Cambian

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

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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



“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



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.

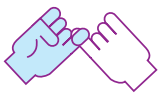
Vision

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.

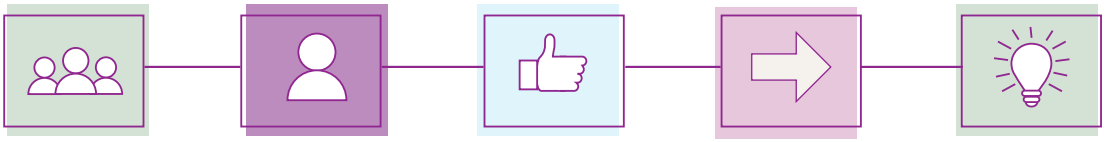
Mission

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.

Referral route, education programmes and expected outcomes

Referral Route

- Parent/ Carer
- Schools
- Colleges
- Careers Advisors/ Local Authorities

Cambian Specialist Colleges

- Pengwern College

Cambian Education Programmes*

- Preparing our students for adult life
  (independence, good health, exploring work, community living and volunteering)

Expected Outcomes

- Further Education
- Employment/ Volunteering
- Social Enterprise
- Active Lives

&

- Return Home
- Supported Living
- Residential Care

*Determined by individual assessments of need.

"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



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
- 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.

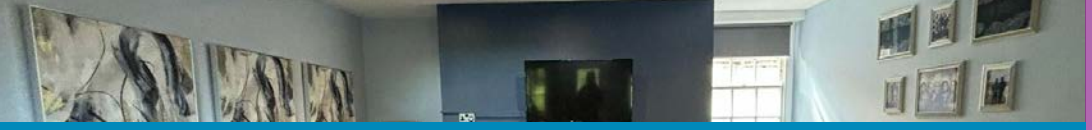
Our multi-disciplinary team use the sensory room to teach learners calming techniques and how to use them in different environments.

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



"The environment is exceptionally welcoming, comfortable, and thoughtfully designed, providing a nurturing home where people feel safe, valued, and at ease"

- The Chalet Inspection Report - May 2026

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 commitment to excellence has been recognised through three "Excellent" ratings awarded by the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) - a reflection of the high standards, compassion, and professionalism that define life at Pengwern.

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 fiance, 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

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Pengwern College

Outcomes 2026

City and Guilds

8 x Certification in Skills for Working Life - Entry Level 3	7 x Personal Progress

WJEC

6 x Essential Skills - Entry Level 2	2 x Essential Skills - Entry Level 1

Certificate for Various Units

3 x Pre Entry

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

4 x Silver	10 x Bronze

Work Experience

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

- 6 students worked in college the shop serving staff and students.
- 1 student created resources to be used on site.
- 6 students worked in the college café and off site café, serving customers and preparing food.
- 2 students worked in the college pot wash, preparing trolley for tea break and washing up.
- 1 student worked in the college gardens and local gardens, producing vegetables.
- 1 student maintained and built bikes.
- 2 students collected the waste and recycling onsite and offsite.
- 1 student produced flower arrangements for the college.
- 1 student worked in a local studio producing media e.g. short films, animation.
- 2 students worked in the college kitchen and café making paninis.
- 2 students looked after animals on the college farm park.
- 1 student worked with the IT officer to maintain the college IT equipment.
- 2 students worked at the local animal rescue centre.
- 1 student worked in the college library, delivering books around site, tidying the books and cleaning the room.
- 1 student made badges to be used and sold.
- 2 students purchased stock for the college shop.
- 1 student worked on the local farm looking after the cows.
- 4 students created items from wood to be sold.
- 1 student cleaned and did checks on the college vehicles.
- 1 student produced podcasts for our Facebook page.
- 1 student worked in the college canteen, preparing meals.

Pengwern College

Outcomes 2026

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."

- Alfie assisted me today in going around the campus to collect asset numbers from PCs and laptops, as well as mobile numbers from managers. He mentioned that he did not feel confident with writing, so I created a simple spreadsheet for him to enter the information, which he used effectively. After break, Alfie felt confident enough to continue and complete the task independently with support. He also entered rooms and offices today, something he has previously been too nervous to do. This represents a significant step forward in his confidence and development.
- Izzy independently asked another student to pass some resources during a group painting activity. She addressed her peer by name, gave great eye contact, and said "Please" and "Thank you". Lovely positive peer interaction.
- Alex leaned over to his peer and said, "Sing with me?" They had a reciprocal conversation using each other's names, with Alex giving focused eye contact. Beautiful peer engagement.
- Towards the end of dance club, Harvey joined in with lots of staff and students dancing. He was smiling and looked really pleased with himself. A busy environment, and Harvey did brilliantly.
- Galaxy remained calm and quiet and actively ignored the distressed behaviours of a peer. She behaved perfectly and was praised afterwards.
- Jayden struggles to try new foods, usually sticking to the same diet. Today he tried a seed based energy ball he made with a peer and enjoyed it. He said excitedly, "I've changed!" and asked several times if he could take his home.
- Freya helped celebrate the Red Nose Day bike ride and welcomed staff and peers back. She enjoyed the music, smiled, and wandered among students without negative interactions. She even had a little dance. Lovely regulation and participation.
- Aidan often needs hand over hand support, but today he independently collected items using a visual strip and completed two slip trailing patterns independently. Fantastic independence.
- At home time, James collected his coat and bag, then independently brought his peer's belongings saying, "Here you go." After, his peer thanked him, James replied, "You're welcome." Lovely helpfulness and social reciprocity.
- Izzy shared the microphone well, offered it to peers, listened to direction, and gave a fantastic performance using her whole body to act on stage.
- Daniel made his own pizza, followed a recipe, matched core words, and completed his accreditation workbook using AAC. Excellent engagement and independence.
- During story time, Iwan clearly said, "More story please." He rarely talks in sessions, so this was lovely communication.
- Jade has been encouraged to use descriptive words on her AAC. During tutorials, she independently created a full sentence on her device before staff could turn around. Excellent independence.
- Harvey helped a peer with pottery work, read the class social story aloud, and joined in kneading clay despite previously refusing to touch it. He even talked the group through what to do. Brilliant progress.
- During the Summer Fayre, Izzy asked a peer if he was okay, asked if he was having a good day, and rubbed his back. Such a lovely, empathetic interaction.

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Pengwern College

Outcomes 2026

Looking to the Future

- LDun gained skills to be able to tolerate others' achievements and behaviours, this has enabled him to move to an education placement at Lufton College closer to home.
- HTyl gained the skills to be able to take part in activities for longer periods of time, limiting his use of ICT so that he is able to attend local social enterprises - Glyndwr Centre, Popty and Co-options – one day per week.
- JWil gained the skills to be able to follow instructions, work on familiar tasks with more independence at Rhuallt farm twice a week.
- JSte improved his engagement and communication to be able to work at Bryn Eyrin Garden Centre – 1 day a week and attend Crest – 3 days a week.
- JRob gained the skills, experience and confidence, to be able to finish college early, to complete an Internship at TAPE, a local multi media HUB.
- LHop gained skills to be able to attend a local social enterprise called "Co options" where she is able to socialise and take part in activities with others.
- MCho gained the skills to be able to interact with others in an appropriate way so that he is able to continue volunteering at Barnardo's (3 times a week) & Café internship (2 days a week). MCho is also working with a job coach, eventually looking for paid employment with some support.
- THal gained independence and social skills to be able to access a placement at "Kit Out the Kids" a clothing recycling project in her local community. Supported employment options are also being explored.



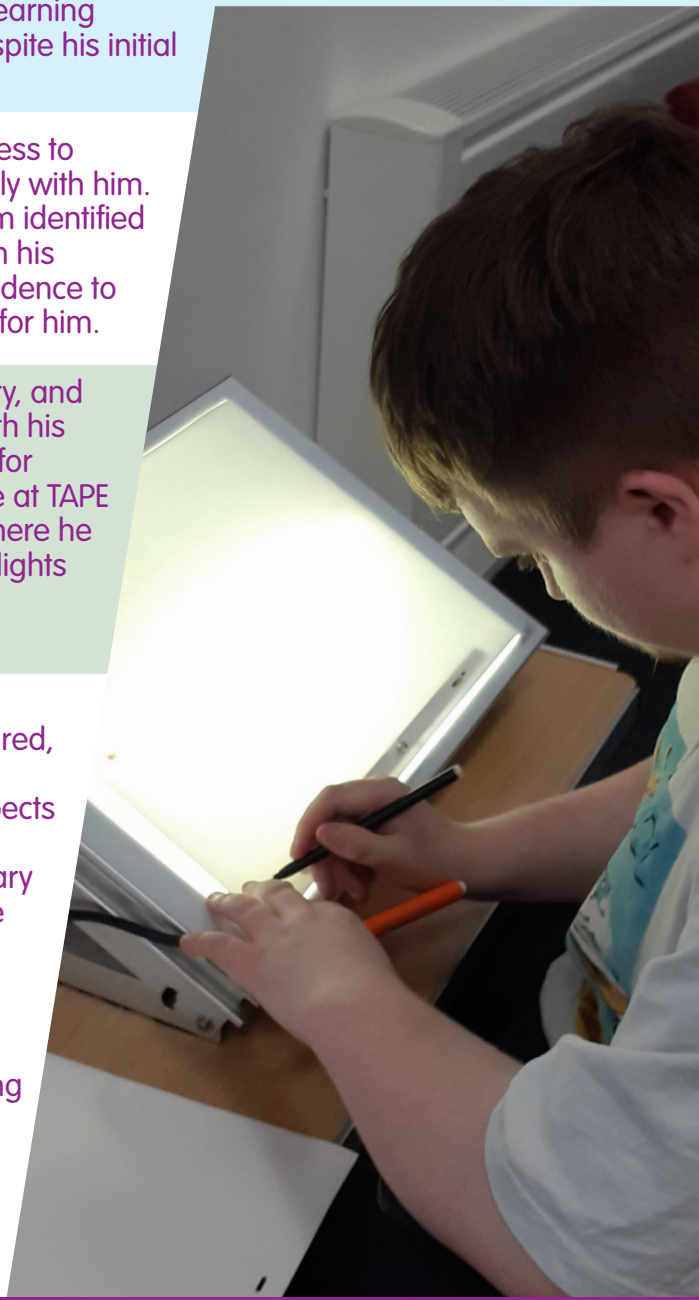
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Neo's Story

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!



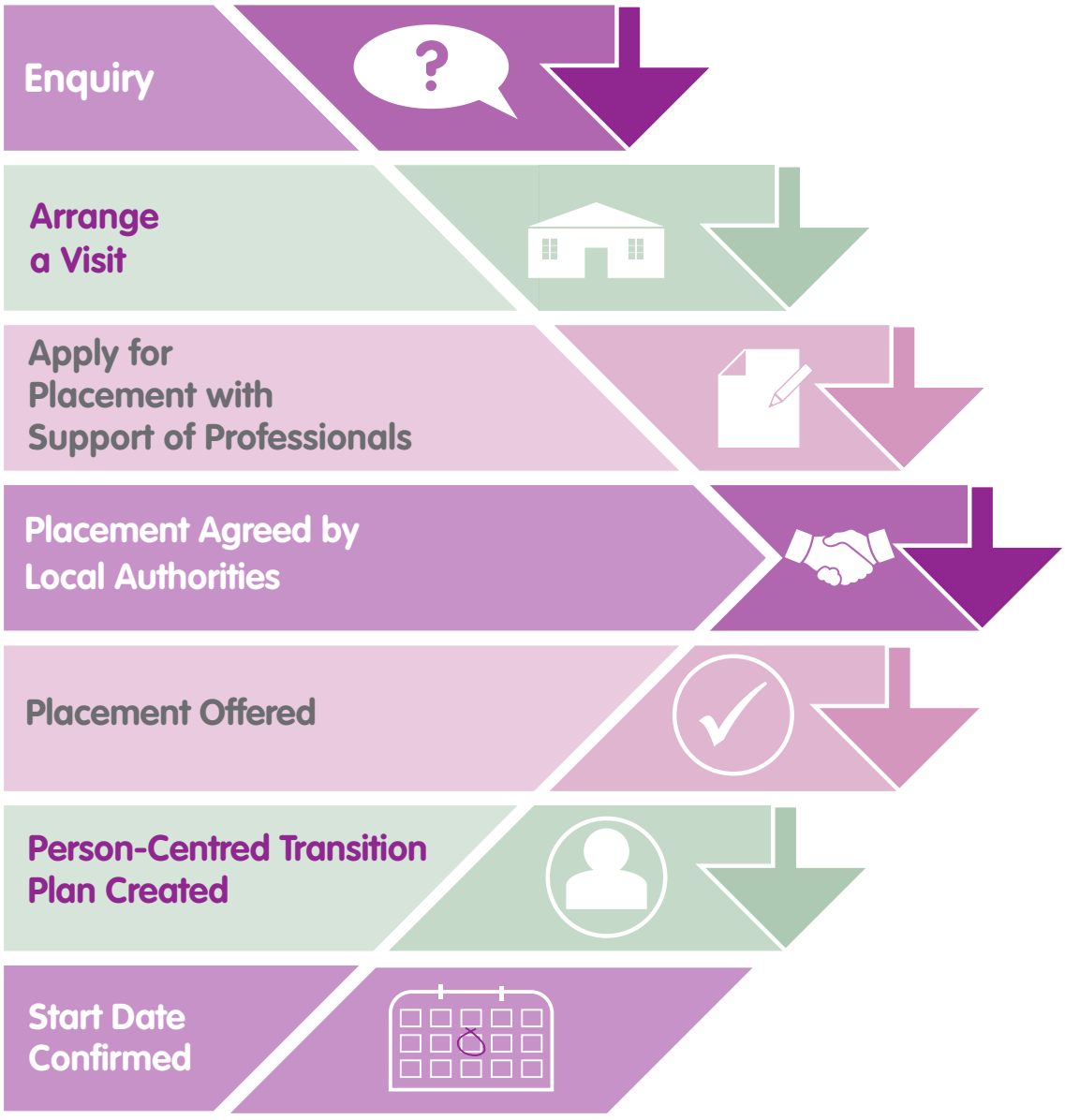


Enrolment Process

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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