

Susan Muller  
34B York Way  
London  
N1 9AB

8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dear Susan

I am delighted to be writing to you to pledge the commitment of Oxford Brookes University to the Stand Alone Pledge.

As a University we are committed to improving the support we offer all of our students. Dedicating extra support and assistance to those students who require it, including estranged students, has been a key area of activity for us over the past 12 months.

Over the past year we have developed, committed to and delivered on an action plan to improve our support for estranged students and I am proud to be able to share our progress with you and to outline what further work we will deliver.

We now have a dedicated welfare officer for estranged students, who has met with students over the past 12 months. From their work, we are learning more about what support our estranged students most need and we have adapted our action plan to reflect this feedback. On behalf of the University's most senior committee, Professor Anne-Marie Kilday, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student and Staff Experience), will meet with estranged students.

In addition to the dedicated welfare officer, estranged students at Oxford Brookes are encouraged to access our team of student support coordinators for academic and pastoral support, staff in our Student Central advice team for practical help, the International Student Advice Team (where appropriate), financial support from the Financial Aid fund and the full range of Wellbeing services.

#### **Finance**

From September 2019, estranged students who enrol at Oxford Brookes, subject to eligibility criteria, will receive a £2,000 bursary for each year of study that they are also receiving full student support from Student Finance England.

#### **Accommodation**

We guarantee 52-week accommodation in line with our support for care leavers.

#### **Mental health and wellbeing**

We have a dedicated welfare officer who is available to all enrolled estranged students and estranged students who have been offered a place to study with Oxford Brookes.

#### **Outreach and transition**

We are working with our accredited college partners (ACPs) to communicate the message to prospective students and develop transition pathways from college to University.

Teams from our UK Recruitment & Partnerships department are communicating the message about support for estranged students through their extensive programme of school and college visits.

In addition to the support we are offering estranged students we also intend to use our new student record system, which will go live for September 2019 entrants, to track and monitor the progress and attainment of our estranged students at Oxford Brookes. This will offer us the potential to identify students who may require interventions to ensure they can continue their higher education journey.

I am confident that the activities highlighted in this letter demonstrate the range of measures we are taking to support estranged students and show our commitment to the Stand Alone Pledge. We understand that there is still more we can do. We are committed to our action plan so that estranged students, regardless of family background or circumstance, can achieve their potential during their time with us at Oxford Brookes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Fitt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Professor Alistair Fitt**  
**Vice-Chancellor**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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