

Annual Review 2022

Reaseheath
College



University Centre
Reaseheath



www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Message from the Principal



Reaseheath's progress as a specialist land based college has been extraordinarily successful over the past 100 years and it has been fantastic to spend 2021/2022 - our centenary year - celebrating some of those milestones.

What is immediately evident is that throughout its long and impactful history, Reaseheath has stayed ahead of the curve to meet the needs of industry partners and their workforces and that this will remain an important aspect of the college's future role.

During those 100 years, Reaseheath has become a vital regional and national asset, an anchor institution which has worked with thousands of employers and key stakeholders to progress national priorities such as food production and sustainable management of the land and the environment.

Supporting and transforming lives, communities and industries has always been at the college's heart. Over the decades Reaseheath has continuously evolved both in its range of leading edge specialist facilities and equipment and in the variety and depth of courses on offer, from foundation to degree level and apprenticeships.

One constant factor has been that our courses and qualifications are always industry focused and relevant to ensure the best student outcomes. The very high progression into work, the exciting stories from our alumni and the positive feedback from employers is testament to the success of this approach.

Since Reaseheath was officially opened in 1921, learner numbers have grown from under 100 to well over 4000 full time students, undergraduates and apprentices. We now have over 600 staff and a turnover approaching £40 million.

What is far more difficult to quantify is the unique DNA - the Reaseheath Family - which has earned the college a special place in so many people's hearts and has enabled it to play a major part in so many lives. We have heard so many stories on this theme during the past year.

This incredible legacy would not have been possible without our amazing staff and I'd like to join our governors in thanking everyone for showing such creativity, dedication and resilience. This has enabled us to continue doing the very best for our students.

2022 has not been without challenges due to the residual effect of Covid-19, climate change and world events, but we have remained strong academically and attracted robust undergraduate, student and apprentice recruitment - all of which stands us in good stead for our next Ofsted inspection. In particular we have seen strong growth and success within our apprenticeship programmes, demonstrating the alignment of our curriculum with national skills demand.

This year has also seen the very successful launch of T Levels, initially within our Construction and Business departments, which have been developed to meet the needs of industry and are backed by government investment. Other departments will join this programme as the roll-out continues.

We have also continued to develop a forward looking general curriculum with increasing emphasis on sustainability and innovation. This sector is already rewarding us with many successes - you can read about some of these highlights in the pages that follow.

University Centre Reaseheath's offer is being transformed, with many appealing and forward looking degrees being finalised, and our undergraduates continue to benefit from real life research and industry experience. We are also continuing to develop our adult offer in line with the growing emphasis on lifelong learning.

As well as applauding the incredible efforts of our Student Association, who presented £12,600 to Hope House Children's Hospices, their 2022 chosen charity, we have also celebrated some examples of great practice by staff members. For instance our Food Centre team have for the fifth consecutive year been successful in passing the AA BRC audit and we remain the only college to have achieved this benchmark - a fantastic industry coup.

Also, 2021/2022 was the year which celebrated three UCR graduation ceremonies and one FE Presentation of Awards, offered numerous opportunities to strengthen links with business partners and communities and culminated with a royal visit and a home produced centenary dinner.

So very much a year of positives, and above all a year to celebrate!



“Reaseheath has stayed ahead of the curve to meet the needs of industry partners and their workforces. This will remain an important aspect of the college's future role.”

Marcus Clinton
Principal and Chief Executive



David Pearson MBE
Chair of Governors



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, 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 while 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

Our five year strategic plan, implemented in 2019, sets out our vision to be the leading land-based and technical college in the UK. This will ensure 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 our students, staff and industry partners 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.



Reaseheath100



2021/2022 commemorated our 100th year and gave us a fantastic opportunity to celebrate with our stakeholders, local and business communities, former and present students, staff and supporters.

Royal visit marks centenary

A highlight of our centenary celebrations was a visit from His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, who officially opened our Heritage Trail and Centenary Bridge and our state-of-the-art Vertical Farm.

The Heritage Trail has been restored by students and staff from our Countryside department as part of a sustainability project aimed at increasing biodiversity on campus. It can be enjoyed by students, staff, visitors and the public. A keen horticulturist, the Duke planted a tree as a reminder of his visit and chatted to students and staff.

He also officially opened Reaseheath's Vertical Farm – the UK's largest training and research centre for vertical farming. This facility grows a range of tiered crops within a temperature and light controlled environment.

Sensational centenary dinner

Our centenary dinner brought the year long celebrations to a close with an impressive tribute to home grown produce and talent.

A unique mix of local dignitaries, industry partners, governors, alumni and former and present staff and students enjoyed a multi course dinner featuring Reaseheath produce and prepared by our own catering team supported by food technology and bakery students.

Guests were impressed with the spectacular floral arrangements created by our floristry department and the amazing atmosphere in the marquee, which was set up by our Estates Team.

A centenary cake made by Bakery and Patisserie Course Manager Sam Copeland was cut by present principal Marcus Clinton and past principals Meredydd David and Vic Croxson. Entertainers included former student Twm Tegid Brunton, an aspiring opera singer.

Families flock to centenary lambing

Families flocked from far afield to enjoy our two Lambing and Zoo weekends - and also helped us to celebrate our centenary year.

We welcomed a capacity crowd of 2000 visitors daily to these very popular events, with everyone enjoying meeting the newborns and learning about the advancements in agriculture which our college has seen since its launch in 1921 as the Cheshire School of Agriculture.

Stars of the show were our new flock of Highlander sheep which had recently been introduced to the college farm. The 341 ewes successfully gave birth to over 630 lambs!

Our mini zoo was also very popular, with crowds enjoying strolling round our enclosures and learning fascinating facts about our animal collection from our zoo keepers.



Centenary celebrations shared

Our renowned Family Festival gave us a fantastic opportunity to share our centenary celebrations with our local community and former students, staff and supporters.

The theme was our rich history as a land based educational establishment, and how rural industries have developed over the past 100 years to reach today's high level of technology.

Record breaking crowds enjoyed the action-packed event, which also showcased many business partners and local organisations. Displays included 100 years of bricklaying; farming machinery through the ages; vintage cars and butchery, cheese and butter making. Visitors could also admire the latest in technology with tours of our vertical farm, glasshouses, dairy processing halls, robotic milking parlour and veterinary nursing centre.



Tree gift celebrates centenary

Reaseheath donated a 'Discovery' apple tree to Nantwich's Community Orchard as part of its centenary celebrations.

The 1950s variety joins a further 47 fruit trees in the orchard on Nantwich Riverside, which is maintained by Nantwich in Bloom.

The tree was planted by Level 2 horticulture apprentices Natasha Devine and John Bradburn under the guidance of Nantwich in Bloom Chair Sue Sherwood, Vice Chair Tom Deans and Master of Horticulture Harry Delaney, who between them have served a total of 85 years in our horticultural department.

Nantwich Community Orchard was established in 2008 to help preserve and maintain traditional fruit varieties. Passers-by can pick and sample the fruit during the harvesting period.



Centenary Wood planted

Conservation students celebrated Reaseheath's 100th birthday and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by planting a new wood of carbon busting trees.

The 800 trees - all British native species - were donated by The Conservation Volunteers and form part of the Queen's Green Canopy, a countrywide initiative to plant trees as a lasting legacy to Her Late Majesty's 70 year reign.

The planting was carried out by students from all countryside courses and by members of our Conservation Society, while agriculture students prepared the one hectare plot.

The new Centenary Wood is extending an existing larch wood on the college estate. A wildflower meadow, a wetland area and a network of rides and glades will be established to provide a mosaic of habitats.



Our Students

Further Education



Superb skills win calf show

Agriculture students proved they were more than up for the challenge of the college calf show by producing high level stockmanship skills.

Over 20 students prepared youngstock from Reaseheath's dairy herd and demonstrated their handling ability in a showing on campus.

Prominent cattle judge Ray Brown, who farms the renowned Bidlea dairy herd, had a difficult task choosing the winners of the four classes and in particular the overall championship, but Lorna Preece was eventually selected as champion with James Tipton taking reserve champion and Caitlin Corkill in third place. All three are students on our popular Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture, which has a full middle year placement and is equivalent to three A levels.



Students impress at new competition

Talented students from Reaseheath and partner colleges impressed judges at a new inter-college competition. The Cheshire Skills Competition, a collaboration between Reaseheath, Warrington & Vale Royal College, Macclesfield College and Cheshire College South & West, enabled the sharing of good practice while also developing technical and life skills.

Categories were hosted by different colleges, with Reaseheath holding the automotive competition in our Centre for Advanced Engineering and Agri-Technology. Motor vehicle students were challenged to remove and replace a cylinder head gasket and were also tested on their depth of knowledge. Teams from all participating colleges won awards.

Five of our student bricklayers and joiners contested the construction category, hosted by Warrington & Vale Royal College, with all students gaining top three places in their respective sections.



Fantastic season for footballers

Reaseheath's five talented football teams ended their best season to date by winning or being highly placed in all their league tables.

Our alliance with the Crewe Alexandra Football Education Academy gives top playing students the chance to represent Crewe Alexandra Football Club in the Community and Education Football Alliance League (EFL), while our membership of the Association of Colleges Sport enables us to contest the English College's Football Association (ECFA) league.

We are also able to offer sports students additional coaching sessions and a tailored training programme within Crewe Alexandra's academy. This resulted in our Category 1 Men's Team winning the EFL league (North Central 1) while our other four teams, including our women's team, enjoyed success in the ECFA league.



Awards celebrate success

Reaseheath College's annual awards ceremonies, held over the final two days of term, celebrated the success of over 1200 Further Education students who had achieved focused technical qualifications and skills. The vast majority find a rewarding career in their chosen industry or progress into Higher Education, with many opting to study at University Centre Reaseheath.

Addressing packed audiences, our Principal and CEO, Marcus Clinton emphasised that Reaseheath remains one of the top UK providers of land based training and offers programmes which are supported by many key employers.

He pointed out that the Government recognised the value of technical education and that Reaseheath successfully developed crucial employability skills among its students. The college embraced new technologies and continued to invest in many new resources and facilities.

HOYS support praised

Our student arena party again provided an essential service at the world's most famous equine event - the Horse of the Year Show. For the 11th year our team of students and staff assisted the show jumping course designers and builders in the international arena and also supported the Dressage Championship, the Pony Club mounted games and the harness scurry.

Their efforts helped to provide a seamless spectacle for thousands of visitors and were much appreciated by the organisers, who appreciate the team's enthusiasm, high standards and work ethic.

In addition to gaining a unique perspective on the backstage elements of a major show and meeting elite riders and trainers, the students received unique event management training including emergency drills - a superb addition to their CVs.



Our Students

Higher Education



University Centre graduates celebrated

Graduands who completed degrees at University Centre Reaseheath in the past three years joined peers from the University of Chester, Reaseheath's strategic alliance partner, for spectacular graduation ceremonies held in Chester's historic cathedral.

The 2020 and 2021 ceremonies had been postponed due to Covid-19, so we celebrated all three ceremonies separately in 2022.

The graduands were awarded degrees in agricultural science, animal management, canine clinical behaviour, equine science, zoo management, wildlife conservation and ecology, landscape architecture, adventure sports and coaching, rural events management, dairy technology and food science.

While many studied full time, others chose a part-time route while continuing to work or were degree level apprentices on study release from their workplace. Dean's awards for outstanding studies were presented at each ceremony.

Safer Streets campaign

A powerful campaign to help students feel safer on and off campus was launched in collaboration with our academic partner, the University of Chester.

The campaign was funded as part of the Government's national Safer Streets initiative and received £550,000 following a successful bid from John Dwyer, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire.

A network of Sexual Violence Liaison Officers have been trained to support students at the educational institutions, and other plans include enhanced lighting and CCTV cameras, the development of a student safety app, the introducing of safe spaces for students who feel threatened and the introduction of a safe taxi scheme which allows students to use their student ID card to get home if they feel unsafe.

Undergraduates present at zoo conference

Three UCR Animal Science undergraduates shared their research at the BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria) Research Conference. This was held at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and allowed the undergraduates to share research from their dissertation projects, learn about new research and network with professionals.

Katie Sparks (BSc Animal Management) spoke about the concept of flow in cotton-top tamarins using cognitive enrichment, Tom Briggs (BSc Zoo Management) gave a poster presentation on how the presence of keepers impacts on captive Californian sea lion behaviour and Megan Brindley (BSc Animal Management) gave a poster presentation on how selected herbs affected the behaviour of serval, raccoon dogs and African civets.

The undergraduates were supported by our Higher Education Scholarly Activity Fund.



Florist Gabrielle is top of the tree

Level 5 Master Diploma in Professional Floristry student Gabrielle Williams achieved the highest marks in the country and a distinction for the theory section of her final exam.

The Level 5 Master Diploma is the highest qualification offered through City and Guilds and is held by an elite 5% of professional florists. Gabrielle, who owns successful floristry business Rosa Gabriella, also achieved a much respected merit in her practical exam.

Originally studying floristry as a leisure interest on our Level 3 Diploma course, Gabrielle was inspired to become a professional florist after being a member of our medal winning team at RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2017. She has continued to study with us because she wants to grow her skills to the highest level possible.



National success for show horse producers

BSc Equine Science and Sports Performance graduates Jack and Harry Moore are enjoying national success with top level show horses which they produce at their own custom built yard.

The brothers have had many wins at prestigious shows such as the Horse of the Year Show and the Royal International Horse Show with ridden and working hunters, show hacks, cobs and show ponies. They also educate young horses, prepare horses for sale and do stunt riding for films!

Both completed their Level 3 Diploma in Horse Management with us before becoming UCR undergraduates and agree that their Reaseheath journey has been key to their success, particularly furthering their science based knowledge on subjects such as equine anatomy and nutrition.

Our Students

Apprentices



Butcher represents GB in world challenge

Former Reaseheath butchery apprentice Jason Edwards represented Team GB in the 'Young Butcher' category at the World Butchers Challenge in California, USA.

Jason was selected after winning a gold medal at the 2021 WorldSkills UK Butchery finals, which were held at Reaseheath - but this was his first competition experience at international level. Although he was unplaced, he thoroughly enjoyed appearing on a global stage and held his own against competitors from 14 other countries.

Jason completed his FDQ Diploma in Professional Butchery Level 2 with us and manages Little's Butchers, a high street shop in Hartford. Our Master Butcher Gary Evans signed him up for WorldSkillsUK and he won a bronze medal at his first attempt in 2019.



Politicians praise apprenticeship programmes

Two senior politicians paid tribute to the way our college and university centre shapes its apprenticeships to meet the current and future requirements of industry.

Minister of State for Higher & Further Education, Michelle Donelan MP, and MP for Eddisbury, Edward Timpson CBE, both praised Reaseheath's efforts to deliver transferable and work-ready skills which meet the demands of fast evolving markets – and make apprentices more employable.

Their remarks came during a campus visit in celebration of National Apprenticeship Week.

The Westminster visitors enjoyed meeting agriculture, engineering and butchery apprentices and seeing some of the hi-tech teaching facilities on campus such as our impressive robotic milking parlour and data hub.

First Bus directors visit academy

Senior directors of First Bus celebrated National Apprenticeship Week by visiting company apprentices who are training on next generation zero emission vehicles at Reaseheath's industry leading Bus and Coach engineering academy.

First Bus has partnered Reaseheath in creating the purpose built national centre and has exclusive use of the facility for training its apprentices. The apprenticeship programme is tailored to meet the operator's needs during its transition to a zero-carbon fleet.

Engineering Director Ian Warr and Chief People Officer Kevin Green saw apprentices demonstrate their skills and technical development on transport vehicles donated by First Bus, including a hybrid electric bus and a specially equipped training bus.



Award for outstanding apprentice

Carla Lindsay, a Higher Level Apprentice in Dairy Technology on our Eden programme, was awarded the Meredydd David Award for Academic Excellence for her superb final year dissertation project. She was also crowned 'Eden Student of the Year' by the Society of Dairy Technology for her dedication to her studies.

The first female cheesemaker at Arla Foods Lockerbie, Carla investigated the microbiological contamination of whey protein concentrate during its transfer from the site to Denmark for use in food products including baby formula.

Carla applied her degree learning and also collaborated with work colleagues and outside agencies. As well as establishing the source of the contamination, she developed a long term solution which increased customer satisfaction, reduced the environmental impact of product disposal and saved her employers £400,000!



Lewis rides high

Former Level 2 Equine Groom Apprentice Lewis Ecclestone was riding high after successfully securing employment at the royal stables at Windsor Castle.

Lewis helps to care for the King's ceremonial horses and prepares them for duties such as public parades. Since joining the Royal Household he regularly exercises the horses in Windsor Great Park and has learned how to ride postillion on a horse drawing a carriage.

Lewis first applied for his dream job when he was 16 but was asked to reapply when he was 18. He used the time to complete his apprenticeship while working at Poplars Farm Riding School, Staffordshire. He reports that he continues to use the skills and knowledge he gained at college....and that he's having an amazing time!



Industry Excellence



Fifth industry accolade for Food Centre

Our outstanding 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 BRCGS (British Retail Consortium Global Standard) Version 8, the team has been awarded the prestigious AA standard for the fifth consecutive year. This is the highest possible benchmark for best practice in food manufacture and proof that our Food Centre operates under highly controlled conditions and to the highest industry standards.

Grade AA certification is aimed at suppliers of major retailers. Although Reaseheath does not need this highest standard to operate, the college's ethos is to ensure students are trained under industry conditions.



Industry honour for Mike

The outstanding contribution which our Processing Halls Manager Mike Bennett makes to the dairy industry, in particular in his training of our Eden apprentices, was honoured at the Society of Dairy Technology's annual awards.

Mike received the Brian Peacock Award as testament to the many Eden apprentices who have progressed their careers under his guidance – many rising to senior management. His passion for passing on his knowledge was praised – and the award was even sweeter because the nominations came from the students themselves.

Mike is Course Manager and Lead Lecturer for our Eden programme, a degree level apprenticeship for dairy technologists selected by their companies for higher level training. This unique educational initiative is supported by leading dairy brands and is also accessible to smaller dairy businesses.



Exceptional dyslexia coach recognised

An exceptional Reaseheath coach was recognised at a glittering awards evening to celebrate dyslexic people and those who support them.

Teaching and Learning Coach Katie Frimston received the Exceptional Educator trophy at the national Dyslexia Awards, where she was commended by judges for her 'positive influence' in helping students to fulfil their goals and ambitions. The judges commented: "The support for Katie from her students shows what an exceptional educator she is. She has clearly been a positive influence, helping students to achieve things which previously they believed were impossible."

Katie was originally nominated by a member of staff who she had been supporting. Receiving her award, she commented that being dyslexic herself made it easier to understand the daily challenges her students faced.

MEA Conference

The value of professional accreditation for specialist milking equipment engineers and an expansion of the industry's accreditation scheme came under the spotlight at a high profile conference held at Reaseheath.

Members of the Milking Equipment Association travelled UK-wide to attend the conference, where they listened to key speakers and learned about the rebrand and expansion of the Milking Systems Technician Accreditation scheme. This now covers all brands and types of milking systems, from traditional to fully automated robotics.

Reaseheath works closely with the agricultural engineering and dairy industries and is the only college to deliver Category 3 and the new Category 4 (Master Technician), which is the highest professional level achievable.



Chester Zoo partnership

Our Environmental Conservation department helped families to get closer to nature by sharing its skills at Chester Zoo's Wildlife Connections Festival. The two day event, held in the zoo's 14 acre nature reserve, offered a packed programme of creative and inspiring activities.

Supported by the zoo's rangers, we ran hands-on activities introducing visitors to the unseen lives of creatures who live in our ponds and waterways. Over 900 visitors were attracted to our stand and left with a greater knowledge of the habitats and life cycles of pond invertebrates and amphibians. Satisfyingly, some families went home inspired to construct their own garden ponds.

Other wildlife partners included The National Trust, Cheshire Wildlife Trust and RECORD, Cheshire's Biological Records Centre.



Networking for vet practices

Professionals from over 20 registered veterinary practices attended a networking event which we held during Veterinary Nursing Awareness Month.

This was a partnered event with the British Veterinary Nursing Association and gave delegates the opportunity to discuss topical industry challenges such as recruitment, skills gaps and staff wellbeing.

Headline speaker was Stephanie Sorrell, a European Specialist in Internal Medicine and RCVS specialist in Feline Medicine, who is passionate about improving wellbeing within the veterinary profession. Subjects for discussion included the clinical coach support we offer and the importance of mentors and strong leadership. Delegates also toured our specialist Centre of Veterinary Nursing, many leaving excellent feedback.

Over 80 training practices have apprentices with us or take our students on work experience.



Our Communities



Praise for Hope House fundraising

Representatives from our Student Association (SA) earned praise after handing over a cheque for more than £12,600 to Hope House Children's Hospices, their chosen 2022 charity.

The impressive amount was raised through RAG (Raising and Giving) activities including a daring sky dive by five SA members and a sponsored walk of the 34 mile (55 kilometre) Sandstone Trail.

The SA also organised numerous fund raising events during Reaseheath's RAG month and collected donations from visitors to our Family Festival, Lambing Weekends and award winning stand at the Cheshire Show.

Hope House Children's Hospices provides respite care for babies, children and young adults and offer support for around 750 families across Cheshire, Shropshire and north and mid Wales. The handover was made at our Student Ball.

Reaseheath is new home for Nantwich Show

We were delighted to offer the Nantwich Show a new home when Nantwich Agricultural Society decided it was time for a relaunch.

The hugely popular agricultural event had been held at nearby Dorfold Park for more than 70 years but was forced to cancel in 2019 due to heavy rain and for a further two years due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Its eagerly awaited return, on fields used by our training and commercial farm, was particularly apt because the show was celebrating its 125th anniversary during Reaseheath's centenary year. Its programme turned the spotlight on farming and rural life and offered a spectacular range of animals, technologies, innovative businesses and family entertainment.



Harvest torch highlights Cheshire's fabulous food

We were privileged to host the Harvest Torch - the farming community's answer to the Olympic Torch - during its tour of Cheshire.

The torch, a specially commissioned sculpture depicting harvest's natural bounty and Cheshire's fabulous food, was on its way to a national Harvest Service to be held at Chester Cathedral. The service is held annually in a different part of the country and in 2022 it was Cheshire's turn to hold the event.

The torch's arrival was marked by a short service at Reaseheath led by Revd Anne Lawson, Vicar of the Cross Country Parishes of Acton, Church Minshull, Worleston and Wettenhall and Chaplain to the Cheshire Agricultural Society. It was delivered on a tractor by local members of Young Farmers.



Major trophy at Royal Cheshire Show

Reaseheath's action packed stand won the Best Rural Life Trade Stand award at the Royal Cheshire Show. Our range of educative and interactive displays impressed the judges, who agreed that the stand showcased the best aspects of modern agriculture and rural life and was widely appealing to visitors.

Our theme throughout was technical progress and innovative environmental practice within the land based industries. Visitors watched sausage and butter making demonstrations, learnt tree climbing techniques, met animals from our mini zoo, tested their tractor and car driving skills on simulators and admired the skills of floristry students. They could also drive a digger, play a travel game and take part in a science challenge. Many successful alumni visited the stand and joined our 100th birthday celebrations.

Nantwich Food Festival sponsored

Reaseheath was a major sponsor of the hugely successful Nantwich Food Festival, a three-day event which attracted a 40,000-plus record crowd, raised the profile of local businesses and delivered a substantial boost to the local economy.

The Reaseheath Food Theatre drew capacity audiences to demonstrations by celebrities including TV chef Dean Edwards, Chester Grosvenor's Executive Chef Elliot Hill and our own highly talented Bakery and Patisserie Course Manager Sam Copeland, who impressed visitors with a stunning cake decorating display.

Sam demonstrated how to decorate an Autumn themed cake and also judged the Festival's Victoria Sponge competition alongside Lizzie Acker (Great British Bake-Off) and Jill Weatherburn (food stylist and home economist). Our Crop Innovation Manager Peter Gould was also popular, selling produce grown in our glasshouses.



Donations help local communities

Generous staff and students donated an impressive 256 presents to bring Christmas cheer to young people spending the festive season in nearby Leighton Hospital.

The collection was organised by our Wellbeing Team and donated to a toy appeal organised by the Dabbers Scooter Club, who collected the presents. All departments donated new toys suitable for an age range from babies to young teenagers. This is the first time the college has supported the Dabbers Scooter Club's appeal, although we have previously made individual donations of toys to Leighton Hospital.

We also pulled together to help local people in need over the festive period by collecting non perishable food, household items, toiletries and festive treats to make up a welcome delivery for Nantwich Foodbank.



Reaseheath Sustainability

Our Year in Review



Project wins Green Gown Award

Our 'Field to Fork' project with a local school has been recognised as an exceptional collaborative initiative delivering both environmental and social benefits.

The project, which involved our food technology and horticulture students, pupils from Wrenbury Primary School and a former Michelin star chef, won the Next Generation Learning and Skills category at the Green Gown Awards UK and Ireland 2022. The Green Gown Awards recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges.

We enabled the pupils to learn first hand about sustainable food production and healthy eating by encouraging them to grow their own vegetables and use them as ingredients in nutritious meals which they helped to cook and then shared with their families.



Green energy scheme proposed

Reaseheath's Equestrian Centre could benefit from a proposal to generate clean, green energy from a hydroelectric scheme on the nearby River Weaver.

Nantwich Mill Community Energy Company, a not-for-profit community benefit organisation, has been awarded £100,000 by the North West Energy Hub's Rural Community Energy Fund and plans to deliver hydroelectric generation schemes at Beambridge sluice and at the Mill Island in central Nantwich.

Reaseheath hopes to tap into Beambridge sluice and will use the energy to power facilities at our Equestrian Centre a short distance away. Renewable energy development experts Locogen and Derwent Hydro are developing detailed plans and Sharenergy will manage a community share issue. The project has support in principal from Nantwich Town Council and Cheshire East Council.



Sustainability champion Ross honoured

A graduate who made a significant impact on our sustainability journey was honoured with a prestigious national award.

Ross Fuller, the inspirational former Chair of Reaseheath's Conservation Society, was awarded Runner up 'Student Green Commitment Award', a category within the Association of Colleges 'Student of the Year' awards. The award recognises Ross's pioneering work and the outstanding way he has led the college-wide student voice on climate change and sustainability.

Ross, who also received the Reaseheath100 Award for Contribution to Sustainability at our Annual Awards, introduced sustainability projects including a move to reduce paper and plastic waste on campus. He also encouraged students to contribute to biodiversity projects such as creating a wildflower meadow, building wildlife habitats and by joining mammal, bird and plant surveys.

2022 student numbers:

Further Education

2,804

Higher Education

692

Apprenticeships

980

704

Residential students

593

Students supported with bursaries

£694,000

Awarded to students in financial support

600

Students using college transport to Reaseheath daily

£1.6m

Amount Reaseheath College supported students with cost of transport



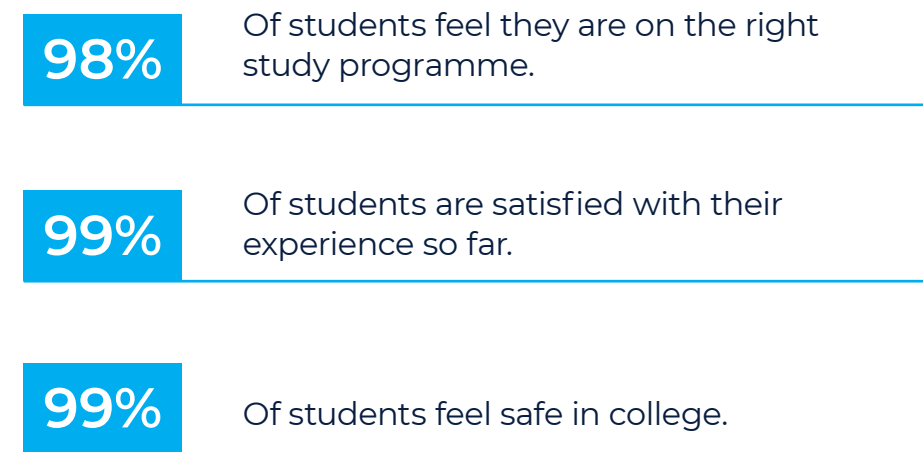


Student Experience Surveys

Higher Education National Student Survey Results



Further Education Pulse Survey



Measuring success:

80% of learners believe that their course has improved their career choices or prospects



91% of students would recommend the College to a friend



84% of 16-18 years olds achieved their qualifications



62% of apprentices were successful, 8.6% above the national average



90% of learners progressed into a positive destination such as employment or further study



47% pass rate in GCSE core Maths (Grades A-C), 4% above the national college average



8 out of 10 learners report that their course has improved their confidence and has helped them to make progress





Total number of staff **663**

Staff breakdown by role

31% Teaching

25% Teaching support

44% Non-teaching

Staff numbers by gender

66% Female

34% Male

Staff satisfaction

83% of staff are proud to work for Reaseheath College and University Centre Reaseheath Reaseheath.

83% of staff gain job satisfaction from their role.

70% of staff are optimistic about the future of the college and university centre.

93% believe we make a positive difference to learners' lives.

70% believe the college is forward thinking.

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion objectives

- To conduct a cultural audit of our current practices and processes to give an insight into the college and our environment. This will enable us to identify areas for improvement and take positive action to improve our services
- To maximise the accessibility of our campus, website, language, technology and approach for our learners, staff and visitors, taking positive action to improve
- To introduce and promote wider engagement activities for our staff and students and build links with external EDI and community networks to encourage a wider appreciation of the lived experience of our staff, students and visitors within the college and beyond
- To use every opportunity to celebrate diversity and inclusion and take opportunities to start brave conversations to improve our learning environments

Reaseheath College Group Financial Results 2021/22

593

Students were awarded a Bursary

£694k

The amount of money we awarded in bursary

19%

The proportion of income generated from Student fees

58%

Staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure

£200k

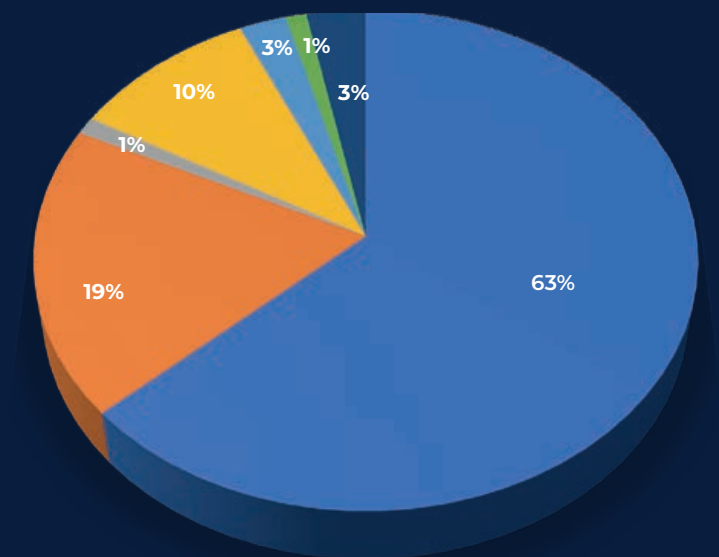
The underlying surplus after adjustment for exceptional costs

Reaseheath College Group

Income for 2021/22

Where does the money come from?

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| £22.5 | Funding body grants |
| £6.7 | Tuition fees and education contracts |
| £0.4 | Other grants and contracts |
| £3.5 | Catering and residences |
| £0.9 | Farming income |
| £0.4 | Transport |
| £1.1 | Other income |
| £0.0 | Endowment and investment income |

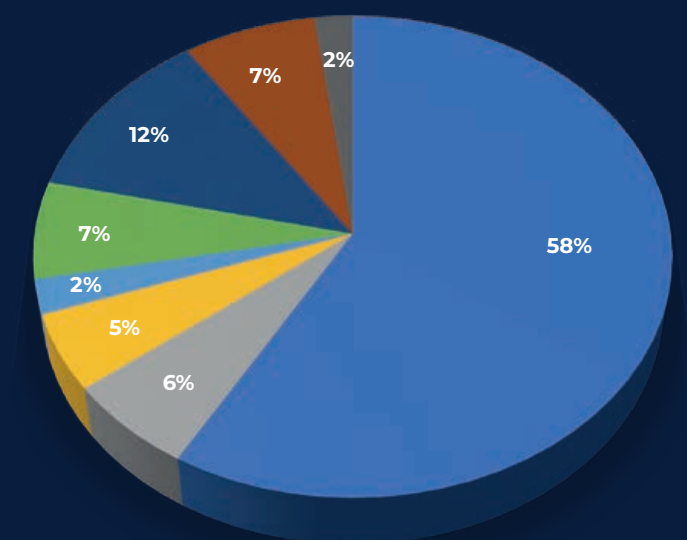


Reaseheath College Group

Expenditure for 2021/22

Where is the money spent?

| | |
|--------------|---|
| £22.3 | Staff costs |
| £0.0 | Fundamental restructuring costs |
| £2.3 | Other operating expenses including exam fees, staff development and recruitment |
| £2.0 | Transport, student bus costs |
| £0.9 | Establishment costs, including professional fees, insurance and administration |
| £2.5 | Premises costs including utilities, maintenance, rent |
| £4.6 | Supplies and services costs including farm expenditure, IT costs, food and provisions |
| £2.8 | Depreciation and amortisation |
| £0.8 | Interest and other finance costs |



Reaseheath College Group Financial Summary for 21/22

£35.5M - £35.3 = £0.2M

(Total Income) - (Total Expenditure less Pension Adjustment) = (Underlying Operating Surplus)



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