



## **Bicton College merger with The Cornwall College Group**

Information Booklet #1 - November 2014









# Why TCCG?

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

Both colleges want to do more to support their learners, communities and the land-based industry to become world class.

Both colleges share similar values and goals, which focus on ‘Making Learning Work’:

Bicton College and TCCG: Making Learning Work	
	
Inspire students and enhance their relationship with the natural world	Education helps people to define, adapt and shape their world
Economic and social wellbeing of communities and individuals	A key factor for personal and community wellbeing is meaningful work
Meet current and future needs in ways that improve the historic landscape setting	The nature of employment is changing, so what and how we learn needs to change too
Demonstrate good practice and innovation	Networks of expertise

## What is the purpose of this document?

To explain why Bicton College has chosen to become part of The Cornwall College Group (TCCG), and to share the benefits this will bring to learners, staff and communities in Devon and Cornwall.

## Who is it for?

Students, staff and partners of both colleges.

## What is the background to the merger?

In early 2014, Bicton College’s Board of Governors - supported by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner, Dr David Collins - undertook to find a partner to ensure a successful future for their College. Following a process lasting many months, Bicton College’s Board and the FE Commissioner concluded that a merger with TCCG represented the best way to achieve this. The recommendation was formally approved by the Minister for Skills and Equalities, Nick Boles, in October 2014.





# What are the key features of the merger?

Bicton College will merge with TCCG on 31 March 2015.

Bicton College's name and identity will be retained within TCCG structure.

Bicton College students will be able to continue their courses of study on the same campus as planned. The breakdown of students at Bicton College is: 650 full time, 200 part time, 67 higher education and 253 workbased learning.

Bicton College will be led by a Head of College.

Bicton College will have a Locality Board that will determine its key priorities.

An Advisory Board for specialist land-based provision, of critical importance to the Rural Economy will be formed. Comprising of local employers, students and staff, this board will ensure a joined up approach to the development of the land-based curriculum across Devon and Cornwall.

A 'Transition Governance Board' made up of governors, students and staff from Bicton College and TCCG is now in place to oversee the successful implementation of the merger.

Respective management teams are working together to build on Bicton College's strengths and re-assert it as a major force in Devon and in the South West agricultural community.

The intention is to consult with students, staff, local communities and employers on the vision for the merger in the coming weeks.

# What is the vision for the merger?

To deliver world class land-based education, training and research for the benefit of Devon, Cornwall and the wider South West region.

We will do this through 'signature' centres of excellence linking further and higher education applied research. The centres will be founded on strong partnerships and will be based at Bicton College and Duchy College, and will address the following specialisms:

1. Rural Leadership and Management
2. Equine, Animal Science and Veterinary Studies
3. Ruminant and Grassland Agriculture
4. International Horticulture Studies
5. 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 Bicton College and Duchy College, especially for young people at the early stage of determining their learning and career journeys and adults needing local access.

Alongside this both colleges will continue to deliver those non-specialist programmes that complement their land-based specialisms.



## What are the benefits?

- Devon retains a land-based college, supporting local students, communities and employers
- Bicton College & Duchy College working together provides a joined up approach to the provision of land-based education and learning across Devon and Cornwall
- Networks of expertise involving students, staff and employers allows them to share best practice and innovation across all curriculum areas
- Stronger partnerships between local schools, specialist colleges and universities raises learners' aspiration to progress to land-based and non-specialist careers
- The combined 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 of England.

## How do I get involved?

If you would like to comment, ask questions, provide feedback or know more about the merger, you can do the following:

- Invite a member of the Transition Team to speak with you/your team
- Email us at [feedback@bicton.ac.uk](mailto:feedback@bicton.ac.uk).

**Bicton College welcomes applications for courses starting in January and September 2015.**







# Course Advice Days:

- Saturday 06 December 2014 (9am - 5pm)
- Saturday 17 January 2015 (9am - 5pm)
- Saturday 07 March 2015 (9am - 5pm)
- 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:

- Tuesday 17 February 2015 (9.30am - 3.30pm)
- 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](http://www.bicton.ac.uk)

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