



# 2027 and Beyond





# Introduction

The past five years have been a testament to Dragon School's resilience, adaptability, and unwavering pursuit of excellence. In the wake of Covid we embraced change with agility and purpose, evolving to meet the demands of a rapidly shifting global, national, and local landscape. Through it all, our mission has remained clear: to nurture a diverse, dynamic community with a truly global outlook – preparing children for success at the UK's top schools and beyond.

Our continued dedication to full boarding has allowed us to

welcome families from across the world, while also offering greater flexibility for local families to experience the richness of our boarding life. This blend of tradition and innovation strengthens the fabric of our community and ensures that every child benefits from the full breadth of what the Dragon has to offer.

Our curriculum, pastoral care, and co-curricular programmes have grown in ambition and scope, all to meet our aim to inspire, encourage, and develop free-thinking, confident young people who reach for the sun.

Our campus has transformed too – both at Bardwell Road and the Pre-Prep. From vibrant new play spaces and refurbished dining halls to refurbished boarding houses and the creation of Skipper’s, every corner of our school reflects a commitment to our belief in the power of environment to shape experience. Our learning spaces continue to evolve through a comprehensive refresh programme, ensuring they remain as inspiring as the minds they serve.

Leadership and governance have also progressed, with a restructured executive and governing body providing clarity of vision, strategic oversight, and robust accountability.

The outstanding ISI Report of 2022 affirmed what we know to be true: that the Dragon not only meets its obligations but exceeds expectations, delivering exceptional outcomes.

As we look ahead to the celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027, we do so from a place of strength, purpose, and pride. This publication sets out our bold vision for the future, anchored in three areas: Community, Curriculum, and Campus. Each will serve as a catalyst for meaningful impact, ensuring that the Dragon continues to lead, to inspire, and to reach for the sun for generations to come.





# The Vision

At the heart of our vision lies a bold and unwavering commitment: to remain the leading boarding and day prep school in the UK. The Dragon Oxford will continue to shine as the guiding light – the mothership – of our network of schools, setting the standard for excellence, innovation, and integrity.

In this transformative era of independent education, where the landscape is shifting with the rise of private equity-backed institutions, emerging school groups, and the closure of others, we choose a different path. We choose independence, not just as

a status, but as a philosophy. It is this freedom that empowers us to evolve with purpose, to innovate with courage, and to honour the enduring legacy of Skipper Lynam.

Skipper envisioned a school that looked to the future – a place where every child could thrive through opportunity, discovery, and personal growth. Today, we carry that torch forward. We are not just preserving this legacy; we are building upon it.

Now is the time to be bold. Now is the time to lead with heart, with vision, and with the unshakable belief that we can provide the best.

# Community



Our Oxford community will remain deeply rooted in a boarding ethos of holistic education based in North Oxford. The community will benefit from an inclusive culture of partnership with parents and families as we develop our young Dragons. Our outstanding colleagues will continue to be well-supported, developed and nurtured to provide leadership in prep education within the sector. We will harness the power of the community to continue to expand our social impact programme. Our community will extend, building on current partnerships to support local, national and international

charities to continue to develop the philanthropists of the future. Our free-thinking community will develop partnerships with industries and business to give our Dragons the opportunity to hone their employability skills within a real-world context. It is important to us that we remain a diverse school which demonstrates empathy and understanding of cultures, background, learning profiles, and beliefs.

We will maintain our culture of 'giving back' and continue to provide transformational bursaries to enrich the lives of those who will benefit from a Dragon education.





We aim to establish an international network of schools that deliver a Dragon education with free thinking at its core. This will equip young people to navigate a changing world with the skills and attitudes which will enable them to thrive and reach for the sun. All of our Dragons, together with their teachers, will have the opportunity to engage with their peers internationally in a bid to develop true global citizens.

Community lies at the heart of the Dragon. It encapsulates our current pupils and families, our staff, governors, Old Dragons and former parents. Our Dragon family is spread across the globe and, as the world becomes more interconnected, we want to expand our community and learn from one another.

# Curriculum

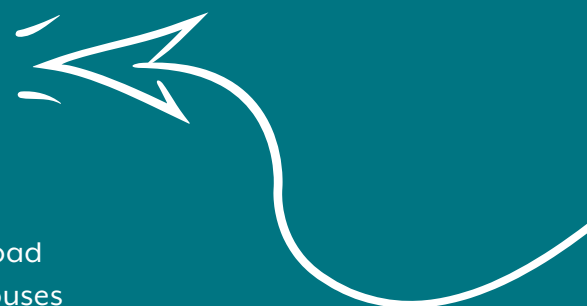
The world that we are preparing our children for is changing fast and we are determined to create a 'real world' curriculum that will not only prepare our children for the world of work but will also equip them with the skills that they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives with purpose. In developing our free-thinkers, the curriculum will continue to be based on skills identified in educational research. We will be the market

leader in teaching and learning innovation and research with the establishment of our own research centre that will inform our decision making. Our teaching trilogy of culture, curiosity, and challenge provides a framework for an academically rigorous curriculum which will be delivered within a blended learning environment focusing on digital health, fluency and critical thinking.





# Campus



Building and facilities are nothing without inspirational teachers to use them to deliver a truly free-thinking education. However, we will also ensure that we develop the campus to enhance the learning outcomes and experience for children and their families. We aim to provide an increasingly sustainable campus with a view to meeting national net zero targets.

We will be creating a Community Hub for our Dragon families during term time on Chadlington Road, which will support those families who travel early in the morning by providing a café with spaces for parents to work. Similarly at the end of the day parents and carers may decide to use the workspace before picking up their child at the

end of the school day.

Our campus at Bardwell Road is a ‘village’ of boarding houses and staff accommodation and it is important for us to provide the opportunity for our staff to live on site to support a holistic experience for the children.

We will remain agile as to how we can use our buildings to meet these demands. Our Pre-Prep site offers our youngest Dragons the security to work and play in an age-appropriate space and we will continue to upgrade these facilities. The sports facilities at Bardwell Road will remain under review as we develop our health and fitness programme.

# The Detail



Every year we report to our community on how our annual targets meet the overarching aim in each of our focus areas. In this section of our Strategic Vision 2027 and Beyond you will find the detail on how we will meet these aims during this next stage of our development focusing on Community, Curriculum and Campus.





# Academic Aim

Our aim is to raise a generation of Dragons who are academically rigorous, creative, independent and ambitious free thinkers. To be a market leader in prep school education through curriculum design, professional development of teaching staff, and partnerships.

# Academic Vision

1. Develop pupils' digital health and fluency (including age-appropriate A.I education) through a blended digital learning approach, supported by a simple, efficient digital campus.

2. Develop a 'real world' curriculum where there are links – and impact – with learning in (and across) lessons and the wider community, including careers, financial literacy, digital, social impact, sustainability and entrepreneurship.

3. Review subject allocations, curriculum and assessment (including the role

of Common Entrance) to maximise opportunities to develop curiosity and free thinking, whilst maintaining academic rigour.

4. Be a market leader in teaching and learning innovation and research, ensuring that our Teaching Trilogy of Culture, Curiosity and Challenge is embedded across the curriculum with regular CPD and training opportunities, including graduate training and parent partnerships, and a progression of learning values.



# Pastoral and Safeguarding Aim

Our aim is to put pastoral care at the heart of all we do, by advocating every Dragon pupil to 'Reach for the Sun' and approach everyday life with Kindness, Courage and Respect. To equip all pupils with the necessary skills to tackle life with confidence, empathy and determination. To respond progressively to the modern world and ensure we lead with a proactive and restorative approach.



# Pastoral and Safeguarding Vision

1. Build upon our culture of belonging – where everyone feels secure in exploring their values, empowered to express their individuality, and respectful of others’ uniqueness – while remaining mindful of the broader influences that shape our beliefs and behaviours.

2. Remodel our Pastoral and Safeguarding identity into a pioneering, child-centred model that seamlessly integrates wellbeing and academic excellence – creating a truly holistic framework that empowers every learner to thrive.

3. Enhance Character and Health Education (CHE) curriculum by expanding key areas such as Digital Health, Careers Education, and Economic Understanding; ensuring it remains relevant, engaging, and responsive to pupil’s individual needs.

4. Develop human-centred skills (Human Intelligence) that equip pupils to thrive in a changing world – empowering them to understand, complement, and guide the responsible use of artificial intelligence.





# Co-Curricular Aim

Our aim is to provide an outstanding co-curricular and enrichment programme to develop and create confident, free-thinking young people. To ensure participation and inclusivity are at the heart of our provision.



# Co-Curricular Vision

1. Individualised Pathways and Global Participation. Moving beyond broad inclusivity to personalised co-curricular pathways for pupils, enabling long-term commitment and mastery in areas of interest. Introduce opportunities for global collaboration and competition, partnering with schools internationally to share projects, challenges, and performances – broadening pupils’ cultural awareness and global perspective.

2. Integrate Co-Curricular with Whole-School Values and Real-World Application. To progress from embedding character education to aligning co-curricular programmes with whole-school values

and real-world competencies. Develop initiatives that explicitly connect activities to sustainability, digital citizenship, community engagement, and enterprise, ensuring pupils see the relevance of their passions in a broader context.

3. Innovate through Leadership Pipelines, and Pupil Co-Design. Establish formal leadership pipelines where pupils mentor, coach, or lead clubs. Develop a system where pupils have opportunity to co-design a programme, giving them shared responsibility in shaping and evolving the co-curricular landscape through councils and feedback.





# Social Impact Aim



Our aim is to be pioneers in the area of social impact as a school that develops pupils who understand the local and global challenges facing society today. As a whole organisation undertake positive action to address and alleviate these challenges.

# Social Impact Vision

1. Use the school's Social Impact programme to enhance the pupil experience, placing opportunities ranging from charity fundraising to hands-on learning opportunities at the heart of a Dragon education. Seek pupil feedback on our current programme and work with them to shape future strategy.
2. Launch a Year of Service in 2027 facilitating opportunities for Dragons across our community to support charitable causes.
3. Consolidate and enhance our ongoing partnerships with local schools and community organisations, becoming a leading example of the power of prep school partnerships.
4. Work with partners such as the Dragon Sale and the Dragon Wardrobe to provide our community with multiple opportunities to support our Transformational Bursary Programme.





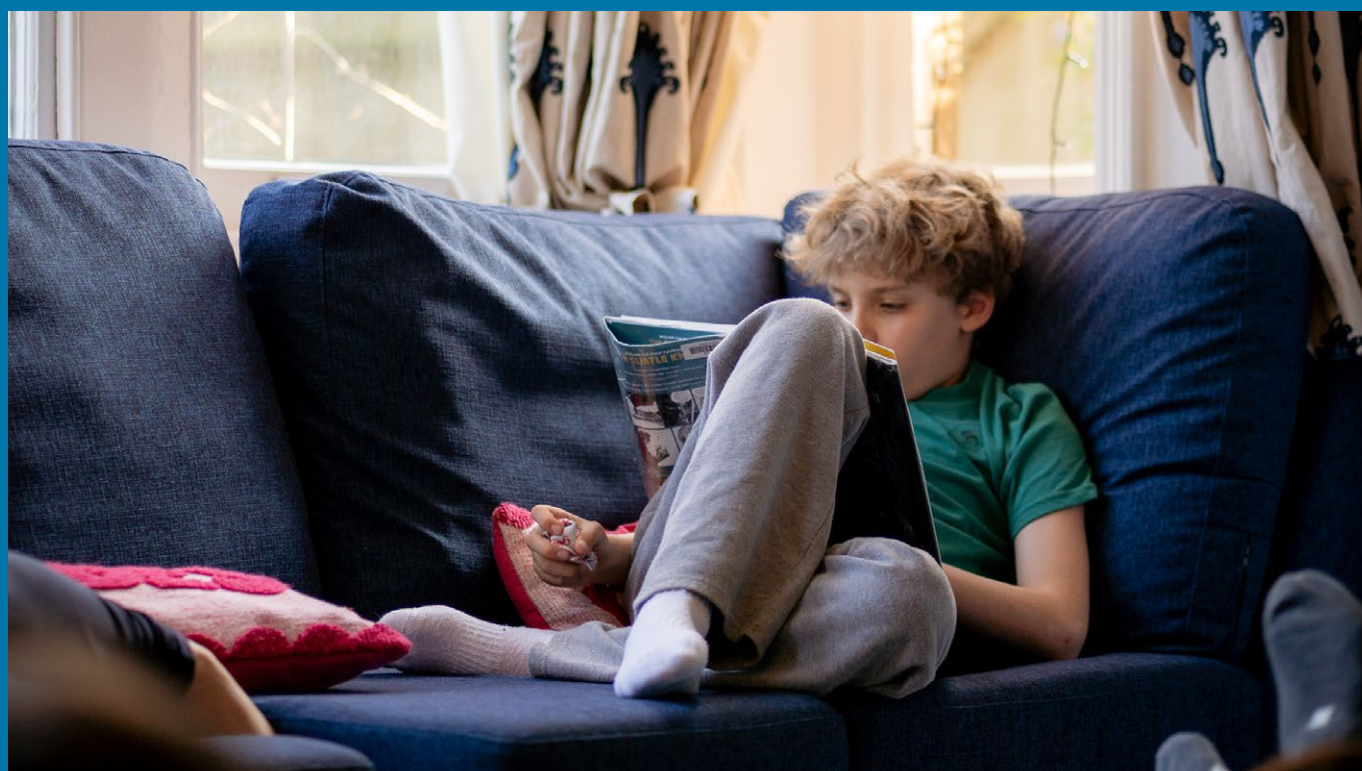
# Boarding Aim

Our aim is to provide an outstanding boarding provision, in a home-from-home environment, led by exceptional boarding practitioners. To be at the forefront of boarding education which is childcentred, safeguards children's wellbeing and is ambitious for the progress of every child.



# Boarding Vision

1. Develop boarding provision to offer the best possible support for our pupils and their families.
2. Effective and flexible use of the boarding facilities to enhance the opportunities and experiences for pupils.
3. Explore and expand overseas Dragon link families for current and new Dragon boarders.
4. Expand and promote expertise within the boarding team to deliver excellent infrastructure and maintain the highest professionalism.
5. Encourage free-thinking Dragon boarders through a purposeful, challenging and inspiring boarding.



# Development and Alumni Relations Aim

Our aim is to create strong, life-long relationships and two-way engagement with our community of ODs, current parents and former parents through a broad range of events and communications, so as to encourage philanthropy and underpin the wider aims and ambitions of the School.



# Development and Alumni Relations Vision

1. Celebrate the spirit of the Dragon in our 150<sup>th</sup> year and beyond through a programme of publications and events that involve the whole school community.

2. Seek support from across the Dragon community to preserve our past, celebrate our community and forge our future. In doing so, underwrite the Transformational Bursary Programme through an endowment that will fund bursary expenditure in perpetuity, and support the ongoing development of our School campus.

3. Preserve our heritage by working towards archive accreditation and a new display space at the heart of the School.

4. Regularly review and enrich the data we hold about our community to enhance our programme of engagement and ensure that everyone has a positive experience with the Dragon.





# Estate Aim

Our aim is to ensure that the School estate enables Dragons to achieve the best possible outcomes academically, personally, and physically.

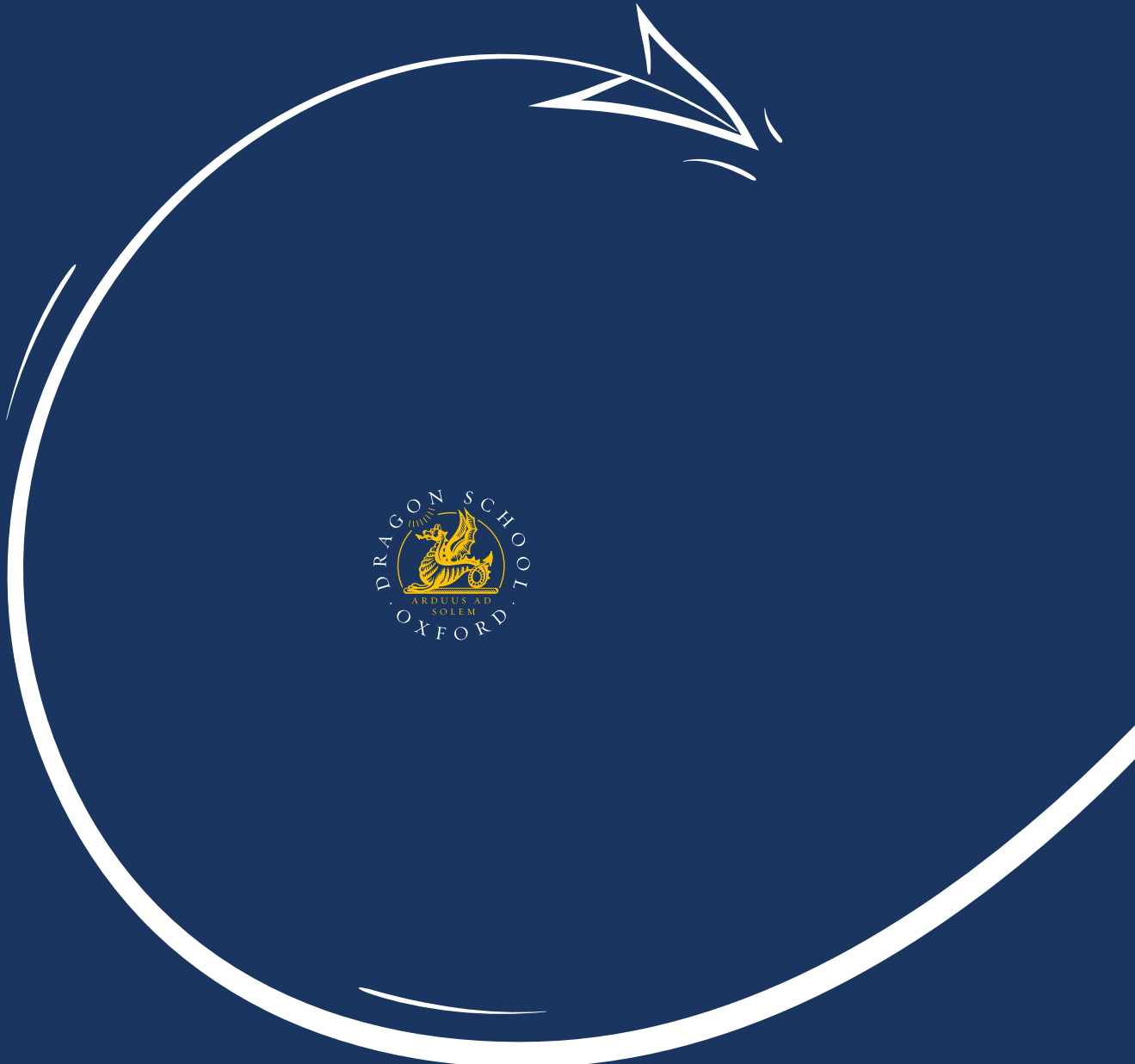


# Estate Vision



1. To ensure that the Dragon's estate and infrastructure, including both buildings and grounds, are innovatively configured to enable and enhance exceptional learning opportunities for our pupils.
2. To implement a replacement programme for the School's plant, introducing sustainable solutions wherever possible in our drive towards Net Zero.
3. To ensure that the School's IT provision is aligned with the digital strategy to enable the Dragon to be in the vanguard of digital learning.
4. To establish a Community Hub for the benefit of all members of the Dragon community.
5. To have an enhanced transport fleet and travel plan that supports colleagues and parents in their travel choices, leading to a reduction in the volume of traffic arriving at the School gate.





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