



GRŴP COLEGAU

NPTC

GROUP OF COLLEGES

THE GROUP

more than just an education



THE GROUP

NPTC Group of Colleges came into existence on 1 August 2013. It was formed as a result of the merger of Neath Port Talbot College and Coleg Powys. NPTC Group of Colleges is one of the largest groups of colleges and education providers in Wales in terms of student numbers and has an annual turnover of circa £55 million. NPTC Group of Colleges provides almost every conceivable vocational area of education and training, including an outstanding 6th Form Academy based at Neath College. The Group delivers a wide range of bespoke training for industry and business all over Wales and England via the Business Development Unit. The College is also the lead provider and contract holder in Skills Academy Wales. This is a partnership of eight very experienced training providers who deliver between them a £12.5 million work-based learning contract, one of the largest public sector contracts in Wales. The Group also owns and runs an international language school in Hampshire, LSI Portsmouth. The school has been independently assessed as “exceeding expectations in all areas” in the recent ISI inspection of private Further Education Colleges. It is ranked No 1 in the UK and thousands of overseas students attend the College from almost 50 different EU and non-EU countries.

The Group covers over one-third of the land mass of Wales. It operates on four large main centres: the Afan College, Brecon Beacons College, Neath College and Newtown College. The Group also has smaller centres including: the Pontardawe College; Maesteg Construction Centre; Swansea Construction Centre; Llandrindod Wells Campus; and a state-of-the-art Sports Academy in Llandarcy Park. Geographically, this means that there are approximately 100 miles between our furthest campus north and our furthest campus south. However, our subsidiary companies also operate at various venues in Swansea, Llandarcy, Llanelli, Swindon and Portsmouth.

PROVISION AND DELIVERY

NPTC Group of Colleges has an outstanding university education programme delivered in partnership with Swansea University, The University of South Wales, University of Wales Trinity St David, the Open University, Glyndŵr University and Pearsons. We deliver different BSc (Hons) and BA (Hons) degrees, Foundation

Degrees, HNDs, certificates of Higher Education, the Certificate in Education (PCE) and the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).

Successful achievement data published by the Department for Education and Skills in the Welsh Government indicates that NPTC Group of Colleges has some of the best results in Wales for post-16 education and training.

EXAM SUCCESS

Students at NPTC Group of Colleges once again succeeded in gaining top marks in their A Level examinations and National/Extended Diploma qualifications.

Our overall pass rate has exceeded 99 per cent in 13 of the past 14 years. In 26 subjects, students achieved a remarkable 100 per cent pass rate. Nearly, fifty per cent of the students sitting A Level exams achieved A* to B grades and 77 per cent of students achieved A* to C grades.

The pass rate at the College has once again exceeded the national benchmark and staff are proud of the students who followed the Gifted and Talented programme (GATE) at Neath Port Talbot Sixth Form Academy where 100 percent of students gained A* to B grades and 85% per cent of those students achieved an A* or an A grade.

The Group has a strong commitment to developing the bilingual aspects of its portfolio and the Welsh Language Scheme drives this direction through the leadership of our Director of Bilingualism.

The Group has an excellent reputation for: academic results; the quality of teaching and learning; its support for students; its work with industry and its work in the community. It is also renowned nationally for the sporting success of its current and past students and for the achievements of its catering students in winning many national competitions.

NPTC Group of Colleges delivers Land-based Studies from Fronlas Farm in Newtown and Cefn Y Bryn Farm in Sarn. The teaching complex and the main farm complex are situated less than 0.5 mile from the Newtown College.

The teaching area consists of a modern purpose-built teaching and administration block which was replaced in 2005. The block gives access to four teaching rooms, an IT suite, cloak and shower rooms, a common room and staff office facilities. There is also significant workshop space for agricultural engineering and agricultural machinery provision.

Fronlas at Newtown is 65 hectares and is mainly grassland with five to six hectares of undersown cereals grown annually. This unit provides grazing for the spring calving suckler herd and is the main area for winter forage conservation. Some 30 hectares are cut for first cut clamp silage and around 20 hectares for second cut. The farm area includes small areas of woodland, steep banks, riverside, footpaths, dykes and a Celtic Enclosure. These are well utilised as part of various countryside projects.

We pursue an active 'inclusive college' policy and provide for students with disabilities or learning difficulties of all ages. Students follow appropriate pre-vocational programmes or mainstream courses. An extensive student guidance and support service operates at the four main campuses and at various community locations. The Group has been presented with the Careers Wales Quality Award for careers education and guidance. We have also gained Beacon Award Status twice. Firstly for the delivery of Business Education, through its business practice companies, who have already won international awards over the past 10 years. Secondly, for the outstanding support we provide for looked after children and care leavers.

FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Group has witnessed a major estates building and reconfiguration programme in the past 15 or so years. In Neath, the first new building was completed in 1997 with the opening of a large new teaching block and this was complemented by the opening in May 2004 of a £6.5m Electronic Learning Centre which accommodates a number of vocational and academic areas along with vast multi-purpose learning resource centres on three floors. At the time, this was the largest investment in education buildings in Wales. In the same year, the Llandarcy Academy of Sport was opened as a result of a multi-million public/private investment. The Group opened a £2.2m performing arts theatre at Neath in 2008, with exhibition and practice space and two multi-purpose 'black box' studios. The theatre is used by the students, pupils from schools and

the community. In 2009, the new £1m "Brook" refectory was opened providing another place for students to eat and relax. In 2010, we opened a new Autotronics Academy at Pontardawe in partnership with "Snap-on Tools" - the leader in the field of autotronics. This is an outstanding facility and a centre of excellence.

The Group completed an £8.5m extension to the sports facility at the Llandarcy Academy of Sport in 2012. This provides a hard court arena for netball and basketball etc, with a 150-seating capacity, an outside multi-use games area, a 60m six-lane indoor bounding track, outdoor third generation IRB approved artificial pitch, climbing wall, classroom space, ICT suite and a library. We have outstanding links with the National Governing Bodies for sport and professional sports teams such as the Ospreys and Swansea City Football Club.

The A/B block of Neath College on Dŵr-y-Felin Road, which is known as our maths and science building, has been completely transformed. The three-storey refurbishment includes a new glazed extension and complete recladding of the existing building. The interior has seen a complete transformation with a new open plan student hub where students and staff can work or relax. The ultra-modern facility has touchscreen capability, free Wi-Fi and charging points as well as a Starbucks Coffee shop and catering facilities, and a lift to allow access to the upper floors. The sustainable refurbishment has improved energy efficiency too on Neath College in line with the College's commitment to improving energy use and the reduction of CO2 emissions. The refurbishment won the coveted 2019 Education Buildings Award for the "best student experience".

The Group is currently also involved in two exciting building schemes that are set to transform education in Neath and Port Talbot and Brecon. In Brecon, there are plans for NPTC Group of Colleges' multimillion-pound face lift of a number of buildings in the town centre. This has started with the complete refurbishment of the Tourist Information Centre as a community based venue.

In Port Talbot, the proposal is to build a new campus as part of the Harbourside development and regeneration scheme for Port Talbot. This is part of the wide-ranging development linked to the new £110m peripheral distributor road and the new £10m Parkway Railway Station.



The new campus will accommodate what is currently at Afan, including our centres of excellence in Health and Social Care and our Building Engineering Services. Hair, Beauty and Holistic Therapies will be located in a “lifestyle” building. The building will be run as a self-supporting business providing a key service sector to the town centre. The main educational buildings will be a state-of-the-art resource providing all of the Sixth form education in Port Talbot including delivery through the medium of Welsh.

The development will not have the traditional refectory facilities, although it will have a franchised specialist coffee shop. Instead, all of the 1,000 students per day will use the existing town centre at Port Talbot, providing much needed life and investment to the area.

COMMERCIAL

Our commercial income is increasingly important to the Group and we embark on a number of ways to attract non-core income. Training for employers is provided by the Colleges’ commercial arm under the Business Development Unit. We are also very successful in tendering for work through the Sector Priorities Fund and other open tenders. This is a successful and diverse part of the Group which operates totally commercially without the support of core funding. Our commercial course information can be found by logging on to www.nptcgroup.ac.uk/business.

The Group also runs Hafren, the premier theatre, conference and meeting venue in Newtown, mid-Wales. Seating up to 556, conference style, the auditorium has full staging and lighting facilities, raked seating, a built-in public address system and a sound loop for hearing impaired attendees. A full on-site professional technical service ensures the optimum sound, lighting and presentation of events. With catering to suit all requirements, the venue offers a business-like and professional environment, flexible in accommodating a large range in attendance numbers from 50 upwards. The theatre gallery-bar can be used as a small meeting area (up to 20 people), an exhibition space, as a break-out room or for catering/refreshments. The Venue Foyer is also available for reception and small displays.

There is a suite of five conference/meeting rooms available accommodating between 10 and 70 people. These facilities can be used as additional rooms for events taking place at Hafren.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

As a Group of Colleges, we are committed to working through real and effective partnerships with many other organisations. We have a very strong working relationship with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and with the Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service. Partnership working in the Neath Port Talbot County Borough is considered to be an exemplar in Wales. In Powys, we have a very effective relationship with Powys County Council, mid-Wales Businesses, the mid- Wales Work-based Learning consortium and the Mid Wales Manufacturing Group.

The Group of Colleges is led by a strong and diverse Senior Management Team. The senior managers have always operated to a strong team ethic being mutually supportive and taking both individual and collective responsibility for the strategic development and general operation of the College. The Senior Team comprises of the Group’s Chief Executive Officer; Vice Principal -Academic Services; Vice Principal - Corporate Services; Vice Principal - Financial Services; Vice Principal – Operational Services and the Assistant Principals for Governance; Quality; Curriculum, Students; Student Recruitment; HE; Worldwide Operations and Skills.

The work of the senior managers is supported by a group of senior middle managers. These individuals are key academic and functional unit managers who act as the interface between the strategic and operational domains. The College prides itself in the high qualifications and experience of all of the staff, including lecturers, assessors, instructors and all of the essential business support staff.



NPTC Group of Colleges, Dŵr-y-Felin Road, Neath, SA10 7RF
Tel: 01639 648000 • www.nptcgroup.ac.uk

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