

OXFORD CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Inclusive, collaborative and compassionate

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Dear colleague,

Welcome to the November edition of the OCAED newsletter. As the semester gathers momentum, we're excited to share a range of opportunities to support your teaching, learning, and academic development.

This month, we're spotlighting ways to collaborate and shape academic practice. We're rolling out Reflective Dialogues on Academic Practice (RDAPs) - our teaching observation protocol to support continuous enhancement. Explore the Fund for Academic Collaboration and Transformation (FACT), join the 2026 International Teaching and Learning Conference planning committee, and book a drop-in with our Student Partners for direct student insight. Share your views at the OCAED Stakeholder Forum and connect with the GenAI Working Group to discuss generative AI in teaching and learning.

Thank you for your interest.

Oxford Centre for Academic Enhancement and Development team.

Keeping in touch

Oxford Centre for Academic Enhancement and Development

Email: ocaed@brookes.ac.uk

Website: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/ocaed/>

Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

Upcoming internal workshops and events

- [Educational Leaders Forum](#), Dr Peter Harris SFHEA, **Student Belonging at Brookes: A Pilot Research Study**, Wednesday 5 November, online, 9.15am to 10.00am.
- The [General Teaching Associates \(GTA\) Non-credit short course](#), Monday 10 - 12 November at Headington Campus and Tuesday 11 November online.
- [AI and Assessment Thinkspace, Tuesday 18 November](#), online, 12.00pm - 1.00pm on **Inclusive Vivas to Big Groups with Omar Abou Hamdan**
- [AI and Assessment Thinkspace, Thursday 20 November](#), online, 12.00pm - 1.00pm on **Theory of Change with Tamara McNeil**
 - For the AI and Assessment Thinkspace sessions, please ensure you are logged in to your Oxford Brookes [Zoom account](#) before joining the session.
- [Introduction to Distance Learning](#), Thursday 4 December 2.00 - 3.00pm, online

EXPLORE Open to all staff offer:

- [Scholarly teaching: theory into practice](#), Monday 3 November, 9.00am - 11.00am, in-person and Thursday 6 November, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, online.
- [Inclusive Teaching 1: Planning and Designing Activities](#), Wednesday 5 November, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, in-person and Friday 7 November, 9.00am - 11.00am, online
- [Digitally Enabled Teaching](#), Thursday 14 November, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, online and Monday 17 November, 9.00am - 11.00am, in-person
- [Inclusive Teaching 2: Practice in the classroom](#), Wednesday 19 November, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, in-person and Friday 21 November, 9.00am - 11.00am, online
- [Assessment 1: Assessment and feedback: formative, summative and feeding forward](#), Wednesday 26 November, 1.00pm - 3.00pm, in-person and Thursday 27 November, 9.00am - 11.00am, online



Rolling out RDAPs: Teaching Observations at Oxford Brookes

Oxford Brookes is committed to providing all HE teaching staff with high-impact academic CPD. As part of this, we're rolling out **Reflective Dialogues in Academic Practice (RDAP)**, our teaching observation protocol designed to support continuous enhancement and teaching excellence.



From Semester One, Model 1 (Quality Assurance and Enhancement) will be adopted across all Degree Apprenticeship programmes, with Model 2 (Quality Enhancement) rolling out incrementally to all programmes by 2027. Our goal is for all staff involved in teaching and learning to engage annually.

Upcoming Briefing Events for Degree Apprenticeship Programme Leaders and Teams

We're holding two online briefing sessions on Model 1:

- Monday 17 November, 12.00pm - 1.00pm
- Wednesday 26 November, 12.00pm - 1.00pm

The content will be the same at both sessions, so you only need to attend one. Programme Leaders will be contacted directly to book in their teams.

Comprehensive guidance is available on the Staff Learning [Reflective Dialogues on Academic Practice \(RDAP\)](#) pages. Programme participation is being coordinated by Deans of Education and Heads of Schools.



The Fund for Academic Collaboration and Transformation (FACT)

Do you have a teaching, learning or assessment-related challenge that you want to tackle?

Are you interested in working in partnership with students to take a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning - based approach to investigating that challenge and innovating solutions?

OCAED is now inviting staff to submit expressions of interest for one of four awards of £500 (plus 30 hours of Student Partner time, worth an additional £500) that aim to enhance teaching, learning or assessment in a module, on a programme or in a discipline.

Submit your [Expression of Interest form](#) by Friday 12 December 2025. For more details take a look at the [OCAED website](#).

Join our planning committee for the 2026 Oxford Brookes International Teaching and Learning Conference

Our conference theme will be 'The Political Power of Partnership Working', with a specific focus on student partnerships. Join the conference working group and help lead the event.

This academic citizenship is useful evidence for Advance HE Senior Fellowship applications, but all staff are welcome to join us.

Interested? Email ocaed@brookes.ac.uk by Monday 17 November 2025.



Supporting Student Success



Drop-ins: Student Partners

Eight new Student Partners join our current cohort for drop-ins. Informal online or in-person sessions offer direct guidance from student partners on key topics related to the student experience.

When and where? Weekly via Google Meets and in-person.

Book via our [drop-in sessions online form](#) or email student.engagement.drop-ins@brookes.ac.uk for quick queries.

Academic Advising

As we commence the new academic year, ensure you are familiar with the [Academic Advising update](#).

The next Academic Advising CPD session is 'Academic Advising 3: Responding to students in distress' on Wednesday 12 November, 1.00pm - 3.00pm. [Book your place here](#).

Contact our Senior Faculty Academic Advisors if you have any queries.



Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Matt Lawson FHEA (matt.lawson@brookes.ac.uk) and Deborah Carpenter FHEA (dcarpenter@brookes.ac.uk)

Faculty of Health, Life and Physical Sciences, Dan Butcher SFHEA (dbutcher@brookes.ac.uk) and Adam Lonsdale FHEA (alonsdale@brookes.ac.uk)

Further information can be found on the [Academic Advising](#) webpages.

Academic opportunities

Calling all colleagues with an interest in teaching and learning!

Join our [OCAED Stakeholder Forum](#) to help shape OCAED's academic enhancement and development offer.





Academic Enhancement Tool-Kit expressions of interest

Opportunity to contribute to the third chapter 'Disseminating for Impact'. See the [Academic Enhancement Tool-Kit additional information](#).

Teach on a Degree Apprenticeship?

[Join the DAPL+T Forum](#) to connect, collaborate, and stay informed on the latest in Degree Apprenticeships with our online meeting. See: [short form](#).



Develop Educational and Academic Leadership (DEAL): CPD Funding

We fund programme leaders and subject coordinators' academic CPD. See: [Educational Leaders Forum \(ELF\) webpage](#).

Academic Practice: tools, resources, and drop-ins

Copilot tips to help in your teaching, learning, and productivity

The following are ideas and suggested prompts to use with Copilot. Oxford Brookes students and staff have access to the data-secure Microsoft Copilot AI chatbot, available through a Microsoft academic institutional licence.

When using Microsoft Co-pilot, signing in with your Oxford Brookes login ensures your data is protected, in accordance with Microsoft's privacy notice. However, we do not recommend you upload any confidential or protected data or information.



Tip 6, November 2025 - Use AI to generate relevant ice breakers

Ask Copilot to generate some ideas for icebreakers for your specific course. For example “Generate some ice breaker activities for a primary education university course” use these to generate discussions between students whilst staying relevant to your topic. You can take this further by asking how these can be used as a hook for the lesson topic, be used in an online session, or asynchronously through moodle.

Got ideas for this segment? How are you using AI to improve your day-to-day life? Let [Samuel Folley](#) know.

GenAI queries

Do you have a GenAI question, concern, or opportunity you would like the GenAI working group to consider? Complete the: [Staff GenAI queries Google form](#). We will aim to triage your query and respond as soon as possible.

Drop-ins: Academic Enhancement Surgeries

All staff who teach and support learning are welcome to meet with a [member of OCAED](#) to discuss any aspects of academic enhancement and development.

Click the date below to book a half-hour online slot

- [Monday 10 November](#), 2.00pm - 4.00pm with [Dr Ben Walker SFHEA](#)
- [Tuesday 18 November](#), 1.00pm - 3.00pm with [Sam Folley FHEA](#)
- [Wednesday 26 November](#), 1.00pm - 3.00pm with [Sam Folley FHEA](#)



Please contact us at ocaed@brookes.ac.uk for alternatives.

Brookes Briefings: guides to teaching, learning and assessment practice

This month, we're highlighting our Brookes Briefing, [Digital Inclusion](#).

See our full catalogue of [Brookes Briefings](#), which offer scholarship-led, evidence-based teaching, learning, and assessment guides.



Free events and resources

Staff and Educational Association (SEDA) Autumn Event Series 2025, Webinar 1: *An Educators' Guide to Multimodal Learning and Generative AI*, Tuesday 4 November 2025, 1.00pm - 2.00pm. Add to your calendar and please find the [link to join the webinar via Zoom](#).

SEDA, [Educational Developments magazine \(issue: 26.3\)](#).

[Advance HE: HE Transformation Expo 2025](#), focus on leadership, Wednesday 19 - Thursday 20 November, 9.00am - 4.30pm, NEC Birmingham, free.

Advance HE: free publication '[A step into the future: AI in classroom teaching](#)' featuring a case study from Oxford Brookes' Rebecca Beech SFHEA.

Advance HE: quarterly magazine for members, [HE Horizons](#).

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), the [Quality Lab, Step into Partnerships](#) collaborative workshop, Tuesday 11 November, 10.00am - 12.00pm.

Across Oxford Brookes

Centre for Academic Development

[Think Space](#) workshops continue throughout November with sessions including *Using spreadsheets for data analysis*, *Harvard referencing*, *Presentation skills*, and *Getting started with AI*, among many others. A key value of this initiative so far, however, has been around generating awareness of the variety of regular opportunities there are for our students to meet other people and experience not just belonging, but mattering. Some of these regular events are listed on the [Think Space website](#) and it is worth being aware of their existence.



The Centre for Academic Development is keen to collaborate with colleagues across the university in the strategic embedding of academic literacies development into programme content through our [departmental language, literacies and skills programme](#). Semester 2 may seem a long way off but the deadline for semester 2 requests for CAD input is Friday 28 November, so if you would like our involvement please submit a request using the [DLLS request form](#).

In recent months we have noticed that some students really benefit from very basic training in the use of PowerPoint for presentations and even a few minutes can reduce anxiety significantly. Our [presentations page](#) now includes a YouTube video covering the basics but if delivering inputs on presentation skills, our experience has been that providing an optional extra half hour on this for students who self-identify as struggling has had a significant impact on outcomes.

Research About Learning in Higher Education (Real-HE)

REAL-HE aims to: support those doing or wanting to develop research in learning and teaching. Subscribe to the [jiscmail](#) list. (Any queries: louise.e.taylor@brookes.ac.uk).

Bonfire Night: Can AI ignite learning?

In case you are looking for an inside alternative to the usual Guy Fawkes events this year, Professor Mary Davis, Academic Integrity Lead, warmly invites you to her Professorial Lecture.

In this lecture, Mary will use the lens of Bonfire Night to explore the impact of AI in Higher Education, look at what may go up in smoke, get close to the fireworks in academia, profile the AI guys and seek out the sparkler of hope for student learning.



Please [register to attend](#). The lecture is taking place in-person in the Clerici Learning Studio CLC 1.12 on Wednesday 5 November at 6.00pm.
