

Library Newsletter

Intelligence Insider – April 2025

In this edition

| | |
|--|---|
| Letter from the editor..... | 1 |
| Empowering Lives through Functional Skills: a Tutor's Perspective..... | 2 |
| Stock Review at Oxford Health Libraries..... | 3 |

Letter from the editor



Laura Nunzi
Senior Library
Assistant

We recently celebrated two remarkable events that have left a lasting impact on our Trust: **World Book Night** and **International Women's Day**. These celebrations have not only brought joy and inspiration but have also strengthened our community bonds.

Thanks to the incredible partnership between Oxford Health Libraries and **Oxford Health Charity**, we witnessed an incredible outpouring of love for books with 163 books donated to patients across the Trust.

In collaboration with the **Women's Support Group** and the **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) teams**, Oxford Health Libraries reached out to everyone in the Trust, including those with limited access to computers. We were able to donate Bomb Seed Packs and books, spreading empowerment and knowledge far and wide.

As you may have noticed, we have changed our face! We believe that our new design will make it easier for you to navigate through our content, find the information you need, and enjoy a more engaging reading experience. We are always happy to receive your feedback, let us know your thoughts at library.enquiries@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk.

Empowering Lives Through Functional Skills: A Tutor's Perspective

As a tutor within the Skills for Life team at Oxford Health, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the transformative power of education. Our program currently supports 98 students, with a remarkable 78% aiming to achieve a mathematics qualification. This high percentage reflects a desire to overcome past educational challenges, as many learners may not have received adequate support during their school years.



Abdul Saboor,
Functional Skills Tutor

Recognising the prevalence of 'maths anxiety'—a widespread issue highlighted by National Numeracy—we have tailored our approach to create a supportive learning environment. Our efforts have led to an impressive first-time pass rate of 82%, a testament to both our students' dedication and the commitment of our teaching team.

Understanding that 30% of our students have neurodiverse needs, we utilise tools like Cognassist and have undergone training covering areas such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, ADHD, and more. This ensures that all learners receive the personalised support they require. Additionally, with 36% of our cohort being ESOL learners, our team of ESOL specialists is adept at addressing the unique challenges faced by students for whom English is an additional language, providing both IELTS and OET support as well as general English practice.

Our support extends beyond academics. We assist international nurses through Conversation Clubs, facilitating smoother integration into the healthcare environment. We also provide one-to-one support to help learners achieve the necessary Maths and English qualifications required for apprenticeship applications, spanning levels 3 to 7. Notably, 37 of our former Functional Skills students have progressed to the Nursing Degree Top-up program, underscoring the role of Functional Skills as a vital stepping stone in their career pathways.

My journey into education has been deeply influenced by my background. Growing up in Cowley, East Oxford, within a large Pakistani family, I've witnessed the significant contributions of the Pakistani community in elevating the living standards of the area. Our community's dedication to hard work and mutual support has fostered a vibrant and inclusive environment.

Before transitioning into teaching, I spent years working in the charity sector, supporting marginalised populations such as the homeless and individuals battling addiction or mental health challenges. This experience highlighted the profound impact of education in empowering individuals and fostering social inclusion.

In our current global context, the ongoing situation in Palestine weighs heavily on many of our learners, particularly those with personal or cultural ties to the region. We remain committed to providing pastoral support to all students, acknowledging and addressing the emotional and psychological impacts of such conflicts.

At Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, we believe in the holistic development of our learners. By addressing both educational and personal needs, we aim to empower individuals to overcome barriers, achieve their goals, and become successful in whichever career path they choose.

Stock Review at Oxford Health Libraries

The Assistant Librarians at Oxford Health Libraries are conducting a review of all books in the library that are over 10 years old.

This will ensure that we have the most up-to-date editions available and is also helping to weed out old stock, whilst at the same time identifying key texts that need to be retained for historical value.

All books that have been withdrawn are available on the sale trolleys at Whiteleaf and Warneford libraries, and newly withdrawn books are being added all the time, so please take a look at the trolleys next time you're in the libraries.



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