



# Biosecurity school workshops: A pilot study

Biological Security Research Centre & Debden Park High School Sixth Form

By Olivia Ibbotson, Gillian Moore and Professor Lijun Shang

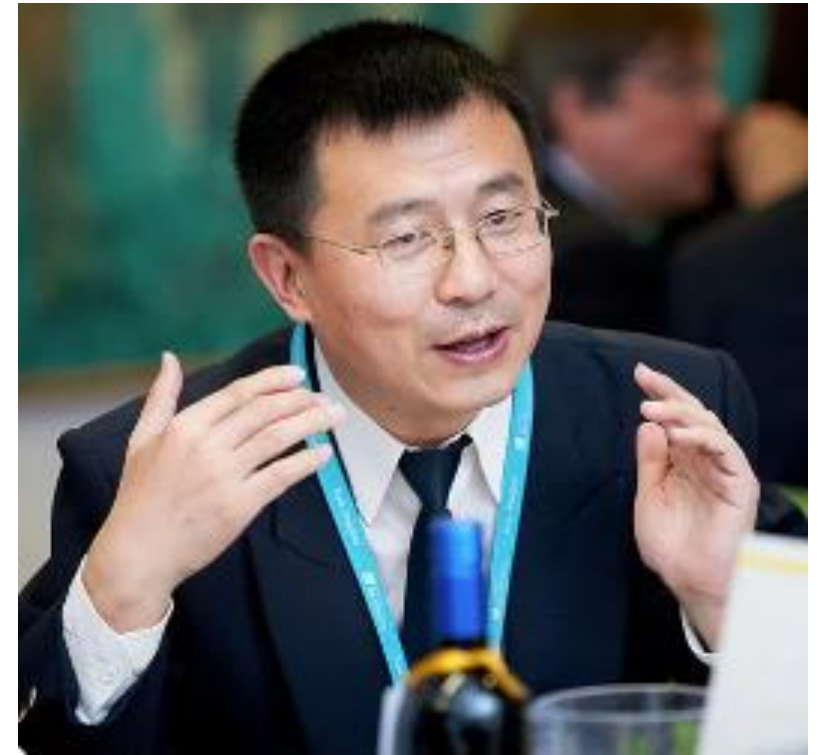
# Meet the team



Olivia Ibbotson – PhD  
Candidate



Gillian Moore – Senior  
Science Technician



Professor Lijun Shang – BSRC,  
LMU

# Presentation outline



THE RATIONALE



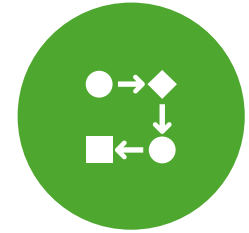
THE DESIGN  
PHRASE



DELIVERY



ASSESSMENT &  
EVALUATION



FEEDBACK &  
FUTURE  
IMPROVEMENT

# The rationale



Question to consider:



**Why sixth formers?** Transfer knowledge into academia, then professions and make informed decisions and spread awareness (**Horizontal transmission**)



Students speak to peers, parents = public awareness (**Inverse vertical transmission + horizontal transmission**)

# Step 1: The Design phrase

Steps prior to launching event; liaising with the school, developing a report, explaining the project, obtaining permission from the school.

- Programme was carefully developed to compliment their past and current curricula.
- Ethical considerations: Safeguarding + DBS

## Step 2: Delivery

- Recruitment; Launching event, Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Summer Research Project, Biosecurity School Conference, Workshop 3
- Sandwich methodology – Active recall, Pop-culture references, Active learning and Active recall.
- Workshop style – Mixture of university style lectures X Pop-culture references
- **Student autonomy**, voluntary, late starts, **low-pressure**
- Engagement was up to the student's discretion --- *Confidence building*



The UK's first ever biosecurity school conference 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025



M I R R O R

L I F E

## Step 3: Assessment & Evaluation

Mean average of understanding **1.5** at the start of workshops --- **8** post-workshops

**100%** of students revealed a positive answer to enjoyment

**100%** of students revealed positive acknowledgement to noticing biosecurity in everyday life

**80%** of students said they have been reading around the subject

**50%** watched films related to biosecurity

**75%** of students felt that biosecurity should be integrated into the curriculum as a stand alone subject.

**80%** of students would recommend the project to year 11 students about to enter Sixth form.

## Step 4: Feedback & future improvements

- Good feedback from BSRC and DPHS
- Large interest from the school's science department and Enrichment team
- Letter receive from Head teacher thanking us for the Project
- Plans to expand to other academy schools – Trials with year 10s.
- Calls for more schools and universities to join, State Parties to support, and for funding to continue the project
- At the moment this project is sustainable on good will.

# Acknowledgements

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Debden Park High School Sixth Form – Director of Sixth Form – Mr Joseph Simm