

OLC Newsletter

June 2023



Welcome

Hello to all of our wonderful champions. We hope you are all well and have had some opportunity to enjoy the sunshine over the last month. The first thing to let you all know is that we are going to be taking a short pause on our newsletters and coffee mornings over the summer to enable us to review how we best support this network moving forward. If you need information, advice or support please do contact us via scotland-engagement@open.ac.uk or join and post questions in the online forum linked to the training module [here](#).

In this newsletter, you will find -

- Reflection on the CPD session held on 12 May
- Some highlighted OpenLearn courses
- Information about how the Open University supports disabled students on our taught programs

Coaching and Mentoring CPD Event

On 12 May we held a CPD event for Open Learning Champions from Scotland and Wales which focussed on 'Coaching and Mentoring'. Led by Rebecca Parry, one of our amazing social science tutors, this interactive and engaging workshop encouraged our Champions to share their experiences, knowledge, challenges, and successes. The session was very lively with challenges and top tips being shared throughout.



Rebecca introduced key coaching and mentoring concepts and approaches that Champions can adapt for use within their roles. On the day fantastic feedback was received, emphasising the value of sharing learning, reflection and practice across the Champions' network. A huge thank you to those of you who attended and engaged so meaningfully with the session.

A recorded version of the session will be adapted for [OpenLearn Create](#) as a resource for Champions who were unable to attend. We will let you know when this is available.

Highlighted Courses



[Volunteers Week 1 - 7 June](#)

Volunteers Week takes place 1-7 June every year. This week is an annual celebration of the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering in their communities. On

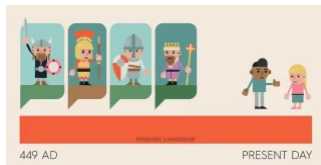
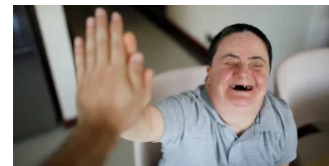
OpenLearn there are courses to help learners expand their skills and knowledge, and open the door to new opportunities in the world of volunteering. To access volunteering courses on OpenLearn, please see [here](#).

Here are some new courses on OpenLearn:

[Supporting older people with learning disabilities and their families](#)

What does excellent care and support for older people with learning disabilities and behaviour that challenges others look like? How do you know when you see it? How can it be replicated across different settings? And who needs to be involved in delivering it?

This course is for anyone working with older people with learning disabilities, including those whose behaviour may challenge others. It is for registered professionals and non-registered health and social care workers.



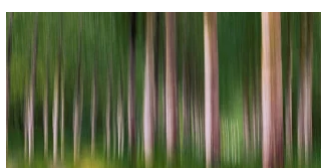
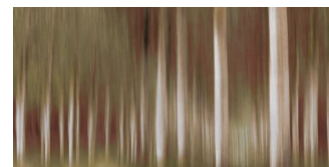
[A short introduction to the English language](#)

This course looks at the role language plays in our lives, with a particular focus on the English language. It will examine the history and the future of the

language, from the Anglo-Saxons and Shakespeare to social media communication and stand-up comedy.

[Leadership for inclusion: what can you do?](#)

This course will help to develop your understanding of how to promote and support learning for all, within classrooms with a diverse student and staff population. It will encourage you to embrace your own capacity to lead at any level of an organisation.



[Leadership for inclusion: thinking it through](#)

This course will help you to think about your professional educational situation and the ways in which you can develop your practices alongside others. It will provide you with a better understanding of competing values within the school system and how to identify and build upon opportunities to lead and collaborate in this context.

You can keep up to date with OpenLearn courses via the '[Latest from OpenLearn](#)' section, and by subscribing to their [monthly newsletter](#).

Support for Disabled Students

You may be working with learners who are considering moving on to taught programs with the Open University who have a disability and would like to know more about the support on offer. The key information for enquirers can be found [here](#).



In this newsletter, I wanted to highlight our approach to ensuring the right support is in place.

We work with our students to develop relevant support plans.

When students tell us they need support to ensure teaching and learning is as accessible as possible, we will find out as much as we can about support needs in relation to the following to ensure any adjustments that are needed are made, any external support such as Disabled Student Allowance is explored, and crucially so that tutors are aware of how they can best support each student as an individual:

- Communication needs
- How best to facilitate access to tutorials (including before, during and after tutorials)
- How tutors can best support throughout the module
- Approaches to workload planning and management
- How best to deliver feedback on assessments
- Adjustments for exams*

We take a person-centred approach to exploring student needs and ensuring that what we put in place provides a 'level playing field' in relation to studies. This information is written up as a needs profile which is visible to the student and their tutor, and can be changed at any time as students needs change across their study journey.

To find out more

The best way for any of your learners to find out about Open University study and the support available is to contact us via any of the options [available here](#). British Sign Language users in Scotland can also contact us by using the online sign language interpreter service provided by [Contact Scotland BSL](#).

Share your thoughts

We are keen to find out what you thought of this newsletter. Did you find it informative, interesting and useful? Please click on the thumbs up or thumbs

down below.



Remember to follow @OUScotland and @OUfreelearning on Twitter for updates and tweet us using **#OLchamps** if you have anything to share.

You're welcome to share this with your colleagues, learners and networks. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, you can [unsubscribe here](#) and we'll take you off the mailing list.

If you have any questions about Open Learning Champions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at scotland-engagement@open.ac.uk.

Keep well,

David and Kat



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