



A group of six state and independent schools working in partnership to raise educational aspirations across OX14 by providing opportunities for students and staff to be challenged, inspired and learn from each other.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year. I am writing to you on behalf of the Partnership Champions and School Leaders within your school to remind you about or introduce you to the **OX14 Learning Partnership**.

After several years of informal partnerships between the secondary schools in Abingdon and the OX14 postcode, it was felt that the time had come to formalise the relationship. Staff members from St Helen and St Katharine, John Mason, Fitzharrys, Radley College, Larkmead and Abingdon School worked together to develop the OX14 Learning Partnership which launched in November 2021.

Partnerships between state and independent schools are becoming more common and are encouraged by the Department for Education as they provide wide ranging opportunities for collaboration and mutual benefit. Local School leaders decided on core aims for the partnership based on the needs of our young people. These are:

- To raise educational aspirations across the OX14 postcode by providing opportunities for students and staff to be challenged, inspired and learn from each other.
- Use extra curricular activities to develop character, promote cultural engagement and support civic pride.
- Support the mental health and wellbeing of students and staff.

Mental Health and wellbeing is at the heart of the partnership and we aim to provide workshops, speakers and events on this topic to support the whole community. Natalie Hunt, Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, spends time supporting students in school with issues such as anxiety and stress and runs regular drop in sessions for students. As part of the OX14 LP a weekly youth space in collaboration with The Abingdon Bridge takes place at Tilsley park to provide young people with a place where they can have fun and make new friends. To find out more please email youthspace@theabingdonbridge.org.uk

Activities such as Academic Coaching and Peer Mentoring across the six schools have already been established, giving students and staff the opportunity to collaborate and share ideas as well as to develop leadership skills. Other activities such as lectures, guest speakers, competitions, University support and sports groups provide an ever widening selection of opportunities.

A student committee will also be an important part of the partnership and will be a place where students from each school can have their views heard, collaborate with new people and plan activities for their peers.

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We do hope that you and your child feel that the partnership provides opportunities that will enhance their time at school. As the partnership develops we hope to engage a wider range of year groups and activities. Please feel free to get in touch with the Partnership Coordinator [Jessica Burns](#) with any questions.

To keep up to date with events and news please follow us on twitter [@OX14_LP](#) or check the events calendar on the website ox14lp.or.uk.

Best wishes,

Jess Burns

Partnership Coordinator