

EXE.

#ISSUE 04

EXETER COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE
AND ANNUAL REVIEW 2021-22

SPORT EDITION

MEET ONE OF WORLD RUGBY'S TOP REFEREES

LUKE PEARCE

HEAR FROM:

THE FIFA REFEREE CLIMBING THE FOOTBALL PYRAMID
THE EUROPEAN DRAGON BOAT CHAMPION

exeter college



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Front cover image of Luke Pearce -
photo credit: PPA UK

WELCOME

TO OUR NEW LOOK ALUMNI MAGAZINE AND ANNUAL REVIEW 2021-22

It has been a few years since our last edition of the EXE Magazine, but our fantastic alumni have continued to excel in their respective fields since completing their studies at Exeter College.

I am privileged to have been elected as Chair of the Corporation for the College in the summer of 2021 and I am delighted to introduce you to this new look magazine which now incorporates the achievements of former students from across the spectrum of our provision and a review of the latest college news and of our current governance and finances.

The last few years have seen significant enhancements to our estate with the opening of our South West Institute of Technology Digital and Data Centre and taking on a long-term lease of the former Flybe Training Academy, now the Future Skills Centre, in collaboration with Devon County Council.

In the last year the College was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in recognition of the College's excellence in embedding digital technology through curriculum innovation, staff training, and work with other colleges and employers.

And, in the summer of 2022, we launched our College Values following work with our students, staff and partners to capture the spirit of the way we operate both together as an organisation and within our community. These key Values of Ambition, Collaboration and Energy also provide a framework for the Latest News section of this publication, which will provide fitting examples of our Values in action in recent months.

Finally, I look forward to the College taking further steps towards our vision to be an exceptional College with strong values and continuing our mission to shape futures by delivering world-class education and training for our city and region.



BINDU ARJOON,
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Our 2020-25 Strategic Plan can be viewed on the College website. Visit exe-coll.ac.uk/about/policies

CONNECT WITH US

exe-coll.ac.uk/alumni
alumni@exe-coll.ac.uk



How can I get involved?

- Come and talk to our students
- Become a case study
- Support careers focused events
- Offer work experience, work shadowing and work based activities



LATEST NEWS 21/22



QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZE HONOUR FOR COLLEGE

Exeter College was honoured to be awarded a **Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education** in late 2021. By kind permission of HM Queen Elizabeth, John Laramy CBE, Exeter College's Principal and Chief Executive, Bindu Arjoon, Chair of Governors, and other senior members of College staff were delighted to be officially awarded with the Prize Medal and Certificate on 17 February 2022 at St James's Palace in London.



Exeter College earned the highest honour that can be bestowed upon a further education College for its strategic approach and work towards being a digital College and driving a skills revolution that has impacted on many areas of the College and region. The award recognises the College's excellence in embedding digital technology through curriculum innovation and its national work to help shape the digital agenda within Colleges.



Exeter College's Adam Hackney was awarded a **Technical Teaching Fellowship** for the 2022/23 academic year by the Education and Training Foundation and Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851.

Images of the proposed next phase of the College's **property masterplan** at our Hele Road site.



BBC OPENS NEW STUDIOS AT COLLEGE

The **BBC's Director General met with students** in November 2021, as he officially opened the corporation's new studios in Exeter College, hailing it an "inspiration for future journalists and programme makers."

The permanent base on the ground floor of the Centre for Creative Industries is used by BBC reporters to conduct interviews for regional and national news programmes, such as BBC Radio Devon, Spotlight and Newsnight. In return student journalists get the opportunity to train and develop their skills with the help of BBC programme makers.



The College secured government funding to offer students on the National Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering the chance to learn at the world-leading **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida**.



The new **Future Skills Centre** was opened at the vacant Flybe Training Academy in collaboration with Devon County Council.



MINISTER VISITS DIGITAL AND DATA CENTRE

In May 2022, we welcomed **Michelle Donelan, MP, formerly Minister for Higher and Further Education**, to our sector-leading Institute of Technology Digital and Data Centre. The centre focuses on providing employer-led education opportunities in the digital sector, including courses around data analytics, cyber security, software development, Esports and providing training for Apple's app development.

On her visit, Minister Donelan said: "It was my pleasure to visit Exeter College, a key partner in the South West Institute of Technology (SWIoT), to see first-hand why they rightly deserve their outstanding Ofsted ranking. Institutes of Technology are a game changer in technical education, and SWIoT is leading the country in delivering world-class degree apprenticeships in cutting edge industries such as technology, and digital skills."



Exeter College hosted the South West's first region-wide corporate **Esports Festival in partnership with Tech South West**. Further details on page 23.



STUDENTS AND STAFF CELEBRATE SUMMER 2022 RESULTS



The efforts of past months culminated in an exceptional set of results across the range of provision. **A Level learners** gained an **overall pass rate of 99.3%** ahead of a national average of 98.4% and **International Baccalaureate students** once again achieved a **100% pass rate**, and that in a year when the programme marks its 30th year.



Six BTEC learners won national awards in recognition of their dedication to their course, contributing to Exeter College being named as **Silver BTEC College of the Year** for 2022.



Exeter College enrolls over **1000 new apprentices** for the third year in a row.



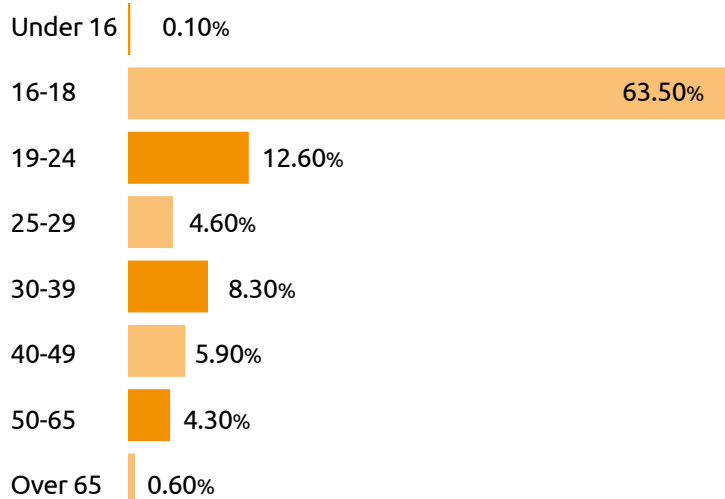
In a successful 2021/22 academic year, the College was awarded the **CMI Learning Provider of the Year Award** and was officially named as one of the **'UK's Best Large Companies to Work For'** in the Best Companies League Tables for Quarter 1 of 2022.



STUDENT STATISTICS

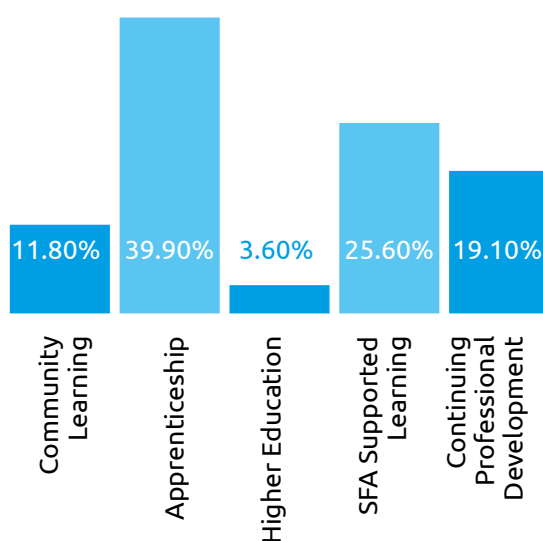
21/22

Total students enrolled 2021/22 = **11521**

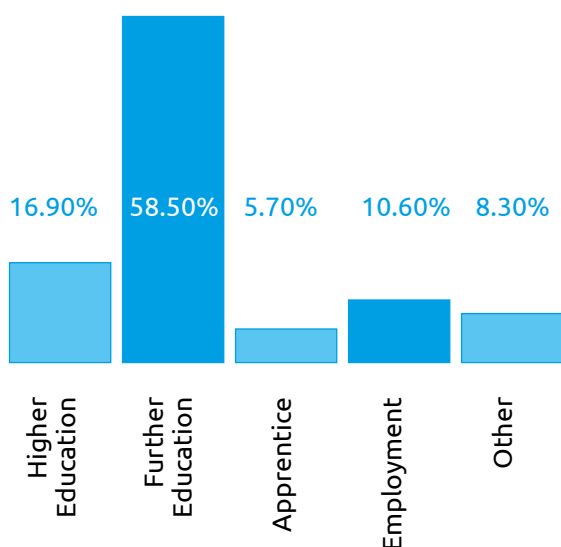


STUDENTS BY AGE

19+ STUDENTS BY COURSE TYPE



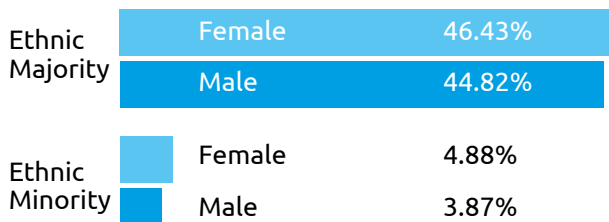
DESTINATIONS OF FULL TIME STUDENTS (THIS IS INTENDED DESTINATIONS)



LEVEL OF STUDY OF FULL TIME STUDENTS AND APPRENTICES AGED 16-18



ETHNIC AND GENDER BREAKDOWN OF STUDENTS



STUDENT SATISFACTION

21/22



90.09%

The use of resources and materials in this subject helps me to learn



96.13%

I feel safe at College



90.92%

My course has online resources that help support my learning



91.12%

I know what to do if I see or experience any form of discrimination



93.75%

I can use a computer when I need to



93.73%

My tutor, programme leader or skills officer is supportive



91.64%

Where appropriate staff members use digital technology to help me learn



89.96%

The teaching or training at College is either good or outstanding

SPORTS ROUND UP





1



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1. Exeter College Men's U18 Rugby Team became AoC Sport Champions of England and Wales as they beat Ivybridge Community College at Sandy Park in April 2022.
2. Exeter College student Harry Lee signed his first professional contract and made his senior debut for Exeter City FC, as the team were promoted to Sky Bet League One. Photo: PPA UK
3. Exeter College student Connie Pengelly finished the season as FAWNL Division One South West top scorer as Exeter City Women FC secured their highest league finish in seven years. Photo: PPA UK
4. Exeter College students Ellie Bishop (bottom row, third left), Esme Kilburn-Thompson (top row, third right) and Ocean Latto (bottom right) helped Torquay United Women FC beat Exeter City in a shock victory to lift the Devon Women's Premier Cup in April 2022. Photo: PPA UK
5. Long-distance runner Jake Smith ran the fastest ever 5km on Welsh soil in the Cardiff 5k in May 2022 with a time of 13.59.
6. Five Women's Rugby Academy students selected for England Rugby Under 18s in April 2022.
7. Jade Richards of Exeter Netball was named Premier League Division 3 Player of the season. Photo: Matt Austin and University of Exeter.

8. Exeter College Netball complete the AoC treble for the first time in the College's history by winning the AoC Sport Premier League play-offs, the National Colleges Championships and the AoC Sport Premier Netball Cup.
9. Ollie Payne (in yellow) representing GB Hockey at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, playing in every game as his side were knocked out in the quarter finals by India. Photo: Great Britain Hockey
10. Exeter College's haul of three gold and three silver medals helped the South West to finish in 1st place at the AoC National Championships.



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10

ADAM AMIN

A STORY LIKE NO OTHER

I went for a winter season in Hawaii, was immediately hooked and decided Hawaii was the place I wanted to spend my life.

Adam Amin has a story like no other. A renowned big wave surfer, the Exonian's journey involves several custody battles, spans four continents and a chance discovery at a summer camp.

Now living in Maui, Hawaii, Adam reflects on his tumultuous upbringing. The youngest of four brothers, his family lived in Exeter until he was five years old, when his parents decided to move to Bali in Indonesia to build a home and set up a furniture business. "We lived in Bali for three years until, one day, my father decided our lives would be better off in Saudi Arabia where most of his family lives. While my mother was out shopping for clothes, my father gathered all our belongings, secretly took us to the airport and moved us all to Jeddah without my mother knowing."

"It was difficult trying to adjust to such a vastly different place, we really struggled." In the three years that Adam lived in Saudi Arabia, his mother had made plans to get her children back and eventually managed to track them down after making her way over from Indonesia. His mother's struggles, captured in her book 'Reunited in the Desert' did not end there, however. Despite winning custody of her children, Adam's father took the children while legalities were being finalised and fled to England.

After tracking them down once again, Adam's mum was finally able to win custody of her sons and they moved to Sidmouth. "I was there for several years, so I was





finally able to settle down. It was really difficult after having travelled so much growing up."

It was while living in Sidmouth that Adam attended Exeter College and studied BTEC Sports and Active Leisure. "I enjoyed every second I had at Exeter College. It was hugely rewarding and created memories I will never forget. My classmates became like brothers and sisters to me and my lecturers became like a family who still look out for me even to this day. The lessons I learned made my life what it is today."

During this time Adam was sent on a one-week PGL camp where he discovered surfing and immediately fell in love with the sport. When he returned home his mother's boyfriend, an avid surfer himself, taught Adam everything he knew and they regularly went on surfing trips together.

Spurred on by his new-found love for the sport, Adam aspired to surf bigger and bigger waves. "The more difficult a wave the more it attracted me." He moved out on his own to live in North Devon, where he regularly surfed a big wave spot called Oysters. "I loved everything about big waves and, to this day, that passion has not slowed down at all."

The shores of the British Isles weren't enough for Adam, so he travelled to Hawaii to ride Jaws, a famous surf break off the coast of Pe'ahi, north of Maui. The waves

there can exceed 18m (60 feet) in the winter months and Jaws even featured in the opening scene of the James Bond film *Die Another Day*.

Adam became gripped by big wave surfing and, after travelling around Mexico for a few months, he decided to move to Hawaii permanently. "I was immediately hooked, especially after surfing Jaws and knowing that nothing can beat the feeling of surfing that wave."

After all the travelling and upheaval in his youth, you would be forgiven for thinking that Adam would try and settle for a slightly less chaotic lifestyle, but that has not been the case. "I teach breathing training and lung strengthening to big wave surfers, I am a personal fitness trainer, I teach surfing, I make surfboards and repair them, I do tree surgery and logging, and I do anything to do with construction like building homes, huts, barns etc. I haven't been able to stick to one thing. I love learning new things and, for me, change is exciting."

"My plans for the future are constantly changing, and rightfully so! I am fortunate to have a wonderful family and amazing friends all over the world who support what I do. Whilst travelling will always be the thing for me, Hawaii will always be my home base."

Adam's advice to people? "Follow your passion as far as it will go and travel the world to find out who you really are as a person."

ABBY MIDDLEBROOKE

ALUMNA. APPRENTICE. PLAYER. COACH.

“When I came to College the course replicated the life of a professional rugby player. This kickstarted my physical progression and really helped with my rugby journey.”



Abby Middlebrooke is a rising star in the world of rugby. She made her professional debut for Exeter Chiefs in a Women's Cup game against Sale Sharks in November 2021, following that up with a "really special" league debut off the bench against DMP Durham Sharks in March 2022.

These first steps into professional rugby have been a long time coming for Abby, even at the young age of 20. Starting off at the Exeter Saracens at 12, she moved up the age groups, captained Devon Under 15s and Under 18s, and was selected for South West Under 15s and 18s. Following a change in set ups, Abby ended up in the Bristol Bears Centre of Excellence before entering the Chiefs Academy when she joined Exeter College.

"The College's rugby setup is extremely good and I had exposure to a lot of very good coaches and facilities", Abby tells me at Exeter College's Exwick Sports Hub in the heart of the city. Having originally studied a BTEC in Sport and Exercise Sciences, she began an Apprenticeship with Exeter Chiefs in 2021. "I believe it was the first and perhaps the only female Apprenticeship in the country at the time. It gave me the opportunity to train full time as well as doing a course at College about how to become a professional athlete."

Following her successful Apprenticeship, Abby has signed a contract with Exeter Chiefs, started a Sports Coaching and Fitness Foundation Degree at College and has begun working with the Chiefs Academy as an Academy Coach for the boys' team. "I really like coaching boys. By the time they reach College, they've already

got a really good skillset, it's more about the game understanding and learning how to structure and play their game better. I quite like this as it makes me learn on the job. It can sometimes be challenging, especially as a female as you naturally have a little bit less authority. But as I respect the players, they learn to respect me as well and so I've got a pretty good relationship with them now and they understand that I try to make them better."

Juggling so many responsibilities hasn't been easy though. "I've found it pretty hard this year, to be honest! I'm a person that tends to put quite a lot on my plate but for me, my priority has always been rugby and my tutors and the people that I coach understand that. I do my degree part time on Mondays and Thursdays, and train around those times, then I coach in the mornings usually. My days fit in quite nicely around each other!"

Abby is currently also spending time on loan at Cullompton Ladies. "Competition for my position in particular (front row) is really hard at the Chiefs because we've got world class props. It's really important just to keep our bodies ticking along and to get exposure to 80 minutes of rugby."

As for what the future holds? "That's pretty vague at the moment. I want to continue playing professionally and would love to represent my country one day at senior level, so for me that's my main goal. Other than that, I used to want to be a PE teacher, so potentially a College lecturer? It depends on where the rugby takes me."

ONES TO WATCH



Exeter College Women's Rugby Academy, in partnership with Exeter Chiefs, have reaped the rewards from the increasing popularity of women's rugby in the region.

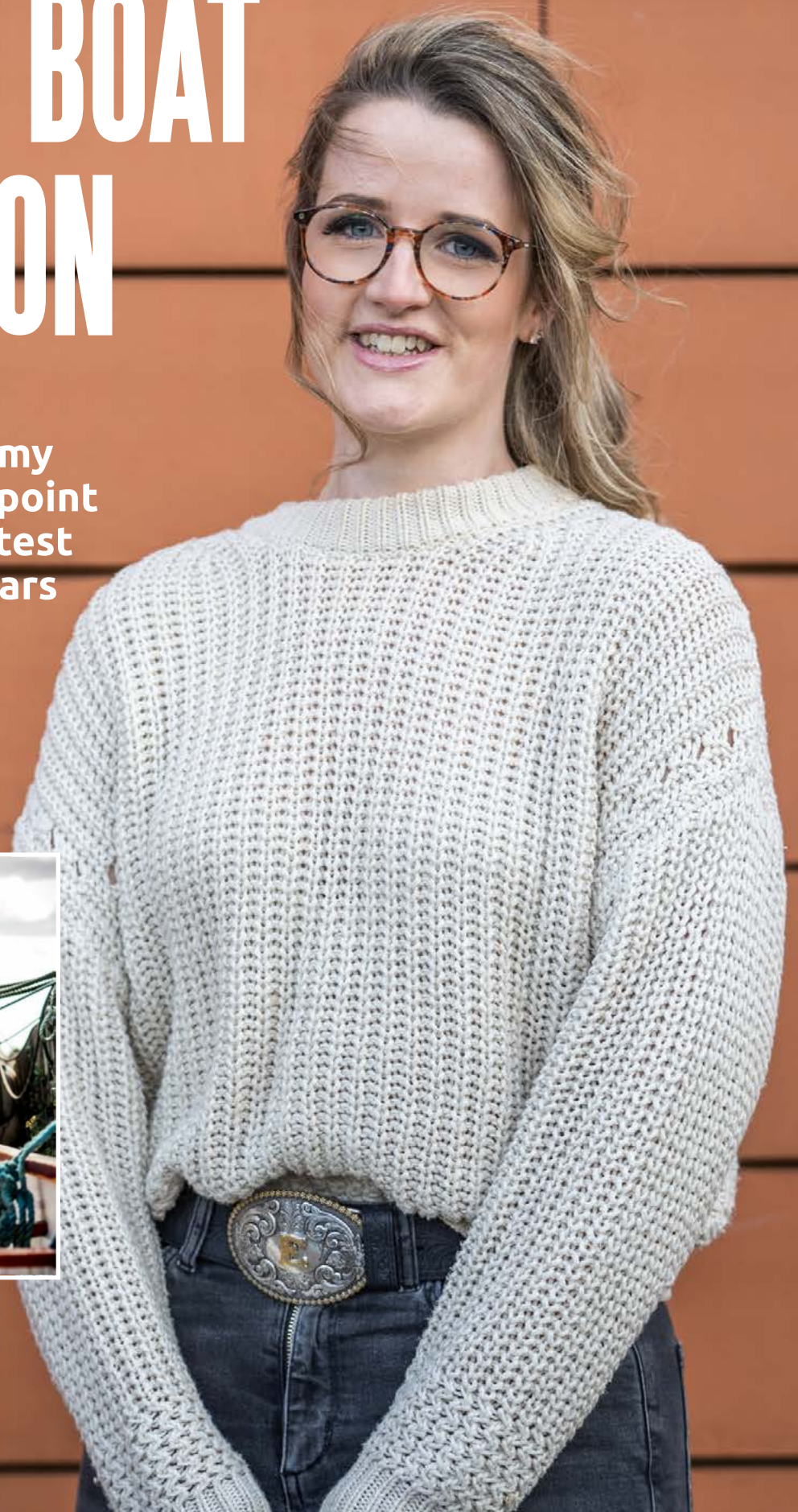
Susie Appleby, Women's Head Coach for Exeter Chiefs, said, "It is an incredibly exciting time to be a female rugby player in Exeter. Since forming the Exeter Chiefs women's team, the Exeter College women's programme has really grown in status and levels of performance. The future is bright."

In April 2022, Exeter College students Daisy Womack, Evie Walker, Hannah Sams, Josie Plant and Lilly Plowman were called up to the England Rugby Under 18s squad. Speaking at the time Daisy said, "I think for a lot of us girls it has been a dream since we were younger, but it is now becoming more realistic, and it's been a really good experience. College has given us a more professional environment where we are training most days, with access to the gym and great coaches and that has really helped."

EMILY PIPER

DRAGON BOAT CHAMPION

“The ACES Academy helped me get to a point where I was the fastest female for three years running.”



"This is all very new to me" alumna Emily Piper tells me as I greet her at reception in the new Digital and Data Centre. The stunning new building never fails to impress students returning to campus after a few years away. Few alumni, however, will have had as unique an experience since graduating as Emily. We sit down in the café, hot drinks in hand, and I feel like a spectator rather than the interviewer, such is the passion with which Emily speaks.

Emily is an accomplished, medal-winning Dragon Boater, and that's where our conversation begins: "I started when I was 11. The local Dragon Boating club put a boat on a trailer in the middle of Princesshay (in the centre of Exeter). I was just wandering around town and thought, 'oh, this looks fun' and I got hooked." How differently life could have turned out for Emily were it not for this chance encounter.

Emily tells me she enjoyed it so much she ended up training more frequently and making many friends, including some who were at least 20 years her senior. All the hard work paid off when she was asked to join the national squad's training sessions, even though Emily, by her own admission, did not think she was "that good."

Having never really left Devon before Dragon Boating, Emily travelled to Northern England for gruelling hour-long training sessions up to 14 times a week in order to pursue a future in the sport. Emily made the national squad for the European Championships but turned down the opportunity to attend the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics so she could travel. She returned home a European Champion with three golds and a bronze. She says, "I was 12 at the time and kind of just didn't stop. It's taken me to Canada, Prague, Rome and other places."

Even as a European Champion, Emily tells me she still had to prove herself to her more sceptical, older peers. "It's quite nice when after you've all raced, people that maybe overlooked you come up to you and show you their respect for what you've done when you're pulling times that are only a couple of seconds off a premier team."

Throughout her years in the sport Emily's passion for Dragon Boating continued to grow, taking up a Sports and Exercise Sciences degree at the University of Birmingham and becoming the youngest Level 3 coach in the country, aged 18. Her coaching career has so far seen her become Assistant Junior Head Coach for Team GB, coaching at the European Championships in Germany and the World Championships in Thailand. Her success as a competitor has continued as a coach, as she tells me she was part of "the most successful GB squad" at the World Championships.

A successful athlete in her own right beforehand, Emily tells me how she was able to step up her game even further while at Exeter College as part of the ACES Academy, a tailored programme at College for more niche sports. Emily says, "I had a good base knowledge of how to maintain my fitness, progress and develop strength, but it was really through what I was doing at College that I gained a deeper understanding of things, but also got so much stronger, to a point where I managed to maintain fastest female Dragon Boater for three years running! The Academy educated you in your sport so you could make the right decisions to benefit yourself independently."

But it wasn't just as part of the Academy that Emily excelled. While at College, she also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for charity. She tells me, "I'd had surgery

on both my legs and was on crutches for about three months. Three weeks in and on a break from College, crutches to the side, leg in full cast, my friend Isla and I were going through our bucket lists: 'go to Asia, do the Great Wall of China, climb a mountain...' and I thought 'that mountain sounds good!' We went in full leg casts and crutches, booked the trip and didn't tell anyone, otherwise people would have talked us out of it!"

The gruelling challenge was not without its reward, with the College duo raising over £1,000 for Mind. Emily says, "It was difficult and mentally challenging. Raising money for a mental health charity just seemed really apt."



At this time, Emily tells me she has retired from the Dragon Boat world, but only "For a little bit! I don't want to do it half-heartedly; I want to do it justice." Having graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2021, she is now in the middle of completing her Masters in Podiatry at the University of Plymouth and is working at The Exeter Clinic. Emily says, "I knew that doing my Masters alongside working full time and being a GB athlete something would have to give, and I didn't want anything to have to give."

Emily is still keeping fit despite the busy schedule. Last year, she managed to complete the Blenheim Palace triathlon in 1h 45mins, this year she's doing the Mumbles Centurion in Wales and next year she is aiming to climb Mount Everest in aid of a hospice in Dorset. Eventually, she hopes to complete an Ironman in New Zealand. She says, "I find it hard to focus if I don't do sport. It keeps me grounded, focused, and keeps me holding on. It's not just the physical side of it, it's also mentally difficult and I like that challenge."

I wrap things up by asking if Emily will return to Dragon Boating in the future, to which she very enthusiastically says, "Yes, I love coaching, but there's always that part of me that thinks 'oh, I want that to be me!' I really just want to be on that boat! I want to feel that adrenaline."



LUKE PEARCE

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Luke Pearce has been on a non-stop upward trajectory in the world of rugby refereeing since he began in 2005, aged just 16. Having started his refereeing journey before he joined Exeter College, he went on to become the youngest referee to be promoted to the Rugby Football Union (RFU) panel in 2009. He has since worked his way to the top of the game, regularly officiating Premiership matches and taking charge of games at the Six Nations, 2019 World Cup and the 2021 Champions Cup final. "Trying to break through professionally in sport is really challenging, and I don't think refereeing is any different. It isn't always a straight line, there are always ups and downs."

Refereeing is in the blood for Luke. "My dad refereed for years and years, but I ended up falling into it out of injury while at my local club, Exeter Saracens. All of a sudden I enjoyed it more and more, I guess I had an ability for it and things just got serious from there. Twelve years later I'm still here and doing it professionally."

Originally from Pontypool in Wales, Luke came to Exeter College to complete his A Levels and also played at the College's Rugby Academy. During this time he established himself as a referee in Devon and the South West. "I didn't want to go and start afresh somewhere else, so that was the reason I stuck at Exeter College. After my A Levels I moved onto the Foundation Degree for Sports, Fitness and Coaching. At the time, the College was linked with Plymouth Marjon University so

I did my third year there and that just worked well with what I was doing at that point. I needed something that meant I wasn't going to be moving far away."

It wasn't until Luke had left College that he began to take refereeing more seriously. "I started full time with England Rugby in 2010, so I stopped playing. I didn't think refereeing could become a career, but I'm delighted that it ended up being so because it's given me so many opportunities."

"Rugby follows a similar progressional league route to football and, when I got to the Championship level and I was still part time, it became apparent that the sport was becoming more and more professional. England Rugby were looking for professional referees but there weren't many around at the time, so I thought to myself 'why not give it a go?' I gave myself four to five years after leaving Marjon to really try and establish my career and luckily it turned out alright."

I really enjoyed the atmosphere of the College - it was the first step of growing up.

"My first massive accomplishment was refereeing in the Premiership and then, like in any job, you have the ambition to go further and further. The European Cup, the World Cup and internationals, that's the real pinnacle and the reason why we all do it. I won't be refereeing forever though, so with the course at Exeter College I have something behind me and I won't just be falling out of the sport in my mid-forties."

Despite refereeing from such a young age, Luke doesn't feel like he missed out on the university experience. "I don't think so. I still got that university factor through coming to College and Marjon. It was an enjoyable experience, but it was nothing like it is now - I think we had Hele Road and Victoria House and that was it! It's amazing to see how the College has evolved and I've

still got a lot of kind people who taught me who are still here that I am pretty close with."

Luke had spent more than a decade reaching the top of Rugby, refereeing at the Six Nations and World Cup in 2019, when the world of sport was abruptly halted by the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic. He recalls that he was very fortunate to be well looked after by England Rugby.

"The pandemic was horrific for a lot of reasons and I was very fortunate not to lose anyone who was close. But it did allow us to take a two-month break that we wouldn't normally get – it was nice to just stop because in this job all you do is travel and move on to the next game, the next week, the next competition, wherever that may be around the world. As glamorous and amazing as that sounds, sometimes it is really important to just reflect and have some time at home with family."

"Without supporters in stadiums though, the money was only going to last so long. It was strange getting back into refereeing with no fans. It felt like we were putting on a product just to get the box ticked, but we were pretty fortunate to be in a sport where TV revenue kept it going."

During the pandemic, Luke refereed the 2021 Six Nations and the Australian Rugby Championship. "It was really unique – you're in these massive stadiums with nobody there. But on the other side we were fortunate to travel when nobody was allowed to."

There is much more to being a professional referee than travelling and the match on a Saturday. "It's an all encompassing role. 90% of the job is obviously the matches and that's where you earn your call, but we are at Twickenham every Monday and Tuesday reviewing and training, making sure that you're fit and robust enough to keep going. Other parts of the job are development for further down the ladder, working with new referees and referee societies trying to bring people through, spending time with clubs and travelling with England for international matches."

"Outside of that we do media and sponsorship work. Last week we did a photoshoot with Emirates at their HQ in Dubai as they sponsor our kits. It's not a regular occurrence, rugby isn't on the same terms as football financially, so anything we can do to keep that attraction to investors is very important. Rugby carries a kind of uniqueness where referees are very well respected and I think people quite like that selling point and that brand, and they want to be associated with it."

While officiating 30 rugby players might seem like the most challenging aspect of the job, Luke says that it's actually social media and technology that provide the biggest issues to tackle. "Everyone has a platform for criticism and everyone has a voice to question your decisions every weekend. The other part is now technology: TMO in rugby is no different to VAR in football. Once you bring in technology the general feeling is that we can't make mistakes. It's something with which we need to get the balance right, between overuse and underuse, between getting things right and people accepting small mistakes so as to not slow the game down."

With regards to the future, Luke says retirement is a long way off. "I'm 34 now and my intention is to do another 13 years. I've been doing it for 12, so if I can get another 13 I can get to 25 years, I don't think anyone's got to that before, but maybe it's because I started so young. There's three more World Cups I'd like to do."

"As for afterwards, I don't know yet. I'm aware that in this day and age not many people can retire at 45, you've got to keep going and try and find something else you want to do. I have a couple of coffee businesses that run themselves at the moment and I worked in insurance before that, so whether I go back into that or stay in rugby... I'll cross that bridge a little bit further down the line. You've got to keep your options open as much as you can."



Photo credit: PPA UK



STACEY PEARSON

THE RISE AND RISE OF THE FIFA REFEREE

Photo credit: Getty Images

I speak to Stacey Pearson at a key moment in the history of women's football. Following England's victory in the 2022 Women's European Championship Stacey speaks to me about the positive impact of this international success.

"After the Euros people have started to recognise the Women's footballers. Just look at Jill Scott on I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here.* That never would have happened a few years ago."

Women's football has certainly risen in popularity and Stacey Pearson is excited to be part of a sport that is on the move.

Stacey attended Exeter College between 2003 and 2007, starting out on a Level 3 BTEC in Sports Development and Fitness and progressing to a Foundation Degree in Coaching and Fitness. Stacey was one of the first cohort of students to study on the FdSc and she remembers her time at College as being extremely busy but enjoyable. Being part of the Sports Academy, playing football alongside studying for her BTEC, meant balancing regular fixtures with assignments. She remembers in one week in 2006 running the Great West Run on the Sunday, followed by her usual college lectures and training, and then winning the Bucks Cup in Solihull on the Wednesday!



Stacey celebrating at the Annual Student Awards in 2006.

Stacey offers advice to students in juggling lots of commitments:

"Use your time wisely, set your goal, make sure you put steps in place to achieve your weekly plan. I had to plan everything around my training, and also made sure to build in time for social activities. Down time is important."

Stacey graduated from College in 2007, going on to a top-up course at Plymouth Marjon to achieve her full degree in Coaching and Fitness, before completing a PGCE at Bath Spa University in 2010. Stacey tells me she had been inspired to teach by her College lecturers and today works as a secondary school PE teacher, delivering on the Level 3 BTEC.

In addition to teaching, Stacey also spent nearly a decade playing for Yeovil Town, scoring a hat-trick in their first FA Women's Super League (WSL) fixture in 2014 before retiring as a player to focus on rising through the ranks as a domestic referee.

Stacey's journey up the professional refereeing ladder began in 2012 when she completed a refereeing course, presiding over several youth women's games before officiating her first men's game in February 2013. Since then, Stacey has climbed up the football pyramid from Level 7 to Level 3, now also taking charge of men's Southern League matches, and that in the context of the challenges posed by the pandemic and starting a family.

Speaking of memorable moments in her career as a referee, Stacey remembers 2020-2021 as being an eventful year:

"In 2020 I was added to the FIFA referees list and by the October I officiated my first ever international game. By the following October 2021, at which point I was about 12 weeks pregnant, I had officiated four games internationally.

That first game was a UEFA Women's Euro qualifier match, Turkey v Kosovo, and it was tricky for me. I issued 7 yellow cards and 1 red (the result of a second yellow)."

I ask Stacey about how she works to overcome any language barriers when refereeing on the global stage:

"You learn to use signals, lots of body language. You talk much less! There is always someone on the pitch who speaks some English and can understand – I tend to use them to help me communicate."

It is now Stacey's sixth season as a referee in the Women's Super League. As a WSL referee Stacey is part of a select group that benefits from four training camps each year, meetings twice weekly, sports psychologist support, and a structured fitness regime.

"These are all things the players already have and it's great and right that the referees now also have the same access to this professional support and development."

The group is also fortunate to work with former international referee, the German Bibiana Steinhaus-Webb, who has had success at the Olympics, Euros and World Cup, as well as refereeing the Women's Champions League Final in 2017.

Our conversation turns to this year's England 2-1 victory over the German team in the Women's Euro Championship Final. Stacey, who had recently given birth to their second child at the time of the cup final, admits,

"It was a bit weird having refereed those girls domestically and then supporting them at Wembley for their big win. I was there for their group stage match against Northern Ireland at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton. It was just incredible to be part of it all.

"And one of the best things about England winning a major tournament is that we are now seeing participation levels in girls and women's football going up, both at the grassroots and in terms of stadium and TV audiences. Such a historic win will undoubtedly create opportunities."

And, indeed, at the time of writing, three female referees and three female assistant referees have taken to the field to officiate in the FIFA Men's World Cup 2022, a breakthrough for female match officials in the men's game.

When asked what might be next for Stacey in her refereeing career, she tells me:

"The sky's the limit. My goal is to continue to make my way up the football pyramid to Level 1, to continue officiating in the Women's Super League and also performing well internationally. And, it is important that women keep being given access to the men's top premiership and international tournaments and be seen to operate as part of those. Rebecca Welch set a significant milestone in 2021 and continues to do so. It doesn't really matter who the pioneers might be, but it needs someone to be present on the men's stage and to blaze a trail."

With such drive and focus and a patent love of the game, that person could very well be Stacey.

**Former women's footballer, Jill Scott, went on to win the 2022 series of I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here.*

JAYDE PERKIN

CREATIVITY OUT OF THE ORDINARY

At 30, Jayde Perkin is a prime example of a successful working illustrator in today's modern climate. Her colourful and expressionistic style has been noticed by the likes of The Guardian, Radio 4 and Penguin Books. She has won the East London Comic Arts Fair (ELCAF) X WeTransfer prize and 'Best Graphic Non-Fiction' in the 2019 Broken Frontier Awards for *I'm Not Ready*, her first long form graphic memoir tackling the subject of grief. Originally from Exmouth, Jayde explains to us her working process and how her time at Exeter College completing the Art Foundation course in 2009 shaped her career path.

Tell us a bit about your artistic background and your story up to now.

I always wanted to be an artist ever since I was a kid. My Foundation course was an amazing turning point for me. My tutor Carol Kennedy showed me the world of illustration and I suddenly realised that my previous love of reading, writing and words, in with this love of art in a more illustrative way, was what I wanted to do.

I then went onto the University of the West of England on their Bower Ashton campus to study illustration and I stayed in Bristol for a couple of years after I graduated. I went straight into a studio space, which was great being a part of that creative community. Then me and my boyfriend David moved to Berlin for a year, freelancing and doing a bit of teaching work.

It was in 2016 that my mum passed away, so I left Berlin and went back to Exmouth for a year. I moved back to this town where all my friends had left, and I had lots of time to house this big ball of grief; that's where my journey with comics started really. I'd been making little bits and bobs before, but I started using the comics as a platform for my grief and started self-publishing.

It was at the Bristol Comic and Zine Fair when Book Island Books approached me and asked me to make a children's picture book, that was *Mum's Jumper*, about grief. So that journey happened and simultaneously I was then doing comic fairs and then I won the ELCAF X WeTransfer prize in June 2018.

How did you approach creating *Mum's Jumper*? You've explored your journey through grief in previous comics like *Time May Change Me* and *Breathe In Deep*; what was it like having children as your target audience rather than adults?

That was a big, big challenge. It was difficult but really fun. Because I'd been making these comics for myself, I don't think I really knew the weight of them.

It was quite a long process with an ongoing dialogue between me and my publisher, but it was a really great experience. I was putting myself into the shoes of a child and trying to approach it as sensitively as possible, making it reasonably optimistic in spite of the negative situation. We talked to some GPs and some child psychologists as well in order to get the right tone of it.

It was great to step out of my comfort zone; when I graduated, I never really thought I would end up making a children's picture book and it's been really exciting to be able to do that.

How important is art in all its forms of raising awareness and helping people cope with things such as loss?

Art is amazing as a tool to be able to share and create this community in order to open up conversations. What I've enjoyed about my comics, as much as they are about grief, I've also used them as a platform to talk about social justice and stuff I want to talk about. One of the things about art is that it's always there; as an artist it's your voice, but it's an amazing platform to bring people in for a shared experience. Sometimes you need to create that space to almost allow yourself to breathe and allowing that time for creativity to flourish.

How did it feel to win the East London Comic Arts Fair (ELCAF) X WeTransfer prize and 'Best Graphic Non-Fiction' in the 2019 Broken Frontier Awards for your long form graphic memoir *I'm Not Ready*?

It's been kind of crazy. The ELCAF award was amazing as I'd been going to the East London Comic Arts Fair for years. Me and my friends would make these very DIY zines years and years ago on my friend's printer and stitch them all together. And it progressed and progressed and winning that prize was amazing.



Photo credit: Jesse Roth

Suddenly, that was my platform to close the book in a way; I'd been making all these comics about grief, and to me that was really cathartic. Having that opportunity to be able to make something into a proper tangible book was really exciting. Winning those awards has meant that I've got a solid audience of people supporting and buying my work, and as an independent artist it's like the best thing in the world.

You've mentioned in previous interviews that music acts as a motivator and as a balm to your working process. What genres of music do you turn to when starting a project and what have you used in the past?

It changes all the time, but for my first comic that I made in response to grief was *Breathe In Deep*, which is a reference to the song *Breathing* by Kate Bush, because it's all about being a fetus in the womb; that was a direct inspiration.

With *Time May Change Me*, which in time became *I'm Not Ready*, it was very much a David Bowie reference. The story starts when I came back to Berlin in January 2016 after going home to Exmouth for Christmas, and the next day David Bowie died. Me and my partner David woke up and saw the news, then sat in bed and burst into tears. The story harks back to all these memories of me and my mum. She was a big Bowie fan, constantly singing his songs. When I was a kid my first album was *Hunky Dory*; I loved that album so much. It was not long after that when I found out my mum had cancer again; I almost used Bowie as a vehicle for that time. Also, it was

at that time his final album *Black Star* came out. There are so many moments when he's coming to terms with his own mortality and fame, and I think that's kind of amazing.

What advice would you give to your younger self, or any young people starting out their career in the creative industries?

The most important thing is when you're still in education is to use that time to play. College was amazing because I could experiment and try different things, because I wasn't worried about everything else.

Once you are in the 'real world' you don't have many opportunities to do this, but it's still important to find time and do some projects for yourself.

Also, not to be too hard on yourself; I think it's about being on your own journey and finding your sense of place and doing it well and being true to yourself in that way. Success is so subjective; sometimes people start doing stuff straight away, for others it can be a bit of a long journey; I worked part time jobs for years and years but it means I get to do what I want as well.

Do you have any new projects in the pipeline?

I am moving to France for 5 months next year as I've got a place on an artist's residency in Angoulême for comics and sequential narrators which is really exciting.

Written by student Ella Moorhouse in 2020.

ADAM ATKINS

MAGIC CEO



Tell us a bit about your journey since leaving Exeter College.

I left Exeter College with the A Levels I expected in Human Biology, PE and Psychology. We had a good cohort and a few of us have stayed in touch since as we either went to similar universities or ended up returning to Exeter. I went on to study Human Biology at Loughborough University with my partner

and we moved to London after graduating. I ended up working as an estate agent. It wasn't really what I wanted to do but it did allow me to move up the ranks quickly and I was a middle manager by the time I was 22.

My wife and I left that life behind in 2007 to go travelling for a year and we ended up coming back to a vastly different world as the global economy flipped on its head. Once back I ended up becoming a science teacher and doing my PGCE at Kingston University. Within a few years I was Assistant Headteacher at a large state school in Islington, thanks to my previous managerial experience.

At this time my wife got offered a very good research job at the University of Exeter and we moved back. I ended up working with Save the Children, being responsible for all the income generated from the community in the South West, South East and Midlands. I've since worked at Exeter Community Initiatives and I have just recently become CEO of Magic Carpet.

You have had a varied career and you have become a CEO before turning 40. Do you think those experiences have helped you get to where you are today?

Absolutely. It's such a steep learning curve going from being a member of a management team, where you always have a fallback to having ultimate responsibility for the direction of an organisation. Regardless of the size of the organisation, when you take on the top job anywhere if you don't have that breadth of experience, unless you quickly surround yourself with people who can fill those gaps in knowledge for you, you're going to fail pretty quickly. That breadth of experience has been a real help to me.

How did coming to Exeter College help you achieve what you have in your career?

I had some really great teachers: Rob Bosworth, Julian Tagg, Sue McGivern... her advice, the one-to-one chats she had with us; she helped shape where I wanted to go. She was very much about doing what you enjoy and I found that guidance really helpful.

One of the big things was that I was surrounded by students who went on to have successful careers. We could have been a lucky cohort, but I think it speaks volumes that all my mates from College have gone on to be successful.

You have worked in the charity sector for some time now, was that ever something you planned?

When I made the transition to teaching, I never felt settled in the private sector, I never felt settled working in the city of London. I think I always wanted to do something with a social purpose, even if I didn't really know, hadn't really defined it clearly in my head. The charity sector and teaching have their parallels. I've fallen into it to an extent but I feel like it was possibly under the surface somewhere that I wanted to do something with a purpose.

Tell us a bit about Magic Carpet.

We've been going for 40 years and we've got real heritage. We are an Arts for Health organisation, so we run a range of projects that enable people who otherwise wouldn't be able to engage with the arts to be able to do so. That can be people with learning difficulties, people who have chronic or acute mental health issues, etc. We predominantly work with adults, but we are hoping to have done some work on that in the next year to broaden the ages of the people we reach. We use all kinds of different creative mediums – singing, drama, animation, pottery, etc – to try and reach as many people as we possibly can and give them access to the arts.

Like all small charities the biggest challenge is always funding. My aim is to get us to a position where we can go for the bigger, longer-term pots of funding than we do currently. Once we get there we'll look at income diversification so we are no longer dependent on the next big grant. That will involve a lot of work trying to increase our brand presence in Exeter.

What's next for you now?

My predecessor at Magic Carpet, Rob Wynne, was here for over 20 years and was the life and soul of the organisation. At the moment my focus is utterly on Magic Carpet and making sure it's in a better position than when I joined it, if I'm able to do that I'll be more than happy regardless of what I do next. Until that task is complete I won't be going anywhere unless the trustees decide otherwise!



JON BEER AYO ON THE MIC

He may only be 20 years old, but Jon Beer Ayo already has an impressive CV in the world of sports broadcasting and football.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I had just done well enough in my GCSEs to take A Levels, but I decided to go for the BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport because of the Futsal Academy and the fact it was more coursework based. The BTEC was the right choice for me as it really benefitted my learning style, and the lecturers were fantastic; I really enjoyed my time at Exeter College."

Shortly after starting his course at College and on his 17th birthday, Jon became the youngest person ever to be elected to the Exeter City Supporters' Trust board, joining a board of 12 directors responsible for the business strategy of the football club. "There was definitely a lot of pressure at the beginning: making decisions on the future of a professional football club at 17, not many people have ever done it at that age."

"It complemented what I was learning at College well. On my course I was learning about the physical side of sport, whilst being on the Trust gave me an understanding of the industry from a business perspective. Managing the workload was tough, but my tutor Neil Saunders was really good to me. He made sure I was alright and that I had the right balance."

"With the Trust I was responsible for entertaining directors in the boardroom at matches. It was daunting at first, being a teenager, meeting millionaires and VIPs, but I gained confidence and learned to hold my own in those situations. The opportunities that I've had haven't necessarily come from the contacts I made, but they have come from the skills and confidence I gained there."

One such opportunity came through the BBC: "I just reached out to them one day via email and a few days later they came back to me asking if I would like to be a matchday summariser. After my first game at Colchester away they took a liking to me and I've since gone on to summarise at a League Two play-off semi-final, which was a big moment because it was live on Sky and the BBC. I fell in love with the media side of sport and that changed my mind on where I wanted to go career-wise."

Jon has since begun a BA in Sports Business and Sports Broadcasting at UCFC in Manchester, which he is hoping will help expand his broadcasting skills. But this hasn't stopped him from seeking out new career opportunities,

becoming a regular on the 'My New Football Club' podcast with comedians David Earl and Joe Wilkinson.

"It was a strange one really. My uncle sent me a tweet of theirs that I replied to, and they invited me on because of my profile picture, a joke photo of me pretend-summarising that my brother took one day. It was a running joke on the first podcast episode that I looked professional stood by the pitch. That first time Joe, David, and I really clicked and it just felt right, we have done almost 20 episodes together now!"

"The podcast has done really well, and it was in the top 10 sports podcasts in the country. It's a really good thing I can put on my CV, but it's also great memories and something I can look back on and be proud of. It's opened so many doors for me. People behind the scenes start to think you might be good on other things and I've now proven I can hold my own with people who are in the industry and have gone on to be successful themselves."

Despite having two more years of university left, Jon is already thinking of his next career move. "A natural progression is to look at some sustained paid work. Sometimes the experience you get from things like the podcast are more valuable than any sum of money. But now I am at that stage where I want to go and work full time in the industry once I finish studying, whether that is as a radio presenter, TV presenter or similar."

On the back of his experiences, Jon has some advice for people looking to take the next step in their careers: "Even at 17, just go out and do whatever you can. Tweet someone, email them, contact them on LinkedIn. Even if someone doesn't reply, keep on looking and eventually you will be exactly what someone is looking for. Never see your age as a hindrance."

My New Football Club is part of the Acast Creator Network, available wherever you get your podcasts.



Photo credit: PPA UK




ESPORTS ACADEMY AGAINST ALL ODDS

Esports came into existence at Exeter College in September 2020 against all the odds. Starting off as a pilot study with just ten days' notice, no gaming equipment, one teacher and, initially, no students. By the end of the first week there were 11 students, three teachers, a curriculum and access to the existing games design and animation computer suite.

By the end of the first term, Esports had access to mechanical keyboards, headphones, gaming mice, brand new graphics cards in the computers and enough students to fill two teams in each of the three games for which the British Esports Association ran championships. By this point the Esports Academy were also running on three social media platforms, were outputting live streams, producing YouTube videos and the teams were competing at the highest level.

As the pilot year came to an end, the course had all 11 students gaining the equivalent to two additional A Levels in UCAS points and a National Championship trophy for League of Legends. Despite the national lockdowns, the Academy students reported continued and deepened friendships, and improved mental health as a direct result of their involvement with Esports and the supportive online community it encourages.

 **Esports is much more than just playing computer games.** 

The Esports industry is the pinnacle of the much larger gaming industry and is larger than the video and music industries in the UK combined.

Esports is much more than 'just playing computer games'. Outdated perceptions of gaming being an isolating distraction from work or studies are slowly being replaced by connotations of competition, camaraderie and agile, team-based problem solving. Those involved aspire to be professional players on six-figure salaries, winning seven-figure cash prizes and to surround themselves with their own nutritionists, physios, coaches and fan base. For those who do not make it as a professional, there are plenty of other roles within

the industry, such as team management, running social media, securing sponsorship deals or even becoming a 'shoutcaster' (a commentator) for an international tournament with an audience of 70 million.

In the first year, the course had students producing an event, running social media, editing videos, learning about team and performance psychology, and taking part in health and wellbeing classes. Students didn't just achieve and learn through the course but also through the enrichment: managing the teams, fixtures, and all aspects of a successful Esport organisation. Some students even commented that it was as much a job as it was a course. Whilst branding was not a unit in the first year, students came up with a name for every team, a logo, a social media following, video brand transitions, press releases and a logo for the entirety of Team.eXe; the name under which the Academy competes.



Whilst the first year was a pilot for the course and the Academy, the second year was another pilot for Esports. The South West Esports Festival, the first ever region-wide corporate Esports festival, delivered in partnership with Tech South West, was hugely successful. Sixteen leading tech companies from the region, 48 players, 200 guests, 1,500 viewers online and 3 hours later, Bath-based Rocketmakers came out on top in the Rocket League tournament, with the likes of Exeter Chiefs and the Met Office taking part. The festival was supported by ultrafast broadband provider Jurassic Fibre, technology strategy and IT experts Timewade, software engineering firm Rowe, tech marketing agency Astley Media and fan engagement



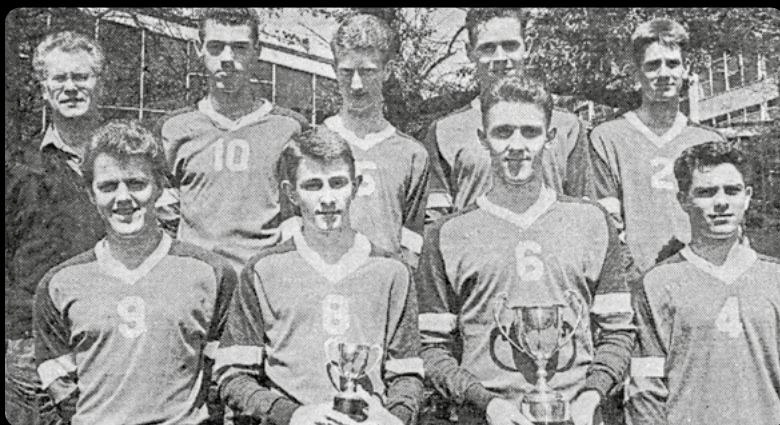
platform Filmily. The entire event was run by students from the Esports Academy, and the success was such that in 2023 the College can look forward to not one but two further Esports events with a local competition in February and a grand final event in May.

Since the pandemic, the demand for individuals with the skills and experience to run combined in-person/online, social media driven and media generating events has vastly increased. The students in the Academy have practiced people management skills, social skills, PR and marketing skills, and risk management skills in a real-world event where competitors and sponsors alike were heavily invested in its success. The transferable skills students have gained from the course could even be considered as being even more valuable than the two A Level's worth of UCAS points. The practical application of these skills through the course gives young people confidence and experience to apply these 'soft skills,' the hardest skills of all, to any occupation.

As a result of the success of Esports in the pilot year and through 2021, the Academy has benefitted from further investment with a fully equipped state of the art Esports Studio in the brand-new Institute of Technology Digital and Data Centre and students now have access to the College's TV Studio facilities for five hours every week, testament to the cross-faculty collaboration and multi-disciplinary approach that Esports engenders.

Going forward, the future looks bright for the Esports Academy. The Academy teams continue to compete at national level, two teams having competed at the national finals in Nottingham in July 2022. The Academy now boasts a second fully equipped room sponsored by Lenovo, Microsoft and AMD, a new Esports Production and Management HNC course starting in September 2023, and the new and improved Esports Festival also set to take place in 2023. For Esports at Exeter College it is certainly a 'good game'.

FROM THE ARCHIVE



The Exeter College Volleyball team who were crowned British College champions in 1991.



Thirteen Exeter College Academy students won county and regional recognition in 2002.



The Exeter College Netball team who were crowned South West College's champions in 2003.



The Exeter College side who won the South West and British Colleges seven-a-side rugby championships in 2004.



The Exeter College Basketball team of 1982.



The Exeter College Football side who won the league title for a third consecutive season and lifted the Devon Professional Bowl for the fifth consecutive year in 1993.



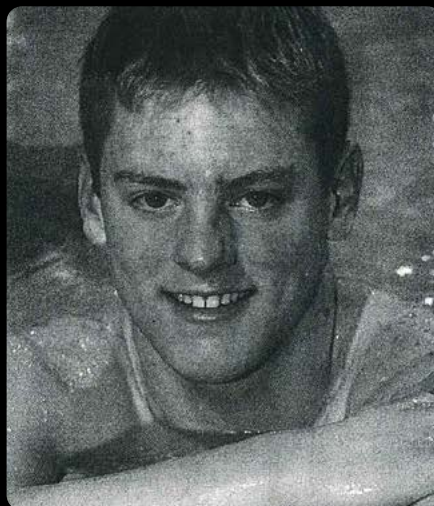
Exeter College side won the British Colleges Hockey Championship in 1990.



Emily White, Garnet McKinder and Charlotte Green of Exeter Saracens after helping England Colleges beat Scotland U18s 31-3.



Emily Piper poses with her medal haul of three silvers and three bronzes from the European Championships in Rome 2016.



A 17-year-old Liam Tancock after winning bronze at the FINA (now World Aquatics) World Cup in China.

**DO YOU HAVE
MEMORIES OF
EXETER COLLEGE?**

Share them with us at
exe-coll.ac.uk/alumni
or email **alumni@exe-coll.ac.uk**

COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

21/22

Senior Leadership Team



John Laramy CBE
MSc PGCE MCIQB,
Principal and Chief Executive



Rob Bosworth
BA (Ed) Hons PGCE CAPS (MA),
Vice Principal and Deputy
Chief Executive



Richard Church
BA (Hons) ACA,
Chief Financial Officer



Jade Otty
BA (Hons) PGCE QTS PGDip,
Vice Principal



Sam Hillman
BSc (Hons) PGCE,
Assistant Principal



Lisa Smith
MMus BMus (Hons) LTCL PGCE,
Assistant Principal



Billie Stokes
LLB (Hons) LPC PGCE,
Assistant Principal

Board of Governors

The Board is drawn from the community which the College serves and includes two staff and two student governors.

Members, who usually serve a maximum of two four-year terms, are committed to seeking assurance that the College is working towards its Strategic Plan, within an agreed budget. Governance at the College is outstanding and the Board has signed up to the Code of Good Governance for English Colleges (September 2021).

The College is compliant with all ten standards, and with the Charity Commission's Governance Code. Assurance on risk management is delegated to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee which reports back to the full Board and which works closely with external and internal auditors.



Bindu Arjoon
Chair of the Board,
Deputy CEO, Exeter City Council,
External Member



Glenn Woodcock
Vice Chair of the Board,
CEO, Exeter City Futures,
External Member



John Laramy CBE
College Principal and CEO



Sarah Brampton
Director of Finance,
University Hospital Plymouth,
External Member



Sue Clarke OBE
Former Head of Education for
Devon County Council,
External Member

**Pamela DeGregorio**

Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences Lecturer, Teaching Staff Governor

**Neil Hitchings**

Director of PKF Francis Clark, External Member

**Carol McCormack OBE**

Partner, Michelmores LLP, External Member

**Stewart Noakes**

Technology Entrepreneur, External Member

**Professor Tim Quine**

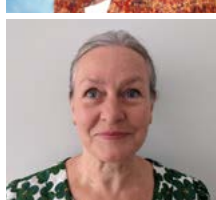
Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Exeter, External Member

**Victoria Roberts**

Exams Deputy Manager, Support Staff Governor

**Emma Webber**

Former Chief Superintendent in the Devon and Cornwall Police, External Member

**Adele Westcott**

Head of Internal Audit, Met Office, Co-opted Member

**Sally Wolkowski**

Head of Application Services, Met Office, External Member

**Rob Hutchins**

External Member

**Phil Randall**

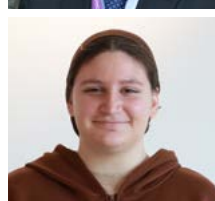
Headteacher, St Peter's C of E Aided School, External Member

**Patrick Tigwell**

Partner, Thomas Westcott Chartered Accountants, External Member

**Sangaralingham Ahilan**

HE Student Governor

**Zakia Volschenk**

FE Student Governor

**Alison Layton-Hill**

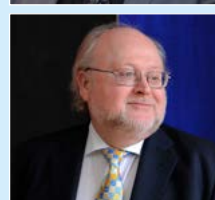
Head of Governance

Patrons of Exeter College

Membership of the Patrons of the College is the highest honour that the College can bestow on its alumni and friends. We are grateful to these individuals for sharing their knowledge and experience to support the College in our mission to deliver excellence in all aspects of our work.

**Michael Caines MBE**

Acclaimed chef and owner of Michelin starred Lymstone Manor

**Professor Sir Steve Smith**

Renowned academic and UK Government International Education Champion

To read more about our College Governance, please visit exe-coll.ac.uk/about/governors

College Governance correct as of end November 2022

OUR FINANCES

21/22

The Exeter College Group generated an operating loss of £3,016k for 2021/22. Student numbers for our 16-18 cohort continued to grow and the College is classified as having "Good" financial health by the ESFA.

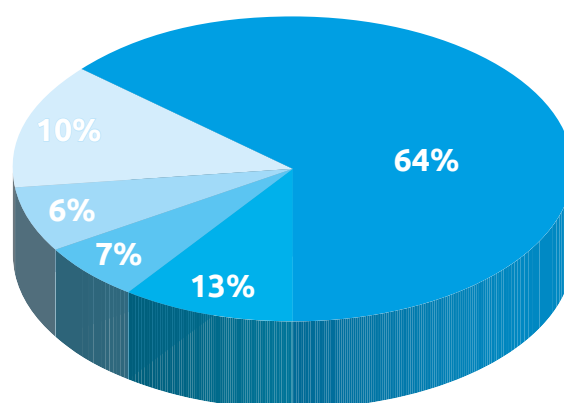
Investment in the College estate continued in 2021/22, with £3.6m invested in IT and smaller scale estate projects.

A full transcript of the statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2022 is available from the Head of Governance, Exeter College, Hele Road, Exeter EX4 4JS, or on the College website exe-coll.ac.uk/about/governors

The College's auditors, Bishop Fleming, have issued an unqualified opinion on the statutory financial statements.

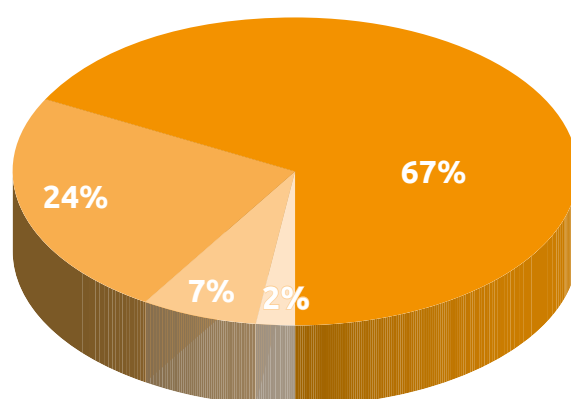
INCOME:

	£'000
Funding Body Income (ESFA 16-18)	31,610
Funding Body Income (ESFA 16-18 (Apprenticeships))	6,671
Other Funding Body Grants	3,315
Tuition Fees and Education Contracts	3,117
Other Income	4,870
Total Income	49,583



EXPENDITURE:

	£'000
Staff Costs	35,478
Other Operating Expenditure	12,462
Depreciation	3,596
Interest and Other Finance Costs	1,063
Total Expenditure	52,599



PRINCIPAL'S SUMMARY

21/22



I have now been at the College for fourteen years and have had the privilege of being Principal and Chief Executive for almost eight of those. Each year has been special, with a number of magical moments to celebrate. However, the 2021-22 academic year, as we emerged from various lockdowns, the achievements of staff, students and stakeholders have felt extra special. So, I wanted to conclude

this publication, and the reflections on the previous year in particular, by thanking everyone connected to the College for making the last year one of our best, by any measure!

Our sporting successes have been truly sector-leading and we have just had what is perhaps the best suite of sporting results in our long history. Our Netball Team has won three major championships for the first time, our Men's Rugby Team won a national final hosted at Sandy Park, the home of one of our partners, the Exeter Chiefs. Our Women's Rugby Sevens Team won a national trophy, and there were other stunning successes in Women's Rugby, Tennis and Cross Country. In Football, our Men's and Women's Teams had great years but did not quite match the performance of our partner Exeter City Football Club, who secured a promotion to League One.

Our Apprenticeship Team secured national recognition on a number of fronts in the last year. These included being awarded CMI Learning provider of the Year, an AAC Award for Legal, Finance and Accountancy Provider of the Year, and the AoC Beacon Award for College Engagement with Employers. The most pleasing accolade, however, was that we were the number one College in the country for Apprenticeship starts at the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year – indicative of the ambition and energy of the employers that we work with.

Our students and staff experienced their first normal exams series in three years in summer 2022. The coordination and execution of the 2022 exams programme was truly exceptional and the results outcomes were equally so, as you will see from some of the features on our Latest News pages.

Our student success stories are too many to list here, but 2021-22 saw us celebrate learners from every area of our provision. Oxbridge applicants achieved a 100% conversion from offer to acceptance, with all going

on to secure their place following results day. One of our music students celebrated progressing to the final round of the Song Academy Young Songwriter competition, the leading competition of its kind for young people aged 8-18, globally. And, one of our Bench Joinery apprentices won the national stage of the Institute of Carpenters competition in summer 2022, just another example of the excellence that has marked the 2021-22 academic year, and further testament to our legacy of supporting students to achieve academically, technically, creatively and practically.

My sincere thanks to all the students, staff, partners and stakeholders who have worked with such focus and dedication over this past year, embodying our college values of ambition, collaboration and energy, each of them playing their part in our growth, successes and celebrations. I look forward now to marking another year and to reflecting on yet more memorable moments for our College community, both past and present, with the 2022-23 edition of the EXE Magazine.

JOHN LARAMY CBE
PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ALUMNI STOP PRESS

I would also like to mention some great alumni news. Ben Page became the Chief Executive Officer of IPSOS in 2021. Prior to this he was Chief Executive of IPSOS in the UK and Ireland.

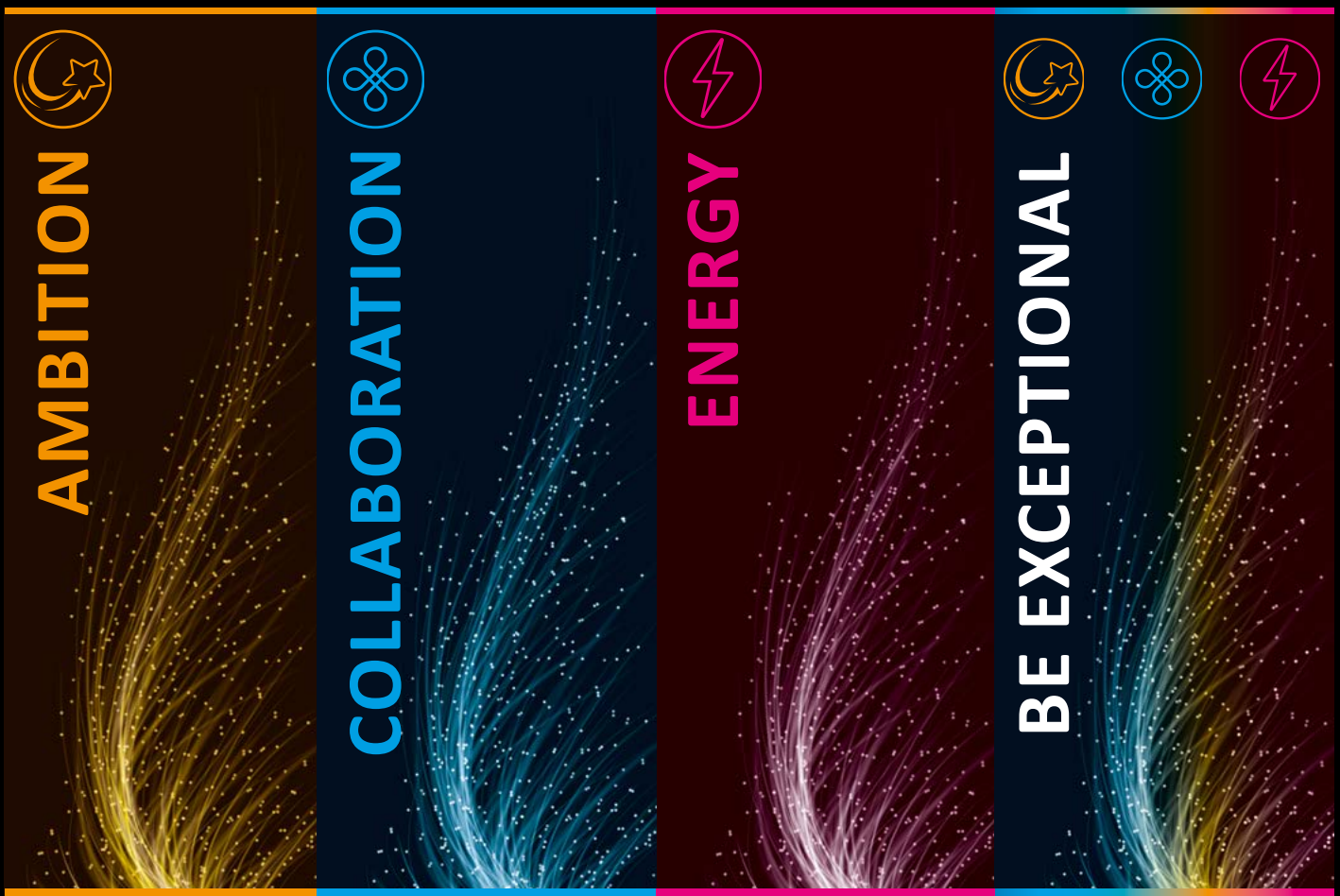
Massive congratulations to Ben - another fantastic Exeter College Alumni success story.

IN JUNE 2022, WE WERE PROUD TO SHARE OUR NEW COLLEGE VALUES

OUR VALUES ARE WHAT MAKE US, US!

VISION: To be an exceptional College

MISSION: To shape futures by delivering world-class education and training for our city and region



Visit the website to learn more
exe-coll.ac.uk/our-values



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EXETER
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