



# **OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN**

**CHRISTMAS 2025 ISSUE**

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**LOOK INSIDE THE FINAL BULLETIN  
OF THE YEAR FOR SOME AMAZING  
FESTIVE EVENTS TAKING PLACE OVER THE  
CHRISTMAS BREAK.**



**STAY IN TOUCH!**



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# The Royal Institution

## Science Lives Here



CHRISTMAS LECTURES *from*  
The Royal Institution

supported by  
**CGI**

## CHRISTMAS LECTURES

Dame Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock will take us on an epic voyage through time and space, in the 2025 CHRISTMAS LECTURES from the Royal Institution, supported by CGI.

The 2025 CHRISTMAS LECTURES will be on BBC Four at the end of December on these dates:

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December



This programme will be available shortly after broadcast

### Destination Moon

2025: Maggie Aderin-Pocock - Is There Life Beyond Earth? Episode 1 of 3

Dame Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock begins her search for extraterrestrial life with an exploration of our nearest neighbour, and her favourite space rock, the moon.

28 December 2025  
🕒 59 minutes

[Show more](#)



This programme will be available shortly after broadcast

### Searching the Solar System

2025: Maggie Aderin-Pocock - Is There Life Beyond Earth? Episode 2 of 3

Space scientist Dame Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock continues her search for alien life with a grand tour of our solar system. Could any other planets or moons out there be habitable?

28 December 2025  
🕒 59 minutes

[Show more](#)



This programme will be available shortly after broadcast

### To the Stars and Beyond

2025: Maggie Aderin-Pocock - Is There Life Beyond Earth? Episode 3 of 3

Dame Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, with the help of the world's most powerful telescope, ventures through the Milky Way and into the universe beyond, on the hunt for alien worlds.

28 December 2025  
🕒 59 minutes

[Show more](#)

FIND OUT MORE HERE

CHRISTMAS LECTURES  
ARCHIVES



# VISIT BIRMINGHAM & WEST MIDLANDS

## Christmas Events in Brum



VISIT  
BIRMINGHAM  
& WEST MIDLANDS

[What's On](#) | [Things to Do](#) | [Food & Drink](#) | [Blog](#)



FIND OUT MORE HERE

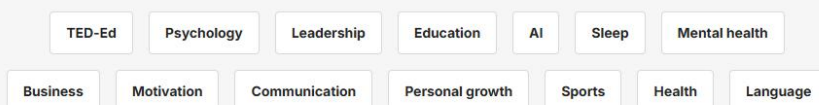


## Brums Christmas Reindeer Trail



# TED TALKS

TED Talks: Discover ideas worth spreading



[See all](#) →

## Newest Talks



How to eat with awareness and purpose

SEAN SHERMAN



How the fridge changed food

NICOLA TWILLEY



Why are we demolishing homes during a housing crisis?

OLAF GRAWERT



The army of autonomous robots restoring nature

TOM CHI

## Our Mission

Discover and spread ideas that spark conversation, deepen understanding, and drive meaningful change.



# GRESHAM COLLEGE



**Lectures that Inspire**  
**Autumn 2025**

# Time to Think



The 2025–26 lecture programme has arrived! Journey from AI and ancient politics to the maths and music of nature, photography, and modern China. This year's free lectures explore society, science, beliefs, and the universe. Plus, enjoy the inaugural series from our new Professors of IT, Business, and the Environment.

Visit our website to register, view our full annual programme, or watch lectures from our back catalogue of over 3,500 videos.

Find us at: [www.gresham.ac.uk](http://www.gresham.ac.uk)  
[enquiries@gresham.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@gresham.ac.uk)  
020 7831 0575



## SUPPORTING GRESHAM COLLEGE

"I am honoured to uphold the legacy of the oldest chair of mathematics, and a position of deep respect within the mathematical community. Public lectures allow us to bring the beauty and rigour of maths to everyone, enhancing understanding and inspiring new generations. **I encourage you to support our mission to keep these lectures free and accessible to all by donating today.**"

Alain Goriely,  
Gresham Professor of Geometry

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# UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## Leeds Futures



**Leeds Futures is a national outreach programme designed for individual learners in Year 12 / Year 1. It provides students with the opportunity to learn more about a subject area they are interested in pursuing at university, whilst developing their study skills and careers awareness.**

Students enrolling on the programme choose to specialise in a particular subject area. They will then attend a variety of subject-related activities alongside receiving advice and guidance on practical matters such as UCAS applications, accommodation choices and student finance.

This programme is ideal for students who have a clear idea of what subject they are interested in studying at university and have a preference for mainly online sessions with at least one on campus visit held at the University of Leeds.

[APPLY HERE](#)

# Discover



MATHS

CHEMISTRY & PH



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Password



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SCIENCE



CHEMISTRY

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UNIFEST  
2026



🎉 Applications Are Open! 🎉  
[★ Apply Here ★](#)

## What is UniFest?

UniFest is our Year 10 summer school which offers you the chance to explore university life, meet current university students and staff and make new friends. With five summer school events to choose from at different universities across the West Midlands, you will have an action-packed, fun experience.



UniFest 2023 Highlights

[▶ WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)

## Who is UniFest for?

UniFest is for learners in Year 10 at non-selective, state-funded secondary schools in the West Midlands who are from backgrounds and communities that are less likely to consider university as an option. To apply for a place, you will need the support of your school and the consent of your parents or carers, and you should be able to answer “Yes” to at least one of the following:

- I live in an area where not many young people go to university
- I am a young carer
- I have a disability or learning difficulty
- I am in the care of my local authority
- I receive Free School Meals /FSM6/ Pupil Premium
- My parents or carers did not go to university

## What will I do?

That depends on which UniFest event you choose! Some events explore university life and study in general, and others focus on specific careers or study options. All UniFest events include lots of hands-on sessions and a fun programme of social activities.

## Is UniFest free?

Yes! UniFest is funded by universities and schools and is **totally free of charge**. For residential UniFest events, meals, accommodation and activities are all paid for (although you may want to bring a little pocket money with you). The universities will help you plan how to get to and from events. If travel costs will make it difficult for you to attend, please get in touch by emailing [aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

## What happens if there are more applicants than places?

UniFest is very popular and there are often more applicants than places. We ask for information about your family background and advise you to choose several events so that we can offer places as fairly as possible. If you have any questions about eligibility, please email us: [aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk).



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**Sign-up now for free >**



# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Access to Birmingham

# New

The Access to Birmingham (A2B) programme helps University of Birmingham applicants with little or no higher education experience to explore what studying at university involves.

The University of Birmingham has a long history of welcoming students from a wide variety of social and cultural backgrounds. We were one of the first universities to set up a fair access scheme for local students in 2000 and are proud to be able to offer you the support of our A2B scheme if you are studying at one of our partner institutions.

## Apply to A2B

Applications for the 2025/26 A2B scheme are open until 13 November 2025 for Medicine and Dentistry and 12 February 2026 for all other applicants.

Completing the programme will bring you a range of benefits including an alternative offer and funding. We encourage you to explore our programme information and eligibility and consider applying.

**APPLY NOW**

### Benefits of taking part in the programme

Once you complete A2B successfully, you will receive two offers from the University of Birmingham, the standard offer and a [Pathways to Birmingham offer](#).

The Pathways to Birmingham offer is typically a reduction of up to two A level grades (e.g. BBB rather than AAB).

As well as the Pathways to Birmingham offer, you will also benefit from:

- Financial support
- Continued support and guidance from an experienced and dedicated A2B team
- Preparation for the transition from school to university study
- The opportunity to make new friends at a special induction event before you start university
- Becoming a Birmingham Scholar upon starting university
- Practice interviews for courses where relevant (Medicine, Dentistry, Social Work, Nursing, and Physiotherapy)

**EXPLORE THE BENEFITS**

# ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

## About Royal Voluntary Service

Working together we help grow the nations' volunteer community and run services to support people's health, wellbeing and connections.

## What's your Role of a Lifetime?

We're partnering with ITV on a brand new campaign starring familiar faces calling on the nation to get volunteering.

[GO TO GOVO.ORG](https://www.govo.org)

**Students & young  
adults volunteering**

