

educationnews

Summer 2019

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Inspiring nurse

Kimberley proves that all hurdles can be overcome and education can make dreams come true



Degrees of success

Rural degrees are helping people achieve great things across the region and beyond



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New Standards in apprenticeships are helping secure the upkeep of parks and landscapes in the UK



Military manoeuvres

Former pupils are giving back to colleges with insightful and informative career information



Safety first

Students get essential training and tickets to ensure they are work ready when they leave college

Land-based education on the rise

The interest and participation in land-based and rural education is on the rise across Devon and Cornwall.

Duchy College Stoke Climsland and Duchy College Rosewarne in Cornwall have witnessed huge amounts of interest at open days and advice events, with learners, parents and carers keen to find out more about the benefits of studying at a rural, land-based college.

Record numbers of students have capped a remarkable year for Bicton College, which is celebrating more students and a wide range of fantastic opportunities for people to pursue dream careers.

The number of 16- to 18-year-olds choosing a college rather than staying on at their local sixth form has seen exceptional growth, particularly at Bicton in arboriculture and equine, and the biggest ever cohort of Military

& Protective Services students.

"By focusing on our specialist curriculum areas, which are fantastically supported not only by the facilities at Bicton College and the wider resources of The Cornwall College Group (TCCG), but also our skilled and passionate staff, we are thrilled that our future outlook is very bright," explained Director of Rural Economy, Dr Phil Le Grice.

"This surge in student numbers is undoubtedly linked to the enthusiasm of our staff and students who, as a celebration of our heritage and future, have updated the Bicton College logo and branding and associated student clothing and merchandise," he added.

Bicton College has also established a dedicated university centre building, to better accommodate the need for specialist degree courses in the region.

"Increasing student numbers and the higher education offering through our Bicton

university centre building are all reasons to celebrate, as are the results of hard work and great student experiences," Phil continued.

As part of TCCG, Bicton College in Devon shares best practice, progression pathways and expertise with Duchy College Stoke Climsland and Duchy College Rosewarne in Cornwall.

Both Bicton College and Duchy College Stoke Climsland are also celebrating a positive outcome of an accommodation inspection from Ofsted.

Her Majesty's Inspectors gave an overall 'Good' rating, noting that students "thoroughly enjoy their college experience".

"Students receive good-quality care and support from a dedicated team that has the students' well-being at the heart of its practice," the official report into the accommodation continued.

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THE CORNWALL COLLEGE GROUP



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New Zealand trip inspires apprenticeship rethink



A skills and learning advocate, who travelled to the other side of the world to gain insights into apprenticeships, is looking forward to implementing his findings in the South West.

Having secured funding from the Farmers Club Agricultural Educator Awards, Roger Clarke, Work-Based Learning Curriculum Lead at Duchy College, embarked on the epic research project in New Zealand.

His aim was to study apprenticeship delivery models in other parts of the world and see how countries and providers deliver, assess, and engage with schools and employers.

"My proposal to the Farmers Club was to carry out this work in New Zealand, Germany and to also talk to other UK colleges," he explained.

"Hopefully the conclusion will allow us

to develop what some might consider a blue print of delivery."

As part of his tour, Roger visited Otiwhiti Station, a land-based training agricultural school with a 2,000 hectare large scale sheep and cattle breeding property.

He also visited the National Trade Academy, which provides a range of agriculture, equine, horticulture and forestry training courses.

The funding is specifically designed to help those employed in agricultural education to widen and develop their own technical expertise through study activities inside or outside the UK.

Research bids focus on the application of science and technology in farming, which contribute to the sustainability and profitability of agriculture in the UK, as well as improving the future security of our food production.



Nursing student's national recognition for inspirational spirit



A truly inspirational nursing student has won a national award for her commitment to study, having overcome many illnesses and losing her speech while being a mother of four.

Kimberley Quant from Exeter said it was "completely amazing" to win the CAVA Keith Fletcher award for 'Outstanding Commitment to Study'.

"I stand up for the people that didn't get the same opportunities that others did and

have proven we can do it," she added.

The awards celebrate the very best in Access to Higher Education students across the UK, highlighting what a positive effect the education pathway can have on people's lives.

At 16 Kimberley had barely any GCSEs and thought she would never get into her dream job of nursing so gained qualifications in travel and tourism.

However, the 'dream' refused to die, and on spotting an advert for Access to Higher

Education Diploma in Nursing at Bicton College, she took the plunge and applied.

"I had so little belief in myself, but I knew where I wanted to be," she explained.

"At the start of this course I was not very academic, I struggled with basic mathematics and English literature.

"However, as my course progressed with the help from my completely outstanding tutors, I didn't just complete my Access Diploma, I completely smashed it, doing 110% better than I ever would have thought."

Team Leader Access TCCG, Kevin Smale, said Kimberley "is arguably the most extraordinary learner I have ever had the pleasure of working with in 18 years of Access teaching".

"She did not possess either her English or maths GCSEs, but there are times when we have to make a professional judgement about borderline applicants and in Kimberley's case she basically gave me no choice here, this was her time and she was going to do her Access Diploma in Nursing."

However, it wasn't just the academic challenge that lay ahead of the mother of four. Kimberley was rushed into hospital twice and unable to communicate.

She re-gained her speech very quickly and emailed Kevin to say she might have

to have an extension of a week for one of her essays.

"This young lady is a positivity machine, nothing gets in her way," Kevin said.

Kimberley said her course became the sole focus to get her through this incredibly difficult period.

"I focused on my studies and got my work done and in on time regardless and I was so proud," she added.

Kimberley also wanted to thank the staff at Bicton College.

"The education I was given has been amazing and I truly believe it was the belief of my tutors that got me through it," she explained.

And her advice to those who are uncertain about getting back into education, "don't second think it".

"Take every single opportunity that comes your way, because the feeling you get on completion is like no other," she continued.

"My kids have a mum to be proud of now, and never think you're not good enough or never had the right grades for university; if you want something enough you'll get there."

"My children now call me a nurse and one is even stating they want to be a nurse like mummy! To hear that makes me amazingly proud!"

Consultation with students key



Continued from page 1

“One member of staff summed up their role by saying, ‘We are the stepping-stones for the rest of the students’ lives’.”

The inspectors said students are provided with a wide range of activities on the college sites and in the wider community, and a particular “strength of this college is the consultation with and involvement of the students”.

Residential Services Manager for TCCG, Esther Edwards, welcomed the “Good” Ofsted report.

“It is great to be recognised for how seriously we take our responsibility for the welfare of the students who not only learn with us, but also use our accommodation at Bicton College and Duchy Stoke Climsland,” she said.

“The inspectors recognised how much

time and effort is spent developing strong relationships that allow our learners to excel in their studies and feel supported.”

Leaders and managers were also praised in the report for having a good understanding of the strengths and areas for development of the colleges.

Dr Phil Le Grice said everyone is delighted with Ofsted’s findings.

“It’s wonderful to know that students are enjoying their time with us and it is also welcome that parents can rest assured that their children are not only being looked after, but treated as individuals,” he explained.

“The report noted that students’ health needs are well met and that they receive specialist support which meets their individual needs, including in-house support and access to external professionals.

“Our students progress onto rewarding careers and fulfilling lives, and we are proud of the part we play in their journeys.”

Also experiencing successful numbers is the 100-acre Duchy College Rosewarne, which is tucked away in the countryside near Camborne.

Duchy College Rosewarne is a hive of activity with students from 16 through to over 50 years old.

Head of College Carol Knight, said the breadth of choice and specialisms were behind the strong numbers of students.

“Traditionally we were a land-based college known in the industry for our unique courses such as agriculture, animal management, horticulture, land-based engineering, plant operations and veterinary nursing,” she explained.

“We still offer these course areas and much more on top of this, we now have

around 75 different courses being taught here by our expert staff.”

As well as growing in student numbers the animal management team have seen a growth in their furry and exotic inhabitants in their state-of-the-art facility which also houses dog grooming qualifications.

Even though campus life is busy and students are receiving an industry-focussed education to enable them to progress onto their desired careers, there are myths to dispel.

“Some find it hard to envisage that most of our courses, despite being vocational in nature, lead to university if people wish,” Carol explained.

“A Level 3 course can be the equivalent to three A-levels and many more universities are now welcoming the qualifications as well as the traditional route.”

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Cornish students pursue poachers in South Africa



A group of students from Cornwall have returned from a trip that saw them protecting the white rhinos and elephants in South Africa.

The Duchy College students headed to Shamwari Game Reserve, which is home to vast herds of wildlife, birdlife and incredible ecological diversity.

The Level 3 Animal Management and Zoo Diploma students took part in tracking, identifying and recording the movements of white rhinos and African elephants.

They also had the opportunity to go out on anti-poaching night drives – with a lesson on threats to local wildlife, which

also allowed them to observe nocturnal African animals.

Student, Kathryn Burrell, said it was “such an amazing opportunity”.

“As well as going on game drives we also assisted the reserve by bush clearing, chopping down acacia trees and filling in road holes formed by wallowing warthogs,” she explained.

“Keeping the roads clear is important as it allows the anti-poaching teams to quickly move around the reserve.

“We also aided the local community by running English and math lessons for the local children at the on site school and



were in return treated to African singing from the school children.”

The group also went to Plettenburg Bay on the west coast of South Africa, where they abseiled through waterfalls, spotted great white sharks and got to see one of the world’s largest cape seal colonies, with 6,000 gathered.

On their last day they visited the Born Free facility, where they met big cats that have been rescued from all over the world.

They were also treated to a visit to Shamwari’s Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, where they met baby animals who have been orphaned and are being rehabilitated to be able to survive in the wild. The baby white rhino and elephants were a clear favourite in the group.

Programme Manager, Shaun Rowlands, said to see the students flourish in this environment was “brilliant”.

“They all gained a lot of knowledge of the wildlife as well as learning a lot about the culture,” he added.



Alumni: Holly Yelland

Career: Training Co-ordinator BVD Stamp It Out Project (Rural Business School) and Shepheress to a flock of ewes.

“After I attended one of the Duchy College advice events and speaking to the staff I made the decision to apply for the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture.

I thoroughly enjoyed this course and decided to go onto the Foundation Degree in Agriculture followed by the BSc (Hons) Rural Business Management Top Up.

The highlights of my time on the course were the trips that we were taken on – being able to get out into working businesses and seeing first-hand how they cope in business situations, with finance and marketing.

The research project meant being able to work on something that you were passionate about and could help your business progress in the future.

The agricultural department has a great atmosphere with amazing staff which offer a vast array of knowledge in an ever changing and expanding industry.”

Unique equine degree for UK launched in South West



A unique degree, specifically designed for those interested in running an equine business, has been launched in the South West.

Duchy College’s brand new Equine Enterprise Management degree is a ground-breaking programme that will begin in September 2019, offered in conjunction with the University of Plymouth.

Facilitated by an excellent and vastly experienced team, this degree is unlike any other current programme available in the UK, according to Team Lead for Equine at Duchy College, Alison Abbey.

“We are very excited about this programme which received commendations from the University of

Plymouth for addressing the needs of the industry,” she explained.

“We look forward to supporting equine businesses with our graduates in the future.”

Working closely with industry professionals ensures that graduates are highly skilled in a wide range of areas including managing horse welfare, business development, marketing and effective team management.

“Combining equine health, biomechanics and psychology with established and extensive research opportunities provides an exciting programme relevant to the equine industry,” Alison explained.

“Consultation with various businesses

within the equine industry showed tremendous support for this, describing it as a useful and applied qualification.”

A work-based learning element continues throughout the degree, ensuring that students engage in a wide range of skills needed in the working world.

These include knowledge of planning for the health of equines, equine handling skills, resource management, knowledge of the legal requirements needed and financial implications within equine enterprise management and the ability to communicate and negotiate with others, will support the ever changing needs of the equine industry.

New apprenticeship to help secure region's parks and landscapes



A new apprenticeship in arboriculture is aiming to help secure the beautiful and breathtaking natural landscapes and communal parks and gardens in the South West.

To ensure these green spaces are well kept, they require skilled and passionate people to care and maintain them. With a skills shortage in the arboriculture industry, a new arborist apprenticeship has been developed and delivered at Bickton College, East Devon.

"The new Arborist Level 2 apprenticeship standard offers employers great value for

money," explained Sarah Hernandez, Business Development Manager for the rural sector at CCB Training.

"Not only do apprentices develop core knowledge and skills they gain an additional 11 industry-specific qualifications including emergency first aid, safe use of pesticides, chainsaw maintenance, accessing a tree using rope and harness, aerial cutting of trees using tree fall technique to name a few."

The new arborist standard replaces the old arboriculture framework that was successfully run by Bickton College for several years. It was a natural progression

for the College to move to delivering the new standard apprenticeship, which has been designed by employers for employers ensuring they meet business needs as they are written for specific job roles.

"The arborist apprenticeship offers flexible start dates and is delivered in block days at Bickton College," continued Sarah, "plus the cost of the accommodation can be funded subject to criteria."

"Apprenticeships are a great way to develop your staff and grow your business and there is funding available plus a £1,000 incentive when you employ a 16- to 18-year-old apprentice."

Horse lover reaps rewards of higher education

Rachel Moast, from Beaworthy in Devon, has turned her lifelong love of horses, into a thriving career.

She runs her own yard offering livery, training and lessons as well as competing in affiliated Dressage, Showjumping, Eventing and British Carriage Driving.

Rachel left school at 16 and went straight into employment in the equine industry. She completed her NVQ Level 2 and 3 on apprenticeship schemes and then went on to take her BHS stage 2, 3 and 4 therefore achieving her BHS Intermediate Stable Management qualification. During this time she also obtained the BHSAI and

taught regularly at the yard where she worked.

"I felt that, to further my career and move away from the more menial jobs within the equine industry, a degree would complement the 'hands-on' industry experience I already had, enabling me to move up the ladder," she explained.

"The course on offer at Duchy College, really appealed to me as horse behaviour and training is an area that I have worked in previously and wanted to learn more about and I could fit studying in around my other commitments."

Rachel has now completed the Foundation Degree and is continuing with

the one year top up to the BSc Honours in Equitation Science. She has also had great success with her carriage driving and has become Indoor Open Single Horse Champion at the British Carriage Driving Trials and also won the Intermediate Horse Championship.

Alison Abbey, Equine Team Lead at Duchy College said Rachel works hard to balance her working life with her university studies.

"Rachel has brought a wealth and variety of equine industry experience with her, which combined with current and emerging equitation science research will support her future career plans admirably," she added.



Continued domination of annual ploughing match



A team from Duchy College has again walked away as champions in their class at this year's Launceston & Callington Ploughing Association Ploughing Match.

The event, held at The Barton, Lawhitton, saw record crowds attending the one day competition and more entries than ever competing for the top spot.

Duchy College teams were placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd, for the second year in a row, which was a fantastic result for the College, with the ladies team of Maria Warne, Gemma Mckeowan, Jess Hill and Jemimah Cook winning the overall title.

Gemma won the best plough operator in her class. They were closely followed by; Callum Linzell, Jasmine Hembrow, Jack Kendall, Jack Davey and Joel Vanschalkwyk who took second and Liam Osman, Dan Skelley, Oliver Adams and Leon Paradisek who were third.

Event organiser Andrew Medland said it was a "fantastic match" this year with a record number of people coming to watch.

"The high standard of competition was brilliant with plenty of ploughers taking part," he continued.

"The teams from Duchy College were absolutely superb and it is fantastic to see so many young people coming into this competition."

The Duchy College teams were mentored by Tom Gill, Workshop Manager at the College. All the students are currently studying a Level 2 or Level 3 in Agriculture.

Team Lead for Agriculture, Peter Walker, said it was "a fantastic result for our students and very well deserved".

"For me this is a clear demonstration that these students are on the right path, they are developing their skills and have the capability to succeed in their chosen careers," he added.



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Portuguese past inspires passion for plants

A small holding in Portugal sparked a love of all things horticultural for a student turned teacher in Cornwall.

Former Duchy College student Sid Hill, 24, is ready and raring to start his first full academic year helping students follow their horticulture dream, fully equipping them to enter a growing industry.

Sid, who now lives in Helston, joined Duchy College Rosewarne as a horticulture Level 2 apprentice assessor, having always known his future lay in horticulture.

"My parents had a small holding in Portugal and I spent my childhood on the farm growing our own food," he explained.

"When I came back to England at 15 years old I didn't know how to read very well and my academic skills weren't great in comparison to my horticulture knowledge."

Sid's passion for gardening and all things

green stemmed from his mum, who is RHS trained and his dad, who owns an online seed company. After progressing through the levels from Level 1, he achieved a triple grade distinction at Level 3 studying countryside management and then went to study higher education.

"I chose to study ethnobotany at Rosewarne as this was the only place I could study this. I then studied Landscape Design at Eden for two years and received a 1st class degree."

Throughout his study in England, from 15 years old, Sid has put a lot of time, effort and research into his own business, Sid Hill Ecological Gardens.

"I have always wanted to run my own horticultural business with my passion, crazy drive and expertise," he said.

"I specialise in edible and ecological landscapes, creating spaces which are good



for wildlife, look beautiful and provide us with food."

The company he has created is unique in Cornwall and proving very popular as the trend for people to grow their own food and protect nature is booming.

"I create and design spaces but always prefer the hands on planting," Sid continued.

"My real passion is to design plant communities, this means creating a landscape using plants from the same type of habitat which are perfectly matched to their conditions."



Coldstream Guard gives back to college

A group of local students from Cornwall and Devon have gained first-hand knowledge of life as part of the Coldstream Guards from a former student.

Former Military and Protective Services student from Duchy College, Stephen Kirby, has joined the Coldstream Guards after completing the 28 week Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC).

Stephen, who lives in Bere Alston and formally went to Tavistock College, came back to his former college to discuss his experiences with the current Military and Protective Services students.

He spoke about the six-week exercise in Kenya he undertook and how he is currently on ceremonial duties including the Tower of London, Windsor and Buckingham Palace.

Stephen brought in his ceremonial uniform including his red tunic and bearskin.

"The course really helped from building up my confidence, to helping me achieve a high grade at selection, it was great to come back and speak to existing students," Stephen said.

"The course really gave me a better understanding of what to expect during training," Stephen continued.

"If anyone wishes to join the Armed Forces I would definitely recommend joining the Duchy College Military and Protective Services course."

Level 2 Military and Protective Services student, Zach Richards, said Stephen gave a very good talk about his new career.

"He provided us with a really good insight into the Coldstream Guards, what they do and what training is like," he explained.



"As Stephen was a student here it highlighted to us how much of a difference the course can make and how much it helps us with our career goal."

Military and Protective Services Programme Manager, Jon Stone, said it is always "good to see the students return and talk about their careers."

"It gives the current cohort the opportunity to see the reality of what the course offers and how it relates to their career path."

"Stephen worked really well throughout the course and has achieved his career goal through hard work and motivation."

Many students from across TCCG have gone on to highly distinguished careers across the Armed Forces and protective services in the UK.

They benefit from expert tutors who have served their country in numerous ways.



Future construction workers celebrate safety success

Students wanting to forge a career in the construction industry have celebrated passing an important milestone in becoming fully qualified.

All Level 1 Construction Plant Operation students at Duchy College successfully passed their Health, Safety and Environment test as part of their Construction Skills Competence Scheme (CSCS).

These students want to go out and work in the construction industry and to do so need to be in possession of a CSCS card. CSCS cards are fast becoming the industry norm for UK construction sites and industry staff, part of a programme set up to increase working standards.

Now that the students have achieved their CSCS, the next step for them is the Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS), which is a scheme to prove their

skills as a plant operator. It is based on a combination of professional competence and health and safety awareness - two essential qualities for operating plant.

Student, Sam Lucas, former pupil of Bodmin Community College, said he was "really enjoying the course".

"We are being equipped with all the skills and qualifications we need to be able to work on sites," he continued.

"Now I have passed this test I am looking forward to working towards my CPCS starting with the forward tipping dumper ticket."

Level 1 Construction Plant Operation course manager, Chris Neve, said he was "extremely proud of how hard the students have worked in preparation for the test".

"The fact that they have all managed to pass is a testament to the time and effort that they have put in," he added.

Equine groom apprenticeship fundamental for the welfare of horses

In an effort to keep up with innovation and technological progress within the multi-billion pound equine industry, a new apprenticeship has been developed.

Bicton College and Duchy College have supported the fast-paced sector by delivering the new Level 2 Equine Groom standard apprenticeship that has been designed by employers for employers.

"The equine groom is a fundamental occupational role in all equine businesses, and vital to an industry that contributes over £8bn to the British economy each year," the Institute for Apprenticeships stated.

Having delivered the Equine framework apprenticeship for many years, the Colleges boast fantastic links with the equine world and fantastic facilities at our equestrian centres at each of our college sites, according to Sarah Hernandez, Business Development Manager for the rural sector at CCB Training.

"Our Equine Groom apprenticeships are a great way to develop your staff and grow your business through our flexible start dates to fit with employer's recruitment needs," she continued.

"If you are interested in taking on an apprentice there is funding available plus a £1,000 incentive when you employ a 16 to

18-year-old apprentice."

Additional to the City & Guild Level 2 qualification, the apprentice receives on successful completion the British Horse Society (BHS) Ride Safe qualification and BHS membership.

Naomi Holland, Course Manager and trainer for Equine Apprenticeships, said the Equine Groom Apprenticeship is suitable for anyone with a passion for horses "even if you ride or not".

"There are five specialised routes an apprentice can choose from; riding, non-riding, racing, breeding or driving," she added.

The Equine Groom new standard

apprenticeship is delivered over 15 to 18 months at Bicton College, East Budleigh, Devon and Duchy College Stoke Climsland, East Cornwall.

"Both our college campuses are located in beautiful countryside and provide dedicated equestrian facilities, which include indoor and outdoor schools and working yards," Naomi continued.

"Here you will have the opportunity to practice your skills in preparation for the end point practical assessments."

A remote programme of delivery and assessment is also available if an apprentice lives too far away from either college sites.

Visit the website for further details.

World-renowned rural leadership course hailed huge success



One of the world's leading rural leadership courses is celebrating the conclusion of another successful year.

The Challenge of Rural Leadership course, now in its 23rd year, has been lauded by delegates and organisers.

Managed by the Rural Business School (RBS) at Duchy College, part of the Cornwall College Group, on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Farmers, delegates from across the globe came to Dartington Hall in Devon to undertake the intensive and rewarding programme.

They have returned to their businesses with new found confidence and skills to enable them to thrive in an ever-changing agricultural industry, according to Director of RBS, Richard Soffe.

"It was great to work with another outstanding group of international, high potential managers on the Challenge of Rural Leadership this year, as well as using Quicke's Traditional Cheese as a local case study," he explained.

The Worshipful Company of Farmers chair of education Karen Mercer, along with the Master Rosie Carne and other members of the company, joined the course for several sessions. Everyone was impressed with the beautiful Dartington Hall, and the enthusiasm of the delegates.

Two Nuffield scholars from Australia were in attendance, along with the Chief Environment Advisor for the NFU, and the Sainsbury's Agricultural Manager for Beef & Veal.

The first week of the course formed a case study which focused on a local business. The delegates visited early in the week and had an overview of every process which currently makes the business work.

During the second week the focus turned to the individual. There were sessions on psychometrics, the media, time-management and how to present yourself under scrutiny. There were also a large range of guest speakers, all of whom brought a unique perspective on their own paths to leadership.

Nuffield Australia delegate Han Shiong Siah, said the course has "changed who I am".

"I have learned a lot about myself and how I dealt with issues and challenges locally and internationally."

Sainsbury's Agricultural Manager for Beef & Veal, Jocelyn Orr concurred and added it was an "invaluable experience I will never forget".

Richard said he was greatly looking forward to the 24th Worshipful Company of Farmers' Challenge of Rural Leadership.



Lambing Sunday hailed a triumph

With the arrival of Spring came the arrival of baby animals – and of course Bicton College's famous Lambing Sunday.

On Sunday 17th March, staff and students from Bicton College put on another fun-filled family day in East Budleigh.

There were plenty of things to do and see including meeting the baby lambs and the marmosets.

A wealth of other fun activities included a stunt bike show, arts and crafts and climbing a tower.

Governor Wilf Hudson said it was "a

brilliant day".

"Our whole family came up to Bicton and really enjoyed ourselves," he continued.

"The grandkids watched stunt bike riding and dressage, they completed assault courses and won stickers, delivered lambs through the side of a box, swung through trees: clambered over tractors, the smallest ones briefly danced to the Radio Exe music by the front door of the house: ate sausages, chips and other goodies from the terrific range of food in the refectory, bought bug hotels made by our students and just generally had a great time."

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Sports student scores Mayoral award

A student is celebrating after being awarded a Mayoral award.

Sport student at Duchy College Stoke Climsland, Chantel Whiting, who holds an impressive professional boxing record and is an ambassador for Devon Girls Can, has been awarded the Under 18's Mayoral West Devon Award.

Chantel, who was presented the award by the Mayor, said it felt "amazing" to add this to her growing list of achievements.

"I'm really proud, so surprised and really honoured to receive this award," Chantel continued.

"Being an ambassador for Devon Girls Can is going really well, for any women who maybe unsure if sport is for them I would say just give it a shot. You just need to find a sport that is right for you. Sport is great for you in so many ways.

"The sport course at Duchy College is fantastic, I would really recommend it to others who are looking to work within the industry."

Sport Team Lead at Duchy College, Neil Harris, said it is "fantastic" that Chantel has been acknowledged for her "efforts and enthusiasm toward sports".

"She thoroughly deserves this award and everyone here at Duchy College is really proud of what Chantel has achieved so far," he added.



Military exercises a capital experience for students



Military exercises involving taking selfies gave students from Cornwall and Devon the chance to explore London's top landmarks.

Level 2 and 3 Military and Protective Services Academy students at Duchy College spent three days visiting Kensington Palace and the Royal Albert Hall before splitting into teams to carry out an orienteering 'selfie' task.

They hit the parks and saw the Serpentine, Albert Memorial, Princess Diana Memorial and Speke monument.

Level 3 Military and Protective Services Academy student, Christian Davies, said the trip was "a fantastic experience".

"We are so lucky to have opportunities like this on our course. It was great practicing urban navigation as we took

turns to navigate between locations."

On the second day of the trip students were given a guided tour around the Royal Hospital Chelsea, home of the Chelsea Pensioners, before spending time meeting a number of them. Time was then spent exploring Covent Garden, the Tower of London, Tower Bridge and HMS Belfast.

The final day was spent at Buckingham Palace watching the Changing of the Guard by the Welsh Guards. The students then walked down the Mall to Horseguards Parade and watched The Life Guards and Blues and Royals change over the Mounted Guard. Trafalgar Square and Nelson's Column was up next before seeing The Treasury, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence, Downing Street and the Cenotaph before arriving at the Houses of Parliament.



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