

# MADE FOR YOUR FUTURE

SCHOOL LEAVER GUIDE  
2019/2020





# REGISTER ONLINE NOW TO ATTEND ONE OF OUR OPEN DAYS

## Available at all campuses:

- Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone
- Crosskeys Campus
- City of Newport Campus
- Pontypool Campus
- Usk Campus



[www.coleggwent.ac.uk/open](http://www.coleggwent.ac.uk/open)

**TORFAEN LEARNING ZONE  
COMING SOON**

**opening  
2020!!**





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“  
College  
opened so  
many doors  
for me.”

John-Paul Price,  
A-Level student



# MADE FOR YOUR FUTURE

There's a range of courses and qualifications you can study with us that all lead to you reaching the career you want. Not sure which pathway is best for you? Check out the options available for you at Coleg Gwent:

**YOUR CAREER**  
So, no matter which pathway you choose, you'll be on the right journey to getting the career you want.

## A levels

A levels are ideal for those thinking about going to university (as most courses require specific A levels) or if you're still unsure what career you want. You normally study three or more subjects over the course of two years, which is mainly assessed by exams. A levels are suited to students who prefer academic learning.

## Apprenticeships

Already in a job or want to earn while you learn? By applying for an apprenticeship, you'll be employed but given time (usually one day a week) to study a formal qualification related to that job, in college or elsewhere. You can study an apprenticeship in sectors such as engineering, IT, business and health care amongst others.

## Vocational courses

Want to work in a trade? Do you prefer learning outside the classroom? Then vocational courses are for you! They help you gain the specific skills needed for the job. You'll do a mixture of theory and practical work in line with industry set standards. A level 3 vocational qualification can also progress you to higher education.





# WHY CHOOSE COLEG GWENT?

ONE OF  
WALES' TOP  
PERFORMING  
COLLEGES\*



LOTS OF  
CHOICE!

100%  
PASS  
RATE

IN 32 A LEVEL  
SUBJECTS  
ACROSS  
COLEG GWENT

35 A Levels &  
178 vocational  
courses to  
choose from!



GREAT  
SOCIAL  
LIFE!



ABOVE NATIONAL  
AVERAGE  
PASS RATES  
for 3 years running



We listen  
and provide  
support  
where  
needed

Strong  
links with  
employers!

COOL STATE  
OF THE ART  
FACILITIES



\*The Department for Education and Skills Welsh Government Learner  
Outcome Report 2016/17





# MADE FOR STUDENTS

**Wondering about student life at Coleg Gwent? You'll probably find it quite different to what you're used to.**

A great opportunity for you to make new friends, your college life will be more flexible and you'll have a lot more independence than you do at school. You'll also have the chance to take part in sports activities, volunteering and clubs - a great way to meet new people. Worried about your finances? You can apply for discounted bus travel with a MyTravel pass and don't forget all those amazing discounts you'll get when you use your student Totum card!



## Specifically for students!

**Save with your TOTUM card - over 200 UK student discounts - unlock over 42,000 international discounts.**



## Get involved with CGExtra

At Coleg Gwent, we offer more than just an education. Something extra alongside your studies, there are dedicated slots in your timetable so you can join in with community activities, sports clubs, societies and the Duke of Edinburgh award - plus lots more. Not only is it a great chance to make new friends and gain valuable life skills but you'll become more independent and improve your employability skills!

## Join your Students' Union (CGSU)

Join our award winning Students' Union, we have one at each campus. Become a member and help fundraise for charities, work at college events and build your CV. You can also run for Student Union president or any other position by campaigning and enlisting your fellow students to vote for you! You'll work closely with staff on improving student experience at the college by attending learner forums. Make a difference and be heard by being part of CGSU.



# MADE FOR EMPLOYABILITY

**Aside from giving you a great social life, studying a course at Coleg Gwent also enhances your employability.**

We have excellent links with Careers Wales and local employers, state of the art facilities where you can get real hands on training, and experienced teachers who are experts in their field.

By undertaking a vocational course or apprenticeship, you'll have access to the World Skills and Skills Competition Wales, which are designed to help you develop your skill base, and boost your CV. Or, if you're keen to study A Levels instead, Coleg Gwent is also home to the Seren network, supporting outstanding students who are hoping to study at Russell group universities such as Oxford and Cambridge!



“

**I came to college to get the skills needed for the trade; what's best about Coleg Gwent is the level of support you get and how you're treated like an adult. ”**

**Llewys Graham,  
Brickwork Level 2**





# COLEG GWENT PIONEERING CAREER COLLEGES IN WALES

**In 2018, Coleg Gwent became THE only Career College in Wales. What does this mean? Very simply, that we're part of a unique wider UK network of colleges that is focussed entirely on your employability!**

If you're interested in studying Health and Care or Digital Technology, Coleg Gwent is THE only Career College in Wales to offer courses in these areas. We team up with local employers to deliver industry led qualifications and education, and with a wider network to draw on, you'll have a whole host of resources at your finger tips.

## **Why Health and Care and Digital Technology?**

Health and Care and Digital Technology have been identified as two sectors in Wales that have more jobs than skilled employees. Could you help fill this gap?

So, if you want to work with the likes of Amazon and Cisco, and a Career Colleges course is something that interests you, get in touch and we can provide you with further information.



**Our Career Colleges curriculum is designed by employers, for employment! Get involved in industry projects and develop enterprise and communication skills that will prepare you for work and life.**



# SUPPORTING YOU

It is normal to feel a little bit apprehensive about starting something new, but as a student of Coleg Gwent there is lots of support available to you.

## Personal Tutors

Dedicated to helping you with any worries you may have, providing support and guidance through regular 1-1 meetings.

## Help towards travel and transport costs

We have a student buss pass scheme which gives you discounted travel to and from campuses.

## Finance

There are many ways you can get help with the cost of studying, depending on your circumstances. Find out more at [coleggwent.ac.uk/finance](http://coleggwent.ac.uk/finance)

## Wellbeing support

Your safety and welfare is our priority. There is a designated person on each campus providing support with personal difficulties including health and development, safety and care, and prevention of bullying and harassment. There is also a free, confidential counselling and chaplaincy service available to you.

## Support for Additional Learning needs

If you have a learning difficulty and/or a disability, we can provide lots of support including in-class support assistance, extra sessions for help with homework and assignments, and dyslexia support.

If you are worried about coming to college, don't panic —  
**We are here to help!**

**For more information on the support available to you, please visit our website or contact your local campus.**





# STUDENT LIFE!

## DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Lloyd Joseph Moore  
Diploma Level 2:  
Plumbing Studies – Year 2



## Diary

8:55am

Overalls on ready to start class

9am

My classes start at 9am except for Fridays when we start at 11:15am

Practical lessons in the morning, we check the timetable on the wall to find out what the task is for the morning. My tutor is always available to help if I have any issues.

11:15am

Break time

11:30am

Back to lessons for more practical work!

1:15-2pm Lunch time

At lunch, I head over to the shop just outside campus with my friends then sit outside the F block on the benches and chat until lunch is over.

2pm

Sit down theory lessons; PowerPoint slides with the tutor who points out key things that we need to know!

4pm

Finish

### Best thing about college is?

Meeting new people and being able to do something that I never thought I would be able to do.

### How is college different to school?

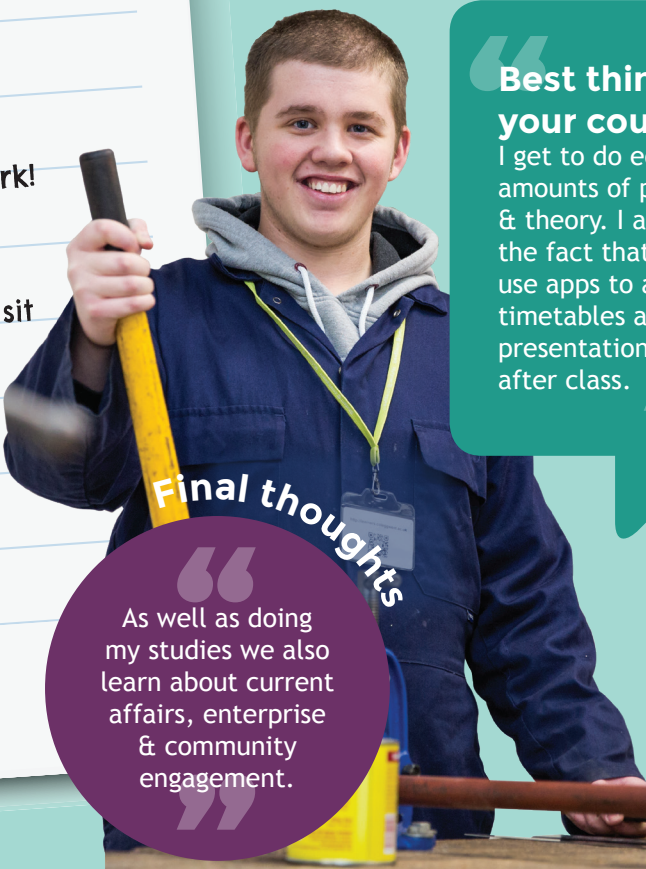
We are treated a lot differently, everyone is more mature & sensible about what they are doing.

### Best thing about your course

I get to do equal amounts of practical & theory. I also like the fact that we can use apps to access timetables and class presentations to recap after class.

### Final thoughts

As well as doing my studies we also learn about current affairs, enterprise & community engagement.





## DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

**Nick Amalin**  
**Level 3:**  
**Games Design – Year 2**

### What does a normal week look like to you?

#### Monday

11:30am - 4:45pm

#### Wednesday

9:45am - 3:30pm

#### Tuesday

9am - 1pm

#### Thursday

10:30am - 1:30pm

...so every day is different! But no college on Fridays!  
Lunch - 1 hour a day except Wednesdays when we get a 2 hour break.

### Describe a normal day

There isn't usually a set plan for each day, we are really independent and the course is varied. Sometimes we have big projects to work on but when we're not working on projects, we blog about our work using WordPress sites. As I am now in my second year we are also starting to think about applying for university.

### Best thing about college?

The tutors here treat you like an adult and always encourage you to do your best, they're always there for support.

### How does college differ from School?

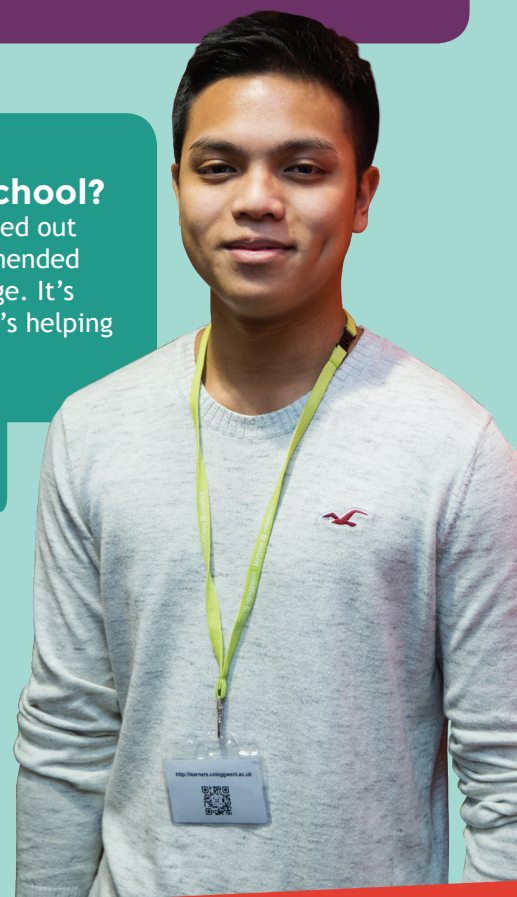
I was at sixth form studying A levels but dropped out as I realised it wasn't for me. A friend recommended studying Games Design which they do in college. It's great, you get more freedom at college and it's helping me decide what I want to do in life.

### Best thing about your course?

You have lots of creative freedom and the course caters for your specialism, which is great for me as I'm quite an imaginative person.

### Final thoughts

We take part in the Welsh Bacc as part of my course which is great for me as it has the skills needed for Games Design like writing briefs, creating a media project and being creative.





# WHAT OTHER STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY

Don't just take our word for it, our current and past students told us what it was really like studying at Coleg Gwent...



“I could have studied at a local sixth form as I play for the Dragons Rugby Under 18 team outside of school. However, I chose Coleg Gwent as their Crosskeys campus has an amazing rugby academy facility on site.”

Joe Peard, 16,  
Level 2 Business



“There were no options for me to study engineering at school. Also, sixth form was limited in terms of the courses on offer. You get more freedom studying at college.”

Dylan Guppy, 17,  
Mechanical Engineering

“All my friends went to sixth form but I started college on my own. You gain more independence at college and I can just focus on studying Health and Social Care, I don't have to take other subjects alongside it. I've come to college to make new friends and grow my confidence.”

Seren Peploe,  
17, Level  
2 Health &  
Social Care



# HOW TO APPLY

If you know which course you'd like to apply for, you can make your application on our website! Not sure about what you want to study, or having difficulties with the form? That's okay - just contact our Student Recruitment team who will be on hand to advise.





# MADE FOR PARENTS

Supporting the parents and guardians of our learners is as important to us as supporting them as individuals to ensure they achieve their goals. These are our top FAQs but if you still have questions, please take a look on our website, or just get in touch! Our Student Recruitment team are happy to help and will do their best to assist.

## Parents FAQ



### Why should my child attend Coleg Gwent?

Coleg Gwent is one of the largest and most successful colleges in Wales, and we're also your local College. The 2018 Estyn report highlighted: our continuously increasing (and higher than the national average) success rates for all main qualifications; our work to ensure learners have suitable progression routes by incorporating feedback from local employers and regional skills priorities into curriculum planning; and our support for students, especially vulnerable learners.

We aim to keep you well informed about your child's progress through parent evenings, letters and regular reports. We are always happy to answer any queries that you might have, or you can contact their personal tutor to discuss any concerns.

We recognise and welcome the contribution that parents/carers can make to their child's success. We constantly monitor subject progress, attendance, motivation and general wellbeing. Based on this monitoring we periodically produce detailed subject reports and send them directly to you. In addition, we hold an annual parents evening on each campus, where you will have opportunity to speak to subject lecturers and personal tutors.



**COLEG GWENT IS  
ONE OF WALES'  
TOP PERFORMING  
COLLEGES FOR ALL  
MAIN QUALIFICATIONS  
AND JOINT TOP  
FOR VOCATIONAL  
SUBJECTS.\***

\*The Department for Education and Skills Welsh  
Government Learner Outcome Report 2016/17



**Achieved  
excellent results  
in more subject  
areas than any  
other FE college**



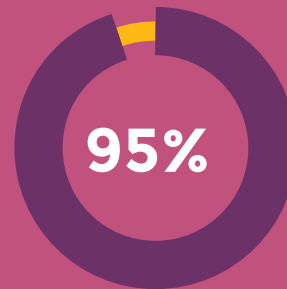
**Is there any financial  
help available?**

Depending on your child's chosen course, age and your household income, your child may be eligible for various means of financial support including weekly Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), free lunchtime meals, and free travel. To find out more, take a look at [www.coleggwent.ac.uk/funding](http://www.coleggwent.ac.uk/funding), or get in touch with our Admissions team who will be happy to help.



**What do you expect  
from my child?**

We want everyone to enjoy their time at college and we expect good behaviour from all students, including respect for others. The student Code of Conduct explains our key rules and behaviours. We also expect all students to aim for 100% attendance and punctuality. It is important that they attend all lessons regularly and promptly, as a poor attendance record will affect their achievement, entitlement to grants or even prevent them from sitting exams.



**of our  
students  
achieve their  
qualifications**



**Who will 'look out' for my  
child when they're in college?**

Student safety and wellbeing is our priority and as such every young person who studies with us has their very own personal tutor. All our staff undertake safeguarding training and our extensive support network ensures they are safe and have access to support services that meet their individual needs. Our disciplinary system ensures that any issues are dealt with effectively and promptly, to maintain our high standards of behaviour.





# GET IN TOUCH

## Any questions?

**If you have any questions or concerns, don't panic, there is always someone available to offer you the guidance and support that you need.**

For general enquiries, advice or guidance contact Student Recruitment

**Tel: 01495 333777\***

For enquiries about applications contact Admissions

**Tel: 01495 333777\***

For advice and information on financial funding & support contact Student Finance Wales

**Tel: 0300 200 4050\***

To apply for a travel pass visit [www.mytravelpass.gov.wales](http://www.mytravelpass.gov.wales) or call **0300 200 2233** to apply

\*Croesawn alwadau yn Gymraeg

