

Reaseheath provides tailored training for The Co-operative Farms

Reaseheath College is partnering The Co-operative Farms by tailoring training for its groundbreaking agricultural apprenticeship scheme.

The national scheme is aimed at 17 to 19 year olds, and has been designed to help The Co-operative Farms find and train the farming talent of the future.

Each apprentice receives a bespoke teaching package to cover the crops and specific business needs of their farm. Key areas are the growing of cereals, root crops, vegetables and fruit. Training is delivered by experts in Reaseheath's agricultural, horticultural and engineering departments.

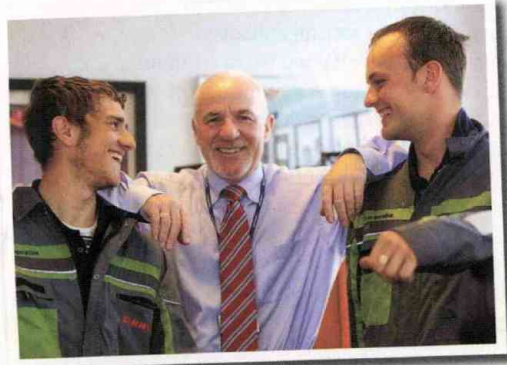
In addition to the skills training, Reaseheath has trained managers and supervisors to act as mentors to the apprentices in their workplace and was involved in selecting suitable candidates for the training programme.

Course manager Natalie Gascoyne, who set up the programme, said: "We are very excited about this bespoke apprenticeship scheme and hope it marks the beginning of a long partnership between Reaseheath and The Co-operative Farms.

"We have been very impressed with the commitment to training shown by the company and the importance they have placed on using the skilled staff already working on their farms as mentors for these new apprentices."

The agricultural apprenticeship is the first programme in The Co-operative Group's ambitious £9m Apprenticeship Academy, which aims to provide 2,000 jobs for young people over the next three years.

The apprentices will have the opportunity to progress onto the Group's Management Development Programme.



Apprentices Luke Watson (left) and Tim Cleaver enjoy a joke with The Co-operative Group's chief executive Peter Marks