



## Cambian Pengwern College

*Specialist Further Education College*

- Mixed Gender • 16-25 Years
- Up to 52 Weeks Residential • Day Placements



## Welcome

Welcome to Cambian Pengwern College, an inclusive and vibrant learning community for young people aged 16 to 25 years old with a learning disability and complex needs.

It is a privilege for me to lead our wonderful college here in North Wales, where young people from England and Wales benefit from the space and calm of the countryside as well as the excellent road and rail links to town and cities.

As an independent specialist college for more than 40 years, we recognise the challenges that young people and their families face as life starts to look different through adolescence and into adulthood. We are absolutely clear that it is our job to support these challenges so that our young people leave us with the skills and confidence to live their adult lives in their adult world, with choice and control. This proves to be highly effective working alongside ensuring their

ongoing support needs are known and understood.

We have an excellent track record of enabling young people to gain the experience they need to live more independently and achieve their personal best, whatever that looks like. We are committed to person-centred learning programmes that are supported by a range of therapies, fantastic on-site facilities and off-site partnerships. Our highly skilled multidisciplinary support staff and tutors enable an excellent personal, social and vocational experience.

We have many events throughout the year and always an open door so please do come and see us – we look forward to meeting you.

*Karen Ford*

Karen Ford  
Interim Principal

Sarn Lane,  
Ruddlan,  
Denbighshire,  
LL18 5UH

01745 592300

# Overview



## Enabling Young People to Lead Active Lives

Cambian Pengwern College is an independent provider of specialist further education in North Wales, offering day, and up to 52-week residential placements for young people aged 16 to 25 with a learning disability and complex needs.

The college is registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, (CSSIW) and Estyn who undertake regular and rigorous inspections in addition to our own internal quality assurance processes.

Our person-centred approach ensures that students have an individualised learning programme developed to effectively match their needs, personal decisions and aspirations, be the focus on daily living skills, vocational qualifications or independent living.\*

We are proud that all of our students gain important life skills and achieve meaningful qualifications, evidencing our commitment to enabling increased choice and independence.

## Typical Student Presentation

- Moderate to Severe Learning Disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- PMLD
- Down's Syndrome
- Developmental Disorders
- Communication Difficulties
- Challenging Behaviour
- A Broad Range of Complex Needs Including Medical Needs
- Medical Needs (experts in PEG feeding)



\*Learning programs are determined by individual assessment of needs.



# Referral Route and Pathways



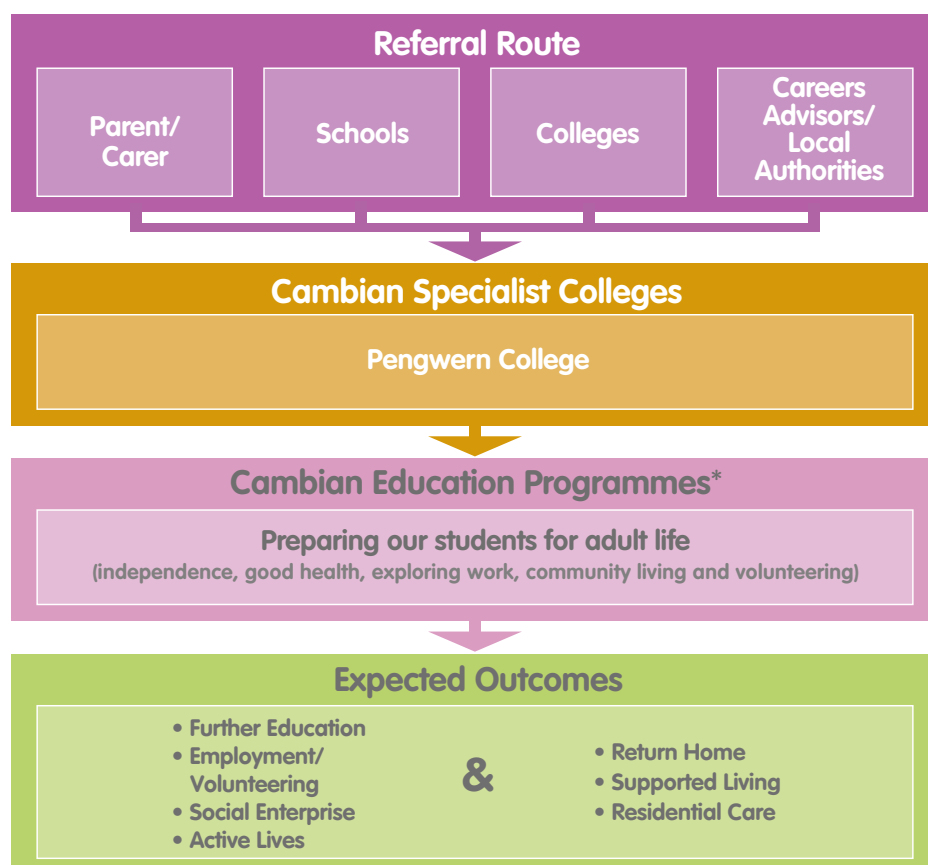
## Preparing our students for adult life

Students follow either Personal Progress route (PP) or Skills for Work and Life.

All routes\* include the key features of 16+ study programmes, enabling students to develop their functional, vocational and personal skills and experience community living.

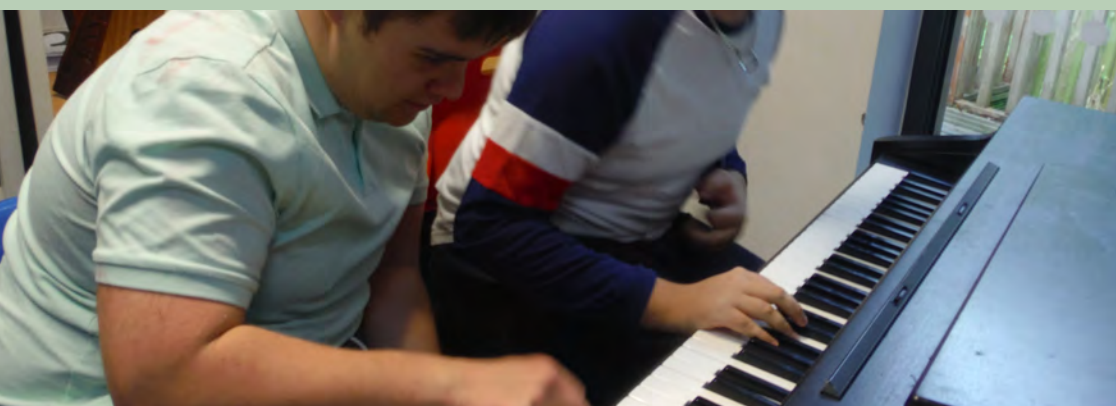
We have established strong links with local organisations and employers that support the college by providing community based learning, leisure, volunteering, social enterprise and work experience opportunities.

## Referral route, education programmes and expected outcomes



\*Determined by individual assessments of need.

# Helping Achieve a Personal Best



## Cambian Pengwern College offers various opportunities for external accreditation through the Qualifications and Credits Framework (QCF).

We provide flexible routes to full qualifications and offer units of study from pre-entry to entry level 3, leading to awards, certificates and diplomas. Our programmes of study allows the student to develop skills in a number of areas; it gives greater choice and more flexibility allowing it to be bespoke to the individual needs of the student.

Self-esteem is essential to young people progressing into adulthood encouraging a passion for learning and broadening their horizons. By offering the opportunity to undertake nationally recognised vocational qualifications, we help young people gain confidence and to lead socially active and engaged lives.

We also offer options to improve literacy, numeracy and/or communication skills, such as the use of Makaton, communication in print, Grid player and Proloquo2go, with additional opportunities for work experience.

The core curriculum is complemented by a range of enrichment activities that enable students to develop new friendships and interests. They can choose from a variety of activities including:

- ✓ Arts and crafts
- ✓ Bowling
- ✓ Cycling
- ✓ Dance
- ✓ Football
- ✓ Gym
- ✓ Keep fit
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Photography
- ✓ Swimming
- ✓ Hydrotherapy

## Vocational and practical learning opportunities at Cambian Pengwern College:

- ✓ Hospitality and Catering
- ✓ Retail
- ✓ Horticulture
- ✓ Conservation
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Art, Craft & Design
- ✓ Information Technology
- ✓ Essential Skills
- ✓ Community Sports
- ✓ Animal Care
- ✓ Pottery
- ✓ Digital Skills
- ✓ Duke of Edinburgh

# Volunteering and Work Placements



Every student has the opportunity to undertake internal or external work placements as part of their individualised learning programme

Work experience opportunities and individual long-term goals are discussed with each learner and work placements arranged to meet their specific needs.

Students attend weekly work experience throughout the academic year; with targets agreed and reviewed regularly during the placement to support progress. Learning focuses on the development of practical and vocational skills that can be implemented in the wider community. Areas of work include but are not limited to animal care, catering, hospitality, beauty and gardening. Such activities and placements have proven very effective in increasing young people's confidence in life after college.

**Cambian Pengwern College offers work experience opportunities with more than 40 local and national companies and organisations including:**

- ✓ The National Trust
- ✓ The Co-operative Group
- ✓ Pizza Hut
- ✓ Warner Hotels
- ✓ Farms
- ✓ Kennels
- ✓ Beauty Salons
- ✓ Marks and Spencers
- ✓ Cafes





# Developing Skills and Interests



An important part of helping our learners to achieve their personal best is encouraging them to develop interests and participate in a variety of activities in different environments.

## Students Voice

Students are encouraged and supported to express their views on the things that are important to them about life in college. Their input shapes the curriculum, staff recruitment, opportunities for personal development and the support they receive.

This is achieved through student tutorials comprising of 1:1 meetings to discuss anything related to college life, on and off-site advocacy services and the Principal's Open Door policy.

## Students Council

The Council consists of elected learners who are chosen to represent the views of all students.

The representatives meet regularly to initiate projects and develop new ideas.

They solve problems, influence and make changes while acting in the best interests of all learners. And ensure that learner views are listened to and respected at all times.

Annually they are involved in promoting and organising learner events such as the May Fayre, the Summer Ball and fund raising for local charities.

**"I love being on the student Council, I really like helping people and getting things done!"**

Tom, Learner and member of the student council

**Student Council are involved in organising events such as:**

- ✓ Summer Ball
- ✓ ROA
- ✓ Christmas Disco
- ✓ Fund Raising Events

# Our Specialist Interventions

Understanding our students' individual behaviour and how they see the world is essential to support their development. We have developed a strong ethos of using positive and creative strategies and approaches that benefit the young people in our care.

By providing a wide range of specialist interventions, tailored approaches and pro-active options for learners, we ensure that all the young people in our care have the chance to engage positively with staff and their peers. Whilst with us, we encourage learners to develop and pursue their interests and provide them with the support they need to consistently achieve their personal best.

A range of multidisciplinary therapies are delivered by our highly skilled and passionate team, who work together to create a holistic care environment.

## Our Specialist Team consists of:

- ✓ Learning Tutors
- ✓ Speech and Language Therapy
- ✓ Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Key Workers
- ✓ Clinical Psychologist
- ✓ Behaviour Practice Lead
- ✓ Educational Psychologist

## A Total Communication Environment

Cambian Pengwern College provides a total communication environment that enables all students to reach their potential, both in expressing themselves and understanding others.

The college creates a supportive and effective communication environment, valuing all means of communication equally.

There is strong emphasis on the use of visual information to promote learner choice, control and autonomy. The provision of accessible information throughout the college, such as pictorial timetables and visual time lines facilitates learners' independence across the curriculum.

## This team supports the delivery of:

- ✓ Person-centred Behaviour Support Plans
- ✓ Coping with Anxiety
- ✓ Social Engagement and Inclusion
- ✓ Improved Personal Communication and Interaction
- ✓ Clinical Psychologist
- ✓ Behaviour Practice Lead
- ✓ Developing Life Skills
- ✓ Increased Emotional Well-being
- ✓ Staying Safe and Healthy
- ✓ Developing and Maintaining Personal Relationships
- ✓ Preparing for Adulthood

## Sensory Room

Our sensory room is a therapeutic environment that offers learners a controlled and quiet space away from the bustle of college life: a place where they can fully relax and increase or decrease their sensory experience as they require.

It is a calming environment which utilises interactive lighting, bubble tubes, soft seating, mirrors, weighted blankets, rollers and balls to develop body awareness and balance.

Our multi-disciplinary team use the sensory room to teach learners calming techniques and how to use them in different environments.

# Our Environment



## A Home Away from Home

We understand that residential colleges can never replace home but we make every effort to create a welcoming, family environment where students feel safe and comfortable.

Pengwern College is set in 23 acres of beautiful North Wales countryside near the historic village of Rhuddlan, close to the popular resort towns of Prestatyn and Llandudno. The college benefits from good rail / bus links and road networks.

Our accommodation provides the necessary step between leaving home and community living that most young adults take during their transition to adulthood.

Learners can live on campus and as their confidence grows they can progress to our off-site community accommodation. We encourage learners to personalise their bedrooms with posters and photos and take responsibility for keeping their rooms tidy.

Residential students work towards practical living skills, healthy living, personal finance, improving manner and conduct, personal safety awareness, accessing local facilities, effective communication and working as part of a team.

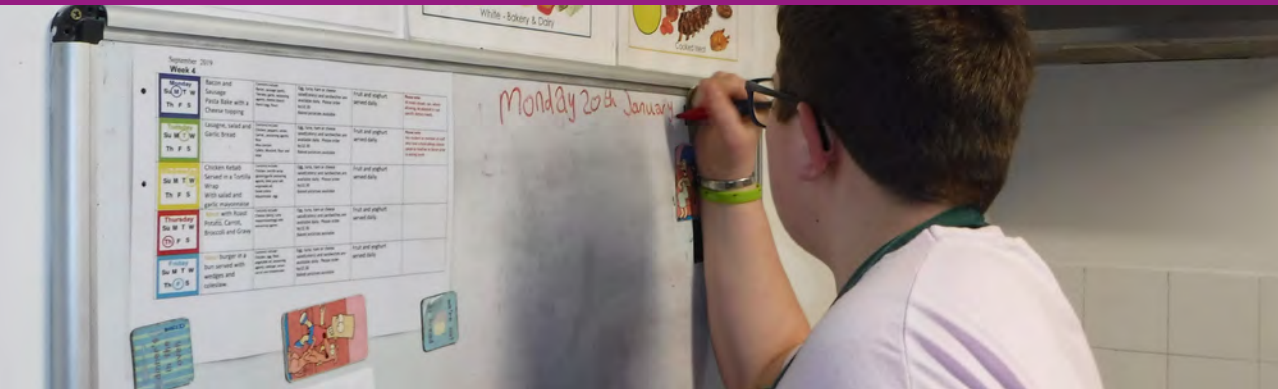
### Other on-site facilities include:

- ✓ ICT Suites
- ✓ Catering
- ✓ Farm Park, Animal Care Centre
- ✓ Campus Shop
- ✓ Classrooms for communication, literacy and numeracy
- ✓ Greenhouses and Poly-tunnels
- ✓ Conservation Woodlands
- ✓ Workshops for Art, Pottery and Woodwork
- ✓ Outdoor Classroom and Teaching Space





# Living Well



## Health and Well-being

Students are encouraged and supported to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles, with a focus on positive social and emotional well-being.

Students take an active role in planning the weekly menu for their accommodations. Strong emphasis is placed on giving learners the knowledge and support to make food choices which contribute to a healthy diet. Shopping for food is an integral part of the practical life skills curriculum that gives learners the opportunity to learn about food labeling and to select healthy options when out in the community.

Our catering team also provides balanced healthy meals and snacks, served from the college canteen.

Our health care team play a key role in making sure learners health needs are supported. Students have access to GP's, Dentist and Opticians

Our Living Well Approach Aims to:

- ✓ Promote healthy eating and lifestyles
- ✓ Increase health and well-being awareness

## Faith and Worship

At Cambian Pengwern College we understand how important it is that learners are supported to participate in worship according to their beliefs. There are a variety of places of worship in the local communities near to the college.

# Community Partnerships



We have established excellent links with local organisations for leisure and recreation activities including:

- ✓ Cineworld
- ✓ Theatre Clwyd
- ✓ Venue Cymru
- ✓ Penrhyn Castle
- ✓ Bodnant Gardens
- ✓ Welsh Mountain Zoo
- ✓ RSPB Conwy
- ✓ North Wales Golf course and driving range
- ✓ Kinmel Manor Hotel
- ✓ Faenol Fawr
- ✓ Local Leisure Centres
- ✓ Outdoor Pursuits





# Transition



At Cambian Pengwern College, transition is central to the programme of study and planned from the moment learners' start with us. The Transition Coordinator works very closely with learners in their final year to ensure that their needs are met and that they are ready and prepared for their next step.

The transition process is supported by a 'circle of support' that includes the learner, their family and friends and professionals. Working together with all parties we:

- ✓ Facilitate visits to the proposed 'home' area to acquire local knowledge
- ✓ Replicate future support levels and expectations for community living
- ✓ Develop a range of opportunities for 'taster' activities
- Facilitate transition events providing information on day and residential services available
- ✓ Work with families, external stakeholders and new providers towards an effective and seamless transition
- ✓ Facilitate transition events providing information on day and residential services available

## Transition Process:

- ✓ Become familiar with their home counties and future placements
- ✓ Become active citizens by supporting the development of future care plans
- ✓ Start seamlessly with new providers by providing detailed information for assessment and planning

## Lucy's Story

Lucy started at Cambian Pengwern College in 2017, she had previously started at another provision which unfortunately didn't work out resulting in a placement breakdown. She then came to visit Pengwern College with her family and moved in a few months later.

Lucy had a diagnosis of severe learning disability and displayed some negative behaviour around some of her peers. Due to her previous placement breakdown, it was an uncertain time for Lucy and her behavioural problems created a challenging time for those involved. However with the commitment from staff, her fully co-operative parents and the support of a multidisciplinary team things began to improve.

Lucy was reluctant to engage with others in the early days of being at the college. At times she found it difficult to listen to instructions and would often wander off from a task, she was prone to not paying attention, struggled to inform staff where she was going and would take herself away from the group and essentially hide from staff.

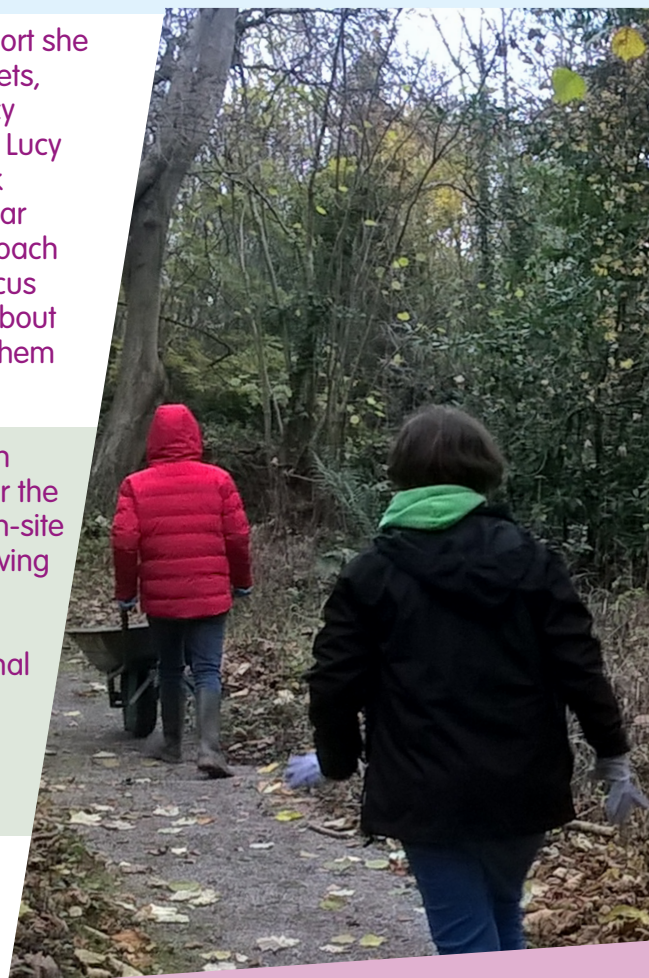
Lucy was supported with 1:1 Education and Care, and with this support she began to thrive and make great progress. Through working on targets, creating person-centred activities and alongside staff familiarity, Lucy demonstrated that she was able to listen and carry out instructions. Lucy particularly enjoyed the horticultural facilities at the college and took ownership of specific roles in the horticultural area, becoming familiar with her responsibilities. Lucy has benefitted from a consistent approach from her staff and reaped the rewards. She also became able to focus for extended periods, was more willing to communicate with staff about where she was going rather than wandering off without informing them as she had done originally.

Lucy was able to take part in work experience off site with support in two different settings gaining confidence and valuable work skills for the future. Further to this, she was able to successfully transition from on-site residential accommodation to offsite community accommodation, living with other girls preparing her for life after college.

Lucy received support from the Speech & Language and Occupational Therapy team encouraging her through one to one and group sessions which allowed her to become comfortable using her emerging conventional speech as well as using her Makaton to further support her communication.

Lucy has developed her confidence in using Makaton as part of her everyday communication to ensure she was able to make herself clearly understood. Lucy is much more social with her staff and peers in and around the college grounds, often initiating conversation with both new and familiar staff. She is much more confident when interacting with others now, always smiling and happy to converse.

Lucy has now successfully completed her qualification at the college and has just transitioned into supported accommodation back in her local area and we are delighted for her.



**"Throughout her time at Pengwern, Lucy has been so happy and we will be forever grateful for this life changing opportunity"**

\*Name has been changed to protect identity. Photo for illustrative purposes only.



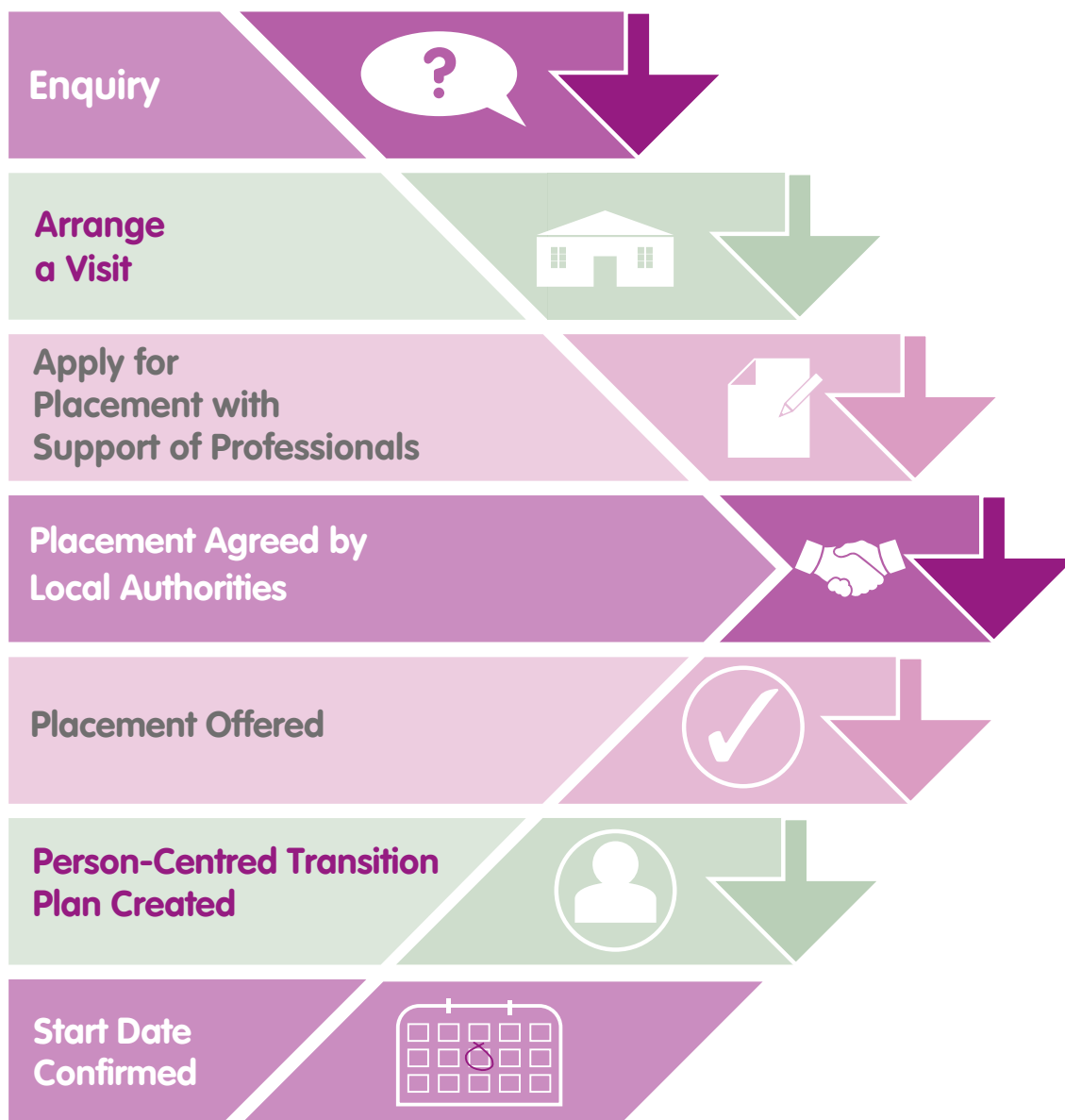
# Enrolment Process



For Any Enquiries Please Call **01434 632692**

Following an enquiry, the Placements Team will arrange for you to visit the college. Prospective students are invited for an extended visit, which includes an overnight stay for potential residential students. Following a successful extended visit a placement offer would be made in writing.

Enrolment can take place at any time during the year, and once a student referral is made our dedicated transitions team provide a fast and free person-centred Transition Plan.



# Additional Information



## Complaints Procedures

We know there will be times when students, carers, parents or placing authorities will want to give us feedback about our College and we will always be happy to hear from you. If you feel that you would like to make a suggestion, let us know about something you were pleased with or tell us we did not meet your expectations, please contact the School via the contact details at the front of this prospectus.

A complaints procedure allows for both formal and informal complaints. Informal complaints will be dealt with quickly, while formal complaints can be made in writing.

Our full complaints policy is available from the College on request. This policy is designed to help you raise concerns and ensures your complaint will be listened to and dealt with fairly.

Should you wish to take your complaint further or feel you are unable to discuss the details with the College, please contact the director of education detailed below, especially if your complaint relates to the College leadership.

## The Proprietor

The proprietor of the College is Farouq Sheikh, Chair of the CareTech Board. The representative of the Proprietor of the college, whose address for correspondence during both term times and holidays, is:

Andrew Sutherland,  
Managing Director Education,  
Metropolitan House,  
3 Darkes Lane,  
Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 1AG.

The telephone number on which the representative of the proprietor may be contacted is 07701314378.