greater depth and gain a clearer understanding of what university study is like.

- Insight into Humanities Talks [2026](#) [2025](#)
- Insight into Maths Talks [2026](#) [2025](#)
- Insight into Science Talks [2026](#) [2025](#)
- [Springboard Videos](#)
- Year 10 Discovery Programme [2026](#) [2025](#) [2024](#)

Access Oxford

If you are supporting those preparing to apply in future years, we encourage you to explore our [wide range of programmes and initiatives](#).

Outreach calendar

Visit our [outreach calendar](#) for a full list of upcoming events.

Resources and advice

Our [new website's guidance for teachers](#) is for anyone supporting students considering applying to Oxford - or working with younger students who are likely to benefit from our wider access or enrichment opportunities.

[Read our information for international students](#) if you are supporting a student based outside the UK.

Reminder: Don't miss out on Oxplore Teach. Spark curiosity and develop students' thinking skills with our free online platform to support teachers and educators working with learners aged 11 and above (Key Stage 3 and beyond). Whether you're planning enrichment days, drop-down sessions, extracurricular clubs or integrating challenge-based learning into timetabled lessons, [Oxplore Teach](#) offers evidence-based and flexible resources to complement and extend your existing curriculum.

[Register now and receive free access to all Oxplore Teach challenges and resources](#)

[Online Personal Statement Workshop - September 2026 - Worcester College](#)

During the session, our Admissions Officers will go over the fundamentals of a strong personal statement, how to begin writing one, what Oxford University's tutors are looking for in the statement, and what activities potential applicants can do to demonstrate that their potential for the course. This is also a great opportunity to ask any questions you have about this part of the Oxbridge application process.

Tickets are free and limited to one per person

[Online Interview Workshop - October 2026 - Worcester College](#)

Get to grips with Oxford interviews in this interactive session with Worcester College's admissions team.

Designed for sixth form students considering an application to Oxford, this online workshop will help you understand what to expect from the Oxford interview process and how best to prepare. During the session, you'll learn about the purpose and format of Oxford interviews, hear practical advice on preparing effectively, and have the opportunity to ask questions to our admissions team. The workshop will also include two live mock interviews.

Whether you're applying for a STEM subject, humanities, or social sciences, this workshop is a great opportunity to build your confidence and gain valuable insight into one of the most distinctive parts of the Oxford admissions process.

When? 13 October 2026 and 17 November 2026

[Online Open Day September 2026 | Astrophoria Foundation Year](#)

Are you a UK student with a passion for learning and the drive to succeed at Oxford? The Astrophoria Foundation Year could be your pathway to an Oxford degree. This webinar will help you:

- Discover what the Astrophoria Foundation Year is all about
- Check if you're eligible
- Explore the academic courses on offer
- Learn about the new admissions test for some courses
- Find out how to apply

This event will be held on Zoom.

When? 17 September 2026

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	Resources can be found here

Biology			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Those interested in Biology	University of Oxford Biology resources	Continuous	Resources can be found here
Those interested in Biology	University of Oxford Biology Events	Continuous	Events can be found here
Outreach Talks and Events Balliol College - Our Insight Talk Series consists of online academic sessions in which Oxford University Graduates introduce topics that link to their own research. These are super-curricular programmes which will introduce students to new areas of knowledge. The programmes are aimed towards students in Year 12, and interested Year 11s. This year's talks have now concluded. Recordings of this year's Insight Into Science series can be found here.			
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Chemistry			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Those interested in Chemistry	University of Oxford Chemistry events	Continuous	Resources can be found here
State school A level (or equivalent) Chemistry students and teachers	Ask a Chemist Q&A series	Now complete, but recordings are available	Further information and videos

Anybody interested in Chemistry	What's On - Oxford Chemistry	Continuous	NA
Royal Society of Chemistry - Women interested in Chemistry	Various events for women interested in Chemistry	Continuous	More information
Autumn Chemistry Conference 2026 Department of Chemistry On Thursday 24th September, our Autumn Chemistry Conference will be delivered in the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, and streamed online. There will be an opportunity to ask questions during the event. 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, and hosted by the Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford. Online bookings are still open.			
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Classics			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Those interested in Classics	University of Oxford Classics events	Continuous	Resources and Events
Classical Conversations please get in touch if you would like an Oxford Classicist to speak to your students about their work and research.			
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Computer Science			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in Computer Science	Computer Science Department outreach events	Updated regularly	
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English			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in English	English Department outreach events and resources	Updated regularly	
Teachers interested in starting a book club for their school	10 Minute Book Club	Continuous	Further information

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

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[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	History Faculty outreach events	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.	Find out more and sign up to events here
Anybody interested in History	Historia Lectures 2024 Faculty of History	Recordings continuously available	NA

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

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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	Law Faculty outreach events	Updated regularly	

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

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Recordings of this year's Insight Into Humanities series can be found [here](#).

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Materials Science			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in Materials Science	Department of Materials outreach events	Updated regularly	
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Maths			
Who	What	When	Booking Information
Students interested in Maths	Maths Institute outreach events	Updated regularly	
Students who are applying for Maths at Oxford	MAT Livestream	Weekly	Further information and joining instructions
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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).

Medicine

[Art Competition 2026-27 - Centre for Personalised Medicine](#)

Research shows that people who know they have a strong genetic risk factor often want to share this information with their family, but it's the sort of thing that's hard to tell people. They might feel unsure what to say, or find it difficult to find a good time. We want to see your students' ideas about sharing genetic information in families.

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. We welcome group entries as well as individual entries. The competition is now in its fifth year, and so far, we've displayed some of the winning artworks in the John Radcliffe and Churchill hospitals, and St Anne's College in Oxford. Some of the best entries are on long-term display at the Centre for Human Genetics.

When? Open for entries from 1 September 2026 - 29 January 2027

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

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Modern Languages

[Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators - The Queen's College, Oxford](#)

The Anthea Bell Prize is free to enter and open to pupils aged 11-18 at all schools across the UK. The Prize is open to all secondary schools across the UK. All our Prize resources are free to access for registered teachers. The competition is free to enter.

[Oxford Modern Languages Admissions session - registration form](#)

Our virtual Modern Languages Admissions session is aimed at MFL teachers and school advisors. The 4-5pm session will include an update and overview of the 2026 admissions process, a mock interview with a current student, and a chance to ask questions.

When? 16 September 2026

Register by 4pm on 15 September

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

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Music

Who	What	When	Booking Information
Anybody interested in Music at university	Music Outreach at Oxford	Various events	NA

[Crescendo Programme - Oriel College](#)

Oriel College's Crescendo Programme, run in collaboration with the University of Oxford's Music Faculty, is a series of outreach events aimed at UK state school students in Years 10-13 (or equivalent) who are interested in studying Music at university.

Between September and November, the programme will consist of a series of online sessions introducing new topics of Music scholarship and study skills, presented by academics and researchers at the university. The programme comprises the following events:

- 24 September - Songbooks and Amateur Musicking in the 19th Century with Emma Arthur
- 8 October - Film Music with Juan Carlos Mendez Alvarez
- 22 October - Listening to Lost Voices with Tyné Freeman
- 5 November - 20th Century Authoritarianism and Classical Music with Percy Leung
- 12 November - Study skills: researching and writing a university essay with Oriel Outreach Team

All sessions will take place online from 5-6pm.

In addition to the online sessions, eligible Year 12 (or equivalent) students will also be invited to participate in an essay-writing component, producing a 1000 word response to one of the session topics. Students will then get the opportunity to discuss their work in an online 'tutorial' to get a taste of Oxford's teaching style.

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Physics

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

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

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[CPD sessions](#)

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Politics and Philosophy

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

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For Teachers

[Lincoln College Teacher CPD Conference](#)

Lincoln College is pleased to open applications for our free one-night, one-day CPD conference event for state school teachers and school leaders with responsibility for progression. Join us for an exciting programme which aims to provide up-to-date practical information and guidance relating to every stage of the Oxford application process, from reference writing and supporting personal statements, to admissions tests and interviews.

1. An introduction to the University of Oxford and how it differs from other HE institutions
2. How to set up a schools-based enrichment programme for all pupils, raising attainment and enhancing future academic success
3. Writing the teacher reference, what high tariff universities are looking for
4. The Oxford admissions tests, supporting your pupils to prepare
5. The Oxford academic interview, supporting your students to prepare (including a mock interview demonstration)

When? 15 and 16 December 2026

Register ASAP to reserve a place

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](#)

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