

# Cambian Pengwern College

Specialist Further Education College

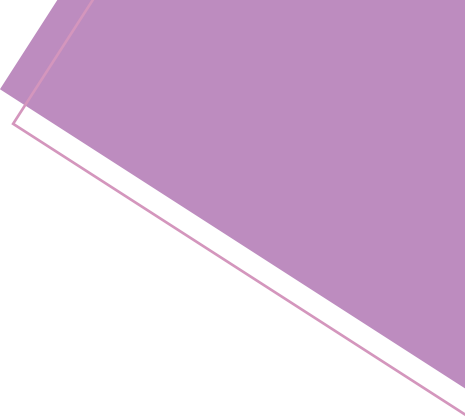
- Mixed Gender • 16-25 Years
- Up to 52 Weeks Residential • Day Placements



Sarn Lane, Rhuddlan,  
Denbighshire, LL18 5UH

01745 592300

[www.cambiangroup.com](http://www.cambiangroup.com)



“The care and support provided to young people is excellent. We observed young people receiving care and support from care staff in a manner that was both compassionate and respectful. Care staff have developed trusting relationships with young people, and provide person-centred care that promotes well-being, safety, and positive outcomes.”

- CIW Inspection Report  
October 2025



## 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.

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  
Principal







## 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 Inspectorate Wales, (CIW) 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 some medical needs, (for example, PEG feeding)



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

# Vision and Mission

## Where personalised education meets limitless possibilities.

Pengwern College is a specialist provider that provides high-quality, diverse education and care. We take a creative, personalised approach to learning, catering to each student's unique needs, motivations, and learning style. Our relaxed, caring atmosphere facilitates learning through a range of settings, including horticulture, art, and music, enabling students to thrive and become more independent.

## Inspiring growth through creativity and care.

Therapy is fully integrated into the learning process, maximizing opportunities for students to develop communication and independence skills. We are passionate about the young people who attend our college, and we are patient in promoting their development.

## Learning that nurtures independence and potential.

### Vision

At Pengwern College, our vision is to empower every student to thrive through a creative, personalised approach to learning. We provide high-quality education and care in a relaxed, supportive environment that nurtures independence and enhances communication. By integrating therapy into the learning process and offering rich experiences in catering and hospitality, pottery, horticulture, animal care, art, and music, we aim to unlock each student's potential and inspire lifelong growth and independence.

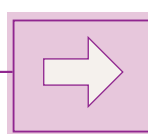
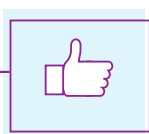
### Mission

At Pengwern College, our mission is to deliver exceptional, personalised education and care that empowers young people to reach their full potential. We create a nurturing environment where creativity, therapy, and diverse learning experiences; such as catering and hospitality, pottery, horticulture, animal care, art, and music, are integrated to foster independence, communication, and lifelong growth. Our commitment is to support every learner with patience, passion, and purpose.

## Pengwern Promise



## Your Journey, Our Promise



#### Promising Students

- Be kind
- Work hard
- Try our best
- Respect each other
- Have a go



#### Promising Staff

- Team work and team players
- Be supportive
- Be good role models
- Listen and take notice
- Empathy
- Well Being



#### Promise to do our Best

- Have fun
- Inspire
- Feel safe
- Take pride
- Celebrate achievements
- Learn from challenges and mistakes



#### Promising Futures

- Reach your full potential
- Supportive transitions
- Building confidence
- Opportunities



#### Promising Learning

- Creative
- Purposeful
- Challenging
- Person Centred







# Referral Route and Pathways

## Preparing our students for adult life

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

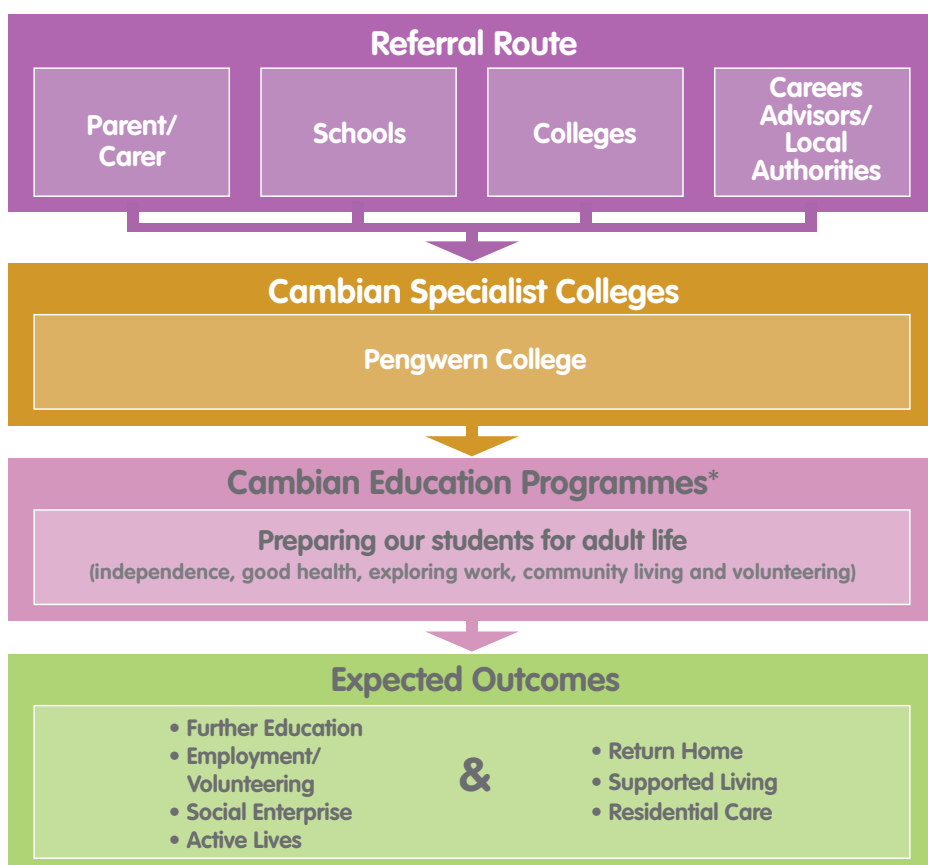
All routes\* include the key features of 16+ study programmes, enabling students to develop their functional, vocational and personal skills and experience community living.

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.

**"Pengwern College is a happy and welcoming community. Most learners engage positively with their learning. They listen to staff, follow instructions well and work with increasing independence"**

– Estyn Annual Monitoring Inspection Report 2024

## 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
- Football
- Music
- Swimming
- Hydrotherapy
- Home cooking
- Digital Skills
- Pony Care
- Sewing
- Grow your own
- Forest Craft
- Food and drink service

**"The training matrix demonstrates care staff have received targeted and bespoke training in the complex needs, behaviours, and conditions of young people they support. This ensures care staff are equipped with both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required to understand individual behaviours and respond safely and effectively."**

– CIW Inspection Report  
October 2025

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

- ✓ Hospitality and Catering
- ✓ Retail
- ✓ Horticulture
- ✓ Conservation
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Art and Pottery
- ✓ Essential Skills
- ✓ Sports
- ✓ Animal Care
- ✓ 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 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
- ✓ Florists
- ✓ Charity Shop
- ✓ Warner Hotels
- ✓ Farms
- ✓ Kennels
- ✓ 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. They ensure that learner views are listened to and respected at all times.

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

**"Young people are supported to express their views and opinions through a variety of individualised communication methods, including Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), Makaton, and their own spoken language. This inclusive approach ensures each young person is heard and understood in a way that suits their individual needs. The effectiveness of this is further enriched by the diversity of the care staff team, who bring a wide range of cultural perspectives and languages."**

– CIW Inspection Report  
October 2025

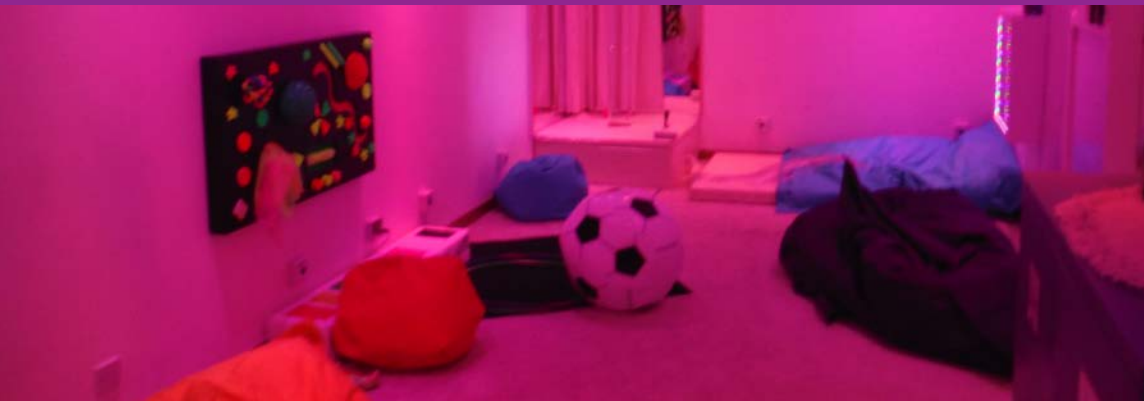
Student Council are involved in organising events such as:

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

**"The Student Council gives us the opportunity to get involved with a variety of different activities inside and outside the college. I love being able to promote the views of my fellow peers at college"**

– Vice President of  
the Student Council

# 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.

## 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.

## Sensory Room

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

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 Specialist Team consists of:

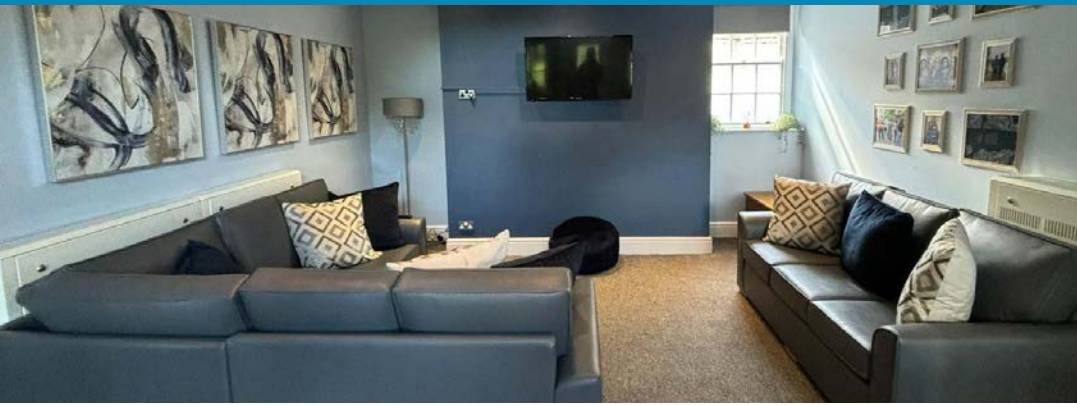
- ✓ Speech and Language Therapy
- ✓ Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Key Workers
- ✓ Behaviour Practice Lead

### This team supports the delivery of:

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



# 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 29 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
- ✓ Library
- ✓ The Integrated Learning Space (ILS) Area
- ✓ Farm Park, Animal Care Centre
- ✓ Campus Shop
- ✓ Classrooms for communication, literacy and numeracy
- ✓ Greenhouses and Poly-tunnels
- ✓ Conservation Woodlands
- ✓ Workshops for Art and Pottery
- ✓ Outdoor Classroom and Teaching Space

### 'A parent shared...

**"Pengwern College care staff are amazing, our child is thriving... it's the perfect place for him."**

**This reflects high family satisfaction and trust in the nurturing care provided.'**

- CIW Inspection Report  
October 2025



# 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 provide balanced healthy meals and snacks, served from the college canteen.

Our clinical team, consisting of nurse, OT and SaLT work together playing a key role in making sure learners health needs are supported as well as meeting their therapeutic needs, supporting communication and holistic wellbeing.

### 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
- C and T Café
- Rhyl Rugby Club
- North Clwyd Animal Rescue
- St Margaret's Church Bodelwyddan
- Outdoor Pursuits
- STAND
- The Marine Conservation Society





# 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 the availability of day and residential services
- ✓ Work with families, external stakeholders and new providers towards an effective and seamless transition

## Transition Process For Learners:

- ✓ 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



# PENGWERN COLLEGE

## Outcomes 2025

### City and Guilds

3 x Certification in Skills for Working Life - Entry Level 3

7 x Certification in Personal Progress - Pass

2 x Diploma in Personal Progress - Pass

### WJEC

1 x Essential Skills - Entry Level 2

2 x Essential Skills - Entry Level 1

### Duke of Edinburgh Awards

2 x Silver

13 x Bronze

### Suite of Agored Units

3 x Pre Entry

### Work Experience

**We are really proud of our students who completed a variety of work experience placements this year:**

- Four students took on roles in the college shop, helping to serve staff and fellow students while gaining practical retail experience
- Four of our students worked in the resources department, creating materials to be used across the site.
- Two of our students developed practical skills in both the college café and an off-site café, serving customers and preparing food. Another two students focused on making paninis for staff and students in the college café.
- Two of our students gained experience in the college pot wash, preparing the trolley for tea breaks and handling washing-up duties.
- Seven students gained hands-on experience in the college and local gardens, growing vegetables and developing valuable gardening skills.
- Two of our students worked on maintaining and building bikes, preparing them for use during break times.
- Two students worked on waste and recycling, collecting and managing materials both on-site and off-site.
- One student worked on flower arranging, creating a beautiful arrangement for the college.
- Three students worked with TAPE a local studio, producing media projects such as short films and animations.
- Three of our students worked at the college farm park, caring for the animals and learning practical animal-handling skills.
- One student worked alongside the IT officer to maintain the college IT equipment.
- Two of our students worked at NCAR Animal Rescue gaining hands-on experience.

### The Wow Board

**Our Wow board celebrates our student's incidental learning, which are achievements that may not usually be recognised. We like to call these "magic moments."**

- In his first few weeks in college, Lewis had struggled to integrate with his peers. However, over the last few days, he has really made the effort and has been friendly and kind to his peers. Well done Lewis.
- In the previous year Harry had really struggled to attend his sessions. This term he has attended many sessions and really joined in!
- Molly had previously been unsure about her D of E sessions and was reluctant to join in. In the last few weeks, she has really made the effort to join in and has even encouraged her peers to be brave and join in too! Well done.
- So far Huw hasn't really initiated any conversation with his peers. However, when his pottery session had finished, he thought another student was about to walk down to the main hall. Huw said- 'wait you can walk down with me', this is great to see, well done.
- Halle had been struggling to attend her sessions last year. But this term she's been attending regularly joining in with activities and tasks. Brilliant progress well done.
- In tutorials J had said that he wasn't going to go to his work experience in the tuck shop. He was brave and tried the session and really enjoyed it. Well done for trying something new.
- Although he was attending sessions, Alex had struggled to join in and stay in his sessions. Recently in a pottery session he was asked to identify three different colours. Using a real object of reference, he was able to verbally do so. Alex also attempted to copy the signing too.
- Jayden has had some great engagement recently. He has joined in some sessions really well and even completed part of his accreditation workbooks. He had really struggled to positively engage in sessions but has really worked hard on this with his staff and has made some great progress. Well done!
- Rachel, feeling hungry and being an independent young lady, signed toast to her staff and made her way to the kitchen. She made toast in a safe and independent manner, with just some verbal prompts. Great engagement and independence Rachel, good work.
- Sam has struggled to initiate and hold conversation with his peers, usually directing conversation and questions to his staff. However, recently in a pottery session, Sam and another learner worked on creating a personalised cup poster. The two friends got on with their work independently. They worked together for over an hour without any staff prompts or instructions, chatting and sharing ideas, helping each other to produce a great piece of joint work. Sam said "I like working with Josh because he is good fun, he helped me and has good ideas". Well done guys great team work and independence.
- Josh worked really well on a shared project with another learner who needed encouragement to talk to less familiar people. He put him at ease by being friendly and encouraged him to work independently. Together they completed a great poster. Great team work and independence guys!
- Arthur had always worked on his own in the café, but recently, with the help of his support, he was motivated to join in with another student to dry the pots as part of a team. Great team work Arthur!
- Alex visited the college tuck shop for the first time recently. He had not had the confidence to visit the shop before. He engaged with his peers who were completing their work experience at the time. Well done Alex and great work from the work experience group for being so welcoming.
- Jake had always worked on his own, but recently, he joined a being active activity and shared some time on the swing with another student. They had a great time and were laughing and engaging together for over 5 minutes. Amazing progress Jake!
- Jayden has had some great engagement recently, he has joined in some sessions really well and even completed part of his accreditation workbooks. He had really struggled to positively engage in sessions but has really worked hard on this with his staff and made some great progress. Well done!



### Looking to the Future

- ADav gained the independence and social skills to be able to access a placement at “Kit out the kids” a clothing recycling project in her local community.
- ADar gained the skills to be able to attend a local community hub called “Sense” where he is able to socialise and take part in activities with others.
- LDod has gained the accreditation and skills to be able to continue to work 2 days voluntary at NCAR, a local animal rescue centre.
- SPar gained the skills to be more tolerant of others, this will support him to be able to access a timetable of activities at his residential placement.
- OPar gained skills to be able to socialise and interact with others without grabbing. This has enabled him to be able to gain voluntary work at Cunliffe and ErLas, garden projects; and transition into supported living.
- RCav gained skills to be able to socialise and interact with others without becoming frustrated and her voice becoming loud. This has enabled her to gain a placement at a day service and will be moving into assisted living.
- VKum improved her engagement, interaction with others and gardening skills to enable her to gain voluntary work at Cunliffe Centre and ErLas garden projects.
- AMcB gained the skills to be more tolerant of others and take part in activities for longer periods of time, this will support him to be able to access a timetable of activities at his residential placement.



## Neo's Story

Neo had been out of formal education and not attended his previous school for over a year before enrolling at Pengwern college. Transition back to a learning environment proved difficult at first. When he initially joined, he would often sit outside of sessions, hesitant to engage and struggling to reintegrate into the educational setting.

Neo worked closely with his staff to explore different sessions and gradually find a curriculum that suited his needs. Initially he was reluctant to share his thoughts, but with patience and a variety of communication and therapy interventions offered by Pengwern staff, Neo decided he would like to try animal care. This collaborative approach allowed him to feel more comfortable participating in sessions, communicating with staff and peers, and following instructions. His ability to manage his anxieties and emotions has vastly improved, enabling him to engage more fully with his education.

Now a second-year student with a diagnosis of ASD, Neo has demonstrated remarkable growth, particularly in his confidence, independence, and engagement with his learning environment, and has thrived in his new session choices. Despite his initial struggles, his progress has been very encouraging.

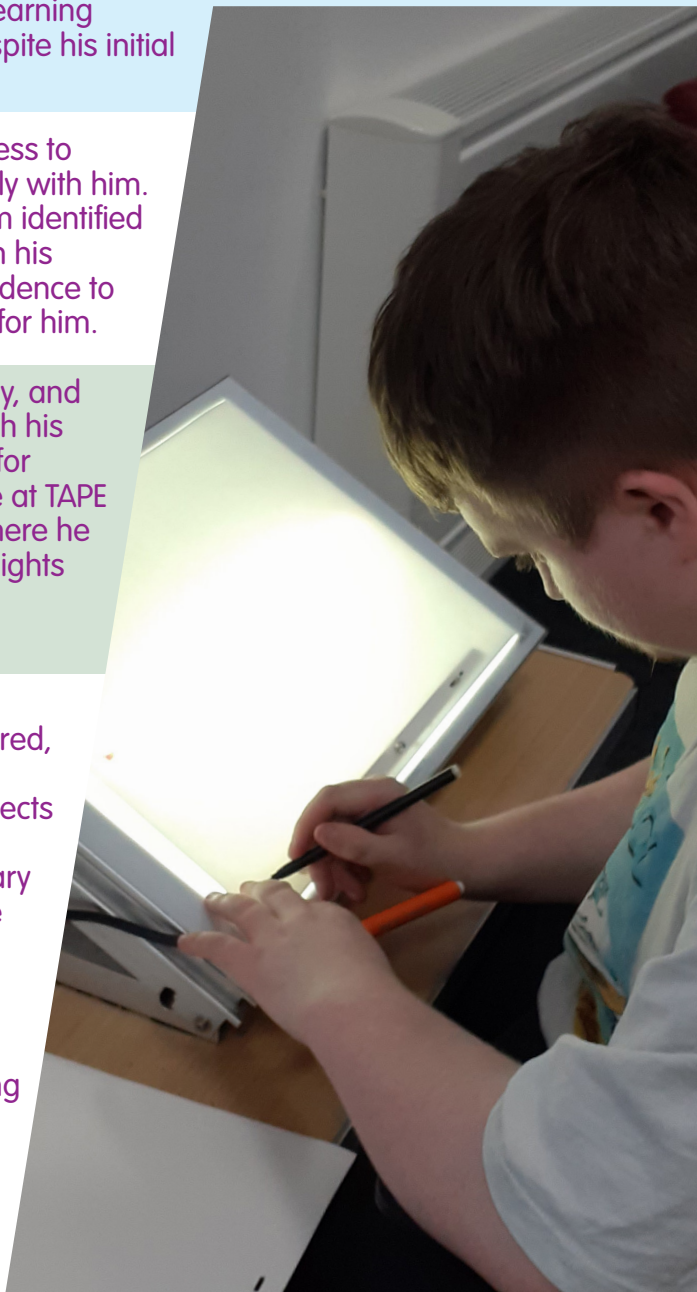
One of the key factors in Neo's success has been his willingness to express his thoughts and feelings to the staff who work closely with him. By trying out various sessions and activities, Neo and his team identified a flexible and person-centred schedule that aligned with both his interests and personal goals. This process gave him the confidence to shape his educational experience in a way that worked best for him.

As the year progressed, Neo's attendance became exemplary, and he consistently demonstrated increased independence in both his decision-making and participation. He discovered a passion for media and expressed an interest in external work experience at TAPE (a community-based film, media and music hub), an area where he has thrived. His successful transition into this placement highlights his growing ability to adapt to new environments and work collaboratively with others.

Neo now attends all his sessions regularly, showing a clear enjoyment for his college experience. His confidence has soared, and he no longer experiences the same levels of anxiety that previously hindered his participation. As a result, Neo's prospects for voluntary employment after his time at Pengwern have significantly improved. His long-term goal - to acquire voluntary work in a field of his choice - is now an achievable and viable objective.

With continued support and his growing independence, Neo is well on his way to making a successful transition from Pengwern. His hard work, determination, and resilience, along with the dedicated efforts of the staff who have supported him have set him up for a bright and successful future.

Well done, Neo, and congratulations to everyone involved in supporting his progress!

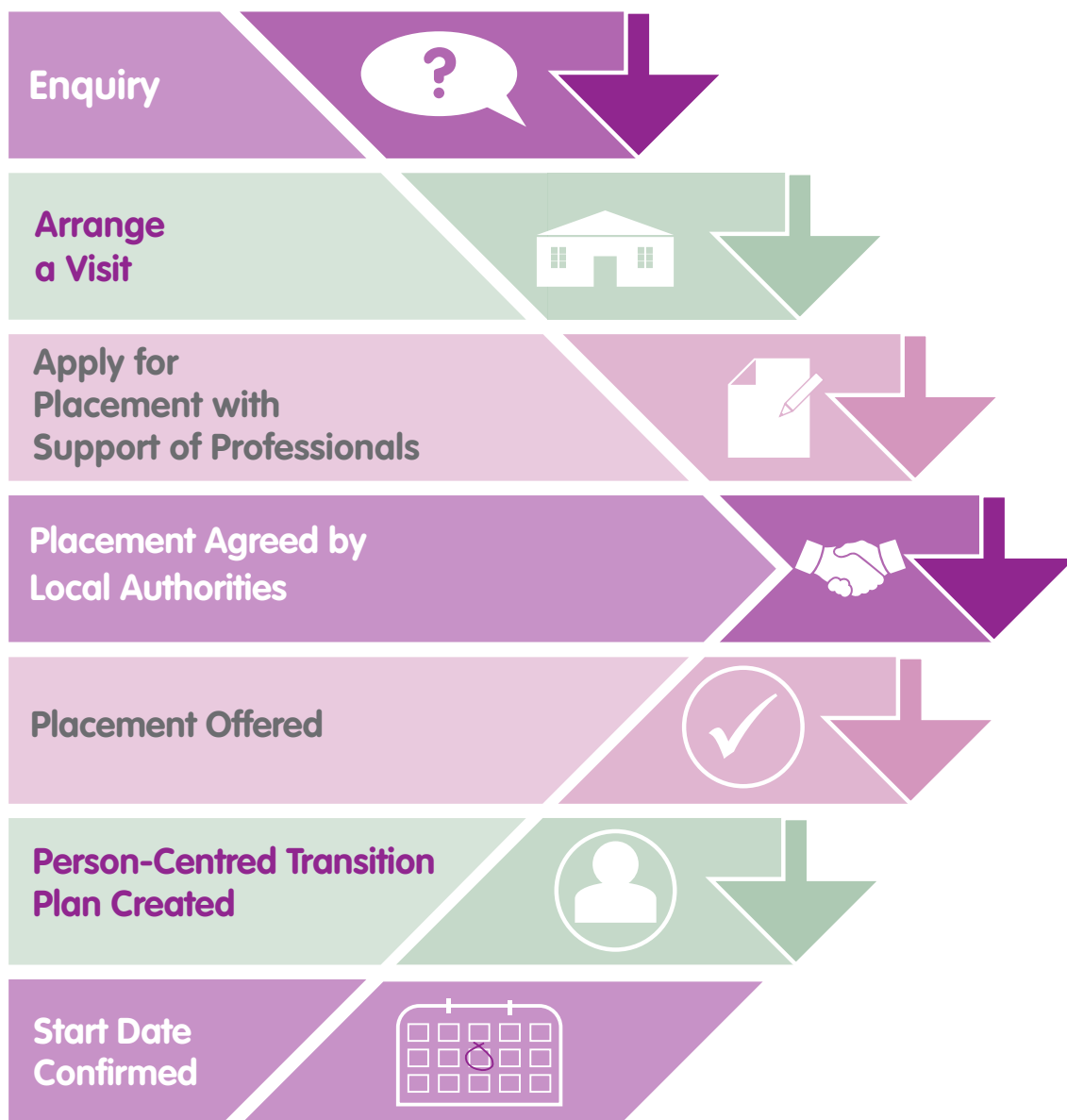


# Enrolment Process

For Any Enquiries Please Call **01745 592300**

Following an enquiry, the Placements Team will arrange for you to visit the college. Following a successful 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 college 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,  
4th Floor, Parkview  
82 Oxford Road  
Uxbridge  
UB8 1UX.

The telephone number on which the representative of the proprietor may be contacted is 07701 314 378.



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