

GROWTH HUB NEWSLETTER

January 2024

OxLEP Business Support Tool

It is our aim to signpost the county's businesses to the most-appropriate business support, schemes and events. Businesses can engage with our fully funded expert support via this link:

[Business Support Tool - OxLEP Business](#)



If you have any questions or requests for support
please email us directly at
business@oxfordshirelep.com

OxLEP Business

Gain Key Insights for the Year Ahead

We are here to support innovation and success in Oxfordshire businesses like yours in 2024.

In our commitment to fostering knowledge-sharing and providing valuable insights, we are thrilled to invite you to participate in our upcoming punchy 5-A-Day CXO webinar series in the week of the 8th January 2024.

This series has been curated to address crucial aspects impacting businesses in Oxfordshire, and we believe every business should benefit from this.

The webinar series will cover the following essential topics:

- **Global Factors:** Understand the latest trends and factors influencing the global business landscape.
- **AI (Artificial Intelligence):** Explore the transformative power of AI and its implications for your industry.
- **Leadership:** Gain insights into effective leadership strategies to navigate challenges and foster growth.
- **Financial:** Stay ahead of financial trends and strategies to optimize your business's fiscal health.
- **Net Zero:** Learn about sustainable practices and strategies to achieve a net-zero impact.

The webinars will be delivered by industry experts and thought leaders who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table. This is an excellent opportunity to stay informed and connected with the latest developments that will shape the business landscape in the coming year.

Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to secure your spot at your earliest convenience by booking on to each event here: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/events-overview/>

OxLEP Business Events

We have a busy schedule of events and support planned for January 2024! For more information, please visit our website events page for full information on all events and offers: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/events-overview/>

5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Global Factors to be Aware of in 2024' - Date: January 8, 2024 - Time: 12:45 pm - 1:30 pm - Online

Day 1: What are the Global Factors that you need to be briefed on to lead your business through 2024. 45 minutes – Done.

This short webinar on 'Five Global Factors to be Aware of in 2024' will punch above its weight, giving you insight and intelligence that you can use to lead your business.

Make this 5-A-Day series a new lunchtime habit to launch into 2024 with knowledge, inspiration and support.

Don't miss out on the other 4 events in this series aimed specifically at ambitious Oxfordshire CEOs, CFOs, CTOs, CIOs and other business leaders.

5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Global Factors to be Aware of in 2024' - OxLEP Business

5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Shock Waves in AI for 2024' - Date: January 9, 2024 - Time: 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm - Online

Day 2: AI is here and it is shaking the world, but what do you need to know to lead your business through 2024. 30 minutes – Done.

This short webinar on 'Five Shock Waves in AI for 2024' will punch above its weight, giving you insight and intelligence that you can need to lead your business.

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5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Shock Waves in AI for 2024' - OxLEP Business

OxLEP Business Events

OxBOoSt Network – January - Date: January 9, 2024 - Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Online

OxLEP Business engages with thousands of business owners and leaders every year providing knowledge, advice and other business development support. But until now there hasn't been an easy way to help these businesses to network. Problem solved...

The OxBOoSt network will meet on the first Tuesday of every month from 4pm to 5pm and is open to all Oxfordshire based businesses to join (and its free!).

OxBOoSt Network - January - OxLEP Business

5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Leadership Essentials for 2024' - Date: January 10, 2024 - Time: 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm - Online

Day 3: Great leaders are always learning and evolving. How should your leadership style change for 2024? 30 minutes – Done.

This short webinar on 'Five Leadership Essentials for 2024' will punch above its weight, giving you insight and intelligence that you need to lead your business.

Make this 5-A-Day series a new lunchtime habit to launch into 2024 with knowledge, inspiration and support.

Don't miss out on the other 4 events in this series aimed specifically at ambitious Oxfordshire CEOs, CFOs, CTOs, CIOs and other business leaders.

5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Leadership Essentials for 2024' - OxLEP Business

5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Financial Tips for 2024' - Date: January 11, 2024 - Time: 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm - Online

Day 4: Financial foresight to ensure you are driving your business forward in 2024. 30 minutes – Done.

This short webinar on 'Five Financial Tips for 2024' will punch above its weight, giving you insight and intelligence that you need to lead your business.

Make this 5-A-Day series a new lunchtime habit to launch into 2024 with knowledge, inspiration and support.

Don't miss out on the other 4 events in this series aimed specifically at ambitious Oxfordshire CEOs, CFOs, CTOs, CIOs and other business leaders.

5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Financial Tips for 2024' - OxLEP Business

OxLEP Business Events

5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Actions on Net Zero for 2024' - Date: January 12, 2024 - Time: 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm - Online

Day 5: COP28 is over, the weight of climate change is on the world, what do you need your business to do in 2024. 30 minutes – Done.

This short webinar on 'Five Actions on Net Zero for 2024' will punch above its weight, giving you insight and intelligence that you can need to lead your business.

Make this 5-A-Day series a new lunchtime habit to launch into 2024 with knowledge, inspiration and support.

Don't miss out on the other 4 events in this series aimed specifically at ambitious Oxfordshire CEOs, CFOs, CTOs, CIOs and other business leaders.

5-A-Day for the C-Suite: 'Five Actions on Net Zero for 2024' - OxLEP Business

LinkedIn Masterclass for International Trade – The Plan for 2024 - Date: January 15, 2024 - Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm – Online

Managing your LinkedIn profiles, pages and content for an international audience – different languages, different cultures.

How much time do you spend on LinkedIn making connections and having conversations that go precisely nowhere? And how do you manage your LinkedIn profiles, pages and content for an international audience – different languages, different cultures?

Time is precious and although you know the power of LinkedIn already, you are still not sure how to take your LinkedIn profile and performance from Good to Great as a busy business wanting to grow international sales?

LinkedIn Masterclass for International Trade – The Plan for 2024 - OxLEP Business

Mindful Leadership in Action: Conquering Blue Monday for Lasting Resilience -Date: January 15, 2024 - Time: 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Online

Use Blue Monday to kick start new Mindfulness habits that will help you personally and as a business leader to achieve in 2024!

In this interactive one-hour workshop participants will boost their resilience and wellbeing through manageable, everyday mindful practices.

Mindful Leadership in Action: Conquering Blue Monday for Lasting Resilience - OxLEP Business

OxLEP Business Events

OxLEP Start-Up Club – Bootcamp (1) – Business Planning - Date:

January 16, 2024 - Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Online

OxLEP SUP Club Bootcamp is back! Session 1 of 3, designed to help you to create and grow the business you always dreamed about!

Start-Up Bootcamp

For start-ups and early-stage entrepreneurs – this bootcamp is designed to encourage businesses to focus on the fundamentals of a successful business and develop a viable, successful and sustainable business.

Three intense sessions, each delivered by one of our experienced business experts, providing practical content to help you learn and make progress, alongside a group of supportive peers.

You will finish the Bootcamp with a clear plan on how to move your business forward and reach your next milestone.

OxLEP Start-Up Club - Bootcamp (1) - Business Planning - OxLEP Business

Unlocking Your Export Potential: Our 10-Point Success Guide - Date:

January 23, 2024 - Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Venue: Bee House – Milton Park

Have you ever wondered whether exporting is right for your business? Not sure where to start? Look no further...

Unlocking Your Export Potential

Have you ever wondered whether exporting is right for your business, but felt uncertain about where to start or lacked the confidence to take the leap? Look no further—our two-hour Export Success Workshop is tailor-made for you!

Expanding beyond your local market can unlock exciting new opportunities, boost your bottom line, and elevate your brand to new heights. However, we understand that the world of exporting can seem daunting. We're here to make exporting less mysterious and more approachable, giving you the know-how and practical advice to master the 10 export essentials.

During this practical session, you'll gain the knowledge and confidence you need to craft a winning 10-point export plan tailored to your unique needs and goals.

Unlocking Your Export Potential: Our 10-Point Success Guide - OxLEP Business

OxLEP Business Events

OxLEP Start-Up Club – Bootcamp (2) – Your Value Proposition and Customers

Date: January 23, 2024 - **Time:** 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm - **Online**
OxLEP SUP Club Bootcamp is back! Session 2 of 3, designed to help you to create and grow the business you always dreamed about!

Start-Up Bootcamp

For start-ups and early-stage entrepreneurs – this bootcamp is designed to encourage businesses to focus on the fundamentals of a successful business and develop a viable, successful and sustainable business.

Session 2 – Your Value Proposition and Your Customers – In this second session Lesley McKie, Director at Positively Media, will help you to look at the value you create for your customers. Your value proposition will be improved by considering how it helps customers and how you can use that new found knowledge to attract, nurture and convert more prospects into customers.

This Start-Up Bootcamp is perfect for individuals who are thinking of starting their own business – sole trader or Limited Company. Or for businesses who are looking for some help with developing their early-stage business or pivoting their plans.

Attending this Bootcamp will also enable you to access further Business support from OxLEP.

OxLEP Start-Up Club - Bootcamp (2) - Your Value Proposition and Customers - OxLEP Business

Unlocking Neurodiversity in Leadership - **Date:** January 25, 2024 - **Time:** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - **Online**

Dive into an enlightening session with Emma Redman, Empowerment Coach, and seasoned leader with her personal journey through ADHD. This webinar stands as a vibrant beacon for business leaders seeking to harness the strengths within their neurodiverse diagnoses.

Have you considered that the very differences you grapple with could be your leadership superpowers?

This session is more than just coping with neurodiversity—it's about leveraging it for success and enabling collective growth. Recognise your strengths and build your leadership confidence.

Unlocking Neurodiversity in Leadership - OxLEP Business

OxLEP Business Events

OxLEP Start-Up Club – Bootcamp (3) – Managing Your Business

Numbers - Date: January 30, 2024 - Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Online
Session 3 of 3, designed to help you to create and grow the business you always dreamed about!

Start-Up Bootcamp - For start-ups and early-stage entrepreneurs – this bootcamp is designed to encourage businesses to focus on the fundamentals of a successful business and develop a viable, successful and sustainable business.

Session 3 – Managing your Business Numbers – In this last session Richard Holling, will help to demistify financial management. After all, no business can succeed without valid income (a revenue stream), and only a fool wouldn't make sure they understood their costs.

OxLEP Start-Up Club - Bootcamp (3) - Managing Your Business Numbers - OxLEP Business

Leadership Peer Network - Date: January 31, 2024 - Time: 8:00 am - 10:00 am - Online

Great leadership skills are increasingly important. The need to be resilient, to lead and to support our staff well, is critical for our businesses.

Being part of this group of leaders will give you a time efficient opportunity to step back, pinpoint what you'd really like to improve, identify solutions and implement them. Many of our past peer group members have been surprised, relieved and inspired to find that we all share similar challenges, no matter what type or size of business we work in.

Leadership Peer Network - OxLEP Business

Using AI in Your Business - Date: January 31, 2024 - Time: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Online

This webinar will help you learn about the fast-paced world of artificial intelligence.

Discover how AI is impacting businesses, understand how it is set to change everything, and get the skills to reduce the risks that come with it.

As a business owner, you ought to know how AI can help your team be more creative and with the accompanying speeding up of productivity, how AI can give you an edge in the market.

Using AI in Your Business - OxLEP Business

OxLEP Skills

Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2024

<https://oxlepskills.co.uk/oaawards>

The Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2024 will take place on 16 May at the spectacular Williams Racing Conference Centre. The awards are open for entries and nominations until midnight on the evening of Monday 19 February. With categories for apprentices, former apprentices, employers, school and training provider individuals and apprenticeship ambassadors, there's something for everyone! We encourage you to enter as an employer and/or nominate your apprentices – it's a great way to celebrate their achievements and showcase your organisation. If you'd like to find out more, please contact melanie.ringer@oxfordshirelep.com

Apprenticeships Webinar for Parents and Carers

<https://careersliveuk.com/partner/oxfordshire-careers-hub>

Are you a parent or carer of a young person who would like to know more about apprenticeships to help you support them with deciding what to do when they leave school or college? Come along to our apprenticeships webinar in partnership with Learn Live News Channel on 6 February from 18:00 to 19:00, during National Apprenticeship Week, to find out everything you need to know!

- Get the lowdown on apprenticeships
- Hear from Oxfordshire employers and apprentices
- Find out what opportunities are available to your young person
- Ask all your questions in a live chat

After the webinar, you will have the opportunity to chat with employers who offer apprenticeships via our Find Your Future virtual careers platform -

<https://oxlepskills.co.uk/findyourfuture>



Careers Fest 2024

<https://careersfest2024twilightsession.eventbrite.co.uk>

Are you a parent of a young person in Year 9 or above? Would you like to know more about post 16 and 18 options to help you talk about careers with them and support them to take their best next step?

Come along to Careers Fest on 20 March from 16:30-19:30 at the Kassam Conference & Events Centre in Oxford to meet over 70 exhibitors offering information, advice and guidance on future pathways and careers from a varied range of sectors.

You and your young person will have the opportunity to talk to a range of Oxfordshire employers, further education colleges, universities and training providers to help you feel informed about their options.

Watch the highlights from Careers Fest 2023 at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHPoV2_fy3E

OxLEP Skills

Social Contract Programme Approaches Target of £1.7M of Apprenticeship Levy Pledges

<https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/major-oxlep-scheme-backing-apprenticeships-oxfordshire-reaches-another-key-milestone>

Through our Social Contract Programme, we have secured almost £1.7million of apprenticeship levy pledges for Oxfordshire, far exceeding the original target of £1.3million. Smaller organisations are currently accessing these funds to cover the cost of training apprentices and we are encouraging more to take up this opportunity.

Using pledges received from apprenticeship levy paying employers such as Amazon, Beard, Bidfood, B&Q, Oxford City Council, Ridge and Thames Water, we help SME employers, social enterprise and charities to cover the cost of training an apprentice, as well giving advice and support. To date, the levy we have unlocked has supported over 100 apprenticeships and benefited sectors including early years, engineering, health and social care, sport and construction.

One of the latest levy contributors has been engineering and construction company, Costain. The company has pledged £15,000 to support a nursing associate apprentice at Chipping Norton Health Centre, with leading facilities management and professional services company Mitie committing to fund five further nursing associate apprenticeships.

Our Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Advisors Leah Bryan and Nikki Cooper can support with every stage of the process. There is no cost for this support, as it is pre-funded through the government's Contain Outbreak Management Fund, via Oxfordshire County Council. Please contact Leah and Nikki at leah.bryan@oxfordshirelep.com or nikki.cooper@oxfordshirelep.com

OxLEP Skills

Support with Apprenticeship Completions

Andrea Harrison, as our Apprenticeship Advisor, Completions is now available to support employers to ensure all apprentices successfully complete their apprenticeship and receive their qualification.

For all Oxfordshire apprentice employers (those new to apprenticeships and those continuing with existing schemes), it is key that all apprentices achieve occupational competence and are retained as skilled and loyal employees.

Andrea offers fully bespoke, impartial advice and guidance on all areas of the apprenticeship journey and enables apprenticeship employers across the county to share best practice.

To take advantage of this fully funded service and to ensure your successful apprenticeship journey, please email Andrea at andrea.harrison@oxfordshirelep.com



Give Something Back as a Virtual Mentor with OxGROW

Our OxGROW virtual mentoring platform, developed in partnership with Connectr, helps people (18+) who are looking for support and guidance from a mentor on how to successfully navigate the challenging world of job seeking, or looking to change career direction.

Retail Manager and Make Up Artist Carina Smith is passionate about empowering people to be the best they can be. During her retail journey, Carina has enjoyed helping women in their prime pre and post menopause and set up women's group Primal Women for women to educate and inspire each other.

Carina is helping people to get closer to employment through sharing her advice and experience as a volunteer mentor with OxGROW.

Carina says: "I believe if we change one person's life for the better we are a success! I'm very excited to support this incredible platform. If you have the opportunity to give back by mentoring, I highly recommend it!"

Are you looking to make a New Year's Resolution that will help others? Why not join Carina as a virtual mentor? Email skills@oxfordshirelep.com to find out more.



Carina

Retail Manager and Make Up Artist



I'm mentoring at OxGROW!

I am very proud to share that I am supporting the community by offering my advice and guidance as an OxGROW Mentor.



Non OxLEP News

- Oxford Playhouse – January 2024 -
<https://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/whats-on>
- Oxfordshire Mind Comedy Gala -
<https://theoxfordmagazine.com/event/oxfordshire-mind-comedy-gala/>
- The Oxford Magazine: What's on in January 2024 in Oxfordshire -
<https://theoxfordmagazine.com/>
- Oxfordshire County Council News: [News from Oxfordshire County Council](#)
- Experience Oxfordshire: [Top 10 Things to Do in Oxford and Oxfordshire – Experience Oxfordshire](#)