

YOUR OUTSTANDING COLLEGE MAGAZINE

edNEWS

2025 EDITION

**BICTON COLLEGE
CELEBRATES HISTORIC
OFSTED 'OUTSTANDING'**

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VISITS DUCHY COLLEGE**

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ADVANCED ENGINEERING
CENTRE LAUNCHED**

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WELCOME

to the first edition of our college lifestyle magazine for 2025

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to this exciting new magazine, celebrating the vibrant community and incredible successes of our 'Outstanding' rural colleges in the South West: Bicton College and Duchy College.

This past year has been truly historic for us, as we proudly achieved an **Ofsted Outstanding** grading, which reflects the dedication, passion and hard work of our students, staff, stakeholders and wider college community.

With this accreditation, we are ensuring that local students and businesses benefit from world-class training, innovation and industry partnerships.

Through these pages, you'll find inspiring stories of student achievements, campus developments and the many ways our colleges continue to shape the future of education in our region.

Whether you are a student, alum, business partner or community member, we hope you enjoy reading about the exciting journey we are on together.

Thank you for being part of our outstanding success.



Ed Parrish

Principal of Landbased
Education and Environment



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**Bicton & Duchy College
celebrates historic**

OFSTED OUTSTANDING

In a huge boost for learners, businesses, and rural education in the South West, Bicton College and Duchy College have been rated as 'Outstanding'.

Following a week-long inspection by Ofsted, a glowing report praised the colleges on their commitment to 'exceptional learning opportunities', 'highly effective partnerships to meet the local training needs' and learners who are 'highly motivated to learn in aspirational environments'.

Principal and CEO of CCG, the group behind both Bicton College and Duchy College, Rob Bosworth, expressed immense pride in the achievement.

"Bicton and Duchy are colleges that sit in the heart of their communities, delivering high-quality education and training through strong partnerships. This Ofsted report belongs to everyone in Devon and Cornwall, not just the colleges. It highlights the world-class opportunities we provide and the life-changing impact of our work. Businesses and local stakeholders can be confident in achieving their goals and ambitions with us as we help drive economic growth in the region."

Inspectors praised the colleges, noting the 'excellent learning spaces that staff have created contribute to learners and apprentices being highly motivated, while providing an inclusive, welcoming and caring environment'.

'Leaders successfully and effectively use partnerships to meet training needs,' the report revealed.



Scan the QR code
to read the full report



Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



“

THIS IS A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR BOTH BICTON COLLEGE AND DUCHY COLLEGE, REFLECTING THE RELENTLESS DEDICATION OF OUR STAFF, THE AMBITION OF OUR LEARNERS, AND THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS.

”

ROB BOSWORTH
PRINCIPAL & CEO





“

**HE CAME UP TO US,
SHOOK OUR HANDS AND
ASKED HOW OUR COURSE
WAS GOING. SUCH AN
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT.**

—
DUCHY COLLEGE STUDENT

”

THE DUKE OF CORNWALL

VISITS DUCHY COLLEGE

Duchy College Stoke Climsland was honoured to welcome His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cornwall, to the campus, marking a significant moment for both the College and the local community. During the visit, Prince William engaged with students and explored the College's innovative programmes,

including a live CSI demonstration by the Military & Protective Services Academy. The Prince took time during a walkabout to pose for photographs and selfies with some of the hundreds of students who were eager to catch a glimpse of him. Prince William – known for his affection for dogs – was

introduced to some of the College's four-legged friends, a memorable moment for the College's Animal Management and Dog Grooming students. His Royal Highness was also presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, a thoughtful gesture from sister campus, Duchy College Rosewarne.

UK FIRST AT BICTON COLLEGE

AGRITECH ADVANCED ENGINEERING CENTRE LAUNCHED AT BICTON COLLEGE

Bicton College has officially opened the UK's first Agritech Advanced Engineering Centre, an exciting state-of-the-art facility that will shape the future of agricultural education.

Developed in partnership with Electude, a global provider of technical education, the new centre equips students with hands-on experience using the latest agricultural technology and tools. The apprenticeships are delivered through a seven-week block model, with on-site accommodation included as part of the programme, enabling individuals from across the UK to access cutting-edge training at the Agritech Advanced Engineering Centre.

The facility aims to address the skills gap identified in the Devon Local Skills Improvement Plan by offering advanced training for students and apprentices.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Devon, John Lee OBE, who praised the College's investment in the sector.



“

THIS FACILITY BLENDS ADVANCED ELECTRONIC DIAGNOSTICS WITH TRADITIONAL ENGINEERING, GIVING OUR APPRENTICES A STRONG FOUNDATION TO MEET INDUSTRY DEMANDS.

”

ED PARRISH

PRINCIPAL OF LANDBASED
EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

EXCITING PLANS

TO DRIVE LOCAL GROWTH TO ROSEWARNE

Duchy College Rosewarne, near Camborne, has showcased exciting campus upgrades which will boost the local economy and support the food and agriculture sectors.

New business enterprise space, with almost 400 new work spaces, has been created at the Rosewarne campus, for the use of start-up land-based industries such as market gardening, small scale food

production and rural crafts.

Additionally, a new Farm and Food Hub, focused on improving access to affordable and sustainable food for local people, has been created at the existing café building at the College. The Food and Farming Enterprise project has received £400,895 from the Camborne Town Deal Board, in partnership with Cornwall Council.

Further renovations across the campus include work on The Barn and The Ark buildings funded by the Department for Education. This investment will ensure that our students, adult learners, and local businesses benefit from world-class teaching and training facilities.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

OUR STUDENTS HAVE GONE ON TO ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS!



AMY

After successfully completing Equine Management at Bicton College, Amy Tilbury Stamate found sturdy work at a local stud yard, caring for thoroughbreds from foals to broodmares and future racehorses. One of Amy's highlights was winning the 2023 British Show Jumping Club Championship with her pony, Basement Jack.



GRACE

Grace Bowen has recently celebrated her 'Passing Out' at Winchester Army Training Barracks in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. Since completing her MaPS qualification, she has gone on to Melton Mowbray and is assigned to the Defence Animal Regiment.



JAMIE-LEE

Since leaving Duchy College with a distinction in 2015, Jamie-Lee Stock has spent 10+ years in the veterinary industry, including three years as a head nurse. She said: "Your qualification can take you anywhere, it's very rewarding and the field is always evolving with new opportunities."



TOM & DECLAN

Ex-MaPS students, Tom and Declan who studied at Duchy Stoke Climsland campus, recently passed their 22 weeks of police training with Devon & Cornwall Police and are through to the next stage of training. Their goal is to serve and protect the local communities in Devon and Cornwall.

Did you study with us?
Scan the QR code
to join our alumni
community



BEN

After lockdown, Ben Morgan-Brown sought a fresh start, leaving the music industry to pursue a lifelong love for nature. Having completed a Land & Wildlife Management qualification, Ben now works as an assistant ranger with East Devon District Council.



YASMIN

With a passion for Outdoor Education, alumna Yasmin Jensen has completed an expedition trip to Morocco, climbed Mount Toubkal, North Africa's highest peak, and qualified as an overseas expedition leader for school groups, including ski-trips and surf therapy courses.

£6,000 RAISED FOR THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Military & Protective Services Academy at Duchy College has raised an impressive £6,056 for the Royal British Legion following the success of its annual Poppy Run challenge held on 11th November.

The event saw students of all abilities taking on the challenge of completing mile loops around the campus, with each participant choosing their own pace and aiming to complete as many laps as possible over a two-hour period, while wearing fancy dress.

“

RAISING MORE THAN £6,000 IS A TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT, AND IT REFLECTS THE COMPASSION AND SUPPORT WITHIN OUR COLLEGE COMMUNITY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE AND HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES.

”

DARREN GRAY
STUDY PROGRAMME MANAGER

“We're incredibly proud of our students' dedication and the commitment they've shown to this cause,” said Darren Gray, study programme manager at Duchy College Stoke Climsland.

“Raising more than £6,000 is a tremendous achievement, and it reflects the compassion and support within our college community for those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces.”

The funds raised will go directly to the Royal British Legion, a charity dedicated to providing lifelong support to veterans, service members and their families.

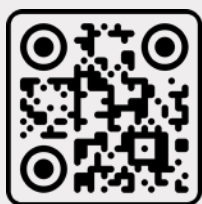
AGRICULTURE

OF THE FUTURE

The Rural Business School (RBS) at Duchy College continues to drive progress in sustainable agriculture and rural enterprise. Its current projects include Agri Carbon Kernow, offering free support to Cornish farmers to reduce carbon emissions and improve water resilience.

Alongside this, projects like Farm Net Zero, Resilient Catchment Communities and Home Farm Natural Capital, focus on climate action, environmental stewardship and community involvement.

RBS also runs the long-standing Challenge of Rural Leadership course, empowering professionals in the rural sector through practical support, education and collaboration. RBS is helping build a stronger, greener future for rural communities.



Scan the QR code to find out more!



PROJECT 50:

COLLEGES IN CORNWALL ARE CALLING ON APPRENTICESHIP AMBASSADORS FOR PROJECT 50

Apprentices and employers in Cornwall are being encouraged to come forward to share their experiences and contribution to the local workforce, through a new Project 50 initiative.

The South West Apprenticeships Ambassador Network is collaborating with Cornwall College, Duchy College, Falmouth Marine School, Truro and Penwith College and the Career Hub on an ambitious campaign designed to harness the 'Power of People' by increasing the number of apprentice and employer ambassadors across the country, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Colleges in Cornwall are calling on apprentices and their employers to become ambassadors, to shine light on the critical role apprenticeships play in developing talent and driving business growth.

At the heart of Project 50 lies a commitment to collaboration.

The aim is to connect with key stakeholders to expand the network, showcase the benefits of apprenticeships and engage with the local community through strategic events.



Scan the QR code to find out more!



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BY EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS



JACOB & IMOGEN

Students Jacob and Imogen won Cornish Mutual Young Farmer Bursaries. Imogen, a former teacher, received £750 to support her Agriculture degree. Jacob, with no farming background, won £500 and plans to gain telehandler and ATV qualifications. Both are pursuing careers in farming, with a focus on skill development.



BRYONY

Bryony from Duchy College Rosewarne took her passion for animal welfare to Madagascar. During her gap year with TSAP Travel, she led a dog rescue project, educated locals on responsible pet ownership, organised beach cleans and taught English. Her team rehomed two puppies and aided many stray dogs.



FELICITY

Felicity, an Environmental Resource Management student, won the 2024 Lantra Environment Learner Award. Gaining experience at Woodland Valley Farm and the Cornwall Beaver Project, she developed key conservation skills. The award honours her dedication to environmental stewardship and commitment to conservation efforts.



RUBY

Ruby, a Level 2 Animal Care student at Duchy College Stoke Climsland, won the first national Saffie's Smile Award for exceptional character and kindness. Surprised at Longleat Safari Park while feeding giraffes, she also received a New York trip. Her bravery, resilience and dedication continue to inspire others.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE COURSE

A NEW COURSE FOR BUILDING SKILLS, CONFIDENCE AND RESILIENCE

Bicton College's new Outdoor Adventure Education course

is unlike any other in the region, encapsulating the unique essence of its stunning 200-hectare countryside campus.

Taught at the College's countryside campus near Budleigh Salterton, the two-year Level 3 Diploma combines physical challenges with skill-building in leadership, communication and teamwork.

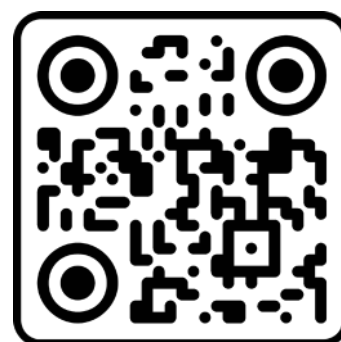
The course, which includes activities such as climbing, paddle sports, navigation and expedition training, is ideally suited for school leavers looking to become

outdoor instructors or pursue careers in the education or uniformed services sectors. It's designed to build confidence and resilience, alongside recognised qualifications that can lead to further study or employment in outdoor education, adventure tourism or the uniformed services.

"We're proud to be expanding our offer with a course that reflects both our unique setting and the interests of local young people," said Darren Evans, Head of Campus at Bicton College. "Following our recent Ofsted Outstanding report, this is a natural next step in our commitment to delivering

education that's grounded in real experience. Our rural location gives students direct access to an outdoor learning environment few colleges can match."

Scan the QR code to see more!



INSTANEWS

BEST STORIES FROM SOCIAL MEDIA



EQUINE WINNERS

Congratulations to our four equine students who proudly represented Bickton College at the NSEA Dressage competition!



2025 LAMMA SHOW

Our Agriculture students got to meet Kaleb from Clarkson's Farm at the 2025 LAMMA Show. What a fantastic opportunity (and a way to make their friends jealous!)



D&C FLORALS

Our Floristry students from our Rosewarne campus celebrated the start of term with a D&C floral arrangement, made from foraged materials from around campus!



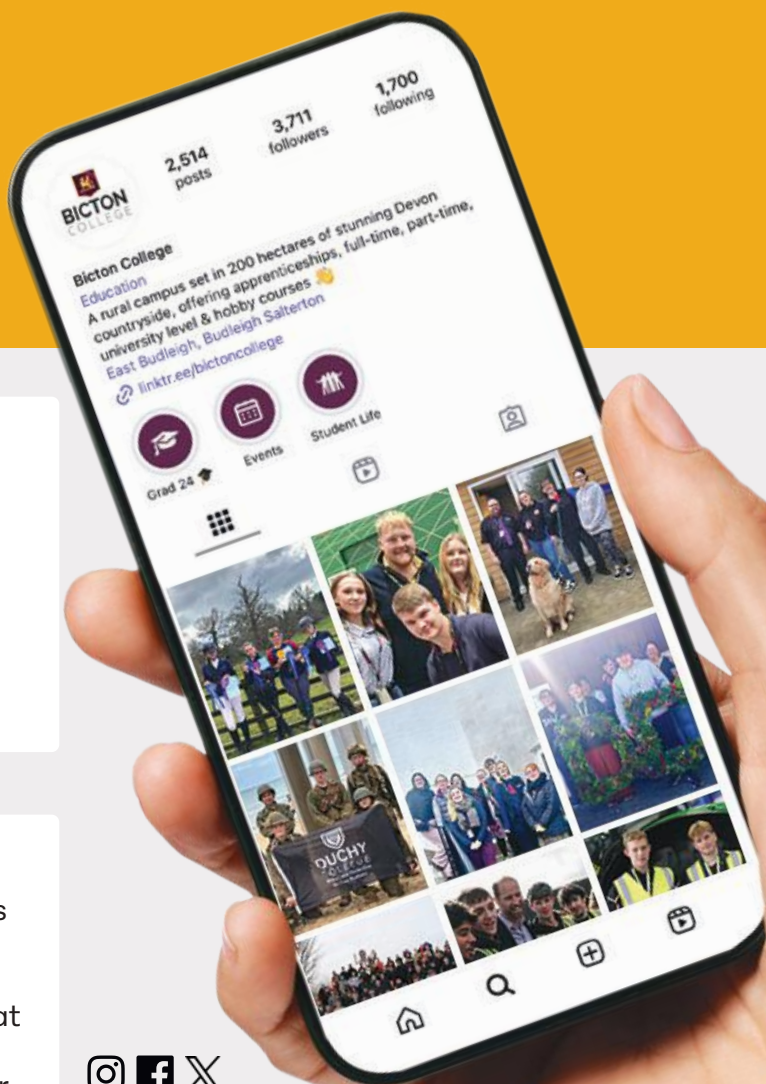
NORMANDY TRIP

Our Military & Protective Services students recently visited Normandy to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.



NEW DOG GROOMING STUDIO

Lindsey, one of our Dog Grooming students, has launched a brand new dog grooming studio **Foxy Angels**.



@DuchyCollege
@BicktonCollege



VETSKILL AWARD

We are the first VetSkill approved centre to deliver the VetSkill VTEC Level 3 Award in Canine First Aid.



FAMILY FUN DAY

STOKE CLIMSLAND

**HEAVY
HORSE
DISPLAY**

**CLIMBING
WALL**

**FACE
PAINTING**

**LIVE
MUSIC**

**VINTAGE
GAMES**

**MEET THE
ANIMALS**

SUN 22 JUNE 10AM - 4PM

**EQUINE SHOWS | URBAN DISPLAY STUNT BIKE SHOW
FUN FAMILY DOG SHOW RUN BY
THE RSPCA CORNWALL BRANCH
LOCAL FOOD & DRINK | PLUS MUCH MORE!**



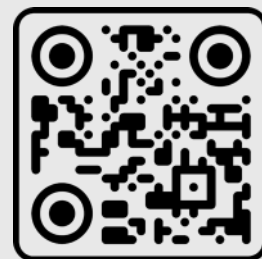
**BOOK YOUR TICKETS ONLINE
SCAN THE QR CODE
OR GO TO: [DUCHY.AC.UK/FAMILY-FUN-DAY](https://Duchy.ac.uk/family-fun-day)**

**ADULT £5
CHILD (5-15) £3
CHILDREN UNDER 5 FREE
FAMILY TICKET – TWO ADULTS AND TWO CHILDREN £15**



BICTON.AC.UK

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TO EXPLORE OUR
OUTSTANDING COURSES**



[DUCHY.AC.UK](https://Duchy.ac.uk)