



MUSEUM *of the*  
HISTORY *of*  
SCIENCE

The Museum of the History of Science has a unique collection of historic scientific instruments and apparatus covering areas such as astronomy, time-keeping, electricity, optics, medicine, chemistry, radio communication and mathematical instruments. Famous curiosities include Einstein's blackboard, the Wizard Earl's armillary sphere, and John Dee's holy table. The Museum also houses an unusual collection of early Islamic instruments and the largest collection in the world of astrolabes, an early astronomical calculating instrument of extraordinary beauty and ingenuity.

With its world-class collection and magical atmosphere, the Museum provides a fascinating environment in which to explore an understanding of science in a wider cultural context tracing links between past and present.

The Museum is centrally located in the heart of Oxford, and occupies an historic seventeenth-century building which was the original home of the Ashmolean Museum. It is one of the several museums and collections belonging to the University of Oxford and has links with the Faculty of History and science departments within the University.

**For more information**  
[www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education)

Museum of the History of Science  
Broad Street,  
Oxford  
OX1 3AZ



## SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME



Supported by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The Museum's education programme offers a range of taught sessions across the curriculum and at every key stage. These sessions focus on learning through real objects and are delivered by experienced educators. They are adaptable for all abilities and special needs. They can readily be coordinated with sessions offered at the other university museums and collections, and at university departments such as those in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences. Schools are also welcome to book self-guided visits. For more information visit [www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education)

### BOOKINGS, SESSION TIMES AND NUMBERS

Booking times are flexible and sessions can take place outside normal museum opening hours. The Museum is normally open to the public from 12 – 5pm Tuesday to Sunday.

Individual sessions cater for group sizes of 20-30 and usually last about an hour to an hour and a half. Larger numbers can be accommodated within coordinated cross-museum programmes.

To make a booking, please contact the education officer:

Email: [secondary+post16@mhs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:secondary+post16@mhs.ox.ac.uk)

Tel: 01865 277297



### INFORMATION FOR VISITING GROUPS

#### LOCATION

The Museum is centrally located in Broad Street next to the Sheldonian Theatre and is within easy walking distance of the other university museums and collections.

#### TOILETS, COATS AND BAGS

The Museum has toilets which are available to school groups but facilities are limited as is storage for coats and bags. It is advisable to make a toilet stop before visiting the museum, and to keep personal belongings to a minimum.

#### DISABLED ACCESS

Wheelchair access is limited. Please contact us beforehand to discuss arrangements. Parking for disabled visitors is available in Broad Street.

#### SUPERVISION AND EXPECTATIONS

We normally require a staffing ratio of 1 to 10. Please contact us to confirm arrangements. The Museum has its own code of conduct for visitors which will be made clear during the introduction.

For more information visit [www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education)

#### LUNCH

We have no regular lunch facilities at the Museum. In fine weather, lunch can be eaten in the University Parks which is a short walk away. No eating or drinking is allowed in the Museum. Please see website for advice about alternative venues.

#### PARKING AND COACHES

The Museum is unable to provide parking facilities for visiting school groups. Coaches are usually able to drop-off and pick-up in Broad Street or in nearby Parks Road. There are coach and minibus parking spaces at the Redbridge Park and Ride.

#### DONATIONS AND CHARGES

Please see the website or contact us for up to date information on charges or donations. By supporting the Museum you are contributing towards the costs of delivering and developing our programme for schools.



## SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME



Our regular programme of taught sessions covers a range of curriculum subjects. Sessions normally last between 60-90 minutes, and are adaptable to individual requirements.

For further information see [www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education)

### SCIENCE

#### Creative Sparks [Key Stage 3]

Explore the collection and discover the early story of electricity with objects and exciting demonstrations. Curriculum focus: Thinking scientifically.



#### Time Tellers [KS3]

Discover the history of time-telling, explore sundials in the collection and make an authentic model. Curriculum focus: Astronomy, Earth and Sun.



#### Globe Makers [KS3]

Discover the history of globes and the techniques of early navigation; experiment with object handling and make a model globe. Curriculum focus: Measurement and problem-solving.

#### Small Worlds [KS4]

Hands-on exploration of microscopy through the eyes of Robert Hooke and the early Royal Society. Curriculum focus: How science works.



#### Observing the Universe: Galileo [KS4]

Hands-on session using model telescopes to explore the story of Galileo, his observations and ideas. Curriculum focus: How science works.

#### Penicillin the Wonder Drug KS4/5

Explore the story of penicillin from its discovery by Alexander Fleming to its wartime development in Oxford. Curriculum focus: Science and society.

#### Discover the Astrolabe [KS4/5]

Discover the history of this extraordinary early astronomical instrument. Make a model and learn how to use it to solve problems. Curriculum focus: Ideas about the Universe and how science works.



### HISTORY



#### Globe Makers [KS3]

Discover the history of globes and the techniques of early navigation; hands-on experience with objects and make a model globe. Curriculum focus: The Great Age of Exploration.

#### Surgery and Anatomy [KS4]

Explore the history of surgery and anatomy in the early modern period through original books and surgical instruments. Curriculum focus: History of medicine.

#### Penicillin the Wonder Drug [KS4]

Explore the story of penicillin from its discovery by Alexander Fleming to its wartime development in Oxford. Curriculum focus: History of Medicine.

#### Renaissance Books [KS5]

A discussion-led seminar illustrated by early books and instruments from the Museum's collection. Curriculum focus: Renaissance studies.



### MATHEMATICS

#### Ingenious Geometers [KS3]

Explore the use of geometry in astronomy, surveying and navigation. Handle historic instruments and use them in problem-solving. Curriculum focus: Geometry, measurement and problem-solving.

#### Number and Symmetry in Islamic Design [KS3]

Explore the Museum's collection of Islamic instruments. Discover how number and pattern are related, and create a geometric design. Curriculum focus: Number and symmetry.



### ART AND DESIGN

#### Symmetry in Islamic Design [KS3]

Explore the Museum's collection of Islamic instruments. Discover the sacred relationship between number and pattern in Islamic design, and create your own geometric design. Curriculum focus: Design and symmetry.

#### Secret Knowledge: The Art and Science of Perspective [KS3/4]

Discover the Renaissance story of the invention of linear perspective through optical demonstrations. Experiment with the camera obscura for drawing in perspective.

#### Magical Movies [KS3/4]

Discover the invention of the moving image through object handling. Design and build an interactive museum display of an early moving image device.



## DAY PROGRAMMES



There are many opportunities to explore subjects across the museums and collections or academic departments of the University including coordinated sessions and targeted study days designed for curriculum enrichment.

### COORDINATED SCIENCE for Key Stage 3

Back-to-back sessions in partnership with the Museum of Natural History on coordinated themes suitable for Years 7, 8 and 9.

### 21st CENTURY SCIENCE for Key Stage 4

Back-to-back sessions in partnership with the Museum of Natural History designed to support triple science at GCSE. These sessions allow students to explore how science works and science in the modern world.

### STUDY DAYS for Key Stages 3-5



The Museum organizes study days on curriculum-related themes coordinated with other collections and academic departments. For higher level students these events also introduce students to the academic life of the University. Programmes include a mixture of museum-based activities, practical sessions in science departments, and talks given by university lecturers and researchers.

For more information on study day events including dates, [www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education/secondary/study-days/](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education/secondary/study-days/)

## CROSS-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMES Across the University Museums and Collections

The Oxford University Museums and Collections provide a fabulous opportunity for coordinated visits across sites which are all within easy walking distance of each other. A timetable can be arranged to accommodate whole year groups in a carousel of participating venues which include the Ashmolean Museum, The Museum of the History of Science, The Botanic Garden, The Pitt Rivers Museum, and The Museum of Natural History.



### TRADE AND EXPLORATION (Key Stage 3)

An exciting programme of practical activities, problem-solving, and object focused learning supporting geography, history, science, maths and business studies.

## OTHER SERVICES

### GUIDED TOURS

We can offer introductory guided tours featuring highlights of the Museum's collection and object demonstrations.

### TEACHER TRAINING AND INSET

We can help design and facilitate training and INSET sessions for teachers, or provide space to host your departmental planning meetings.

### ARTS AWARD

The Museum is an Arts Award Supporter and part of the Oxford University Museums Centre for Arts Award delivery. We welcome opportunities to work on Arts Award projects in partnership with schools or other organizations.



### OUT OF SCHOOL LEARNING

The Museum offers an exciting programme of family activities catering for a wide age-range, as well as a programme of special exhibitions, evening talks, and other events for the public.

For more information, see [www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/events/](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/events/)



## FIND OUT MORE...

For further information visit  
[www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/education)

