



# Insight

magazine

October / November 2019



The Journal of the

**WARRINGTON** CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

*in association with*  
**VALE ROYAL**  
The heart of Cheshire





# College reveals new bus wrap design by students

Warrington & Vale Royal College has unveiled a striking new design for its dedicated college bus for the new academic year.

The design is high impact, featuring illustrations of Warrington and Northwich landmarks, set amongst blue skies and lush green landscapes.

The eye-catching bus, which is set to transport students from Winsford and Northwich to the college's Warrington campus, was designed by Graphic Design Extended Diploma students Téa Hewitt and Imogen Sandbach, with the help of their fellow classmates.

Imogen, who has since progressed to Loughborough University to study Graphic Communications with Illustration, couldn't contain her excitement upon first seeing the college bus, exclaiming: "It's fantastic to see our design come to life. Knowing that hundreds of people will see our artwork every day as they're driving through Cheshire is surreal."

Warrington's Own Buses, partners of Warrington & Vale Royal College, were happy to co-ordinate the bus wrap as part of their ongoing contract, providing transport for the college's 16-18 year old students on bus routes via Irlam, Leigh, Northwich and Winsford.

Gareth Mead, Head of Commercial at Warrington's Own Buses, commented: "We've five wrapped



buses at our Warrington depot and are pleased to add this one to our fleet. It was a brilliant and unique opportunity for the college's graphic design students, and we're proud to highlight some of the wonderful landmarks we have in Cheshire."

Former St Nicholas Catholic High School student, Téa, cannot wait to add the special commission to her portfolio, claiming: "It was such a

brilliant experience that will certainly help us to standout to prospective employers.

"We were given live briefs throughout our graphic design course at college which gave us a head start and prepared us for university. Our tutors were lovely and so supportive. We can't thank them enough!"

Téa is currently studying Graphic Design at the University of Huddersfield.

To find out more about studying Graphic Design at Warrington & Vale Royal College, visit [wvr.ac.uk](http://wvr.ac.uk).

To see more of Téa and Imogen's artwork, take a look at their business Instagram accounts: @teahewitt, @it.sdesign

# From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



## Odds of a UK recession slump to one in 10

Official figures reveal strong growth in July's forecasters at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research now put the chances of recession at just 10pc after a much better than expected 0.3pc expansion for the UK economy during the month.

The advance marks the biggest monthly rise since January and puts the UK on course for positive growth between July and September – avoiding the two successive quarters of contraction making a technical recessions.

## Pay growth

Pay growth surged 4pc for the first time in more than 11 years as strong wages combined with bumper bonuses in the three months to July. The jobs market defied fears of a recession over the summer adding another 31,000 jobs in the three months to July to send

unemployment back down to a 45 year low of 3.8pc, the office for National Statistics said "the growth in jobs has been concentrated at the older end of the spectrum with the number of over 50s and over 65s surging by 60,000 in the past three months".

## Science and Tech Boom 'to create 2.7m jobs'

Britain's Economy is set to be transformed by a boom in the science, technology and healthcare industries.

Creating millions of new jobs and generating billions of pounds in output, according to a major new report.

It will undergo a major shift in the next two decades, driven by a green revolution, technology change and the aging population.

A combined 2.7m jobs will be added to the economy by 2038.

# Challenge Cup takes pride of place at Chamber luncheon

THE historic Challenge Cup, recently won by Warrington Wolves at Wembley, took pride of place at the Chamber Luncheon meeting in September at the Hallmark Hotel in Grappenhall.

The impressive trophy, which Warrington won by beating arch rivals St Helens, was brought along

by the club's chief commercial officer Geoff Durbin, who was one of the guest speakers at the meeting.

Other guest speakers at the event were Pam Gardner from Priestley College and Phil Hartley from Michelle Charlesworth.



**WARRINGTON**  
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Members of Cheshire Chambers Enterprises Limited

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The views expressed by correspondents and contributors to this magazine are not necessarily those of the Warrington Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Whilst our best endeavours have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this magazine, we do not accept liability for any inaccuracy or omission contained therein.

Colin Daniels, Chief Executive



# The Blue Whale Media Videography Service

**The team at Blue Whale Media are advocates for the importance of great video content.**

Investing time into creating great video content can help to elevate your online presence and give you that little boost over your competition. A well produced and professionally edited service video can give your business that extra something that your customers or clients are looking for, and our videography team understand how powerful the medium of video can be in advertising.

The videography team is made up of Sam, Luke and Lewis. Our team have experience in design, motion graphics and design, so can offer a full and comprehensive service to our clients. Our background knowledge and wealth of experience in multiple fields gives us an extensive understanding of videography and editing.

Social media networks are showing a noticeable shift towards

promoting more video oriented content that offers specific and engaging information for clients. Videos such as Q&As and explainer videos can offer customers and clients a way of understanding a company better. You can present your clients with the necessary information that they need to make informed decisions. By presenting your customers with a video that showcases your team and gives them a little bit of information about who you are will help them to feel closer to you and your business.

Other great video formats include video testimonials, corporate videos, office tours and product showcases.

A video testimonial from a satisfied customer can help any prospective customers understand how you treat your customers.

An office tour video will give your customers another insight into who you are and how you operate.

Corporate videos can be crafted to support your on site content and help to emphasise your brand mission statement and to reassure clients.

When you choose to create video content, our team will dedicate time to discuss what you are looking for in your video package and how you would like to proceed. We can offer you expert advice and guidance during this process.

Our videography team will visit your business and discuss your shoot schedule, video design and any specific requirements before we shoot at your location to ensure that we are approaching your shoot in the most creative, on brand manner.

We use the finest quality videography equipment to capture stunning and cinematic footage. Our videographers and drone pilots are fully certified and trained to the highest standards,

so our clients know that they are receiving the best. Our team are always fully prepared for your requirements and budget, so our customers can be sure that they will receive superior service.

We are proud to collaborate with our customers and have created a plethora of interesting and unique content over the years. Recently, we have worked with Maynes Coaches to create a comprehensive corporate video that showcases their business in a new and exciting light. We have also created some innovative and compelling content for our new and improved Blue Whale Media website that we are looking forward to sharing later in the year.

Videography is an impressive and immersive form of content and can elevate any business profile or website. It is engaging and interesting and is constantly evolving. Our Blue Whale Media videography team are excited for our future projects!

## Top honour for Production Artist

A talented production artist has been made a member of the National Youth Theatre – the world's leading youth arts charity.

Rae Atkin, who studied Production Arts and Performing Arts at Priestley College, completed a three-week course with the NYT over summer and can now apply for jobs within the organisation.

The former Culcheth High pupil said studying BTEC Production Arts at Priestley had shone a light on a new future.

"I always thought I wanted to perform, but then I came here and got the opportunity to look after the lighting for a production of Sister Act," said Rae.

"I fell in love with it, more than I thought was possible. I had an epiphany and realised this is what I wanted to do."

Once she had made the decision that her career lay behind the scenes, she started looking at what to do after completing her BTECs.

Rae spotted an advert for auditions at the National Youth Theatre, but they were just a few days away so she applied without high hopes.

However, the 17-year-old got her big break when she was offered a latecomers' spot and was invited to London to prove her talent in person.

After taking part in a three-hour workshop, one-to-one interview and showing off her portfolio of work from Priestley, Rae was offered a membership.

"I am very proud of myself," she

said. "I think I was one of only 100 people to be given a place on the summer course – and that includes all the actors as well."

NYT has been inspiring young people and audiences alike in the importance of live theatre for more than 60 years.

It seeks out the most diverse and talented members and, since 1956, has reached an audience of

more than two billion people from stadiums to studios at national and international events.

During her summer course Rae went over the basics of production arts, with a specialism in lighting, as well as learnt more about the youth theatre's approach and methods.

Those who have taken the course are now perfectly placed to apply

for roles within National Youth Theatre productions.

"Rae's talent behind the scenes is easy for everyone to see," said Priestley's Production Arts Tutor Mark Edington.

"She thoroughly deserves this prestigious opportunity and I am sure she will make the most of everything that comes her way as a result of it."



# Exclusive package holidays from Liverpool launched by LJLA



## Liverpool Airport Holidays

Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA) has today launched Liverpool Airport Holidays, a new service offering tailor made packages to over 70 destinations flying direct from Liverpool.

Partnering with Myriad Travel, a local ATOL protected travel agent, Liverpool Airport Holidays offers customers unique package holidays, as well as exclusive airport offers on parking, fast-track and the airport lounge. Customers will also have access to 24/7 support whilst abroad, should they need it.

The unique package holidays will feature on a dedicated page on the airport website and also be promoted across the airport's social media channels, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and our new WhatsApp account.

Customers are also welcome to contact the Liverpool Airport Holidays team to create their own personalised Liverpool Airport Holidays package.

Liverpool Airport Holidays

customers can make bookings either through a dedicated telephone number 0151 907 1820 or email address [LPLholidays@myriadtravel.co.uk](mailto:LPLholidays@myriadtravel.co.uk). The team are available Mon – Fri 9am-5pm and contactable via email at the weekends.

Paul Winfield, Director of Aviation Development for Liverpool John Lennon Airport commented, "Liverpool Airport Holidays has been introduced to give the region's holidaymakers an easy way to access some fantastic package holidays, all with the benefits of flying from Liverpool

John Lennon Airport, the North West's Faster, Easier, Friendlier airport.

This is the start of the Liverpool Airport Holidays product, with further exciting developments planned as we continue to increase our range of airlines and destinations."

**Liverpool Airport Holidays are now available at [www.liverpoolairport.com/liverpool-airport-holidays](http://www.liverpoolairport.com/liverpool-airport-holidays)**  
**Telephone: 0151 907 1820**  
**E: [LPLholidays@Myriadtravel.co.uk](mailto:LPLholidays@Myriadtravel.co.uk)**





# Volunteers help Disability charity move to new shop premises

A local charity is celebrating the opening of new premises in Warrington town centre, made possible by a dedicated team of Volunteers.

Colunters gave up their time at closing time on a Friday to help move Warrington Disability Partnership's shop premises in Golden Square to a new location on Sankey Street.

Chief Executive Dave Thompson said: "I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who gave their time to assist with the move from the Golden Square MILS to our new store in Sankey Street.

"I would also like to thank everyone involved in the weeks of preparations, that included decorating, wall cladding, shelving, signage (inside and out), fittings (bath, stair lift, etc.) and cleaning.

"It is still hard to believe that we were able to close the Golden Square MILS store at 5pm on



Friday afternoon, move everything across to Sankey Street, and be ready for opening at 9am on Saturday morning. WOW.

"Utterly amazing effort. Thank you!

Dave added: "And to top it off, on Saturday we had a good day in terms of customers, new and old.

"The new store looks brighter, it certainly is much bigger and it feels great."

The official opening will take place at 12noon on Saturday 19th

October, the same day Warrington Disability Partnership we will be running Scoota-Safe in the Old Market Place.

## Bus company announces further fare reductions



Local bus company Warrington's Own Buses has announced further fare reductions to give back to the community after an uptake in patronage.

Weekend bus fares on 'The Pops' 20/21 bus routes will be "slashed" from the 28th September until the New Year, in a bid to save bus users' money.

Customers will be able to travel either way around the circular route, as buses go around the circle in both directions.

The new flat fare will be £1.90 for an adult single or £3.50 for a return ticket and the return ticket can be used for unlimited trips on the route all day on the day of purchase. Children go half price

and concessionary pass holders remain free.

Ben Wakerley, Managing Director commented: "This latest fares reduction follows discounts and improvements across the whole town over the past year.

"By allowing customers to travel either way around the circular Pops route, it effectively doubles the number of buses that customers can use. The buses run up to every 10 minutes each way, by allowing travel either way around, this increases to a bus every 5 minutes.

"It is another example of the bus company giving back to the community and if we see an uptake in patronage, we hope to extend the offer further".

## Council has no current plans for workplace parking charge

Warrington Borough Council has no current plans to bring in a workplace charge on employers who provide parking for staff to help manage congestion and boost economic growth in the town.

While mention of a workplace levy is included in the draft local transport plan, LTP4, Cllr Russ Bowden says there are no current plans to introduce such a scheme.

Nottingham is currently the only place in the UK where such a scheme has been implemented whereby a charge is placed on companies who provide parking and firms can opt to pass on costs to staff.

An outline feasibility study in the draft Local Transport Plan has estimated that a workplace levy could contribute £4.8 million per year for investment into sustainable transport in Warrington.

A council spokesperson said the underlying aim of a workplace parking levy was to facilitate enhanced economic growth and increased public wellbeing by managing congestion, improving accessibility to urban centres and encouraging a shift towards healthier and cleaner modes of travel.

It had therefore included as a possible option within the draft LTP4 to support the long-term transformation in the way people travel in Warrington.

If approved the LTP4 could propose a more detailed study to investigate a workplace charging levy and how it might or might not work for Warrington, including area of coverage and charging levels.

The report states that employers in Nottingham that provide 11 or more car parking spaces are subject to an annual charge of £415.

The current charges applied in Nottingham had been provided in the draft LTP4 as background context and a guide to the only working scheme in the UK.

But Cllr Bowden says there are no plans to introduce such a system in Warrington and there had been no discussion about it.





# HAVE A BALL THIS CHRISTMAS AT VILLAGE

Village has an incredible line up of festive and tribute party nights plus Christmas Day and Boxing Day dining served with all the Village trimmings! So don't drop the ball, book now!

**FIND OUT MORE & BOOK ONLINE**

[VillageHotels.com/Christmas](http://VillageHotels.com/Christmas)

**VILLAGE HOTEL WARRINGTON**

Centre Park, Warrington,  
Cheshire WA1 1QA

**VILLAGE**  
HOTEL CLUB



# Village Hotel launches new Business Club

The local Village Hotel Club in Warrington has opened the doors to its brand-new business club - VWorks - which will help support and promote the needs of local businesses and entrepreneurs by offering a place for local people to work, connect and network.

Tailored to the needs of local workers and travellers alike, the new VWorks offering boasts impressive meeting rooms fitted with sharp, reactive technology and a comfortable lounge area perfect for relaxed meetings.

Local businesses and individuals looking for a smart, creative and innovative environment to work from will enjoy the modern hot-desking spaces - equipped with super-fast WiFi, free printing and photocopying, free energising refreshments and flexible bookings via a digital app.



Sean Burns, General Manager of Village Hotel Club Warrington, said: "We're thrilled to unveil our new VWorks facilities and look forward to welcoming back old and new guests. Local businesses lay at the heart of our community and we're thrilled to now offer a space that supports and promotes the needs of the business owners

and entrepreneurs of Warrington by connecting them to work, mentors and new networks."

Smaller meeting pods will also be available to accommodate private meetings for two to six people, and can be hired for as little as an hour for impromptu get togethers and video calls. Larger meeting spaces, up to twenty, will be available for larger conferences and events - all of which can be booked easily via the Village Hotel Club App.

VWorks comes as part of Village Hotel Club's ambitions to be more than just a hotel - but rather a place for local communities and businesses to meet and connect. The opening in September is the fourth VWorks to open, with a further seven expected to open across the UK over the coming year.

In addition to meeting and

coworking spaces, VWorks offers its business club members unique access to resources, information and seminars, designed to help them learn, connect and grow.

In her role as VWorks' Local Business Ambassador, formidable business woman Baroness Karren Brady CBE, helped to host VWorks' first 'Tales from the Boardroom' seminar series exclusively for its business network earlier this year, with further seminars to be rolled out in the coming year. Together, Karren and Village will be hosting the inaugural VWorks Awards next year, in order to celebrate the achievements of local businesses and entrepreneurs.

A variety of VWorks membership options are available for individuals, local businesses and entrepreneurs. To find out more information or book a free visit, visit [www.village-hotels.co.uk/vworks/](http://www.village-hotels.co.uk/vworks/).

**Northern Powerhouse Premier Mission to India**  
23 - 30 November 2019

*The Department for International Trade invites businesses working in advanced manufacturing/engineering with potential to offer innovative products and services to Indian buyers to participate in this Northern Powerhouse trade mission to Chennai, Pune and Mumbai.*

**Why attend?**  
The mission is aimed at advanced manufacturing/engineering businesses and associated technology providers, as well as educational and service sector businesses who can support the advanced manufacturing/engineering industry. The visit will provide delegates with an opportunity to visit three key Indian markets:

**Chennai** is India's leading city in the automotive industry, responsible for approximately a third of India's total vehicle and component production.  
**Pune** is one of the identified manufacturing clusters in India, and is an educational hub.  
**Mumbai** is the commercial capital of India. It is also the birthplace of the Indian IT industry.

**What are the benefits?**  
Participating delegates will have access to the following programme activities:

- A pre-mission briefing and post mission follow up support session
- Entry in the mission brochure to facilitate networking
- Seminars, briefings and round-table events with industry and country experts
- Meetings with GFT overseas commercial officers
- Networking events in Chennai, Pune and Mumbai
- Support throughout the mission from experienced in-market experts

**Dates & Locations**  
23 - 30 November 2019  
Chennai: 24 - 26 Nov  
Pune: 26 - 28 Nov  
Mumbai: 28 - 30 Nov

**For more information please contact**  
Ilya Taho, Mission Coordinator  
E: [events@tradenwarr](mailto:events@tradenwarr)  
T: 01789 964 323

**Registration**  
To register interest please visit:  
<http://dft.uk/nph-mi>

**Cost**  
There is a £150 inc VAT registration fee per company to join the mission. Companies will need to meet their own travel and accommodation costs.

**Funding**  
Companies may be eligible to apply for funding to help towards the costs of the mission.

[Register your interest](#)

The Northern Powerhouse had a GVA total of £345.4 billion in 2017. In 2018 alone, businesses based in the region exported £29 billion worth of goods to every corner of the globe, yet there remains massive potential for future international growth. The region also has high speed rail links, world-class transport, highly skilled workforces and world-class research, with its northern universities ranked in the top 20 for research excellence nationally.

in partnership with:

## NEW MEMBER

### Bio Products Group Ltd

Mr Rob Stewart - Managing Director  
21 Colemere Close, Padgate, Warrington WA1 4LA  
Tel: 0800-107-5185  
Web: [www.biopipe.co.uk](http://www.biopipe.co.uk)  
Description: Plastic Products Manufacture

### Blue Bird Care, Warrington

Ms Clare Armstrong - Director  
Room 2, Dallam Court, Dallam Lane, Warrington WA2 7LT  
Tel: 01925 422 940  
Web: [www.bluebirdcare.co.uk/warrington](http://www.bluebirdcare.co.uk/warrington)  
Description: Domiciliary Care

### Dinex Exhausts Ltd

Ms Tina Griffiths - Administration  
14 Chesford Grange, Woolston, Warrington WA1 4RE  
Tel: 01925 737 244  
Web: [www.dinexexhausts.co.uk](http://www.dinexexhausts.co.uk)  
Description: Clamp Manufacturer / Supplier & Exhaust System Supplier



# University recognised for its commitment to the Armed Forces

The University of Chester has received an accolade from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in recognition of its support of the Armed Forces.

The University received the Bronze Award in the MoD's Employer Recognition Scheme and was presented with a certificate at the Cheshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Symposium earlier this month.

The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) encourages employers to support defence and inspire others to do the same. The Scheme encompasses bronze, silver and gold awards for employer organisations that pledge,

demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.

Bronze Award holders pledge to support the armed forces, including existing or prospective employees who are members of the community; promote being armed forces-friendly and are open to employing reservists, armed forces veterans (including the wounded, injured and sick), cadet instructors and military spouses/partners; and must have signed the Armed Forces Covenant.

The University is part of the Cheshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership, which is a commitment

by civilian organisations in collaboration with the MoD to support the Armed Forces community. It is an opportunity to recognise the value of serving personnel, both regulars and reservists, veterans and military families and their contribution to the UK. This is built on recognition that Armed Forces personnel sacrifice some significant civilian freedoms, face dangers and are much more likely to sustain injury or death. Families also play a pivotal role in supporting the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces and are embedded in the commitment.

The Covenant defines that those who serve in the Armed Forces, veterans and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved. This commitment includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces.

The Cheshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership comprises Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Halton and Warrington Councils, the NHS,

Clinical Commissioning Groups, charities, the Department of Work and Pensions, the emergency services and the University of Chester.

The certificate was presented to Lottie Ainsworth-Moore, Project Administrator - Veterans Studies by Colonel Russell Miller OBE; the Army Commander North West Region. Lottie's husband is currently serving at Dale Barracks, and she is employed in the University's Westminster Centre for Research in Veterans, which aims to support the Armed Forces community through research, educational provision and community engagement.

Colonel (Retd) Alan Finnegan, Professor of Nursing and Military Mental Health at the University of Chester, who leads on veterans research, said: "The University employs many members of the Armed Forces community including veterans and their families, and within the Westminster Research Centre we are delighted to be making a positive contribution. We have a real passion for our work, and are now actively operating in conjunction with the MoD to obtain the Armed Forces Covenant employer recognition scheme Silver Award."



Colonel Russell Miller OBE presents the certificate to Lottie Ainsworth-Moore.

### Northern Powerhouse Premier Mission to ASEAN

26 October - 2 November 2019

**We are inviting innovative businesses who are experienced in exporting and looking for new markets in education, infrastructure, transportation and associated services to participate in this Northern Powerhouse trade mission to Thailand and Indonesia. The visit will coincide with activities ahead of the ASEAN Thailand 2019 to maximise opportunities for Northern businesses.**

**Why attend?**  
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) includes 10 markets which brings together an area of the world with significant opportunities for UK businesses. By 2030, Southeast Asia's economy is predicted to eclipse Japan's and be the world's 4th largest single market after the EU, US and China. Steady growth combined with investor-friendly government policies have attracted businesses keen to explore the vibrant new domestic markets. Currently 17.6% of all ASEAN's EU trade in goods and services is with the UK.

**What are the benefits?**  
Participating delegates will have the opportunity to:

- Receive extensive support before and throughout the mission
- Gain access to key industry professionals
- Attend a pre-visit briefing, elevator pitching workshop and webinar
- Attend a pre-mission reception with Manchester Airport Group and Thai Airways
- Attend a networking reception in Bangkok and Jakarta
- Access a bespoke one to one business matchmaking programme
- Attend a roundtable for sector delegates and trade associations in both markets

Join this Northern Powerhouse Premier mission to get a guided insight into these important trading partners and meet decision-makers in ASEAN.

**Register your interest**

**Dates:**  
26 October - 2 November 2019

**Location:**  
Bangkok, Thailand & Jakarta, Indonesia.

**For more information please contact:**  
Mino Hatakayama, Mission Coordinator  
E: [events@tradenw.org](mailto:events@tradenw.org)  
T: 07789 953422

**Registration:**  
To register interest please visit:  
<http://bit.ly/NPH-ASEAN19>

**Cost:**  
Registration fee of £150 including VAT. Companies will need to meet their own travel/accommodation costs. There may be financial assistance for eligible SMEs via your local international trade adviser.

**Eligibility:**  
Open to companies from the Northern Powerhouse region.

The Northern Powerhouse had a GVA total of £434.6 billion in 2017. In 2020 alone, businesses based in the region exported £39 billion worth of goods to every corner of the globe, yet there remains massive potential for future international growth. The region also has high speed rail links, excellent transport, highly skilled workforces and world class research, with six northern universities ranked in the top 20 for research excellence nationally.

**In partnership with:**



# College students celebrate superb vocational results

Students at Warrington & Vale Royal College are celebrating another year of superb vocational results, reflecting the college's reputation for excellent student achievement.

Nichola Newton, Principal & Chief Executive of Warrington & Vale Royal College, said: "We are absolutely delighted with these brilliant results which show just how hard our students and staff have worked to achieve their very best. Student progress at Warrington & Vale Royal College this year is outstanding and these results consolidate the college's position as one of the best general further education colleges in the country."

Results for advanced vocational courses are some of the best ever achieved at Warrington & Vale Royal College. Almost two-thirds of students completing a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma achieved a Distinction grade or higher, and over a quarter of students achieved the highest grade possible of a Triple Distinction Star, worth the equivalent of 3 A\* at A Level.

Sport Extended Diploma Level 3 student Hannah Glover achieved a top grade of Triple Distinction Star and is heading to Edge Hill University in September to study Sports Therapy. The highlight of her time at college was sports coaching in local primary schools as part of the college's work experience programme. During

her time at college, Hannah won the Outstanding Achievement Award for Sport at the college's Further Education Awards Ceremony.

Former St Gregory's High School student Roekh Yousaf achieved a Distinction grade in Motor Vehicle Maintenance Diploma Level 3. Roekh completed a three-month work placement at Warrington Car Audio and impressed them so much they offered him a full-time job. Roekh is keen to secure a number of year's work experience at Warrington Car Audio, before heading to university to study automobile engineering. He absolutely loved his time at college and is particularly grateful to his tutors, commenting "everything I am and have achieved I owe to them".

Games Development Extended Diploma Level 3 students Benjamin Stiff and Adil Ahmed both achieved the highest grade of Triple Distinction Star and are both progressing to Manchester Metropolitan University to study Computer Animation and Visual Effects in September. They aspire to pursue a career in 3D modelling in the future.

To find out more about Warrington & Vale Royal College and the courses on offer, please telephone 01925 494 400 or visit [wvr.ac.uk](http://wvr.ac.uk).



Hannah Glover.



Roekh Yousa.



Benjamin Stiff and Adil Ahmed.

## Entrepreneurial Hotspots of the UK – Warrington South

WARRINGTON South has been identified as one of the entrepreneurial hotspots in the UK

Methodology.

Red Flag Alert analyses more than five million companies across the UK on a daily basis. It is used by some of the UK's leading companies to monitor their own financial position and that of their customers, clients and competitors.

Case Studies.

Drive Works – Warrington.

80% of this Warrington-based software company's revenue is generated from software sales to companies outside the UK.

This entrepreneurial owner managed software company says "Its Warrington location has helped" Drive Works was recently recognised for its business success with two Queen Awards; one for International Trade, the other for Innovation.

Top Ten Start-Up Constituencies outside London Ranking No.2 Warrington South.



# Eco-Innovation scheme brings Cheshire company and University of Chester together

Cheshire-based company Rotheron Research Limited (RRL) has taken advantage of the Eco-Innovation scheme to team up with the University of Chester's Department of Chemical Engineering to investigate the recovery of useful colloidal silica products from geothermal power operations. This will both improve the efficiency of the power plants and provide a sustainable source of colloidal silica.

The Eco-Innovation project is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and is partnered with Lancaster University.

Ahsen Senturk, a research student at the University said: "Silica is often dissolved in the water feeding these plants at levels that

inhibit their efficiency.

"The New Zealand company Geo40 has now developed and proved technology for removing this silica in the form of a stable colloidal dispersion - a process that is already being successfully commercialised. Roll out of this technology will generate large amounts of colloidal silica dispersions for which new markets will be required."

Colloidal silica derived solids are used in a large number of applications, including: desiccants; filtration; catalysis; health and personal care and polymer reinforcement. A notable large volume use is in car tyres,

where it substitutes carbon black, resulting in significant fuel savings and emission reduction. Another use is as an environmentally acceptable replacement for the plastic micro-bead exfoliants used in many personal care products.

Dr Andrew Fogg is Senior Lecturer in Chemical Engineering at the University of Chester and is academic lead on the project. He said: "As an experienced inorganic chemist, I'm very excited to be applying my skills to low carbon technologies. We are using materials chemistry to develop new recycling and other low carbon processes. Today most of the silica used for the above applications is made by energy

intensive, non-sustainable routes, but could be replaced by the more sustainable geothermally sourced silica. We are developing methods to convert the colloidal silica into controlled microstructure solids suitable for the various markets."

RRL founder and Director Roger Rotheron said: "We are delighted with the opportunity to work with our local University and with Andrew Fogg and Ahsen Senturk. They have made great progress in helping us to investigate new processes and product forms and we look forward to extending our collaboration with Chester beyond the present project."



Project student Ahsen Senturk working in the labs at Thornton Science Park with Roger Rotheron of Rotheron Research Limited.

## Adria Airways to increase its North West services

Slovenian airline Adria Airways, is to become the latest airline to operate from Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA), having today announced plans to commence a twice weekly service from LJLA to the Slovenian capital city of Ljubljana, starting next summer.

Flights will commence on 20th May, 2020 operating on Saturdays and Wednesdays using 86 seat CRJ900 aircraft, continuing throughout the summer until October 24th, 2020.

The airline, which is a Star Alliance member, is the fourth new airline to announce operations from Liverpool and will offer the North of England's only direct service to the Slovenian capital, complementing the growing range of destinations from LJLA,

now served by nine airlines.

Bookings can now be made on [www.adria.si](http://www.adria.si) or alternatively customers can contact [LPLHolidays@myriadtravel.co.uk](mailto:LPLHolidays@myriadtravel.co.uk) to book ATOL protected holidays to Slovenia from Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

Paul Winfield, Director of Aviation Development for LJLA commented, "We are delighted to welcome our latest carrier, Adria Airways to Liverpool. Adria will continue to serve the North West market, with an enhanced product, from Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

This will enable passengers from across the North of England to continue to travel to Ljubljana from the Faster.Easier.Friendlier Airport in the North West.



(L to R) Paul Winfield with LJLA's Head of PR, Robin Tudor celebrating the new route announcement.



# Yellowbus launches brand new IT services with nuclear and engineering industry

Leading provider of managed IT and cloud services, Yellowbus, has announced the launch of a number of new and pioneering services within the nuclear and engineering sector, supporting a recent record period of growth for the company.

The specialist IT firm, which has head offices based on Birchwood Park in Warrington, has a large roster of clients within the nuclear and engineering sector and strong experience in providing and delivering IT and connectivity solutions to this innovative sector.

Identifying key sector challenges with the speed of deploying systems and teams, and leveraging the latest technology and security, Yellowbus has added to its existing portfolio of IT services, launching a secure SC cleared IT helpdesk, based in its Network Operations Centre on-site at Birchwood Park.

The newly established centre comprises of an IT monitoring facility, which observes the data of clients' IT systems, and provides a back-up service for when networks go down. The innovative service also ensures that IT systems are functioning efficiently and provides proactive suggestions for improvements and upgrades via regular reporting capabilities.

Another of Yellowbus' solutions is the UK-based security cleared cloud tailored specifically for the nuclear and engineering sector. Due to the sensitive nature of the data contained within these companies, there is a reluctance for data to be moved to the cloud, in case of security

implications.

Yellowbus has overcome this issue by creating a private cloud, which is locked down to its own SC cleared staff, instead of the external data centre resources, therefore meaning that making the move towards the cloud is more appealing to clients.

Michael Douglass, Commercial Director at Yellowbus said: "We've gone from strength to strength during recent months at Yellowbus. We have expanded our service offering greatly and are looking forward to progressing with our new projects within the nuclear sector."

Martin O'Rourke, Commercial Director at Birchwood Park said: "It's an honour to have such a variety of occupiers at the park, and we are always keen to hear all of the fantastic projects and developments they are working on. Yellowbus is no exception, and with its location on the park, within the Science and Nuclear corridor, we can't wait to support them on the park and see what happens for them next."

In 2018, Birchwood Park celebrated 20 years of growth. Since 1998 the park has almost tripled in size, providing 1.1million square feet of office and warehouse space and accommodating over 165 businesses.

For more information on Yellowbus and the services it offers, just visit: <https://www.yellowbus.uk/>

## Back to the classroom for adult learners

Adults returned to the classroom in September for a number of fascinating classes.

Priestley College will be running courses both during the day and in the evenings, everything from Creative Photography to

Psychology.

Other courses include GCSE Maths and English, Russian for Beginners, Getting Started With Video and Biology.

Jude Leng (pictured) has been teaching Psychology to adults

and young people for more than 15 years and has a BSc (Hons) in Psychology and Criminology.

"I believe everyone has the ability to learn no matter what their age and I enjoy coming up with

innovative and interesting ways to make psychological concepts accessible to everyone," she said.

To find out more about the courses that are available go to [www.priestley.ac.uk/adult-courses/](http://www.priestley.ac.uk/adult-courses/)







## Best ever A level results at Priestley College

PRIESTLEY College achieved its best ever set of A-Level results as the Class of 2019 secured an overall pass rate of 99.4%.

There was a 100% pass rate in 34 subjects with impressive results across subjects as diverse as Chemistry, Biology, Politics, Architecture, Performing Arts, Art and Design, Music and Computing.

Principal Matthew Grant said both A\* to B and A\* to C grades were at record levels and praised the hard work of students and staff alike.

"Today marks the end of our second years' time with us and the start of a new chapter in all their lives," he said.

"Given that we have seen a record pass rate, and a fantastic amount of high marks, I am certain this cohort will go on to achieve great things."

More students take A-Levels at Priestley College than any other institution in Warrington where over 500 young people collected their results.

Among Priestley's Oxbridge hopefuls was former college president and Bridgewater High School pupil Sophie Johnson.

She achieved A\*s in Art and History but is hoping a review of her Politics paper will give her the necessary A\* to reach Cambridge where she hopes to study Human, Social and Political

Sciences.

"I'm really excited for university whether it be Cambridge or Leeds because I liked both of them so I know I am going to have a great time whatever happens," she said.

For Tom Bramwell, a former pupil at Penketh High, an electrical engineering apprenticeship with Procter and Gamble awaits after he picked up two Cs in Computing and Physics and a D in Maths.

"I always knew I didn't want to go to university and the careers advisers at college really helped me as I was looking for the right apprenticeship," he said.



"Teachers ensure students develop the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their qualifications and in their working life."  
Ofsted, June 2019

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# Warrington basks in Challenge Cup homecoming

Warrington Wolves fans turned out in huge numbers to greet their rugby heroes on their homecoming parade

On a beautifully hot bank holiday Monday tens of thousands of fans and well wishers lined the streets and gathered at the Town Hall to welcome back their rugby heroes. Having overcome the odds and beaten Saint Helens in a thrilling Challenge Cup final the Warrington Wolves team were rewarded with an open top

bus homecoming parade which brought throngs out to cheer them along.

After the bitter taste of defeat against the Catalan Dragons in last year's final the taste of victory seemed to be very sweet. The Wolves were the underdogs for the final after losing 5 on the trot and Saint Helens being on a great run of form but in a superbly disciplined and error free performance the Wolves overturned the odds in grand

fashion and ran out 18 – 4 victors.

Scheduled to be at the Bank Park gates for 2 pm, the massive numbers of spectators lining the route made the coach late with reports of streets 20 deep in places, such was the appreciation of the Warrington people intent on cheering the players on.

Led by a pipe band the open top bus made its way to the front of the Town Hall where they were welcomed by the Mayor of

Warrington Cllr Wendy Johnson and other dignitaries.

After speeches to the massed fans by team Coach Steve Price, team captain Chris Hill and Lance Todd winner Daryl Clark several of the players spontaneously burst into songs bringing the crowd to a crescendo of noise and cheers.

After posing for photographs the Team, Mayor, Councillors and guests retired to the main chamber for a civic reception.



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