



PETROC™ COLLEGE OF FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION

CELEBRATING 2019-20



The academic year 2019/20 proved to be an interesting year for all of our learners, staff and partners, presenting challenges but also opportunities. With the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020, the college moved to a blended approach to learning, teaching and working, with learners, educators and business support staff rising to the challenge and demonstrating great innovation in learning, business services and ways of working. Whilst there were difficulties to overcome, it demonstrated what is possible when we all focus on what we can learn from every experience - people's responses have been inspirational.

We set out to create an environment that kept our learners learning and our students safe. Our dedicated Pandemic Advisory Group worked seven days a week to design and manage our covid-secure working, and the compliance by staff and learners meant we were able to minimise the impacts of any cases of infection. Continued learning was also a priority for our learners, with colleagues working incredibly hard to ensure all students received the best online learning experience possible, blended with in-person learning on our campuses. And our work did not stop there. In the summer of 2020 we introduced a new virtual learning platform called PetrocPACE to ensure school leavers were fully engaged and ready to start college in the new academic year, and we cemented our close relationship with the NHS and councils, providing spaces for testing, training for covid care volunteers, and working in partnership to support businesses and the economy to bounce back after covid.

Whilst Coronavirus has undoubtedly been a huge part of 2019/20, the college continued to receive awards, maintain close relationships with partners, support our dedicated staff, receive fantastic exam results, launch new facilities, celebrate students achievements, and support the local community. Careful management meant we finished the year in 'Excellent' financial health and, prior to the pandemic, we were delighted to receive the news that our Ofsted short inspection outcome rated Petroc as a 'Good' provider, acknowledging the outstanding results that are achieved by our learners and the quality of our provision.

I've been incredibly proud of how all of our staff and learners have adapted to an eventful year, and am pleased to be able to welcome everyone back to a new normal for 2020/21.

Sean Mackney
Principal and Chief Executive



PARTNERSHIPS & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Petroc continued to maintain and develop strong connections with organisations across Devon. We also worked very closely with the NHS to support COVID-19 efforts by opening a Devon Rapid Care Academy at Mid Devon campus, a test centre at our Brannams campus, and a Health Assessment Hub at North Devon campus.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 148 young people participated in National Citizen Service (NCS), providing voluntary activity valued at over £19,000.
- The Petroc-led Empowering Enterprise partnership celebrated four years of supporting over 650 disadvantaged young people with over half moving into work, education, training and job search. The project used funding from the European Social Fund and National Lottery Community Fund.
- COVID Test Centre opened at Brannams campus.
- COVID Health Assessment Hub opened at North Devon campus.
- Devon Rapid Care Academy opened at Mid Devon campus.
- Collaboration with One Northern Devon to deliver training to those whose jobs were affected by COVID-19.
- New newsletters were created for employers, parents, schools and students.
- We won the **RGB Well Built Community Fund**, receiving £1000 to spend on our Supported Learning kitchen areas.
- Our Apprenticeship recruitment event welcomed 200 pupils, 100 Petroc students and 22 local employers.
- We ran successful Business Drop-in events (CPD during Covid 19 and Local Talent and Government Incentives to Support Business, SWIoT launch).
- 50 protective safety glasses were distributed to Torridge & District Hospital to help Key Workers.
- The Positive Perspectives Mental Health Conference was hosted for professionals supporting young people across Devon.
- Petroc has secured over £1.6 million from the European Social Fund to lead a partnership on Experience Works, which will provide real world opportunities for unemployed young people to develop their skills and find a job or return to education or training.

FINANCE & RESOURCES

The college achieved an "Outstanding" financial health rating from the ESFA and continues to manage its finances sustainably, despite the early impacts of the Coronavirus. A £47,000 operating surplus was achieved in 2019/2020 whilst the college invested over £1.6m in its Estates and IT infrastructure; with £1m of this funded by Capital Grants.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- 21 different projects were delivered with a total value in excess of £8m.
- We approved and managed almost £440,000 in Community Grants for European Social Fund money so that 24 organisations could help the unemployed.
- 350 Chromebooks were provided to students without IT facilities to enable them to learn from home.
- 40 MiFi Dongles were provided to students with no access to internet at home, enabling them to study during lockdown.
- IT Services and LTLS Teams provided essential support to staff and students during lockdown as well as making adjustments for social distancing to classrooms.



EXCELLENT TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE

In November 2019, we were delighted that the results of our Ofsted short inspection ensured we maintained our GOOD provider status. Curriculum and support staff worked hard to move all students to online learning as a result of COVID-19. And we once again enjoyed a year of outstanding student and curriculum successes.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Ofsted short inspection outcome rated **Petroc as a GOOD provider**.
- 14 Petroc learners were awarded a place on the Exeter Scholars Programme.
- A college-wide move to online learning took place due to the pandemic, with 2,000 online Google Classroom lessons and assignments in the first week of lockdown.
- PACE and PACE+ virtual platforms were created to support school leavers.
- Vulnerable learners were supported in our community during lockdown 1.0 with onsite support and regular contact with tutors and support staff.
- #CELEBRATEPETROC campaign was launched to celebrate student successes.
- #DISCOVERPETROC virtual open events were launched to replace onsite events.
- Year 3 Study Programme was offered for students who didn't feel ready to go to university, the workplace or travelling.
- The Personal Development Awards (formerly known as character badges) were relaunched.
- The Aspire Programme of new academies was developed.
- On 5 October, the **HE Graduation Ceremony** recognised 130 graduates.
- We delivered a **Higher Education Online Fair**.
- We delivered outstanding results: 99% pass rate for A-levels, 96% pass rate for BTEC, 89% pass rate for Access to HE.



OUR PEOPLE

At the start of 2019/20, Petroc welcomed Sean Mackey as Principal and CEO. Staff received some truly outstanding accolades including a Technical Teaching Fellowship from EFT for Dr Lynda Broomhead. The Learning Technologies and Library Services (LTLS) Team were recognised in the Edtech 2020 awards for using technology in education. The college implemented some key new strategies and charters during the year which included the AoC Wellbeing and Mental Health Charter, LGBT+ pledge, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) pledge.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Petroc welcomed its new **Principal and CEO, Sean Mackney**.
- Dr Lynda Broomhead was awarded a **Technical Teaching Fellowship from EFT**.
- The LTLS Team was recognised in the Edtech 2020 awards for using technology in education.
- The Pandemic Advisory Group (PAG) was created to collate and disseminate Coronavirus-related information to staff and students.
- The SMT and EMT groups were replaced by The Executive group.
- We welcomed four new Governors: Holly Milton Jefferies, Dr Deborah Watson, Rob Nicholls and Neil Tanton.
- Staff and students signed the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) pledge**.
- Petroc signed up to the LGBT+ pledge.
- Petroc signed the AoC Wellbeing and Mental Health Charter.
- Specific support was provided for women experiencing the menopause.
- PALS (Petroc Aiding Lone Staff) group was launched to support staff working alone from home.
- The HR Team hosted its first Online Recruitment Fair.
- Staff supported Petroc's dedicated charities (Children in Need, Chemo Hero and Save The Children) as well as other charities, such as Young Minds and Devon Air Ambulance.



GROWTH & INNOVATION

Petroc launched some very exciting projects during 2019/20, including the opening of the Centre of technology and innovation excellence (Cotie), and the University of Bolton's Satellite Centre for Nursing within the Lifestyle Centre at North Devon campus.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- The **official opening of Cotie** took place in February 2020.
- Petroc signed a multi-million pound partnership deal for the **South West Institute of Technology (SWIoT)** in October 2019.
- Petroc opened its new Nursing Simulation Suite, and partnered with The University of Bolton to open its Satellite Centre for Nursing at the North Devon campus.

