



## Gender Pay Gap Report 2024/25

The Reaseheath estate was established as a School for Agriculture in 1919 by Cheshire County Council and became a College in 1967. It has continued to expand but remained true to its agricultural roots, and is now one of the leading specialist land-based colleges in the UK. Based in Nantwich, Cheshire, the College has an enviable setting amongst 280 hectares of farms, parklands, woodland and sports facilities.

The college has a strong culture of positivity and inclusion, epitomised by our deeply embedded PRIDE values of P-people, R-responsibility, I-integrity, D-diversity, E-excellence.

The college has excellent relationships with local and national employers, which we utilise to ensure our students develop strong employability skills to complement their education. Our mission is 'industry focused, career ready'.

The College is committed to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion and we have strong policies and procedures in place to ensure fairness and equality of opportunity regardless of gender or any other protected characteristic.

### **Legislative requirements**

The Gender Pay Gap legislation, which was introduced in April 2017, introduces a requirement for employers with over 250 employees to publish their gender pay gap data. As Reaseheath College has over 250 employees we are required to annually publish our gender pay gap data at the snapshot date of 31 March each year (for public sector employers). We have also taken the opportunity to contextualise and explain our data and outline our commitment and progress made in reducing this gap.

### **What is a gender pay gap?**

A gender pay gap shows the difference between the **average** (mean or median) earnings of men and women. It is important to understand that a gender pay gap is different from equal pay. **Equal pay** deals with the pay differences between men and women who carry out the same jobs, similar jobs or work of equal value. It is unlawful to pay people unequally because of their gender. The **gender pay gap** shows the differences in the average pay between men and women, irrespective of job role. A high gender pay gap may not be because of any unlawful practice, but it can indicate that there may be issues that employers can address to improve the situation.

### **What do we need to report?**

Employers must calculate the following information:

- 1) Mean gender pay gap
- 2) Median gender pay gap
- 3) Mean bonus gender pay gap
- 4) Median bonus gender pay gap
- 5) Proportion of males and females receiving a bonus payment
- 6) Proportion of males and females in each quartile pay band



## Reaseheath College's Gender Pay Gap

Reaseheath College has pay bandings for teaching staff, which vary, according to the level of responsibility staff have. Each banding has a set pay range with spinal points between. Progression is based on good performance assessed through Personal Development Reviews (PDR's) and teaching and learning assessments conducted throughout the year. Similar bandings exist for the majority of support staff roles. Some bespoke roles are benchmarked against the external market when arriving at a salary scale, and a few roles are on spot salaries. The college did not make any bonus payments in 2024/25.

In October 2023 a rebanding exercise was carried out to increase and in some cases expand scales for teaching and support staff, and some employee's pay increased by 11% as a result of this exercise.

### Gender Pay Gap Information – Mean and Median

#### (1) Mean Gender Pay Gap

The mean is the average and is a useful way of reflecting the full earnings distribution. It is the sum of the hourly rates for both genders divided by the number in the list. What is reported is the percentage difference between the mean hourly rate for males (£18.31) and the mean hourly rate for females (£15.36). Both have increased from last year.

	Mean hourly rate male	Mean hourly rate female
April 2024/25	£18.31	£15.36
April 2023/24	£17.46	£14.50
April 2022/23	£15.97	£13.37
April 2021/22	£15.34	£12.84
April 2020/21	£14.67	£12.60
April 2019/20	£14.41	£12.27
April 2018/19	£14.42	£12.19
April 2017/18	£14.13	£12.34
April 2016/17	£13.85	£11.57

Reaseheath College's Mean Gender Pay Gap is **16.08% in favour of males**, similar to 2023/24, which was 16.96%. The College has continued to struggle to fill specialist roles and to retain these people once appointed, however this has improved slightly this year. The College has managed to retain staff in the more generalist support roles and Domestic staff, and in fractional and term time only roles which are predominately occupied by females.

The College continues to pay enhanced salaries within the predominately male Engineering and Construction departments to attract candidates and compete with industry. A number of initiatives have been introduced to support internal progression and CPD opportunities to address turnover and stabilise staffing, and the College has addressed some salary gaps. However within these particular areas market supplements will be required to bring education salaries a step nearer to industry salaries.



## (2) Median Gender Pay Gap

The median is the middle occurring value where values are listed in numerical order from lowest to highest. What is reported is the percentage difference between the median hourly rate for men (£16.70) and the median hourly rate for women (£15.21). The median hourly rate for men has increased as the college is having to pay higher salaries to attract the right candidates into agricultural engineering in particular, along with construction plant engineering and construction.

This figure is less affected by a small number of very high earners. Currently our three senior paid positions within the College are male, which impacts on the mean and median calculations.

Reaseheath College's Median Gender Pay Gap is **8.92% in favour of males**, a significant decrease from the previous year's median of 12.44%, which is due to salary reviews, and the college employing more female staff, and higher paid female staff in some senior positions.

The Median pay gap estimate for the UK in 2025 was 6.9% according to the Office for National Statistics.

	Median hourly rate male	Median hourly rate female
April 2024/25	£16.70	£15.21
April 2023/24	£16.39	£14.35
April 2022/23	£13.80	£13.13
April 2021/22	£13.74	£12.25
April 2020/21	£13.15	£12.41
April 2019/20	£13.67	£12.26
April 2018/19	£13.47	£12.39
April 2017/18	£13.43	£12.92
April 2016/17	£13.03	£12.21

## (3) Mean Gender Bonus pay gap

These calculations look at any bonus payments made in the 12-month period from April 2024 to March 2025. Reaseheath College operates incremental progression within a salary banding based on performance, irrespective of gender. Bonus payments for outstanding performance have been removed following staff consultation and request for more equitable reward and recognition initiatives. Therefore no bonuses were paid during this period.



**(4) Percentage of males and females in quartile pay bands**

These are calculated by ranking all employees by their hourly rate of pay from lowest to highest and dividing them into four even groups or quartiles, then looking at the percentage of males and females in each quartile.

LOWER	LOWER MIDDLE	UPPER MIDDLE	UPPER
 <p><b>79%</b> (was 79%)</p>	 <p><b>74%</b> (was 77%)</p>	 <p><b>62%</b> (was 57%)</p>	 <p><b>52%</b> (was 50%)</p>
 <p><b>21%</b> (was 21%)</p>	 <p><b>26%</b> (was 23%)</p>	 <p><b>38%</b> (was 43%)</p>	 <p><b>48%</b> (was 50%)</p>

There are proportionately more female than male staff in the three lower quartiles, but the upper quartile is now becoming more evenly split, this year in favour of females.

**Reaseheath College’s commitment to eradicating the gender pay gap**

This years gender pay figures have taken a positive step from last years. This is due to our pay award in October 2023, along with an increasing female population of staff. The data used consists of 414 females and 205 males.

The College continues to be impacted by the national staffing shortages in specialist areas such as Engineering and Construction which have led to increased salaries in these areas to attract staff from industry. Whilst positive marketing has been used to try to attract females into these areas, the majority of candidates entering lecturing and instructing roles and those referred to us by agencies, were male.

Reaseheath College is committed to fair pay irrespective of gender, and continues to drive positive action in key areas.



**Equality Action Plan:**

The College is committed to driving initiatives and changes to address its pay gap.

We will:

- Continue to review and benchmark our salaries and improve them where we identify particular gaps
- Continue to ensure that we are supportive of women returning to work by offering flexible working options
- Support women to stay in work with the launch of the Menopause Policy and management training to support women going through life changes
- Continue to promote opportunities for lateral and progressive moves within the organisation whilst retaining part time and flexible working options.
- Continue to promote internal progression opportunities
- Continue to raise awareness amongst male employees of the working patterns and options that are available to allow them to share their caring responsibilities
- Continue to market our gender dominated roles positively to opposite genders to try and increase representation.
- Increase female representation in engineering and Construction, through partnership with Industry Networks.
- Continue to re-skill and upskill within the College to encourage progression and movement into other roles.

**Report approved by the Corporation**

**Jane Cowell**

**Chair of Governors**