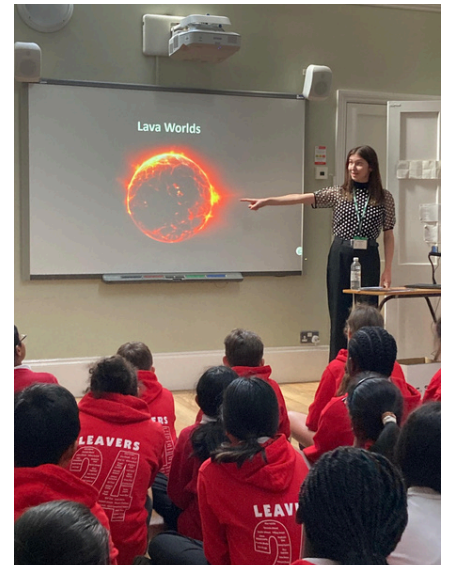


Welcome to the Lindemann Alumni newsletter which begins with confirmation that the next Postdoctoral Fellowship competition will open for applications next October for the years 2026-28. The decision to delay from this year has been a hard one, but the Trustees have decided that this is the most prudent course to ensure the long-term health of the Fellowship scheme given that we wish to maintain a two-year rather than a single year Fellowship offer in the years ahead. We shall also redouble our efforts to secure additional funding to support the Fellowships in the future.

Meanwhile, our outreach work continues apace. We have made further contact with the Royal Society's Summer Science festival, Karen Mooney gave a presentation to students at the University of York, in conjunction with GenerationResearch (with thanks to Steve Quinn on our Outreach committee for setting this up), and we expanded our Science Day programme for state primary schools to include London for the first time (with thanks to Sarah Hawkins, also on our Outreach Committee; see report below). We also look forward to holding primary school Science days in Scotland in the New Year and are grateful for support from the University of Edinburgh and individual donations. These schools' Science Days, featuring different 20-minute presentations from former Lindemann Fellows, are always a joyful confirmation of the interest that our audience of ten-year old girls and boys take in science. Accompanying teachers are supportive and enthusiastic and our speakers are always excited by their reception and the quality of the questions! If you would like to volunteer to join our list of potential presenters, please email Melanie. We can also provide any advice, if needed, about presenting to these Year 6 children. The days are as enjoyable as they are rewarding.

Event Reports

In June, in partnership with King's College Junior School, Wimbledon, we were delighted to host an Introduction to Science afternoon with pupils from Abbotsbury Primary School. Dr Felix Flicker, Lindemann alumnus and Senior Lecturer at Bristol University, presented 'The Magic of Matter'. Dr Flicker showed the pupils three different crystals and outlined some of their physical properties, discussing what they tell us about the nature of matter on the smallest scales. The children were able to analyse the crystals on a screen before passing them around to touch and feel. Astronomer, Frances Rigby, from the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge, spoke about types of exoplanets. She discussed what makes them habitable, and how we might detect extra-terrestrial life on them. The children were able to take part in a demonstration of how exoplanets are discovered and how they orbit.



We were then delighted to host another Alumni lunch in September, at Christ Church, Oxford. Lindemann alumni from across the years had the chance to meet each other, and guests were also given the opportunity to have a tour of the college, kindly offered by our Trustee, Martin Grossel.

News from Fellows

We currently have 4 Fellows out in the US at various stages of their research. Ben Lewis is just finishing his time at the University of Colorado, where he has been working with one of their world-class Strontium atomic clocks. And our newest Fellow, John Cattermull, has recently arrived at Stanford and looks forward to researching the development of a new class of cathodes for Lithium-ion batteries. It was a pleasure to hear recently from Toby Johnson, who has been undertaking a Fellowship at Princeton, investigating 'Controlled Molecular Motion in Mechanically Interlocked Peptides.' *My wife and I arrived in Princeton, with our lives packed into 8 suitcases in January 2024, to a snowstorm. We have thoroughly enjoyed experiencing American culture and have been lucky enough to be able to travel to a range of wonderful cities within the US, and several countries nearby. My research investigates the structure of a naturally occurring class of biomolecules called lasso peptides, which have a structure reminiscent of a cable tie. This interlocked structure endows many preferential properties to the lasso peptides, such as high stability to degradation and high binding specificity culminating in very selective antimicrobial activity.*



Toby Johnson and his wife, embracing a very snowy new lifestyle!

Upcoming Events

- **Introduction to Science** - we have a number of outreach events planned for the coming academic year, including our first in Edinburgh and our annual day in Cambridge. If you would be interested in presenting, [please let us know](#).
- **Alumni Lunch:** Autumn 2025; details to follow.