

Adults with Learning Differences

Newsletter

FEBRUARY | 2025

Welcome Back!

NEW COURSES, NEW IDEAS...

Dear Colleagues,

A – belated – Happy New Year! College kicked off in January, with courses packed to the gunnels! New additions this term include a collaboration with **Soundabout**, who are running a music course on Friday mornings at our Witney campus. The course was extremely popular and places filled very quickly.

With this in mind we'll be talking to **Soundabout** about running more courses with us in the future.

I know they're very busy but watch this space.

Also, we launched an employment-based project at the Pump House Project in Faringdon, see more on the next page.

Best wishes,
Lee Humber
ALD Coordinator



Key Dates



'BETTER TOGETHER' TWO-DAY CONFERENCE

28TH - 29TH MAY
10AM - 3PM

TERM STARTS:
13TH JANUARY

HALF TERM:
24TH - 28TH FEBRUARY

TERM ENDS:
28TH MARCH

soundabout
make music change lives



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New Initiatives in 2025

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

2 BIG PROJECTS THIS YEAR:

We're running a two-day '**Better Together**' conference in May, building on the friendships we established through last year's event.

Also, we are trialling courses and events focused on developing employment-based opportunities.



With regard to the conference, we'll be inviting national speakers to talk about key learning disability issues and we'll be running more 'Have a Go' sessions. We'll also try to put on a 'Student-only' session. Let us know what you think.

With regard to employment-based opportunities, we've begun a course based in Faringdon, at the **Pump House Project**. Students are working there, cooking and serving food to Faringdon's older people's community.



It's a partnership with lots of potential and we'd like to draw the lessons from it with a view to expanding. Thoughts on this, and other, employment ideas will be welcomed.



Student Achievements

This section celebrates some of our learners' achievements.



Having fun at the ALD Christmas Party



Serving at the Pump House Project



Team photo against Swindon, where the Oxford inclusion squad came out on top.



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Publication News

HAVE YOUR SAY



Disability Rights UK:

“Misleading”, “rushed”, and “unfair” consultation on work capability assessment reforms declared unlawful – an important victory for Disabled people

The King's Fund >

**The King's Fund,
08/01/25:**

The health and care outlook for 2025



**Special Needs Jungle,
11/12/24:
Disabled children are not widgets. Removing rights isn't the answer to the SEND crisis**

**Special Needs Jungle, 09/12/24:
Language matters: Why the definition of SEND is shifting, and why we should be worried**

**Special Needs Jungle, 28/01/25:
Renewed petition to SCRAP SEND Safety Valve and write off council High Needs debt**

Partner News

MOVE Together



Would you like to move more?

Move Together Coordinators can help you to find activities and provide encouragement and support.



To learn more, visit our website at:

<https://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/move-together>



Or call your local coordinator:

Oxford City - 07824321720

Cherwell - 01295 227907

South & Vale - 07717836750

West Oxfordshire - 01993 861564



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