

Annual Review 2019

Reaseheath
College



University Centre
Reaseheath



www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Message from the Principal



2019 has continued to deliver on all the trademarks associated with Reaseheath College and University Centre: Success for our students and staff, community and PRIDE values at our heart and a college that is outward looking and engaged with employers.

Our traditional showcase events such as Family Festival and Lambing Weekends had incredible crowds and were a buzz of hustle and bustle with staff, students and community interacting and demonstrating the very best of all that is the land-based community.

During 2019 we consulted on and then launched our new strategic plan. This plan continues to build on the great platform we have and focuses very much on ensuring the college continues to develop a leading edge, embraces the fourth industrial revolution, becomes a leader for sustainable environment teaching and practice and reshapes its offer and delivery models to reflect the changing nature of qualifications. At the heart of this are our people and the strategic plan is committed to developing and supporting staff to ensure we have the right people with the right skills in this fast changing landscape.

This year the first student and staff conferences were launched and provided an opportunity for delegates to feed into the college strategies, meet staff and Governors and hear from a range of headline and break-out speakers.

Throughout this annual review there are many examples of the outstanding experience our students receive in all provision types and many examples of where students have achieved great acclaim. This is testament to the high standard of teaching and support that students experience from all our staff.

The college continues to perform well and, during the year, University Centre Reaseheath was awarded TEF Silver and Reaseheath College Ofsted GOOD. The Ofsted report was very positive around key areas of student progress. These included knowledge building and attainment, industry engagement and resulting relevancy of qualifications, student experience and the safeguarding and support elements of the college provision. The vast majority of achievement rates continue to be above the national rates.

The college has always benefited from true partnerships with many large and small UK employers and also from our strategic alliance with the University of Chester. The college continues to develop

“There is heightened awareness of the value of students with the right specialist skills, and also the attitudes and resilience that employers require.”

Marcus Clinton
Principal and Chief Executive



David Pearson
Chair of Governors



new and innovative partnership with employers and the newly repurposed Business Hub will only accelerate this further and continue to increase our range of professional training on offer. We remain very grateful to all our partners as together we develop the workforce of tomorrow.

During the year our new Town Houses and Employer Hub were formally opened and continue to demonstrate Reaseheath's commitment to providing the very best of resources across all operations, ensuring students, employers and community can benefit.

Specialist technical education is very much in the spotlight and there is heightened awareness of the value of students with the right specialist skills, and also the attitudes, attributes and resilience that employers require. Increasingly, there is also the recognition of the value of transferable skills that students can apply to fast changing work environments with ever more technology and innovation. This applies very much to the sectors we serve and the college will continue to ensure our students meet this demand, and as such, secure great futures.

Our Reaseheath family is special and is the heartbeat of the college. Our Student Association provides countless events and raises extraordinary amounts for charity. It is heart warming that in so many ways students from Reaseheath will take away friends and memories for life.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed throughout 2019 towards ensuring Reaseheath College and University Centre continues to be successful, and meets the needs of the thousands of students and hundreds of employers who depend on it."

Experience is not only surviving but thriving. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in our continuing success.





Our Mission

Industry focused, career ready

Our Vision

- Be the leading specialist land-based college in the UK
- Be the preferred place to learn, work and progress
- Support the growth and prosperity of the specialist land-based industries, technical sectors and rural communities we serve
- Place our students and staff at the heart of everything we do
- Provide an inclusive offer facilitating appropriate progression for everyone
- Deliver an inspirational learning experience and environment supported through our values, our guiding principles and commitments

Our PRIDE Values

People:

We will work together in a safe and secure environment with a positive approach to our own and others' health and wellbeing. We will respect democracy and individual liberty, recognising the valuable contribution each person can make to society.

Responsibility:

We will be responsible for our own actions and decisions whilst making a positive contribution to community cohesion and pride. We will demonstrate environmental sustainability through our behaviour.

Integrity:

We will demonstrate honesty, integrity and ethical standards in everything we do. We will respect the rule of law and act fairly in the best interests of all.

Diversity:

We will actively promote equality; recognise, respect, promote and celebrate diversity and individual difference and strive to create an inclusive environment. We will challenge behaviour or views which discriminate against others.

Excellence:

We will challenge ourselves to strive for the highest standards of quality and behaviour by adopting a supportive self-critical approach in our pursuit of excellence. We will always aim to be the best that we can be.

Our Drive:

Strategic Aims and Objectives

2019 has seen the implementation of our five-year strategic plan. It sets out our vision to be the leading specialist land-based and technical college in the UK ensuring the sectors we serve have highly skilled, technical specialists with the right attitude and aptitude for work.

We will do this through our guiding principles, which are to ensure that:

- 1 **We are financially strong**, sustainable and able to invest to continually develop so that all our stakeholders can benefit from an outstanding environment supporting learning, personal development and positive experiences.
- 2 **We are relevant** and meet the needs of students and employers. Our students will benefit from up-to-date high-quality programmes of study that meet their individual needs and the needs of employers.
- 3 **We create a sustainable environment** by ensuring students, staff and industry have the skills, knowledge and facilities needed for the emerging challenges of net zero carbon, resource efficiency and environmental sustainability.
- 4 **We have excellence in all we do** and consistently exceed expectations. We will continually strive to ensure we have a high performing culture with high expectations alongside the highest levels of support and infrastructure.
- 5 **We have a leading edge**. We will lead in the sectors we serve, be engaged with our stakeholders and take an innovative approach to ensure we are at the forefront through our specialist facilities and equipment, technologies, our people, systems and processes.

Our top priorities within the strategic plan are:

- 1 **Our offer** - We will continue to refine our curriculum in order to facilitate high quality and impactful learning for our students, regardless of their starting points.
- 2 **Our people** - We will continue to invest, develop and shape our 'Reaseheath Family' to ensure we are able to support our evolving delivery model and offer.
- 3 **Our environment** - We will continue to improve our environment to ensure we keep students at the heart of what we do. We will do this by providing specialist technical education facilities while delivering on our commitment to a sustainable environment.
- 4 **Our employer solutions, innovation and scholarly activity** - We will develop our relationships with businesses, public sector and private sector partners so that our students and clients have relevant technical and professional skills.
- 5 **Our core processes and supporting systems** - We will achieve our ambition of inter-operable, complementary systems and processes that add value, remove waste and release time for staff and students to engage in innovation and personal development.



Our Students

Further Education



Ofsted praise for staff

Reaseheath has earned praise from Ofsted inspectors for the way we prepare our students and apprentices for the world of work

Awarding us 'Good', our 2019 Ofsted report emphasises our high quality practical facilities and ambitious, enthusiastic and experienced teaching staff. The inspectors were impressed at the continuing development of partnerships with regional, national and international businesses, allowing students and apprentices to access sophisticated technical equipment.

They also noted that students consistently achieve high standards of work, show excellent attitudes to learning and develop complex skills and knowledge above the requirements of their qualification – an asset much valued by employers.



Royal approval for 'Bug' Palace

Animal Management students received royal approval after they built a palatial home for insects. The students modelled 'Bug'ingham Palace on the Queen's London residence and built it from packing cases, wood offcuts, chicken wire, branches and foliage from native trees.

Photos of the project plus covering letters were sent to the households of Her Majesty and HRH Prince Charles and the students were delighted to receive replies on behalf of both royals, thanking them for their efforts to help conserve local bugs, bees and beetles.

The impressive building is part of the native species habitat in Reaseheath's mini zoo and sits alongside a wildlife pond, and wild flower area.



Student voice to the fore

Student delegates at our inaugural Student Conference have helped to shape Reaseheath's future. Views shared with college leaders by the 50 delegates, who represented all aspects of our student body, are contributing directly to Reaseheath's strategic direction.

As well as providing rich feedback between students and management, the conference gave the delegates experiences to enhance their own personal development and to disseminate to their peers. These included presentations by external keynote speakers on topics such as how to care for their mental health and self esteem, achieve a good work-life balance, promote positive body image and avoid exam stress.



Students benefit from self care initiative

Our residential students are looking forward to a healthier future after Reaseheath became the first college in Cheshire to successfully achieve its Bronze Self Care Award.

The award is part of an enterprising programme by NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group to spread the benefits of self care throughout its local communities. The initiative is rolling out key messages using specially trained Self Care Champions and is particularly targeting students and working populations.

Reaseheath's Student Services and Wellbeing teams are now trained to run workshops on physical and mental health which new students, the majority of whom are under 18 and living away from home for the first time, find very beneficial.

Outstanding HOYS experience for students

Our student arena party have again provided a superb service to the Horse of the Year Show, earning praise from industry professionals.

For the ninth consecutive year, Level 2 and 3 Diploma students worked alongside international show jumping course designers and also supported dressage championships, the Pony Club Mounted Games and other competitions and artistic displays.

The students, from our Nantwich campus and from partner training centre, Croft End Equestrian Centre, received training on health and safety and took part in emergency drills alongside vets and paramedics – a superb addition to their CVs.

Our arena parties support other elite equine events including Bolesworth International and Kelsall Hill Horse Trials.



Our Students Higher Education



University Centre recognised for excellence

University Centre Reaseheath has been awarded Silver in the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) - proof that we deliver high quality academic teaching and learning with excellent professional outcomes. It also endorses that Reaseheath consistently exceeds rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education.

Introduced to encourage excellence in teaching and a first-rate student experience, the TEF looks at what universities and colleges do in addition to meeting national quality benchmarks.

Among our attributes, the TEF panel cited:

- A flexible, dynamic and personalised high-quality learning environment
- Programmes incorporating work-based learning, internships and other opportunities delivering valuable work experience
- A focus on embedding learning in industry standard environments

Show garden sows seeds of online safety

A 'Cyber Crime' show garden designed and built by BSc (Hons) Landscape Architecture undergraduates sowed the seeds of online safety to visitors at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park.

The garden, commissioned by Cheshire Constabulary and sponsored by Barclays, emphasised the importance of staying safe online and featured the Constabulary's 5Cs Guide to Online Safety (Create, Cover, Confidentiality, Click, Connect). The 5C icons were depicted on weathered steel panels and enhanced with contrasting flowers and foliage.

Their planting scheme used lighter shades to represent crime prevention and darker shades for the crime being committed.

The garden was awarded a silver medal and featured in the BBC's coverage of the flower show, with presenter Adam Frost describing the planting as 'inspiring' and 'full of ideas to take home'.



Exciting research for plant scientists

Our applied plant scientists have been involved in ground breaking research which may help to grow scientific knowledge.

BSc (Hons) Applied Plant Science and Production Technology undergraduates used micro-propagation to help save the rare tubular water dropwort. The technique, carried out under strict control and with modern technology, enabled the undergraduates to take samples in a non-invasive way and to grow thousands of tiny new plants.

Micro-propagation is commonly used to conserve rare species, and after experimenting our team established a reliable technique for this particular plant. These next generation dropworts will be reintroduced into the wild in suitable areas, making the species far less likely to go extinct.

Fish training plan makes waves

BSc Zoo Management undergraduate Felix Rowan-Young has made waves by producing a training plan for fish.

Although many experts believe fish are untrainable, Felix has enjoyed considerable success with Simba, a lionfish who needs minimal handling due to his venomous spines.

By training Simba to follow a target stick, Felix can encourage the fish to swim into a crate where he can be safely contained for health checks or aquarium maintenance. The training minimises stress on both fish and keepers and could be used for other species. Felix has written up his findings for his dissertation and is continuing with the training to further and possibly publish his research.



Paige is Crufts Champion

Inspirational canine undergraduate Paige Jepson beat off strong competition to take a national title at Crufts, the world's most prestigious dog show.

Paige won the Young Kennel Club's (YKC) 'Young Person of the Year Award' for being a role model to young people and their dogs. The award recognises the young person who has made the greatest contribution to the dog world through hard work and inspiring others. Over 11,000 members of the public voted to decide the champion.

Paige mentors young people at clubs and shows, particularly through training for obedience and puppy classes. She also volunteers at YKC shows and at the two main events in the dog show calendar, Crufts and Discover Dogs.



Our Students Apprentices



Engineering technicians celebrate

Thirty-seven agricultural engineering technicians were joined by their employers at a celebration to mark the completion of their apprenticeships.

The technicians, who train with us on a block release basis, are employed by the UK and Ireland dealer network for leading manufacturers such as CASE, New Holland, CLAAS and JCB.

Reaseheath is a key training provider for these companies, which have considerable input into the programme to ensure it delivers the skills and technical knowledge they require.

The technicians train in Reaseheath's Centre for Advanced Engineering and Agri-Technology and achieve an IMI Level 3 Diploma in Land Based Technology on completion. There are 150 technicians on this thriving three year programme.

Industry support continues

The next generation of highly skilled apprentice construction plant technicians have received their final awards.

Advanced apprentices from all over the country were joined by employers to celebrate a 100% success rate on the completion of their Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Construction Plant Maintenance.

The technicians work for leading companies including A-Plant, Scot JCB, Greenshields JCB, Watlings JCB, Gunn JCB, TC Harrison JCB, Banner Plant, The GAP Group, Clee Hill Plant, Arnold Plant Hire, A P Webb Plant Hire, Ruttle Plant and D Morgan.

Many employers are long standing supporters of the training programme and supply us with cutting edge machinery and equipment.

Apprentice stars recognised

The achievements of apprentices who completed their programmes with us in 2019 were highlighted at our annual apprenticeship awards.

Reaseheath is one of the country's leading trainers of land based apprentices and also provides a valuable recruitment service for employers. Together with Dart Training, we train over 1500 apprentices and work in partnership with hundreds of employers.

Free range egg producer Aaron Sands, a Level 3 agricultural apprentice employed by Paces Farm Eggs, was crowned Advanced Apprentice of the Year. Despite having no previous experience, Aaron has acquired such a high level of skills, knowledge and confidence that he now manages Pace's poultry flock with duties which include carrying out blood tests and checking water quality.



Eden saves employers £millions

Projects devised by apprentice dairy technologists on our unique Eden programme have resulted in efficiency and cost savings of a projected £6.838m across four businesses. The savings have been made over five years by projects implemented in the workplace.

The Eden education initiative, which is supported by leading companies in the dairy industry and by the National Skills Academy for Food and Drink, delivers a degree level apprenticeship.

The partnership aims to provide qualified dairy technologists to meet the demands of an expanding global industry. Companies such as Arla, Muller, Saputo, Glanbia and Wyke Farms collectively invest over £1million annually into the development of their trainees on the programme.



WorldSkills UK medal for Jason

Reaseheath's Intermediate Apprentice of the Year Jason Edwards, a Level 2 butchery apprentice from The Hollies Farm Shop, went on to record two more notable achievements in 2019.

Jason, 25, was a medal winner at the WorldSkills UK LIVE national butchery finals and impressed industry experts so much that he has been selected to represent Team GB at the World Butchers' Challenge in California in September 2020. He has been in the trade for two years and plans eventually to progress into management.

Fifth generation butchery apprentice Lizzie James also qualified for the national butchery finals, while joiner Harry Hiscoe-James and horticulture student Eliot Johnson (Landscape Gardening) represented Reaseheath in their sections at WorldSkills UK LIVE.



Celebration time for successful students



Reaseheath College and its University Centre has continued to celebrate its place among the top UK providers of technical land based training.

Our Higher Education graduation and Further Education (FE) awards ceremonies are the highlights of our academic year and in 2019 celebrated the success of over 300 graduates and 1200 FE students who had achieved industry focused technical degrees and diplomas.

Our graduates celebrated their academic success in historic Chester Cathedral at a spectacular ceremony shared with the University of Chester, our strategic alliance partner.

Among them were dairy technicians from our unique Eden training programme, a bespoke education initiative supported by the dairy industry and aimed at producing world-class employees through degree level apprenticeships.

Reaseheath actively supports this type of higher level learning, which allows those already in employment to continue in practical and academic study. It also has well established industry links, resulting in relevant undergraduate work placements and scientific research projects within its conventional degrees.

At our FE awards ceremony, held on campus, students celebrated achievement rates which far exceed the national average alongside success in developing crucial employability skills.

Principal and CEO Marcus Clinton emphasised that Reaseheath had excelled at developing and embracing new technologies and had prepared its students well for their future careers thanks to its cutting edge training facilities and the additional industry qualifications which were offered alongside many courses. Students were also well supported by experienced staff in a wonderful nurturing college environment.

Marcus added that he had been privileged to witness a highly successful year, packed with events which included students enjoying global study tours and community projects, working alongside key employers at national events and raising thousands of pounds for charities.



Reaseheath Alumni

Connor Smith

Although he has a non-farming background, Connor is passionate about dairy cows and their welfare and took every opportunity throughout his six years at Reaseheath to further his knowledge.

First as a diploma student and later as an undergraduate, he developed his own ideas and theories and acquired useful secondary qualifications. He also worked on a dairy farm, earning a promotion to herd manager.

Keen to discover knowledge which would be useful to farmers, he studied antibiotic resistance to mastitis for his BSc (Hons) Agricultural Business Management dissertation and presented his research at the British Undergraduate Research Conference in 2019.

Connor was an award winner at graduation and is now studying for a Master's degree in ruminant nutrition at Harper Adams University.

Michelle Hackett

Along with a BSc (Hons) Equine Science (First class), Michelle secured a prestigious internship at Virginia Tech's MARE Center while studying at University Centre Reaseheath and gained a unique insight into horse and environmental health at the world renown research centre in Virginia, USA.

After graduating in 2016 she realised that she wanted to work in medical research and found that her equine laboratory and clinical skills were very transferable. She spent 18 months at the Royal Surrey Hospital as a member of the NHS cancer screening team and is now a Research Scientist in Human Medicine for Pro Axis Ltd in Belfast, specialising in chronic respiratory diseases. She is considering completing a PhD at Queen's University Belfast.

Hannah Morrow

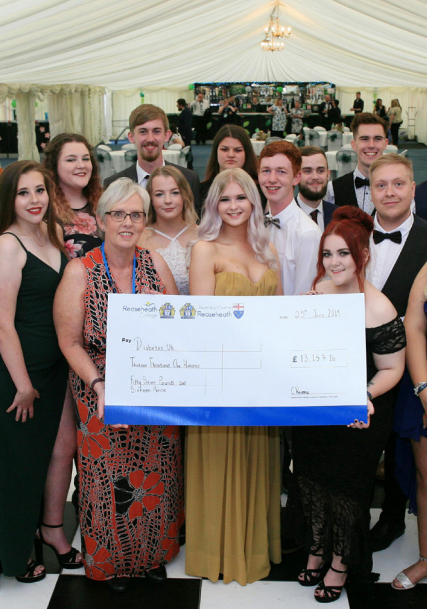
Hannah Morrow completed unique and in-depth research for her final BSc (Hons) Applied Plant Science and Production Technology dissertation which looked at the difficulties of crossing cultivars within the rose growing industry.

She took an intuitive leap and came up with a simple treatment that she theorised would increase pollination, hip set and seed germination. She then proved through practical experiments over one year that her treatment did increase the chance of successful rose breeding.

The result has been a ground-breaking new treatment that she is now developing with a very prestigious UK rose breeder. She has joined their research and development team as a full-time employee, and is thoroughly enjoying her new and exciting career.



Our Communities & the industries we support



RAG raises funds for Diabetes UK

Caring students and staff raised an impressive £16,000 for charities during 2019. Over £13,000 was handed over by Student Association members to charity of the year Diabetes UK at our Summer Ball.

Student fundraisers included activities at our popular lambing weekends, a stand at our first PRIDEfest and a sponsored 25 mile walk along Cheshire's Sandstone Trail. A busy programme during RAG (Raising and Giving) Week included a raft race, a foam party and a tug of war. Our students also raised awareness of diabetes at events such as the Cheshire Show and Reaseheath's Family Festival.

Other charities to benefit included the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, Murphy's Poppy Appeal, St Luke's Hospice and several animal charities.



Foundation students 'go wild'

Foundation students developed their employability skills by volunteering on 'Go Wild - Get Fit', a community programme run by Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT).

As part of their Career Development Pathway the students joined a project to make a community garden at Marbury Country Park more accessible to people and wildlife. The student team spent six busy days painting and putting up bird boxes, clearing overgrown beds, planting willow whips, repairing fences and creating pathways in the garden, which is owned by Cheshire West and Chester Council and managed by CWT.

In addition to developing their confidence and ability they enjoyed wildlife walks, learned to identify birds, took part in mindfulness sessions and celebrated with a barbecue and certificate presentation.



Arena dedicated to Tim Stockdale

A renovated outdoor arena at our Equestrian Centre was officially opened in tribute to the late Olympic showjumper Tim Stockdale. Tim's widow Laura performed the ceremony at a student run show which raised over £1,000 for the Tim Stockdale Foundation.

Tim died one month after being diagnosed with cancer. He was passionate about equestrianism and other sports and wanted talented young people to have the chance to reach their potential.

The Stockdales have long connections with our equine department, in particular by offering students work experience. Dedicating the arena, which has a new £60K surface, Laura Stockdale said that the facility would help the next generation of equestrians to learn their skills and was a perfect tribute.

Students learn about diversity in sport

Sport and foundation students learned about inclusivity in sport during community development programmes delivered by Shark Community Trust.

The Trust is the charitable arm of Sale Sharks, a professional English Premiership rugby union club, and the sessions were delivered by trainers from its inclusivity and diversity unit.

Our students took part in rugby based wheelchair activities which allowed them to experience disability sport for themselves. This helped our students to recognise barriers which athletes with disabilities may face and also how to adapt sporting activities for those with disabilities. These skills will be particularly useful to those who progress into a coaching career.

Students join community food drive

Students and staff donated 16 large boxes of food at Christmas to help local people who are in need – one of our best responses yet.

All departments were involved in the bumper collection of in-date, non perishable food, ranging from meal basics to festive treats, which were delivered to Nantwich Foodbank. The Foodbank is one of a nationwide network set up by The Trussell Trust in response to food poverty.

Our contributions were collected and packed by animal management students, then processed and handed over to those identified by agencies as being in need. Animal management students also helped to raise funds and food donations in Sainsbury's Nantwich store as part of their engagement with our local community.

Full marks for agriculture students

Agriculture students earned a big 'thank you' from local youngsters after helping to transform a play area at a pre-school nursery. Children at The Goslings Pre-School can now spend valuable time playing and learning out of doors thanks to our students' support.

The pre-school approached our agriculture department for help in clearing an unusable piece of ground and making it into an attractive, inviting and safe space where the children could learn to grow plants and vegetables.

After assessing the site the Levels 2 and 3 Diploma students cleared overgrowth, moved a shed, re-laid turf, levelled and laid hard-core for a new paved area and built raised beds. Local businesses and individuals also supported the project.

World Food Day celebrated

Malbank School pupils put their classroom lessons into context during a themed visit to celebrate World Food Day.

Year 9 and Year 10 pupils who are studying sustainability and environmental issues for their GCSE in Food Technology made soup in our Food Centre and toured our dairy processing halls and other industry standard facilities.

They also took part in discussions and practical activities based on the World Food Day theme, which aimed to address global food poverty by providing nutritional, affordable and sustainable food. The sessions, delivered by our experts and partners, covered topics including nutrition, food waste, sustainable packaging, food labelling and how individuals could lessen their own environmental impact.



Industry excellence



Modern cars for motor vehicle students

Our student motor vehicle technicians are learning their trade on the latest road cars thanks to the generosity of local automotive company Car Transplants.

The company is the leading car breaker in the northwest and also specialises in repairable vehicles and safe car disposal. Each year it supplies our Motor Vehicle department with modern cars from a variety of ranges, models and styles, enabling our students to develop relevant skills and knowledge of current technology and systems.

The students work on the vehicles in our automotive workshop, which has ten vehicle ramps, modern diagnostic equipment and a simulated MOT standard test lane. They also train on static engines supplied by Car Transplants.



Travel beckons for agriculturists

Two ambitious young farmers won the opportunity for global travel thanks to a scholarship run by Reaseheath and the Cheshire Agricultural Society.

Sarah Heath, a trainee land agent, and Rebecca Kelsall, a herds woman, were each awarded £2000 John Platt Travel Scholarships to fund international research which would benefit Cheshire's farming community. They received their scholarships at the Royal Cheshire County Show and will share their findings with fellow farmers, Young Farmers Clubs and agricultural students.

Sarah travelled to the USA to investigate successful intensified dairy operations while Rebecca visited New Zealand to gain an overview of extensive style dairy systems. The scholarship is in memory of John Platt, a former Chair of Reaseheath Governors.



Industry accreditation for Parlour Safe

Parlour Safe, the Milking Equipment Association's (MEA) training scheme for engineers and technicians, has been accredited by the Institution of Agricultural Engineers in recognition of its professional quality and high standard of training.

Reaseheath Engineering has worked closely with the MEA to create a bespoke modular course that offers practical and technical training on parlour management, from dynamic testing and cow welfare to health and safety and building design. The scheme is offered solely by Reaseheath and one other land based college.

The current Category 3 (Advanced) cohort include professionals who work for leading milking parlour manufacturers DeLaval, Fullwood, GEA UK, Lely and BouMatic, a dairy vet and an engineer keen learn more about robotics.

Top industry accolade for Food Centre

Our food processing halls team has again achieved the highest standards of food safety and hygiene within a food production facility. Following a rigorous audit against the new British Retail Consortium Global Standard Version 8, we were awarded the prestigious Grade AA standard for a second consecutive year.

This is the highest possible benchmark for best practice in food manufacture and proves that our Food Centre operates under highly controlled conditions and at the highest industry standards.

The updated BRC Version 8 includes new clauses on food safety culture, site security and threat of adulteration. The team achieved the highest level of compliance, with just three minor non conformances noted throughout the two day audit.

Leigh is the big cheese!

Level 5 apprentice dairy technologist Leigh Vinnell won Gold in the Best Student Cheesemaker category at Nantwich International Cheese Show for a cheese produced for his employer, Wyke Farms.

A second cheese produced by Leigh and two fellow Eden advanced apprentices took a silver award and two further cheeses made by Eden apprentices took silver and bronze. Additional silver and bronze awards went to cheeses produced by Level 3 Diploma in Food Technology students, proving we can hold our own against world class professionals.

The Nantwich International Cheese Show is the world's largest cheese festival, attracting 5,500 entries. All classes are highly competitive and winning entries must be outstanding in flavour, texture and taste.

Silaging delivers lifetime experiences

Agricultural and engineering students helped to bring in our silage crop using £1.85 million worth of highly sophisticated machinery on loan from leading manufacturers and suppliers.

The students took part in the whole process from field to clamp and, by working alongside experienced lecturers, gained crucial operating skills and confidence.

The privilege was due to our close industry partnerships, in particular with Malpas Tractors and Kuhn UK. In return both companies benefitted from a demonstration day for prospective customers on our farm. Other companies which loaned tractors, trailers and other equipment included Cheshire Farm Machinery, RVW Pugh Ltd, J K Ashbrook Ltd and Stamford Agricultural Services.

Top speaker empowers florists

Floristry professionals received top tips on how to make their businesses flourish from customer service and sales guru Tim Huckabee, president of Floral Strategies.

Tim presented an insightful on-site training programme featuring best practice for modern retail florists. He was supported by Derek Woodruff, who leads the design teaching element at FloralStrategies.

Based in New York, Tim is famed throughout the industry for his effective business education and training and works with thousands of retail florists around the world. His Reaseheath presentation, to a packed audience of shop owners, qualified florists and Level 3 Diploma students, showed how superior service and effective communication to customers could drive up sales and profits.



Our Year in Review



2019 student numbers:

Further Education

2,348

Higher Education

653

Apprenticeships

637



971

Residential students

381

Students supported with bursaries

£864,000

Awarded to students
in financial support

720

Students using college transport
to Reaseheath daily

1.8m

Amount Reaseheath College
supported students with cost of
transport



Measuring success:

Students score the support they receive at **8.9 out of 10**



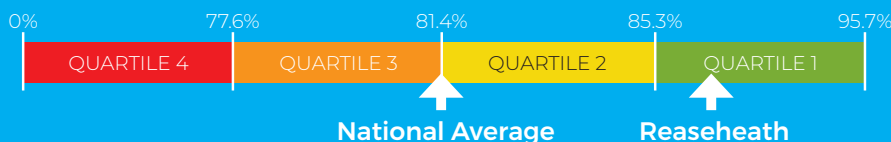
Students score the preparation they receive for next steps or employment as **8.5 out of 10**



94% of learners would recommend the college to a friend



88% of 16-18 years olds achieve their qualifications, 6% above national average



72% of apprentices were successful, 7% above the national average

REASEHEATH	72%
NATIONAL AVERAGE	65%

97% of learners progressed into a positive destination such as employment or further study



We're in the top 25% of colleges for success in Level 3 academic qualifications



(23rd out of 128 general further education and specialist colleges)

We're in the top 25% of colleges for maths progress



(30th out of 185 general further education and specialist colleges)





Student Experience Survey Higher Education

Satisfaction

Overall, I am satisfied
with the course

83%

The course is well organised
and runs smoothly

84%

Teaching and learning

Staff are good at
explaining things

87%

My learning opportunities give
me the chance to apply what I
have learnt in real situations

83%

I have been able to access
course-specific resources
when I needed to

84%

Assessment and feedback

I receive sufficient advice and
guidance from my tutors

87%

I am able to contact
staff when I need to

87%

Total number of staff 620

Staff breakdown by role

38% Teaching

20% Teaching support

42% Non-teaching

Staff numbers by gender

65% Female

35% Male

Staff satisfaction

93% of staff are proud to work for Reaseheath College

92% of staff gain job satisfaction from their role

89% of staff are optimistic about the future of the college

87% of staff would recommend Reaseheath College as a good place to work

86% of staff feel the senior team are leading the college in the right direction

Our Equality and Diversity objectives

Eliminate unlawful discrimination

- Deliver high quality training to all staff that promotes best practice and reinforces minimum standards thus ensuring the highest levels of safeguarding and compliance (including to the Prevent agenda)
- Ensure the college values of People, Responsibility, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence are promoted and reinforced with staff, students and visitors

Advance equality of opportunity

- Promote equality and diversity of opportunity through high quality teaching and learning
- Recognise and celebrate best practice in equality and diversity
- Enhance the opportunity for success for those from disadvantaged and minority populations

Foster good relations

- Maximise opportunities to embed equality and diversity in lessons and through college wide initiatives, events and campaigns



Reaseheath College Group

Financial Results 2018/19

Financial Highlights

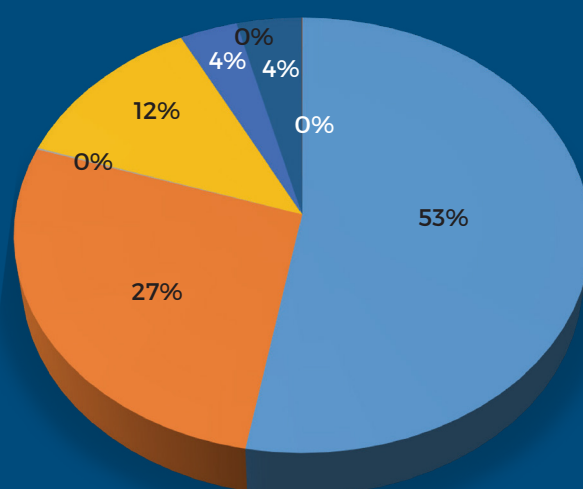
381	Students were awarded a bursary
£864k	The amount of money we awarded in bursaries
27%	The proportion of income generated from student fees
54%	Staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure
£411k	The underlying surplus after adjustment for exceptional costs

Reaseheath Colleges Group

Income for 2018/19

Where does the money come from?

£17.9	Funding body grants
£9.2	Tuition fees and education contracts
£0.0	Other grants and contracts
£4.2	Catering and residences
£1.2	Farming income
£0.0	Transport
£1.4	Other income
£0.0	Endowment and investment income

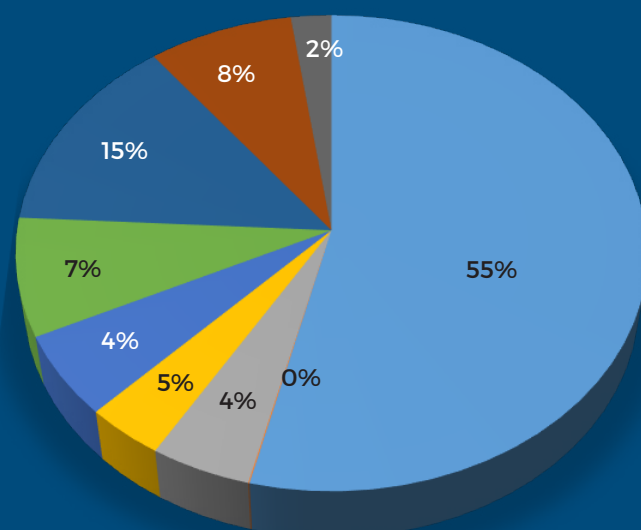


Reaseheath College Group

Expenditure for 2018/19

Where is the money spent?

£18.2	Staff costs
£0.0	Fundamental restructuring costs
£1.4	Other operating expenses including exam fees, staff development and recruitment
£1.8	Transport, student bus costs
£1.5	Establishment costs, including professional fees, insurance and administration
£2.4	Premises costs including utilities, maintenance, rent
£4.7	Supplies and services costs including farm expenditure, IT, food and provisions
£2.8	Depreciation and amortisation
£0.7	Interest and other finance costs



Reaseheaths College Group Financial Summary for 2018/19

£33.9M - £33.4M = £0.41M

(Total Income) - (Total Expenditure) = (Underlying Operating Surplus)

Investment in specialist facilities and resources pays dividends

Reaseheath has some of the best specialist facilities and resources in the country, thanks to a recent £80 million investment across campus.

Key projects which were officially opened in 2019 included an Employer Hub to support innovation and economic growth within regional and rural businesses, and our latest high quality halls of residence. Both were support funded by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership.



These superb new facilities include:

Employer Hub (£2.1m)

This project offers conferencing and seminar facilities, meeting and interview rooms and networking spaces

Crucially, it creates a focal point where employers can discuss potential collaborative research or trials run by our undergraduates or Further Education students. These mutually beneficial projects partner businesses with students who have relevant research skills and knowledge, particularly in emerging technology. In return our students gain essential industry experience

The Employer Hub also provides access to our industry standard trials facilities and technologists.

Halls of Residence (£13m)

This modern townhouse style accommodation, tailor-made for student living, brings the total capacity on campus to 850 bedrooms.

The accommodation forms five halls which are named after notable stately homes in Cheshire - Gawsworth Hall, Rode Hall, Tatton Hall, Capesthorpe Hall and Tabley Hall.

Our students were involved at the planning stage and their input has significantly influenced the design. Each block has a communal kitchen, lounge and dining area and the accommodation is proving very popular among our undergraduates.

Centre for Advanced Engineering and Agri-technology (£8m)

This superb new facility is in full use by students, apprentices, stakeholders and industry partners, allowing us to deliver next generation skills in precision engineering and precision farming. It will be officially opened in 2020.

Sports Science and Performance Academy (£6m)

The Academy is used by students and by our local community outside college hours. Facilities include a 4G rugby sports pitch and a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) all weather sports pitch.





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