

Annual Review 2023

Reaseheath
College



University Centre
Reaseheath



www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Message from the Principal



Marcus Clinton
Principal and Chief Executive

As I reflect back on 2023 I am most struck by the endless examples of effort and achievement by our students including national awards, attainment on their courses, great progress and personal development and a whole myriad of contributions to community and to the many employers who continue to support the college and our students so well.

We have continued to deliver on our mission of being Industry Focused and Career Ready through our full-time and apprenticeship programmes. These deliver the knowledge, skills and behaviours demanded by employers.

Our new T Level qualifications are attracting strong recruitment and resulting in good student performances. These courses are designed to bring the student ever closer to employers and the world of work, and again deliver on our mission. We are very grateful to all employers who have supported us in the delivery of these relevant qualifications.

Our emphasis on high quality teaching and learning at both Further Education and Higher Education level, supported by outstanding vocational resources, has allowed us to build on our excellent student employment record. Additionally, we continue to widen participation and tackle social exclusion through our strong student support system and promote a culture of positive mental health among staff and students through the work of our Wellbeing Team.

We have continued to grow positive stakeholder relationships within the industries we serve, and with relevant funding bodies and local communities, while listening to the views of students, staff and alumni. Our Accountability Statement is centred on collaboration and meeting skills needs. This has been evidenced through our employer partnerships, where we have worked together to design and support the delivery of curriculum to ensure our sectors are receiving the pipeline of talent which they require.

Work is progressing ahead of the launch of the Institute of Technology next year in collaboration with other Cheshire and Warrington FE providers and the University of Chester. We also continue to develop our Leading Edge facilities and equipment to support the students, apprentices and employers who access our college and university centre from across the UK.

There have been strong examples of collaboration within Landex (the representative body for land-based colleges and universities), particularly the inaugural Land-based & Environment Learner Awards, which were launched by Landex and Lantra (the land-based training and qualification awarding body) and hosted by Reaseheath.

This was a fantastic night, celebrating the incredible talent across the sector and applauding the great progression these young people have made into jobs and further training. I was immensely proud



to see former Reaseheath students do so well, particularly in the award of overall 'Learner of the Year' to Cerys Fairclough, who also won the Agriculture category. The ongoing success of our students is testament to our dedicated staff, who have supported them through their learning.

The land-based sector demonstrably and visibly leads the way on food security and environmental protection and there is evidence of a new national skills strategy for Land and Environment emerging at government level. We are confidently crafting robust strategies for growth and continuous improvement and our roadmap for the future is well defined and positive.

I couldn't sign off without a huge 'thank you' to our Chair of Governors David Pearson MBE, who has completed his term of office. David has significantly supported Reaseheath, both internally and externally, and we are very grateful for his wisdom and guidance. Thanks to his influence, our college has continued to be stable and to develop.

David has conveyed his immense pride at being part of Reaseheath for the past twelve years, and particularly his deep appreciation and admiration for our wonderful staff and the transformational impact they have on so many life outcomes.

Our new Chair is Jane Cowell OBE, who brings great experience from serving in senior roles within FE colleges and as Director of Funding, Allocations and Student Support within the Department for Education. Jane, our Governors and our staff are grateful for our stakeholders' support and look forward to continuing to ensure that studying at Reaseheath remains a transformational experience which demonstrably enhances the life chances and development of both young and life-long learners.



Jane Cowell OBE
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.



Leading Edge



Reaseheath College and University Centre (UCR) has invested over £100 million into specialist teaching resources and facilities in recent years as we continue to enhance our student experience and ensure we remain at the forefront of sector developments.

In accordance with our Leading Edge agenda, much of this investment has involved integrating further state-of-the-art precision technologies across our curriculum areas, ensuring that our students leave us with the technical skills and academic understanding that employers require.

During 2023 we procured over £3m of specialist equipment made possible by Institute of Technology funding for high level skills and government funding for the T Level courses we offer in Agriculture, Business, Construction, Forestry and Arboriculture, Food Science, Agricultural Engineering, Equine and Animal Management. As the year drew to a close, equipment worth £1.9m had been delivered and was in use, with the remainder due within months.

Construction has additionally benefitted from funding from the Advanced Construction Training project, a Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership initiative to develop digital technologies and skills within the region.

These outstanding resources meet the needs of qualifications both now and well into the future. As a result we have become recognised for applied research and innovation and have developed local, national and international, partnerships with businesses within the academic and industry sectors we serve.

New projects in 2023 have included:

- Upgraded business hub for our industry partners
- New railway engineering workshop
- Continued enhancement of mini zoo including pigmy marmoset enclosure
- Continued enhancement of T Level Construction workshop and classrooms
- Enhancement of farm buildings
- New automated lighting system for our Vertical Farm
- Top of the range tractors and arboriculture machinery
- New learning hub
- Refurbished Under 18 common room and restaurant
- Immersive learning zone



King Charles III Coronation



Royal recognition for RDA volunteer

The head of a Reaseheath based charity was among 500 outstanding volunteers to be honoured as part of the Coronation celebrations.

Sheila Saner, Chair of Nantwich & District Riding for the Disabled (RDA) Group, was recognised as a Coronation Champion for her 40 years of service at local, regional and national levels. She received a commemorative badge, a certificate signed by Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla and an invitation to attend the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle.

Catering for all disabilities, Nantwich RDA offers sessions for 50 riders aged from four years to sixty-plus supported by over 50 volunteers. The group has dedicated facilities with stables and a new centre at our Equestrian Centre.

Student grows flowers fit for a King

Open College Network floristry student Alex Pickles proved she can grow flowers fit for a King by providing blooms for the coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey.

Alex, owner of artisan business Mountain Gate Farm and Flowers, was among members invited by 'Flowers from the Farm' to gift native blooms and foliage to decorate the abbey. The request was for plant material which complemented the colour scheme selected by the Royal Household.

Royal florist Shane Connolly led the design team in creating seasonal, sustainable arrangements, with Alex's flowers forming part of the decoration of the Grave of the Unknown Warrior and Quire area.

Tree planting marks Coronation

Horticulture students planted a cherry blossom tree outside St Mary's Church, Nantwich, to mark the coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

The Prunus incisa 'Mikinori' is a small Fuji tree with bee-friendly pink flowers in Spring and colourful Autumnal foliage. Donated by Reaseheath as part of our community commitment, the tree has been planted in front of the Parish Hall opposite the west end of the church and replaces a mulberry tree destroyed in Storm Arwen in 2021. A commemorative plaque will be erected nearby.

The tree was planted by Level 3 Diploma students supported by Assistant Principal Iain Clarke and by The Revd Mark Hart, Rector of St Mary's Church.



Our Students

Further Education



Reaseheath talent recognised

Successful former students were rewarded for their achievements at the inaugural Land-based & Environment Learner Awards, hosted by Reaseheath.

The ceremony, which was attended by Minister of State for Food, Farming and Fisheries, Mark Spencer MP, celebrity farmer Adam Henson, who presented the trophies, and more than 200 guests, celebrated the talents of young people who studied or trained in England and Northern Ireland and have progressed in the land-based or environmental sectors.

The awards were launched by Lantra, the land-based training and qualification awarding body, and by Landex, the representative body for land-based colleges and universities, and attracted over 120 nominations from colleges, universities and professional trainers. The winners were chosen by industry professionals.

Reaseheath prizewinners included:

- Cerys Fairclough, a national hardware sales co-ordinator for the Wynnstay Group (Overall Learner of the Year and Agriculture winner)
- Hannah Sinclair, a keeper at Amazona Zoo, Norfolk (Animal Care winner)
- Kacper Nowakowski, who works for his family's tree maintenance business (Arboriculture winner)
- Luke Tighe, who is studying for his BEng (Hons) Agricultural Engineering at Harper Adams University (Land Based Engineering winner)
- Lewis West, a gardener with The National Trust (Landscape and Horticulture winner)
- Abby Dewhurst, who has progressed from Level 3 to Level 4 and set up a floral events business (Floristry runner-up)



Assistance dog saves student

An assistance dog whose quick action saved an animal management student from a potential house fire has received a national award.

German shepherd Mia, a medical alert dog, rescued Melody Chen after she lost consciousness due to a medical episode at home. Melody felt unwell while cooking breakfast and lay down, forgetting she was heating oil in a frying pan.

As the oil burst into flames, Mia brought Melody round by licking her face and barking, then tugged at her sleeve and guided her to the back door. Fortunately Melody, who suffers from low blood sugar, a heart condition and asthma, was unhurt but realised that the outcome could have been much worse if it hadn't been for her remarkable dog.

Mia was crowned Assistance Dog of the Year at the Animal Star Awards.

Celebration of success

Our annual awards ceremonies celebrated the success of over 1100 Further Education students who achieved industry focused technical qualifications during the academic year.

Impressively, 90% found a rewarding career in their chosen industry or intended to progress into Higher Education, with many opting to study at University Centre Reaseheath.

Principal Marcus Clinton emphasised that Reaseheath remains a leader in land-based training and offers programmes which are supported by key employers, enabling students to develop crucial employability skills. The college excelled at developing and embracing new technologies, and had continued to invest in many new resources and facilities. This included a £3million investment into specialist equipment to support T Levels within departments and at the college farm.

Industry collaboration praised

T Level Construction students praised an industry-led project which allowed them to gain valuable skills and experience in preparation for their future careers.

The students, who are studying Design, Surveying and Planning, were challenged to design a tailor-made bungalow for those with disabilities and present their ideas to a panel. The task was set by Together, which has become a key T Level partner of our construction department as part of its commitment to support young talent entering the sector.

The winning design, by Phillippa Jones, is being built on campus by the T level students, who gain practical skills in brickwork, joinery and plastering along with project management. The costs of materials were met by Together.



Stockmanship skills impress

Agriculture students impressed prominent cattle judge Ray Brown with their handling abilities and stockmanship when they produced and showed youngstock from our dairy herd in a calf show held on campus.

Ray, who farms the renowned Bidlea dairy herd, had the difficult task of choosing the winners for four classes and in particular the overall champion, but eventually Level 3 Technical Baccalaureate student Jack Harding took the championship with Level 2 Diploma student Conley Martin as reserve champion. Leo Bradbury, who is studying for his Level 3 Diploma, was third and Level 2 Diploma student Katie Dunbar was fourth.



Our Students

Higher Education



Graduation of UCR's 'Class of 2023'

Nearly 200 graduates who completed degrees at University Centre Reaseheath (UCR) joined peers from the University of Chester, our strategic alliance partner, for a spectacular graduation ceremony held in Chester's historic cathedral.

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

They were joined for the first time by our inaugural cohort of veterinary nurses, who were awarded their BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing after completing a new four year degree which is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

Dean's Awards went to Kalliopi Angelakopoulos, Tomos Jelfs and Susie Noble.



Hat-trick for landscape architect

Talented UCR alumnus Nathan Webster took three top awards for his 'Off the Grid' show garden at the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park.

Nathan, 24, who studied on our Level 3 Extended Diploma in Horticulture and progressed onto our BSc (Hons) Landscape Architecture, was awarded Best Young Designer Garden and Best Construction for a Young Designer Garden, along with a gold medal, in the prestigious RHS Young Designer of the Year category. These awards recognise the talent of next generation garden designers and landscapers.

Nathan's pared back woodland design, built by Wright Landscapes, for whom he works as lead landscape architect, embraced sustainable living and reflected his own passion for nature and the outdoors.



Florists buzzing after award

UCR florists were runners up in a competition at the prestigious Interflora World Cup, a prominent international event being held in the UK for the first time since its inception in 1972.

Shiona Fosh, Felicity Toogood and Helen Allison, undergraduates on our Level 4 Higher Diploma in Floristry, showcased their skills against teams from four other colleges at the Interflora Student Team of the Year. They had just 50 minutes to create a huge worker bee – the symbol of Manchester – in flowers and foliage and were marked on their creativity, innovation and sustainable use of materials.

As well as competing, the undergraduates were privileged to watch and learn from elite florists from around the globe.



Unrivalled African experience

UCR Animal Science undergraduates experienced real-world conservation during a study tour to one of Africa's top conservancies.

The group enjoyed spectacular wildlife viewing and learned about ground breaking conservation at Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. Regarded as an international role model, the conservancy has the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa and is home to the world's two last remaining northern white rhinos.

The undergraduates had an unrivalled opportunity to better understand the complex human, animal and political considerations required for any successful conservation model. Highlights included learning about the use of embryo harvesting and transfer to preserve endangered species, and spending time with security and anti-poaching teams. The group also explored sustainable community initiatives.

Undergraduates share academic research

Three UCR undergraduates shared their academic research at the prestigious 2023 British Conference for Undergraduate Research at the University of Warwick.

Connor Butler (BSc (Hons) Zoo Management), Lauren Dowdeswell (BSc (Hons) Canine Clinical Behaviour) and Hannah Maudsley (BSc (Hons) Zoo Management) used our mini zoo and other facilities for practical research to support their final dissertation theses.

Connor presented his findings on the effect of taxonomic bias when zoos engage with followers via social media. Lauren, who was accompanied by assistance dog Tucker, shared the results of her research into the impact of harness design on canine forelimb biomechanics while Hannah revealed how the lunar cycle affects the behaviour of Cape porcupines.



Surveys support conservation

UCR Conservation Science and Animal Science undergraduates developed their species identification and ecological survey skills during an action packed field course in Somerset and Cornwall.

The undergraduates identified over 200 species of fauna and flora by carrying out reptile, small mammal, freshwater and rocky shore surveys and observed the behaviour of captive beavers.

These significant surveys allowed the undergraduates to practice skills learned during studies and also to contribute to a species inventory that will inform management of the areas. Top activities included collecting DNA samples from European adders, hand netting brook lamprey, brown trout and European eel and setting out camera traps to gauge nocturnal behaviour of beavers intended for reintroduction.



Our Students

Apprentices



Reaseheath celebrates apprentice 'stars'

A high flying dairy apprentice who has a leading training role within her company took top honours at our annual Apprenticeship Awards.

Sharlene Harrison, Technical and Development Officer for Muller UK & Ireland, was crowned Outstanding Apprentice of the Year and also Higher Level Apprentice of the Year for successfully combining studying with her full-time job training colleagues and customers of the leading dairy brand.

Already the holder of two previous food science related degrees, Sharlene completed a Foundation Degree in Food Technology and Management on our unique Eden higher level apprenticeship programme. This is a bespoke education initiative, supported by leading dairy companies, which upskills promising young professionals.

Level 3 Apprentice of the Year was Iwona Cawa, a Crop Supervisor with APS Salads, while our Level 2 winner was youngstock manager Jessica Birtwistle.

Roads Minister visits engineering academy

Reaseheath welcomed Roads and Local Transport Minister Richard Holden MP onto campus during National Apprenticeship Week to see the progress of the UK's first dedicated Bus and Coach Engineering Academy.

The academy, the result of an innovative partnership between Reaseheath and transport company First Bus, delivers progressive skills training in green technology to the company's apprentice engineering technicians and also creates a clear pathway for future talent to progress within the industry.

Over 80 apprentices from throughout the UK receive tailored training on current and next generation zero emission vehicles at Reaseheath's bespoke Engineering Apprentice Academy.

Richard Holden MP toured the academy with First Bus Chief Operating Officer Andrew Jarvis, First Bus Head of Engineering Excellence Tony Cockcroft and Reaseheath's Principal Marcus Clinton.

Industry apprenticeship partnerships celebrated

Industry partners judged to have 'gone the extra mile' in supporting their apprenticeship programmes were celebrated at our Apprenticeship Awards.

Winner of Employer of the Year (Large organisations) was leading UK bus operator First Bus (pictured) for the quality of its national training programme. Runners up were railway engineers Alstom and AT Oliver and Sons, the service arm of Oliver's, a major company supplying agricultural equipment and machinery.

The title of Employer of the Year (SME organisations) went to rail maintenance specialist A P Webb Plant Hire while runners up were Grants Butchers and Total Tools.

The event was held during National Apprenticeship Week. Guest speaker was Joanna Moonan, Deputy Director at the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

Successful rail engineering collaboration

Rail engineering company Alstom has collaborated with Reaseheath to create a bespoke, high quality and continuously evolving apprenticeship programme to ensure the company's next generation of skilled and qualified rail technicians.

A global leader in the transportation sector, Alstom has 37 UK sites including Crewe Works, which is a major local employer. Over 40 rail engineering apprentices from throughout the North West, the Midlands and as far as London are on the three year training programme, which delivers specialist technical training both at Reaseheath and at their workplace.

Alstom's apprentices are based at Reaseheath's Engineering Apprenticeship Academy, where the company has a designated rail workshop staffed by an industry served training team.

IRTE awards for Bus and Coach apprentices

The exceptional standard of our Bus and Coach engineering apprenticeship was highlighted at the Institute of Road Transport Engineers (IRTE) Skills Challenge, when four apprentices brought home major awards.

IRTE is the specialist sector for road transport engineers within the Society of Operations Engineers and the skills challenge is a national competition open to all public transport operators. Our ten-strong team of apprentices, who all work for First Bus, were challenged by competitors from Arriva, Excel Resourcing, Go-Ahead, Lothian, Metroline, National Express and Trentbarton.

James Day won the Mechelec (mechanical electrical) category, Sophy Smith was first in the Electrical Apprentice category, Hasan Girach was Runner Up Bodywork Apprentice and Thang Tang was awarded the Judges' Choice.



Industry Excellence



World famous floral designer hosted

Higher Level floristry students, alumni and professionals were privileged to learn from world famous floral designer and author Gregor Lersch when he visited Reaseheath during his busy international schedule.

A capacity audience of over 300 professional and leisure florists from all over the country attended a rare lecture demonstration by Gregor, run in conjunction with Group 2000, a local NAFAS affiliated club.

Gregor, a Master of Master Florists, has presented demonstrations and tutored in more than 32 countries. Celebrated for his trend setting design styles, his demonstration offered an insight into contemporary design and technical craftsmanship with an emphasis on sustainability. He also spent a further three days at Reaseheath sharing his expertise in workshops.



Construction technology showcased

Groundbreaking digital technology used in the construction industry was showcased at an event we hosted in our new Construction T Level Hub.

The event shone the spotlight on the Advanced Construction Training (ACT) project, an initiative funded by Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership to develop and promote digital technologies and skills training. Reaseheath was among colleges to receive ACT funding to buy sophisticated technical equipment, enabling us to develop into a centre of excellence for advanced construction, digital and manufacturing skills.

The event was supported by other participating colleges, potential employers and suppliers, and attracted over 150 students plus department heads and tutors, all eager to gain hands-on experience with the latest kit.

Seminar tackles equine safeguarding

Ways of creating a positive public image of horses in sport were explored at a groundbreaking seminar on Equine Performance and Safeguarding which began its national tour at Reaseheath.

Presented by equine performance consultant Dr Anne Bondi and Dr Sue Dyson, a renowned expert in equine orthopaedics, the seminar suggested that perceived poor practice could be improved through the use of a Ridden Horse Performance Checklist, enabling early identification and solving of potential issues. This would help to protect equestrian sport's social licence to operate, an area increasingly under the spotlight during the run-up to the 2024 Olympics.

The event attracted professional practitioners, competitive riders, equine vets, physiotherapists, business owners and equine students and staff.



Partnership enhances career prospects

Our partnership with sports coaching and education company NAR Kollektive is enhancing the training and learning of sports students as they prepare for entry into industry.

The company, which is owned, run and staffed by professionals from a range of sports, is supporting our sports programmes through high level coaching and also by providing access to a well rounded experience within the sports sector.

Students on our Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development are enjoying weekly football coaching sessions from NAR athletes, while BSc (Hons) in Football Coaching undergraduates are developing their working knowledge alongside the coaches. They are also encouraged to provide sport science support and performance analysis to our college teams.

T Level held up as benchmark

Reaseheath's successful delivery of T Level in Onsite Construction was held up as a benchmark for others to follow at an industry-led information and networking event hosted on campus.

The Construction Industry Training Board event, supported by the Department for Education and the Gatsby Foundation, brought together curriculum leaders from 12 UK education providers who are delivering or planning to deliver the T Level in Onsite Construction.

The delegates discussed how the T Level can be developed and supported to meet the needs of both students and the construction industry, with Reaseheath's curriculum offer being held up as a model of best practice, particularly in its 100% retention of students and its strong industry partnerships.



Industry accolade for Food Centre

Reaseheath's outstanding Food Processing Halls team again achieved the highest standards of Food Safety and Hygiene within a food production facility.

Following a rigorous audit against the latest Brand Recognition Compliance Global Standard (BRCGS) Issue 9, the team was awarded the prestigious AA standard for the sixth 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 at the highest industry standards, further evidencing the industry focused, career ready nature of our work.

This was our first audit against Issue 9 of the standard, which included changes to the food safety culture plan, food defence and further allergen controls.



Our Communities



RAG supports children's charity

Representatives from our Student Association presented a cheque for £17,206 to 2023's chosen charity, The Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT).

The impressive amount was raised through RAG (Raising and Giving) activities including a daring sky dive by 14 staff and students, a sponsored walk of the 55 kilometre Sandstone Trail and a spooktacular Scarefest at Halloween.

Numerous fund raising events were organised during Reaseheath's RAG month while mascot Gareth the Sheep collected donations from visitors to our Family Festival, Lambing Weekends and Cheshire Show stand. We also joined Nantwich Farmers Market to spread the word throughout our local community.

CAFT provides free activities for terminally ill, disabled and disadvantaged children from throughout the north west.

Family focused fun at festival

Thousands of visitors enjoyed a day of family fun when we opened our campus for our popular Family Festival.

As well as offering hundreds of activities and displays, the action packed event introduced visitors to the modern facilities and technical advancements which are part of study at Reaseheath.

Activities included a contest between BMX stunt riders and parkour athletes, a student calf show and entertainment at our Equestrian Centre including dressage by Lusitano horses, carriage driving, side saddle displays and a student drill ride.

Dance troops and bands gave performances on the main stage, while 'have a go' activities included circus tricks, den building, brick laying, tree climbing, stock judging, flower arranging and dog agility.



Reaseheath Remembers

Guests from our local community joined students and staff to pay their respects at Remembrance Day services across campus.

Apprentices and trainers were joined by former members of the armed forces and representatives from neighbouring industries at a service held for the first time at Reaseheath's Engineering Apprenticeship Academy.

The tribute was attended by 85 construction plant and bus and coach engineering apprentices, academy staff, guests from Crewe 94 Sea Cadet Corps and representatives from neighbouring businesses The Blue Group and Hodson Crane Hire and Haulage.

A service on main campus was attended by hundreds of students and staff, where poignant poem 'For the Fallen' was read by Level 3 Diploma Uniformed Protective Services students.



Cheshire Show win for college stand

Reaseheath's action packed stand won the Best Speciality Stand in the Rural Life Area at the Royal Cheshire Show. Our range of educative and interactive displays impressed judge Richard Blackburn, NFU Council Representative, who felt we showcased the best aspects of modern agriculture and food production with activities which were widely appealing to families.

Visitors watched sausage making demonstrations by our own Master Butcher Gary Evans and cookery demonstrations by Bake Off The Professionals chef Adam Cleal and by Eat Wild chefs.

Families also enjoyed learning 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.

Nantwich Food Festival sponsored

Reaseheath was a headline sponsor of the hugely successful Nantwich Food Festival, which once again attracted record crowds to the town.

One of the UK's largest free food festivals, the three day event showcased the best of culinary talent and produce, raised the profile of local businesses and delivered a substantial boost to the local economy.

The Reaseheath sponsored Love Lane Food Theatre was the location for the main cookery stage and hosted the official event launch. Capacity audiences enjoyed demonstrations by celebrity chefs and by our own highly talented Bakery and Patisserie Course Manager Sam Copeland and Master Butcher Gary Evans, the latter giving talks on the 'Field to Fork' journey of ethically produced food.



Cubs enjoy sweet treats

The 1st SWC St Andrews cub pack worked towards a new badge by making their own ice cream in our Food Centre.

Three groups totalling 17 cubs had to produce a flavour of ice cream. Lemon, raspberry and vanilla were selected and the cubs produced the ice cream and decorated it with sweet treats. All finished the session full of ice cream and very happy!

The visit was arranged through Reaseheath Dairy Technologist and Instructor Jenny Newall, who is the pack's Cub Scout Leader. She explained: "We like to introduce varied activities to keep the children interested while completing their badge work. Making ice cream will definitely be among their favourites so far!"



Reaseheath Sustainability

Our Year in Review



Action for sustainable future

Positive action which local businesses, organisations and individuals can take for a more sustainable future were highlighted at a conference run jointly by Reaseheath and Cheshire East Council.

The conference illustrated how the borough can achieve its net zero target - set for 2045 - through a collaborative commitment to lowering carbon emissions and driving sustainability while still maintaining growth. Over 100 delegates attended, including leaders of international companies, small and medium businesses and community groups.

The inspirational panel included Sarah Mukherjee MBE (CEO of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment), Councillor Sam Corcoran (Leader of Cheshire East Council), Iain Clarke (Reaseheath's Assistant Principal, Land based and Sustainability) and Jeremy Herbert (Community Co-ordinator for Sustainable Nantwich).

Carbon footprint cut

A public sector grant of over £533,000, which Reaseheath match funded, has enabled us to take the first major steps to decarbonise our entire estate.

A project to upgrade air and water heating systems in our recently modernised visitor reception and in lecture theatres and classrooms within our university centre has already made a significant impact on our annual carbon reporting.

Crucially, the improvement has advanced our strategy of removing outdated, carbon heavy, heating systems and replacing with heat pumps where possible. Two oil fired boilers have been replaced with air source pumps and increased radiant panels, and air handling units and water heaters have been upgraded, potentially saving 80 tonnes of carbon annually.

PhD research begins

The first PhD student to carry out a research project within the recently launched Institute of Sustainability and Food Innovation (IoSFI) has taken up her role.

Ella Robbins is conducting original research on whether treating water with stabilised hydrogen peroxide improves water quality, and whether this leads to improved crop performance if used for irrigation. This approach is thought to have much potential but its use is limited by a lack of robust data and scientific understanding.

Hopefully Ella's research will lead to greater and better quality crop yields and less food waste, and her data will result in a published thesis. IoSFI is an academic collaboration between UCR and the University of Chester.



2023 student numbers:

Total enrolled **5,031** including:

Further Education **2,309**

Higher Education **562**

Apprentices **1,075**

Adult learners **184**

International students **9**

686 Residential students

742 Students supported with bursaries

£634,000 Financial support awarded to students

1,800 Students using college transport between home and campus

£2.2m Paid out by Reaseheath to support students with cost of transport





Student Experience Surveys

Higher Education National Student Survey Results

- Staff are good at explaining things. **95%**
- Teaching staff have supported my learning well. **95%**
- The library resources have been good to support my learning. **94%**
- I feel free to express my ideas, opinions and beliefs during my studies. **90%**
- I receive assessment feedback on time. **94%**

Further Education Pulse Survey

- 99%** Of students feel safe in college.
- 96%** Of students feel they are on the right study programme.
- 84%** Of students know what grades they are likely to achieve.
- 84%** Say they received effective progression advice for their next steps in education or employment.



Measuring success:

80% of students believed that their course has improved their career choices or prospects



83% of students found their lessons engaging and challenging



76% of 16-18 years olds achieved their qualifications



61% of apprentices successfully completed their programme, 6.4% above the national achievement rate



95% of students progressed into positive destinations such as employment or further study



70% of students moved into industry relevant employment on completion of their qualification



87% of students studying maths or English feel they are developing skills which will improve their employability





Total number of staff **650**

Staff breakdown by role

30% Teaching

26% Teaching support

44% Non-teaching

Staff numbers by gender

67% Female

33% Male

Staff satisfaction

83% of staff gain job satisfaction from their role.

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

86% of staff feel that Reaseheath places importance on health, safety and wellbeing.

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion objectives

- To examine the findings of our recent cultural audit of current practices and processes and create a detailed and robust action plan to take positive actions in areas for improvement, 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 2022/23

742

Students were awarded a Bursary

£634k

The amount of money we awarded in bursary

14%

The proportion of income generated from student fees

54%

Staff costs as a percentage of total expenditure

£0.26m

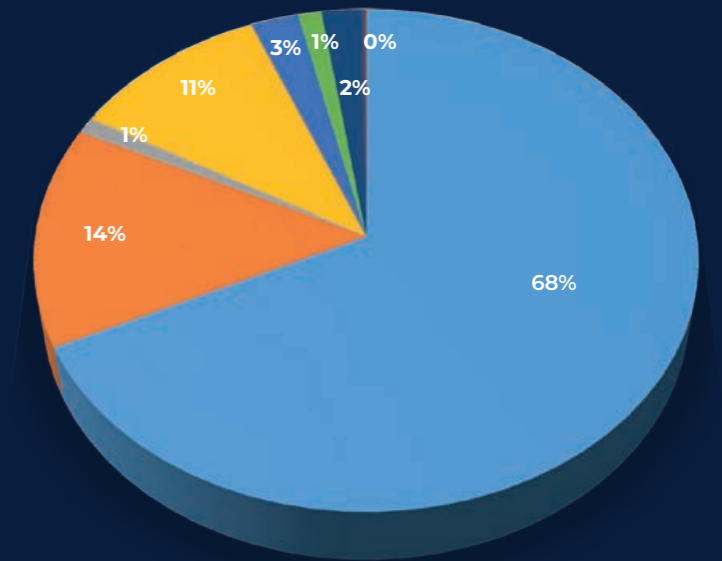
The underlying surplus after adjustment for exceptional costs

Reaseheath College Group

Income for 2022/23

Where does the money come from?

£26.0	Funding body grants
£5.4	Tuition fees and education contracts
£0.4	Other grants and contracts
£4.1	Catering and residences
£1.0	Farming income
£0.5	Transport
£0.9	Other income
£0.0	Endowment and investment income

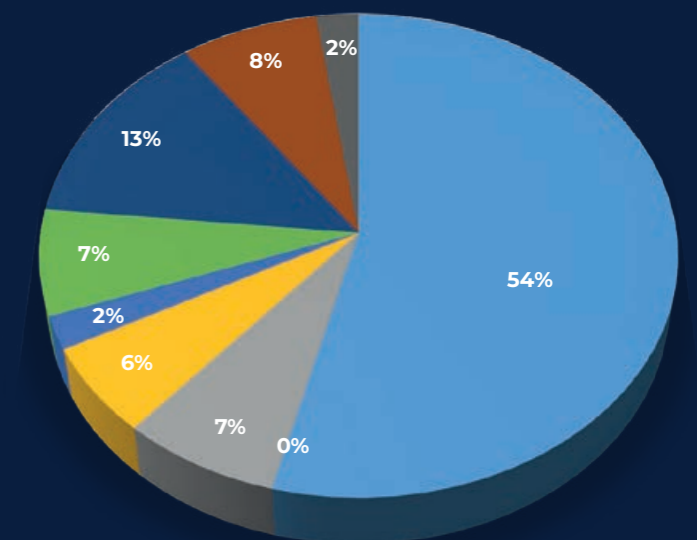


Reaseheath College Group

Expenditure for 2022/23

Where is the money spent?

£20.5	Staff costs
£0.0	Fundamental restructuring costs
£2.8	Other operating expenses including exam fees, staff development and recruitment
£2.3	Transport, student bus costs
£0.8	Establishment costs, including professional fees, insurance and administration
£2.7	Premises costs including utilities, maintenance, rent
£5.1	Supplies and services costs including farm expenditure, IT costs, food and provisions
£2.9	Depreciation and amortisation
£0.9	Interest and other finance costs



Reaseheath College Group Financial Summary for 2022/23

£38.21M - £37.95M = £0.26M

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



Reaseheath
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 6DF

General enquiries

01270 625131

Email

enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk

Websites

reaseheath.ac.uk

ucreaseheath.ac.uk

reaseheathbusinesshub.com

Get connected



Overall: Bronze
Student experience: Bronze
Student outcomes: Silver

Teaching Excellence Framework