



125th Anniversary Success

Student Achievements. Campus Developments.
Opportunities for all to succeed.



University Centre
Myerscough



University of Central Lancashire





Welcome by Principal

Another great year!

This year has been very special for all of us at Myerscough College and University Centre Myerscough as we marked our 125th anniversary on 14th May 2019. We started with just ten cheesemaking students and have grown to around 5,000 students studying for more than 30 subject areas from beginners to doctorate level.

We are delighted that we have continued to be one of the country's top performing colleges with very strong further education, higher education and apprenticeship achievement rates and student satisfaction rates. Our students and staff are at the heart of our College and University Centre and being at Myerscough is more than just a job or a qualification. We believe in providing opportunities for all to succeed in a supportive, enriching, ambitious and nurturing environment so that everyone can be the best that they can be.

The many industries that we serve continue to report significant skills shortages and opportunities to forge a variety of interesting and exciting careers. Myerscough offers not just high quality academic, vocational and professional education but the opportunity to change lives through a holistic experience of course enrichment, study trips and visits, high quality work experience, community work and charity fundraising. This broad ranging experience builds confidence, resilience, communication skills and life skills, which enables our students to progress into their chosen careers – demonstrated by our 97% positive destinations by our further education students and 98% of our degree students progressing into education, training or employment within six months of graduation.

We pride ourselves on being a fully inclusive College and have once again demonstrated this through our successful reaccreditation as Leaders in Diversity by the National Centre

for Diversity. The Leaders in Diversity kitemark demonstrates our commitment to and embedding of the principles of FREDIE – fairness, respect, equality, diversity, inclusion and engagement.



As part of our ongoing £35m campus development programme we hosted the official opening of our new Animal and Equine Centre at Croxteth in what is our 20th anniversary at the Centre and the opening of our brand new campus at Walton Hall in Warrington in September. We are proud to offer outstanding education and training facilities working in partnership with over 3,000 employers annually to ensure our students are truly employment ready.

This year celebratory brochure identifies a number of both collective and individual staff and student success stories and we hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed our year, living, working and studying here at Myerscough.

Thank you to all our staff, students and partners who have supported us and helped to make it another outstanding year at Myerscough.

Very best wishes,

Alison Robinson

Chief Executive and Principal, Myerscough College



Myerscough life

Stalwart Bernard celebrates 50 years of moo-vellous service



Estate Supervisor, Bernard Rimmer MBE, celebrated 50 years of service to Myerscough College.

Bernard has been part of Myerscough's staff for half a century, and is the first member of staff in the College's history to achieve the milestone.

Bernard has been a highly respected figure in the farming sector for decades, and his association with Myerscough dates back to early 1970.

In 2019 Bernard was recognised in the Queen's New Year Honours list for services to the agricultural community, and received the MBE at a ceremony hosted by Prince Charles.

Memorial unveiled to remember Lorraine



A plaque was unveiled to commemorate Myerscough's dear colleague, Dr Lorraine Allan, Head of Equine, Farriery and Veterinary Nursing, who passed away in 2019.

Lorraine's work with the College spanned four decades, and included establishing a veterinary nursing course at what was then Lancashire College of Horticulture and Agriculture, before the rebrand to Myerscough College in 1993, and helping to establish the first block release RVN training course in the North West. Over the years, Lorraine played a key part in the making the College's Veterinary Nursing department arguably the most successful in the country.

Myerscough welcomes triple Olympic Dressage gold medallist



A capacity crowd welcomed triple Olympic dressage gold medallist, Charlotte Dujardin CBE, at Myerscough College's International Equine Arena.

Britain's most successful dressage rider in history made a special appearance at Myerscough for a 'through the levels' masterclass. Working with a number of horses through the day, she demonstrated the training techniques that have kept her on podiums around the world for years.

The day was a unique occasion to learn from one of the best in the world, in an intimate setting, with the day earning rave reviews from the audience.

Indian farriery trip neigh problem for Myerscough's Angus



A Myerscough College farriery tutor spent time working in India, on a project aimed at improving the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules from across the world.

Brooke, Action for Working Horses and Donkeys, is an international animal welfare charity dedicated to improving animal welfare. Myerscough's Angus Wiseman, HE lecturer and Farriery Placement Officer, has been helping the organisation with their mentor programme.

As part of his work in the country, Angus has highlighted a lack of suitable mobile anvils to adjust shoes on, and sourced local production of appropriate equipment, to help increase the standard of fitting of horseshoes on the country's many workhorses. The overall aim is to improve the quality of farriery services and raise awareness regarding hoof care.



Saltex Cup winners are a cut above at El Clásico

The victorious group of Myerscough College sportsturf apprentices from the annual SALTEx College Cup have enjoyed an unforgettable experience at Spanish footballing giants, Real Madrid.

The College Cup is a prestigious skills competition held by The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), at the annual Saltex turf management exhibition and trade show.

The Myerscough College team saw off competition from four other colleges to win the trophy and a once-in-a-lifetime visit to Real Madrid's Bernabéu Stadium, learning from the very best in the industry in the form of Myerscough alumni, Paul Burgess, Madrid's director of grounds and environment.

The group enjoyed an invaluable groundswork experience placement, in the run up to one of the biggest domestic fixtures in world football, the El Clásico, between Real Madrid and Barcelona. During their weekend visit the group enjoyed a full, behind-the-scenes experience of just what it takes to prepare the playing surface for such a prestigious fixture, and even got the golden opportunity to be part of the team who actually maintain the Bernabéu's hallowed turf.

Agricultural engineering students plough through Ireland during charity tractor tour



A group of Myerscough College agricultural engineering students went on a week-long tractor tour of Ireland to raise money for charity.

Level 3 students and staff drove two Myerscough tractors on their mammoth tour – a Fendt 716 and a 1963 Massey Ferguson 35X – across cities in both Northern and Southern Ireland, to raise money for Yellow Wellies – Farm Safety Foundation.

The Myerscough group travelled through Belfast, Monaghan, Ballinrobe, Galway, Limerick, Cork, Dungarvan, Carlow and Dublin. They also visited major sector employers.

Myerscough College **My Success 125 Years**

Elizabeth named as rising star in arboriculture sector



A University Centre Myerscough arboriculture graduate was recognised as one to watch in the sector by the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

Elizabeth Anderson was named as a recipient of an ICF student award, which recognises distinguished learners as ones to watch. Elizabeth graduated with BSc (Hons) in Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, and was presented with her award in recognition of her academic achievement and emerging talent in the sector.

Myerscough's H.E. Graduate student showcase a success



University Centre Myerscough's annual Higher Education Graduate Student Showcase was a huge success.

The event, held at Myerscough's Food and Farming Innovation & Technology Centre, provided students, staff, employers, family members and industry partners, the chance to see what University Centre Myerscough graduates have been working on as part of their studies.

The aim of the event was to provide a development opportunity for graduates to share their research and ideas from their final projects. It was also an opportunity to learn more about what goes on at University Centre Myerscough.

Degree programme learners from Animal Studies, Agriculture & Countryside, Equine Studies, Motorsports, Veterinary Nursing, Arboriculture, Floristry and Photography all took part.

H.E. student satisfaction remains high at Myerscough



Higher education student satisfaction is up, and remains very high at University Centre Myerscough, after the latest results of the latest National Student Survey.

90% of students said they were satisfied overall with their course, according to the independent figures released by the Office for Students. This is higher than the national average, and is the joint highest of all other major land-based colleges in England.

The survey was undertaken by students across the UK from hundreds of higher education institutions, further education colleges and other alternative providers. Myerscough College has taken part in the survey for many years, which has been voluntary, although the survey has been a compulsory requirement to all providers from 2017.



Foundation learners thrive on Supported Internships

A scheme aimed at getting young people who need extra help to move into employment, run by Myerscough College's Foundation Learning department, continues to go from strength to strength.

Supported Internships are aimed at young people who want to move into employment and are intended to enable the young person to become 'job ready'. Internships normally last for one year and they include a work placement. Students complete a personalised Study Programme working towards a qualification, usually 'Employability Skills'. Maths and English are also delivered as an important element.

A number of Myerscough's current group of foundation learners are undertaking a supported internship programme, working at a number of local businesses, all significantly benefiting and improving their life skills and employment prospects.



Myerscough landscapers win Gardeners' World accolade

Two recent Myerscough College apprentices won the prestigious BBC Gardeners' Live Young Landscapers Award.

The competition, run in conjunction with the Association of Professional Landscapers (APL) and sponsored by Marshalls, saw Matthew Wood and Sam Gordon beat a team from CAFRE to the title.

In this tough competition, four of the very best young landscapers in the country, all aged under 28, form two teams, to display their high calibre skills. Designed to champion skills amongst young people and nurture emerging talent, the competition sees the contenders working in pairs to build two challenging Show Gardens packed with an array of landscaping elements.

Both Show Gardens in the final were assessed by the BBC Gardeners' World Live Show Garden Assessment Panel, plus two dedicated judges from the WorldSkills Assessment Panel, before going on display to the thousands of visitors to the show.

Veterinary nurse Rachael's Chernobyl adventure



A Myerscough College and University Centre degree student spent time working on a project involving animals in Chernobyl.

The Dogs of Chernobyl Project is an initiative organised by the Clean Futures Fund, an American non-profit organisation established to raise awareness and provide international support for communities affected by industrial accidents and long-term remedial activities.

Among the party who flew to Ukraine was Rachael Duxbury. 22-year-old Rachael, who has just completed a Foundation Degree programme in Veterinary Nursing at Myerscough, spent three weeks on the project, gaining valuable experience and assisting in the care of hundreds of animals.

The scheme sees volunteers provide help to animals around the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, and the Chernobyl worker town of Slavutych.

Double Gold for Show Gardens at Southport Flower Show



Three Myerscough College learners helped build two Gold Medal winning Show Gardens at the annual Southport Flower Show.

Preston Paving and Landscaping, with help from Myerscough apprentices Mackenzie Moffatt, Luke Jelley and Rebecca Heredia-Kaye, brought to life two winning entries in the Schools Design-a-Garden Competition, winning a Large Gold Medal and Gold Medal respectively.

The show gardens were enjoyed by a number of celebrities at the event, including Strictly Come Dancing Judge, Bruno Tonioli.

Kazan you believe it! Landscaping apprentice Sam paves his way to excellence



A Myerscough College landscaping apprentice was recognised for his 'world class standard' of work at WorldSkills 2019 in Kazan, Russia.

Sam Taylor was named as being among the UK's best and brightest young skilled apprentices and students after being selected to represent Team UK at the 'Skills

Olympics', a global event that saw more than sixty countries send elite teams to the Tatarstan Capital, 800 km east of Moscow - to do battle and go for bronze, silver and gold in 56 different skills disciplines.

19-year-old Sam has been undertaking his Advanced Apprenticeship in Work-based Horticulture – Landscaping - with Myerscough College, and is based at Garden TLC, in Oldham. More than a quarter of a million people gathered in Kazan, for an equally spectacular closing ceremony, which saw Sam awarded a Medallion of Excellence, in recognition of his workmanship being of international class.

Ryan goes full throttle in Thundersport Championship win



A motorbike ridden by a Myerscough College motorsport lecturer and serviced by students raced to the 2019 Thundersport GB championship.

Ryan Garside secured the

Blackbird Corporate Golden Era Steelsport 600cc Championship title, on his Myerscough EasyPay Honda, supported by his Level 2 and 3 students for each round of the competition, as part of their enrichment programme.

Last year, Ryan won the Ace Of Aintree Steel Frame 600cc and also the Pre-Injection 600cc Championship, riding his Honda CBR600 F3, before making the step up to Thundersport for the 2019 season.

Myerscough named one of the most inclusive employers in UK



Myerscough College was named as one of the most inclusive employers in the UK by the National Centre for Diversity.

The College – who already hold the prestigious 'Leaders in Diversity' status, and Disability Confident accreditation – appears on the list of the NCFD's Top 100 Index for 2020. The list is compiled using data from surveys completed by employees at businesses working with the NCFD. An algorithm is then used to benchmark organisations and accumulate the index.

The inspiring organisations that achieve a place in the Top 100 Index, demonstrate excellent levels of the FREDIE principal: Fairness, Respect, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement; and clearly demonstrate strong employer values. The annual index covers the UK's private, public and third sectors and is reviewed annually.

Myerscough College **My Success 125 Years**

Unforgettable South Africa experience for animal studies students



A group of Myerscough College animal studies staff and students enjoyed an unforgettable time working in South Africa.

During the two-week trip the group enjoyed a busy itinerary, heading to the Somkhanda Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal with Gap Africa Projects, and also visited Kosi Bay and Pongola Game Reserves, for the usual busy and varied programme of activities which included monitoring of wildlife, and undertaking some key conservation activities and community work.

Highlights included bush walks, tracking and telemetry, bush camping, ecology, camera trapping and animal behaviour sampling, as well as a host of other visits and local experiences.

Myerscough Gardens recognised at North West in Bloom



Myerscough College's Plant World and Gardens has been recognised at the 2019 North West in Bloom competition.

Myerscough was awarded a Silver-Gilt in the category of the North West's Best Small Tourist Attraction, at the annual event,

held at the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre.

The Regional Awards are judged by a panel of industry experts who look at factors such as horticultural excellence, community involvement, environmental friendliness and sustainability. The latest award recognises not just Myerscough's beautiful gardens but the wider experience in the College's Plant World centre and the inviting Garden Tea Rooms.

National Sheepdog Trials come to Myerscough



Myerscough College was proud to become the first College to host the English National Sheepdog Trial and Country Event.

The event, held at the College's Lee and Lodge

Farms, saw 150 of the best sheepdogs and handlers in the country compete for a place on the English National Team.

Our Awards

Myerscough College Open Day & Country Fair named finalist in Lancashire Tourism Awards 2019



The 2019 Myerscough College Open Day & Country Fair was recognised in the Lancashire Tourism Awards.

The prestigious awards recognise and celebrate the very best that Lancashire has to offer in terms of all aspects of the tourism sector. Myerscough's Open Day & Country Fair was shortlisted in the category of Small Event of the Year (up to 15,000 visitors).

2019 was another bumper year for the Myerscough College Open Day & Country Fair, as thousands of people were welcomed to the College's main Bilsborrow campus to enjoy the excellent weather and the hundreds of attractions on offer.

Yet more national award nominations for Myerscough floristry



Myerscough College's floristry department was shortlisted for national recognition in this annual British Florist Association (BFA) Awards.

The awards recognise the best in the industry, with Myerscough shortlisted in the category of Training Provider of the Year, while four staff members were nominated for Floristry Tutor of the Year, and a degree student nominated for Floristry Student of the Year.

Now in their eighth year, the BFA Industry Awards have established themselves as the place to be recognised within the industry. The awards are presented to individuals and companies as voted for by the public.

Myerscough College apprentice blazes a trail in sportsturf



A Myerscough College sportsturf learner became the first in the country to achieve a distinction level grade under the new Apprenticeship Standard.

Luke Weston was undertaking a Sportsturf Operative apprenticeship while working as part of Magdalen College School ground staff in Oxford, and achieved the highest possible grade under the new system, introduced just a few years ago.

The Apprenticeship Standards are written by the industry, for the industry. Myerscough College was the first training organization in the UK to use the new standard in greenkeeping when it was first introduced in 2016.

Myerscough named among UK's top turf influencers



A leading industry magazine named Myerscough College as one of the most influential bodies in the sportsturf industry.

The Turf Business Top Turf Influencer Award recognises the most influential figures in the industry, who possess an outstanding level of knowledge, experience and skillset within their specific field of expertise.

A prestigious shortlist was made up of individuals who create some of the best playing surfaces in the world of professional football, cricket, golf, rugby league and tennis, and organisations who make a real difference in supporting the development of the sportsturf sector in general.



High pass rates for Myerscough further education study programmes

The latest government figures show that Myerscough College scores highly for learning achievement in further education across all of its centres.

The National Achievement Rates Tables (NART) reveal the latest figures based on exams and qualifications completed in the last academic year. Myerscough is in the top 3 land-based colleges in the country when it comes to pass rates on 'All Level' diploma programmes among 16-18 year-olds (94%), and is also in the top 3 in the country for achievement rates for Level 3 diploma programmes studied by learners of all ages.

Across all of Myerscough's Level 2 diploma programmes, students achieved a pass rate of 99% pass rate, the second best in the land-based sector in the country.

Myerscough's Merseyside centre at Croxteth Park is the number one college in the city of Liverpool, while the cricket studies programme at Emirates Old Trafford is the top performing in the area. Myerscough's centre at Witton Park in Blackburn returned an impressive overall pass rate of 93%.



Myerscough College awarded Gatsby Benchmarks

Myerscough College were awarded all eight Gatsby Benchmarks – a measure of having excellent practice in careers advice and guidance.

The Gatsby Benchmarks provide a framework for career guidance, outlining the experiences and information each and every young person should have access to so that they can make an informed decision about their future.

Overseen by the Careers & Enterprise Company, education providers are required by law to publish details of their careers programmes, as well as having a dedicated careers leader in place to oversee their operations.



Farriery apprentice Craig a shoe-in for national awards

A Myerscough College farriery student was recognised for the quality of his work on a national level during the industry's annual registration ceremony.

The Worshipful Company of Farriers and the Farriers Registration Council presented diplomas to newly qualified apprentices from across the country at a ceremony held at The Honourable Artillery Company, in London. Among them were a number of Myerscough students, who received their diplomas as part of the 'passing out' ceremony.

22-year-old Craig Taylor won both of the prizes available to all successful apprentices across the country, by gaining a Distinction grade in his overall exam result, and also picked up the prize for the highest mark in his exam paper.

Pitch perfect Myerscough sportsturf learners win national IOG awards



Two Myerscough College learners were honoured with a national accolade at the prestigious Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) Industry Awards 2019.

Callum Allsop was named the Toro Most Promising Sports Turf Student of the Year, at a ceremony as part of the annual national sportsturf exhibition, Saltex, at the NEC in Birmingham. Callum is currently on an apprenticeship in Work-based Horticulture-Sportsturf, and works in the Premier League with Leicester City FC.

Meanwhile degree student, Nick Pepper, was crowned the IOG Rigby Taylor/Top Green Young Grounds Person of the year. Nick is part of the grounds team at Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, and has been studying a BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management (FYDE) Online programme.

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) Industry Awards acknowledge the passion, dedication and challenges faced by grounds staff, volunteers and professionals across all levels of sport.

Myerscough farriers show their metal in international competition



Myerscough College apprentice farriers enjoyed individual and team success at the annual BFBA International Farriery Competition.

The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association's annual event sees teams and individuals from all over the world, including Sweden, Belgium, the USA, Canada and Ireland, compete to be crowned the BFBA International Champion.

Myerscough College's Henri Allison clinched first place in the International Individual Apprentice Competition, while the England team were crowned champions of the International Apprentice Team Horseshoe Forging Competition and International Apprentice Team Horseshoe Forging Championship. 19-year-old Henri also represented the England team, alongside fellow Myerscough apprentices, 20-year-old Tom Pigford and 21-year-old Dominic Welch. They are all studying an Advanced Apprenticeship in Farriery with Myerscough College.

Myerscough is a cut above in Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards



Two Myerscough College apprentices were named the best student greenkeepers in the country after they both scooped a prestigious national industry award.

Jason Norwood was named winner of the 2019 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, while Tom Bromfield has won the Young Student Greenkeeper of the Year accolade. Both Jason and Tom are studying apprenticeships in Work-based Horticulture (Sportsturf/Greenkeeping) with Myerscough College. Jason works at Rudding Park Golf Club in Harrogate, while Tom is based at Trentham Golf Club.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards is a national contest hosted by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA.

Myerscough plant maintenance apprentices recognised in national ceremony



Three Myerscough College plant maintenance apprentices have received recognition for outstanding commitment to their work in a national ceremony.

The 'Stars of The Future' Awards is an annual event organised by the Construction Plant-Hire Association, in conjunction with training providers from across the country who offer plant maintenance courses.

Myerscough College had two regional winners, while another learner picked up a special recognition award.

The Level 3 winner was Michael Barton, from Chippindale Plant. Michael won the Level 2 prize in 2018. Meanwhile, the 2019 Level 2 winner was Paul Talent from Riwal. Both Michael and Paul attend Myerscough College on block release from their employer during their apprenticeships.

Congratulations also went to Kye Connop from Ainscough, for winning the Special Recognition Award.

Myerscough landscapers compete to be crowned the best in the UK at WorldSkills



Two Myerscough College landscaping learners took part in the WorldSkills UK Finals. Designed by industry experts, the WorldSkills UK Competitions equip apprentices and learners with the world-class skills needed to help UK businesses better compete globally.

Toby McLeay and Lewis Sharp joined more than 500 of the UK's top apprentices and learners who all competed in their chosen skill.

Both Toby and Lewis are currently undertaking an Intermediate Level 2 Landscape and Horticulture Operative Apprenticeship Standard programme with Myerscough College, while working with their respective employers, Urban Landscapes and JIG Landscapes.

Say cheese! Myerscough College celebrates 125th anniversary

Myerscough at 125 – A Brief History

In May 1894, Myerscough College, under its original name of the Lancashire County Institute of Agriculture, was born.

In 1893, Lancashire County Council issued a report that stated the desire to "acquire farmland in the Preston area for the specific purpose of technical training in both practical and theoretical agriculture."

Four farms were considered, and it was Home Farm, at Hutton, that was deemed to be most suitable. Possession of the farm was taken in the March, and teaching began in the May - an all-female group from the local area, who attended classes in butter and cheesemaking.

By the turn of the century, dairy production continued to be taught at Hutton, while teaching was gradually expanded to include courses such as poultry-keeping, and horticulture.

In 1920, a Mr J.J Green became first ever head of the institute to hold the title of 'Principal', a position he held until 1946. After the war, and through the 1920s, Hutton went from strength to strength as it established itself as an integral part of agriculture teaching in the North West and beyond.

As the 1930s dawned, a government report said provision needed updating. This led to a new laboratory, poultry cages and one of the first ever milking parlours in the country being built. During the Second World War, the main role played by the Institution was the training of almost 500 members of what was known as the 'Women's Land Army.' This was an organisation created for women to be trained to work in agriculture, replacing men called up to the military.

In September, 1946, J.J Green retired, and was replaced by a Mr J.C Blossom. His appointment coincided with the publication of The Loveday Report, which said that again Lancashire needed to make more adequate provision for land-based training. Following this, Lancashire County Council bought a second site, at Winmarleigh Hall, to run in conjunction with Hutton. The new site began to take students in 1949 and would go on to offer full time courses for decades to come.

In 1968, J.C.Blossom was succeeded as Principal by Frank Peregrine and by this time there was a clear need, and demand, for expansion. Frank has been with the Institution

since 1945, and was Vice Principal in charge at the Winmarleigh site. He was also the man who had the vision to move courses to our current main campus here at Bilsborrow.

It was back in 1957, that a report recommended that a single, bigger site was sought, where all courses could be accommodated, as well as new ones added. However, neither Hutton or Winmarleigh were either big enough or suitable for development.

Several sites were looked at, before Lancashire County Council bought the freehold of Myerscough Hall and Myerscough Hall Farm, and the leasehold on Myerscough Lodge Farm, all near the village of Bilsborrow, in 1962. The aim was to create a single centre, large enough to cope with the demand, both current and future, for land based education.

In 1967, the Institution changed its name, for the first time, to the Lancashire College of Agriculture. By late summer, 1969, the Myerscough site was ready to start accepting students, and offered a number of full time courses. The college's other sites at Hutton and Winmarleigh were kept on, with Hutton specialising in full time agriculture, while Winmarleigh focussed on part-time courses.

The new facility was state of the art, with emphasis on giving the student maximum value for their education in a rural setting, with the ability to expand the site in future years. On Friday, October 17th, 1969, at 3.40pm, Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the centre, unveiling an official plaque outside the Lecture Theatre.

The College continued to increase its operations significantly throughout the 1970s and 1980s. In 1979, the College's name was changed again





to the 'Lancashire College of Agriculture & Horticulture', to reflect the institution's growth.

Frank Peregrine retired in 1985. Tony Fox, having been Vice Principal for 17 years, took over.

The Further and Higher Education Act of 1992 made radical changes in the funding and administration of post 16 education within England and Wales. The act removed colleges from local government control, and so, on April 1st, 1993, the College became a corporate body, and with this, came another change of name, and 'Myerscough College' was the obvious choice.

The College began to diversify and offer courses in subjects including Animal Studies, Veterinary Nursing, Creative Design, Greenspace, Sport & Motorsport, Equine and Farriery, Mechanisation and, in later years, work-based learning and apprenticeships. New buildings, stables and a sports centre were built to accommodate the expansion.

The vision to become one single site was also finally realised by the end of the 1990s, as Myerscough College left the original site at Hutton in 1997, 103 years after the first lease was signed. In 1999, Winmarleigh was sold, leaving Myerscough, along with its farms, as the only campus. Since then, the College has branched out once more, opening a number of smaller centres, notably at Croxteth Hall in Liverpool, Witton Park in Blackburn, and from September 2019, at Walton Hall in Warrington.

Over the last twenty years, further significant improvements have been made to Myerscough's main campus. This included a new library and reception building, again opened by the Queen, in 1999. She visited again in 2015.

Since the 1990s, there have been three further changes at the top. Professor John Moverley OBE took over as Principal from Tony Fox, before in 2006, Ann Turner became the first woman to lead the College. She was succeeded in 2018 by current Chief Executive and Principal, Alison Robinson.

And so to the present. Today, the main campus boasts an impressive set of facilities, and Myerscough has also completed a £30 million campus enhancement programme, including an Engineering Centre, Rural Skills Centre and a state-of-the-art Veterinary Nursing Centre, a Foundation Learning Centre and extended Animal Studies complex. In addition, Myerscough's Lodge Farm boasts a sector leading, state-of-the-art Food and Farming Innovation and Technology Centre.

Myerscough College, established in 1894 and still growing.....



A few notable former students



Christine Walkden

Christine is a television presenter, celebrity horticulturalist and plantswoman, best known for her appearances on gardening programmes, The One Show and BBC Radio 4's Gardener's Question Time.



Paul Burgess

Paul is one of the world's leading groundsman, currently in charge of the playing surface at the Bernabeu, the home of Spanish footballing giants, Real Madrid.



Rob Musgrave

Rob is a highly respected technician in the world of Formula One. He's currently number one mechanic to Lewis Hamilton in the Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 team.



Anthony Pilkington

Anthony has risen through the footballing ranks to become a Premier League star with Norwich City and Cardiff, as well as a full Republic of Ireland international. He currently plays for Wigan Athletic.

List of Principals



J.J. Green (1929-1946)



J.C. Blossom (1947-1968)



Frank Peregrine OBE
(1968-1985)



Tony Fox OBE (1985-1997)



Professor John Moverley
OBE (1997-2005)



Ann Turner MBE (2006-2018)



Alison Robinson (2018-present)

Bilsborrow campus celebrates 50th anniversary



2019 saw the 50th anniversary of the official opening of Myerscough College's Bilsborrow campus, by Her Majesty, the Queen ceremony.

The Lancashire College of Agriculture, as Myerscough was then known, was a state-of-the-art campus, with emphasis on giving the student maximum value for their education in a rural setting, and with the ability to expand the site in future years.

The College had already been in existence since 1894, and by the late 1950s, courses in a range of land-based subjects were already being taught at the then main site at Hutton, and a smaller centre at Winmarleigh Hall.

Lancashire County Council bought the freehold of Myerscough Hall and Myerscough Hall Farm, and the leasehold on Myerscough Lodge Farm, in 1962. The aim was to develop the sites, totalling 531 acres, into a single centre, large enough to cope with the demand, both current and future, for land based education.

The Lancashire College of Agriculture accepted its first full intake of students at Bilsborrow in September, 1969. Initially, the College catered for 127 residential students, with two storey 'study bedrooms' built in such a way to create a 'village green' feel. This original block is still in use today. With the College based a considerable distance from significant town centre life, particularly entertainment, a clubhouse was built comprising of a bar, games room, TV room and a space for what was described as 'impromptu discotheque dances'. The main Lecture Theatre also remains in daily use today.

The 'teaching' part of the site was substantial too. There was a modern, two storey library, a laboratory complex for scientific research, and a sizeable teaching block was added soon after, which still stands today. There was an agricultural machinery workshop and store, while the farms were split into two purposes – one for teaching and



one for commercial use. The Myerscough Hall building was demolished and an administration block, still in use today, was built.

The College was honoured that the Queen accepted a formal invitation to open the Myerscough site. On Friday, October 17th, 1969, at 3.40pm, Her Majesty arrived to be greeted by dignitaries and College staff, before touring the library, unveiling an official plaque at the Lecture Theatre, and then viewing a display of College work.



Watch here



A former Principal of Myerscough College has been fondly recalling his memories on the 50th anniversary of the official opening of the Bilsborrow campus by Her Majesty, the Queen.

Tony Fox was Vice Principal when the Queen officially opened the centre. He would go on to become Principal in 1985, retiring in 1997.

Now in his 80s, we were delighted to welcome Tony back to the campus, and even into his former Principal's office, to share his memories of the day of the Queen's visit, and the early years of the Bilsborrow campus.



Twenty years of delivering Myerscough courses in Liverpool

Myerscough College has celebrated twenty years of providing a range of land-based study programmes at Croxteth Park, in Liverpool.

It was back in September, 1999, when the first cohort of students began a range of programmes at a centre situated within the Victorian walled garden of the Park, surrounded by more than 500 acres of parkland. This provided a unique setting, equipped with excellent practical facilities to study land-based subjects, just five miles from the heart of Liverpool City Centre.

The Croxteth centre quickly became one of the top land-based colleges in the Merseyside area, and the site now boasts a state-of-the-art Animal and Equine Studies Centre, which was completed in April, 2018, and was officially opened in early 2019, by Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, Steve Rotherham.

The facilities include three animal studies blocks along with stabling, aviaries and pens for goats, alpacas and hens adjacent to the Grade II listed former Laundry House. Two other buildings were converted for animal housing and dog grooming, and a third for reptiles, amphibians and tropical species, as well as accommodation for staff and students.

The development enables Myerscough to continue and enhance providing students with a first class environment to deliver quality education and training, to meet the changing educational needs of students, so they can continue developing to their full potential.

Witton Park partnership improves mental health in young people



A partnership between Myerscough's Witton Park campus and an organisation who work to improve the mental health in young people has been a huge success.

Myerscough teamed up with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust as part of the Myplace initiative, a scheme that aims to encourage people to take part in environmental activity to bring positive benefits for their own health and mental wellbeing, as well as to their local community.

Myerscough has already had significant involvement in the project, including the running of weekly sessions with the College's Level 1 Employability students.

Myplace aims to reach as many people as possible who may be experiencing mental health issues using what's called 'eco-therapy', where the young people involved can develop new skills and increase their self-esteem therefore building resilience and self-confidence.

Myerscough College **My Success 125 Years**

Myerscough enter into Wigan Athletic international partnership



Myerscough College has signed a deal with Wigan Athletic as part of an International Football Academy programme.

The scheme will see international sport students, in particular, from China, enjoy state-of-the-art training facilities, in addition to high quality coaching and academic teaching, and competitive fixtures and learner enrichment.

It's hoped that the exciting programme will grow and develop throughout 2020.

Croxteth campus shortlisted in prestigious Tes FE Awards



Myerscough College's Merseyside campus at Croxteth Park has been recognised for its work with a nomination at the 2020 Tes FE Awards.

The prestigious awards honour the most outstanding individuals and institutions that the further education sector has to offer, with Myerscough's Croxteth campus shortlisted in the Contribution to the local community category. The award recognises the individual, team or FE provider that has made the most impact in supporting the community socially, culturally or economically in the 2018-19 academic year.

Community cohesion has been a key focus at Myerscough's Croxteth Park centre for many years, but with added focus since the official opening of the campuses multi-million pound refurbishment and extension in January, 2019, receiving significant investment (£3.5 Million) from Liverpool City Region to provide outstanding facilities and specialist equipment those studying at the College, and in doing so, recognising the significant contribution the College makes to the local community.

Sports Success

Myerscough Rugby triumph at Portugal Rugby Youth Festival

Football student Jake stars in prestigious Italian tournament



A Myerscough College football student was one of the star players for the English Colleges FA in European tournament, the Roma Caput Mundi.

Jake Connelly headed off to Rome, Italy for the prestigious annual event, which is now in its 14th year, where the best players from across Europe represent their countries at Under-19 level.

During the week-long tournament, Jake played in competitive fixtures against Moldova, the Italian National Amateur League (Italy/LND) and Wales Colleges (Welsh Colleges FA). Other teams in the tournament included Kosovo, Malta, Greece (EPS Pellas), and C.R Lazio, gaining great experience and an understanding of what tournament football is like.

Winger Jake was awarded the Man of the Match award for his display against Moldova, while data also showed across the tournament, he covered the most distance on the pitch, and was involved in the most 'Power Plays'.



Myerscough College's rugby students were crowned champions of Europe's premier youth tournament – the Portugal Rugby Youth Festival.

The Portugal Rugby Youth Festival is considered to be the best European rugby tournament for youth teams, giving Myerscough students team an unforgettable enrichment experience both on and off the pitch, with matches played within the Lisbon University Stadium Complex.

The Under-19s boys event saw Myerscough face formidable competition from countries including Australia, France, Wales and the USA, beating Truro College 13-0 in the final.

In addition, Myerscough student, Tom Walker, was voted Player of the Tournament for his performances.

It was also a highly enjoyable tournament for Myerscough's Under-17 squad, with wins against Erikslund Rugby (Sweden, 31-0), Academica (Portugal, 10-5), Sao Miguel (Portugal, 22-0) and USA Schools (17-7) on their way to making the Plate Final in their age group.



Cricketer Jacks roars into England Lions squad



A Myerscough College cricket student was called up to the England Young Lions squad to tour Bangladesh.

Jack Morley was selected in a squad of 15, to compete in one T20, three ODIs and two Test matches, while on a Level 3 BTEC Cricket Studies programme, based at Myerscough's centre at Emirates Old Trafford.

Meanwhile, left-arm spinner Jack signed his first professional deal with Lancashire County Cricket Club, after impressing as part of their Academy programme.

Golf students retain prestigious national AoC title



A team of Level 3 BTEC Golf Studies learners from Myerscough College won the national AoC Sport Open Golf Championship at St Andrews, retaining their title.

Students from all across the country competed over two days on the Torrance and Kittocks courses, with Myerscough College dominating the tournament, comfortably retaining their Open Championship team prize, while Jack McPhail won the boys' gross trophy.

Myerscough College girls are on the ball



A group of female students are showing that they're on the ball as they take women's football to a new level at Myerscough College.

The students are all on a range of study programmes, including football studies, sports and exercise sciences and public services, and represent Myerscough in a range of competitive fixtures in the Association of Colleges (AoC) North West League, while attending a range of modules in areas including fitness, research, physiology, psychology, biomechanics, nutrition and the athlete's lifestyle, as part of their course.

The fixtures are made more accessible by the fact that participating teams can choose between themselves whether they want to play a 7-a-side, 9-a-side, or a full 11-a-side match.

Myerscough named in top providers by Cricketer magazine



Myerscough College's cricket study programme at Emirates Old Trafford has been named among the best in the country by The Cricketer magazine, for a second time.

The Cricketer published its Good Schools Guide 2020, featuring its top 100 schools and providers. All entries were judged against an extensive set of criteria, with the chosen schools having outstanding facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.

Students at Old Trafford enrol on a Level 3 programme in Cricket Studies, based at Lancashire County Cricket Club. As well as academic study and training, as part of their course they enjoy a large number of competitive fixtures, including an overseas tour to South Africa.

Myerscough's basketballers are European history makers



Myerscough College's basketballers became champions of Europe after winning the European Youth Basketball League (EYBL) regular season.

Myerscough College's Basketball Academy won all of their five games in the third and final stage in Valmiera, Latvia, to finish with a record of 14 wins from their 15 games across three stages, including 12 straight victories. The under-20 competition regular season is staged across three weekends throughout the year, and concludes with a Final Four next month, with Myerscough the top seeds heading into the Superfinal.

The EYBL is one of the premier FIBA competitions for juniors and features renowned teams from across the continent, with Myerscough joining the Under-20 'Euroleague' format tournament. The competition is held over three weekends, with teams playing five games in each stage. The U20 league table comprises of seventeen teams from different countries across the continent, with Myerscough's record ensuring they finish top of the table.

It is only Myerscough College's second season of competing in the EYBL. In 2019, Myerscough came within a whisker of becoming overall champions, losing in the Superfinal.

Neal Hopkins, Myerscough's Basketball Programme Leader, said: *"I've poured my life into basketball for as long as I can remember to earn a moment like this. This is a moment in British basketball history that will forever belong to Myerscough College!"*

"Playing in the EYBL has provided our players, staff and the programme with an amazing opportunity to gain



experience playing at a very high level against some of the best U20 teams in Europe.

"The thing we've really learned over the last 12 months is the effectiveness of the British style in Europe. The boys have bought into what we as a coaching staff are trying to preach and that makes us a difficult team to play against."

Meanwhile, Myerscough College's basketballers were crowned Elite Academy Basketball League (EABL) North Conference champions after winning all 14 of their games to end the regular season with a perfect record of 14-0.

For the 2019/20 season, teams were split into Northern and Southern Conferences, with Myerscough in the North, alongside Manchester Magic Academy, Charnwood, Newcastle Eagles, Derby College, South Gloucestershire & Stroud College, The Sheffield College, and James Watt College.

Myerscough have dominated college basketball since their formation in 2013, winning dozens of regional and national titles in less than seven seasons. Further high-level playing opportunities this year for students include the National Basketball League and the European Youth Basketball League.

You can read more about Myerscough Basketball Academy at www.myerscoughbasketball.co.uk

Graduation & Fellowships

Student success celebrated as four new Honorary Fellowships awarded

President of the National Farmers' Union, Minette Batters; former England rugby Head Coach, Brian Ashton MBE; businessman, rally driver, and Down's syndrome campaigner, John Stone; and former Myerscough College Chief Executive and Principal, Ann Turner MBE, have all accepted the highest honour that the College can bestow.

They have now been inducted into the College's elite group of inspirational people and join a very exclusive club that contains names from the world of business, sport and entertainment.



John Stone is awarded a Myerscough College Honorary Fellowship in recognition an outstanding contribution to motorsport.

John Stone is a prominent businessman, rally driver, and Down's syndrome campaigner. His company, Legend Fires, has sponsored the prestigious North West Stages rally since 2004.

Away from business, John competes in stage rallying and has contested every North West Stages Rally since 2000. When, in 2004, the organisers were looking for an event sponsor, Legend Fires came on board to support the event. Fifteen years on and the company's name is intrinsically linked to the event that is known throughout the sport as the Legend Fires North West Stages. In 2019, it became the first ever 'closed roads' rally event in the north of England.

John said: *"When I received the invitation I couldn't believe I'd be in the same company as previous recipients such as Andrew Flintoff, Bill Beaumont, and one of my heroes, motorcycle legend, John McGuinness."*

"In 1997 our son was born with Down's syndrome. Through our work we've shown that people with Down's can do great things, given the opportunity. I'd like to thank everybody involved for this prestigious honour."



Minette Batters is awarded a Myerscough College Honorary Fellowship in recognition of an outstanding contribution in the field of agriculture and the National Farmers' Union.

Minette Batters is the current President of the National Farmers' Union, becoming the first woman hold the position in its 110 year history. The NFU represents

more than 50,000 members of the agriculture sector in England and Wales.

Minette said: *"It's an enormous privilege to be here today, and I'm delighted to accept the fellowship."*

"I have seen first-hand the depth of the wonderful work that goes on here. Congratulations to all the students graduating and I wish you all the best."

"When I became President of the NFU I was told I'd broken through a glass ceiling. I'd say to every student to try and break yours. Be calculated risk takers, and go and follow your dreams."



Brian Ashton MBE is awarded a Myerscough College Honorary Fellowship in recognition of an outstanding contribution in the field of rugby and sports coaching.

Brian Ashton MBE has had a distinguished career in the world of rugby and beyond, including leading England to the World Cup final in 2007.

Brian then had a brief spell as National Coach of Ireland from 1997 to 1998, before becoming

Clive Woodward's assistant with England from 1998 to 2002, and was the RFU's National Academy Manager from 2002 to 2005.

Brian returned to Bath as head coach at the start of 2006, and was then appointed as England attack coach from May 2006, and as Head Coach by the end of the year, leading his country in the 2007 World Cup. Here, against the odds, England made the final, where they narrowly lost to South Africa.

Nowadays, he operates a coaching consultancy, and was awarded the MBE in 2008.

Brian said: *"I'm excited, proud, but feel very humbled to receive this fellowship. But, it is about the graduates, who have done an amazing job to get here and I congratulate you all."*



Ann Turner MBE is awarded a Myerscough College Honorary Fellowship in recognition of outstanding contribution to Myerscough College and land-based education.

Ann Turner MBE was Chief Executive and Principal of Myerscough College from 2006-2018, becoming the first woman to lead the institution. She spent more than twelve years in the role, and had a twenty year association with the College.

Before Ann became the College's first female Principal in its 110 year history, she was a long term member of Myerscough's senior management team, having previously held the position of Director of Finance for seven years, from 1998. Ann played a key role in ensuring the College achieved significant growth and enhanced its position regionally, nationally and internationally.

She was awarded the MBE in January, 2019.

Ann said: *"Thank you for this amazing honour given to me. To stand on this stage is a real privilege and one I feel truly humbled to receive."*

"Myerscough will always have a very special in my heart after spending twenty of my happiest professional years on this campus. I loved my job and worked with some amazing people."

They join a fellowship list including the likes of ex-Manchester United manager, David Moyes; football legends Jimmy Armfield CBE & Sir Tom Finney; cricketer Andrew Flintoff; and supermarket entrepreneur, Edwin Booth.

As usual, ceremonies took place across Lancashire & Merseyside this year that have seen hundreds of Myerscough College and University Centre students presented with their qualifications in both Higher and Further Education, ranging from degrees and foundation degrees, through to BTECs, City & Guilds, and a host of other vocational qualifications and apprenticeships.

Alison Robinson, Principal & Chief Executive of Myerscough College, said: *"I welcome all of our new Honorary College Fellows, and I know they join us in congratulating all our students in their achievements."*

"Their studies with us have equipped them exceptionally well for the future. We wish them all a very happy, healthy and successful future."

Campus Developments

First learners begin at new Warrington campus



The first learners have begun their studies at Myerscough College's new centre, based at the historic Walton Hall, in Warrington.

Walton Hall Gardens was awarded nearly two million pounds from the National Lottery via the Heritage Lottery Fund to transform and restore part of the estate. Warrington Borough Council worked with Myerscough College, along with other partners, Walton Lea Partnership and the Friends of Walton Estate on the winning bid, which included plans to restore the historic conservatory and stable buildings and transform the old buildings into a dedicated learning centre.

The stable yard, once occupied by Lady Daresbury's prized Kerry cattle, has become classrooms and offices, with the historic conservatory and vinery used as teaching, growing and display space. The students will be carrying out project work on the Walton Estate and in the Children's Zoo as part of their course.

The Walton Lea Partnership is a charity that provides supported employment for adults with learning disabilities, mental health problems, mobility issues and early onset Alzheimers. Meanwhile, The Friends of Walton Estate is an active volunteer group who share a common belief in the value of open spaces and a particular love of Walton Estate.



Myerscough's inaugural Arbor Day is tree-mendous



Myerscough College hosted a special day of celebration of all things trees, in an inaugural 'Arbor Day'.

The event, supported by the Arbor Day Foundation (US) and the Mersey Forest, was a huge celebration of trees, those that work with trees (arborists), and recognition of a hugely important global industry. Although there is a UK National Tree Week, focusing specifically on planting initiatives, no official day celebrates all things arboriculture.

The day featured a number of VIP guests from as far afield as Gibraltar and Italy, major industry guest speakers, a tree climbing demonstration, as well as an official tree planting event at the centre of the College campus to mark the occasion. Work is already well underway on a new woodland area which is being created on campus, called 'Arbor Day Wood'.

The day also received high profile endorsements from Sir David Attenborough, Dan Snow MBE, and F1 stars Jonathan and Jolyon Palmer, among others. Meanwhile, Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation in the USA, sent a special video message as part of the celebrations.

It's hoped that the day will now become an annual event.

As part of wider tree planting projects, Myerscough has been involved in a number of initiatives, including planting trees at the local primary school, as part of outreach to the local community, as well as assisting the Mersey Forest with the clearing of new sites for tree planting schemes.

Trees are very important for the well-being of people living in towns and cities, so Myerscough has chosen to support the Mersey Forest for the work they do with local communities to achieve greener and healthier neighbourhoods.



Watch some highlights
from the event here



Lancashire
Tourism Awards
— 2019 —
FINALIST
SMALL EVENT AWARD

Open Day and Country Fair

Thousands flock to Myerscough Open Day & Country Fair

It was another bumper year for the Myerscough College Open Day & Country Fair.

Thousands of people were welcomed to the College's main Bilsborrow campus to enjoy the excellent weather and the hundreds of attractions on offer.

The College's biggest event of the year is now well established as one of the best days out in Lancashire's outdoor events calendar. An action-packed family fun day out, the event included the usual array of demonstrations, shows and interactive activities from the College's many diverse subject areas as well as food, drink and entertainment. Prospective students also got the chance to see the beautiful campus at its best and chat with tutors and staff from each area.

The Open Day & Country Fair is a major undertaking for Myerscough and involves months of preparation by staff and students as well as working closely with dozens of partners, third party companies and exhibitors.

Highlights of the day this year included a headline performance from the 3SIXTY Stunt bicycle team, the ever popular Sheep Show and the Dog and Duck Show, equestrian shows and demonstrations, motorsport and machinery displays, agricultural shows and falconry demonstrations, photography and floral exhibitions, a Sport Zone and children's activities. The agriculture and countryside zones and superb landscaped gardens also proved extremely popular.

The BASC scurry proved a hit, as did a giant Children's Inflatable Playground and sheep dog trial demonstration. Visitors also enjoyed tractor and trailer rides, farm tours, off-road driving experiences, while visitors were also able to have a look at the College's array of new buildings, and enjoy other 'have-a-go' activities, including landscaping, button hole making and planting.

Myerscough was also honoured to welcome a special visitor to the event, as the RAF performed a flypast with their famous Avro Lancaster aircraft, making a number of passes across the main countryside arena.

Choose Myerscough Make us your number one choice!

- £35 million campus development programme
- OFSTED rated GOOD (March 2017) with 'highly effective' teaching
- OFSTED rated GOOD for Care & Support of Residential Students
- 98% of learners in employment or study within six months of graduation
- National Centre of Sporting Excellence in football, golf, rugby, cricket and basketball
- QAA Higher Education Review highlighted two commendations and 10 areas of good practice – one of the best reports in the country
- Prestigious Gold TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) Award 2018



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU FOR
OUR NEXT OPEN DAY AND COUNTRY FAIR
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 6th, 2021**



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