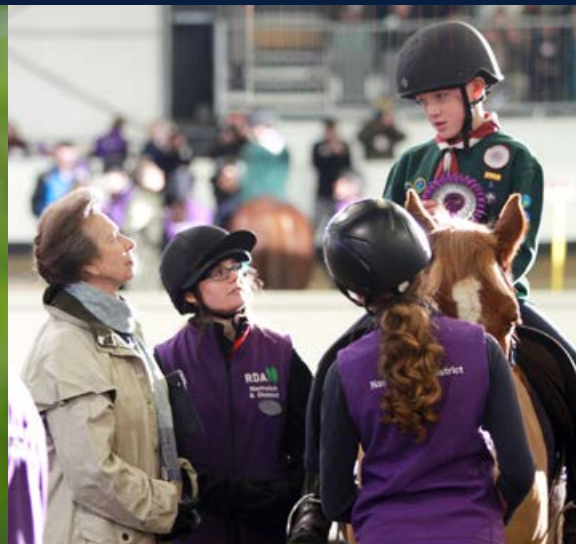


Annual Review 2024

Reaseheath
College



University Centre
Reaseheath



www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Message from the Principal



Marcus Clinton
Principal and Chief Executive



Jane Cowell OBE
Chair of Governors

As I reflect on 2024, I am filled with pride and excitement for the remarkable achievements and progress made by our students, staff, and community. This year has been transformative, with significant advancements in learning, sustainability, and student wellbeing, all contributing to our mission of being an Industry Focused and Career Ready institution.

Our new strategic plan, launched this year, sets an ambitious direction for the next three years. It builds on over a century of expertise in land-based and technical education, with a focus on preparing students to be Industry Focused and Career Ready.

We have continued to challenge outdated perceptions of careers in land-based industries and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), showcasing their innovative and dynamic nature. Our new, leading-edge facilities as part of the Cheshire and Warrington Institute of Technology have placed Reaseheath at the forefront of innovation, inspiring a new generation to lead in vital industries.

Reaseheath's approach to education extends far beyond the classroom, equipping students with the skills, confidence, and resilience needed for lifelong success. Through hands-on learning, industry placements, and personal development initiatives, we ensure that every student is prepared for the realities of the workplace. At the same time, we invest in our staff, providing professional development opportunities that empower them to deliver an outstanding learning experience.

Reaseheath serves as a vital link between education, industry, and the community. We work closely with employers to align our curriculum with national priorities such as food security, sustainability, and digital skills. Initiatives like our Industry Skills Boards and research collaborations ensure students graduate ready to make an immediate impact.

Our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning is exemplified by The Reaseheath Way, our overarching framework that outlines clear expectations for every lesson. This approach ensures a consistent and impactful learning experience across the college, promoting engagement, progression, and the development of essential career-ready skills.

We are thrilled to welcome Jane Nickisson as our new Dean of Higher Education. Jane brings extensive experience in academic leadership, curriculum development, and student support. Since joining, she has been working closely with staff and students to drive innovation and enhance the learning experience. Jane is passionate about widening participation and student success, and she is focused on strengthening UCR's academic reputation and industry links.

Our new Cheshire and Warrington Institute of Technology facilities, green energy upgrades, and enhanced learning spaces are shaping a brighter future for our students and the wider community. We have also made significant strides in sustainability, with initiatives such as reducing carbon emissions, improving soil health, enhancing biodiversity and the Supply Chain Sustainability School.

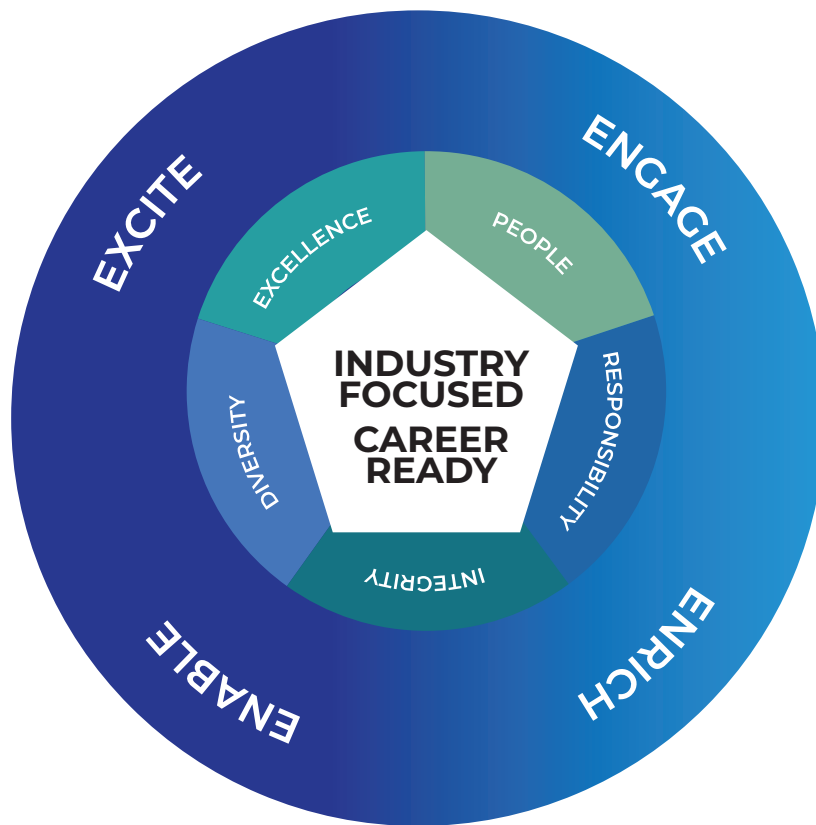
Our students have excelled in various fields, earning national awards, achieving outstanding results in their courses, and making significant contributions to their communities and the many employers who support us. From automotive and business competitions to floristry honours and academic research presentations, our students are making their mark and preparing for successful careers.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the future and the opportunities it holds. With the continued support of our stakeholders, we will lead the way in shaping a skilled and resilient workforce for the industries that matter most. Together, we will continue to inspire ambition, enrich lives, engage with industry, and enable progress, ensuring that studying at Reaseheath remains a transformational experience that enhances the life chances and development of both young and lifelong learners.



A New Vision

2024 was a milestone year for Reaseheath College and University Centre with the launch of our ambitious new strategic plan. Rooted in over a century of expertise, our vision focuses on preparing students to be Industry Focused and Career Ready, with four key pillars driving our mission: Excite, Enrich, Engage, and Enable.



Excite - Inspiring Ambition

We're challenging outdated perceptions of careers in land-based industries and STEM by showcasing their innovative and dynamic nature. Engaging campaigns, partnerships with schools, and inspiring events celebrate student and alumni achievements while promoting diverse career opportunities.

Thanks to £100 million investment, our leading-edge facilities and sector-leading events place Reaseheath at the forefront of innovation, sparking ambition in a new generation and inspiring them to lead in vital industries.

Enrich - Building Skills and Resilience

Education at Reaseheath goes beyond the classroom. Our focus is also trained on personal growth and lifelong skills development. For students, this means enriched experiences like work placements, our Career Ready Behaviours programme, and resilience-building activities. These prepare our students not just for their first job but for long-term success.

Staff benefit too, with professional development opportunities, industry placements, and mentoring. By investing in our teams, we ensure they can deliver an outstanding student experience.

Engage - Connecting Education and Industry

Reaseheath links education, industry, and community through a high-quality, responsive curriculum emphasising transformational teaching and learning. Our research-based methods ensure high-quality outcomes. We develop essential skills through practical application, offer individualised career support, and align with national priorities. Our Career Ready offer prepares students for the future workforce. Engaging with industry and community makes Reaseheath a hub for innovation and opportunity.

Enable - Turning Vision into Action

Our final pillar ensures that our strategic plan is more than an aspiration; it's a reality. By enhancing systems, streamlining processes, and developing collaborations, we empower staff and students to focus on what matters most. We're also investing in leadership development and digital innovation to maintain our momentum and achieve our goals efficiently.

Together, these pillars form a strategic wheel that propels Reaseheath forward. Whether we're inspiring ambition, enriching lives, engaging with industry, or enabling progress, our commitment is clear: to prepare students for rewarding careers while contributing to a sustainable future for vital industries.

To our stakeholders, partners, parents, and students - this is a shared journey. With your support, we will continue to lead the way, shaping a skilled and resilient workforce for the industries that matter most.

Leading Edge



We have continued our investment in cutting-edge facilities, sustainability, and student well-being. From pioneering educational spaces to green energy initiatives, 2024 saw transformative developments that are shaping a brighter future. These investments provide students with access to world-class learning environments, the latest technology, and outstanding support for their studies.



Institute of Technology Facilities Officially Open

Our new Cheshire and Warrington Institute of Technology (IoT) facilities are up and running. Featuring a state-of-the-art 'dirty lab' and two high-tech classrooms, the space provides cutting-edge resources for students in agriculture, engineering, and digital technologies. Our new Lely vector automatic feeding system is also fully operational, giving students hands-on experience with the latest precision farming technology.



Green Energy Upgrades

Our new air source heat pumps have replaced traditional boilers in key buildings, reducing carbon emissions by an impressive 80 tonnes a year. Plans are also in motion for a £2.5M solar farm, helping us generate our own clean energy and support the college's net-zero targets.



Enhanced Learning Spaces

Students are already benefiting from major classroom and facility upgrades across campus. Our newly renovated lecture theatres now feature retractable seating, collaborative workspaces, and lecture capture technology, designed to foster collaboration and active learning.

Student Wellbeing Focus

We know that happy students thrive. That's why we've refurbished student common rooms, upgraded canteen seating, and improved social spaces across campus. Whether it's a comfortable place to relax between lessons or new gym facilities on the horizon, we're committed to making Reaseheath a fantastic place to learn and live.



Animal Facilities Expand

Our Mini Zoo has grown! Students can now gain hands-on experience in the new otter, meerkat, pygmy marmoset, and porcupine enclosures, which have been specially designed to provide a realistic and enriching environment for the animals. With a new aviary also under construction, our learners have even more opportunities to develop their skills in animal care and conservation.

Meanwhile, our new Veterinary Nursing Centre now boasts a dispensary, radiography suite, laboratory, anaesthetic areas, OSCE examination room, clinical skills suites, dedicated classroom, consultation rooms, treatment areas, and recovery facilities. This provides an industry-standard learning environment. Students will gain hands-on experience in a dispensary, radiography suite, and laboratory, among other specialized areas.

New Chapter for Construction

We've opened a brand-new 750m² workshop, providing more space for our growing bricklaying, carpentry, and construction apprenticeships. This investment also supports the delivery of T Levels and industry-recognised qualifications, giving students access to the latest training facilities in a purpose-built environment.



New Student Hub Planned

We are planning a £7M rebuild of the Lord Woolley Centre, creating a modern hub for student learning and collaboration. The new space will offer enhanced study areas, IT facilities, and a vibrant student support centre. The new hub will provide a central space for collaboration, study, and student support, encouraging both academic and personal growth.

From state-of-the-art learning spaces to sustainable energy projects and student wellbeing enhancements, we are leading the way in innovation. As we continue to grow, our investment in world-class facilities ensures that students gain the skills, experience, and opportunities they need to succeed in their chosen careers.



Our Students

Further Education

Our college students achieved remarkable success in national competitions this year, securing prestigious awards, and gaining hands-on industry experience. Their achievements across multiple disciplines highlight our commitment to technical excellence, employability, and innovation, ensuring our students graduate ready to make an impact in their chosen careers.



Skills Competitions Success

The Cheshire and Warrington Skills Competitions provided an exciting platform for our students to showcase their expertise. In the Automotive Competition, Motor Vehicle students Alexander Cooke and Daniel Bentley secured second place after tackling a demanding cylinder head gasket replacement challenge. Meanwhile, our entrepreneurial Business students won with Basket Barrows, an innovative solution to upcycle abandoned festival gear. Their creative pitch impressed a *Dragons' Den*-style judging panel, highlighting both business acumen and a focus on sustainability. The Automotive Competition honed technical skills in engine diagnostics, while the Business Competition encouraged teamwork through collaborative product development. These competitions develop essential skills while building confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving, all key attributes for future careers.



Floristry Students Honoured

Two talented Floristry students attended a prestigious industry event at The Dorchester, London, marking the launch of National Florist Day. Hand-picked by *The Florist* magazine's editor for their passion and dedication, Maya Twigg and James Jones joined leading industry figures ahead of the national celebration in June. Both were also selected for the magazine's upcoming 'Young Guns' feature, recognising rising stars. Meeting renowned florists such as Philip Hammond and Neill Strain, they gained invaluable insights. Maya and James described the experience as 'inspirational and surreal', reinforcing their ambitions.

Annual Awards Celebrate Success

More than 1,100 Further Education students were recognised at our annual Presentation of Awards ceremony, celebrating all those who had gained specialist technical qualifications and skills. An impressive 95% progressed into rewarding careers or Higher Education, with many choosing to study at University Centre Reaseheath. Students were encouraged to take pride in their qualifications, further enhanced by the Career Ready programme, which develops key employability and life skills.



Equine Students Support Major Event

Gaining hands-on industry experience, equine students played a key role at the 2024 Horse of the Year Show (HOYS), which marked its 75th anniversary. For the 13th consecutive year, a 40-strong arena party worked alongside top show jumping course designers, assisting with elite dressage, mounted games, and harness scurry events. Their professionalism earned high praise, with Event Director Emma Wardell describing them as an 'invaluable asset'. Beyond practical experience, students also gained insight into event management and safety protocols. HOYS also highlighted the growing demand for specialised skills in the equine sector. The launch of the Level 2 Certificate for Equine Hydrotherapy Assistants addresses this need, providing training for the fast-growing equine fitness, rehabilitation, and therapy field.



Adventure Sports Students Take on Cairngorms

A week-long winter mountaineering trip in February put Level 3 Adventure Sports students to the test in Cairngorms National Park. This enriching and intensive study tour provided essential skills for navigating one of the UK's harshest environments. They learned to move across snow, ice, and rock, using ice axes and crampons, while interpreting weather and avalanche forecasts. Navigating challenging terrain and building emergency shelters required not only technical skill but also strong teamwork and resilience, fostered by the shared experience of living and working together in the Cairngorms. The group tackled iconic routes, including Cairngorm Summit and Ben Macdui, and attended expert-led lectures at Glenmore Lodge, Scotland's National Training Centre.

Top Honours at National Awards

Outstanding student success was celebrated at the LANDEX/ Lantra Land-Based Learner of the Year Awards in Solihull. Charlotte Briggs was named Floristry FE/HE Learner of the Year, while Kristiaan James Hughes won Apprentice of the Year for Land-Based Engineering. Finalists also included James Jones (Floristry) and Ben Cullen (Land-Based Engineering). Charlotte's success highlights the dedication and skill required to excel in floristry, inspiring aspiring professionals. Her success, alongside Kristiaan's excellence in engineering, highlights the talent and ambition nurtured at the college.



Construction Student Wins Industry Award

A prestigious national award recognised the dedication and skill of Level 2 Joinery student Kosai Alkhasrefa, who was commended at the Youthbuild UK Awards. Shortlisted among top young talent nationwide, Kosai's achievement reflects the outstanding skill level within the Construction department and showcases the opportunities available for students to gain industry recognition.



Our Students

Higher Education

Our Higher Education students continue to achieve remarkable success, excelling in national competitions, pioneering new practices, and contributing to vital research. Their accomplishments demonstrate the quality of education and support provided at University Centre Reaseheath, preparing them to become leaders in their chosen fields.



Gold Medal Success at RHS Tatton

Aspiring landscape architect Harry Dean won Gold in the prestigious Long Borders category at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park 2024. Harry, a BSc (Hons) Landscape Architecture student at University Centre Reaseheath, created 'A Gourd Time', a stunning show garden inspired by the 100th anniversary of Over Allotments in Winsford. Celebrating the 'grow your own' movement, his design showcased the potential of vegetable gardening, regardless of space limitations. Featuring fruits, vegetables, and flowers grown by local plot holders, the garden also paid tribute to a record-breaking pumpkin. After the show, it was relocated to Over Recreational Ground for the community to enjoy. Harry's achievement follows his involvement in a gold medal-winning garden at RHS Tatton in 2023, sparking his ambition to compete at the highest level.



Pioneering New Veterinary Practical Exam

University Centre Reaseheath became the first institution to develop and implement an OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) for v-gel®, an advanced airway device improving pet safety during anaesthesia. v-gel® provides a gentler alternative to traditional intubation, reducing post-operative discomfort and enabling faster recovery for animals. It also enhances safety for veterinary professionals. By integrating this innovative equipment into its veterinary nursing curriculum, University Centre Reaseheath ensures students gain hands-on experience with the latest advancements in airway management. The new OSCE assessment guarantees graduates are not only theoretically knowledgeable but also confident in applying this technique. Developed in collaboration with Docsinnovent Ltd, this initiative positions University Centre Reaseheath at the forefront of veterinary nurse education.



Celebrating Academic Success at Graduation

Nearly 150 graduates from University Centre Reaseheath marked a major milestone as they celebrated their achievements at Chester Cathedral. Degrees were awarded across a broad range of disciplines, including agricultural science, animal management, equine science, zoo management, wildlife conservation, dairy technology, food science, and veterinary nursing. Many graduates balanced their studies with work commitments, reflecting our commitment to flexible and accessible higher education. Among those recognised were recipients of the prestigious University Centre Reaseheath Dean's Awards. Ben Powell, overcoming challenges related to autism and dyspraxia, progressed from a Level 2 Equine course to a degree in Equestrian Sports Performance. Natasha Aldcroft excelled in research, earning 84% for her dissertation. Sydney Smith, a Zoo Management graduate, demonstrated professionalism and collaboration.

Students Showcase Research at National Conference

University Centre Reaseheath students impressed at the British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR), presenting their independent research alongside students from universities across the UK. The annual event, which highlights cutting-edge undergraduate work, gave our students a platform to showcase findings on topics ranging from conservation and animal behaviour to sustainable agriculture. It also provided opportunities to network with academics, gain presentation experience, and engage in thought-provoking discussions.



Pembrokeshire Study Tour Inspires Students

Students explored wildlife, conservation, and sustainability during an action-packed six-day enrichment study tour to Pembrokeshire, enhancing their academic and personal development. The group took part in coasteering, conservation workshops, and field studies. Activities included measuring biodiversity, setting camera traps, conducting beach cleans, and studying marine ecosystems. A highlight was a boat tour around Ramsey Island, where students spotted porpoises, grey seals, and rare seabirds. They also developed innovative business ideas to tackle environmental issues. The trip encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones, develop teamwork and communication skills, and gain a greater appreciation for nature.



Our Students

Apprentices

Our apprentices, both in Further and Higher Education, continue to demonstrate exceptional talent and dedication, earning prestigious awards and driving business growth. These successes highlight the value of apprenticeships in developing skilled professionals and the strong partnerships Reaseheath cultivates with employers.

Celebrating Apprenticeship Success

During National Apprenticeship Week, Reaseheath honoured exceptional apprentices, employers, and mentors at the annual Apprenticeship Awards. Hasan Girach (First Bus) won Transport Engineering Apprentice of the Year and the Principal's Award for his outstanding leadership. Now a national award finalist, he has progressed to a Team Leader apprenticeship.

Alstom was named Large Employer of the Year for its mentorship and diversity efforts, while Prior Power Solutions won the SME category for its training programmes. Simon Holmes (T H White Group) was awarded Apprentice Mentor of the Year.

Reaseheath trained 788 apprentices in 2023/24, partnering with businesses across industries to develop skilled professionals.

Graduate's Innovation Drives Growth

University Centre Reaseheath graduate Aaron Morgan helped Dairy Partners unlock £5 million in revenue through his final-year research. As Technical Manager, he introduced a bulk clean-in-place (CIP) system at the company's mozzarella factory, with the potential to reduce water use by 43%, cut chemicals by 26%, and save £170,000 annually.

The efficiency improvements significantly boosted production, driving major business growth. Aaron, a Foundation Degree graduate in Dairy Technology through the Eden programme, was awarded the Meredydd David Award for Academic and Technical Excellence.

Rising Star in Racehorse Training

Former Reaseheath apprentice Hannah Roach started to make waves as a racehorse trainer, achieving a 65% strike rate in her first full season. She now runs her own point-to-point yard near Nantwich after taking over from her former employer.

With a string of wins already to her name, including a standout Cheltenham victory with Iskandar Pecos, she has her sights set on the Champion Novice Hunter Chase at Stratford. Backed by owners and driven by passion, Hannah is proving that dedication can turn dreams into a thriving career.

Adult Learners

Reaseheath is committed to providing opportunities for adult learners to develop new skills and achieve their career goals. Through partnerships with local and national organisations we are making a real difference in the lives of members of the local community and empowering individuals to build skills and resilience.



Building Heroes Programme Reaches New Heights

Our partnership with Building Heroes continues to transform lives, providing vital construction training for former Armed Forces personnel. Since launching in 2017, the programme has supported numerous service leavers, veterans, reservists, and military family members, equipping them with essential skills and a pathway into civilian careers.

Our five-week Level 1 Diploma in Construction Multi-skills course delivers hands-on training in various construction trades. Participants also receive health and safety training, employability support, and direct links to industry employers. Beyond technical skills, the programme helps veterans regain confidence and build new careers. Reaseheath remains a proud partner, committed to expanding opportunities for the Armed Forces community.

Multiply Programme Empowers Adult Learners

Multiply Cheshire East, delivered by Reaseheath College and Springboard for Cheshire East Council, continues to make a difference, offering practical numeracy courses that build confidence and essential skills.

From creative workshops to tailored employer partnerships, Multiply helps adults apply maths in real-world settings. One standout success is the Pizza and Programming course, which supported Sarah Cotton in returning to education. After a decade away, Sarah gained the confidence to enrol in an Access to HE course and now has her sights set on university in 2025.

Multiply has also benefitted local employers, including Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, where numeracy-focused courses have helped staff improve their budgeting and problem-solving skills. Creative courses such as cake decorating and sewing provide learners with practical experience in measurements and proportions.

Industry Excellence

Our close collaboration with industry ensures our students develop the skills and knowledge employers demand. Through Industry Skills Boards, employer events, and partnerships with leading organisations, we are bridging the gap between education and the workplace, creating a pipeline of talented professionals ready to contribute to vital industries.



Strengthening Industry Connections

We strengthened our employer partnerships in 2024, hosting a series of Industry Skills Boards across all curriculum areas. Led by Principal Marcus Clinton, these dynamic sessions brought together businesses of all sizes, from local microbusinesses to national organisations. The boards provided an invaluable platform to align our curriculum with evolving industry needs, ensuring students develop the skills and knowledge employers require. Feedback gathered has enhanced both curriculum delivery and the Career Ready Programme, allowing us to adapt teaching strategies and career development resources to meet real-world demands.

Building Bridges Through Employer Events

Building on the success of our Industry Skills Boards, we also actively engaged employers through Industry Advisor Events, focusing on new qualifications and apprenticeship standards. These sessions gave curriculum teams the opportunity to showcase proposed delivery models and curriculum changes. Employers provided key insights into teaching approaches, block scheduling, and value-added elements that enhance the student experience. Their feedback continues to shape how we deliver training, ensuring our education remains relevant, effective, and responsive to industry needs.

Food Centre Achieves Top Rating

Our commitment to industry excellence extends to all areas of the college, as demonstrated by Reaseheath's Food Centre achieving a prestigious AA+ rating from BRCGS (Brand Reputation Compliance Global Standard) following its first-ever unannounced audit. While we have consistently achieved AA status in planned audits since 2013, opting for an unannounced inspection in 2024 demonstrated our commitment to industry-leading standards. The AA+ rating is the highest possible score and confirms our excellence in food safety compliance. The rigorous two-day audit scrutinised every aspect of our food safety processes. By undertaking this more challenging assessment, we have reinforced our leadership in industry-focused training and showcased the exceptional standards maintained by our Quality Assurance team.



Motor Vehicle Students Accelerate Careers

In addition to these broader collaborations, Reaseheath also facilitates valuable hands-on experiences for students. For example, Motor Vehicle students gained first-hand insight into automotive dealership operations thanks to an exciting collaboration with RRG Group, one of the North West's largest dealer networks. A visit to RRG Macclesfield brought learning to life as students stepped into real customer scenarios, observing how service teams handle unexpected arrivals, manage appointments, and maintain a high-functioning parts department. They also engaged with sales teams, learning about hybrid technology and customer service excellence. To further enhance employability skills, RRG Group's Recruitment Specialist Stephen Perry visited campus to discuss career pathways and industry opportunities, giving students valuable insight into the sector's expectations.

Students and Experts Unite for Bioblitz

Our commitment to industry engagement extends beyond traditional business partnerships. Our very own Local Wildlife Site became a hub of discovery as Environmental Conservation students partnered with RECORD, Cheshire's environmental record centre, for a bioblitz survey. Focusing on the Greenway Trail, students conducted a rapid biodiversity assessment, identifying key species. They also recorded a variety of insects, birds, and pollinators, contributing valuable data to the national RECORD database. The findings will support long-term conservation efforts and habitat management strategies. With plans to make the bioblitz an annual event, the initiative will continue to strengthen biodiversity research and encourage wider engagement with ecology and wildlife preservation.



Agriculture Students Engage with NFU Leader

These collaborations provide students with unique opportunities to learn from industry leaders. Our agriculture students, for instance, explored key industry challenges and innovations during a campus visit from NFU Vice President Rachel Hallos. Rachel, an expert in education, workforce skills, and agricultural research, toured our cutting-edge facilities, including the vertical farm, automated milking parlour, Food Centre, and glasshouse. She also observed a soil science masterclass before joining students for an interactive Q&A session. Discussions covered evolving consumer demands, the role of science and data in modern farming, and the need for businesses to adapt to environmental challenges. The visit reinforced the crucial role of skills training in shaping the next generation of agricultural professionals and showcased the importance of innovation, public engagement, and industry collaboration in farming's future.



Our Communities



Reaseheath is deeply rooted in its community, actively engaging with schools, supporting local charities, promoting sustainability, and celebrating rural life. From hands-on careers experiences to life-changing equine therapy, our students, staff, and partners are making a tangible difference.

Bringing Careers to Life for Schools

In the year we launched our Schools Engagement Strategy, we inspired many young people by showcasing careers in land-based industries.

Malbank School pupils explored arboriculture, sports, and construction when staff visited their school, while Wistaston Academy students enjoyed our Field to Fork experience on campus, making pizzas with homegrown ingredients, while Leek High pupils delved into food science and animal care at Reaseheath Mini Zoo.

These activities connected students with industry skills and careers, sparking interest and impressing employers with their curiosity and enthusiasm.



Fundraising for Vital Charities

Reaseheath students and staff have demonstrated incredible generosity, raising significant funds for vital charities through our annual Raising and Giving (RAG) activities. In 2023/24, our community rallied together to raise £20,000 for the British Heart Foundation. From skydives and endurance hikes to scarefests and team challenges, our students and staff embraced a wide range of fundraising initiatives. The culmination of their efforts was celebrated at the Student Summer Ball, where a cheque was presented to the BHF. Building on this success, we selected Mind as our RAG charity for the 2024/25 academic year, and our community has already embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, as demonstrated by the festive Mid Cheshire Mind Mental Elf Run, which raised over £2,000 in December. These fundraising efforts reflect our commitment to supporting mental health awareness and other important causes.



Students Protect River Weaver Wildlife

Level 2 Animal Care students tackled pollution in the River Weaver, removing harmful litter and helping to restore wildlife habitats. After learning about recent pollution incidents, students explored the impact of human activity on ecosystems. Keen to make a difference, they organised a riverbank litter pick, collecting four large bags of rubbish. This hands-on activity developed practical conservation skills while reinforcing the importance of sustainability and environmental responsibility. Their efforts will contribute to wildlife recovery and highlight the need for responsible waste management.



Royal Opening for New RDA Centre

HRH The Princess Royal officially opened a new centre for the Nantwich & District Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Group at Reaseheath College. A long-serving President of the RDA, The Princess Royal unveiled a commemorative plaque and met riders, volunteers, and supporters.

She was welcomed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Alexis Redmond MBE, Sir Phil Redmond CBE, Reaseheath College Principal and CEO Marcus Clinton, and Helena Vega-Lozano, Chair of Trustees at RDA UK. The Princess Royal, who has actively supported the charity for over 50 years, met local coaches, volunteers, and trustees, and watched a riding demonstration, presenting rosettes to each rider. She also met Phil Keogh, a retired builder from Crewe, who funded and built the new centre with his team.

The facility includes a fully accessible welfare space, training area, and a state-of-the-art riding simulator. Reaseheath Bakery students created a special celebration cake for the event.

Celebrating Rural Life at Reaseheath

We played a key role in celebrating agriculture, food, and rural life throughout the year, engaging with thousands of visitors at a variety of events. Our annual Lambing Weekend drew 5,000 visitors, offering families the chance to see newborn lambs and explore our Mini Zoo.

We then showcased our expertise at the Royal Cheshire Show, where our interactive stand was named runner-up for Best Trade Stand in the Rural Life Area. Visitors engaged in hands-on experiences, including burger-making demos, tree climbing, tractor driving simulators, and mini zoo encounters. The event provided a valuable opportunity to promote education pathways and connect with prospective students.

We continued our celebration of rural life by hosting the Nantwich Show, welcoming over 8,000 visitors and 250 trade stands to campus. Our involvement extended to the Nantwich Food Festival, where we sponsored and hosted demonstrations, further highlighting our expertise in food and agriculture. These events reinforce Reaseheath's commitment to rural industries, education, and community engagement, inspiring future generations to explore careers in the land-based sector.



Reaseheath Sustainability

Reaseheath is committed to embedding sustainability into all aspects of college life, from innovative farming practices to equipping students for greener industries. We are actively working to reduce our environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable future.



Tradition Meets Innovation

At Reaseheath Farm, we combine cutting-edge technology with environmentally responsible practices. Led by Farm Manager Chris Chambers, we've entered into a new countryside stewardship agreement to advance sustainable operations. This year, we've significantly reduced fertiliser use and adopted minimal tillage techniques, using advanced machinery funded through T Level and Cheshire and Warrington IoT. By limiting soil disturbance, we're improving efficiency and preserving soil health. Livestock operations have also advanced, with soya removed from cattle diets and alternative ingredients reducing emissions. Crop diversification into legumes is boosting soil health and cutting reliance on synthetic fertilisers. A recent bird survey revealed new species on campus, showcasing the success of our conservation efforts. A carbon audit highlighted substantial emissions reductions. The introduction of a Vector Feeding system is further cutting emissions and moving us closer to a fully automated, sustainable dairy operation.

From Farm to Fork

We equip students with practical skills for sustainable food production while fostering entrepreneurial spirit. In our Food Centre, bakery students run the Bake Box initiative, handling every stage of production from recipe creation to marketing and sales. By prioritising local ingredients and reducing food miles, they combine sustainability with business acumen. Through our Farm to Fork initiative, students gain hands-on experience in every stage of the sustainable food production supply chain. They grow glasshouse crops like tomatoes, rear native breed livestock for beef, lamb, and pork, while our butchery apprentices prepare the meat. The final products are then used in our restaurant or sold to staff - our festive meat boxes were particularly popular. By focusing on native breeds, ensuring full traceability, and keeping food miles low, we provide a truly comprehensive learning experience.

Supply Chain Sustainability School

Launched in 2024, our Supply Chain Sustainability School is an innovative e-learning programme that helps students from all subjects to use sustainable practices in their industries. Combining digital skills with sustainability knowledge, the modules help students understand how their vocational areas are affected by sustainability. It empowers them to apply data-driven solutions to reduce environmental impacts and tackle real-world challenges. This hands-on approach develops skills in presenting findings, solving problems, and creating sustainable strategies. With this cutting-edge training, Reaseheath is preparing students to shape greener, more resilient supply chains and industries.

Our Year in Review

2024 student numbers:

Total enrolled **4,894** including:

Further Education **2,172**

Higher Education **502**

Apprentices **1,017**

Adult learners **330**

International students **25**

* Final student numbers as of 31st July 2024, representing academic year 23/24

422 Residential students

739 Students supported with bursaries

£634,000 Financial support awarded to students

1,237 Students using college transport between home and campus

£2.3m Paid out by Reaseheath to support students with cost of transport





Student Experience Surveys

Higher Education National Student Survey Results

94%

Of students rated teaching staff highly for their ability to explain course content effectively.

91%

Rated academic support as 'Outstanding' meaning academic support is a major strength.

93%

Receive timely assessment feedback ensuring continuous improvement and clarity.

92%

Found staff easily accessible, highlighting commitment to open communication.

Further Education Pulse Survey

97%

Overall satisfaction with the college experience.

98%

Students reported feeling safe on campus.

97%

Experience a welcoming environment.

95%

Agree that the enrolment process was easy to follow.

93%

Would recommend the College to friends and family.

Measuring success:

65% of learners achieved the highest grades possible on their qualifications.



90% of learners had a sustained destination 12 months after completing their studies.



Learners' progress rates in GCSE English are in the top 25% of all FE colleges nationally.

93% of learners aged 16-18 passed their qualifications.



92% of learners aged 19+ passed their qualifications.



93% of learners would recommend the College based on our most recent Pulse Survey.



98% of learners passed their T Level qualifications, with 73% achieving the highest grades possible.





Total number of staff **684**

Staff breakdown by role

29.5% Teaching

28% Teaching support

42.5% Non-teaching

Staff numbers by gender

62.5% Female

37.5% Male

Staff satisfaction

96% were familiar with the College's H&S policy.

95% felt safe at work.

95% enjoy the type of work they do.

91% are proud to work for Reaseheath.

85% would recommend it as a good place to work.

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion 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 2023/24

739

Students were awarded a bursary

£634k

The amount of money we awarded in bursary

11%

The proportion of income generated from student fees

55%

Staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure

£1.16m

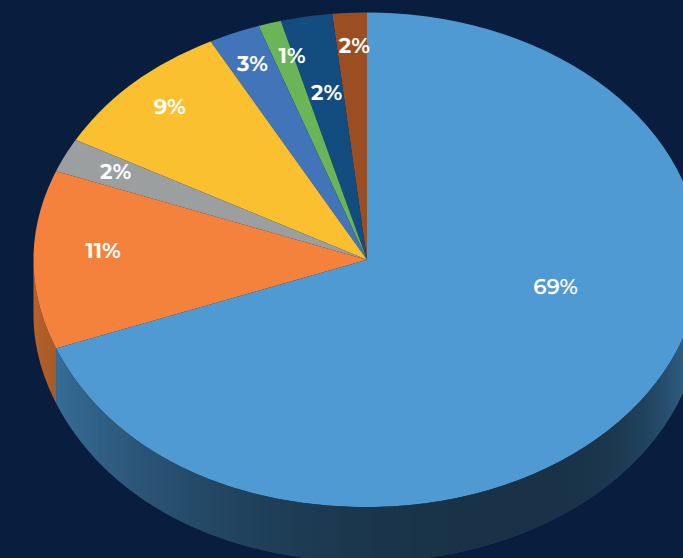
The underlying surplus after adjustment for exceptional costs

Reaseheath College Group

Income for 2023/24

Where does the money come from?

£27.9	Funding body grants
£4.6	Tuition fees and education contracts
£0.9	Other grants and contracts
£3.7	Catering and residences
£1.0	Farming income
£0.5	Transport
£1.0	Other income
£0.6	Endowment and investment income

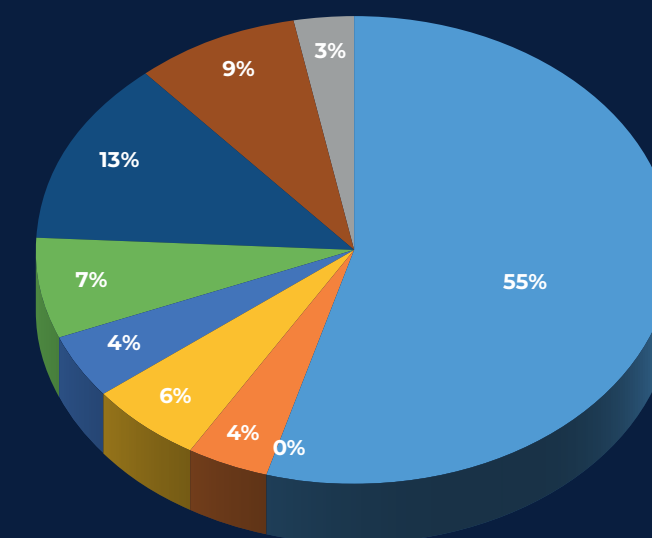


Reaseheath College Group

Expenditure for 2023/24

Where is the money spent?

£21.3	Staff costs
£0.0	Fundamental restructuring costs
£1.6	Other operating expenses including exam fees, staff development and recruitment
£2.3	Transport, student bus costs
£1.7	Establishment costs, including professional fees, insurance and administration
£2.7	Premises costs including utilities, maintenance, rent
£5.0	Supplies and services costs including farm expenditure, IT costs, food and provisions
£3.3	Depreciation and amortisation
£1.1	Interest and other finance costs



Reaseheath College Group Financial Summary for 2023/24

£40.23M - £39.07M = £1.16M

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

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