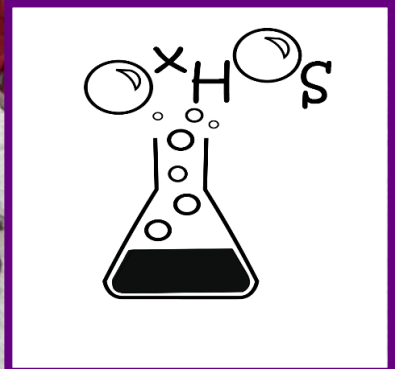


Oxford Hands-On Science (OxHOS) Autumn Roadshow Report 2015



About the Roadshow

What is OxHOS?

Oxford Hands-On Science (OxHOS) is a new student-run society based in Oxford. We believe that science is fun and relevant to everyone! We aim to spread our enthusiasm for science to children and their families by taking lots of hands-on experiments drawn from a range of subject areas into schools and public venues, with helpful student volunteers explaining the science behind the experiments!

OxHOS has been founded in partnership with Cambridge Hands-On Science (CHaOS) who have been running interactive science Roadshows for over 10 years. This means we have lots of experiments covering a broad range of science subjects, and lots of experience in how to run a great event.

“The whole experience was about as perfect as I would hope for as a Head of Science”

Head of Science, Fitzharrys School

Where did the Autumn 2015 Roadshow visit?

Our first Roadshow lasted one week, when we visited three schools in Oxfordshire and hosted two public events in Oxford. This allowed us to get OxHOS activities up and running in the area surrounding Oxford - and lots of young people and their families got to try out exciting hands-on activities!



School Events

On 28th September, we visited Fitzharrys School in Abingdon, where we held sessions for Year 7 and 8 Classes, and also hosted Year 6 from the local Dunmore Primary School. Students really enjoyed learning about how hot air balloons work and extracting DNA from kiwi fruit!

“My favourite bits were looking through a microscope at muscle fibres and extracting DNA from kiwi fruit”

Year 7 student

On 29th September, OxHOS visited St Andrew's Primary School in Headington. Here we saw students from Years 4, 5 and 6 - with the Year 6 Class even accompanying us to have a primary school dinner! Everyone was very excited to have a go on the spinning chair, look at our cuddly microbes, and to see just how long our intestines are!



The final school for the Autumn 2015 Roadshow was the Oxford Academy in Littlemore, who we visited on 30th September. We hosted Year 7 and 8, and even managed to squeeze in Year 9 at the end of the day who didn't want to miss out!

“It was smoothly run and allowed the teachers to relax and enjoy the time with the students”

Teacher

Public Events

During the weekend of the Autumn 2015 Roadshow, we ran two public events, the first at East Oxford Community Centre and the second at Templars Square Shopping Centre. We were thrilled to see all ages represented at the events, and very excited by the number of local families that popped in for a look! It was lovely to hear a number of parents asking us to visit their children's school in the future or who wanted to come to more of our events! The children were particularly excited by the mini explosions, seeing things fluoresce under the UV light and making some very successful hot air balloons!

"Loved it, what an amazing event!"

Mum

What did our visitors think?

Feedback from schools was collected through a teacher's questionnaire with comments from students. Feedback about our public events was gathered using questionnaires given to groups of visitors. We were very pleased to find that 100% of our visitors rated the event as either fantastic or enjoyable! The majority of our visitors thought that the content level was about right and learnt a lot. We were also happy to have reached a broad age-range of young people, and 47% females and 53% males. Through using a range of advertising techniques, we reached a broad audience, including 24% who visited museums either never or once a year.

How are OxHOS volunteers trained?

In the run-up to the Roadshow we ran sessions to introduce our demonstrators to our experiments, and to pass on some handy tips about communicating science in a fun and accessible way. These training events were run by experienced demonstrators from CHaOS to ensure that we got off to a flying start!

What were the main costs involved in this Roadshow?

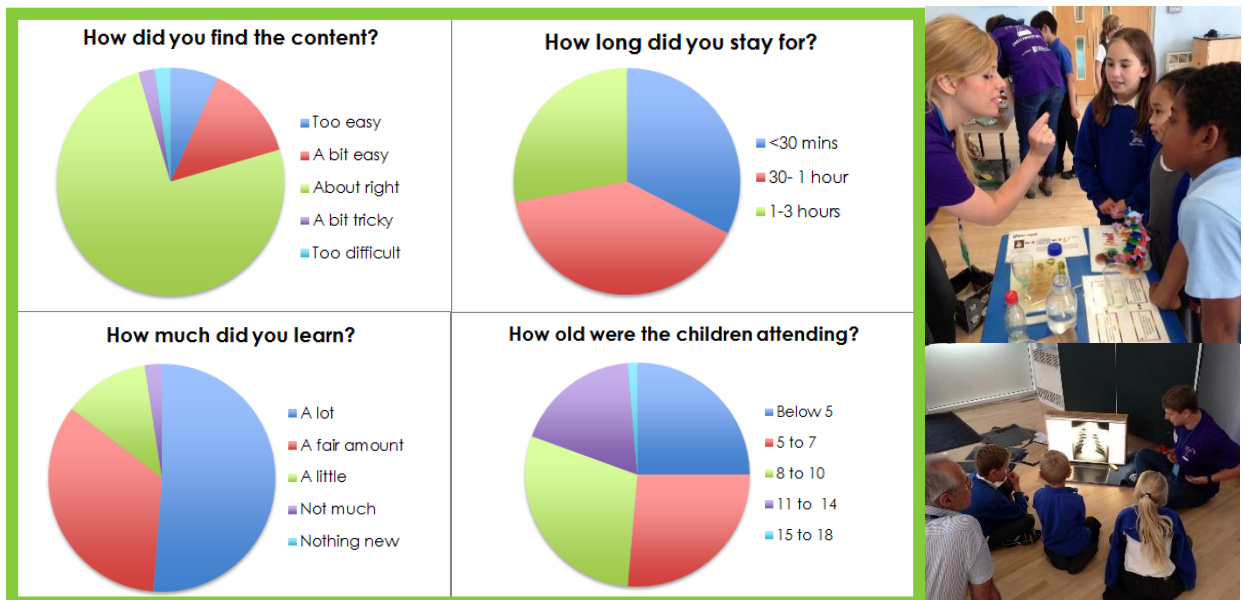
As the experiments for our first Roadshow were borrowed from CHaOS, our sister society in Cambridge; the main expenses for this Roadshow were advertisement, travel to and from events, and the provision of snacks during the school visits and lunches for the volunteers at the public events.

How is OxHOS funded?

The Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences at the University of Oxford provided very generous sponsorship of the OxHOS Autumn 2015 Roadshow, volunteer T-shirts and banner. For future Roadshows, we will be looking for sponsorship from scientific societies, charitable organisations and the University of Oxford.

What's next for OxHOS?

Over the coming months, the team at OxHOS are developing a portfolio of exciting hands-on science experiments, which we'll be taking out on the road for our Summer 2016 Roadshow!





The student demonstrators in Autumn 2015 were:

Adam Grey, Alice Lattey, Anna Lewis, Beatrice Tyrrell, Bryan Adriaanse, Caroline Telfer, Charlotte Clark, Chico Camargo, Chloe Adams-Pickford, Christina Turner, Corinna Kulicke, Cynthia Sam, Danielle Ellenby, Ellen Gallimore, Eleanor Price, Emily Brooke, Gordon Frazer, Hannah Germain, Joe Gardner, Katherine Chapman, Katherine Roberts, Laurene Vetterli, Laurienne Gardner, Lottie Philpott, Mallika Jaiprakash, Marie-Louise Francis, Martin Larke, Matilde Stefanini, Megan Sloan, Meghan Rossi, Minh Tran, Nicola Joseph, Rhiannon Evans, Rhiannon Main, Rhys Pryce, Richard Mifsud, Sarah Wiseman, Shannon Guild, Susan Leung, Tonia Thomas, William Harvey, Yale Michaels, Zahra Aboukhalil.

With many thanks to:

A huge thank you to CHaOS for their support in setting up OxHOS and in helping during training sessions and at public events. Thank you to CHaOS also for their generosity in donating experiments for our first roadshow, we couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you also to all the schools and public venues for their hospitality and feedback. It was an amazing experience for OxHOS volunteers.

Finally, thank you to the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences for their generosity in sponsoring OxHOS and our first Roadshow.

Generously supported by



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