FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY







OUR YEAR

We're proud to look back on a productive year at Falmouth University, packed with milestones and memories that align with our core values as a leading creative institution.

LEADING THE WAY

With a leap of 44 places up the academic league table, Falmouth was named the UK's No. 1 Arts University by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 – widely regarded as the most comprehensive and authoritative annual analysis of higher education. The ranking reflected student satisfaction and research excellence, placing us among the top four universities in the South West.

Further success followed as we climbed the prestigious Rookies World School Rankings, which recognise the most influential colleges and universities in the fields of games, animation, visual effects and more. Falmouth's Games Academy features in the top 20 in three popular Rookies categories: best games design schools, best concept art illustration schools and best design and development schools for production excellence.







NEW FALMOUTH

FELLOWS

We welcomed four new Fellows: actor and writer Morwenna Banks, sculptor and contemporary visual artist Hew Locke OBE, classical music radio and television broadcaster Petroc Trelawny and former journalist and media entrepreneur Charles Wace.

"I spent my time at Falmouth experimenting, specialising in impossible projects and glorious failures," said Hew, a graduate of Falmouth's Fine Art BA, whose large-scale installations have since featured at Tate Britain and The Met in New York.



THE CLASS OF 2023

Our graduating students had every reason to celebrate this summer; many of them started their degree in tough times, as the country navigated the uncertainty of the pandemic and the challenge of ongoing lockdowns.

The 1,456 students who attended graduation ceremonies at Penryn Campus each received their degree certificate from our Chancellor Dawn French, before enjoying a celebration on the campus lawns. Each graduate took away a unique commemorative brochure with a nostalgic cover design by Illustration BA graduate Ella Kasperowicz, guaranteed to bring back memories of their years at Falmouth.



HOSTING ROY

With a rich history of creative education here at Falmouth, it was an honour to showcase our facilities and achievements to HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh GCVO. The Duchess toured our Penryn Campus and met students and academics who are working together across technology and creative disciplines to make a positive social impact.







SHOWCASE SUCCESS

Featuring the bold and original work of our final-year students, the eagerly awaited Falmouth Showcase 2023 made a big impression. Exhibitions across each of our departments created an explosion of colour and inspirational design, drawing praise from visitors – many of them industry professionals on the lookout for emerging talent.

At Penryn Campus, Falmouth's third annual Games Expo generated the buzz of a big industry event with a line-up of high-profile guest speakers and visiting specialists. The Showcase culminated in a live fashion show, where students sent their finest creations down the catwalk.







OUR PRIZEWINNERS

It's our mission to inspire and educate the next generation of creatives. We've highlighted six of the very best – outstanding achievements by students and alumni making their mark.

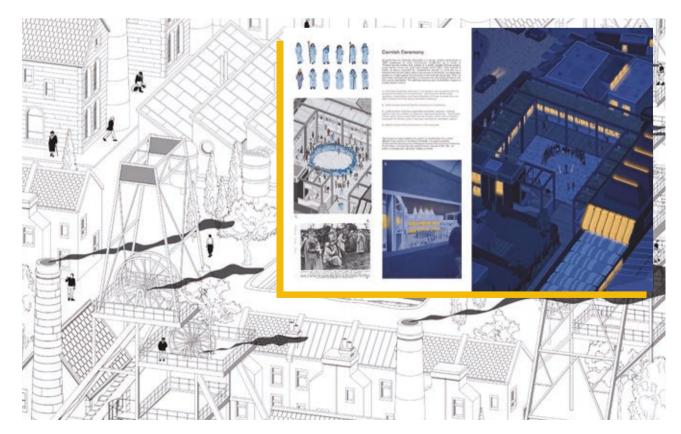
Nathan Tipping-Stevenson



Architecture BA graduate Nathan Tipping-Stevenson triumphed in the 2022 Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) President's Medals competition. His proposal for a Museum of Mining within a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Cornwall, *Leow Keskorra ha Dyski: A Place to Assemble and Learn*, earned him the prestigious Serjeant Award for Excellence in Architectural Drawing.

Nathan's entry was one of a record number for the President's Medals, following RIBA's call for nominations to 500 universities in 100 countries.





OUR PRIZEWINNERS



Logan Davies

Following a final-year project entitled Queer Ethology, capturing mythical species in extraordinary settings, Fashion Photography BA graduate Logan Davies was announced as a winner of The British Journal of Photography's Portrait of Britain Awards 2022.









Finlay Vincent

A bursary fund of £12,500, a prestigious mentorship programme and cutting-edge 3D garment design training formed part of a prize package claimed by Fashion Design BA graduate Finlay Vincent, as a NET-A-PORTER Vanguard Education Fund 2022 winner. Finlay's funding went towards the development of his award-winning modular clothing brand SYSTEMS and an MA in Fashion Menswear.











Edie Moles



Film BA graduate Edie Moles claimed both the Best Film and Best New Talent awards at the 2023 BFI Future Film Festival for her short film *Underbelly*, which follows apprentice butcher Norman as he tries to support his sister through her severe postpartum depression – with devastating consequences.

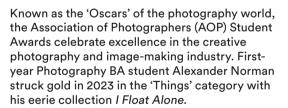
Describing the film as "deeply affecting and engaging, with an impeccable sense of space and character," the jury added: "Everything comes together to make something remarkable."

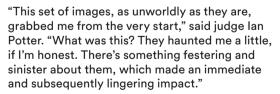


"This truly is an incredible achievement from a young new talent." BFI Festival jury



Alexander Norman











OUR PRIZEWINNERS



Beth Somerville

From a field of more than 3,000 hand-picked graduate design talents from the UK and beyond, graduating Textile Design BA student Beth Somerville emerged as the overall winner of New Designers 2023. Beth's collections, *Stigma Stamen and Mountain Fold*, explored the space where new technologies and old craft processes meet, incorporating hand and digital embroidery, beading, print and weaving. She also claimed the Wilcom New Designers 2023 Individual Student's Prize.





OUR PEOPLE

They're innovating, collaborating and pushing the boundaries across the disciplines. Here's just a glimpse of the exceptional creative output of our academic staff and students.

WILD AMBITION

Wildlife cameraman Sam Stewart, a graduate of Falmouth's Marine & Natural History Photography BA, captured Sir David Attenborough for the opening shots of the BBC TV series Wild Isles. Sam described being asked to film the broadcasting legend as a "pinch me moment", adding: "It was a dream come true. Working with him in the field has been my biggest goal since I set out on this path."







COVER STORY

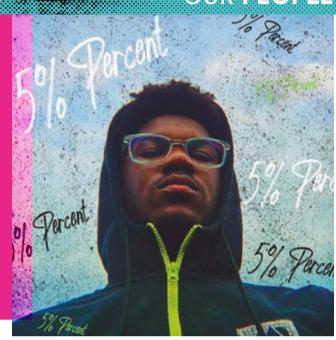
A fascinating project on 100 centenarians' tips for a life well lived landed Press & Editorial Photography BA graduate Philippa Kelly the front page on *The Guardian*'s Saturday magazine. Phillipa, who spent six months interviewing centenarians based worldwide to write the piece, credited the Falmouth course for giving her a strong understanding of the media landscape – and, importantly, an eye for a good story.



OUR PEOPLE

BLAZING A TRAIL

Enterprising Popular Music BA student Ephraim Masudi sparked a hiphop revolution in Cornwall by launching Orange Fest, his own smash-hit festival at Falmouth's Princess Pavilions. Keen to build a "home for hiphop" in the county, to add a new dimension to an already diverse musical landscape, Ephraim gathered the best of the southwest hiphop acts to stage a sellout event – securing TV, radio and magazine coverage in the process.



WORK OF ART

A spectacular mural at London Paddington station, highlighting the diversity of habitats and creatures found along rail corridors, was created by Fine Art MA (Online) student Cindy Powell. Commissioned by Network Rail to promote its commitment to protecting wildlife, the project came about through the Collaboration module Cindy undertook as part of her studies.

"The concept grew from an idea I'd had around wildlife becoming still life," explained Cindy, whose surrealist-style oil paintings were professionally photographed and scaled up in print.

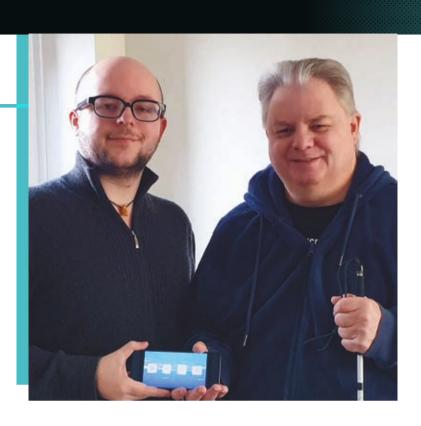




FUTURE FOCUS

Inspired by his father's experience with visual impairment, Indie Game Development (Online) master's student Elliott Dodsworth developed a pioneering action-adventure video game with access for the visually impaired at its core. Fortune is Blind uses haptic feedback and 3D audio to replace traditional visual mechanics and includes phone vibrations, gyroscopes and techniques such as surround-sound to represent where the player is in the virtual world. The game earned financial support from the UK Games Fund, enabling Elliott to form his own small games company, Scriptoria Illuminate.





KNOCKING 'EM D&AD

Winning a pencil at the D&AD New Blood Awards is widely considered a precursor to a successful design career. Communication Design MA student Seb Summers took top honours in 2023 with his response to the Heineken brief set by Design Bridge, also winning a place on the New Blood Academy – an elite two-week boot camp for the year's top creative talent.

Graphic Design BA student Blythe Walker Sibthorp was named Best in Show, while Falmouth's group Graphic Design exhibition won the Best Stand award.



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STAMP OF APPROVAL

Falmouth Illustration BA graduate Katie Ponder hit the headlines when she designed the Royal Mail Christmas stamps – the last of their kind to receive official approval from her majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

"It was a huge honour to be part of peoples' Christmas celebrations and exchanges," said Katie, who has built a successful career as an illustrator, working with the likes of Dorling Kindersley, Penguin and Simon and Schuster.



AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME

Knights of Borria, a group of Games Academy graduates who formed their own games development studio, secured a deal with publisher Marvelous Europe to release their new game *Leximan*. This is the latest success for the trio, who've already attracted the attention of industry big hitters by securing funding for their post-apocalyptic game *Rustbreaker*.

"Falmouth's Games Academy and Games Incubator were extremely helpful during the very first steps of our journey," said Chis Jones, who joined forces with Max Amaden and Jake Whittaker in 2020 to create Knights of Borria. "So far, the feedback to Leximan has been really, really positive."





"We found it to be a uniquely playful, surprising and hilarious game, lovingly crafted by an incredibly talented and conscientious team." Marc Melton of Marvelous Europe

LIFE THROUGH A LENS

Experienced diver and Marine & Natural History Photography BA lecturer Gina Goodman was shortlisted for The British Photographic Awards in 2022 for the third consecutive year, for *Swarm*, a spectacular image of a lionfish preying on silversides, and *Open Wide*, a close-

up of mackerel. Both images were taken on a course trip to Egypt.







INSPIRED DESIGN

Graduating Interior Design BA student Doroteja Liaukeviciute scored wins in both the Digital and Hand Drawn categories of the 2023 British Institute of Interior Design (BIID) Student Drawing Competition. Praising the "joined-up thinking" of her Digital entry, Shelter Woods, the judging panel said: "It's an idea that should be promoted to local authorities; a creation that showcases how design impacts a community."







GOING GLOBAL

Tate Britain and the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao featured major exhibitions by Fine Art BA graduate Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, who completed her Fine Art studies at Falmouth School of Art in 2000. Known for her large-scale figurative oil paintings, Lynette has been shortlisted for many prestigious awards, including The Turner Prize.





BAFTA BRILLIANCE

Students, staff, alumni and industry experts worked together on the BAFTA-nominated *Middle Watch*, a short animation partly funded by Falmouth's School of Film & Television and written by DreamWorks director John Stevenson (of *Kung Fu Panda* and *Shrek* fame).

Set at the end of World War II, the film follows the travails of a Royal Navy sailor whose routine is shattered by an extraordinary encounter that could tip the balance of his delicate state of mind. Producer Giles Healy and co-director Aiesha Penwarden, a graduate of the University's Animation BA, were joined by a team of artists, animators and technicians – many of them part of the Falmouth University film community – to bring this mesmerising tale to life.





"The BAFTA nomination is a great accolade and stands as testimony to the creative flair and dedication of a new generation of artists, animators and technicians." Giles Healy

DRAWING INSPIRATION

Iconic Falmouth scenes feature in a new 10-metre mural created by University students and artist Dave Draws, as part of a partnership with Red Bull Doodle Art – a global competition to empower a new generation of artists through "the magic of doodling". Completed over two days, the mural serves as an inspiring backdrop at Falmouth's Fox cafe.

"It was a great opportunity to connect with an artist, gain experience and see where drawing could take me," said second-year Fine Art BA student Aimee Shardlow, whose doodle depicts local landmark Pendennis Castle.



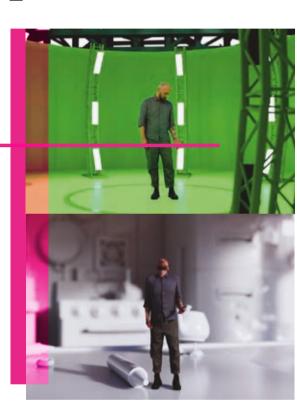
OUR RESEARCH

Research & Knowledge Exchange at Falmouth centres around the fusion of creativity and technology to drive positive change. It's been a remarkable year for progress.

KEEPING PERFORMANCE ALIVE

A highlight of the year was an award of £850,000 of funding for an innovative new research project that will use cutting-edge technologies to capture and archive performance practice. With this investment, through the Creative Research Capability fund from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation, the aim is to explore new ways to widen access to performances and provide new income streams to support the creative industries in Cornwall.

The project, named GWITHA, from the Cornish word to guard, or to keep, will be particularly relevant in the county, which is renowned for site-specific landscape theatre that is part of its cultural heritage but challenging to document and record. Work will begin with artists and performance companies capturing vision and sound in three dimensions, so that it can be later accessed through a range of Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR).



FEELING THE BEAT

The power of technology to transform live music experiences for people who are deaf or disabled was the focus of a unique three-day event at the University. The Live Audience Accessibility & Augmentation knowledge exchange project, led by the University's Cornwall Business School and AMATA, explored how audiences engage with authentic 'live' music performances – including those augmented with haptic technology which transforms sound into felt vibration.

Students, industry practitioners and groups including Exeter Deaf School attended the event, which included trials of the Beat Blocks multi-sensory interactive flooring system. Deaf Rave founder Troi Lee, who ran a series of DJ workshops, said: "Who says people who are deaf can't enjoy music? We feel music! The smiles as soon as the vibration hit said it all."



WHEN ART MEETS TECH

Visitors to Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens in Cornwall can see sculpture through a brand-new lens, thanks to an experimental collaboration with Falmouth funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. University researchers have developed The Mystery of Art, a custom phone-based app using augmented reality, which enables visitors of all ages to jump into a digital dimension as they travel round the gardens. Using a phone or an iPad, they can gain a new perspective on work by professional artists Penny Florence, Jonathan Kearney and Seamus Moran.

"We believe that our use of AR, MR and VR experiences could signal a new direction for art and culture," said Professor Tanya Krzywinska of the project, which aims to encourage new audiences at local visitor attractions.







"This really is frontier work, bringing technology to bear in a fine art context rather than a commercial one." Professor Tanya Krzywinska





ANNUAL REVIEW

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A playwright and lecturer from Falmouth University kickstarted a new recipe card and video initiative tackling food poverty. Following a successful run in London of his play *Biscuits for Breakfast*, which was set in Cornwall and addressed the UK food poverty crisis, Acting BA lecturer Gareth Farr teamed up with top local chef Rupert Cooper and Truro Foodbank to help tackle food insecurity and waste.

With support from Rupert, Gareth produced 'recipe of the month' cards to be included in food boxes – along with additional herbs and spices to transform dried and tinned goods into tasty, nutritious meals. The pair also filmed a series of video tutorials for the foodbank website.

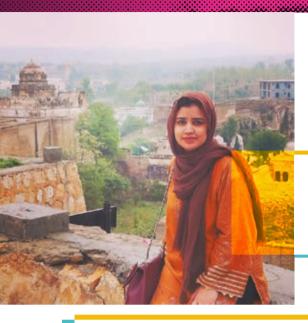




BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Amutri, a Launchpad startup that aims to deliver a simple path to 3D experience creation for designers and organisations, is a step nearer its goals after a successful bid to secure a grant with a project value of £492,000. Following the Innovate UK Smart grant award, the company will develop a new immersive product intended to remove some of the barriers associated with adopting 3D technology.

Following the launch of its new Knowledge Exchange reporting software, the female-founded tech company KEVRI continues to make waves. A startup from Launchpad, Falmouth's venture studio, KEVRI (meaning contribute, in Cornish) is a digital platform that facilitates knowledge exchange and impact in higher education. The company secured a second round of significant funding and in April won the inaugural Times Higher Education edtech startup competition.



RESEARCH ROUND-UP

A Pulitzer Centre Grant is enabling Falmouth international PhD student Syeda Sana Batool to bring to light the devastating impact of the water crisis and ongoing conflicts in Pakistan and India. Sana, a freelance journalist based in Pakistan, is working alongside fellow journalist Safina Nabi to highlight these issues.

The worlds of art and science collided through an exciting project exploring creativity, collective intelligence and self-organisation among a diverse array of social insect species in the UK. Researchers from Falmouth University and the University of Exeter worked together on Mapping Emergence, the pilot project of the newly reimagined FX Creative Exchange programme.

Researchers from around the world gathered at Falmouth for the conference Haunted Landscapes: Nature, Super-Nature and Global Environments. Organised by the Dark Economies research group, the conference encompassed a wide spectrum of disciplines including geography, cultural studies, games and sociology. At the Fashion & Textiles Institute, a conference theme of Dress Devolution drew discussion around the idea of reframing the notions of geographies of creativity.

A daffodil-picking robot emerged as a solution for faster, more efficient crop harvesting during an agri-tech hackathon at the University. Organised in partnership with Penzance-based Varfell Farms and Falmouth's business and robotics academics, the hackathon gave our entrepreneurship and Games Academy students the opportunity to explore a range of automated ideas.





OUR ENVIRONMENT

We're committed to reducing our carbon footprint and making Falmouth a cleaner, greener place to work and study. It's an ongoing journey towards a more sustainable future.

FROM LITTLE ACORNS

Sessile oak, wild cherry and Douglas fir were among native tree species planted at Trefusis Estate in Flushing by the University's Sustainability team, in partnership with not-for-profit woodland creation company PlantOne Cornwall.

With Falmouth's £5,000 investment, staff and students were able to plant 500 saplings. The trees will be registered as part of 'Forest for Cornwall', a flagship project of Cornwall Council's Climate Change Action Plan, which aims to help the county achieve its 2030 carbon neutrality target.





OUR ENVIRONMENT

FLYING THE FLAG

For the sixth consecutive year at Penryn Campus, we'll raise our Green Flag – the international quality mark for parks and green spaces. Awarded by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, the flag recognises the beauty and biodiversity of our 100-acre site, which incorporates wild flower meadows, native woodlands and historic rare rhododendrons.



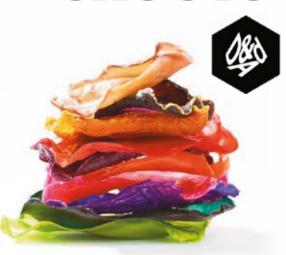
TAKING THE LEAD

As we work towards fulfilling the sustainability strategy we introduced in 2020, the clear communication of our goals is vital to engage our community campus and to allow staff, student and external stakeholders to measure our progress. At the 2022 Green Gown Awards, which showcase exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges, we were delighted to win the Reporting with Influence category in recognition of our annual sustainability report.

We've since been shortlisted in the Tomorrow's Employees category for the 2023 awards, for our innovative work in developing a novel tool for embedding sustainability across the curricula.

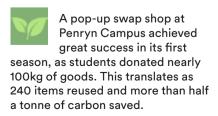


GREEN SHOOTS



A mouldable biopolymer made from seaweed to address the issue of single-use plastics – a project which earned its creator Libby Challoner a Dezeen Design Award nomination in 2022 – took centre stage at London's Grand Designs Show as part of the Green Grads showcase. Libby, a Sustainable Product Design BA graduate, was offered a fellowship with the Royal Society of Arts in London in recognition of her work.

Inspired by the huge water pollution issue in rivers, streams and lakes across the country, Interior Design BA student Ashley Powell created the design project holm – winning the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Award at the 2022 Interior Educators Awards.



OUR COMMUNITY

Situated in the heart of Cornwall, the County of Creative Learning, we recognise the key role our University makes to the economic, social and cultural life of our region and beyond.

CIVIC SIGNING

Falmouth University and the University of Exeter signed a Civic University Agreement with Cornwall Council, the Council of the Isles of Scilly and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board (ICB). The civic strategy brings the two universities together with the Council and the ICB to work in collaboration to support Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly's growth and prosperity, using the universities' facilities and specialist resources, teaching and skills, and research and knowledge exchange.

Identifying four priority areas for action, Green Futures, Healthy Futures, Fair Futures and Creative Futures, the agreement is aligned with Together We Can: The Cornwall Plan 2020-50, which was shaped with the input of thousands of local residents.



JOINING FORCES

In recognition of the value Armed Forces personnel and their families bring to organisations and communities, Falmouth University signed a covenant to ensure their respect, support and fair treatment. The special signing on the eve of Armed Forces Day took place onboard HMS Richmond, a Duke-Class Type 23 Frigate alongside County Wharf, Falmouth Docks, where Falmouth University's Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Professor Emma Hunt was joined by Naval Regional Commander Wales & Western England, Brigadier Jock Fraser.

The University will ensure that service personnel, or people from service families, are fully supported to access higher education or to become a part of our staff community.



EEHIGH THEATRE AND

REMEMBERING KNEEHIGH

The rich history of Cornwall's Kneehigh Theatre has been preserved by Falmouth University's Archive team, following funding from digital commissioning partner TheSpace. The site, thisiskneehigh.co.uk, which features digitised content such as scripts, interviews, photographs and programmes, documents 40 years of anarchic and inventive performance. The wider Kneehigh archive can be viewed by the public by appointment.





AN ORCHESTRA FOR ALL

The University teamed up with local arts-based organisation Moogie Wonderland to form the Cornwall Youth Noise Orchestra, a project offering free and experimental music and performance sessions for young people who may not usually have the chance to learn to play an instrument. The weekly sessions at AMATA on our Penryn Campus centre around making fun music and sounds on a range of electronic and experimental instruments.



"Making music can uncover the skills, confidence and inspiration young people need to have a better chance in life."

Matt Ashdown of Moogie Wonderland

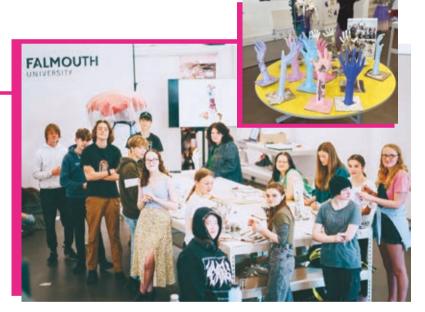
THE BIG PICTURE

A famous Falmouth landmark was treated to a facelift by students and alumni. Jacobs Ladder, the 111-step climb that rises from The Moor to the town's upper streets, now features a vibrant 50ft-long illustration painted by Illustration BA students. Celebrating the unique character of Falmouth, the mural was designed by alumni Dave Bain and coordinated and funded by the Falmouth BID in partnership with the University.



STARTING YOUNG

Offering 13-16-year-olds a fascinating behind-the-scenes glimpse into the creative industries, the National Saturday Clubs held at our Penryn Campus continued to gather pace. Highlights included a virtual masterclass with world-renowned fashion label Alexander McQueen Studios and a glittering end-of-year exhibition at London's Somerset House.



COMMUNITY FUN

We opened the doors of our Falmouth Campus once again to welcome local people to the heart of our creative hub. With hands-on workshops for screenprinting, life drawing and other arts and crafts, our Community Day offered a taste of life at university and a whole lot more – from facepainting and lawn games to plant sales and tours of our beautiful sub-tropical grounds.







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