



PLYMOUTH WINS TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION AWARD 2023

The pioneering work of the Peninsula Dental School and the Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise (PDSE) has won the Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community category at the Times Higher Education Awards 2023. It is recognition of the efforts of more than 100 staff and 400 students working and studying with the University of Plymouth, and in communities across Devon and Cornwall.

Professor Ewen McColl, Head of the Peninsula Dental School, said: 'To have our work recognised at a national level is further evidence that our approach is delivering positive change across our community. It

is the result of an amazing team effort that continues to benefit our students and staff, and the people of Devon and Cornwall.'

The award was presented during a ceremony held in Liverpool on Thursday 7 December, hosted by broadcaster and author Sandi Toksvig.

The judges also said: 'By addressing the serious gap in NHS dental provision through their exemplary social enterprise and its practical support for disadvantaged groups, including promoting oral hygiene among children, Plymouth's dental school has provided an excellent example of a university really making a difference in its community.'

Peninsula was originally established to tackle oral health inequalities in the South West, whilst training future dentists and dental therapists. In 2013, it also established PDSE to treat patients who may not otherwise have access to care. In 2021/22, the period covered by the awards, students registered with the Peninsula Dental School – and working at clinics run by PDSE – saw almost 5,600 patients across Devon

and Cornwall.

Over the course of 28,000 appointments, 418 dental and dental therapy students were able to deliver crucial primary care to many of the more vulnerable members of society, including those experiencing homelessness and other forms of social exclusion. This activity marked a significant rise both in the number of patients seen, and appointments delivered, at the University's Dental Education Facilities in Plymouth, Exeter and Truro.

In addition during 2021/22 the University expanded its range of programmes designed to improve levels of oral health with the community. A Supervised Tooth Brushing Programme, led by academics and students, worked with pupils at 146 primary schools to provide advice and guidance on the benefits, and most effective methods, of brushing their teeth. More than 3,000 children aged 16 and under, who are unable to register with a dentist, were seen at paediatric oral health clinic.

BDJ TEAM TOP TEN ACCESSED ARTICLES 2014-2023

As *BDJ Team* enters its tenth year of publication, we took a look back at the top ten most accessed articles over the period 2014 to 2023.

They are shown in Table 1. Links are included if you would like to read any of these articles.

If you have a favourite *BDJ Team* article

from the last ten years, drop us a line at bdjteam@nature.com and tell us which article it is, and why.

Table 1 *BDJ Team* top ten accessed articles 2014-2023

Title	Year of publication	Number of downloads	Link
Updated posters to help manage medical emergencies in the dental practice	2016	142,916	https://www.nature.com/articles/bdjteam201655
Dental care of cancer patients before, during and after treatment	2017	126,761	https://www.nature.com/articles/bdjteam20178
Dental nurses are paid no more than shop assistants	2016	122,227	https://www.nature.com/articles/bdjteam2016115
How long does Coronavirus survive on different surfaces?	2020	91,169	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41407-020-0313-1
Can you spot the signs and symptoms of sepsis?	2019	90,723	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41407-019-0123-5
Tooth whitening versus stain removal	2017	87,892	https://www.nature.com/articles/bdjteam2017175
The three types of employment status	2015	85,840	https://www.nature.com/articles/bdjteam2015124
Saliva A review of its role in maintaining oral health and preventing dental disease	2015	67,960	https://www.nature.com/articles/bdjteam2015123
Periodontitis and systemic disease	2015	58,986	https://www.nature.com/articles/bdjteam2015163
Why are dental nurse salaries so low?	2016	56,127	https://www.nature.com/articles/bdjteam2016152