



**Brigid Heywood**

*Brigid Heywood*

**Brigid Heywood**

The University was founded on this idea that all the different disciplines would have to interact with each other. Chemists have to talk to historians and the material scientists have to speak to the people in the arts faculty. Most of the OU academics will have individual research collaborations with other colleagues at higher educational institutions in the UK or internationally.

Research is fundamental to a vision of the future where children can receive education that is fit for purpose. Adults can receive medication that improves their health and wellbeing .

You have musicians that are interested in performance. Mathematicians looking at the way disease will actually be spread.

Our centre of excellence at the Open University is studying the opportunity for us to develop human communities on other planets. We can't do that in isolation, so a collaboration with NASA for example or collaboration with the Chinese Space Agency will all aggregate together to form part of the research group that we develop here at the Open University.

One of the perceptions of the Open University is that we have no physical campus. We've got quarter of a million students out there connected through the world wide web and the intranet to our education resources but here at Walton Hall, we support just over a thousand PhD students and they're linked here both on the campus but also through affiliated research centres that are scattered as far apart as Africa, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States.

When we solve problems, we look at the problems from every possible direction and therefore we are more likely to generate a piece of knowledge that will lead to the future health and wellbeing of both individuals and society.