

Press release

12th March 2013

Three Oxfordshire schools are chosen to become national teaching schools

Three schools in Oxfordshire have been selected for an important new role aimed at further raising standards.

The Cherwell School, Frank Wise School and King Alfred's Academy are 3 of only 150 schools in England to be granted teaching school status in the third wave.

The designation by the National College for School Leadership entitles the three schools to lead the training and professional development for staff. They will do this by working together with other schools and education providers such as universities, as well as the Local Authority, as 'Oxfordshire Teaching Schools Alliance'. At present the Alliance has 22 schools including Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, and is looking to expand as more schools become involved.

The teaching schools initiative began in 2011, marking a shift towards school-centred training and development. The programme gives outstanding schools the freedom and autonomy to lead a group of schools, working with other partners including at least one university, to deliver high quality support for teachers and leaders at all stages in their career.

Simon Spiers at King Alfred's Academy said: "Working together, our aim is to raise standards in Oxfordshire schools by building a culture of aspiration, challenge and excellence".

Sean O'Sullivan from Frank Wise Special School said: "We want to make sure that education in Oxfordshire is world class and has the greatest positive impact on all of our children and young people".

Paul James from The Cherwell School added: "This Alliance aims to support all schools across all phases and we hope that colleagues, children and young people right across the county will see the benefits of being involved."

The National College has responsibility for the designation and quality of the teaching schools programme, working closely with the Department for Education (DfE), as the national network grows to 500 teaching schools by 2015.

Maggie Farrar, Executive Director at the National College, said: "Teaching schools like The Cherwell School, Frank Wise School and King Alfred's Academy should be proud of their achievement as they need to be at the top of their game to take on this role - outstanding in their own performance and having a track record of raising standards through school-to-school support.

“With some 350 teaching schools around the country we are now well on our way to creating a self-improving school-led education system. These are the schools that are blazing the trail by harnessing the finest teaching talent in the profession to drive school improvement in innovative ways, and bring real benefits to pupils and staff. Trainees can learn from the best teachers in action and those who want to move up the career ladder are exposed to excellent practice within and beyond their immediate school.”

As they develop, teaching schools working with other schools and universities will help to provide the next generation of teachers and headteachers and support schools in challenging circumstances.

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Notes to editors

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