

# OXFORDSHIRE VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



Issue 3

Term 3  
2022/23



Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Oxfordshire Virtual School's termly update for parents and carers of Children We Care For and Previously Cared For Children. Please circulate this newsletter to other people with parental responsibility, or care responsibilities for Children We Care For, or Previously Cared For Children. If you have any questions/requests for content of upcoming issues, contact [clare.pike@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clare.pike@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## CONTACT US

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## Good News!

Oxfordshire Virtual School, The ATTACH Team and Adopt Thames Valley have been successful in a joint bid for funding to become a Centre of Excellence for Adoption Support. Watch this space for more information.

**Safer Internet Day** is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February - this is highly relevant for our children. The 2023 theme is: Together for a better internet. For more information, [click here](#).

## Year 10s and 11s with EHCPs

Please speak to your child's SENCo if you are concerned about a Year 11 with an EHCP who does not have a clear destination named on their plan for Post-16. Due to the lengthy consultation process, there is often a last minute rush in March to name somewhere, which may end up not being the appropriate destination, or may not provide the preferred course option which can lead to confusion and disappointment and/or a young person becoming NEET.

For all children in Year 10, especially those with EHCPs, it is a good idea to encourage them to attend Open Events this year (see p.3) and to start getting an idea about their preferred destination. Those with EHCPs should have their Annual Review at the end of Year 10 or very early in Year 11 to enable those early consultations to take place.

## Find out more here:

[Virtual School for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, 0-25 | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

## Training Programme 2022/23

[Click here](#) for details

## Half-Term Activities

[What's On for Kids](#)

## It's never too early to be planning the next steps

### Applying to primary school - key dates for Reception

15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 closing date

### Applying to secondary school key dates for Year 6's

1<sup>st</sup> March offers day

15<sup>th</sup> March last date for late applications

### UCAS 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 deadline for applications to university

**Post 16 courses** - Many colleges have held open events and have more planned (see p.3). Check college websites for details. The application window is open right up to August 2023 but apply early for popular courses.

**Apprenticeships** - Look out for vacancies as soon as you can into the new year, as this is when many businesses start to advertise.

## Information and Advice for Special Guardians

[Guardians' Guide](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/guardians-guide)  
([buckinghamshire.gov.uk](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk))

## This term is key for Post-16 students...

Please build in time to support visits and applications to Sixth Forms, universities, colleges and apprenticeships. Try to take a copy of college applications that young people make - it makes following up applications much easier – i.e. have they actually applied, have they missed phone calls asking them to interview, etc.

Our Year 11 mentor Izzi Crowther, is available to support this process, email: [Isabel.Crowther@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Isabel.Crowther@oxfordshire.gov.uk) Alternatively, you can contact our Post-16 Team by emailing the phase lead: [mark.walker@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.walker@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

# Upcoming Open Days and Events

## City of Oxford College Events

- **Wasps/City of Oxford College ACE Programme** – ‘We provide the support for students to pursue their rugby ambitions whilst studying their preferred academic pathway, whether that be through a range of A Levels, BTEC’s in Sport, Business or Engineering or other vocational courses.
- [Wasps ACE, Oxford \(Girls\) Rugby Course \(16-18s\) Open Event 7th January 2023 - City of Oxford College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](#) – 07/01/23 9:30am – 1pm **Harcourt Hill Campus** Harcourt Hill Oxford OX2 9AT
- [Wasps ACE, Oxford \(Boys\) Rugby Course \(16-18s\) Open Event 14th January 2023 - City of Oxford College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](#) – 14/01/23 10am – 2pm **Harcourt Hill Campus** Harcourt Hill Oxford OX2 9AT
- [Technology Campus Open Event 8th Feb - City of Oxford College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](#) – 08/02/23 4:30pm – 7:30pm – Blackbird Leys Technology Campus, Cuddesdon Way Oxford OX4 6HN
- [City Centre Campus Open Event 1st March - City of Oxford College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](#) – 01/03/23 4:30pm – 7:30pm – City of Oxford College, Oxpens Road, Oxford OX1 1SA

## Banbury & Bicester College

- [Open Event - Banbury and Bicester College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](#) – 01/02/23 4:30pm – 7:30pm Banbury College, Broughton Road Banbury OX16 9QA

**Abingdon & Witney College** – [Bicester Construction Skills Centre Open Day – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 9:00am – 12:00pm](#)

## Henley College

- [Tours of Henley College](#) – 11/01/23, 18/01/23 and 25/01/23 10am – 11:30am
- [Information Evening: 12 January 2023 | The Henley College](#) – 12/01/23 5:50pm – 8pm
- Deanfield Avenue, Henley-on-Thames RG9 1UH

## New College Swindon

- [North Star Campus - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January](#) 5-7pm North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1DY
- [Queens Drive Campus – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January](#) 5-7pm New College Drive, Swindon SN3 1AH

## Reading College

- [Open Event - Reading College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](#) 22/02/23 4:30pm – 7:30pm King's Road, Reading RG1 4HJ