

THE PHOENIX COLLEGE



Introduction

The Unicorn Trust is a registered charity which was established to support children aged 6-16 years with primary needs of Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Speech, Language, & Communication needs (SLCN).

The school provides a positive, nurturing environment in which every pupil is helped to build self-confidence, and develop their own personal learning style.

The school has gradually grown over the last 30 years, and is now an established school of 108 students, from its site on Marcham Road, Abingdon.

Demand for the support the school offers its students remains significantly above what the Marcham Road site can accommodate, with around 250 pupils applying for a place each academic year. While around 50 of these pupils will meet the criteria for the school, 200 do not meet the pupil profile of the Unicorn as they have additional needs that the school cannot currently support.

In response to the high levels of unmet need for prospective pupils' places, the Governors of the school have ambitious plans over the next five years to expand. These expansion plans include:

- The establishment of a new school for autistic children aged 8 – 16.
- The establishment of a college, to support young adults with autism covering ages from 16 to 19 years to be known as The Phoenix College.

It is the college to support young adults with autism that the proposals of today's exhibition relate.



The Unicorn School currently supports children aged 6 - 16 years.



Site Location - showing the existing Marcham Road site as well as the site of the proposed college.

Phase One of the charity's plan is to establish a college in Abingdon, for young adults from the surrounding area aged 16-19 years. The aim of the college will be to help students achieve their potential, increase their ability to live independently, and to gain employment.

The students who would be supported by the college would be those for whom the mainstream further education environment is unsuitable for their learning needs.

The students will be working towards qualifications in employability and life skills such as BTEC in Work Skills and Independent Living Skills and also the ASDAN programme. The curriculum will be structured to increase confidence and aptitude in independent living as well as further developing literacy and numeracy skills. Key areas will include:

- Career development and vocational skills including sourcing jobs; CV writing and interview preparation.
- Budgeting for grocery shopping and preparing healthy, cost-effective meals.
- Personal finance e.g. understanding bank accounts, council tax, mobile phone contracts.
- Personal, Social and Emotional education including links with local youth mental health charity.
- Accessing key health services e.g. doctors, opticians, dentists.
- Planning journeys on public transport
- Accessing local amenities and services e.g. leisure centre, cinema, restaurants, hairdressers.



The Unicorn School has aspirations to better support young adults.

We welcome your comments, please visit:

www.wwa-studios.com/unicorn-old-gaol

