

insight

June 18

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Broadway star goes to college in Warrington

ONLY a few months after performing at the Oscars in front of Meryl Streep and Denzel Washington, Natalie Weiss was performing in Warrington.

The Broadway performer was at Priestley College teaching a rendition of "This Is Me" from "The Greatest Showman" and sharing anecdotes of meeting Hugh Jackman and Zac Efron.

Student Tommy Bowden said: "It was one of the best experiences of my life to be working on a song that has become so popular with someone who performed it on the Omovie's soundtrack and at the Oscars."

Priestley's performing arts department had booked the workshop after hearing that Natalie was in the country for several weeks on work commitments.

The day started with a focus on riffing and progressed into rehearsals of a performance based on the memorable Oscars' performance by Keala Settle.

After a full run through of "This Is Me" some of Priestley's young performers sang solos before receiving critiques from Natalie and her travelling companion Andrew Hodge, who has himself toured across America in shows such as "Cats", "42nd Street" and "A Chorus Line".

Several of the college's former students returned for the workshop with Hannah Gallimore wowing the American Idol semi-finalist.

"I had the best time working with the students at Priestley College," said Natalie. "The enthusiastic energy and natural talent in that room was so inspiring. I hope to come back and work with them in the near future!"

Natalie appears on the ensemble for the Hugh Jackman musical, "The Greatest Showman", which

has been a phenomenon in the UK selling more than 500,000 albums and raking in around £50 million at the UK box office.

She has also appeared in the US national tours of Wicked and Les Miserables.

At the end of the workshop Natalie sang "Breathe" – written by Kooman and Dimond – on the stage where Priestley's students will be performing "Fame" in just

a few weeks.

"I honestly think it will be a day our students will never forget," said head of performing arts Sarah Graham.

"To receive intensive and constructive advice from someone with Natalie's experience and talent is so valuable and we could see the improvement in individuals' performances as they day went on."



Transformed bus network is the cat's whiskers

WARRINGTON'S Own Buses, the new name for Network Warrington, has got its claws stuck into Lymm and south Warrington making wholesale improvements to the network.

The introduction of the "Cheshire Cat", a newly branded network servicing the south of the borough, has come into effect and offers a high frequency service, up to every 10 minutes, across a simplified and better connected network.

These transformational changes have also seen the introduction of a new cutting-edge bus fleet. The Cheshire Cat branded include the latest transport essentials, including WiFi, extra leg room, luxury seats and USB charging points.

The Cheshire Cat network now also passes past Warrington Bank Quay station and Centre Park. Bank Quay Station is an important gateway to the town and until the Cheshire Cat did not have a regular bus service to and from the interchange.

Managing Director of Warrington's Own Buses, Ben Wakerley, said: "I'm pleased that we're making

big improvements to the south network that will hopefully have our customers purring. These are truly buses to be seen on!

"Feedback from our customers about the new bus fleet and simplified route has been really encouraging so far.

"We are committed to investing in a high-quality transport network that provides an excellent service for as many residents as possible, and we're pleased to see how well the new Cheshire Cat fleet has been received.

"We aren't resting on our laurels. The company is going through some big changes – the Cheshire Cat and our rebrand being two major milestones – and we will continue to work hard to improve our service in all areas of Warrington.

For more information about the new Cheshire Cat fleet, visit warringtonownbuses.co.uk or follow @WarringtonBuses on Twitter.

New timetable booklets are also available at the travel shop in the interchange or on the Cheshire Cat buses.



Manufacturing Growth Slows in April

Manufacturers grew at their slowest pace as export demand weakened and order books eased.

Factories have grown in every month for almost two years and the purchasing managers index (PMI) indicates output increased again in April.

Its score of 53.9 indicates moderate growth – any score above 50 indicates an expansion but this is the slowest pace in 127 months.

From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



UK GDP Growth Slows to Six Year Low

The UK economy grew by 0.1% in Q1 2018, the slowest rate of growth since Q4 2012. In annual terms, the UK economy grew by 1.2% in Q1. UK economic output is now estimated to be 10.7% above its pre-recession peak in Q1 2008.

The results of the Q1 2018

Quarterly Economic Survey pointed to subdued growth in Q1 2018. The balance of firms in the manufacturing sector reporting increasing domestic sales fell from +23 to +17 the lowest since Q4 2016. In the services sector, the balance of firms reporting rising domestic

sales held steady at +20. The latest balances show a continued pick-up in export activity for both service sector firms and manufacturers.

The survey also recorded a pickup in business confidence and investment intentions in the first quarter.

Cyber Essentials Scheme

The Cyber Essentials scheme has been developed by the UK Government in partnership with other bodies to try to address concerns that SMEs are not protected against cyber-attacks.

It is essentially an annual cyber MOT for SMEs to ensure that their business is putting into place basic measures to better protect themselves against cyber-attacks, and to instigate the damaged caused by such an

attack.

Furthermore HM Government has now made it mandatory for all organisations bidding

on contracts through the Public Procurement Network to have the Cyber Essentials certification.

Economic Update

The latest UK labour market figures revealed that in the three months to March 2018, the number of people in employment rose by 197,000 unemployment fell by 46,000 over the same period. The

unemployment rate currently stands at 4.2% down from 4.6% for a year earlier and the joint lowest since 1975.

Average weekly earnings (excluding bonuses) rose by 2.9% up from 2.8%.

UK Export Performance & Trade Confidence Index

The number of UK businesses reporting improved export sales increased in Q4 2017; manufacturing sector + 43%, service sector + 27%.

The Chambers of Commerce

Trade Confidence Index – a measure of the volume of trade documentation issued nationally decreased by 2% in Q4 2017 compared to Q3 2017, but increased by 3.4% compared to Q4 2016.

Park Royal Hotel wins Best Venue Customer Service Award

THE Park Royal Hotel in Warrington has been awarded the 'Best Venue Customer Service' award at the National Venue Awards 2018.

The award was made after a panel of industry experts recognised the hotel's commitment to customer satisfaction.

The National Venue Awards ceremony is a celebration of the diversity and versatility displayed by the UK venues sector. The Park Royal faced competition from four other notable venues on the day but were victorious in securing the prestigious award.

Annie Brown General Manager of The Park Royal said: "the National Venue Awards Best Venue Customer Service award is based on recognising excellence and rewarding exceptional quality provided to customers.

"It's wonderful recognition for the team here, who work incredibly hard to exceed our customers' expectations and offer a truly memorable experience each and every time. The award speaks volumes about the high standards that underpin everything we do."

The 2018 result demonstrates The Park Royal's commitment to raising and maintaining high standards and ensuring customer satisfaction for every guest.

The Park Royal Hotel, leisure and spa based in Warrington, features 146 bedrooms, a state-of-the-art spa and on-site leisure facilities, making it a popular choice for guests looking for short breaks or special getaways.



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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

Blue Whale Media climb Snowdon for Warrington Animal Welfare

THE Blue Whale Media team recently climbed Wales' highest peak, Mount Snowdon, and raised over £1000 pounds for Warrington Animal Welfare.

A charity dedicated to safeguarding animals, this animal shelter provides a warm home for a variety of abandoned animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and more. Kept running entirely by donations, Warrington Animal Welfare receives no government funding and relies on a devoted team of over 70 volunteers with only a small amount of part-time staff.

The team of hikers managed to raise over £500 for the charity through public donations, with Blue Whale Media matching the publicly raised amount to make for a total sum of over £1000 raised for the animal shelter. The ascent began at 9 AM in the morning from the base of the mountain inside Snowdonia National Park with the group tackling the nine-mile Llanberis path to the top of the mountain. While the Blue Whale Media hikers slightly underestimated the warm weather on the day, there were plenty of breaks in between the hike in order to rest and try out the team's Blue Whale Parrot drone. With plenty of open air to operate, the team captured some fantastic images of the mountain and the surrounding scenery. By half five, the team had conquered the summit of the mount were back at the start of the trail in the mountain's pub for a cold beer.

While the team is already planning

another fundraising event in the form of a 5K fancy dress charity fun run, everyone at Blue Whale Media was ecstatic with the sum raised for Warrington Animal Welfare. Based at Slutchers Lane in Warrington, the animal shelter takes in unwanted,

abandoned and abused animals and work tirelessly to save and improve the quality of life for hundreds of animals and pets. The Warrington Animal Welfare team pride themselves on never putting a healthy animal down and always accepting adoptions back in case their new home isn't the right fit. Along with all this, they provide low-cost neutering services for

cats and kittens, as well as a free neutering scheme for low-income households.

If you'd like to donate or find any information about Warrington Animal Welfare be sure to visit their website at www.warringtonanimalwelfare.org.uk/



Consultation launched on transport plan to boost Cheshire and Warrington economy

BUSINESSES and residents across Cheshire and Warrington are being urged to have their say on a new transport strategy for the region designed to boost economic growth over the next 20 years.

For the next 12 weeks Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is consulting on its draft Transport Strategy setting out how transport provision within the region should develop to help create a £50bn a year economy by 2040.

Working with Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington councils, the LEP has identified the strategic transport priorities that will be essential for achieving Cheshire and Warrington's growth plan.

Cheshire and Warrington is already well connected, sitting at the heart of the strategic road network and is well placed in relation to the strategic rail network. A number of key rail hubs, including Chester, Warrington and Crewe provide access to the West Coast Mainline linking the sub region with services to London and Scotland. The region also benefits from proximity to

a number of key international gateways including Manchester and Liverpool Airports and the Port of Liverpool.

However, connectivity varies within the sub region, with lower levels of accessibility in some rural and intermediate areas, while it

suffers from significant peak period congestion on the highway network and infrequent and slow local rail services.

Warrington Club honour Norman Banner MBE

A special luncheon took place at the Warrington Club in recognition of long standing member Norman Banner receiving an MBE in the New Year Honours.

Club members, colleagues and friends gathered to celebrate Norman's honour in recognition of his services to the Warrington community spanning more than 50 years.

Colleague and long standing friend Charles Agar, Chairman of Warrington law firm FDR, outlined Norman's many achievements.

Born and bred in Warrington, Norman's voluntary work began over 50 years ago when he built and ran up the Youth Club at Grappenhall Independent

Methodist Church for a number of years.

After graduating in law from Manchester Polytechnic, he joined Robert Davies & Co and has served a total of over 47 years with one

or other of the component firms that comprise FDR Law. He became a partner in the practice and rose to Senior Partner before retiring from the partnership at 65 and continues as a consultant solicitor with the firm.



Finalists announced for Warrington Business Awards 2018

THE finalists have been announced for the Warrington Business Awards 2018.

Sponsored by Redwood Bank and Warrington & Co the winners will be announced at a glittering awards ceremony in a giant marquee at Lymm Rugby Club on Friday, June 8.

Danny Hudson, Warrington Business Awards 2018 Organising Committee Member and Partner at Watsons Solicitors, said: "Each year we are amazed at the quality of the nominations across all of the Warrington Business Awards categories, and 2018 has been no different.

"Ensuring our town has the opportunity to showcase the remarkable entrepreneurs, executives, apprentices and organisations of our local community is why all of us on the organising committee are so passionate about volunteering our time.

"Massive congratulations to all of the finalists and an enormous thank you to everyone who entered – unfortunately there were numerous wonderful entries which didn't make the shortlist due to the extraordinary quality of nominations.

"I also add an additional thank you to our panel of independent judges who had the unenviable task of selecting the finalist and winners and gave up their time so generously. Tickets are selling fast and we look forward to welcoming the Warrington business community to the fabulous Warrington Business Awards 2018 on Friday 8 June."

Pictured: Key Integrated Services celebrate winning the Business of the Year Award in 2016

The Finalists for each award are:
Business of the Year sponsored by FDR Law
Cheshire Day Nursery
Dunky's Day Nursery
Pennington Choices

Business Woman of the Year sponsored by Watsons Solicitors
Martine Jarman
Siobhan McCarroll

Maria Sarkar
Business Man of the Year sponsored by Styles & Co Chartered Accountants
Gary Jenkins
Paul McGerty
Sim Sekhon

Employer of the Year sponsored by Primas Law
Alba Spinal Health Centre
Legal for Landlords
Pennington Choices

Apprentice of the Year sponsored by Optionis
Elle Hadland, Toni and Guy
Ryan Kenny, Stanley Engineering
Fastening
Kitty Meyer, Voisey and Co

Community Initiative of the Year sponsored by Warrington Worldwide
Offload, Warrington Wolves Foundation
Positive Life Skills, Warrington Youth Club
The Phoenix Project, Warrington Disability Partnership
Young Chefs, Warrington Youth Club

Innovation of the Year sponsored by Sci-Tech Daresbury
8KFlexWarm
Media and Digital
Viscgo

New Business of the Year (Start-up) sponsored by Natwest
Admove Estate Agents
iSupply Industrial
Staticlec

Green Award sponsored by Winwick Road Skip Hire
Global Lifecycle Solutions EMEA
Golden Square
Urban Eco Car Clean

Hospitality Provider of the Year sponsored by Inspire
Gulliver's World Warrington
Moore Rugby Union Football Club
Room Forty

Retailer of the Year sponsored by Golden Square
Disability Trading Company
Pets Pantry
The Dress Studio

Lifetime Achievement Award sponsored by Consilium Accountants
A special award to be presented on the night by the Organising Committee.



Park Royal Hotel set to celebrate 25 years with charity ball

THE Park Royal Hotel at Stretton is celebrating 25 years since first opening the doors to their on-site events centre with a special anniversary charity ball.

The events centre has played host to many spectacular events over the years, including weddings, gala dinners, charity balls and birthday parties.

To mark the occasion, The Park Royal is hosting a glamorous anniversary ball in the Royal Suite on July 13, in conjunction with

Warrington Disability Partnership and the Tim Parry and Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation, with a percentage of all ticket sales going to the two charities. The night will consist of arrival drinks, a delicious 3 course dinner, a table magician, live band and a DJ, complete with a dance floor for guests to party the night away!

This event is set to be a night to remember, with tickets selling fast, so don't miss out on securing your place! Call 01925 730 706 or email events@theparkroyal.co.uk to

book your ticket.

*Tickets are £40 and a percentage of each ticket sale will be donated to Warrington Disability Partnership and the Tim Parry and Johnathan



Ball Peace Foundation.

*For parties of 10 or more, the organiser will be treated to a complimentary stay at The Park Royal on the night of the party



Pioneering PDRL team heading down under!

HOT on the heels of their historic first win Warrington's physical Disability Rugby League team is now heading down under!

Warrington Wolves' PDRL team defeated Wakefield 26-14 in a curtain raiser before the Wolves' Challenge Cup victory over Toronto Wolfpack.

Now following a chance phone call and a small pot of money the team will take part in the first Club Challenge in Australia at the ANZ Stadium, against South Sydney Rabbitohs in August.

Wolves Foundation Chief Executive Neil Kelly explained: "Over the past year we have seen the Rugby Football League open up opportunities for people with both physical and learning disabilities.

"Warrington Wolves have been at the forefront of this development through their amazing disability programme that consists of their own youth club and football teams.

"With the support and passion of Adam Hills, Australian comedian and TV presenter of The Last Leg, the vision to create a Rugby League team has taken off.

"A mad South's fan, Adam's boyhood dream has been to play Rugby League and Warrington Wolves made that dream come true on 4 February this year, at the Asics Stadium when the first PDRL game took place against the Leeds Rhinos.

Now the ambition is Australia and the first Club Challenge; a major step for the development of the game internationally."

Adam said, "I cant believe this is happening and I am still torn who I will play for. I have even spoke to Russell Crowe about playing but he's playing on an old Gladiator injury."

This is an amazing opportunity for this group to not only play the game they love but take part in the unique experience of travelling Down Under.

The group needs to raise £50,000 to get to Australia and are looking for businesses or individuals willing to support them, having also set up a Just Giving page.

Adam is also producing a documentary around the journey of PDRL and the RFL are backing and

promoting it at the Wembley final.

For more information on how you can get involve contact shaunbriscoe@wolvesfoundation.com or donate now at www.justgiving.com/PDRL

Meanwhile the Wolves Foundation continued with their ground breaking initiatives as they hosted the first ever Learning Disabilities (LDRL) game of Rugby League at the Halliwell Jones recently, when the Wire triumphed 8-4 over Wakefield.



Chester-based commercial insurance broker Risk Services (NW) Ltd joins Gallagher

INSURANCE brokers Gallagher has announced the acquisition of Chester-based commercial insurance broker Risk Services (NW) Ltd ('Risk Services'), further expanding its presence as a community broker with global reach in the North-West of England and North Wales.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Gallagher will welcome Risk Services and its c.20-strong team of insurance professionals into the North-West region of its UK-wide branch network, which together serves customers from more than 50 locations across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Risk Services was established in 1999 by Managing Director Steve Lowe to deliver tailor-made cost-effective solutions for corporate and commercial clients. Since then the business has grown organically and through acquisition to become one of the largest independent insurance brokers in Chester, North Wales and the surrounding area.

Risk Services founder Steve Lowe will continue in the business focusing on client relationships and business development and, as part of the transaction, Director Tom Penn will step up to the role of

Head of Office in Chester.

Commenting on the deal, Stephen Penketh, Regional Managing Director for Gallagher, said: "Being a community broker first and foremost, Gallagher is always looking for like-minded, entrepreneurial, quality local businesses that will strengthen our UK footprint and further improve our on-the-ground service for clients. Bringing Steve, Tom and their team into the Gallagher family extends our presence and reinforces our commitment to the North-West and North Wales.

We're delighted to welcome them all."

Steve Lowe said: "I am enormously proud of the business we have built over the last 19 years so it was important to choose the right partner to take it to the next level. We wanted a partner that would share our values and offer security to our clients, while providing access to an even greater array of technical expertise, buying power and specialist capabilities. Gallagher is one of the largest insurance and risk management companies in the world yet it still holds true to the family values and client-first culture on which it was founded, making it the ideal fit."



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting



Stephen Penketh, Regional Managing Director for Gallagher.

Book auction raises funds to help improve literacy

THE literacy of teenagers in Warrington and Cheshire is set to be further improved thanks to the community spirit and passion shown at Warrington & Vale Royal College's inaugural Book Society Auction.

More than £500 was raised at the event, with funds going towards its reading campaign, funding books for students that will inevitably help to improve their reading age and abilities.

The event – held in the college's very own Buckley's restaurant – was dubbed a huge success by all that attended, including college staff, governors, representatives from LiveWire, Warrington's Own Buses and sponsor Warrington Worldwide.

As well as featuring a delicious four course meal, the Book Society Auction saw special guest Malcolm Crane – author of *The Rugby Clubs of England* – deliver a fantastic talk, sharing his rugby anecdotes from a journalist's and former player's perspective. He also donated a number of copies of his book, which

were snapped up before the event was over.

Gary Skentelbery, editor of Warrington Worldwide – which has supported the college through a number of reading initiatives – said: "After hearing about the literacy issues facing young people we wanted to do something to help encourage people to read more books.

"It was fantastic to see the college replicating the historic Warrington Gentleman's Book Society and at the same time raising funds to help improve literacy in the town.

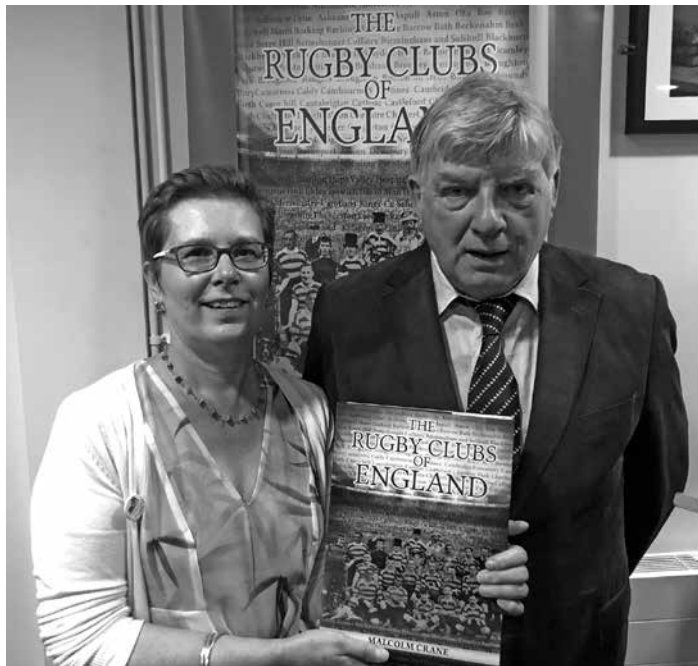
"It was a superb event in a great facility and everyone had a great time.

"We look forward to next year's event!"

Elizabeth Draper, Director of English at the college, was instrumental in the event's success, even taking up the role of auctioneer on the night.

She said: "This was a lively, fun night where we all celebrated the joy and entertainment to be found in books

and reading - it was a fantastic fund-raising experience combined with fine dining in our brilliant restaurant – what's not to like? The WVR #wherereadingmatters reading campaign continues, firmly buoyed up by the support and generosity of all involved in the auction."



University project aims to support Cheshire and Warrington innovation

Small and Medium Sized businesses (SMEs) in the Cheshire and Warrington area are being encouraged to sign up to a project which will introduce innovation into their organisations.

Based at the University of Chester's Thornton Science Park, the Innovation to Commercialisation project (I2C) seeks to help eligible SME businesses with innovation, and advance commercialisation of new products, processes and services to the marketplace. It is supported and partly funded by the European

Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The project will offer SMEs access to various University facilities, including the Energy Centre at Thornton Science Park, and resources, together with the I2C team of engineers and specialist equipment.

To find out more about I2C including whether your company fits the eligibility please visit www1.chester.ac.uk/i2c Or contact the Business Growth Team at Thornton Science Park, tel: 01244-567500

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for a night to remember!

Former student makes name for himself in the world of refereeing

A FORMER Warrington & Vale Royal College student had no idea that in less than three years he would be a qualified match official putting his referee skills to the test at Wembley Stadium.

Matt Charnock, from Orford has received a raft of awards since leaving the college, where he completed a level 3 diploma in rugby league, run in partnership with Warrington Wolves.

The 18-year-old has now praised the college for helping him to improve his knowledge of rugby league and for giving him the opportunities he needed to follow his dream.

Since leaving college, Matt has gone on to achieve great success, having been named Referee of the Year in November's Warrington Man of Steel Awards, as well as being named Young Referee of the Year by Warrington Rugby League Referees' Society (WRLR).

Former Beamont Collegiate Academy pupil Matt also received

the prestigious Joe Manley Cup last year, awarded in recognition of outstanding services to the WRLR society.

Matt's greatest success though was being named as one of eight match officials selected to officiate the Champion Schools Finals last August at the awe-inspiring Wembley Stadium.

Matt said said: "Refereeing is going really well. Being given these awards and recognition is really nice because refereeing can be a thankless job most of the time, so when you do receive that recognition, it makes the job worthwhile."

As part of the rugby league course, students are Warrington & Vale Royal College are given the opportunity to earn their refereeing qualification

during sessions led by Warrington Wolves.

Matt added: "The course at Warrington & Vale Royal College definitely improved my knowledge of the game and the players' understanding of the game too. It also gave me excellent opportunities to go to different countries and experience how rugby differs in other cultures."

Matt is one of a number of students who have gone on to succeed in the world of sport since completing their qualifications at Warrington & Vale Royal College. Former student Pat Moran is playing as part of Warrington Wolves' first team, while Charlotte Hill is playing for Saints Women.

Ryan McNeely, lecturer in sport, said: "Matt is a fantastic example of what can be achieved after completing the level 3 course at Warrington & Vale Royal College. Matt has taken the skills and knowledge he gained

on the course and applied them to achieve his dream job. We wish him all the luck as he progresses through the refereeing ranks. Who knows, we may see him officiating a Super League fixture in the near future."

To find out more about the opportunities available at Warrington & Vale Royal College, visit wvr.ac.uk



The importance of telling the growth story

Telling the growth story is one of the 10 key steps that we work through with our clients as they prepare their business for sale, says Brian McCann, partner at MC Vanguard Corporate Finance.

The growth story is important because, firstly, it is very difficult to find a buyer prepared to pay a good price for a business that is static or declining.

Secondly, most buyers will only be prepared to pay a strong multiple of profits for a business where they believe profits will be higher in the future.

Thirdly, larger businesses are more

likely to attract larger buyers who in turn are more likely to pay a better price.

The sales process starts with a search for potential buyers who are then qualified by the business owner or their advisors before being provided with an information memorandum – this is the document where the growth story is usually told.

We advise our clients to start telling their growth story much earlier than that through PR, social media, their website and marketing materials. But the best way to tell it is by winning clients from larger competitors who may also

be potential buyers. This step has started many a sales process!

The area where advisors add real value is identifying and approaching the potential buyers likely to pay the highest price for your specific business. Experienced advisors who can deliver this are worth their weight in gold.

MC Vanguard Corporate Finance regularly runs seminars on both buying and selling businesses. To register your interest or to discuss preparing your business for sale, please contact Brian McCann on 0151 255 2300 or email brian.mccann@mcvanguard.co.uk



Student secures gold in Olympiad

A Warrington student struck gold in a challenge that tested his application of chemistry.

Matthew Turton, who studies A-Level Chemistry, Physics and Maths at Priestley College, finished in the top 8% in the country in the annual UK Chemistry Olympiad.

"We were tested on the knowledge we've learnt in college, but also what we have picked up outside of class," said Matthew.

"I knew some Physics that came up in the paper and that really helped."

The two-hour paper – taken at Priestley College – covered topics as diverse as nuclear decay and the shapes of molecules.

From Priestley, 15 chemistry students took up the challenge and all received a certificate for taking part.

Matthew, a former pupil at Bridgewater High School, plans

to study Materials Science and Engineering at Sheffield University after completing his A-Levels.

He said: "The Olympiad was a challenge, but it also gives you something to put on your personal statement that will help make you stand out."

Priestley Tutor Wendy Winnard congratulated all the students who participated and said it was great preparation for the forthcoming A-Level exams.

"Universities and employers are looking for that extra something from our young people so this kind of experience goes a long way," she said.

"Students took the paper in their own time and built up extra knowledge outside the classroom in order to give themselves the best possible chance of success."



All set for Disability Awareness Day 2018

WORK is well underway for the 27th annual Disability Awareness Day which takes place at Walton Gardens, Warrington, on Sunday, July 15.

Founder and event co-ordinator Dave Thompson, now Chief Executive of Warrington Disability Partnership, said: "In 1992, who would have thought that a disability information event organised by a very small, then unknown disability group, would grow in size and stature, and would influence the development of a now internationally-recognised Disability Awareness Day.

"This year sees the '27th Anniversary event', which has inspired people from all over the world and provided advice and support to 100,000's of disabled people, their families, friends and carers <" added Dave, who helped co-found Warrington Disability Partnership after breaking his neck in a sporting injury.

More than 25,000 visitors are expected to attend this year's DAD, the world's largest not-for-profit, voluntary-led, pan-disability exhibition, which will once again be hosted at Walton Hall Gardens on Sunday, July 15 with the support of joint principal sponsors St George Healthcare Group and St Mark Universal Copts Care.

A huge tented village housing approximately 250 exhibitors – including equipment suppliers; transport; holidays; leisure and employment providers; and

support groups and services – is set to attract visitors to travel from all over the UK and beyond.

Inclusive Arts is just one of the highlights of the event – with a number of disabled artists including nationally recognised performers such as the Ella Performance Group and Carly Ryan. The Main Arena will offer visitors a range of family entertainment including guide dog display teams, falconry displays and a number of marching bands. Also on-site will be the fully accessible Sports Zone with have-a-go events including Scuba Diving in the temporary pool, climbing wall, shooting, archery, basketball and

much more.

A free, accessible Park and Ride service is available from Wilderspool Park; plus a free bus service every 30 minutes starting at 9.30am from Warrington Bus Interchange; British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters; trained assistants; and a scooter / wheelchair loans service promises to ensure DAD is fully inclusive to all.

"The background story to DAD is a great example of just how far a 'can do' attitude can take you," says Event Founder and Co-ordinator, Dave Thompson MBE DL.

"What started out as a one-off event is now one the highlights of the international disabled community's calendar – inspiring similar events as far afield as India, Cameroon,

Uganda, Gibraltar and Thailand. Our team is also working closely with one of our sponsors St Mark Universal Copts Care teams based in the UK and working in Egypt and Sudan."

The big day on Sunday July 15 from 10am to 5pm – will be a fitting finale to a week comprising a variety of complementary events to savour, which are guaranteed to attract many more visitors to events aimed at disabled children and young people, mental health, learning disability, carers and a cultural diversity evening.

For more details on DAD and 'DAD Week' and all the events listed, please contact Warrington Disability Partnership on 01925 240064 or visit www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk



Disability Awareness Day

SUNDAY 15th JULY 2018

Walton Gardens, Warrington

10am - 5pm



- **Support Groups & Services**
- **Equipment Suppliers, Holidays & Transport**
- **Sports Zone, Arts Marquee, Live Bands, Dance & Drama**

Organised by

Principal Sponsors



@WDPcomms



Disability Awareness Day

St George Healthcare

GROUP

Promoting independence and safety;
maximising quality of life.



Tel: 01925 240064 www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk

Promoting Independence Through Life and Work

UKTI e-Exporting programme

By joining UKTI e-Exporting Programme, UK companies and brands can reach consumers through e-marketplaces.

An e-market is an online location that provides a platform for companies of all sizes to do business through e-commerce.

Popular e-marketplaces include Amazon, Tmail and ebay. UKTI have identified over 400 e-marketplaces worldwide.

By selling through an e-marketplace UK companies can:

- Find new customers
- Analyse date on what consumers are searching for
- Build awareness of their brands

TAP Supported Conferences

This is a reminder that a small number of conferences are TAP supported, as well as exhibitions, for eligible companies

The definition is "an overseas commercial conference where the business has paid for the opportunity to promote its goods or services to a trade audience"

The TAP funding can be claimed for any expenditure relating to the conference other than travel, accommodation & food and drink

Those that are TAP supported this year are on the spreadsheet which you have to refer to live via the following link:

www.gov.uk/guidance/tradeshows-access-programme

Tradeshows Access Programme

calendar of supported events: April 2018 to March 2019 (MS Excel Spreadsheet, 83.1KB)

They are:

- SIAM India, September 2018 (Automotive)
- AEEDC Dubai, February 2019 (Healthcare)

Craft Brewers USA, April 2018 was also TAP supported (Food & Drink)

This may be worth bearing in mind for 2019, in case it's TAP supported again

Don't forget, if a company is participating in any another overseas conference, and asks about funding, it's always worth checking in case it is added to the programme at a later date.

Join UKTI's e-Exporting programme to:

- Meet with an e-Exporting advisor to discuss export plans
- Receive help and advice on building your online e-commerce presence
- Increase the reach of your brand globally
- Identify new e-marketplace around the world
- Set up on e-marketplaces around the world
- Set up on e-marketplaces quickly
- Attend events and webinars about retail/e-commerce opportunities

How to Join

Email UKTI's retail team consumerretail@ukti.gsi.gov.uk if you're interested in joining the programme or need more information.

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) with its team of expert advisers located across the globe, can help you fulfil your international ambitions. It can assist you at all stages of the business planning cycle, from inception to completion. Whether you're a seasoned exporter or just beginning to expand overseas, talking to UKTI is one of the best moves your company can make.

Through a range of unique services, including tailored support programmes, participation at selected trade fairs, outward missions and providing bespoke market intelligence, we can help you crack foreign markets and get to grips quickly with overseas regulations and business practice.

For further information please contact Warrington Chamber of Commerce on 01925-715150 or info@warrington-chamber.co.uk

Export Documentation Services

As you develop your international trade activity the Warrington Chamber of Commerce can assist you with all the documentation you need to export your goods and services easily. All our staff have passed the required training to become British Chambers approved documentation officers and are able to provide the following services:

- Certification of European Certificates of Origin
- Certification and Legalisation of Arab Certificates of Origin
- Certification of agency agreements, invoices, other documents
- Certification of EUR1 movement certificates
- Certification of ATR movement certificates
- Certification of EUR-MED movement certificates
- Certification of GSP Form A preference certificates
- Advice on import and export procedures

(This service is available electronically)

Chamber members receive a

50% discount

on all European certification, EUR1 and ATR services.

Call 01925 715150

for more information and details of our prices.

Success for University at catering competitions

The University of Chester's Warrington Bar Manager is celebrating a win at the The University Caterers Organisation (TUCO) competitions.

Tom Maxwell was awarded bronze in the Bar Skills competition at the 25th annual TUCO Competitions held at the University of Warwick. During the two day event, over 100 competitors from the higher and further education sectors

competed against each other in a series of food and drink challenges.

As part of the competition, Tom had to compete in four rounds, which included making a cocktail to serve four people, creating a signature cocktail, making a beer/cider cocktail and a speed round which involved making as many gin and tonics as possible in two minutes.

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Full Page	£250 + VAT	£313 + VAT

Chamber members

20% DISCOUNT

The copy deadline for the next edition of Insight magazine is

Monday, June 18th

Please email your news stories and pictures to the Editor at our NEW email address:

info@warrington-chamber.co.uk

College proud of young player's incredible achievement

ARUGBY player secured his first England cap after competing in the nation's win against Ireland.

Harry Wilkinson, a student at Priestley College, regularly plays for Chester, but was called up for the England County U18s team in April.

"I missed out on selection originally so I was really pleased to be asked to play," he said.

"It means a lot to play for my country so it was amazing to be standing there singing the national anthem."

Harry, who studies BTEC Level 3 Sport at Priestley, trained for two days with the squad in Portsmouth ahead of the second test match.

He played in the second half of the match, which saw England secure a narrow victory 32-29.

Last week 6ft 5 Harry, who has previously trained with Warrington Wolves, said he wanted to secure more England caps.

Currently the 16-stone flanker is training up to four nights a week in the gym with two sessions on the pitch and a match in order to achieve his goal.

"At the very least I want to play national league on a regular basis," said Harry, who attended Helsby High School.

"I plan to take a year out after college to work and then possibly go to university to study strength and conditioning."

Nigel Howells, Head of Sport at Priestley, said: "We are very proud of Harry and of the fact we are able to support him through his studies as he continues to pursue his sport to the highest level."



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Traditional Values

