



Quest for Learning

Annual Report 2018-19



Welcome from the Director

Since joining Quest for Learning in November 2018, I have been repeatedly struck by the passion and professionalism of absolutely everyone involved in making the charity such a success – tutors, trustees, volunteers, and the executive team.

The 2018-19 academic year has been a landmark one for Quest for Learning: **since 1996, our teaching has improved the life chances of more than 5,000 children.** I am immensely proud to be at the helm of a charity with such a strong track record of making a real difference to the futures of children in Oxfordshire.

Sadly, the need for our services isn't decreasing. Nationally, almost half of children from low-income families can't read properly when they leave primary school. Locally, despite Oxford's 'ivory towers' image, **1 in 5 of the city's children live in poverty.**



Back in February 2019, the County Council highlighted a worrying trend: the attainment gap between children eligible for free school meals and their peers is widening in Oxfordshire, despite decreasing nationally. Simply put, **children from the poorest families in Oxfordshire are being left further behind their school friends than elsewhere in the country.**

This is a shocking indictment for our county and an enormous waste of the individual abilities of each child who isn't reaching their potential. I want to ensure that Quest for Learning can continue to play an active part in closing this attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their better-off peers by continuing to expand our teaching across Oxfordshire, targeting schools in areas of inner city and rural deprivation.

Whether you are a long-standing donor or a new friend to Quest for Learning, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to you for helping us to transform children's life chances through education.

Siân Renwick, Director of Quest for Learning

THANKS TO YOU

In 2018-19, our specialist teaching directly benefited a total of **266 pupils** across **19 Oxfordshire schools** who have become more confident and engaged learners:

93

pupils

improved their reading skills and spelling
as a result of ReadingQuest

53

pupils

improved their reading comprehension
as a result of BookQuest

"Kieran has come a long way this term. He has made big leaps with his independent work and willingness to participate."

Teacher of ReadingQuest pupil

120

pupils

improved their mental maths
as a result of NumSkills

And our professional development training allowed us to have an even wider impact:

"I have developed games and other techniques adaptable for both high- and low-level achievers."

Promoting Mathematical Learning for Teaching Assistants course participant

227

**teachers and
teaching assistants**

refreshed and enhanced their skills in supporting children struggling with literacy and numeracy



Donor profile

"Have you ever sat in a lesson and not understood something only to spend the rest of the time stuck on that point while others around you continue learning? It's like watching the knowledge train leave the station with everyone on it apart from you."

Chris Dowsett, Head Of IT Applications, Infrastructure and Operational Security at Amey in Oxford, completed a gruelling 140 mile cycle ride over the Welsh Hills to raise a fantastic **£1,472.50** for Quest for Learning as part of his work with the Red Thread Fellowship leadership development programme.

The impact of your donations

"It's about love of learning and life-long skills – I think it's fantastic!"
Anna Grice, Headteacher at Thameside Primary School, Abingdon

"At home, sometimes on the weekend my mum and dad are lucky because I read them a story. And when I'm stuck they help me."

15 months
progress in reading
in just six weeks

"He has become lots more interested in reading. This morning I came down and he was eating breakfast and reading at the same time."

89% of teachers strongly agreed that they expected pupils to achieve better assessment results as a result of doing NumSkills



78% of teachers strongly agreed that pupils' experience of NumSkills had positively impacted on their classmates

"The difference it has made is amazing and helped him to realise his own ability and find pleasure where he has previously struggled and hated to read."

20 months
progress in comprehension
in just six weeks

"She has really benefited from having time set aside just for her. She is focused in class and comes back smiling after sessions. The tutor is GREAT!"

Continue supporting us

QUEST:5000

We've recently reached 5,000 direct beneficiaries of our teaching! To mark this fantastic milestone, and in anticipation of teaching the next 5,000 children, we're aiming to raise £5,000 via our Quest:5000 appeal. The appeal launches on 1 July and will run until 31 December 2019.

Trusts & Foundations

Consider making an unrestricted grant: we keep our running costs as low as we possibly can in order to ensure that the maximum possible amount of money goes into teaching the children who need our help, but we still need to cover rent, salaries, insurance, DBS checks etc. We really appreciate the vote of confidence that an unrestricted grant entails, and we promise to spend your donation wisely.

Businesses

Consider making us your charity of the year and help us to raise our profile in Oxfordshire. By involving your staff in fundraising activities or supporting them to donate their professional skills as volunteers you can improve morale and team cohesion while benefiting a great local cause. Alternatively, we'd love it if you could sponsor us directly: whether through a cash donation or by sponsoring a fundraising event, your contribution could help us continue improving children's life chances through our teaching.

Individuals

Regular donations play a vital role in providing us with steady income to support our work. Even small amounts can make a huge difference: just £10 a month could buy a new book for our library, while £20 could pay for an hour's one-to-one teaching. <https://localgiving.org/charity/questforlearning/>

Legacy giving can also be a meaningful way to support a cause that's important to you. For information about leaving a gift in your will, please see our website.

If you'd like to talk further about supporting us, please get in touch with the Director, Siân Renwick, at sian.renwick@questforlearning.org.uk

Quest for Learning
Aureus School Buildings, Candytuft Way
Harwell, Didcot, OX11 6FF

www.questforlearning.org.uk
info@questforlearning.org.uk
01235 313713



@QuestforLearningUK



@Quest_Learning



@QuestforLearning