



Cheshire East Council News

As the Project Manager, I would like to welcome you to our first Multiply newsletter for Cheshire East.

I am proud to be working with our Multiply delivery partners, [Reaseheath College](#) and [Springboard Training](#) to help learners to build better skills and confidence with numbers.

In the UK it is estimated that 78% of adults have number skills below Level 2 (GCSE Grade C/4). This is all the more remarkable because we use numbers so much in everyday life, whether this is managing household bills, helping children with homework, or in our places of work.

Our Multiply providers have friendly and supportive tutors and courses take place in the community and with local employers.

I hope that you will enjoy finding out more about our courses and hearing about our Multiply learners and their achievements. I have learned how Multiply can be a stepping stone with our learners reporting increased confidence, enrolling on another course or qualification and even gaining employment.



Jane Carroll
Multiply Project Manager
Cheshire East Council



Reaseheath College News

Courses starting in June:

Business Basics at Reaseheath College – TBC

Pizza and Programming at Reaseheath College – Wednesday, 5th June

Fakeaways at YMCA Crewe – Thursday, 6th June (**FULLY BOOKED COURSE**)

Fakeaways at The Welcome Knutsford – Friday, 7th June

Summer holidays:

The Creation Station at Weston Community Hub, Macclesfield – Tuesday, 05th August

Nature Walks – August TBC

Gamification - August TBC

Bushcraft & Budgeting - August TBC

Visit the [Multiply webpage](#) for more information on upcoming courses.



Get in touch

- Reaseheath: multiply.enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk
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Employer News

Reaseheath Catering Staff

As an employer of more than 600 members of staff, it was important to us as a college to offer Multiply opportunities to our own employees. The Reaseheath Catering team was keen to take up the offer and has had an absolute blast during the monthly Friday night sessions.

The first session of the course was all about measurements, ratios and realising how much maths there is in everyday life. The team made mocktails and taste-tested them while completing their initial assessments. They then scored the mocktails based on taste, appearance and ease of making.

Further sessions include decoupage, flower pressing, darts and pottery painting - all this while learning about the finances involved in running a catering outlet, the mental arithmetic required to estimate whether the till is correct, and the grand finale of a cupcake profit challenge!



“When I was asked would we like to take part in Multiply classes to boost confidence in Maths I was unsure how it would go down with the catering staff...despite this we got a group together and thoroughly enjoyed the first session. Making and rating mocktails and learning in a relaxed way. The next session is mental arithmetic whilst playing darts. By the end of the sessions, I am hoping we will have boosted everyone’s confidence using maths (especially around catering and awareness of profits and running costs) and every person taking part comes away achieving one of their personal goals that were set. Enthusiasm for the sessions is high which is the opposite of when I pitched the idea to the staff, despite the initial groans of “uggghhhh Maths, no thanks” we are looking very much forward to the rest of the course!” - **Kat Minor, Catering Outlets Manager**

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust - Leighton Hospital

A second cohort has started a Multiply course at Leighton Hospital and most learners are aiming to progress on to Functional Skills.



Thank you, Vicky, for all the support and effort you put into teaching me maths. I was scared of maths but you made it easy.

Ravinder Kaur

Springboard News

Case study: Beginner Sewing Course - Michelle

Michelle registered for Springboard's Beginner Sewing Course together with her client Christina, who is a long-term resident at the David Lewis Centre in Alderley Edge.

Michelle is university educated but didn't attain a Grade C in maths at GCSE. To continue to further study and progress her career into a senior management role, Michelle needed to attain a Level 2 maths qualification.

"It seemed like a great opportunity to support Christina, who didn't have any maths qualifications, and to continue my own professional development," said Michelle.

On completion of the course, Michelle has enrolled on to a Functional Skills maths course at Springboard. She attends class once a week and fits this in around work and family commitments.

Her client, Christina was able to access the practical maths learning. Christina has a passion for woodworking, crafting and sewing and was able to develop her skills: measuring fabric, calculating fabric quantities, working with angles and shapes, symmetry, patterns and calculating the cost of making an item from scratch. Christina's dream is to put her entrepreneurial skills into action and start selling her products to support the David Lewis charity.



Case study: Introduction to Functional Skills Maths

Sally was referred to Springboard and the Multiply everyday numeracy programme by her work coach at Congleton Job Centre Plus.

Sally had worked for many years in the care industry and was encouraged to pursue new avenues and consider whether additional training might help her form her future career path.

The Multiply: Introduction to Functional Skills course was the perfect stepping stone for Sally. She was able to commit to the six-week course and gained confidence by covering the basic skills and knowledge that would allow her to access entry level Functional Skills maths.

Since finishing Multiply, Sally has passed an entry level maths exam and is currently studying for her next City & Guilds Functional Skills maths qualification.

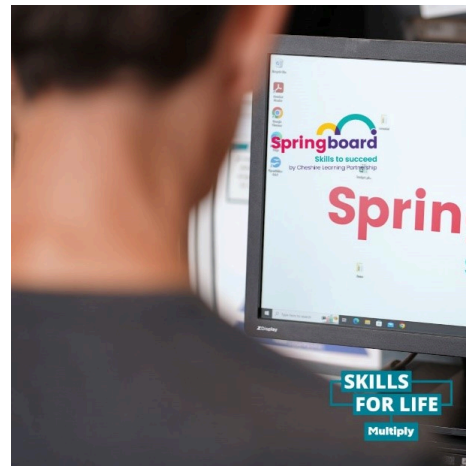


Case study: Excel to Excel - David

David accessed the Multiply: Excel to Excel course after speaking to his work coach at Congleton Job Centre Plus. David had more than 25 years' experience working as a machinist but was unfortunately made redundant. His situation was typical of many people who have had a successful career but have not had a work requirement to use Microsoft Excel.

The Multiply course was a perfect entry into the world of digital skills and how to use basic maths formulas like addition and subtraction in Excel. David completed the course with a solid grasp of Excel: designing, formatting, and modifying spreadsheets; using standard mathematical formulas and functions; and being able to create and format graphs and charts.

David said: "I can't thank my tutor at Springboard enough for her time and patience. Nine months ago, I couldn't switch on a computer and now I have a Level 2 in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets."



Springboard Multiply: ESOL Numeracy

Springboard developed a Multiply numeracy course, specifically to deliver everyday maths in English to Speakers of Other Languages. Springboard's ESOL Tutor, says, "We have designed a course that introduces and develops mathematical skills and confidence in English numeracy language and concepts, across a selected range of functional topics".

Key learning includes recognising, writing, and saying numbers; looking at specific vocabulary such as subtract, divide, digit, and fraction; learning about time and space; and dealing with everyday numeracy language such as 'How long? How often? How much?'

As well as helping them navigate everyday interactions and prepare them for working in the UK, learners took away key maths language that would enable them to navigate the English language maths with confidence.



"I enjoyed the atmosphere. All the staff are so dedicated. It's a pleasure to be there" (**Lynn A**)

"This course has been brilliant. Emma who took the course was very professional, approachable, and knowledgeable. I have learned how to sew, measure, and cut out patterns" (**Wendy S**)

"Thoroughly enjoyed the course. Learnt new skills in a relaxed, friendly environment" (**Chris W**)

New courses starting in June:

- **Multiply 'Beginner Sewing Course' – Monday 10th June (6 weeks)**
- **Multiply 'Excel to Excel' – Monday 10th June (6 weeks)**
- **Introduction to Functional Skills – Wednesday 12th Jun (6 weeks)**

Get in touch:

Springboard info@springboard.me.uk or [follow us on social media here](#).

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