

Professional development at University Centre Oldham



Gallery Oldham formed the first phase of the new Cultural Quarter



High-tech industry in Oldham



for the Future' programme, are planned for the borough and will include plans for new ways of teaching and a keen focus on utilising computer technology to bring parents and teachers the best educational resources available.

Improvements to educational facilities are taking place at every tier in the borough. Students at Oldham College are now progressing onto higher level courses and higher education in greater numbers. The so-called 'Value Added' score from the government puts the College in the top 10 per cent in the country. Spurred on by its success, the College has unveiled plans for a new campus to improve facilities and boost educational achievement even further.

At the borough's sixth form college, students are celebrating record results, with an overall pass rate of 99 per cent. Many students go on to some of the country's top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

The Council's commitment to excellence in education for everyone is most visible in the Library and Lifelong Learning Centre. This £13 million building has won several architectural awards and incorporates the very latest in environmental standards. Inside, there is more than double the space of the previous Victorian library building, with more than 90 computers for library members to use for free, study areas, and an 80-seat performance space.

Quality of life

Oldham has some of the best parks in the country and they are improving all the time. Currently seven parks have been awarded the coveted Green Flag status by the Civic Trust. A popular area for walkers, climbers, horse riders, cyclists and canal enthusiasts, Oldham presents a wide choice of outdoor activities. But the borough is also rich in culture with the theatres, cinemas, galleries and museums for visitors and residents alike.

Oldham's main park, Alexandra Park, has been rejuvenated using £2.5m of Heritage Lottery money. The park was awarded Green Flag status in 2005, and was described by the Director of the National Parks Agency as "the finest park in the land".

Oldham has a lively arts and entertainment calendar and also has the largest indoor shopping complex of any Northwest town in the Spindles Town Square shopping centre.

The Cultural Quarter attracts national and regional visitors with the award winning 'Gallery Oldham' and the new Library and Lifelong Learning Centre.

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is nationally recognised and has won both critical and popular acclaim for its highly successful productions, which often star famous actors.

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