

education news

Summer 2019

Inside this edition



Student of the Year

A Cornwall College student has been crowned the AoC Adult Student of the Year



Industry Day

Students secure first career steps with top firms at popular Cornish recruitment event



A-level student rocks

Geology student wins national competition thanks to creative project



Turtle Power

Lecturer's London Marathon Run raises funds to help support species



Apprenticeship Games

Cornwall Council come out on top at challenging apprenticeship competition

Career-focussed education changing lives

Industries and businesses across the UK have made it clear that they require more career-ready employees entering the job market.

As #TheCareerCollege, we are very much aware of this need, which is why the majority of our qualifications are split into two pathways, 'Career Now' for apprenticeships and 'Career Edge' for courses that are career-focussed.

We are also ensuring we are meeting the demands for local industries that are vital to the success of the region's economy.

A great example is the catering and hospitality sector.

Cornwall College is celebrating cementing its status as one of the top catering colleges in the UK.

The College retained its three Centres of Excellence, one of only a few colleges in the UK to hold three, and Gold accreditation from the AA and People 1st.

Following a thorough inspection process over a number of days, international employer-led College Accreditation Board People 1st renewed the College's accreditation and Centres of Excellence statuses.

Grant Mather, Curriculum Lead for Hospitality and Tourism at the College, said everyone was "incredibly proud".

"These accreditations are testament to the

hard work, dedication and expertise of our team, combined with the many achievements of our students," Grant continued.

"Combined with the fact that our Trevenson Restaurant is one of the top three college restaurants in the UK, this has been a great year for us."

Cornwall College Camborne has Gold Accreditation and is a Centre of Excellence for Food & Beverage Service, Patisserie & Confectionery and Fish & Shellfish, explained Andy Doyle, Membership Operations Manager at People 1st International.

"Cornwall College St Austell boasts the same while Cornwall College Saltash has Gold Accreditation and is a Centre of Excellence for Fish & Shellfish," he continued.

"These awards sit alongside Highly Commended AA College Rosettes for Trevenson in Camborne and Cloisters in St Austell with an award for Dynnargh in Saltash."

Catering students from Cornwall College are renowned for achieving great things across the industry, with chefs such as Tom Brown from Great British Menu fame, Edward Cooke, Head Chef at Heston Blumenthal's The Fat Duck in Bray, and Dorian Jahmeet, Head Chef at Raymond Blanc's Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons to name a few.

The College also recruits and trains the

apprentices at Jamie Oliver's Fifteen restaurant in Cornwall.

Commended curriculum and national wins

The College's Creative Curriculum has been commended nationally by the AoC, for providing real world experiences for students in challenging, yet safe environments.

Creative Curriculum was set up as a framework to enable the practical delivery of professional learning for students who develop, produce and launch real-world projects.

Film School, Magazine Academy, Board Game School and Creative Futures Games Design students experience the working world over a dedicated two-week period.

They engage with real businesses and professionals alongside their tutors, and all projects end with a launch event or premiere screening.

Deadlines, working with clients and the latest professional equipment, while controlling budgets, present many challenges for students.

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- Nursing, Health & Social Care
- Physics, Engineering & Maths
- Physiotherapy
- Science
- Social Sciences & Social Work
- Sports Science

Cornwall College Saltash

- Allied Health Professions
- Science
- Nursing*
- Health & Social Care (Mental Health)
- Leisure & Event Management
- Emergency Services & Public Sector

The Eden Project

- Science

Cornwall College St Austell

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*The Access to Nursing programme is also available via a blended learning option, this is new and allows selected students to attend college only one day per week and complete the rest of the course from home.

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Applied Marine Zoology (Final Year Level 6) BSc (Hons)
Applied Zoology (Final Year Level 6) BSc (Hons)
Applied Zoology & Conservation BSc (Hons)
Applied Zoology & Conservation (incl. sandwich year) BSc (Hons)
Art & Design Practice FdA
Art & Design Practice (Final Year Level 6) BA (Hons)
Business Enterprise (Final Year Level 6) BA (Hons)
Business Enterprise Management BA (Hons)
CertEd & PGCE (incorporating DET)
Children, Schools & Families HNC
Children, Schools & Families FdA
Children, Schools & Families (Final Year Level 6) BA (Hons)
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Computing Technologies (Final Year Level 6) BSc (Hons)
Conservation & Countryside Management FdSc
Conservation & Ecology FdSc
Construction & the Built Environment
Counselling Studies (Final Year Level 6) BA (Hons)
Ecotourism* FdSc
Education & Curriculum Studies (Final Year Level 6) BA (Hons)
Emergency Sector Management & Interoperability (Final Year Level 6) BSc (Hons)
Emergency Sector Leadership & Management FdSc
Engineering HNC
Engineering FdSc
Environmental Resource Management (Final Year Level 6) BSc (Hons)
Equine Enterprise Management FdSc
Equitation Science MSc
Equitation Training & Behaviour FdSc
Event Management FdA
Games Design for Industry HND
Games Design for Industry (Final Year Level 6) BA (Hons)
Garden & Landscape Design HNC
Garden & Landscape Design HND
Health, Welfare & Social Sciences* HNC
Health, Welfare & Social Sciences* BSc (Hons)
Health, Welfare & Social Sciences* (Final Year Level 6) BSc (Hons)
Horticulture FdSc
Horticulture (Garden & Landscape Design) BSc (Hons)
Horticulture (Plant Science) BSc (Hons)
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Police Studies FdSc
Rescue & Emergency Management FdSc
Rural Business Management (Final Year Level 6) BSc (Hons)
Sport, Health & Exercise Science (Final Year Level 6) BSc (Hons)
Sport, Health & Fitness FdSc
Surf Science & Technology FdSc
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All information correct at the time of printing

* Subject to approval by the University of Plymouth

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THE CORNWALL COLLEGE GROUP

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Career-focussed education changing lives



Continued from page 1

Through tackling these challenges in a pressurised, supportive environment, students grow in confidence, gain vital experience and continue on to rewarding careers.

Creative Curriculum outcomes are life changing for our students.

The College has also supported its students to successfully compete in some of the UK's top skills competitions.

The prestigious WorldSkills UK competition saw an impressive gold and bronze medal haul thanks to a personal trainer and a cabinet maker from Cornwall.

Held at the NEC in Birmingham, apprentices and young tradespeople from all over the UK showcased their skills in a bid to be crowned the best in the country at one of the most prestigious skills competitions.

Winning gold at her first attempt was Louise Wilson, who studied the YMCA Level 3 Certificate in Personal Training at Cornwall College Camborne.

Bronze medallist in the furniture making category was Tom Pearce, who is an

apprentice with leading furniture maker Rozen Furniture.

Tom is on his final year of the Level 3 Furniture & Cabinet Making course at Camborne. You can read more about their achievements on page 9.

It was also with a huge sense of pride that TCCG saw one of its massage students crowned as the national AoC Adult Student of the Year (see below).

Apprenticeships and the future

The Career Now option is all about apprenticeships, allowing people to earn while they learn and businesses to achieve their goals while upskilling their workforce.

As the largest provider of apprenticeships in the South West, Gareth Kenward, Group Head of Employer Engagement, said TCCG's future is looking bright.

"We are proud of the fact we are significantly bucking the trend on apprenticeships," he continued.

"Nationally, year-on-year in 2017-18, there was a 24% drop in apprenticeship

starts, 33% for the college sector, whereas we noted a 3+% rise, so we feel TCCG has developed the right approach.

"It is also rewarding to see that 79% of our apprentices progress to full-time employment and 12% move on to a higher apprenticeship, both significantly above the national average."

TCCG recently secured significant funding, ensuring it can continue to develop a quality experience for learners and apprentices in the South West.

The College has worked tirelessly in envisaging a curriculum, an estates

portfolio and learner experience that will secure positive outcomes for communities and businesses across the region, according to Principal and CEO Dr Elaine McMahon.

"We have reviewed the entire College curriculum in line with LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) priorities, market need, employer requirements and skills needs, and have rigorously tested the quality of each course," she explained.

"We now have an exciting opportunity to support and build on the fantastic work we do with our learners."



Cornwall boasts national Adult Student of the Year



An adult learner from Cornwall has been crowned the Association of Colleges (AoC), Adult Student of the Year.

Stephanie Gilbert, 60, overcame many challenges to reach the finals of the prestigious national awards that were held

at the ICC in Birmingham.

Having been a carer to her wife, who has dementia, she also went through gender re-assignment during her course at The Cornwall College Group.

"Stephanie is a skilled carpenter and joiner, yet at 60 wanted to change careers so joined the College prior to her transition and studied beauty therapy, returning after completion to do a Swedish massage course," said course tutor, Paula Riley.

"She has been an inspiration in her open approach to her transitioning, while providing an outstanding level of service and commitment to her lessons, tutors and fellow students."

Stephanie said the win felt amazing as there were so many other good candidates.

"Colleges help to give you the skills needed to progress in life," she continued.

"I love helping other people and that helped make me a winner."

Stephanie said support from Safe Haven during a difficult time led her to decide "it was time to pursue the dream of being a beauty therapist".

"This is when I enrolled at Cornwall

College and Paula and Sarah were great, I think it was an education for us all," she continued.

Despite the emotional upheaval of the transitioning process, including the operation, Stephanie's work was always exceptional and she won the massage student of the year prize at college.

Stephanie has been a champion in the community through volunteering and working as trustee, according to Paula.

"She has been an impeccable ambassador for adult education, colleges and the wider spirit of achieving through education," she continued.

"Stephanie has never let her personal battles restrict her commitment to our college and the wider community. Her resilient attitude has had a powerful impact on pupils, staff and clients of the hair and beauty salon."

Stephanie is a co-trustee of non-profit making organisation Safe Haven located in Cornwall that provides support for people involved within the Transgender and non-binary communities, as well as others.

"When I was asked to be a trustee I was

proud to accept and even prouder when Safe Haven was shortlisted to the last eight in their group for the National Diversity Awards," Stephanie explained.

In College, Stephanie has been an inspiration to fellow students and staff members. The College is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, but having someone transitioning being so relaxed and open about their experience has been a rewarding learning experience for everyone.

Stephanie brought many of her trans friends into the training salon, which was an important experience for all.

David Hughes, Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges, said each year the level of applications is extremely high, and "it goes to show the fantastic work that students are doing in colleges as well as the lengths colleges go to to support their students".

"Stephanie has done amazingly well to win and she should rightly be proud of her achievements," he added.

Job offers for students at Industry Day

Falmouth Marine School students have been praised for their skills, knowledge and expertise by companies attending their annual Industry Day event.

An incredible 58 industry professionals from local, national and international businesses attended the event at the main campus on Killigrew Street in Falmouth. They were joined by the Mayor, Grenville Chapple, his wife June and Falmouth town manager Richard Gates.

Jamie Barker from travel company Mark Warner said it was the sixth year running he has attended the event.

"We are always looking for enthusiastic staff and the students I have met today are passionate and clearly want to be involved in the industry," he added.

Watersports student Matt Hawker, said the day went "really well".

"I had two interviews today, one with Mark Warner and the other with Neilson," he explained.

"It's a great event that can potentially get you a job. If you are a first year, it gives you something to aim for and work towards; for me it was to work abroad and for others it may be to work locally."

A total of 22 careers talks were delivered

across the three floors that were split by sector: Marine Science, Watersports and Marine Technology, and Boatbuilding and Marine Engineering. Once the talks were complete the student could meet with all the businesses that attended on their stands.

Former marine engineering student Cameron Bullock is now doing an apprenticeship with Pendennis.

"There are so many different directions the qualifications and skills you gain at the college can take you,"

"Industry day is really important as a student," he revealed.

"It gets you out there, making contacts and providing an insight into the industry."

Sam Tonkin, former boatbuilding student and now joiner at A&P, also praised the event.

"There are so many different directions the qualifications and skills you gain at the College can take you," he said.

"This event has hopefully planted some seeds about that direction."



Head of Falmouth Marine School, Bob Harris, said Industry Day "epitomises the ethos of The Cornwall College Group".

"We are preparing all of our learners for industry by giving them all the relevant skills and experiences they need to be successful in their chosen career," he said.

"I would like to congratulate those that have been offered jobs and to thank those businesses that have attended the event, because our links to industry will help us to shape and grow our curriculum for the future."

Something wicked this way came...

Lovers of Shakespeare had a 'bloody' marvellous time at the Keay Theatre in St Austell.

Acting students from Cornwall College St Austell performed the Shakespearian play

Macbeth to a packed crowd.

Former Penrice Academy and acting student Arlene Ashley talked about the hard work that went into the performance.

"I think we are taking this to new heights

and opened doors for a new look on Macbeth," she said.

"Finding an exciting never seen before Shakespeare experience has been a challenge. We have also taken on

production roles which has allowed us to see how difficult it is to be a touring company" she continued.

Three witches tell the Scottish general Macbeth that he will be King of Scotland. Encouraged by his wife, Macbeth kills the king, becomes the new king, and kills more people out of paranoia. Civil war erupts to overthrow Macbeth, resulting in more death.

Acting lecturer, Karen Burdon said what a fantastic project this had been.

"As part of Launch, our theatre and performance training programme here at the College, our students have been at the very heart of the creative process."

"They have taken ownership and have organised all of the production- the lights, the costumes, the make-up, everything. They are experiencing what it's like to be a professional touring company whilst gaining a fantastic qualification, not only that, they're doing a fantastic job.

"As part of Launch, our theatre and performance training programme here at the College, our students have been at the very heart of the creative process."

"Shakespeare can be challenging but they all, without exception, rose to that challenge and I'm incredibly proud of them" she added.

The students created trailers for the play which can be seen on their Facebook page: @MacbethCornwallCollege



Culdrose inspires next generation of aircraft engineers

It was access all areas for a lucky group of students as they visited one of the UK's largest Naval Air Stations, RNAS Culdrose.

The students are all studying Level 2 Aeronautical Engineering, a specialist training qualification only available in the region at Cornwall College.

John Goodwin, Course Lead, Aero-Engineering, Cornwall College said the College has "a magnificent working relationship" with companies like Babcock based at Culdrose.

"Through these relationships we are able to offer our students enlightening and inspiring visits to places like this," he continued.

"It really opens the students' eyes as to what careers are out there and gives them an opportunity to experience the workplace, meet prospective employers and of course see the aircraft."

The visit was managed by Peter Wake, Engineering On Job Training Coordinator, UK Military Air Aviation, Babcock International Group.

"Meeting young people with a keen interest and desire to become aeronautical engineers is always a delight," he said.

"Cornwall College has a great reputation for developing initial skills and knowledge in this area and we have already taken on

an apprentice as part of the relationship between the two organisations."

John, who spent over 25 years in the Royal Air Force, has built a vibrant network of partners for students to progress on to, including military and civilian pathways.

"Giving our students the chance to come to places like this is essential in helping them choose the direction that interests

them," he explained.

"The presentation and talks that Babcock deliver showcases the business and breadth of work they could be involved in. This industry is growing and with the development of Newquay Airport becoming the UK's first spaceport, the need for fully trained aircraft engineers is greater than ever."



Student geologist rocks national prize

A student geologist from St Austell has overcome strong competition from schools and colleges around the UK to win a national competition.

Eighteen year old Sabina Smurthwaite, who currently studies A-level Geology, Environmental Science and Graphic Design at Cornwall College, stepped up to the plate to win the 16-18 year old category of a poster competition held by the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain (PESGB).

The national competition, entitled 'Economic Minerals Matter', is run by the Earth Science Teachers' Association (ESTA) and is based on the idea that earth sciences matter in our lives.

Sabina said she was "thrilled" when she discovered that she had won the prize.

"I never dreamed that I would win the competition when it was first brought to my attention by my geology teacher at the College," she continued.

"I chose to focus my poster on the naturally occurring mineral mica because it is a material that we use every day in things such as makeup, electrical appliances and paint, to name just a few. I found the research very interesting and I've really enjoyed putting the poster together."

The focus of the competition was economic minerals; meaning the metals, minerals, rocks and hydrocarbons extracted from the Earth by mining, quarrying and pumping.

The challenge was for students to select an economic mineral that is essential to their life, to show their knowledge and understanding of this topic and to produce an A3 poster that was both eye-catching and informative and which would appeal to and be understood by students of their own age.

A-level Geology teacher Louise Gill from Cornwall College St Austell said "it was a joy" to see Sabina win.

"Sabina's poster was superb; factual and beautifully creative," Louise continued.

"Her passion for both environmental science and geology is evident in her work and I look forward to following with interest the progress she makes in her chosen career."

Cornwall HGV mechanics bucking the trend



Cornwall is bucking the trend when it comes to young people gaining apprenticeships and Cornwall College's HGV Mechanics course is no exception, with 75% of students progressing from full-time study into employment.

Cornwall College is seeing high levels of apprenticeship vacancies and has recently

migrated three quarters of its Level 2 HGV Mechanics students into an apprenticeship.

Tony Fletcher, Course Tutor, HGV Mechanics, Cornwall College Camborne said, "As the only dedicated provider of HGV mechanics courses in Cornwall, we attract students with a keen interest in large vehicle mechanics from all over the county.

"Our latest cohort of students

commenced their education with us on a full-time basis, but most of them very quickly had interviews with local employers and subsequently gained an apprenticeship."

One such student was Carter Johnson from Redruth, who was taken on by local transport company Conway Bailey.

"I've wanted to have a career working with large trucks in an engineering type capacity for a long time and when I saw the HGV course I knew it was the right path for me," Carter said.

"After a few months on the course we received a lot of interest from various businesses who were looking for HGV mechanic apprentices, I was very keen as you get paid while you learn so thankfully I successfully secured a place with Conway Bailey and I'm loving every minute."

Cornwall College offers a wide range of motor vehicle courses including Light Vehicle, Body Repair, Paint Spraying and Heavy Goods Maintenance with an emphasis on practical workshops.

"We work extremely hard with local companies to offer apprenticeship opportunities to our students and it's testament to our provision, facilities and quality of teaching that helps draw in so many businesses with relevant vacancies," Tony concluded.

Aspire Academy Trust chooses CCB for apprenticeships

A leading school academy trust in Cornwall has chosen CCB to be its preferred apprenticeship and training provider.

The Aspire Academy Trust guides and supports 28 primary schools across the county and will be looking to The Cornwall College Group's (TCCG) business arm CCB, to deliver and embed an enriched staff development programme.

This will be achieved using the apprenticeship levy funding for CPD (continuing professional development), for teaching assistants, business administrators, leadership and management, and property maintenance.

Trust CEO Andrew Fielder, said he was "delighted" to be able to announce the new partnership.

"We conducted a competitive selection process as we know how important getting the right training and apprenticeship provider is in securing the long term future for our Trust," he continued.

"Aspire's approach is founded on a sense of moral purpose and commitment to doing

what is right for children, by supporting colleagues to achieve excellence, and this partnership with CCB is a way of delivering on this."

The Aspire Academy Trust and TCCG are working together closely to tailor course content to reflect the approach and ethos of the multi-academy trust to meet needs and expectations.

TCCG is also exploring other avenues of collaboration with Aspire, according to TCCG CEO and Principal, Dr Elaine McMahon.

"I am sure this is just the beginning of a long and beneficial relationship for everyone involved, including wider communities across Cornwall and beyond," she explained.

"We have a proven track record of fantastic apprenticeship and training provision and it's why we are seeing such positive satisfaction survey results with our partners and an upward trend in apprenticeship starts and outcomes."

TCCG Head of Employer Engagement Gareth Kenward, concurred and said the



College would be "utilising its collective experience of delivering award winning apprenticeships".

"This will ensure Aspire Academy Trust staff have quality bespoke training programmes that empower them to provide all their students with a truly outstanding, world-class education," he added.

As part of the partnership, a new role has been created, a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) Coordinator.

Guided by TCCG Director of HE, Dr Mark Nason, the STEM Coordinator will be working with Aspire to establish a primary STEM network for the Trust's 28 schools.

This will also be helping to design a STEM

enriched curriculum and outside spaces at the Trust's brand new Nansledan School opening in September 2019.

"The joint appointment is an exciting and innovative approach to raising STEM aspirations by linking primary aged children and their teachers with academic staff and students working in Further and Higher Education at Cornwall College," Dr Nason said.

"It's hoped that this evidence-based approach will lead to sustained improvements in Cornwall in the proportion of young people seeing the value of STEM subjects."

Leading surfer helps shape student futures

One of the leading surfers in the world is helping the surf industry thrive in Cornwall by educating the next generation of industry experts.

Professional surfer Ben Skinner is sharing the talent and resources at his Newquay-based company Skindog Surfboards, with degree students from Cornwall

College Newquay, giving them a unique opportunity to get hands-on experience of building a custom board.

Working in partnership with Cornwall College, Ben and his team at the Skindog factory are helping FdSc Surf Science & Technology students to design, shape, paint and finish their own custom

surfboards as part of the 'production methods' module of their specialist foundation degree programme.

"We are really excited about doing the boardbuilding course with Cornwall College and it's something that we all find interesting; teaching and passing on the knowledge that we've learnt along the

way," said 11 times European longboard champion Ben Skinner.

"It's been a great process building our factory and being able to offer our services to Cornwall College and give the students the experience of getting hands-on and having a custom board built is great."

Few students in the world can boast learning directly from Ben Skinner and his team of industry leading professionals.

"We are really excited about doing the boardbuilding course with Cornwall College and it's something that we all find interesting; teaching and passing on the knowledge that we've learnt along the way,"

Surf Science Programme Manager Ruth Martin from Cornwall College Newquay, said "no other college in the world" offers such a unique opportunity and experience as this.

"Our students will each get to spend an entire week learning the skills of the industry, working side-by-side with Ben and his talented team at the factory," she added.

The board build experience includes learning about the entire process of creating a custom board, ranging from Computer Aided Design (CAD) and client analysis to the practical skills of board building, laminating and finishing.

Skindog Surfboards produces the highest quality, hand crafted custom surfboards in Cornwall. Visit their website at www.skindogsurfboards.co.uk



Prior preparation key for students' military success

Students at Cornwall's only Military Academy have been ensuring they are living the military phrase 'prior preparation prevents poor performance'.

Part of the course, which is run at Cornwall College Camborne, is focused on interview skills, a key requirement when applying to the Armed Forces.

Thanks to a close working relationship with the local Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO) in Redruth, students are benefitting from a series of practical workshops where they learn essential interview techniques.

Leading the sessions were Corporal Jon Overend, Recruitment Co-ordinator, British Army Recruiting Group and Joe English, Lead Recruitment Advisor; who took each student through a vigorous mock interview to demonstrate the intensity of the process.

"By conducting these one-on-one interviews, the students are able to experience what they will undertake during a formal application," Corporal Overend said.

"It allows them to make mistakes now,

rather than at the official interview and it gives them the opportunity to think about any relevant questions and indeed how to answer set questions to their advantage."

Joe said young people thinking about joining the armed forces would "certainly benefit from joining a dedicated course such as this".

"It gives potential recruits a total overview of service life and helps arm them with lots of information and practical skills to make a more informed decision before applying," he added.

"We have had great success with students going on to join the regulars in all three services."

Tim Lean, Tutor, Military Academy Cornwall College Camborne said they are seeing increased numbers in students wanting to join the Armed Forces.

"Our Military Academy offers an insight into life in the military," he continued.



"On this course students will take part in survival training, drill, physical exercise, leadership skills and of course learn about all the opportunities on offer, including apprenticeships, commission

routes and more.

"We have had great success with students going on to join the regulars in all three services and our course is well respected and supported by the military outreach teams."

Top national prize for Cornwall's Concorde Group



A leading Cornish recruitment group is celebrating after winning a prestigious national award.

Concorde Group, which forms part of The Cornwall College Group, scooped the British Excellence in Sales Management Awards, BESMA Sales Team of the Year award.

The team received the news at a champagne reception at Grosvenor House in London, hosted by the Institute of Sales Management.

Concorde Group, which was formed 22 years ago, fought off stiff competition, impressing the judges with its authenticity; demonstrating "genuineness, ethics and

the 'wow' factor", according to the judging panel.

"We were so delighted to have been nominated for the award and to actually have won it is testament to our fantastic team," said Maggie Oxenbury, MD Concorde Group.

"It recognises the passion we have for providing high quality customer service and the value we place on the relationships with all of our customers including businesses, applicants and colleagues".

The Truro-based company, with a team of 30, is unique in its approach in that it reinvests a substantial proportion of its profits into local education and the surrounding community.

Tower scaffolding course taking careers to new heights

An approved and essential qualification for people who want to work at heights using Mobile Access Towers, is taking bookings.

This one day course offers vital safety and practical workshops giving all attendees the opportunity to experience erecting, dismantling, storing and maintenance of tower scaffolding.

Jem Stevens, Tutor, Cornwall College Camborne said anyone who works at heights and uses this type of tower must have a recognised qualification to prove they are competent and able to safely handle such equipment.

"This highly practical course is designed to give all attendees the necessary skills and knowledge to work safely covering areas like assembly, stability, repositioning and its regulations, as well as delivering key theory subjects including site inspections and procedures," he added.

Held at the Camborne campus, the course gives people easy access to the workshop, particularly those in employment where time is critical.

Following the PASMA (Prefabricated

Access Suppliers and Manufacturers Association) training schedule, successful completion of the two-part workshop, gives users a recognised 'card' that can be used for employment purposes. As an organisation, PASMA has issued over 70,000 cards for its members.

"Providing practical skills and knowledge are central to meeting this objective."

"The association is committed to delivering world-class support to all corners of the industry," said Peter Bennett, PASMA's Managing Director.

"Providing practical skills and knowledge are central to meeting this objective."

Jem added that the courses are extremely popular.

"In fact the last course sold out in a matter of days," he continued.

"Whether you work in construction or maintenance, are a contractor or end-user, this industry standard training will give you the tools to make you proficient, competent and above all safe."



Sports enthusiasts get scientific MOT

No longer do you have to be part of an Olympic squad to benefit from some serious scientific testing in the sports lab.

In a boost for local sports enthusiasts, a new set of tests are available to the public that will help them discover how their bodies perform when tested to the max.

Sports science has developed many activities that record a person's stamina, oxygen intake and ultimate fat burning rate, information that can make the difference between winning and losing.

Cornwall College Camborne is offering a series of standard tests that will measure fitness and ability to recover.

"We've been teaching sports degrees for many years and have on-site lots of state-of-the-art scientific equipment," said Stephen Bowens, Sports Science Tutor, Cornwall College.

"Having helped many professional coaches with the testing of players in a wide variety of sports, we thought that it would be great to allow members of the public,

especially those who are keen enthusiasts; to have access to the kit in our sports lab."

The tests are primarily aimed at athletes who are trying to improve their performance within endurance based sports, such as running and cycling; but are just as valuable and relevant to players of team sports like rugby and football.

Part of the testing includes anthropometric tests which measures a body's proportion of fat, fat free mass and water, essential if an athlete is aiming to maximise their performance in weight bearing sports.

"We use a range of facilities and the one that most people recognise is the VO2 Max test, this is the one where people wear a mask over their nose and mouth," Stephen continued.

"We use a very specialised piece of equipment called a 'Fitmate Pro' which analyses the quantity of oxygen and carbon dioxide an athlete breathes in and out throughout their performance. From this we can determine their body's actual

ability to utilise oxygen and deal with high levels of acid in the blood".

"It's also very useful in helping to define specific heart rate and RPE training intensities and what nutrients you use at different exercise intensities".

During a recent test session, sports enthusiast Katy Green who attends Duchy CrossFit underwent a wide range of testing including the VO2Max test.

"The results of the tests were a real eye opener and provided me with an idea of where I am with my current training program," said the keen runner.

"It confirmed that quality over quantity is working well for me and that my aerobic capacity is higher than expected, I now have my own bespoke training zones which will ensure I can get the most out of every training session."

The tests can be booked by contacting: fitnesstesting@cornwall.ac.uk

For more information about our sports courses, please visit www.cornwall.ac.uk or contact the College on 0330 123 2523.



Students' Mission to Mars



Students in Cornwall have enjoyed an out of this world experience as they grappled with a Mars Rover.

Completed over the space of a week, the Mission to Mars work experience ran by Software Cornwall gives students an opportunity to engage with software development in a meaningful way.

Robert Wiltshire is part of Software Cornwall's Schools Education Outreach Project team and said with no prior

knowledge needed, students "just need an eagerness to participate".

"Students are slowly given the information to develop, at their own rate and under their own direction, the commands necessary to make a Martian Rover autonomous," he continued.

"To make it even more interesting students work in teams of four against each other as start-up companies."

The whole challenge is broken down into

small chunks, stories, and on completion of each 'Core Coin' currency is paid to the teams.

"This is used to pay for expensive resource time on the rovers. It's all about producing working results efficiently as a team and balancing budgets at the same time," Robert added.

I.T Student Oliver Enright said during his end presentation that it had been a very challenging and enjoyable experience.

He thanked Software Cornwall and teachers for the opportunity, adding "it's been a great week".

To keep the teams on their toes, soft skill breaks sharpen their thinking and problem solving. Tennis balls, Frisbees and chocolate brownies played a prominent part in the week's activities.

"All in all it was a very successful mission," Robert concluded.

Cornish Sliding Box Camera could be first of its kind

A photography lecturer has developed what is possibly the world's first transparent red Perspex sliding box camera, enabling images to be taken without having to use a darkroom.

Professional photographer Simon Colgan has more than 40 years' experience taking photographs, with a passion for experimenting with the majority of film types to their limits.

"I've always tinkered with cameras," he revealed, "sometimes building two into one, or removing as many parts as possible while still keeping it operational."

Simon, who is Course Leader for photography at Cornwall College Camborne, started to work with wet plate collodion, a process from the mid-1800s as well as x-ray film and large camera formats.

"It was my love of photographic film and wet-plate that can be handled in red light that gave me the idea for the transparent sliding red box camera," he said.

"If I made a camera out of rubylith red Perspex, the light inside will be red, just like a darkroom; so I started to build one and it actually worked."

After spending several weeks developing the prototype, Simon eventually shot

wet plates, lith copy and paper film in it, producing reverse negatives without the use of a darkroom.

"I have researched the web and it appears to be the first working camera of its type in the world, although I wouldn't be surprised if someone hasn't tried it before me," Simon added.

The camera can be seen at Cornwall College Camborne and his students have the use of it for experimental purposes. His next project is to make the largest roll back camera in the world.



Cornwall Council comes out on top of Apprenticeship Games

Cornwall Council is celebrating winning this year's Apprenticeship Games after a fiercely fought competition with the region's top businesses.

The Cornwall College Group CCB event, held at Duchy College Stoke Climsland, saw businesses and organisations with apprentices battle it out in a range of events testing their mental, physical and creative skills.

Each team took turns at a University Challenge-style quiz round with mascots and buzzers, a mocktail making and gateaux decorating challenge, archery, tractor driving, a blindfold team-building challenge and a military team challenge.

The event for apprentices and their employers across the South West was a welcome and fun addition to National Apprenticeship week, according to The Cornwall College Group Principal Elaine McMahon.

"The Games are about bringing different businesses and apprentices coming together to celebrate their joint understanding of the value of apprenticeships," she explained.

"Apprenticeships are a great way for people of all ages to earn while they learn, with opportunities to progress to a degree-level qualification."

The event was also an opportunity for employers and apprentices to showcase the skills they've developed so far along their journey.

Technical Manager at Wales & West Utilities, Steve Wright, said "it is great to attend an event like this to celebrate the importance of apprenticeships".

"The Cornwall College Group provides fantastic support to our apprentices and today has been great fun for all the apprentices to get together," he added.

Apprentices from Cornwall Council were "thrilled" to come away as overall winners.

Cornwall Council Apprentice, Ellis Skinner, said they really "didn't expect to win".

"We didn't know what to expect at all ahead of the games, we came to have fun and we put 100% into every challenge as a team," she added.

The day included a networking lunch to give businesses and sponsors the opportunity to engage and share their stories.



Cornish pair land Gold and Bronze at WorldSkills Finals

It was an impressive gold and bronze medal haul at the prestigious WorldSkills UK competition this year thanks to a personal trainer and a cabinet maker from Cornwall.

Held at the NEC in Birmingham, apprentices and young tradespeople from all over the UK showcased their skills in a bid to be crowned the best in the country at one of the most prestigious skills competitions.

Winning gold at her first attempt was Louise Wilson from Leedstown, who studied the YMCA Level 3 Certificate in Personal Training at Cornwall College Camborne.

"This has been one of the hardest and full-on programmes I've ever had to deliver, but the experience has still been amazing and I can't believe that I've won gold, I'm so happy," she said.

Louise, who completed her fitness course earlier this year, has established a new fitness business called Elemental Fitness Cornwall. She has a growing client base and travels around the Duchy teaching and coaching.

Also taking part in the national finals was apprentice student Tom Pearce from Helston, who is an apprentice with leading furniture maker Rozen Furniture.

Tom is on his final year of the Level 3 Furniture and Cabinet making course at Camborne.

He delivered an exceptional piece of work building a set piece from plans first seen on the day, winning bronze in the Furniture Making category against very strong competition.

"This was my second time at the finals, last year I came away with a highly recommended," he explained.

"Everyone there wants to be the best and you really have to concentrate on every little step, so I couldn't believe it when they announced that I'd won bronze."

Joseph Kennedy, Cornwall College Camborne, Tutor Furniture Making said it was "fabulous news".

"It once again demonstrates the incredibly talented apprentices we have learning and training with us," he added.

National award for College's deafblind communication provision



Cornwall College has won a national award thanks to its British Sign Language (BSL) tutors' thought provoking lessons that have actively engaged the local community.

Tutors Jackie Bryant and Manda Lambert were praised for being respected and valued by their learners and the local community at the tenth Signature Annual Awards.

The Signature Annual Awards celebrate those who strive to improve communication and experiences for deaf and deafblind people.

The learning environment created at college was also praised for "well and truly breaking down communication barriers".

"As programme manager for The Cornwall College Group for our British Sign

Language qualifications with Signature, I have the utmost respect for Jackie and Manda," said Dawn Ferguson-Smith, Cross Site ACL coordinator.

"They have faced and overcome many barriers, and we all find their teaching commitment exemplary."

Lindsay Foster, Executive Director at Signature congratulated Cornwall College, in particular Manda and Jackie for winning the Enriching Education Award at this year's Signature Annual Awards.

"As one of Signature's centres, Cornwall College has been a passionate advocate for British Sign Language, and the tutors are very much involved with their students and the local community - well deserved," she added.

New Board Game is Out of This World



New immersive board game 'Escape Velocity' received a stellar reception at its launch event for specially invited guests.

The four player science fiction game set in space is based around escaping the pull of a black hole and was created as part of Cornwall College's Games Design Board Game School.

Matthew Fiol-Warner, Team Lead, Games Design Cornwall College Camborne said that Board Game School is now a staple of the Games Design curriculum at the College.

"It gives our students studying our Level 3 course, the total experience of creating something new from scratch, including the concept, mechanics, rules, production and

of course arranging a VIP premiere in just two weeks," he added.

Using individually created space craft pieces, each player takes turns to move around a three orbit course, rolling dice and answering trivia questions along the way to move forward. Although as with any good game, there are lots of opportunities to be sent backwards by other players.

Alex Johns, Student and Head of Rules for the game, said his role was to lead a team to come up with the game mechanics.

"The things that make a game great are the twists and turns that give the players lots of hope and despair while playing," he explained.

"The whole experience has been amazing and everyone involved has had an active part in the games production and marketing. The launch was the pinnacle of the project where we got to see people playing the game and having the chance to see their reactions which have been overwhelmingly positive."

The launch, which was attended by family, staff and VIPs, gave everyone the opportunity to discuss the project with those involved, explore their working environment and play the game, all before an official presentation and canape reception.

Justin Olosunde, Head of Campus, Cornwall College Camborne said, Board Game School takes students out of the normal timetable, giving them a focused, industry relevant experience, where teamwork, effective collaboration and scheduling are the key.

"What our students achieve in such a minimal amount of time is extraordinary and demonstrates the value of such dedicated projects," he explained.

"Board Game School gives the students valuable employability skills and a personal understanding of how media production works. I was delighted with the results, it was an amazing evening and would like to thank everyone involved".

First female engineering higher apprentice for Sisna Park Plymouth

A local apprentice is celebrating becoming the first female Level 4 Engineering apprentice for Sisna Park Plymouth.

When Danielle Scott was 15, she completed some engineering work experience organised through her school.

"I then started to enjoy making things at home, helping my Dad out with the bikes and issues with the cars, just really getting stuck in," she continued.

"My parents then suggested looking into the engineering route, that's how it all started."

Danielle Scott started as an apprentice in September 2016 with MARS Wrigley Confectionery, attending college at The Cornwall College Group's Plymouth Engineering Skills Centre, Sisna Park.

She achieved the highest grades in the Level 3 Engineering apprenticeship and has progressed onto the higher apprenticeship studying for a HNC Level 4 in Engineering.

"I had to work really hard to get into the Level 4, I was up against lots of males, that's what drove me to be chosen to do the HNC," Danielle explained.

"I am really proud of myself, being the first female, I've got to prove to everyone that I can do it. Just because you are a female doesn't mean you can't achieve this."

In the next five years Danielle would like to be a valued associate of MARS Wrigley Confectionery with some authority who members of the team can rely on.

"I want to be the best I can be and complete my HNC to the highest grade possible," she explained.

Training and Education Leader at MARS Wrigley Confectionery, Chris Shaw, said Danielle has always been extremely

focussed on securing a position within the engineering department, which she has successfully secured.

"Danielle is an asset to the company and is progressing very well within our organisation," he added.

Business Development Manager at Cornwall College Business (CCB), Jane Wickett, said Danielle is a "role model to the younger female apprentices at Sisna Park and is a well-respected associate of MARS Wrigley Confectionery."

Danielle said people learn so much at Sisna Park, and the lecturers have a wealth of knowledge and are always happy to help.

"The equipment here is what you see in your company's workshop, it's nice to have that insight before you actually go to the company," she added.

Any females questioning if they are able to work in a more male dominated industry, Danielle says "go for it".

"If you like science, maths or technology then engineering is definitely worth looking into," she said.

"There really are some great career opportunities."



Students crème de la crème in UK's top young culinary comp



A haul of 13 medals including five golds were among the incredible achievements of local students at a prestigious regional cooking competition.

Professional Cookery students from Cornwall College Saltash took part in The Major Series South West regional heat, held at South Devon College.

They bagged an impressive five gold best

in class medals alongside a best overall static exhibit, five silver and two bronze.

Former Callington Community College student, Sharna Bingham, 17, who is studying Level 2 Professional Cookery at Cornwall College Saltash, won both gold best in class and best overall static exhibit for her decorated gateaux.

"This is the second year I have entered the competition, and I felt really nervous

this year, I wanted to beat the silver I got last year," Sharna explained.

"I am really happy with the result and so proud of myself. It's really given me the motivation to do the best I can at college."

Level 2 Hospitality student, James Easton, 21, has found the competition and his experience at college so far a "massive confidence boost".

"I achieved a bronze in both the assorted coffee challenge and the restaurant skills category. I was so nervous before, but I'm really pleased with the results."

"Before I started college I was really quiet and didn't have great communication skills, but being here at Cornwall College Saltash and having experiences such as the competition has completely changed me."

Student, Andrew Mourelle-Nash, 17, who was previously at Saltash.net School, was "really shocked" to be awarded silver in the afternoon tea category.

"I felt the pressure a little during the competition, it's hard to keep the focus and not let the nerves get to you. The support we have had from our lecturers has been fantastic."

Development Chef and competition organiser, Wayne Harris, said it was a "pleasure to judge the students' work from Cornwall College Saltash at the Major

Series in South Devon"

"Each year they raise the bar with the standards they set and the awards that they achieve, they do it with a smile on their face and the passion in their hearts," he said.

"Students like this are the reason that makes me want to continue taking this competition and making it bigger and better every year. It is a testament to the College and the lecturers in all the hard work they put in and the faith shown in the upcoming talent in the area."

Curriculum Lead for Professional Cookery at Cornwall College Saltash, Chris Penk, said "we are all so proud of what our students have achieved, they are fantastic results."

"The students represented the College perfectly, they were smart, polite, and just fantastic all day. They worked so hard and really rose to the challenge."

"Results such as these showcase the quality of training and employability skills that our students gain whilst here at Cornwall College Saltash. We support them to enter competitions and work at events we exhibit at so they get a wide understanding of the industry throughout their course."



Zoo can do it! Hero turtle tackles London Marathon for charity

A Newquay zoologist channelled his inner 'hero turtle' to help raise money for a notable reptile and amphibian conservation charity.

Dr Stephen Green, who lectures on the Zoology degree courses at Cornwall College Newquay, ran the London Marathon in fancy dress to raise money for the Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC).

ARC is a charity dedicated to the

conservation of amphibians and reptiles, a cause that is close to Stephen's heart.

"Much of my adult life has been dedicated to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles, so it seems obvious to me that I should run the London Marathon to raise money for ARC," he explained.

"They do some amazing work championing our often neglected amphibian and reptile species and I'm

proud to support them."

Around a third of the world's amphibian species are either threatened or already extinct, according to the Global Amphibian Assessment.

At least 42% of all remaining species are declining, indicating that the number of threatened species can be expected to rise in the future. The Global Reptile Assessment is showing much the same

trend, with a fifth of all reptile species threatened with extinction.

"Urgent action is needed and the fantastic work that ARC are doing is helping to turn the tide on these declines," Stephen continued.

"Without increased efforts and interventions on our part, opportunities for future generations to encounter wild amphibians and reptiles are being lost."



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