

1st July 2020

Dear student and parent/carer,

I wanted to write to you as we get nearer to September and the start of a new academic year, to provide some clarity about our plans for delivering a high-quality curriculum in the current COVID-19 pandemic. I hope this answers any questions you may have regarding what you can expect when you join us as well as what you have to look forward to.

The Government has made it clear that the expectation for September delivery is that all learners will return to a full high quality education programme. The Government has also published guidelines for September delivery for colleges to allow that to happen and we will be working within those guidelines to ensure all students receive the learning experience, support and make the progress that they have come to expect from Reaseheath College. Our specialist sectors that we support still require a pipeline of talent which our positive destination data consistently shows that we supply.

The team at Reaseheath has been working hard, not only to continue the education of our current students through online means and more recently on-site, but also to plan for the start of the new academic year. Our aim is always to give our students the best possible learning experience, which we receive high praise for, not only by those that we teach, but also by Ofsted, which graded us as a good education provider at our last inspection. Our great industry links, state-of-the-art equipment, expert teaching staff and the overall unique experience we offer at Reaseheath, will still be a large part of your learning this year, to ensure that our industry focused, career ready courses lead to positive outcomes for you.

I am pleased to say that we have a range of measures in place to allow you to access high-quality education at our fantastic campus, where every step is always taken to maintain a safe and secure environment. As you are aware, the situation is constantly evolving which requires us to be continually reactive, therefore I ask you to please note that the below measures may be subject to further change. If anything does change, we will be providing frequent updates on our website and social media leading up to the start of your course. We will also be emailing you with all the information you need to know over the coming weeks.

- **Results day and enrolment** – Once your results are released by awarding bodies towards the end of August and prior to this you will be required to enrol online. During the enrolment process you will be able to confirm your course place and arrange any learning support needs and financial support without having to visit the campus, providing you with a much safer and more straightforward process for this year. We will be contacting our most vulnerable learners to support them through the online process. We will be sending further details to you on this in due course.
- **Start of term and course timetables** – Course timetables are currently being planned with consideration for the safety of students and staff and within the government guidelines for September delivery. The intention is that term will start as planned on the 7th September for all new courses with an induction programme that is a blend of face to face delivery and online learning. Each course will have its own timetable but our intention is that **every programme will comprise of face to face delivery, including practicals on campus, and some blended/online learning.** This is still being planned but you should expect to be completing the majority of your learning on-site with online learning forming a smaller but essential component of your programme. This will allow us to manage the number of people travelling to and being on-site each day. Whilst the balance of delivery is determinable by the national picture and guidelines at the time, we do expect this to steadily improve as the academic year progresses. Following online enrolment your timetables



will be made available to you but may be subject to change if the COVID-19 situation and government guidelines alter. We have been teaching online for the past few months with great success, so we want to reassure you that the small amount of time you spend completing online learning will still be really beneficial to you and your studies. You will still experience the exciting and varied education that Reaseheath is proud to deliver with each student having the opportunity to access high quality learning across our specialist campus and facilities.

- **Support** – Reaseheath offers fantastic student support with sector leading student services, wellbeing, finance and learning support arrangements. These will all remain accessible to you with some support services available safely on campus, whilst others will use technology to support you remotely. Details of each support service will be available from enrolment and throughout the first term, ensuring you know how we can fully support you during your time at Reaseheath.
- **College transport** – To ensure all students who have paid for a subsidised college bus pass are safe when using our transport service, we will be asking you to follow our college transport rules, which are in line with the government’s guidance. For your own safety and for the safety of others, face coverings must be worn at all times on the bus and we will be taking extra hygiene precautions by cleaning our buses more regularly and providing hand sanitiser. This will make travelling on our high-quality coaches a much safer experience for all passengers.
- **Accommodation** – Our residential accommodation, which offers comfortable, single occupancy bedrooms, will still be available and safe for students who wish to live on our beautiful campus. In the interest of your own safety, until we think it is safe to do so, students will not be able to access other students’ bedrooms, and we will ask you to please regularly use the handwashing facilities available in communal areas. We take the safety of our students very seriously, as demonstrated in our recent ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted Care Standards inspection, so during this time we want to take all the extra precautions we can. Because of this, regular cleaning will also be provided by our domestics team and we want to reassure you that face coverings will be worn by safeguarding and domestics staff when on duty in the halls of residence. You will be able to talk to the accommodation team at any time with any questions you may have.
- **Student social events** – It is important to us that you still enjoy the great student life experience we offer at Reaseheath so our Student Life team has been planning an exciting range of activities and social events for the first term whilst following the latest government guidance. This will include a range of outdoor sport and fitness activities on our campus. The student bars will be open but managed on reduced capacity to ensure social distancing and licensing rules are adhered to for your own safety. There will also be a programme of online events and activities for all students to get involved in from the comfort of your own room or home. We really hope that we will be able to increase the number of face-to-face activities and social events we can offer you as the year goes on.
- **The Reaseheath campus** – We are really proud of our campus, which has recently had £80 million worth of investment to offer you outstanding facilities, industry standard equipment and sector leading resources to enhance your learning experience. To ensure you feel safe on-site, there will be a number of safety measures in place, including one-way systems in communal areas where feasible, increased hand sanitiser and handwashing facilities and thorough risk assessments of every area, including workshops and teaching spaces, that have been approved by our Health & Safety Manager and adhere to government guidance. We will also have a clear code of conduct for all that will be enforced, and in the interest of keeping our students safe, we operate a zero-tolerance approach. We have high expectations for our students to adhere to the guidelines and procedures in place. We will also use any government approved track and trace systems and



the NHS symptom checker to ensure all staff and students, who should be self-isolating, are instructed to not access the campus until it is safe for them to do so.

I hope this overview provides assurance that the 2020/21 academic year will be a safe but exciting one at Reaseheath and I look forward to welcoming you back to our fantastic campus to continue your learning journey with us.

If you have any questions please visit our new student information and FAQs web pages at www.reaseheath.ac.uk/applicant-hub, or contact our Information, Advice and Guidance team who are here to help you at every step of the way.

If you experience any difficulties accessing online enrolment or your online learning sessions we are here to support you.

Finally, we will be sending out more information over the summer with everything you need to know, so please look out for emails from us from next week and check our website and social media pages. If you need to update the email address we have on file for you please let us know.

For support with any of the above please contact our team on 01270 613242 or email fe-enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk.

That just leaves me to wish you a safe and restful summer and I look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus Clinton".

Marcus Clinton
Principal and CEO