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Contributed talk: RSC Women in Chemistry: Making the Difference

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During the global pandemic, the University of Oxford co-ordinated and set up a multi-institution online open-access project promoting women working in the chemical sciences. The project provides an opportunity for girls aged approx. 10-14 (Upper KS2-KS3 or equivalent) and their supporters to engage in creative and enjoyable practical challenges linked to current chemical sciences research at UK universities. Monthly challenges, research explainers and team profiles have been developed and shared and each institution hosted a number of online live Q&A events to provide opportunities for the girls taking part to engage with the team of females behind the resources. The latter act as role models in terms of academic careers and qualification routes into the chemical sciences and are available to answer questions regarding the research undertaken by the institution and the linked challenge(s).

This talk gives the background to the project, its aims, example resources (including video clips), and a selection of the responses from both institutional teams and the young people and supporters who engaged with the project. Additionally, conclusions are drawn from the first six months as well as suggestions for future adaptations.

The Universities involved include the University of Oxford, University of Wolverhampton, University of Warwick, University of Durham, Imperial College London, and the University of Bristol.

Region

UK/Ireland

Key words

outreach #PER #diversity #women #community

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