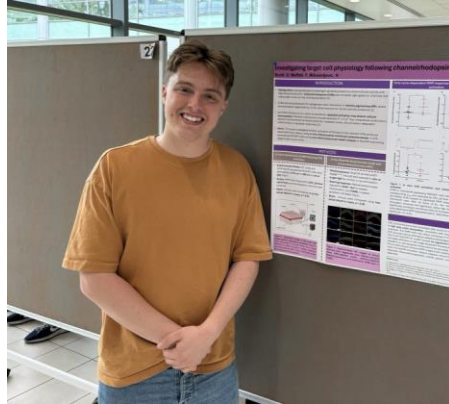




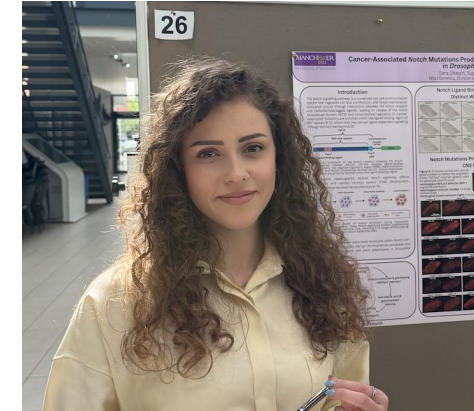
Off The Record – Networking Initiative

*Breaking Down Barriers
Building Connections Between Students & Staff*

Who are we?



Oliver Scott
Co-Founder
MSci Neuroscience



Sara Shaqiri
Co-Founder
MSci Genetics



Committee Members:

- Nidha Sidhick – Neuroscience
- Shreya Dadwal - Biotechnology
- Tia Mistry – Neuroscience
- Amelia Glendinning - Microbiology
- Hamda Hashi – Molecular Biology
- Muhammad Dawood Hameed – Biomedical Sciences
- Ting Zhu - Biochemistry
- Thomas Brazier - Neuroscience
- Fatema Kharbotli – Genetics

Why did we create OTRNI?

Challenges We Identified:

Larger class sizes

Fewer opportunities for one-to-one interaction

Communication barriers

Issues raised in rep meetings often resolved through open discussions and collaborations

Lack of informal spaces for dialogue

Little sense of community

Increased feelings of isolation

Demand for academic networking

Students wanted greater access to academics

Interest in career advice, research opportunities, and personal development



Our solution: Off The Record networking initiative

A networking initiative designed to strengthen community within the School of Biological Sciences through regular professional and informal events.

What We Aimed to Achieve:

Break down barriers

Create a more approachable and inclusive environment

Encourage meaningful interactions between students and staff

Improve communication

Support open, two-way dialogue across the school

Provide opportunities to share feedback, ideas, and experiences

Promote academic and career development

Connect students with researchers and academics

Facilitate discussions on science, research, and career pathways

Build community

Foster a stronger sense of belonging within SBS

Create lasting professional and social connections



Our solution: Off The Record Networking Initiative

- A networking initiative designed to strengthen community within the School of Biological Sciences through regular professional and informal events.
- By fostering open conversations we hoped to:
 1. Breakdown formal barriers between students and staff to foster a better sense of community
 2. Enhance bi-directional communication at every level...
 3. Give students and researchers opportunities to discuss scientific ideas



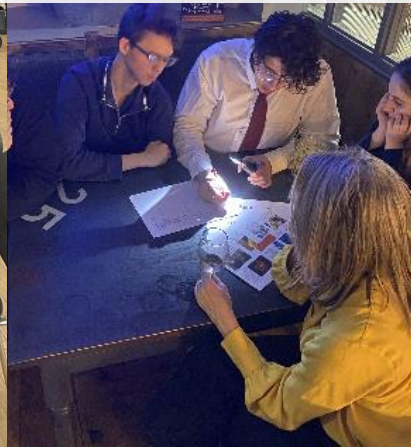
Our Events:

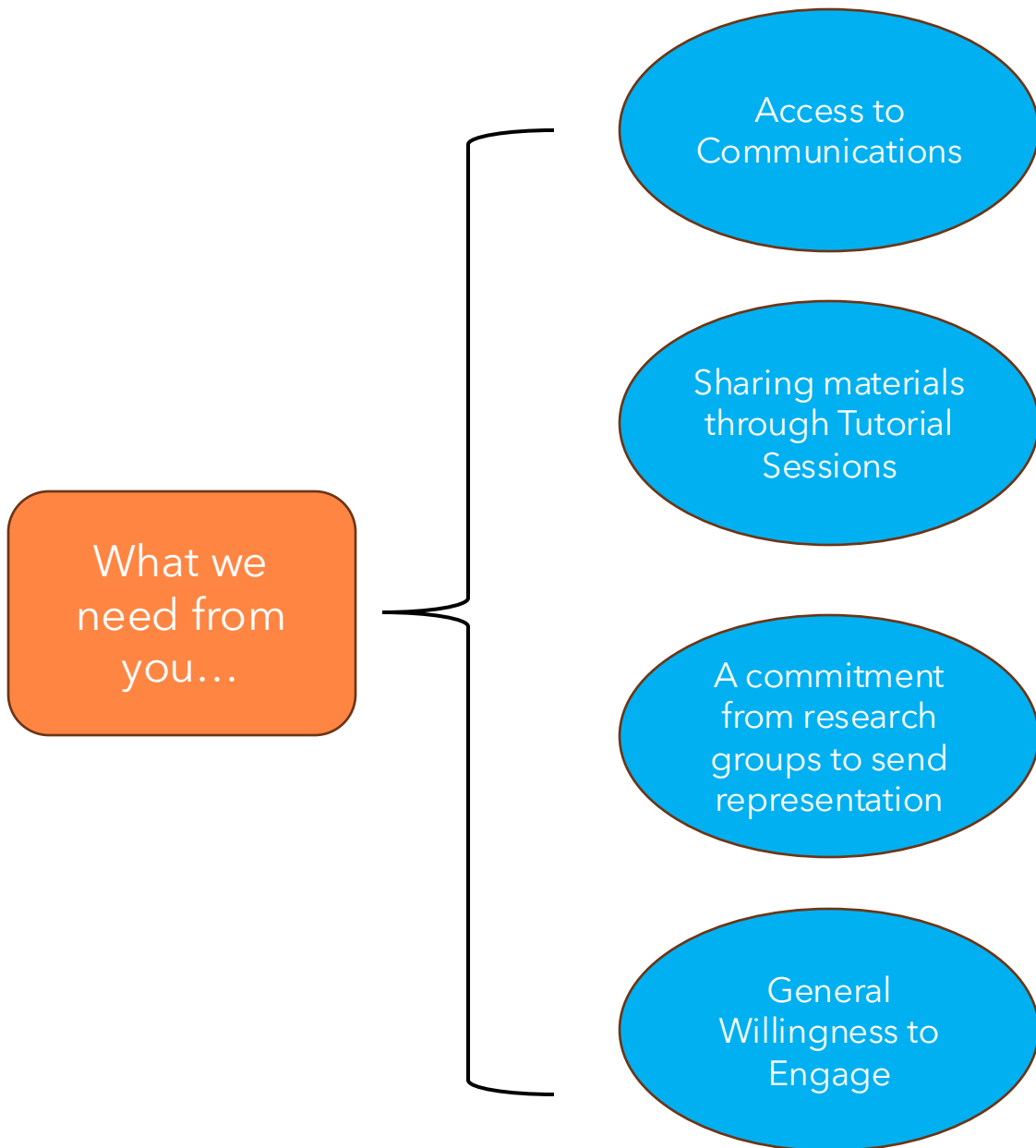
- **Regular Research Networking Events**, allowing undergraduates and researchers to connect.
- **Games/Quiz Nights**, through society collaborations bringing students and staff from across SBS program's in a more casual setting.
- **Arts & Crafts sessions**, with special thanks to the Eco-Champions
- *Future event ideas are greatly appreciated!!*





- **Across the last year, our events have been attended by hundreds of students and ~ 50 members of faculty!**
- The feedback we have received from students has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their appreciation to staff for getting involved.
- Undergrads have reported better understanding of research opportunities, an increased sense of confidence and a keen interest in future events.





- For us to expand, we will need a commitment from both students and staff to engage with events where possible
- We would love to **Hear From You!** If you have any ideas or contributions you'd like to offer, we would love to hear all ideas.



BIG THANKS TOO...

- Krystyna Drewenska
- Prof. Lisa Swanton
- Dr Katherine Hinchliffe
- Prof. Nicky High
- Anne Pinkerton (And the SBS hub)
- Dr Martin Pool
- Dr Richard Prince
- Dr Maggie Fostier

Collaborators

- SOBSS
- SBS Pass
- Genetics Soc
- NeuroSoc
- Eco-champtions
- BioChem Soc

