

ESSENTIAL ADVICE FOR PARENTS ON COURSES & CAREERS



THE CORNWALL COLLEGE GROUP

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We are delighted that your daughter or son is considering us for the next step of their journey.

Coming to college offers many opportunities and it also marks the start of a more independent life in an adult environment. As one of the largest colleges in the UK, The Cornwall College Group offers an unprecedented choice of study options after GCSEs. More than ever before, there is something for everybody at one of our nine campuses across the South West. This guide has been designed to help you guide your daughter/son through the decision-making process and find the path that best suits their individual strengths, as well as provide useful information for you should they join one of our colleges. With regular group Personal and Professional Development (PPD) sessions, one-to-one reviews, employability skills and work experience for all of our study programme students (full-time programmes for 16-18 year olds), you can be assured that we put your daughter/son's learning experience at the forefront of everything we do.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any concerns or questions.

We want the transition from school to college to be as smooth and successful as possible and we welcome your participation in this.



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Raising Participation Age, what does it mean?

Young people are now required to remain in learning or training up to the age of 18. By staying in learning your daughter/son can gain the qualifications that they need to help them succeed. They will also have more chance to develop the knowledge and practical skills that employers are looking for.

Choices at 16 are:

- Stay in full-time or part-time education, either at college or school sixth form
- An apprenticeship, where they earn while they learn
- Employment with a company that offers substantial training

Exploring qualifications

The qualifications available are varied, we offer extended diplomas, technical baccalaureates, vocational training certificates such as City & Guilds and NVQs and a host of professional and trade qualifications.

GCSEs are benchmarked at Level 2, so on the whole courses available immediately after school are Level 2 or 3 upon completion of GCSEs, dependent on grade profile. Please see the next page for a full explanation of post-school education.



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Choosing the right course at the right level



The application process

School may require your daughter/son to complete a 16+ application, this will normally happen in the Spring term of year 11. We work with partner schools to process these applications, but if your daughter/son changes their mind once the application has been submitted, it can be amended throughout the year, just contact us.

If the school does not require your daughter/son to complete this process, applications can also be made direct to us either via the website or application form printed in the back of our prospectus at any time. Applications can be taken for additional courses throughout the year up until mid-September when most courses will have started.

1

APPLY FOR COURSES
anytime throughout the year, it's ok to change your mind.

2

YOU'LL GET A PERSONAL ADVISOR
who will talk you through the process and answer questions.

3

WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR INTERVIEW DATE
to meet the tutors and see where you'll be studying.

4

YOU'LL RECEIVE AN OFFER
for the right course for you (this may be based on you gaining certain GCSE grades).

5

ACCEPT YOUR OFFER
as soon as possible and reserve your place (you can still change your mind).

6

APPLY FOR TRANSPORT TO COLLEGE
before the end of July (it may be free); our team can help with this.

7

CALL US AND LET US KNOW
your results on GCSE results day.

8

WE'LL CONFIRM YOUR PLACE
on the course and send you all the information you need for the start of term.



“ College taught me the key elements of good customer service and industry knowledge. ”

EMMA MORGAN
Customer Services Agent - Princess Cruises



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What to expect when your daughter/son is studying with us

Your daughter/son will be supported throughout their learning journey with us by our Personal Learning Advisors and support teams who will also act as your first point of contact for any concerns/queries you may have, or if you need to make us aware of how best to support them at college.

Students are more likely to excel in their learning, personal and career development if a sound partnership exists between them, their tutors and their parents/carers.

While we aim to treat our learners as young adults, effective two-way communication with parents and carers is also important. We will be in contact with you via our Student Progress Reports (Autumn and Spring terms) and if we have any current concerns about your daughter/son while they are with us. We welcome your active involvement in helping them make the most of their learning through:

- safeguarding themselves and others in our college site communities
- adhering to our College Values, Code of Conduct, health and safety and safeguarding procedures

- attendance at all timetabled sessions throughout their programme of study (including English, maths (if required), tutorial sessions including PPD and work experience/employability sessions)
- meeting of assignment and assessment deadlines
- active participation in all classes and work experience

Our team will provide encouragement and support to raise your daughter/son's aspirations and boost their self-confidence to achieve these.

On a more practical note, with September being a very busy time, we would encourage you to organise the ordering of bus passes and completion of applications for College Bursary Funds by the end of July, in order to have these in place ready for the beginning of term.

Staff from our Student Services teams on each site will be working throughout the summer to respond to any queries you may have.



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Considering an apprenticeship?

Your daughter/son is in safe hands, we have helped over 10,000 people into apprenticeships in the last 10 years and are the number one provider in the South West, with over 40 career routes to choose from.

An apprenticeship is open to anyone over the age of 16 and with rising university fees, it's becoming an increasingly popular option, as apprenticeships are now offering routes to degree-level qualifications, as well as higher and degree apprenticeships. For the learner, apprenticeships are completely free of charge, though your daughter/son may need to invest in specific clothing for certain trades.

It is the perfect option that allows your daughter/son to earn (starting from approximately £100 a week) while receiving on and off the job training. As well as being paid, gaining nationally recognised qualifications with the full support of the College and employer.

We have a recruitment service that is dedicated to working with your daughter/son to find an employer to take them on as an apprentice, usually we have more than 100 vacancies with employers available at any given time. We can also coach them on interview and CV writing techniques to give them the very best opportunity to start on the career of their dreams.



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“ The facilities at Cornwall College are fantastically well equipped and a good environment for students to learn in. ”

TOM BROWN
Owner of Cornerstone, Hackney Wick, winner of London's Restaurant of the Year at the AA Hospitality Awards 2019.



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Apprenticeship FAQs

Will my daughter/son have any support during their apprenticeship?

Yes every apprentice has their own college advisor, who will liaise with the employer over an induction, ensure the workplace complies with all health and safety legislation, work with the relevant college department to organise their qualifications training schedule and enrolment and drop in on them at the workplace every few months to ensure everything is going well.

How many hours a week do apprentices have to work?

Apprentices will be expected to work for a minimum of 30 hours a week, which includes time spent at college. This may be different for certain apprenticeships that offer block college training.

How much can an apprentice earn?

Your daughter/son can earn a starting salary of £3.90 per hour*.

*Minimum apprenticeship salary as of 01-Apr-19. This is reviewed annually.

Is there an upper age limit for apprenticeships?

No, there is no upper age limit. However apprentices aged 19+ will have to have an employer who is willing to contribute financially to the cost of the training.

How long does an apprenticeship take?

The length of an apprenticeship varies depending on your daughter/son's prior skill levels, experience, the qualification being obtained and the industry sector. Generally, the apprenticeships that are offered by The Cornwall College Group take between one and four years to complete.

What time of year can you start an apprenticeship?

Your daughter/son can apply at any time of the year. When they begin the work-based training depends on the availability of a position within the business.

Talk to our recruitment team to find out more

0330 123 4785

apprenticeships@cornwall.ac.uk

www.cornwall.ac.uk/apprenticeships



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Where to go for more information

Our website is your first stop for details on a wide range of topics to help you and your daughter/son make that move from school to college as easy as possible. The Supporting Your Studies section details all of the information you need for:

- transport (costs and routes)
- finance (bursaries, loans and grants)
- additional learning support
- college calendar
- accommodation
- careers advice and planning

Alternatively contact us at any time throughout the year and talk to an advisor about your specific needs on 0330 123 2523 or email enquiries@cornwall.ac.uk

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOUR CHILD IS CONSIDERING US FOR THE NEXT STEP OF THEIR JOURNEY. COMING TO COLLEGE AT 16+ OFFERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES AND IT ALSO MARKS THE START OF A MORE INDEPENDENT LIFE IN AN ADULT ENVIRONMENT.

As one of the largest colleges in the UK, we offer you an unprecedented choice of study options after GCSEs. A range of vocational skills training, apprenticeships, national diplomas and technical qualifications. More than ever before, there is something for everybody at one of our nine campuses across the South West.

Student Support Areas

FINANCIAL SUPPORT		
YOUR STUDY AND OUR FACILITIES EXPLAINED		
COLLEGE TOURS AND HOW TO APPLY		
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS	STUDENT UNION	
ACCOMMODATION	TRANSPORT	SUPPORTING YOU
SUPPORTING YOUR LEARNING		

Page Navigation

BEYOND OUR FRONTIERS	ENGLISH AT 16	GRANTS AND FINANCE
COLLEGE PLACES	BIG WEEKS	ATTENDANCE
PERSONAL SUPPORT	CODE OF CONDUCT	STUDENT PORTAL
SAFETY PROTECTION	CAREERS INFORMATION	EMPLOYABILITY
EQUALITY DIVERSITY	EVOLVE AND IMPROVEMENT	OPPORTUNITIES

Search:

