

Encouraging the pursuit of science

Annual Review 2022



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We would like to thank our patrons and supporters of our programmes:

Abbott	Professor Peter Atkins
Dr John Boyle	Professor Raymond Dwek & Mrs Sandra Dwek
Edina Trust	Professor Sir John Bell
Education Endowment Foundation	Rt Hon David Cameron
Evenlode Investments	Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851
Evolution Education Trust	Sir Martin & Lady Audrey Wood
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Georgina Ferry	The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust
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Ian Laing	The DLM Charitable Trust
Jon Shepherd	The Helen Roll Charity
Judith & Peter Iredale	The Martin Smith Foundation
Kirby Laing Foundation	The Mila Charitable Organisation
Mr & Mrs JA Pye's Charitable Settlement	And many anonymous donors.
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)	
Patsy Wood Trust	
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About The Oxford Trust

The Oxford Trust is an independent charitable trust, founded in 1985 by entrepreneurs the late Sir Martin and Lady Audrey Wood, co-founders of Oxford Instruments. Our mission is simple: to encourage the pursuit of science.

Our innovation programme (see pages 6–13) supports economic growth in our region by encouraging enterprise. The Trust owns the Oxford Centre for Innovation in the city centre and the Wood Centre for Innovation in Headington to support science and tech start-ups. We do this by offering flexible and cost-effective office space, technical workspace, R&D labs, co-working space and virtual offices, as well as 1:1 business advice, just when entrepreneurs need it most.

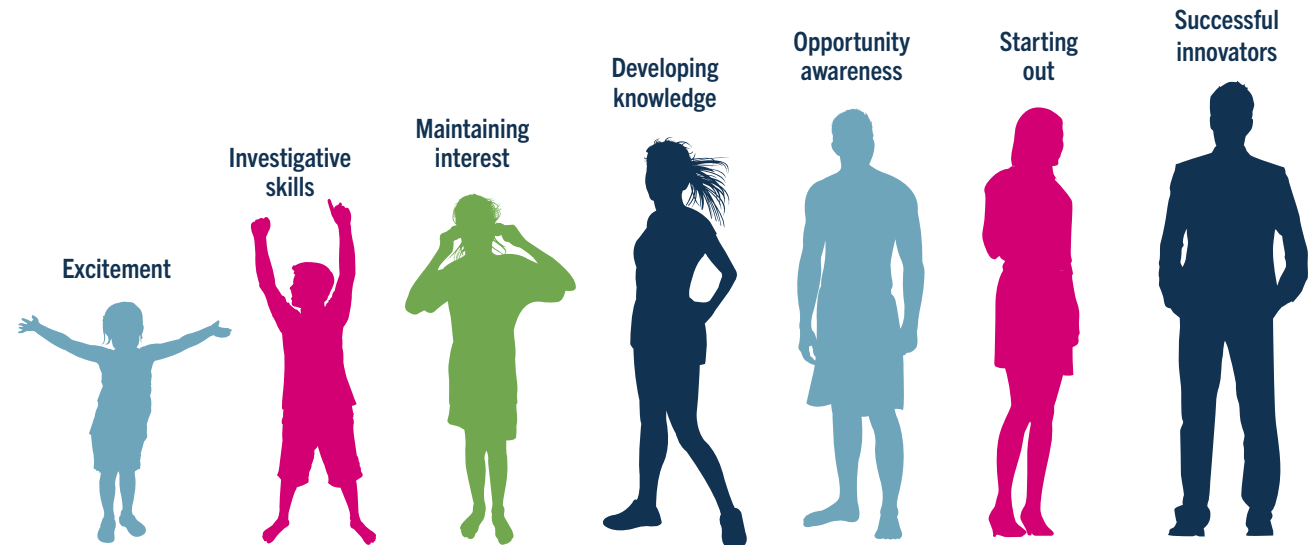
We are proud that the income from our innovation centres is reinvested into our Science Oxford education and public engagement programmes (see pages 14–23), which aim to cultivate a positive attitude to science and lay the foundations for science learning.

The strength of our charitable business model is that it is self-sustaining and supports both ends of the science spectrum from inspiring young children about STEM to supporting science and tech start-ups to grow.



We want to inspire children about the wonders of science and help science and tech start-ups to develop and grow.

Sir Martin & Lady Audrey Wood,
patrons and founders of The Oxford Trust



Remembering Sir Martin Wood

Engineer, entrepreneur and philanthropist (1927–2021)

We commemorate the life of our wonderful founder and patron Sir Martin Wood, who sadly passed away in November 2021.

In 1955, as a young engineer, Martin joined the University of Oxford's Department of Physics, where his research on resistive high field, or super-conducting, magnets established a technology that became highly sought after and enabled Magnetic Resonance Imaging (or MRI) to be developed. This led him to founding, with his wife Audrey, Oxford Instruments, the University's first – and some say most successful – spinout. The company originally operated out of their garden shed but grew rapidly into a FTSE 250 company with an annual revenue of £300 million.

The company was floated on the stock market in 1983 and provided Martin and Audrey with an opportunity to support interests that were important to them. They transformed from successful business entrepreneurs to prodigious philanthropists.

The Wood's experience of setting up their own company from their shed in Northmoor Road in north Oxford enabled them to understand the challenges that faced young entrepreneurs. They saw how hard it was for fledgling companies to get started and find suitable premises.

In 1985, they set up The Oxford Trust to support entrepreneurs. In the first year they bought an old builders' yard in Osney and started the Science and Technology Enterprise Project (or STEP Centre) to help start-ups take their first steps towards commercialisation.

It was the first innovation centre in the UK and the key catalyst for Oxfordshire's ecosystem of innovation incubators and science parks that we see today.

The Trust now owns the Oxford Centre for Innovation in the city centre and the Wood Centre for Innovation in Headington, which was opened in 2019 and named after Sir Martin and Lady Audrey Wood.

Martin's passion for innovation and physics cannot be understated.

Not only has his direct work on super-conducting magnets, through MRI scanners alone, affected millions of lives every year, he also supported early-stage technology companies at a time when no one else had the vision to do so. With Audrey at his side, the duo has made an incredible impact on today's entrepreneurial landscape and in science education. Martin's legacy will be carried forward by the work of The Oxford Trust.

Steve Burgess, CEO, The Oxford Trust

Aside from supporting science and tech companies, Martin and Audrey were always passionate about encouraging young people in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). This led to the Trust's creation of an extensive schools' and public engagement programme under the Science Oxford brand.

Today, Science Oxford delivers an exciting STEM outreach programme to primary and secondary schools in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and runs the Science Oxford Centre, the UK's first indoor-outdoor hands-on science education centre for early years and primary children. The Centre adjoins the Wood Centre for Innovation in Headington.

Martin's legacy will be carried forward by the work of The Oxford Trust and our mission to "encourage the pursuit of science".



Top LHS: Martin testing his first super-conducting magnet. Top RHS: Martin & Audrey breaking ground at the Wood Centre for Innovation, 2018. Centre: Unveiling the Ohm sculpture at the Wood Centre for Innovation to celebrate Martin & Audrey's 90th birthdays, 2019. Bottom: Martin at the opening of the Science Oxford Centre, 2019.

A word from our CEO

Welcome to The Oxford Trust's Annual Review for 2022. Since our last report in 2020, we are pleased to say that The Oxford Trust's programmes – innovation, education and public engagement – have bounced back post Covid and 2022 has proven to be a successful year.

Our decision to develop class 2 laboratory space at the Wood Centre for Innovation in 2021 has meant that both our innovation centres have been operating at 95–100% capacity over the last 12 months. With two thriving centres, we have an enhanced income stream for the organisation, underpinning the funding of all our programmes.

As you will see in the update of our innovation programme on the following pages, we currently have 10,000 sq ft of R&D lab space at the Wood Centre for Innovation, which has attracted a hub of exciting biotech and deeptech start-ups. With businesses graduating from our Oxford Centre for Innovation in 2021, we've also had a flurry of new companies joining our city centre site, including a small cluster of dynamic quantum start-ups. You can read about the new businesses that have joined our innovation community on page 9.

The Trust continues to enable, support and encourage the development of the Oxfordshire innovation ecosystem, as it has done for 37 years, through programmes, funding and partnerships with organisations such as Advanced Oxford, The Hill and Barclays Eagle Labs.

At the start of the year, the Senior Leadership Team and our trustee board looked at a strategic plan for the next three years, which was approved in June. This includes an Equality, Diversity and inclusivity strategy to ensure that ED&I is part of our day-to-day work and organisational culture. We have set up an associated fund to support relevant projects and young people from underserved communities.

Post-Covid demand for our Science Oxford-branded programmes has been high in the academic year 2021–22, especially for school visits to the Science Oxford Centre and our regular Saturday Family Days, which have been operating at 98% capacity. We've had some incredible reviews for our programmes over the last year (see pages 18 & 19).

With our three-year strategy in place, we aim to increase multi-touch activities with schools, communities and families, with priority given to support underserved groups. We have set an objective to engage a further 20,000 more young people in science in our region by 2025.

Although not part of our core mission, the Trust is a custodian of over 15 acres of woodland, ponds and grassland surrounding our Wood Centre for Innovation and Science Oxford Centre. This is actively used for education purposes but also allows the overall site to be carbon neutral.

These achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff, volunteers, funders, donors and trustees. I would like to thank you all.

We end 2022 on a high note and hope that this continues into the upcoming year, despite the hurdles of increasing energy costs and a potential recession. These will bring challenges but hopefully opportunities that enable us to grow our mission to “encourage the pursuit of science”.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Burgess', written over a horizontal line.

Steve Burgess CEO, The Oxford Trust



Innovation

January–December 2022



Oxford Centre
for Innovation

Update on our innovation programme

The Oxford Trust's innovation programme supports science and tech start-ups and spinouts primarily through our two innovation centres – the Wood Centre for Innovation in Headington's Health and Life Sciences District and the Oxford Centre for Innovation in the city centre.

We provide cost-effective, flexible office space; technical workspace; R&D labs; co-working spaces; virtual offices; meeting facilities; and sector-specific business support for companies at the beginning of their start-up journey, just when they need it.

Following a turbulent couple of years through the pandemic, both our innovation centres have now bounced back to full capacity in 2022. Over the year, we have supported a total of 35 companies and 503 entrepreneurs in our centres.

With the addition of R&D laboratories in 2021, our Wood Centre for Innovation (see photo top right) has attracted a hub of exciting biotech companies including Samsara Therapeutics and DJS Antibodies. Samsara is developing new therapeutics to boost autophagy to treat currently incurable neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease and ALS. DJS is working on the next generation of therapeutics to treat inflammatory diseases using their HEPTAD platform for antibody discovery.

The opening of additional laboratory space in March 2022 saw a flurry of new companies join the Wood Centre for Innovation. Biotech spinouts from the University of Oxford, Human Centric Drug Design and OxDX Ltd, are now based at the Centre as are deeptech companies RedShiftBio, Helio Display Materials and Lumai.

Over the past year our Oxford Centre for Innovation has developed into a mini-hub for quantum, with QuantrolOx and Quantum Dice joining ColdQuanta. Aiming for superhuman vision for autonomous vehicles, Visonary Machines is also now a part of our innovation community.

Our Enterprise Support Programme continues to help young technology-based businesses get started in Oxford and in 2022 we have supported three additional early-stage companies.

We also have a cohort of smaller start-ups as a result of our partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs. Since February 2022, there are now Eagle Labs in both our innovation centres, which have supported 31 businesses and 40 entrepreneurs over the year with co-working space and business support. By working with Barclays, we hope to create a growth pathway so that companies can graduate from working in the Eagle Labs and move into space in our centres, whether this is office space or R&D labs, or a combination of both, and have the benefit of continued business support.

There have been some great success stories from companies based in our centres over the summer and autumn: DJS Antibodies was acquired by Abbvie for \$255m; QuantrolOx raised €10.5m from the European Innovation Council; Samsara Therapeutics has been given grant funding from the CMT Research Foundation and recently expanded into new R&D lab space; Optellum has raised \$14m in series A funding;



Prospect Soft has also been bought out by the Access Group; and Quorbit, based in Barclays Eagle Labs, has been acquired by UKG.

Over the last 37 years The Oxford Trust has helped hundreds of tech companies to flourish and grow thanks to time they have spent in our innovation centres. This year was no exception, with a few companies rapidly expanding and moving on and a new cohort of ten dynamic companies taking their place (see page 9).

Update on our innovation programme...continued



Our partnership programmes

We also work closely with like-minded partners to support innovation and champion projects that put enterprise at the heart of our region, helping to facilitate Oxfordshire's world-class ecosystem. Thanks in part to the Trust, Advanced Oxford is now thriving and has a growing membership of 34 local knowledge-intensive business leaders who are working to support the long-term development and success of the Oxford region as a place to live and work.

The Trust is pleased to partner The Hill Oxford, part of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The Hill's dynamic programme aims to increase digital innovation adoption in the NHS to improve efficiency and effectiveness, empowering staff and benefitting patients.

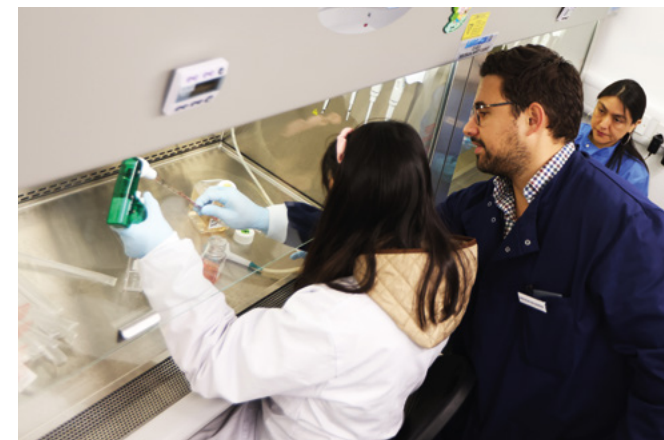
EXIT RIGHT
HOW TO DRIVE YOUR BUSINESS FROM START-UP TO EXIT

Expert-led event series for entrepreneurs

For more info & to register:
wcfi.co.uk/events

Exit Right event series

In partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs and Oxford Innovation Space, and sponsored by Freeths LLP, the Trust ran the expert-led Exit Right event series in 2022 at the Wood Centre for Innovation – and available on demand – to give entrepreneurs and senior management teams an insight into, and support for, exiting a business. Topics included Exit Planning, Scaling Up, Customer Acquisition, Marketing & Brand Development, Fundraising & Pitching and Product Market Fit. The series was attended by nearly 400 entrepreneurs and the videos have had over 1,100 views to date.

The graphic features a blue background with a white dotted arrow pointing right. Below the arrow, an illustration shows a man and a woman walking. The bottom of the graphic has a green background with white concentric circles.

Working together to inspire the next generation

Over the past year, we have also been pleased to see companies in our centres contributing to our Science Oxford programmes. Samsara Therapeutics and Human Centric Drug Discovery have generously contributed to Science Oxford's STEM Insight Weeks by giving Year 10 students insight into working in a biotech start-up with talks on careers and lab demonstrations. Habitat Energy ran a workshop for year 11 and 12 students during our STEM Summer Experience Weeks in July. These experiences are invaluable for students.

Senior Scientist at DJS Antibodies, David Knight, also gave hours of volunteer time to our after-school Arti-Techs club. Thank you all!

Businesses joining our centres in 2022

Fluid Gravity Engineering

FGE is a scientific consultancy specialising in computational physics using continuum mechanics in areas such as fluid dynamics, thermodynamics, shock physics and electromagnetics.

Helio Display Materials

The first Oxford-Cambridge spinout, Helio is using perovskites to develop large screens at higher performance, lower power consumption and lower cost.

Human Centric Drug Discovery

A University of Oxford spinout, Human Centric is improving neurology drug discovery by bringing more human data to the process, allowing them to validate safe and effective drug targets for neurological diseases.

Kaldi Finance Technology

Kaldi is a fintech working to re-imagine the future of investment for a new generation.

Lumai

With the ever-increasing demands of computing, particularly in AI, Lumai is developing end-to-end optically-trained neural networks to improve speeds, performance and energy efficiency.

Mathys & Squire Ltd

IP firm with experience in patents, trademarks, design protection and litigation.

OxDX Ltd

From research in the University of Oxford's Department of Physics, OxDX is commercialising its innovative imaging technology to rapidly detect pathogens by using super-resolution microscopy and machine learning.

QuantrolOx

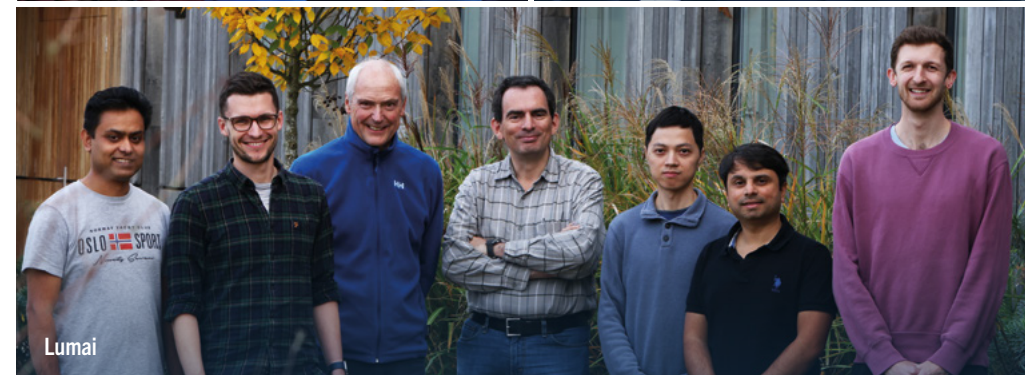
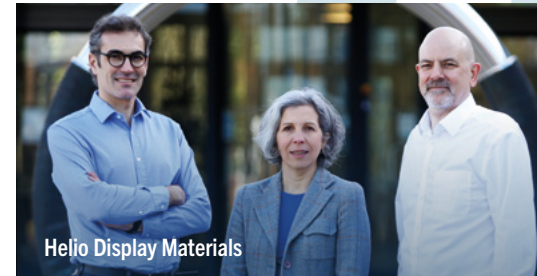
A recent spinout from the University of Oxford, QuantrolOx is developing machine learning-based software for tuning, stabilising and optimising quantum control for a new generation of quantum computers.

RedShiftBio

Their novel spectrometer uses lasers to detect structure changes in biomolecules that enable them to test new drugs for safety and efficacy in super-fast time.

Visionary Machines

Aiming to revolutionise the spatial sensing market, Visionary Machines is developing high fidelity 3D range sensing, using camera arrays, to enable machines to see better than humans.



Highlights of the Trust's year



A flurry of exciting new science and tech start-ups join our innovation centres including OxDx, Human Centric Drug Discovery, RedShiftBio, QuantrolOx, Visionary Machines, Lumai and Kaldi Financial Technology.

The Oxford Trust's new three-year strategy is approved by the Board of Trustees, including the introduction of an ED&I policy and associated funding.

First Oxbridge spinout, Helio Display Materials, takes R&D space at the Wood Centre for Innovation to develop their new generation screens based on metal halide perovskites.

March



February

In partnership with The Oxford Trust, Barclays Eagle Lab opens in the Oxford Centre for Innovation with co-working space for up to 12 entrepreneurs.



April

Set up by The Oxford Trust, Barclays Eagle Labs and Oxford Innovation, and sponsored by Freeths LLP, the new expert-led Exit Right event series starts at the Wood Centre for Innovation to help entrepreneurs drive their business from start-up to exit.

The History of The Oxford Trust: 1985 to 2022 by Georgina Ferry is published.

May





June

Heads of start-up businesses based in our innovation centres join the Trust for a dinner at the Ashmolean to build awareness of the incredible science that is happening in our centres and to facilitate the exchange of ideas.

We say farewell to trustee Professor William James and thank him for his huge contribution to The Oxford Trust over the last seven years.

Four new staff join The Oxford Trust to ensure delivery of our three-year strategy to support marketing and communications, administration, and activities and events for schools and families in the Science Oxford Centre.



August



October

Wood Centre for Innovation companies, Human Centric Drug Discovery and Samsara Therapeutics, host talks and lab sessions as part of Science Oxford's STEM Insight Week to help Year 10 students gain an insight into possible careers in science.

Samsara Therapeutics expands into new R&D lab space at the Wood Centre for Innovation to increase the drug discovery and validation capabilities in key neuro disease areas.



November



December

Richard Khosla-Stevens is appointed Chief Operating Officer at The Oxford Trust



Case study

How a school visit from The Oxford Trust changed Professor Jacqui Cole's life

Professor Jacqui Cole is Head of Molecular Engineering at Cambridge, and the BASF/Royal Academy of Engineering Research Chair in Data-driven Molecular Engineering of Functional Materials (partly funded by ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Oxfordshire). She holds two PhDs – one in Physics from the University of Cambridge and one in Chemistry from the University of Durham – but she's anything but the traditional academic.

Jacqui grew up in Oxfordshire, a few miles from where the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source is located. After GCSEs at the age of 16, she left Wood Green School in Witney and got a job at a local warehousing and transportation company as a hand packer. "It was just what I thought people did," she says, "leave school, get a job, work your way up."

Then she got a phone call from the school, asking if she was coming in to get her GCSE results. Slightly surprised, she did, and was asked if, given her grades, she would commit to doing A-levels. She went on to study Maths, Physics, Chemistry and History but, hedging her bets, didn't leave her packaging job.

Back at school, there was a visit from The Oxford Trust, a local charity with a mission to encourage the pursuit of science. Led by Gillian Pearson, Director of Education for the Trust, the charity's education programmes aimed to engage the next generation of scientists. It was this visit that changed Jacqui's life.

"I picked up a flyer they left for a competition," said Jacqui. "You had to choose a local technical company, visit them and write a report." She chose Oxford Lasers, "because I thought it sounded cool!" The prize was an all-expenses paid trip to the British Science Association Festival of Science, hosted by Swansea University. It was an eye-opener. "I just had no concept of university or what it was like," she said. She went to lectures, which she enjoyed, but particularly recalls the time between lectures having lunch on the university lawns by the beach! Back at school, she decided to give university a go and, as they say, the rest is history.

*Edited article with thanks to Sara Fletcher,
Head of Impact & Engagement, ISIS Neutron & Muon Source, March 2022*



Our impact

Innovation centres



35

Science & tech
start-ups supported



503

Client employees
supported



£13.7m

GVA for our
innovation centres

Barclays Eagle Labs



31

Science & tech
start-ups supported



40

Employees
supported

Exit Right event series



400

Attendees to
Exit Right events



1,100

Video views of
Exit Right events

Partner programmes



34

Advanced Oxford
business members



Education & Public Engagement

September 2021–August 2022



Update on our education & public engagement programmes

Following the Covid pandemic, the 2021–22 academic year was our first full year of delivery since 2018–19 and the news is good! Our programmes have reached an incredible total of 46,012 people over the academic year.

Our education programme

Our education programme is run under our Science Oxford brand and aims to inspire young people about STEM – science, technology, engineering and maths. We have an extensive primary school programme and a STEM Careers Programme for secondary school students across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Primary School Programme

Our Primary School Programme supports STEM teaching and learning for pupils across our region. Schools visit our Science Oxford Centre and we run STEM-focused shows and workshops in schools. Over the 2021–22 academic year, we engaged a total of 31,715 pupils and 220 schools across our region.

Opened in Autumn 2019, our Science Oxford Centre, the UK's first indoor-outdoor hands-on science education centre for early years and primary-age children, continues to be popular with schools with 110 visits over the year, engaging 5,935 pupils from 83 schools.

Alongside the Science Oxford Centre, the team has run an extensive outreach programme in 2021–22, delivering interactive STEM workshops and shows in primary schools.

We reached 11,067 children from 87 schools and ran 158 workshops and shows. In addition, we trained 350 teachers and loaned 47 science kits for school science lessons and clubs. An amazing 1,200 primary pupils watched our Winter Livestream Science Show in December 2021.

In 2021–22, The Oxford Trust secured funding from the Edina Trust to support primary schools with a high percentage of pupils in receipt of free school meals. The funding has enabled us to pay for visits to the Science Oxford Centre or run free outreach activities in these schools. We engaged 38% of the eligible schools within Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.



Big Science Event 2022

The Big Science Event is designed to support and celebrate pupil-led science investigation, managed by teachers in class. This year we had 11,670 pupils from 60 primary schools participating in the event. It was great to see children back in the Science Oxford Centre for the final in July 2022.

Update on our education & public engagement programmes...continued

Secondary School Programme

Our STEM Careers Programme is designed to create opportunities for secondary school students to gain the knowledge and skills that could springboard them into a STEM career. We do this by running a wide range of activities for all ages from Skills Workshops to STEM Insight Weeks.

Over the last academic year, we reached 531 secondary pupils from 67 schools. We have also worked with 19 local STEM businesses and organisations to support our activities, including Abbott, Diamond Light Source and GE Healthcare plus several companies based in our innovation centres (see page 8).

A key event in our STEM Careers Programme calendar is the Young Scientists of the Year Awards to celebrate 17–18-year-olds' achievements, talent and commitment to STEM. The 2021 Awards were run online and 90 students from 27 schools received awards.

Thinking, Doing, Talking Science

The Thinking, Doing, Talking Science (TDTS) training programme for teachers focuses on developing creative and challenging science lessons that encourage pupils to use higher-order thinking skills. Run by Science Oxford, the TDTS programme is currently the focus of a national re-effectiveness trial, funded by the Education Endowment Foundation. In 2021–22, we recruited 180 schools to the main trial and have 196 teachers due to attend the trial courses.

Our public engagement programme

Under public engagement, our Science Oxford team runs a vibrant programme of year-round events, including Family Days and STEM-themed after-school and Saturday clubs for all ages, both at the Science Oxford Centre as well as in partnership with communities across our region. Over the year, we have reached 13,071 people.

Family Days

The Science Oxford Centre is open for Family Days every Saturday. Despite the closure of the Centre during the pandemic, our Family Days have resumed their popularity. This year our Saturday Family Days reached an impressive 97% capacity and events run on holiday weekdays reached 98%. We had a total of 7,585 visitors over the year – about 80% are new and 20% are repeat visitors.

New developments for family visits to the Centre in 2021–22 included the opening of the Water Lab outdoor exhibit, funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation. In April 2022, thanks to Operation Earth, we launched our Explorer Backpacks, which are very popular with young environmental adventurers who want to explore our woodland.

This year, we also started to run special events and themed days. Our regular Sensory-Friendly Family Days every three months have been developed to better accommodate and support families who have children with autism or additional needs.



Live Lab at the Science Oxford Centre

Funded by the Evolution Education Trust, the introduction of Live Lab activities, in a dedicated space in the Exploration Zone, has added to the visitor experience on Family Days at the Science Oxford Centre. We can now showcase short demonstrations and hands-on science activities – from learning about blood to extracting strawberry DNA. Sometimes these activities are run by local experts, like the “Wonders of Blood” from the Jenner Institute, giving families a chance to meet and talk to visiting scientists about their research. Sometimes they are run by our own staff with expertise in particular topics. Live Lab gives families an opportunity to design and carry out their own short experiments. Children can develop their science skills and really feel like scientists!



STEM clubs

On Saturdays, we run regular Creative Computing Clubs, Science Clubs, and Nature Labs for 5–12-year-olds and accompanying adults at the Science Oxford Centre, and in Abingdon too. Over the last academic year, we delivered clubs on 43 days and engaged 2,218 people.

Each club day has a different set of activities and is designed to enable repeated engagement with families.

After-school clubs & summer holiday activities

Science Oxford's summer holiday activities and our Arti-Techs after-school clubs are designed for unaccompanied young people, rather than family groups.

These activities are developed to be multi-touch and reach those who are underserved by STEM engagement and often have additional needs..

They are resource-intensive but are an important part of the Science Oxford offer as their positive impact on children can be significant. This year we engaged a total of 59 children in the summer and after-school clubs with some very positive reviews (see pages 18–19). Over 50% of the places on our summer camps were offered free of charge to children who were less likely to have exposure to STEM.

Family Outreach Programme

Our Family Outreach Programme is designed to help us engage with people who are less likely to visit the Centre and more likely to have lower science capital.

This year we engaged 2,782 people through activities in partnership with IF Oxford, the Museum of Oxford, Oxfordshire Library Service and the Oxfordshire Play Association.



Community Days

As part of our strategy for reaching young people who may have had fewer opportunities to engage in STEM, we had 427 additional visitors to the Science Oxford Centre in 2021–22 on our nine 'Community Days' with specific groups, including Asylum Welcome; Autism Family Support; Banbury Mosque; Berkshire Vision and My Vision Oxfordshire; Maggie's; Sanctuary Housing; Banbury Youth Groups; and Yellow Submarine.

Reviews of Science Oxford's programmes



“ This is the second year we have participated in the Big Science Event. Both staff and children have thoroughly enjoyed the process and we have incorporated it into our long-term science plan.

The competition has really helped raise the prominence of science within the school and we were delighted to be invited to the Grand Final this year. The child-led investigations are great at engaging them in science and it is always interesting to see what ideas they come up with!

-Teacher, Big Science Event



“ The children were given time to explore freely and were also challenged to find answers to questions independently.

Having the chance to experience the woodland was new for some of our children, which was very special. The knowledge shared was really well delivered and staff incredibly welcoming and engaging for the children.

-Teacher, school visit to the Science Oxford Centre



“ My class really enjoyed the Science Oxford workshop.

The set up made them feel like real scientists and the workshop gave them a level of independence that they don't get within our 'normal' science lessons with all of the equipment that was provided. It was an inspiring lesson for the children with many of them saying that they wanted to become scientists when they are older.

-Teacher, Science Oxford outreach

Overall, a great day out. As usual the kids had a wonderful time both inside the Exploration Zone and outdoors in the woods.

They loved the new water activity too! A really great place to visit. We never get tired of it!

-Parent, Family Day, Science Oxford Centre



Probably the best Saturday club I have ever been to from the point of explaining the scientific principles in a fun, hands-on way.

I think I learned as much as my 8-year-old!

-Parent, STEM Club



Myself and my family visited the Centre today for the sensory-friendly session and LOVED it.

I've never seen both of my children so full of joy and so comfortable like that before. They got so much from the session. Thank you, you have no idea how much a day like today meant to us as a family.

-Parent, Sensory-Friendly Family Day, Science Oxford Centre



Highlights of Science Oxford's year 2021–22



October

Supported by Science Oxford, IF Oxford Science & Ideas Festival 2021 runs more than 100 events and activities over 19 days, and reaches 35,000 people.

Over 1,200 pupils from local schools watched our Winter Livestream Science Show

December



January

Funded by Oxford City Council Youth Ambition Grant, the new Arti-Techs club starts at the Science Oxford Centre to enable 11–14s to learn art and tech skills.

Our Science Oxford Centre is awarded the prestigious Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.

February



March

Our Science Oxford team visits 17 schools in British Science Week, the 10-day national celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths, engaging hundreds of primary school pupils in STEM.



April sees the launch of our new Explorer Backpacks, sponsored by Operation Earth, for intrepid young visitors to better explore the woodland and pond area at the Science Oxford Centre.

April



May

Funded by the Evolution Education Trust, pop-up Live Lab sessions start at the Science Oxford Centre to engage the public with research.

Organised in conjunction with the Science Learning Partnership, teachers are inspired at the Primary Science Conference held at the Science Oxford Centre in July with plenty of practical hands-on ideas for teaching and inspiring young people in science.

Twenty-four primary schools across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire compete in the 2022 finals of the Big Science Event at the Science Oxford Centre.

July



August

Our Family Bee Day, run in partnership with the Oxfordshire Beekeepers Association, is an August highlight at the Science Oxford Centre with talks, displays and even candle-making from beeswax.

Science Oxford's "Incredible Inventions" family show goes on tour to seven libraries across Oxfordshire and reaches over 200 children with interactive demos and experiments.

After a two-year break, our summer science camps and popular robot camp return for children who love STEM and want to learn more.



Our impact

For the academic year 2021–22

Education
programme



46,012

Total number of people reached

Totals for Primary School
Programme

220

Schools engaged

72

Member schools

31,715

Children engaged

Science Oxford Centre
for Primary Schools



83

Schools visiting
the Centre

110

School visits
to the Centre

5,935

Children engaged

Primary School
Outreach Programme



87

Schools reached

11,067

Children reached

158

Workshops & shows

1,200

Children watched our
winter livestream science show

47

Kit loans

350

Teachers trained

Big Science Event
participants

60

Schools

11,670

Children



Public engagement programme



13,071

Total number of people reached

Secondary School STEM Careers Programme



67

Schools engaged

19

STEM employers supporting the STEM Careers Programme

531

Secondary school students reached

Young Scientists of the Year participants

27

Schools

90

Students

8

STEM Insight Weeks & Career Days

Family Days

61

Family Days

7,585

Visitors to Family Days

427

Visitors to community days

STEM clubs & holiday activities

2,218

Attendees of STEM clubs

59

Attendees of summer holiday activities & Arti-Techs club



**Wood Centre
for Innovation**

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