



Bickton College merger with The Cornwall College Group

Information Booklet #2 - March 2015





What is the purpose of this document?

To provide an update on the progress towards the merger of Bicton College with The Cornwall College Group (TCCG) and to highlight some of the next steps as the merger takes shape.

Who is it for?

Students, staff and partners of both colleges.

What is the background to the merger?

The recommendation to merge Bicton College with TCCG was formally approved by the Minister for Skills and Equalities, Nick Boles, in October 2014.

Both Bicton and TCCG (through Duchy College and its Rural Business School), share a passion for and expertise in the land-based sector, with both enjoying strong reputations for high quality learning and teaching in this specialist field.

The opportunity existed to do more jointly - to support learners, communities and the land-based industry - than would be possible separately; to become one truly world class organisation, with common values and goals, to focus on 'Making Learning Work'.



What has been happening?

Following the formal recommendation of The Cornwall College Group as a potential merger partner for Bicton College, a process of due diligence has taken place between October 2014 and the end of February 2015.

This allowed both partners to understand more about the benefits and challenges that a merger will present for each organisation and to start to identify and map the actions necessary to ensure a successful merger. An academic and business plan was co-created by TCCG working with students, staff and stakeholders of Bicton College to provide fuller details around the proposed merger and short, medium and long term goals for Bicton College as part of TCCG.

One month's formal notice was given of the dissolution of Bicton College on 26th February 2015, in order to allow for the merger to take place on 31st March 2015.

"It is vital the South West has strong and viable land-based colleges to support our fantastic agricultural industry and its affiliated sectors, which are such an important part of the region's economy. This merger will help to secure the future of both Duchy College and Bicton, ensuring they prosper into the future and helping to raise the bar of academic achievement even further."

Melanie Squires
Regional Director
South West NFU



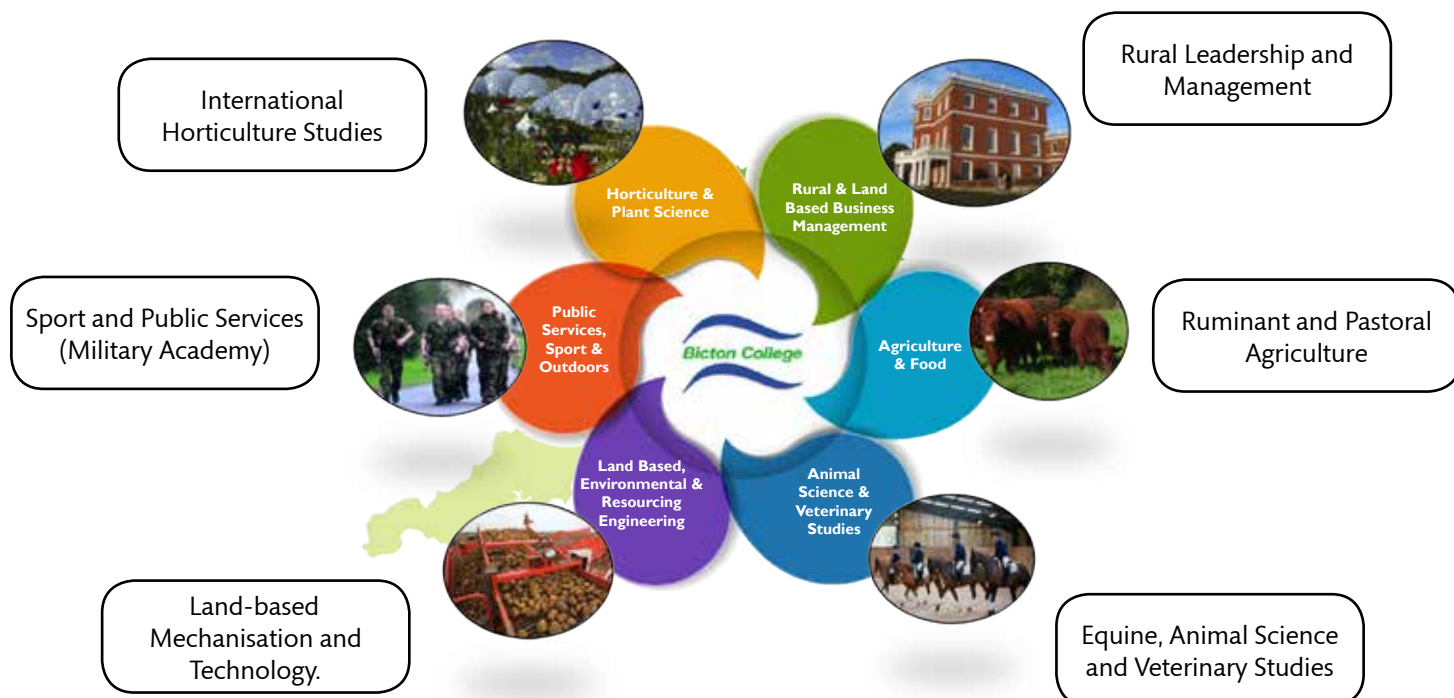
Has the vision for the merger changed?

Recent work has confirmed the important contribution that Bicton College makes to the social and economic life of Devon, given the concentration of farming and related land-based businesses in the county.

In-depth discussions have led to an affirmation of the original vision for the College, which is to deliver world class land-based education, training and research for the benefit of Devon, Cornwall and the wider south west region.

This will be achieved through centres of excellence linking further and higher education applied research. The centres will be founded on strong partnerships and will address the following specialisms:

1. Rural Leadership and Management
2. Equine, Animal Science and Veterinary Studies
3. Ruminant and Pastoral Agriculture
4. International Horticulture Studies
5. Sport and Public Services (Military Academy)
6. Land-based Mechanisation and Technology.



The considerable expertise of the Duchy College Rural Business School will support the development of Bicton College, as it has done for Duchy College.

There will be some duplication in courses delivered at both sites, especially for young people at the early stage of determining their learning and career journeys, and adults needing local access.



Announcing the new team

A review of staffing has led to a reworking of the structure of the curriculum teams at Bicton College. We are delighted to introduce the new team leads to you.



Countryside, Agriculture
and Agricultural Engineering
Philip Cribb



Horticulture, Arboriculture
and Floristry
Darren Ellis



Equine and Veterinary Nursing
Alex Robinson-Barr



Sport and Military Academy/
Public Services
Dai Phillips



English and Maths/
Foundation Learning
Zoe Allars



Animal Care
Georgia Cooper

"East Devon District Council is pleased that the future of Bicton College has been secured through its merger. Bicton is a highly regarded land-based college and its ability to deliver world class education, training and research is vital to the economy of East Devon, Devon and the South West. The College will continue to have our full support."

Richenda Oldham
Communications Officer
East Devon District Council



What are likely to be the benefits of the merger?

- To safeguard a land-based college for Devon, supporting local students, communities and employers
- Bicton College and Duchy College, working together, will provide a joined up approach to the provision of land-based education and learning in the region
- Networks of expertise involving students, staff and employers will allow the sharing of best practice and innovation across all curriculum areas including embedding e-learning
- Stronger partnerships between local schools, specialist colleges and universities will raise learners' aspiration to progress both to land-based and other careers
- Combining the resources of Bicton and TCCG offers the prospect of developing specialist hubs for land-based education, research and development, working closely with employers
- A greater capacity allows us to influence and support the development of a world class rural economy in the south west.



Equine Student lands dream job

Vikki: Studied Extended Diploma in Horse Management

Now: Groom at elite dressage training and breeding centre in Silkeborg, Denmark

"Accepting this job has been the best decision I have ever made giving me opportunities to attend shows, meet top class riders and to watch top class horses. I would not be here today without the help from everyone at Bicton College"

A young woman with dark hair, smiling, is wearing a black bobsleigh suit with 'uk sport' and 'BSC' logos. She is holding a black bobsleigh helmet. In the background is a large, ornate red brick building with white columns and balconies, likely Bicton College.

Kelsea is going downhill fast

Bicton College student Kelsea Purchase has been selected for the Junior British Bobsleigh team. Kelsea is currently studying an advanced apprenticeship in sporting excellence and is part of the College's girls rugby academy team.

Partners

We are an organisation that values our partnerships. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the agencies, organisations and supporters who have helped us to develop a way forward for Bicton College as part of The Cornwall College Group.



"We're delighted people are finding a way to secure Bicton's future and local identity. The Devon County Farms Estate owned by Devon County Council has very strong links with Bicton which we wish to maintain and build on. We are here to help in any way we can."

Dan Meek
Director of Property Management
NPS South West



Course Advice Days:

- Wednesday 06 May 2015 (2pm - 6pm)
- Saturday 06 June 2015 (9am - 5pm)
- Saturday 18 July 2015 (9am - 5pm)
- Tuesday 01 September 2015 (9am - 5pm)

Taster Days:

- Wednesday 27 May 2015 (9.30am - 3.30pm)

The Cornwall College Group (TCCG) is the Board approved name for the Cornwall College Further Education Corporation.

www.bicton.ac.uk
www.cornwall.ac.uk



/BictonCollege



@BictonCollege



/BictonCollegeTV



/cornwallcollegeuk



@CornwallCollege



/corncoll

