



PRESS RELEASE

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Oxford Castle Scoops Prestigious Education Award

The Key Learning Centre at 'Unlocked - Oxford Castle' is to be awarded the prestigious **'Investors in Education' award** at a presentation ceremony held at Ripon College, Cuddesdon this Friday 6 July. Nominated by the East Partnership, the awards – to be presented by David Etheridge, Assistant Chief Fire Officer of Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service - are given each year by the Education Business Partnership for Oxfordshire, to organisations that support schools across the county.

The Key Learning Centre at Oxford Castle has worked with the East Partnership to provide training for local teachers in using the Oxford Castle site as an aid to teaching, particularly for Business Studies, Leisure & Tourism and Design & Technology courses. Oxford Castle also supported the East Partnership problem solving project.

The 'Investors in Education' awards have been awarded by the Education Business Partnerships of Oxfordshire over the past six years, and are a tangible way of recognising and rewarding the considerable contribution made to the education of young people by many businesses and companies in the county.

Since the attraction opened in June 2006, numerous schools as well as visitors and groups alike have visited 'Unlocked – Oxford Castle' and explored the 1000 years of history. The site allows visitors to discover the story of Oxford Castle and Prison in context through the lives of its inhabitants. It is used to develop students' thinking skills and teach History, Geography, Citizenship, Literacy and much more.

The Key Learning Centre at the site also offers brand new state-of-the-art facilities to schools, providing workshops for primary and secondary schools of all ages, covering many subjects spanning Key Stages 1 to 4. Helen de May, Learning and Access Officer for the Key Learning Centre is the driving force behind the attraction's education achievements. Helen said: "In the eight months since the Key Learning Centre opened at the attraction we have worked with many schools across the region facilitating trips and workshops. We are delighted to receive this special award which recognizes the commitment Oxford Castle has made to education, helping schools to unlock interest in our past heritage through a diverse range of subjects."

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FOR FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION & IMAGES PLEASE CONTACT:

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

The guardians of this important historic site, The Oxford Preservation Trust were awarded a £3.8 million grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the castle and site buildings. The visitor attraction is operated by Continuum.

Benefits for pre-booked groups and schools include – discounted prices for pre-booked groups of 15 or more, priority admission, free familiarisation visit for group organisers, one adult free with every 10 students, education programme including adult learning is available.

Oxford Castle is open daily from 10am to 5pm. Admission prices are: £7.25 for adults, £5.25 for children and £5.95 for students/seniors. Group rates are: £5.50 for adults, £4 for children, £5 for students/seniors.

Call 08702 411414 for groups/schools bookings or email groups@continuum-group.com. See www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk for further information.