

May 2023

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN IN OXFORDSHIRE

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Looking forward...

FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS PROJECT 2022/23

In the January edition of this newsletter [Service Pupils | Schools \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#), an overview was shared of this year-long project involving 25 schools across the county funded by the [Armed Forces Education Trust](#) charity. Do check out their website!

These Schools, and one Early Years setting, have been accessing staff training and running small school improvement projects which will be shared in an electronic publication accessible to all schools early next term.

On **Thursday 22nd June**, representative Service children and staff from the schools will attend a special celebratory event being held at Oxford Brookes' Headington campus. As well as showcasing their schools' work to each other, invited guests and VIPs, the children will also take part in a campus tour with some University student ambassadors; learn to juggle with a recent Britain's Got Talent runner-up (TV celebrity Steve Royle); and attend an awards ceremony. It should be a memorable day for them.



The Council's *Learning & School Improvement Service* is extremely grateful to the University for providing the venue and staff for this event without charge.

Particular thanks must also go to the four school leaders who have overseen this fabulous project which will make a difference to so many Service children in our schools:

Hannah Owen, Carterton Community College

Gemma Rogan, Faringdon Learning Trust

Sue Khawaja, AHT Five Acres Primary, Bicester

Rob Lyons, Services Champion, Wallingford School



MotMC April 2023: RAF Falcons launch season with Brize Norton sports field jump

FREE summer term CPD:

1/Network meetings for school Service children leads:

- 14 June (13:15-14:45)
<https://educationsservices.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

(see footer*)

2/Armed Forces' Children: the board's role

- 6 June (19:00-20:30)
www.GovernorHub.com or email
GovernorServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Armed Forces week June 2023

Armed Forces Day in the United Kingdom is an annual event to commemorate the service of men and women in the British Armed Forces.

Find out more via the following link:

[Armed Forces Day - 24 June 2023](#)

How will your school celebrate?



PLEASE HOLD THE DATE!
Service children: Pupil Voice event
- Friday 13th October

Thriving Lives for Service children
-conference for school leaders and pastoral staff
Friday 17th November

Both events are being funded through an Armed Forces Covenant grant the Learning & School Improvement Service has successfully bid for.

Further details early next term!



* These termly sessions aim to provide updates, training and opportunities to share good progress amongst schools that have Service children on their rolls. The sessions are being led by external consultant Matt Blyton who has a wealth of experience in this field, and who is a current member of the SCISS National Executive and the SCiP Alliance Management Group.



**OXFORDSHIRE
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Looking back...



Schools across the county have been recognising the important role that military children play in the Armed Forces family during the recent MotMC celebrations. What did you do?



Carterton Community College Service Student Ambassadors led a number of assemblies in local primaries.



Service students from Wallingford School have been listening to Y2 children read at RAF Benson Primary,



Armed Forces children in 16-19 education

'Diversity meets Complexity'

Report published in October 2022

This fascinating report is well worth a look, irrespective of whether you work in the Post 16 phase. Based on a literature review, focus groups with young people, a practitioners' survey, staff interviews and discussions with experts, Diversity meets Complexity outlines the needs of military students in this age-group together with many of the barriers they face.

Building on the Thriving Lives Toolkit for schools and its self-evaluation framework, the findings of this research have led to the creation of seven 'best practice' principles for 16-19 settings, along with some underpinning considerations:

1. **Data and identification:** we know our Armed Forces young people and their families
2. **Culture:** our culture recognises and celebrates the experiences of Armed Forces families
3. **Transition:** we provide specialist support for young people from Armed Forces families as they join and leave our setting.
4. **Staff awareness:** our staff are well-informed about the experiences and needs of Armed Forces young people
5. **Wellbeing:** the wellbeing of Armed Forces young people is prioritised and supported
6. **Achievement:** the achievement of Armed Forces young people is maximised
7. **Parental engagement:** we work with and involve parents from our Armed Forces community.

The paper's authors also stress that: "Student engagement should underpin all practice"

WANTED! Can you help?

A small team of advisers are on the look out for examples of good practice in schools linked to one of the 7 Principles of the SCiP Alliance's *Thriving Lives Toolkit*. Their project, running across 2023, aims to publish 50 school case studies to exemplify good practice against the Alliance's self-evaluation framework, thereby supporting other school leaders who wish to use it.

The team are particularly keen to include schools with small numbers of Service children on roll.

Please email matt.blyton@oxfordshire.gov.uk if you think you could help.



DID YOU KNOW?

Since Service Pupil Premium stops at the age of 16, many FE Colleges do not know who their Service children are, since there is no financial incentive in finding out. This makes tracking their outcomes impossible. Staff in schools with 6th forms generally know about their military cohort due to SPP figures in Y11. This is one of a number of systemic issues being highlighted to policymakers.



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