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| Title | County Councillor's Report |
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Large majority offered first choice secondary school place for 2022/23

Parents and children across Oxfordshire have been offered their first choice of secondary school for 2022/23 in the vast majority of cases.

A total of 88.27 per cent (6,606) of applications have been awarded their first choice (up from 80.9 per cent last year). A total of 96.42 per cent (7,216) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application. The county school admissions team has done an excellent job in ensuring that so many parents and children have been offered their first choice. Our aim as a council is to give every child a good start in life and our school admissions team certainly play its part in that year in, year out.

Oxfordshire County Council receives award for commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion

The Council has received a bronze award for its commitment and efforts to become an LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and others) employer. The award comes as part of equality charity Stonewall's 'Bring Yourself to Work' campaign, which highlights the importance of inclusive work environments. Oxfordshire County Council is proud to stand with everyone in our LGBTQ+ communities. According to Stonewall's research, more than a third of LGBTQ+ staff (35 per cent) hide who they are at work, while one in five (18 per cent) have been the target of negative comments because they're LGBTQ+.

Local Transport and Connectivity Plan consultation

Final call for this, which runs until 16th March 2022, and outlines the long-term vision for transport in the county and the policies required to deliver this.

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcp>

Public Health advice: use caution and consideration as pandemic enters new phase

People in Oxfordshire are being urged to act with caution and consideration following the prime minister's significant announcement about COVID-19 rule changes.

Despite recent welcome declines in the number of people contracting COVID-19 in the county, thousands of people are still doing so each week.

Ansaf Azhar, Oxfordshire County Council's Director for Public Health, said:

"We're now at a point where we can start to look forward, to live with COVID-19 and be confident about making plans. But my advice is to do this with caution and consideration for others. COVID-19 has not gone away. For some – the medically vulnerable and the elderly – it remains a threat. For those who have not had the vaccine, the virus still has the potential to cause serious illness."

- Be considerate. If you feel ill, then you should still stay away from others and remain at home while you have symptoms. As with any other illness, no-one will thank you for sharing it.
- Be aware. There will be many in our communities who will be extremely nervous about the recent news. Be conscious of other people's situations and what they are comfortable with and adjust your behaviour accordingly.
- Be cautious. Our rates are still high and will remain so for some time to come. Making sensible decisions, such as wearing a face covering in crowded places and letting fresh air into indoor spaces, does not mean restricting what you do.
- Be mindful of the fact that our health and social care system remains under huge pressure. So please only visit hospital emergency departments in genuine emergencies.