

## **Staff sail through training**

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TWENTY Princess Yachts employees have finished the first phase of their training after the firm linked up with City College Plymouth.

The luxury boat builder collaborated with the college to deliver a bespoke training programme for aspiring marine engineers and carpenters.

The pioneering programme, known as the Princess Carpenter/Engineering Mate Recruitment Scheme, covered a range of marine-specific engineering and carpentry disciplines.

All aspects of the training were carefully tailored to successfully equip 20 new Princess Yachts' employees with the essential skills needed for their career ahead. Working closely with the Princess team, the marine skills section of City College Plymouth developed a package that replicated practical workplace activities and used Princess-specific materials and parts over an intensive, full-time, six-week period.

With the first phase of training now complete, the group will now follow the NVQ Level 2 programme, which includes a nine-month period of practical, on-the-job training.

Diane Ekland, training manager at Princess Yachts, said: "Alongside NVQ training, this partnership with City College Plymouth delivers a positive and imaginative approach to learning.

"We are delighted with the outcome, and look forward to the possibility of running similar bespoke training in the future."

This latest collaboration follows the Lifelong Learning Agreement Princess signed with the union Unite at the end of last year which will see Princess Yachts' staff taking part in personal and career development courses to complement their job-specific training.

Chris Gates, managing director of Princess Yachts, said: "These partnerships and training initiatives reflect our commitment to investing in our staff, providing learning and development opportunities for all our employees, a commitment to their future and the future stability of Princess."

*(This article first appeared in the Plymouth Herald)*