

ONCOURSE

SUCCESS WORTH CELEBRATING

Summer results put T&PC among best in the UK

SPOTLIGHT ON HUMANITIES

From award-winning lecturers to adventures in Greece

INVESTING IN CORNWALL'S GREEN FUTURE

Renewable Skills Centre opens

FLYING HIGHER

Students set up Tenacity Dance Collective to choreograph, produce and perform their own show



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Truro College

Call us: 01872 305000

Email us: enquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk

Find us on Instagram: [truro_college](https://www.instagram.com/truro_college)

Find us on TikTok: [truroandpenwithcollege](https://www.tiktok.com/@truroandpenwithcollege)

Penwith College

Call us: 01736 809000

Email us: penwithenquiries@truro-penwith.ac.uk

Find us on social: [@penwithcollege](https://www.instagram.com/penwithcollege)

STEM & Health Skills Centre

Call us: 01208 224455

Email us: enquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk



Visit us: truro-penwith.ac.uk

From Cornwall to the Royal Society

Students from across Truro and Penwith College took a trip to London to present their findings at the prestigious Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition.

Their research project, developed through the Royal Society's Partnership Grants Scheme, aimed to answer the question of "Is there Naturally Occurring Hydrogen Gas in Cornwall?"



Exploring the Royal Holloway University of London



The students' research took them across Cornwall, investigating sites of geological interest.

Students from the College presented their work alongside over 300 scientists and 13 outstanding research groups at the Summer Science Exhibition, the UK's premier public science event hosted by the country's national academy of science. The research that the students presented was significant to the environment today; using naturally occurring hydrogen could provide a cleaner and more sustainable energy solution for future generations. Their research took them across Cornwall, collecting gas samples from sites of geological interest to be analysed at the Royal Holloway University of London's climate science laboratory. The students' results suggested that St Austell granite may be promising for natural hydrogen production in the future.

Mandy Winstanley, Deputy Team Leader for Science at Truro and Penwith College, praised the students' commitment and achievement: "The project enabled students to develop skills and investigate questions that mattered to them and the local community."

They worked hard over the past year, so it was exciting for them to be able to present their findings to world-class researchers, Fellows, and visitors to the exhibition. I loved every minute facilitating this project; the students were amazing and did everything themselves, I just pointed them in the right direction."



No problem too complex

Students on the College's Accelerate Programme performed brilliantly in national maths challenges.



The Gold winners were among the top 11% of achievers nationally.

The group were full of cheer as the champions of the Senior Maths Challenge and Olympiad for Girls were awarded their certificates. The Gold winners were among the top 11% of highest achievers nationally in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Senior Maths Challenge.

This year, 77 students from the College participated, achieving an impressive 7 Gold, 29 Silver, and 27 Bronze awards; a remarkable accomplishment highlighting the exceptional ability of Truro and Penwith College's students.

Accelerate Coordinator and Maths Lecturer, Alex Wyld, shared his pride in the students' success: "The enthusiasm and talent of our students is truly outstanding, as reflected in their impressive results. It's fantastic to see their efforts recognized on a national level."

Students awarded Gold have now qualified for the prestigious Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo, a follow-on round, open to only a select few across the UK.

In addition, a record number of students from the College participated in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls. Among them, one student achieved a Distinction and four received Merits, showcasing the depth of mathematical talent within the College community.

Many of the entries to these competitions came from the Accelerate Programme, designed to inspire and enrich STEM students. The programme includes competitions, talks and workshops from universities and industry professionals, and research opportunities such as IRIS Research, EPQ, and the Brilliant Scholars Club. Through a range of opportunities, the programme fosters a passion for STEM and encourages students to achieve their full potential.

Many of the entries to these competitions came from the Accelerate Programme, designed to inspire and enrich STEM students.

STUDENT VOICE



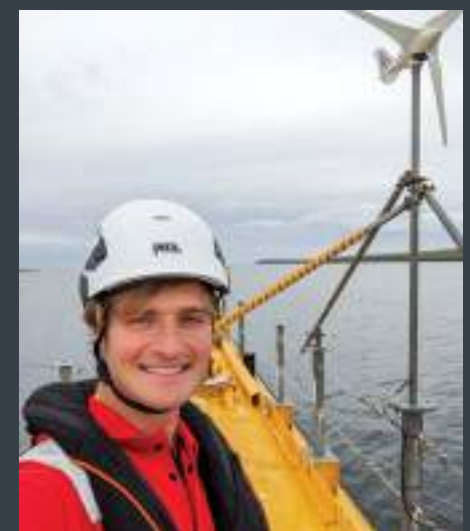
Meet Ben

Ben is a Penwith College alumnus and works as a Blades Research Engineer at Orbital Marine Power, a tidal energy technology company in Edinburgh.

Ben's journey started at Penwith College, where he studied A Levels in Maths, Chemistry and Physics. Ben felt that the atmosphere at college was similar to university: "The environment at Penwith College was very different to school. You are more responsible for your own learning outside of your class schedule, which is more of what it's like at university."

Ben has travelled all over the south west to hone his skills; after finishing college, he proceeded to study Mechanical Engineering at the University of Exeter and completed a two-year graduate scheme at Babcock International in Plymouth. After gaining these skills, Ben decided to move into the renewables sector and started on an Engineering Doctorate programme called IDCORE.

Reflecting on his experience at college, Ben gave his advice: "There are so many different ways to get into a career which interests you and not all involve going to university. Make the most of opportunities to meet and talk to people about the path they took. Most of the time they won't have had it figured out by the time they were 16!"



Accelerate to lift off!

The Accelerate students have designed and launched a satellite, which they programmed and built as part of the CanSat UK national competition!



The project tested students' technical skills.



The prestigious competition tasked the students with fitting the major systems of a real satellite, including communications, sensors and power, into a compact size of a canned drink. The exceptional teamwork, creativity and technical skills demonstrated by the students led to the proud moment where their satellite launched into the sky.

This project allows young people to push boundaries and apply their STEM studies to real life scenarios, granting them the opportunity to explore where their studies can take them.

Some Accelerate students took their passion for engineering even further; Seth, Lucas, Jack, Tom, and Kaden placed in the top 5 at the regional heat of UKRoC, the UK's largest rocketry competition for under 18s. The team launched their rocket under real launch conditions, demonstrating their innovation, communication and teamwork.

Our industry partner Heathcoat Fabric Retail Shop gave the students access to state-of-the-art parachute material, allowing the students to get hands-on with industry level materials and equipment.

The team were tasked with designing, building and launching a model rocket that hits a set altitude and then lands two eggs back to earth unharmed.

Success worth celebrating



Students at Truro and Penwith College proved that they go further on their summer results day. Coming together with friends, family, lecturers and loved ones, the students celebrated their success and time at college.



Our 2025 results at a glance

Out of over 2,000 A Level Entries:

- Students achieved a 99% pass rate
- Over half of the students achieved A*-B grades
- 93% of students accepted places onto their first-choice university, including over 250 Russell Group university places

Out of over 600 Occupational courses:

- Overall achievement rate for Automotive, Construction, Hair and Beauty and Hospitality is 91%

Out of over 1,000 Vocational and Technical courses:

- Over 70% of UAL Diploma students in creative subjects such as Art and Design, Games Development, Photography and more achieved the highest grades
- BTEC Level 3 Diploma students in Sport, Health and Business achieved grades 14% above the national average

Alfie Gazzard, from Mount Hawke, gained B grades in A Level Physics, Maths and Chemistry, alongside the Maths Academy programme, and has secured a prestigious Technical Nuclear Degree Apprenticeship with the Ministry of Defence's Submarine Delivery Agency.

"I saw the apprenticeship online and didn't think I'd ever get in. The lecturers were really supportive and friendly, and college felt so different to school; more professional, where you're treated like an adult," said Alfie.

The College's T Level cohort also celebrated their success. One of whom was Sonny, who achieved a Distinction in T Level Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction. "I thought I'd get a pass or merit but turns out I got a distinction!" said Sonny. "The College's construction facilities were brilliant, and visits from employers really opened my eyes to the options out there. If it wasn't for my tutors, I wouldn't have got this." Sonny will now begin a degree-level Construction, Design and Build Technician Apprenticeship with Galliford Try.

2025 cohort results day



Students make significantly more personal and academic progress at Truro and Penwith College.

Progress measures at the College remain exceptionally high, with the vast majority of students exceeding targets based on their prior GCSE performance at school. This demonstrates that students make significantly more personal and academic progress at Truro and Penwith College, achieving grades far beyond those predicted from earlier attainment.



Principal Martin Tucker said: "With a tradition of excellence that spans over three decades, our 2025 results are further evidence that Truro and Penwith College continues to set the standard for post-16 education in the region, offering a supportive and aspirational environment where students flourish both academically and personally.

"The College has continued to invest in high-quality staff development, underpinned by evidence-based practice and the latest insights from cognitive science. This, combined with the passion, expertise, and dedication of our teaching staff, who go above and beyond to support every student, ensures that the College remains an inspiring and exceptional place to both work and study."

"The College's construction facilities were brilliant, and visits from employers really opened my eyes to the options out there."

Sonny



Among those celebrating were best friends Poppy and Mimi, who attended Penryn College together. Poppy achieved A, A*, A*, A* in Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths and Physics and will study Engineering at the University of Oxford. She said: "I was worried about studying quite male-dominated subjects, but everyone was really nice."

Mimi achieved A, A, A*, A in History, Psychology, Geography and Spanish. Mimi plans to take a gap year before applying to study International Relations. She gave her advice: "Stay on top of things! But also enjoy your free periods with your friends; I have a lot of good memories from them."

A Level data puts Truro & Penwith College among the best in the UK



Truro and Penwith College is once again celebrating the incredible achievements of its A Level students, as published Government data confirms the College is the top performing college in Cornwall and ranks among the very best in the UK.

The latest published Department for Education data revealed that that almost 900 A Level students at the College achieved fantastic results last summer. Many have since progressed to leading universities and exciting careers.

Truro and Penwith College's A Level students achieved an average grade of B-, well above the national average and far surpassing other local providers, including the next ranked college with an average grade of C-.

The College's progress score of 0.11 also highlights how much further students go at Truro and Penwith College, underlining the exceptional teaching and support they receive. Last year, A Level learners at Truro and Penwith College collectively achieved over 700 A*- A grades and almost 1500 A*-B grades. This success has seen over 1,000 students secure their first-choice university place in 2024, opening doors to bright futures across the country.

Success stories include students progressing to study Medicine at the University of Bristol, Law at University of Exeter, Mathematics at the University of Cambridge, Engineering at the University of Bath, History at the University

of Oxford and Creative Arts at Falmouth University, while others have secured prestigious apprenticeships and employment opportunities with major employers such as the NHS and Babcock International.

In total, the College recorded a 100% pass rate in 54 academic and vocational subjects, including Health and Social Care, Travel and Tourism, Creative Media and more, reinforcing Truro and Penwith College's reputation as a centre of academic excellence.

This fantastic news follows hot on the heels of the College's recent Ofsted inspection, where its provision for 16-19-year-olds (Education Programmes for Young People) was awarded an Outstanding grade, as well as further Outstanding judgements in Behaviours and Attitudes, Personal Development, and Apprenticeships.

Ofsted praised the College for its ambitious curriculums, expert teaching, and student

support, commenting: "Students on education programmes for young people are taught ambitious curriculums that equip them very well with the skills, knowledge, and resilience needed for their next steps. Teachers skilfully design lessons that build knowledge incrementally and challenge students to apply their learning very effectively."

"Leaders have cultivated a culture of excellence that drives exceptional teaching."

"Leaders have cultivated a culture of excellence that drives exceptional teaching. Many [students] achieve the highest grades and produce work of exceptional quality."

Principal Martin Tucker said: "We are incredibly proud of our students and staff."

These results reflect not only the hard work, dedication, and talent of our learners but also the outstanding support they receive every step of the way at Truro and Penwith College. We are thrilled to be recognised as the leading college for A Levels in Cornwall and among the very best nationally."

Truro and Penwith College continues to be the number one choice to achieve success.

A taste of the Big Apple



Students from across Truro and Penwith College explored the iconic landmarks of New York City in their annual trip stateside.

Students visited the Empire State Building, Central Park, Times Square and Brooklyn Bridge. There was also the opportunity to experience a Broadway show as the students watched MJ: The Musical. Every moment created lasting memories for the students, whether they were paying tribute at the 9/11 memorial or visiting the UN or Wall Street.

The College runs the New York trip, as well as annual Ski trips, to provide lasting memories and experiences for the students and to broaden their horizons.



Not up for debate: Amelia is the best in Cornwall



Amelia delved into Cornish cultural heritage.

Truro College A Level Medieval History student Amelia blew the judges away, winning the regional heat of the Historical Association's Great Debate.

In the heats, students had five minutes to answer this year's question: 'How can your local history tell a global story?'

In her presentation, Amelia delved into the historical struggles and the global impact of Cornwall's cultural heritage, as well as the significance of identifying as Cornish.

Marilla, Deputy Team Lead for Humanities and Social Sciences at Truro College said: "The Great Debate is an important competition for students to participate in as it gives students of History and Classical Civilisation a superb opportunity to grow in confidence and develop their public speaking skills."

Judges for the competition included Dr Simon Topping, Associate Professor Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business, at the University of Plymouth and Mr Len Shepard, Co-ordinator of Newquay Museum. Both institutions work in partnership with the History, Heritage and Culture foundation degree taught at the Truro campus and were pleased to offer their on-going support for the competition. They commented that Amelia's speech was confidently delivered and that this year's standard was very high, making Amelia's win impressive.

Lecturer Stuart Falconer wins award

Classical Civilisation lecturer Stuart has been awarded the Classical Association National Teaching Award for promoting the study of the ancient world, sponsored by Cambridge University Press.

This prestigious national award recognises exceptional dedication to teaching classics across the UK and Stuart embodies everything it stands for. His creativity, energy, and deep knowledge has brought the ancient world to life for countless students.

Stuart's students find every one of his lectures fascinating, informative and encouraging: "Stuart has encouraged me to take my knowledge of the ancient world to higher education and deepened my understanding considerably.

"He radiates passion, makes every lesson engaging, and believes in his students."

Classical Civilisation students have the opportunity to learn from award winning lecturer Stuart, as well as explore aspects of ancient Greek and Roman culture. From ancient literature and theatre to medicine and architecture, students learn where everything began. They are also able to visit Athens in order to bring their studies to life.



Humanities

Standing where history was made

26 Classical Civilisation students from Truro and Penwith College had the opportunity to jet off to Athens to learn about the birth of Western civilisation.

The students had the opportunity to bring their studies to life by climbing the Acropolis and visiting the Angora, as well as exploring Eleusis, the home of the Mystery Cult of Demeter and Persephone, Mycenae and the iconic kingdom of Agamemnon and Epidauros, one of the best-preserved historic theatres.

Course Leader Stuart commented: "Standing where history was made brings our studies vividly to life. These experiences not only deepen students' understanding of the ancient world but also inspire a lasting appreciation for its relevance today."

Truro and Penwith College has also won the Southwest Classics for All Impact Award for Outstanding Achievement in Introducing Classics. This award recognises the impact of our Classics programme and staff. Not only do our students have the opportunity to visit Greece, but they also visit Rome, have guest lectures, take part in national competitions, work placements and volunteering, and have founded the Cornwall Classical Association. We are proud to provide accessible Latin, Greek and Ancient world education to students in Cornwall and allow them to take part in memorable trips such as these.



Celebrating Apprenticeships in style



Apprentices, their families and colleagues came together to celebrate in style and witness an historic Cornwall Apprenticeship Awards as Truro and Penwith College hosted its ninth annual event at the Eden Project.

Apprentices, their families and colleagues came together to celebrate in style and witness an historic Cornwall Apprenticeship Awards as Truro and Penwith College hosted its ninth annual event at the Eden Project in 2025.

The Awards showcased the achievements of 49 shortlisted employer, mentor and apprentice nominees after a record-breaking year, with well over 140 nominations received across 18 categories. The ever-popular public vote to help determine Cornwall's Achiever of the Year also attracted well over a record-breaking 700 online votes from members of the public.

Neil and Saffy from the Hits Radio Cornwall Breakfast Show took centre stage to present the awards, held in partnership with Headline Sponsors Hertzian, Award Partners Duchy Hospital, Wildanet, Watson-Marlow, Media Partners Business Cornwall, Reception



Presenters Neil and Saffy.

sponsors CORMAC and with the support of a host of local and national sponsors, to recognise and reward exceptional achievement.

The Awards are open to all apprentices, apprenticeship employers and mentors across Cornwall and cover a range of professional categories including construction, engineering, management, marketing and business. Judging the awards was a panel of industry leaders from a range of large and medium employers from Cornwall and across the UK.

New Nursing & Clinical and Healthcare & Early Years Apprentice of the Year categories were added to the event for the very first time to recognise the recent growth and community impact of apprenticeships in these sectors.

Tom Heap from Royal Cornwall Hospital's NHS Trust (RCHT), scooped the first-ever Healthcare and Early Years Apprentice of the Year award, sponsored by Cornwall Opportunities, having implemented a Pressure Care Audit that successfully identifies whether patients need specialised equipment to prevent pressure sores, supporting well-being and the allocation of resources.

Apprentice Sarah Collett, also from RCHT, picked up Nursing & Clinical Apprentice of the Year, sponsored by Duchy Hospital, having had a significant impact on clinical practice through her research on the benefits of listening to music during surgery to reduce patient stress and anxiety. Initially a Theatre Assistant, she progressed to an Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) Apprenticeship and has recently secured employment as a Registered ODP.

The stars of the night were Piers Smith, who collected the popular Apprentice Achiever of the Year Award, sponsored by Wildanet, and Oliver Elwell-Deighton who was presented the coveted title of Cornwall's Apprentice of the Year 2025 by Headline Sponsors Hertzian after also picking up Digital & IT Apprentice of the Year, sponsored by Cornwall Council.

Piers has a hearing impediment and some learning needs that give him a unique outlook. He was the victim of bullying throughout school and therefore was worried about stepping back into education, with his first day at college marking the first time he had left Fowey on his own.

Over the course of his apprenticeship, Piers's confidence has sky-rocketed, now running a restaurant dessert section for his employer St Austell Brewery. He has reshaped workflows to deliver a significant increase in profits, while also arranging for himself and colleagues to take part in community charity events that have raised over £1,000 towards defibrillators across Cornwall.

Judge and Headline Sponsor Chris Weavill commented: "Piers has done a fantastic job, showing resilience and determination, getting past a lot of the challenges he's had throughout his apprenticeship. Piers has come a long way in becoming a member of the team, while also supporting charities and the broader community, making it a well-deserved Achiever of the Year Award for him".

After collecting his award in front of the 200-strong audience Piers said: "I'm shocked, I didn't expect to be in the finals and am really proud of myself. I have to thank my family, tutors and my employer."



The finalists from each category.



Apprentice Sarah Collett, from RCHT, picked up the Nursing & Clinical Apprentice of the Year, sponsored by Duchy Hospital.



Martin Tucker addresses the guests.



Music students from the College performed.



The photo-booth was popular with guests.

Cornwall's Apprentice of the Year 2025, Oliver Elwell-Deighton, has made contributions that his employer TouchByte regards as 'outstanding for any level of employee and all the more impressive considering his apprenticeship status'. Oliver has travelled the globe, pitching products at international trade shows to audiences of up to 400 in the Netherlands, USA, Dubai and beyond.

Julie-Anne Sunderland, Chief People Officer at Wildanet, was one of three judges in the Digital and IT category and commented: "We were looking for individuals who demonstrated innovation and took the ideas of their employers and ran with them to new levels. Oliver has certainly done that, he is a truly worthy winner".

open its new STEM and Health Skills Centre Bodmin to complement state-of-the-art facilities at its Penzance and Truro campus, where students have also benefitted from a £1.7 million redevelopment and expansion of future-focused Construction facilities.

Speaking after the event, Martin Tucker, Principal of Truro and Penwith College, commented: "We are delighted to host the ninth annual Cornwall Apprenticeship Awards and to celebrate exceptional achievement and outcomes in apprenticeship training across Cornwall. I'd like to give special thanks to our sponsors, supporters and business partners for not only their contributions this evening but without whom the College's exceptional work in apprenticeship training simply wouldn't be possible.

across the UK that the Department for Education has recognised as an Expert Apprenticeship Provider.

"With the opening of our new multi-million-pound STEM and Health Skills Centre in Bodmin, complementing our state-of-the-art facilities at Truro and Penzance, and our Apprenticeship Expert status, we work closely with the DfE and our employer partners to continually develop the very best apprenticeship programmes for the whole of Cornwall.

"A huge congratulations to all of tonight's nominees, we can't wait to see where their careers take them next".

Christopher Weavill, Co-Founder and CEO at Headline Sponsors Hertzian said: "Eighteen percent of Hertzian's workforce is made up of Truro and Penwith College Apprentices, with thirty-six percent having studied an Apprenticeship with Hertzian at some stage of their career. We are very happy to be sponsoring Cornwall's Apprenticeship Awards as Headline Sponsors".

The Awards were preceded by a delicious four-course dinner, with three courses prepared and served from Eden Project kitchens followed by petits fours, fresh from students in the training kitchens at Truro and Penwith College. Further support was offered from the business community with generous sponsorship from Imerys providing the stunning glass trophies, CORMAC which sponsored the gala reception and tables, and Watson-Marlow that provided the evening's entertainment in the form of live music, magicians and photo-booth.

"For apprenticeships to deliver economically they need to be of the highest quality...we work closely with the DfE and our employer partners to continually develop the very best apprenticeship programmes for the whole of Cornwall."

Martin Tucker, Principal.

Oliver commented: "It's a massive privilege to have been selected as Cornwall's Apprentice of the Year 2025 amongst such a range of skilled people. The apprenticeship route has been fantastic for me, it's given me a way into the industry that I don't think I'd have been able to get anywhere else."

Continued multi-million-pound facilities investments have also seen the College

"For apprenticeships to deliver economically they need to be of the highest quality. The Cornwall Apprenticeship Awards presents a perfect opportunity to recognise that quality and we have thoroughly enjoyed this evening celebrating all the talent that exists across all apprenticeship provision in Cornwall.

"At Truro and Penwith College, we are delighted to be one of only five FE Colleges

Games development showcase



Penwith College's Games and Level 2 Media students showcased their work at an end of year show, hosted at Pixel Penzance.

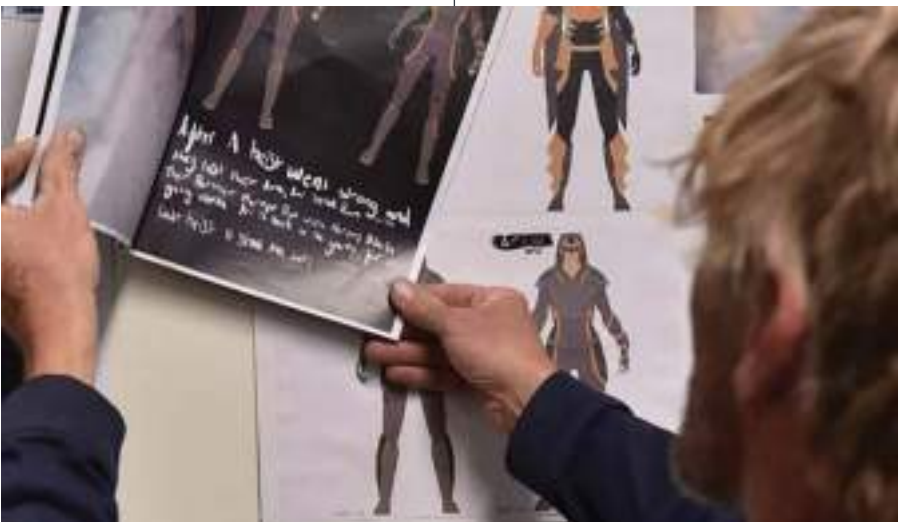
Showing off concept art and demos of games, the students were able to celebrate their achievements and allow the public to enjoy their work.

The Games Development course provides a comprehensive range of industry skills to prepare students for university or work in the games industry. Students are taught in specialist games development suites, using an array of top-end workstations and equipment. During the course, students learn to use a wide range of industry aligned software and learn skills such as 3D modelling, animation, texturing and code development. There are also opportunities to work with external industry clients to help students build confidence and skills needed to excel in the workplace and in higher education.

The Level 2 Diploma in Media Production and Technology allows students to study a core of Media and is focussed on progression to further study or employment in the creative industries, such as photography and media production.

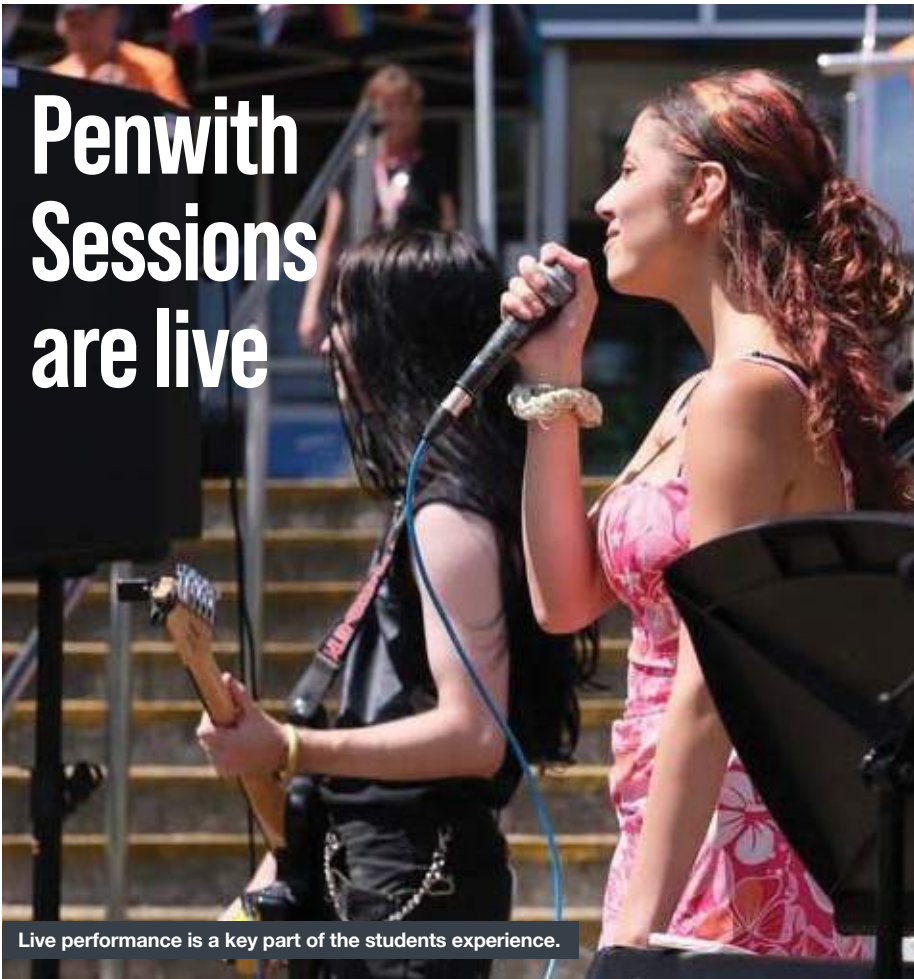
Penwith lecturers Joe and Annie were delighted with the event at Pixel Penzance: "A big thank you to Pixel for welcoming us into their space for our end-of-year Games and Level 2 Media Show, right in the heart of Penzance. It was a fantastic evening celebrating creativity and talent; we're incredibly proud of our students and the outstanding work they've produced this year."

Good research practice is an essential skill.



Students are taught in specialist games development suites, using an array of top-end workstations and equipment.

Penwith Sessions are live

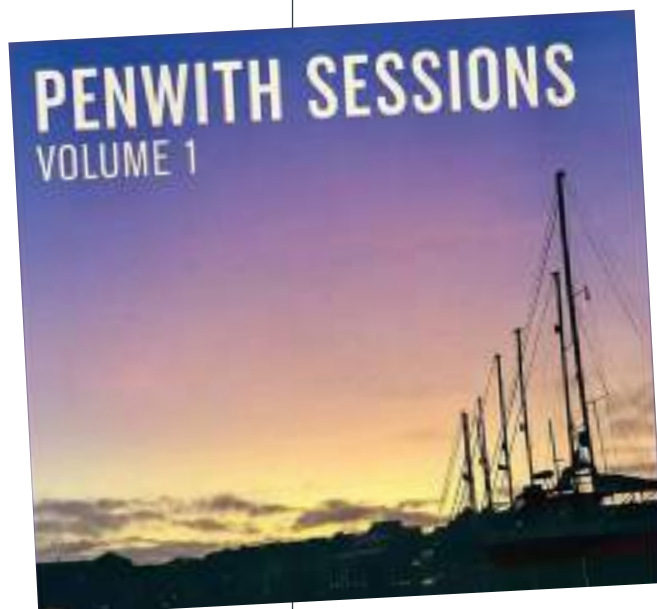


Live performance is a key part of the students experience.

'Penwith Sessions Volume 1' released on global streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music and more.

The album, which features seven original tracks, have been written, performed and recorded entirely in house at Penwith College. Students on Music courses across the College have access to state-of-the-art music equipment and technology, allowing them to get to grips with the software and tools they will be using in their future careers. The album, the first in the series, is a great way for students to showcase their skills and creativity.

Many students on Music courses at the College perform at events and at iconic Cornish venues such as the Minack Theatre and Mazey Day and go on to prestigious universities after their studies.



Music is like a language

Grammy award winning sound engineer Sam Okell sat down with music lecturer Noel from Truro College for a Q&A session about his highly successful career.



Tutor Noel on stage with Sam Okell.

Sam has always loved music from a young age; he played drums, piano and more in his childhood. After finishing school, Sam studied the prestigious Tonmeister degree at the University of Surrey, where he worked at the famous Abbey Road Studios for a placement year and ultimately secured employment there. From working on blockbuster films such as The Lord of the Rings Trilogy, Gravity and Spider-Man: Across the Spideverse to remixing classics from The Beatles and One Direction, Sam's expansive career as an award-winning sound engineer inspired the full lecture theatre of students to go further, showing them that nothing is impossible.

Sam answered our students' burning questions about his work at the iconic Abbey Road Studios, including how university helped him get to where he is and the steps that students can take now to achieve similar dreams. He also talked about his most recent venture, Zennor Sounds, a recording studio close to home for the students in West Cornwall.



Flying high to Oxbridge



Radcliffe All Souls College, Oxford University.

Truro and Penwith College is proving to be the perfect pathway to two of the world's most prestigious universities, University of Oxford and University of Cambridge, with 10 students being accepted onto courses.



The Truro College Oxbridge students.

Some students have been offered places on courses with very low national acceptance rates. The future leaders and pioneers gaining a place is a quarter of all the College's Oxbridge applicants, far exceeding the national average of 1 in 6.

Receiving an offer from Exeter College in Oxford was A Level student Poppy. She has been offered a place on an engineering course with an exceptionally low acceptance rate of 14%.

Poppy has always wanted to go to an Oxbridge university and so joined the Accelerate Academy at Truro and Penwith College, a bespoke programme of study for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), for learners who are academically minded and aiming for highly competitive places at university.

The programme was a perfect fit for Poppy: "I knew it was the best option for me. I really liked how Maths and Further Maths was structured where I would cover all of A Level Maths in the first year and then Further Maths in the second year."

The college offers exceptional support for students who wish to apply to Oxbridge, with 17.6% of Oxford and 32% of Cambridge applicants successfully receiving offers, far outperforming the national figures of 14% for Oxford and 21% for Cambridge.

Available to all full-time students, Enrichment options like the Accelerate and Academic Academy run alongside studies at the College to support learners with extra-curricular opportunities. For students striving for Oxbridge places, a support programme includes familiarisation visits to the universities, mock interviews and talks from the College's Oxbridge alumni.

The mock interviews really helped Brooke, who is studying A Levels at Penwith College. "I had so much support from all my tutors, with a million mock interviews in the weeks leading up to ensure I was prepared," she said.

All the extra hard work paid off; Brooke has an offer to continue her studies in English Language and Literature at Merton College, Oxford. Receiving her exciting news during her English lesson, she said: "I was so pleased and relieved when I finally got confirmation." Brooke hopes to secure a career in PR after university.

The Oxbridge Support Programme's familiarisation visit really helped Richie confirm his choice. The Penwith student shared: "We got to go up to the University of Cambridge and it was very helpful for me because originally I was thinking of going to Oxford, but I decided to apply to Cambridge after that trip and speaking to some of the professors about the courses."

Commenting on the overall excellent results, Christopher Hatch, Oxbridge Support Lead at Truro and Penwith College said: "Nationally, the competition for places at Oxford and Cambridge is fierce, with a success rate of just 1 in 6 applicants securing an offer, so we congratulate our students.

"This is an outstanding set of offers that reflects their strength, as well as the support from our lecturers, Oxbridge mentors and the wider college. Support for Oxbridge applicants within the college is extensive, with specialist support tutors, pre-application residential visits, visits from admission tutors and practice interviews from our governors, staff and external experts."

The IB Diploma



Bella and Lauren are on top of the world

Bella and Lauren are amongst the highest achievers in the world having collected their International Baccalaureate (IB) results at Truro College.

The pair were awarded an incredible 44-point score out of a possible 45, equivalent to five A* and A grades at A Level. The remarkable, near perfect score sees Lauren, from Falmouth, accept her offer to study Medicine at the University of Oxford. Bella, from Truro, will now study Combined Honours with Social Sciences at Durham University, a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

Exceptional student success rates across the IB at Truro College, Cornwall's only provider, have increased even further in 2025 with a staggering pass rate of 98%, up from 92% in 2024 and well above the latest published global pass rate of 80%.

Bella commented: "I'm very happy and really excited. My favourite part was the people because I made some of my closest friends here alongside studying interesting subjects. My lecturers were so amazing, they went above and beyond. Without the IB, I wouldn't be doing the course I'm going to do now."

Lauren said: "The IB helped me stand out in my Oxford application. The balance of Science and essay-based subjects gave me the skills I needed. The highlight of my time was definitely going on the Eswatini trip last year, it was an amazing experience."

Induction day activities kick off academic new year

On Induction Day, our new International Baccalaureate Diploma students discovered the power of teamwork at Tomperrow activity centre near Truro.

Tied together, blindfolded, and balancing their way through challenges, they proved that with trust and guidance from their partners, no obstacle is too great.

Supported by our incredible second-year IB students, the new cohort threw themselves into river racing, mastered bushcraft skills, and tackled obstacle courses with enthusiasm and determination.



Tackling the infamous River Run.



Two of the brave swimmers!

Taking the plunge

The International Baccalaureate (IB) students braved the icy waters of Gyllyngvase to raise money for a fantastic cause.

The chilly swim, taking place in mid-February, is a yearly tradition for the IB cohort in their mission to raise money for Boom Shewula Wula, the College's charity that provides education to children in Eswatini.

The event is fully organised by the IB students, who are passionate about the charity's mission.

Co-organiser and participant Emilia talked about the importance of the event: "The more money we raise, the greater the positive impact on vulnerable communities. We believe in the importance of spreading joy and providing children with the same opportunities we had, all across the world."

From PE to Portugal

Truro College and Equine Academy alumna Ruby had the opportunity to compete in Portugal while studying Veterinary Physiotherapy at Anglia Ruskin University.

Ruby, who studied Biology, P.E. and Photography, hadn't even considered going to university before attending college, but recently found herself travelling to the city of Porto to show jump competitively alongside fellow university students representing her university ARU Writtle's Equine Academy.

Showing that university is as much about opening doors to new experiences as studying for higher education, Ruby said: "Competing in Portugal was an amazing opportunity and one that will stay with me for a long time.

"I'm happy to say it's been a fantastic experience."

Hopefully I'm going back out there to compete again soon, but I couldn't have done it without the support of my friends and the university equine team.

"Being a part of the Equine Academy at Truro College, as well as getting such great support and encouragement from all my A Level tutors and Careers team, really gave me the confidence to apply to university after college. As well as learning about equine and canine physiotherapy, I am also getting a chance to build my riding experiences, so it's great all-round."



Creative media students go live in the studio

The Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Media first years got a taste of the industry standard equipment that they will be using in their future careers when they hosted a live broadcast from the Kenwyn TV Studio on campus.



The cohort sat down with mental health advisors and counsellors from Student Services as live guests to discuss key issues faced by young people growing up, the challenges of speaking out about these concerns and highlighted valuable resources available to young people. The event was streamed to a 'live studio audience' made up of peers and teaching staff.

Students behind the controls in the studio.



The students gained experience not only in hosting a show, but also in production and filming; the facilities in the College mimic those seen in real TV studios in order to prepare them for careers after finishing the course.



Renewables Skills Centre opens



Truro and Penwith College has officially opened its new Renewables Skills Centre at the Truro campus. This facility will help to train the next generation of tradespeople in vital green construction techniques, ensuring the region's workforce is equipped to meet the demands of a net-zero future.

The state-of-the-art centre, constructed by Fox Construction, has been made possible through a combined multi-million-pound investment from the Local Skills Improvement Fund and from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund via the Construction Skills Hub project. This investment builds on the college's strong track record in Construction education.

The new centre will expand the college's specialist Construction department; with nearly 400 full-time construction students and apprentices in the 2024/2025 academic year, and achievement rates exceeding 93% across these programmes, the students are benefitting from the cutting-edge facilities available to them. The facility will provide dedicated teaching spaces for Retrofit, Renewables, and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), supporting full-time courses for 16 - 19-year-olds, apprenticeships, including a new Level 3 Civil Engineering programme in partnership with Cormac, and innovative adult learning programmes such as Skills Bootcamps and professional masterclasses in External Wall Insulation (EWI) and Solar Panel Installation.

This transformational investment in Cornwall's future positions Truro and Penwith College at the forefront of sustainable construction training.

Truro and Penwith College Principal Martin Tucker commented: "The Renewables Skills Centre will equip learners with the green skills needed to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving industry. From apprenticeships to upskilling opportunities, we're ensuring our workforce is ready to lead the way in sustainable building practices."

"The expanded facility means we are able to embark upon renewable skills provision, with identified specialisms for the College in Solar, Passivhaus, External Wall Insulation, Domestic Retrofitting and Regulatory Compliance."

"This transformational investment in Cornwall's future positions Truro and Penwith College at the forefront of sustainable construction training and, through our partnerships with local employers and industry bodies, we are creating clear pathways into well-paid, future-proof careers for Cornish residents."

Visitors, apprentices and students toured the new facilities, which include pioneering training spaces for renewable energy technologies, reinforcing the College's commitment to a low-carbon future. The Construction Skills Hub project, backed by £4.06 million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, is a collaborative effort to address skills gaps in Cornwall's construction industry. The Renewables Skills Centre will play a pivotal role in this initiative; ensuring learners and employers have access to the latest training in sustainable Construction.



Where science meets sustainability



Students studying the Environmental Science A Level became “human beavers” for the day by building natural dams and finding out how sustainable structures can slow water, rebuild habitats and decrease erosion.



Using naturally rot resistant chestnut wood along with repurposed materials, the group’s work will help to build precious local wetland habitats. The day brought their classroom learning to life, bringing water retention, carbon capture and biodiversity together in real world environmental solutions.

The group were also inspired by guest speakers, including Inez Williams-King, Connor Kendrew, and Mark Nason, who shared insights into the future of green careers and the 250 new jobs Cornwall aims to create by 2030.

They highlighted in-demand skills ranging from ecology and engineering to mapping, marketing, photography and design.

The talks and activities gave students valuable insights, reinforcing their academic knowledge while inspiring them to explore the diverse opportunities within sustainability. The College would like to thank The Grower Nursery for putting together this inspirational day.



Toby scoops award

The College's Hospitality team celebrated once again as Level 2 Professional Cookery student Toby has been awarded Student/Apprentice of the Year at the South West Chef of the Year awards.



Toby at the Exeter Golf and Country club.

Months after Penwith's training restaurant Senara scooped the AA Award for College Restaurant of the Year, Toby collected his award at a luxurious ceremony amongst industry professionals at the Exeter Golf and Country club.

Toby, who studies at Truro College and works at the Peterville Inn in St Agnes, was not only awarded Student/Apprentice of the Year, but was also presented with the coveted "Best Showcase of Regional Ingredients" award for his two dishes. His starter of Steamed lemon sole with sole mousse, beurre blanc sauce, pickled mussels, and Parisienne vegetables, and Main course of Chicken supreme with braised leek, steamed corn, glazed carrot, pomme dauphine, and chicken jus wow-ed the judges, who are all respected names in the industry.



Toby's starter (above) and main course (below).



Toby reflected on the awards ceremony, saying: "I genuinely couldn't have felt more supported by the college. The entire team's generosity is unmatched, and I am forever grateful. Winning the competition felt surreal. I was so caught up in the moment, I could hardly take it all in. I'm thrilled to have made my family and friends so proud."

"The opportunities this competition has opened up are amazing. Many chefs have approached me to discuss my career and the future they see for me in the industry. I've already been invited to tour several Michelin-star kitchens, which will be an incredible experience."



"I genuinely couldn't have felt more supported by the college. The entire team's generosity is unmatched, and I am forever grateful."

Automotive donation gives vehicles a new purpose

Devon and Cornwall Police have donated three vehicles to Truro and Penwith College's automotive students for the first time, with the goal of engaging Cornwall's young people and teaching them about road safety.

The vehicles, which previously would have been destroyed after being seized, are instead being given to automotive students to practice their skills on.

At the donation, students took a look at the cars before meeting content creator Sergeant Owen Messenger, from Devon and Cornwall Police's road casualty reduction team. Many of the students were familiar with his YouTube and TikTok content; Sgt Messenger's TikTok, George's Car Media (GCM), has over 1 million followers.

The police took the opportunity to instruct the cohort about the importance of wearing a seatbelt, and the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The students also learned how the passenger seat is the most vulnerable in the car.

Motor Vehicle Lecturer at Truro and Penwith College, Phil Hanson said: "The kind donation of these vehicles allows our students to engage directly with real-world automotive systems, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary for successful careers in the motor vehicle industry."

Speaking on BBC Spotlight, Sgt Messenger said: "Working in partnership with colleges in Devon and Cornwall allows us to give the vehicles a new purpose and contribute to a better learning experience for automotive students."



Taking a moment to inspect the vehicles.



Students and Police gather outside Seaton building at Truro College.

Apprenticeships are go

Why study apprenticeships at Truro and Penwith College?

For those looking for industry experience and are keen to earn while they learn, apprenticeships are a great choice. The College is a fantastic choice for those who are interested in undertaking an apprenticeship; find out how you can go further with an apprenticeship here!



An introduction to apprenticeships.

You may be wondering what an apprenticeship is. "An Apprenticeship is for anyone aged 16+ who is not in full-time education and living in England," says Truro and Penwith College Apprenticeship Recruitment Coordinator, Tammy. "There is no upper age to become an apprentice therefore Apprenticeships can be alternative to university and enable individuals to change careers. You can also be an existing employee and become an apprentice."

Many people think that apprenticeships are unpaid internships, but this is a myth. Apprenticeships allow you to earn while you learn, helping you get a head start in saving up funds for your future. Tammy described the benefits of apprenticeships: "Depending on how you like to learn, an apprenticeship provides a practical learning experience. An apprenticeship is a real role providing industry insight and an opportunity to gain relevant skills and be at the forefront of any changes and developments in the sector. You earn while you learn and there are no tuition or course fees to become an apprentice. If you know the industry you want to work in and are ready to work and commit to training then an apprenticeship may be the right option for you."



Truro and Penwith College Apprentices are among the highest achieving in England.

According to new government data, the achievement rate of apprentices at Truro and Penwith College is almost 15% above the national average. The College's apprenticeship achievement rate is an amazing 74.2% in the 2023/24 academic year, placing the College as the third best General Further Education College (GFEC) in England for apprenticeships. With a highly regarded Achievement Rate of 62.7% in 2022/23, Truro and Penwith College's increase in apprenticeship achievement to 74.2%, far exceeds national success.



Our apprenticeships are rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

The College's Apprenticeship programme impressed Ofsted inspectors during their latest inspection. The report detailed how "apprentices gain hands-on experience, working alongside industry experts to refine their competencies." They later described how apprentices from the College benefitted the industry: "Apprentices thrive in an outstanding training environment, growing in ambition and pride through training closely aligned with industry needs, supported by strong collaboration between staff and employers."



We're one of five Expert Apprenticeship Providers in the country.

Truro and Penwith College is Cornwall's only Expert Apprenticeship Provider; one of only five in the country. The expert status was awarded after the College demonstrated excellence across a strict range of criteria alongside learner achievement, including an exceptional employer feedback rating.

Development of cutting-edge, future-focused apprenticeship training is expected to continue with the College's Apprenticeship Expert status providing it with 'special flexibilities and permissions' within The Apprenticeship Service (TAS) that make it easier for employers to work in partnership with the College to develop quality careers and training for the future landscape of Cornwall.



Truro and Penwith College has been crowned Apprenticeship Provider of the Year.

After delivering 761 apprenticeships with a 74.3% achievement rate across Adult, Higher and Further Education provisions, Truro and Penwith College beat tough competition at the 2025 Apprenticeship and Training Awards to be awarded the highly coveted Apprenticeship Provider of the Year.

The award recognises the College's offer of over 30 apprenticeship standards across key sectors including Hospitality, Health, Engineering and Construction, supporting some of the county's largest sectors. Judges highlighted apprentices benefitting from comprehensive enrichment, professional development, wellbeing support and sustainable careers.

ESOL are playing for a good cause

Students on the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) came together to raise money for the UN Refugee Agency, a cause close to their hearts.

Representing Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and Kurdistan, the students played an incredible game against the College's Football Academy.

Their chosen charity, UNHCR, is the UN Refugee Agency which has supported them in the past and provides life-saving emergency aid and protection for refugees worldwide. The group managed to raise over £180 for the charity.

The initiative, part of their PPD (Personal and Professional Development) assessments, originated through the students' shared passion for sports.



Students come together for a good cause.

Josiah selected for England



Josiah, an Extended Diploma in Sport & Exercise Science student, is celebrating after being selected for the England College Football Association.

At a game against Independent Schools, Truro College student Jos netted an amazing goal which he described as "Incredible! It was an amazing feeling scoring for my country against Independent schools and I am very appreciative of Gary, my head coach at College, for putting me forward for the trials."

His opportunities don't stop there; he's also been selected to play for England in Italy, in the Roma Caput Mundi Tournament. While Jos is making waves in his football career, the Football Academy member is remembering where it all started, stating: "I'm very appreciative of my coaches at College, Tamas and Fred, for the hours they have put in over the last year and a half, for the development of me and my teammates."

From Cornwall to Dallas

The Truro College Football Academy competed in the largest youth football competition in the world in Dallas, Texas. The prestigious Dallas Cup has held 46 tournaments and invites teams from all over the world to compete; Truro College has been competing in the cup for 10 years.

After winning their first match, the team narrowly lost to FC Dallas. However, the team bounced back with a massive 6-0 win in their final game, finishing second in their group. They finished the tournament with a fantastic 3-2 win in an exhibition match.

Gary, Football Coach and Lecturer, commented: "Truro College football students were outstanding in their latest Dallas Cup journey, winning 3 out of 4 games competing with both passion and pride. Beyond the pitch, they forged unforgettable memories, built incredible team bonds, and embraced a rich cultural experience that will stay with them for life."



The home of rugby excellence in Cornwall

College alumni go further with Cornish Pirates



Truro and Penwith College is proud to reaffirm its long-standing partnership with the Cornish Pirates, announcing another year as Official Partner of the club for the 2025/26 season.

The College has supported the Pirates for over a decade, and in that time has become a proven pathway for Cornish students to reach professional sport. Today, the connection is stronger than ever, with a growing number of former students not only training with but starring for the Pirates squad.

At the kit launch for the new season, the scale of that success was clear: multiple players proudly wearing the 2025/26 strip began their journey at Truro and Penwith College.

Current squad members Joe and Barnaby Elderkin (Fly-Half/Centre and Flanker),

alongside fellow alumnus Ben Woodmansey (Prop), are among the latest players to make the transition from the College's Rugby Academy to the professional game. As part of the College's Rugby Academy, they enjoyed international tours and high-performance training which prepared them for the Pirates.

Ben Woodmansey, Sport Science and Rugby Academy alumnus and now Cornish Pirates Prop, commented: "Truro and Penwith College was instrumental in helping me become a professional rugby player. The teaching around sport, physiotherapy and nutrition was second to none, and the support

I received throughout my time there was exceptional. I simply wouldn't be where I am today without the college."

Ross Hancock, Head of Commercial & Communications at the Cornish Pirates, said: "This partnership is synonymous with the club. Truro and Penwith has consistently developed some of Cornwall's best rugby talent, and the alumni in our current squad prove the impact of this collaboration."



Exeter Chiefs academy partnership strengthened for 2025/26

Students in the College's Rugby Academy have unrivalled opportunities as the 2025/26 season begins, as one of the country's leading rugby pathways enters an exciting new chapter.

This season, the College and Chiefs welcome Mal Roberts to the Academy team. With extensive playing and coaching experience with the British Army, Cornwall Seniors, and as an RFU Coach Educator, Mal will lead the development of Cornish players in the Foundation Phase, ages 15 to 16.

He will also play a key role in expanding the College's thriving girls' rugby programme, linking directly with the Exeter Chiefs U23 Women's squad and opening new opportunities for female players.

For students at Truro and Penwith College, the partnership means access to outstanding facilities, including a £500,000 investment in a state-of-the-art 4G pitch, alongside elite-level coaching, strength and conditioning, and physiotherapy support provided by the Chiefs. Education remains at the core of the programme, ensuring learners achieve success both on and off the field.

With new investment, new expertise, and new opportunities, the Truro and Penwith College and Exeter Chiefs Academy partnership continues to inspire the next generation of players while cementing Cornwall's place on the rugby map.



Our four teams play in over 70 fixtures and tournaments per season.



Check out the Elite Sports Academies here:
truro-penwith.ac.uk/sport-academies/

Logan crowned national champion

Progression Pathways and Elite Academy student Logan has collected a host of achievements in athletics.



Logan with his medal.

Logan, who studies Preparation for Independence and Employment, competed not only in the South West but also in Coventry and Birmingham, where he was crowned National Champion in 400M, Discus, Shot and Long Jump.

On top of this, out of the 700 athletes who competed in various venues back in October, Elite Academy student Logan has had his scores analysed by UK Sport and Coaches and has been selected for the next stage of the Olympic Trials in Shooting.

To finish the season, Logan was also selected for the England Athletics Youth Talent Programme. Everyone can't wait to see what Logan achieves next!



Sam's for the long jump

Former Progression Pathways student Sam is a para long jumper and is currently supported by England Athletics on their talent pathway.

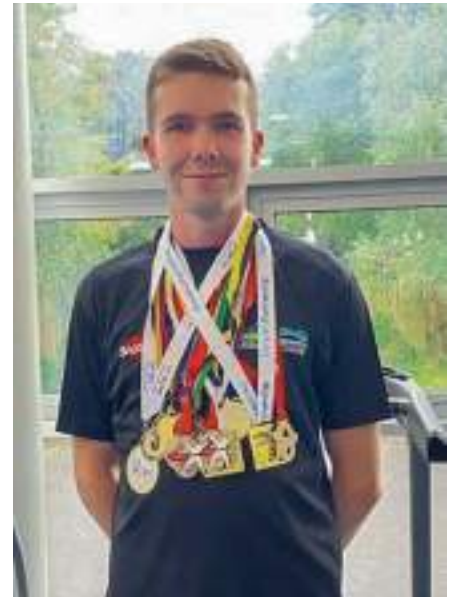


Everyone is rooting for Sam.

Sam's incredible achievements include being awarded Cornwall County Champion, triple national champion in long jump, 100m and 200m in the Activity Alliance National Championships, double national champion in long jump and 100m in the CP Sport National Athletic Championships and 1st under 23 in long jump at the England Athletics Senior Para Championship. He's also beaten his personal bests in long jump and is ranked #1 in the UK as a T20 long jumper and #3 for 100m.

Following this season, Sam has now been invited onto The England Senior Programme. The programme aims to support senior English athletes and para-athletes who have the realistic potential to progress to compete at future Olympic and Paralympic Games and world championships.

Sam has now been invited onto the England Senior Programme.



Sam utilises the gym at Penwith College as part of his enrichment in order to train and see his friends and has now progressed onto a Level 1 Diploma in Carpentry and Joinery. Everyone at Penwith College is rooting for Sam in his future endeavours.

The Activator and Ambassador Programme



Football Activators and Ambassadors from Truro and Penwith College travelled to Manchester for the AOC Sport Leadership Program training event.

The AOC event, which was held at the home of Manchester City Football Club Etihad Stadium, introduced students to the Activator and Ambassador Programme through a range of sessions.

The morning session introduced students to the role of the Activator and the Ambassador and allowed them to meet others from colleges across the country. The session involved taking time to think about what students hoped to achieve in the role, along with barriers they could possibly face. Other sessions involved focusing on inclusion and considering the individual needs of those they will be engaging with.

The students enjoyed the whole experience and have returned to college full of ideas to take forward for increasing participation in a variety of football related activities.



Allied Health Fair Penwith

Students had the opportunity to explore a wide range of careers within the NHS at the Allied Health Professions Careers Fair.

The College holds regular careers fairs across campuses to highlight how far the students' qualifications can take them. With over 350 careers in the NHS, the students explored the wide range of career options that are open to them within the health sector. There was also the chance for them to discuss work experience opportunities and their next steps after College.

Neil Smith, a podiatry professional lead at Cornwall Partnership Foundation Trust, talked about the importance of the day for helping students discover their future career: "Most people think of becoming a nurse, doctor, dentist or midwife, but there's so many other options out there for you to actually have a look at."

"It's been really good to meet students and get a rough idea of what it is they want to do. Some people are unsure what they would like to do, which is why events like these are so important."

Course Lead of Health and Social Care Amy said: "The day was fantastic and was so great to see all our students so enthusiastic and engaged with the professions; a great day all round."

As well as Careers Fairs, the College offers the Medics and Allied Health Academies for students who are aiming to get competitive HE places in the medical field. The Academies guide students through the application process and allows students to take part in interactive workshops, seminars and projects. In their second year, students receive personal statement advice, mock admission tests and mock interviews in order to make sure they are fully prepared for the real interview and exams.



STUDENT VOICE



Meet Phoebe

Phoebe is a Truro College alumna and founder of Phoebe Lune Designs, creating handmade crystal jewellery in Cornwall.

After completing A Levels in Psychology, Music Performance, English Literature and Law, Phoebe completed a short jewellery course during the pandemic that she turned into a thriving business. Phoebe says that her A Levels each "fed into [her] business in their own way", allowing her to explore her creativity and giving her the freedom to express herself.

Her website, which began as a photography portfolio, has expanded into a thriving jewellery business. Her work has been featured in British Vogue, The Pop-Up Club and more.

Phoebe found the support at college helped her realise her potential. She gave special thanks to her tutor, Sean: "His help gave me the tools I needed to succeed; he told me to thank him in my Oscars speech, so I hope this will do!"



Styled for success

Hair and Beauty students at Truro and Penwith College have been taking part in the annual Cornish Skills competition for over 10 years, demonstrating their creativity and technical skills for a panel of professional judges.



This year's Hair and Beauty cohort rose to the challenge, transforming their models and creating head-turning looks. The competition ended with a runway show of all the models, allowing the students to showcase their skills for industry experts. This year, judges included Salon Confidence Coach Laura Bell and staff from The Cutting Edge in Falmouth. The judges felt that competition was fierce this year, highlighting the skill and creativity of this year's cohort.



The Beauty category was judged by Truro College alumna Demi, who now works as the Head Therapist at the Headland Hotel. She commented: "It feels surreal to be in this position, having once been in their shoes. Now, I'm judging! Seeing my lecturers again is a breath of fresh air; I wouldn't be where I am today without them."

Alumna Claudia, now a freelance makeup artist and judge for the Beauty category, shared: "I competed in the Skills Competition myself, and now being on the other side shows just how much progression there is in the industry. Events like this highlight where students' skills are at and how they can grow. My biggest advice? Take on criticism; it's key in an industry that's in such high demand."

Many of the College's Hair and Beauty students have gone on to work within the industry in Cornwall and beyond, with students like Demi being shortlisted for national awards.



Tenacity Dance Collective



STUDENT VOICE

Meet Joe

Joe is a Truro College alumnus and has recently starred in the BBC Three film *Donkey*, which is now available on iPlayer.

Joe studied the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts Practice, a course that has seen many of its students accepted into prestigious performing arts universities. Joe is no exception, as he was accepted into the highly regarded ArtsEd in London after his studies.

During a visit to the college, Joe gave an inspiring talk to our current first year Performing Arts cohort. He shared his advice and described what life was like at drama school, including his lessons at the iconic Lyric Hammersmith Theatre where he met David Tennant.

Joe thoroughly enjoyed his time at college: "The Truro College Performing Arts Diploma helped me grow and develop as a person and an actor and is the reason I am now at drama school."

The second year Performing Arts: Dance diploma students wowed the audience when they took to the stage with their end of term performance.



The students set up Tenacity Dance Collective and performed "The Favourite", a show that delved into the highs and lows of life in the public eye; the excitement, envy and overall cost of having all eyes on you. The students choreographed, produced and performed the show themselves, showcasing their striking moves and thought-provoking imagery.

Students from the Tenacity Dance collective are going further after their studies at College, including going on to study at the prestigious Performing Arts schools Bird College Conservatoire, Italia Conti, Wilkes Academy and more. After the performance, the group shared: "The energy in the room was electric, and our hearts are full of gratitude for everyone who shared that unforgettable moment with us. Thank you to all of our teachers and choreographers, crew, and audience members who have supported us throughout this incredible journey. Though this chapter has closed, the memories and friendships will last a lifetime."



An introduction to the Enrichment programme

Whether your interest is Academic, Sporting, Creative, or Social, Enrichment adds to our fantastic student experience.

The College's Enrichment offer allows you to meet other students, develop new skills, prepare for your next steps and build your confidence and resilience. From academics and expert coaching to wellbeing drop-in sessions, there is something for everyone on the Enrichment programme.

The Enrichment offer is divided into two groups: Academies and the Enrichment Programme.

Academies allow you to gain confidence to set ambitious career goals and develop your technical skills. The Sports Academies are a popular option that allow you to excel in your chosen discipline through expert coaching. You will have the opportunity to improve and engage in your chosen discipline at an elite level.

The Enrichment Programme is flexible and offers the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of activities, such as board games, creative arts, fitness and more. You can find out about the options available through the Intranet, which publishes an Enrichment timetable.

01

ACADEMIES

Our Academies complement and add breadth to your studies. Gain the confidence to set ambitious progression and career goals while developing your technical skills in a wide range of subject areas.

- Academic Academy
- Accelerate Academy
- Allied Health Academy
- Dance (High Performance) Academy
- Law Academy
- Medics' Academy
- Jazz (Music) Academy
- Sports Academies

Additional Qualifications:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)



**HIGH PERFORMANCE
JAZZ ACADEMY**



**HIGH PERFORMANCE
SPORT ACADEMIES**



**HIGH PERFORMANCE
DANCE ACADEMY**



STUDENT VOICE

Meet Lauren

After studying A Level Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Further Maths at Penwith College, Lauren spent 6 years studying Veterinary Medicine at the Royal Veterinary College in London. Now, she is Dr Lauren Prisk BVetMed MRCVS.

The Medics Academy, which provides support for students aiming for competitive medicine courses across the UK, helped Lauren go further. She said: "The Medics Academy was brilliant in helping me prepare for vet interviews and also BMAT exam preparation. My tutors were very supportive, which was really great especially given the competitive nature of veterinary courses."

As someone who is now working in her dream career, Lauren gave her advice to upcoming students: "Don't set your sights low and aim high! I got told multiple times I would never make it to be a vet, and I am now over 12 months qualified in the field of work."

02

THE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Our flexible programme, coordinated by the ENRICHment team, offers opportunities for you to get involved in a wide variety of activities. There are also a wide range of educational and recreational trips and visits that are a great way to meet others and build confidence.

You can access these options through a comprehensive timetable published at the start of term, allowing you to drop-in and try new things whenever you are not in lessons. Your tutor will help you to choose your enrichment programme sessions.

From Barbells to boardgames, there something for everyone in the Enrichment Programme.



Work experience sparks creativity

Talented Art and Design students at Penwith College have completed a work experience placement with the Jackson Foundation Gallery.



Jess, Lowa, Lottie and Mhya demonstrated their creativity, collaboration and professionalism by designing nature trails and creating cyanotype flower crown workshops for younger visitors of the gallery. Their work is already being used.

Rachel, Education Officer at the Foundation, said: "I was so impressed with their attitude and readiness to share ideas... It was a privilege to work with such an enthusiastic and focused group of young people."

The student group demonstrated creativity, collaboration and professionalism.

Meanwhile at Truro College, A Level Medieval History and Classical Civilisation students have been digitising parish records and discovering 19th century graffiti as part of their work experience.

Students had the opportunity to guide visitors at St Constantine Chapel, work with curators at Cornwall Museum & Art Gallery and aerial map with the Historic Environment Record.

These experiences allowed students to see where their qualifications could take them in Cornwall.



Pathways to progress



The Progression Pathways students showcased their incredible artwork in stunning end-of-term exhibitions.

After visiting museums and galleries across Cornwall to gain inspiration, the students explored colour, texture and shape through their own creative work. Through artistic self-expression, the students gained valuable decision making and communication skills and have grown in confidence and independence.



Progression Pathways Engagement Lead Sam discussed the importance of the students' work:

“Our students were truly inspired by some fantastic exhibitions and workshops at Falmouth Art Gallery, Penlee House Gallery & Museum and Cornwall Museum and Art Gallery; it’s been amazing to see these creative learners engage in meaningful community participation as they prepare for adulthood.”

The College’s Progression Pathways smashed it at the Ten Tors Challenge, with both teams finishing first and third in their categories.

Progression Pathways students take part in the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge every year. The challenge tested the students’ teamwork and resilience; the students strengthened their bonds and made lifelong memories while undertaking the challenge.

Thank you to all of the staff who were able to make this happen, and congratulations to our Progression Pathways students for their incredible achievement!



College Art & Design shows

CASE

This year, the Creative Arts Summer Exhibition (CASE) presented final work from across Truro College and the University Centre Truro and Penwith, including Fine Art, Fashion, Photography, and 3D Design.



The exhibitions are an opportunity for art students to have their work showcased to art societies, local businesses and the general public in a professional gallery style setting. It also allows everyone to celebrate the breadth of talent being nurtured at the college and students gain valuable experience in presenting their work and gaining feedback.



Polly, Art & Design Diploma student, with her stunning Rococo-inspired ocean dress.



Honza, A Level 3D Design student, created a striking Philip Treacy-inspired headpiece.



For 18 years, the Truro and Penwith Art exhibitions have been inspiring, creative and celebratory for the college's Art and Design students.



Evolve

Meanwhile at Penwith, 'Evolve' featured work from Further Education and Higher Education students and was held at the prestigious Penzance School of Art.

Arlo Tinson, Head of Faculty for Art, Design & Photography at Truro College, said: "The exhibition is always a proud moment for our department. It reflects not only the incredible talent of our students but also their hard work and willingness to push creative boundaries. It's exciting to see so many of them heading into creative industries or continuing their studies at top universities."



The beautiful handmade glass awards.

Award winner Loveday.



Guests arrive at the private view.



Higher education gets results

Babrah Orishaba from Truro and James McBlane from Penzance have crossed continents to successfully complete their degrees at the University Centre Truro & Penwith.



The pair celebrated their success with the class of 2025 at the University Centre's Results Day, peeling back their envelopes to find the world at their feet.

A single mum of two, 40-year-old Babrah emigrated from Uganda before completing her BA (Hons) in Human Behavioural Studies.

Having successfully achieved her degree, the door is now open for Babrah to study a PhD and reach her dream of becoming a fully qualified Doctor in Clinical Psychology.

After emigrating to take up a role at the Uganda High Commission in London, Babrah visited Cornwall on holiday, where she fell in love with the county and discovered the University Centre Truro & Penwith.

With a passion for supporting people and a dream of a career change to Clinical Psychology, Babrah opted to study the University Centre's Access to Higher Education course in Psychology and Social Work that would allow her to gain the qualifications to study at Degree-Level.

Babrah single-handedly relocated her young family again, successfully completing the Access course before progressing to the University Centre's HND in Applied Psychology and later its BA (Hons) Human Behavioural Studies.

Babrah said: "Without the support of the University Centre Truro & Penwith staff, I wouldn't have made it on my own, they are so supportive and keep encouraging you.

"I have made friends that have been my rock, supporting each other in every way, and some of them are single mums too, we encourage each other, have a coffee and say, 'you can do it'.

"I have a gift of helping and supporting people, so due to that gift I feel I have to study to be a Doctor in Psychology and help people who are struggling."



Babrah graduating at Truro cathedral.

Hailed as Cornwall's very own Indiana Jones, 51-year-old James McBlane joined Babrah and his fellow students at Results Day to collect his highest possible award of First-Class Honours in BSc (Hons) Archaeology, securing his place on the University of Malta's Master of Arts in Global Maritime Archaeology, where he will begin studying for his PhD.

James harbours dreams of achieving his career in Marine Archaeology before returning to Cornwall to work in Cultural Heritage Management.

Throughout his studies James was true to his mantra: "Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone". As he took part in deep dive training in Gran Canaria, Santa Polo and Malta before exploring the remote Caribbean Island of Bonaire where he was commissioned to digitally map the seabed alongside his studies.

James's Dissertation project took him to Egypt, leading a team that explored a submerged WWII shipwreck, independently managing all aspects of the expedition.

The University Centre Truro & Penwith's condensed timetables provided James with the flexibility to travel and he appreciated the opportunity to study in heritage-rich Cornwall.

James said: "It's amazing to have somewhere in Cornwall that can accommodate future learning and keep talent in Cornwall. For me, the heritage is already here, I just need the qualifications, and I get to stay in the heritage that I'm learning about".

Students achieved excellence across the board with an incredible 83% of all Level 6 BA, BSc and LLB (Hons) students achieving top First and 2:1 Honours.

The brand-new LLB (Hons) Law degree also saw every single student successfully achieve their qualification.



James achieves First-Class Honours in his BSc (Hons) Archaeology course.

Research projects promote academic excellence

The Dissertation Showcase brought together students for an afternoon of academic excellence at the University Centre Truro & Penwith.



Natasha with Emily Myatt, Associate Director of the University Centre.

Current students and lecturers shared outstanding research projects before giving their advice for those who are about to work on research projects of their own.

The event also celebrated resilience and achievement. FdA Early Childhood Education graduate Natasha Wilkinson was presented with an award for her incredible dedication to her studies despite significant adversity.

Natasha was nominated by her Programme Leader as well as several others in the Education team for her determination and dedication to a fair education for all.

Natasha's research was inspired by her own personal experiences as a SEND parent, focusing on the inconsistencies and difficulties in accessing EHCP support and guidance, with direct support from local SENDCOs and SENDIASS Cornwall. She used her own experiences of SEND within all her assignments, creating a unique focus to her submissions.

Natasha has now progressed onto a BA (Hons) in Human Behavioural Studies and will be the first in her family to study at this level.

Single parent Natasha's unwavering determination and passion for a fair education saw her overcome personal challenges to complete her degree.

Becky's brave return: From recovery to national recognition

After overcoming a significant health condition and returning to education, Access to Nursing and Human Sciences student Becky received a national award.

Becky enrolled on the Access to HE Diploma at the University Centre Truro and Penwith to gain the qualifications she needed to achieve her dream. After successfully completing her studies, Becky achieved an impressive range of merit and distinction grades, securing her place to study Paediatric Nursing at the UK leading Oxford Brookes University.

When health difficulties partway through the course turned her life upside down, resulting in significant periods in hospital, Becky stayed determined and focused on her goal of becoming a children's nurse. She has now been recognised for her remarkable resilience and commitment to her studies, winning a £500 Excellence Award from the Duchy Health Charity.

Chair of DHC, Barbara Vann, commented: "The Board of Duchy Health Charity is delighted to support such an inspirational student. Becky's perseverance has been a life lesson for all who know her, and we wish her every success in her future career."



Balancing fatherhood and psychology: Ross's journey to a new career

Ross, from Penzance, chased his passion for psychology after having his two children.

The University Centre Truro and Penwith allowed him to stay close to home to study. Before studying Psychology at the University Centre's Penwith campus, Ross had no idea how many career paths the field could open for him. Now, he's excelling in his degree and exploring opportunities in clinical psychology.

Ross talked about the new paths open to him and what he enjoyed about his course: "I didn't realise how far psychology can take you. You can work in the military, data analysis, marketing, business, or even the police force as a detective!

Ross felt that Penwith College offered the flexibility he needed whilst offering a high-quality course that ensured he can secure a career in psychology: "I wanted to go to uni; I needed a degree to get to where I want to go, but I was worried about going from a well-paid career to being a student again. I also can't travel because I've got two young kids.

After finishing his top up degree, Ross wants to study a Masters through the Open University or funded through future employment, with his goal being a career in Clinical Psychology in the NHS.



Why choose the University Centre Truro & Penwith

It can be hard to decide if you want to move away for university. At the TEF Silver rated University Centre Truro & Penwith, you can get a degree on your doorstep and your career starts on the first day of your course. Find out some of the great reasons to choose us here!

Save money by staying at home

Trying to manage your money and make it go further while studying at university can be frustrating. Student accommodation can take up a lot of your student loan and sometimes income from employment while studying. By choosing the University Centre Truro & Penwith, you can still access the student loan you are entitled to from Student Finance England while living at home, and you don't need to worry about spending it on accommodation. These savings can reduce the overall financial burden of university, potentially allowing you to graduate with less debt.

Smaller class sizes

At the University Centre Truro & Penwith, students benefit from smaller class sizes in comparison to larger universities. This intimate learning environment fosters closer relationships with lecturers and peers, enhancing your educational experience. Smaller classes mean more one-on-one support from lecturing staff, greater opportunities for participation within classroom environments, and detailed, tailored feedback on assignments and exams.

Fantastic range of student support

The University Centre provides a student support system that includes mental health services, student finance support, disability support and learning support as well as other services. The smaller student community ensures that you can easily access these resources throughout your time at the University Centre. Our student support team can be reached easily via email throughout your time at the University Centre should you need to make an appointment about anything.

Great work/life balance

Balancing studies with personal life is difficult for many students, however the University Centre Truro and Penwith aims to provide a healthier work/life balance with its condensed timetable. Your lectures will be scheduled so that they all take place on the same two-to-three days a week; you won't need to come into university for just one lecture a day. This scheduling flexibility allows you to fit your studies around other responsibilities, such as part-time work, family commitments or personal interests.

Industry links and career opportunities

The University Centre offers personal, individual careers appointments to discuss pathways toward future careers, as well as assistance in CV writing. As a student, you are supported with your personal career aspirations and applications, as well as being supported to work on your employability skills, allowing you to make the most of work placement opportunities and start making positive links in your chosen sector. The university's strong links with local employers provide a unique advantage for students looking to gain work experience and secure employment after graduation. Internships, placements and careers fairs connect students directly with potential employers. University Centre students are also entitled to three years of careers advice post-graduation.

Choosing the right course for you

When applying for college, it can be daunting to choose the right course. You can feel like there's a lot of pressure on you to make the right choice, and there can be input from friends, family and your school as to what to choose.

How do you choose the right course and the right level for you? Here are some of our top tips and info for choosing a course you'll be happy with!

College is the time where you start considering your career options. Listen to yourself, and consult with Careers Advisors for advice if needed: What did you enjoy studying at school? Are you more of an academics or practical person? College is the perfect time to start specialising in a subject and get a broader knowledge of the topics you enjoy. Don't just choose a course because your friends are doing it! You can always hang out with your friends during free periods.

If your parents are pushing you towards certain subjects, make time to sit down with them and talk through the course you want to study, and answer any questions or concerns they have; you can also bring them along to an Open Event to talk to lecturers and student ambassadors. Your parents only want the best for you!

Employability and Careers lead Tim Moody recommends that you ask yourself certain questions when looking at a course. "When you consider choosing a course, make sure you factor in some key points. Firstly, does it capture your imagination and inspire you? Does the course content reach out and grab your attention? Do you have the necessary skills that are at the core of the course, if not do you think you can pick these skills up? Do the course and subjects align to your future ambitions? What work placements could you access as part of your student journey and how will this enhance your employability in a competitive jobs market? What will your destination be when you leave college?"

"Ultimately, be true to yourself and ensure that you have careers conversations with your teachers, your parents, your friends and also book a careers guidance appointment if you can, to discuss future pathways."

Make sure the course is the right level for you and contains subject material that interests you. Talk to your teachers at school and find out your predicted GCSE grades. Your grades, particularly in Maths and English, can determine what level course would be best for you.

If you're predicted Grade 5 in your Maths and English and Grade 4 and above in your other GCSEs, you could consider studying A Levels, T Levels or Extended Diplomas. T Levels are a unique qualification that combine classroom academics with real world experience in a placement. Extended Diplomas allow you to specialise in a subject that you particularly enjoy, giving you the equivalent of 3 A Levels in one topic. A Levels are a good choice for those who perform well in the exam environment and want to keep their options open, as you can study an array of topics.

Ask yourself if you excel more in exams or in coursework. A Levels will focus more on exams, whereas the Extended Diploma is more coursework heavy. T Levels combine exams with an employer project to assess you.

If you excel in your GCSEs but are unsure what to specialise in, or you enjoy the selection of subjects you studied in your GCSEs, think about studying the IB Diploma. You can study six subject areas including Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics and the Arts. You'll also be able to undertake Creativity, Action and Service based projects, with trips all over Cornwall. There is no

'typical' IB student, and many of those who have studied the IB Diploma have gone on to study at Russell Group universities. It's a highly respected course.

If you feel that your grades are going to be under this threshold, don't fret! There's still plenty of courses you can study at College, including Level 1 and 2 Courses to get you into A Levels, Technical Courses and Apprenticeships, which give you a real working environment to progress towards your chosen career. You can take on Apprenticeships and Technical courses in Automotive and Engineering, Business, Education, Health and Social Care, Construction, Hair and Beauty or Hospitality.

There's a course for everyone at College, regardless of topic and skill level. Do your research by taking a look at the prospectus and attending Open Events. Open Events give you the chance to speak to lecturers and student ambassadors about courses and your career prospects.

And remember: You can always fine-tune your choices at your College interview, where a lecturer will be able to go through options with you to help you make a choice you will be happy with.

Although choosing a course can seem scary, it's a lot nicer than you think. Think of it as taking your first steps towards your dream career, or furthering your knowledge in your favourite subjects, as well as a time where you'll be granted more independence.



What our students say

“There are a lot of opportunities to make friends here! Jump into something else to meet new people.”

Rochie is from Truro and studies a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Media Production and Technology. After college, she's planning to study Media and Communications at Utrecht University in the Netherlands.



Rochie

“The lecturers give good support, and you get a lot of extra opportunities from the College.”

Eithne is from Falmouth and studies A Level Biology and Psychology, as well as an Extended Certificate in Music Performance. She plans to study Psychology at Cardiff University after College.



Eithne



Connor

“The campus is a great place, and the atmosphere is always friendly. The lessons are engaging, and we are always encouraged to do our best.”

Connor is from Penzance and studies a Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science. After College, Connor wants to study Sports Journalism at university.

“The staff here always go above and beyond to help. They never miss a beat to step in and act when I need guidance.”

Roman is originally from Ukraine and studies a Level 2 Diploma in Bricklaying. He plans to study a Bricklaying Apprenticeship after his course.



Roman

“I want to go into medicine and be a doctor. I didn't even think I was even going to go to uni, but now I realise what I'm capable of doing.”

Louis is from Falmouth and studied the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. He is planning to study Medicine at either Reading or Bristol University.



Louis



Sennen

“My lecturers supported me every step of the way and pushed me to achieve grades I never thought I'd get.”

Sennen is from St Austell and studied the Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism. She has secured a job at Newquay Airport; a huge step towards her dream career.

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