



Insight

magazine

August / September 2020



The Journal of the

WARRINGTON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

in association with
VR VALE ROYAL
The heart of Cheshire

"World First" for bus company in battle with coronavirus

WARRINGTON'S Own Buses has become the first bus company in the world to install air cleaning devices across its entire operational fleet to best protect its drivers from the risk of airborne transmission of coronavirus.

The company has installed 86 AirLabs AirBubbl air cleaning devices in the driver cabins of their buses. The AirBubbl filters more than 95 per cent of airborne viruses and contaminated particulate matter and floods the vehicle with over 30,000 litres of clean air every hour, to keep drivers safe as they provide vital public transport services.

AirLabs, the London-based company behind the AirBubbl device, is now focusing on its new air cleaning solution for the passenger cabins of public transportation, including buses, coaches and trains.

The company has received a \$100,000 grant from Barclays and Unreasonable Impact to bring its COVID-19-response AiroSafe technology to market. The AiroSafe is designed to remove airborne coronavirus from the passenger cabins of public transport, by creating a personal air space for every seat.

AirLabs aims to install the first passenger protection units with partners by October this year, having worked closely with key players in the rail and bus sector over recent months to develop the technology.

AirBubbl and AiroSafe could play a huge role in getting commuters back into work, reducing the risk of airborne transmission of the virus, enabling increased numbers

of passengers to be allowed back on public transport and reassuring the public that it is safer to travel.

AirLabs chief executive Marc Ottolini said: "As lockdowns continue to ease around the world, the focus now shifts to how we can get back to business safely.

"There is increasing acceptance of the role of aerosol transmission of this virus and that the dose matters, as higher exposures can lead to more severe illness. By installing our cutting-edge technology, you can massively reduce this dose and therefore the risk of infection.

"We have had significant global interest in our air cleaning technology since the virus struck and believe that it can play a major role in reducing the risk of exposure on public transport for drivers and passengers."

Stephen Stringer, head of engineering at Warrington's Own Buses, said: "The priority for us is to protect the health and safety of our employees, who provide an essential service, and of course for our customers, the people of Warrington.

"By installing the AirBubbl devices we're ensuring that we can reduce the risk of exposure for our staff, who have done a fantastic job in serving Warrington during this crisis."

The 86 AirBubbl devices have been installed over recent weeks in Warrington's Own Buses entire active fleet, as part of the company's "five steps to safer working" approach to public and driver safety.

AirLabs is already installing AirBubbl devices in 100 patient transport vehicles operated by The HATS Group, to reduce the risk of exposure for its medical workers supporting London hospitals. The company has received worldwide interest in its air cleaning devices from businesses around the world that are looking to protect their employees and customers.

A leading group of over 200 scientists wrote to the World Health Organization last week to call for greater acknowledgement of the role of airborne spread of Covid-19 and the need for governments to implement control measures.

In response, members of the World Health Organization's technical committee have said that evidence is emerging around the airborne transmission of the virus and that they are working on publishing a scientific brief on the topic.

Coronaviruses including SARS-CoV-2 are spread via respiratory droplets produced by infected persons when they cough, sneeze, talk or breathe. While larger droplets quickly fall out of the air, smaller droplets persist as aerosols. Smaller aerosol particles are of concern because they may stay buoyant in the air for longer, travel further and be able to penetrate further into the respiratory tract when inhaled, according to a recent study by the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

AirLabs has published a paper on reducing exposure to airborne viruses using air filtration systems. It sets out the evidence behind airborne virus transmission and how air filtration can effectively remove bioaerosol particles.



Priestley footballers crowned lockdown FIFA Xbox champions

PRIESTLEY College's football team has become national lockdown champions – in a FIFA Xbox tournament.

Sport Priestley's footballers are used to success after winning their division in the North West Colleges Western Conference earlier this year.

Now they have pocketed the FIFA 20 College Lockdown Championships, which was organised by the British Esports Association and AoC Sport, finishing ahead of 35 other teams.

"I put our success down to belief in each other," said former Bridgewater High pupil Ben Mason.

"We always believed we would win and through the game we'd send each other texts to encourage whoever was playing."

Teams from across the country played in the Swiss format where

the winner is the competitor with the highest aggregate points across all rounds.

In the final, Priestley came up against a local rival in Winstanley College but the team of Ben, Chris Green and Alex Flint won 5-4.

Former Cardinal Newman pupil Alex said: "It's something I enjoy doing and wanted to test my FIFA skills on a national scale by representing the college.

"A lot of the fundamentals remain the same when you play virtual football, but I am able to incorporate a lot more flare because you can be more precise and there are no external factors to consider like the weather and type of pitch."

With lockdown affecting students' ability to take part in college sport, the FIFA 20 Championships enabled them to continue to represent their college online in a

national competition.

Dean Hardman, AoC Director of Sport and Student Experience, congratulated Priestley's players and said: "The values of teamwork and pride have been very much on display. We hope that players have enjoyed participating as much as we have enjoyed providing this competition."

Dan Jordan, head of football at Priestley, complimented both the college's winning Xbox squad and the Playstation team who finished seventh in their event.

"It is another amazing achievement for our students and definitely brought them together as teams during a very difficult time," he said.



Alex Flint, one of the winning Priestley College team.

From the President

Nigel Schofield

As I write, the thoughts of the Chamber Board members and many others in the business community are with Colin Daniels, Chief Executive of the Chamber for over 25 years, who is seriously ill. We all send him and his family our best wishes.



The Warrington Chamber Bank of England Panel met last week at which a group of key business leaders reported on the current state of their businesses. Some concerns were expressed based on national press reports but their own business reports were mainly distinctly upbeat.

Actions to protect their organisations implemented by both the Government and their managements had generally

exceeded expectations in achieving healthier trading positions than anticipated earlier in the Covid Crisis. Export Documentation prepared by Warrington Chamber, and the four Chambers in Cheshire all show a very sharp upturn in the last couple of months.

There are still some very real concerns, and some sectors will feel greater pain than others. Retraining will be

needed for some employees to accommodate changing needs and there will certainly be higher levels of redundancies in some industries than normal. Other local businesses will be recruiting to respond positively to the new opportunities presented.

To add significant impetus, Warrington Borough Council are responding very positively to the "Warrington Town Deal" offered by the Government to implement

£100 million of transformational projects.

Don't forget the Chamber is here to help you, and a solution to any problems you might have can lie in a solution to a contrary problem that another local business is facing!

Becoming a Governor

Would you like to serve your community?

Do you have an interest in education and training? Would you like to play an important role in becoming part of a progressive and innovative educational establishment committed to meeting the needs of the community it serves? Do you have leadership skills that you could use to serve your community?

Being a Governor is a highly rewarding voluntary role working with others to ensure that the college meets the needs of the community it serves.

In October 2019 Warrington and Vale Royal College was officially commended as "Good" by Ofsted and we celebrated some of the highest pass rates in England, ranking us in the top 10 nationally for the third consecutive year. Our mission is "Realising potential, transforming lives".

The essential requirements for joining us are a commitment and interest in contributing to the leadership of first class educational and training opportunities for young people and adults in Warrington and Vale Royal. Corporation members are comparable with the non-executive directors of a public company but instead of being accountable to shareholders, they are accountable for public funds. This governance role is separate from the operational management

of the College. Corporation members define the college mission, values and strategy and whilst they monitor performance, they do not become involved in the day to day activity of the College, which is the responsibility of the Principal, supported by the management team. We are keen to involve people of all ages and cultural backgrounds that can bring a variety of skills and experience to the role and have the qualities to support the College in its goal to become "outstanding".

We are particularly keen to hear from qualified Accountants, who would have an interest in serving on our Audit Committee and/or Finance and Resources Committee. We are also seeking individuals who have experience of working strategically and can demonstrate a real passion for empowering and transforming the lives of diverse communities and who ideally have previous non-executive director or trustee experience.

Your commitment:

- Attending meetings of the Board
- Reading papers in advance of meetings
- Participation in discussions and debates
- To scrutinise and challenge

- Gaining experience through membership of Board Committees

- Participation in training and other events.

If you are interested in finding out

more about becoming a Governor, please contact:

Lindsey Parton – Interim Clerk to the Corporation

Email: lparton@wvr.ac.uk

Contact no: 01925 494468

Positivity in short supply so important to uncover it

by Interim Chief Executive Stephen Fitzsimons



Normally at this time of year we would all be in high spirits, looking forward to a well-earned break ahead of the usual sprint during autumn. However, this year is different to anything that most of us have ever known - more so than foot & mouth, volcanic ash clouds and bird flu all combined. Large companies are shedding jobs in their thousands and we have already seen unemployment in Warrington double to 4.6%. Some economists are predicting that the UK won't recover until 2024 so the short term outlook is especially gloomy.

Positivity is in short supply so it is more important than ever that we try to uncover it. Warrington companies were allocated £38 million in grants for smaller companies. This gave them a fighting chance when they were finally allowed to re-open. Some organisations are performing strongly, with Chamber members in digital & ICT busy supporting other sectors in working remotely. You may also have seen our friends at EMR appear in the local press as "a company you may not have heard of." EMR are a £4 billion turnover business and a regular user of our export services – a great corporate asset for the town to boast about.

Feel free to call us to explore how we can help your business – if we can't, we will know someone who can!

WARRINGTON
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE
& INDUSTRY
In association with Vale Royal
Established 1876

Registered in England No. 2964304



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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

In recognition of Security guards - front-line key workers

By Cliff Unwin - Uniqwin

It has been highlighted recently how much security guards brave the Covid 19 situation to carry out their work and the high risks they are taking to maintain security for organisations, Local Authorities, businesses, and others. The role of security guards has been identified as vulnerable to this high risk of the getting virus and still they have braved the situation and continued their difficult tasks.

The words 'FRONTLINE WORKERS' are two words which have been used quite often throughout the coronavirus pandemic. We have all come to recognise what the words really mean. Whilst I do not believe it can be compared to a war, it certainly requires grit and determination to try to solve this worldly problem and return to normality. Although security personnel are not classified as emergency services, they are often the first point of contact and the first at the scene to deal with an emergency.

The doctors and nurses, the researchers, and scientists, and all the other unmentioned front-line workers working away at the front end of a dangerous fight against an invisible killer. Theirs is the fight on behalf of the public. It is a grind of determination, discipline, and

fortitude no matter what their pay rate or standing in the community.

The great majority of our own security guards at Uniqwin Security and Facilities have fulfilled their role and are still doing that. We ensured from the start of this pandemic that they had the necessary PPE and given the appropriate advice to stay safe whilst on duty and at home.

When I am applauding the NHS on a Thursday evening, I also think of our security guards. Some of course have had to stay at home for one good reason or another, but that meant more workspaces to fill and hours to cover by the dedicated.

I think we are very fortunate to have a loyal and dedicated team at Uniqwin and that includes senior management and Administration staff some of whom have been obliged to work at home. Our Control and Monitoring Centre staff who are under great pressure have kept our Centre operating fantastically. It also includes our mobile security staff that have been out there visiting our customer sites facing the dangers to carry out work. In the majority are our security guard personnel who are doing a fabulous job for our customers without fear or favour. Well done to

them all, you are heroes in your own right, and it seems at last it has been generally recognised by the public.

Up to now we at Uniqwin have been very fortunate, and we have not had one guard fatality from the virus. I hope very much that this stays that way and are key workers always continue to take the appropriate safeguards to keep safe and to keep our customers and their property safe.

A recent study carried out by the Office for National Statistics security guards have the highest Covid-19 death rate in the country, with 45.7 deaths per 100,000 workers.

The figure is drawn from an analysis of coronavirus deaths in England and Wales up to and including April 2020. This study identifies the security industry, and other high-risk jobs, like bus and taxi drivers, construction workers and chefs, as low-skilled. I know from personal experience that in the security industry there are people that are well educated, some

to degree level, have effective communication skills, have high technical skills and jobs that require high skills to effectively deal with emergencies and complicated issues of the security business. Such a generalisation of a whole industry is quite unreasonable. Sometimes it is easy to assume that because a job is low paid that it is also low skilled, which is not always in fact true.

There are jobs in the security industry that are wide and varied requiring many skills to be carried out effectively, not last amongst them the ability to effectively relate to people and are communicate.

Many organisations, businesses from all types of organisations rely on the security industry to be the first contact in many situations, be they security alarms, fire, accidents, death and destruction, conflict, illness, and many more like that. Situations that require, bravery, knowledge, and experience. These are front-line situations deserving of recognition.



**WARRINGTON**
Borough Council

Would you like to find out about accessing funded childcare for children aged 2,3 and 4?

Childcare encourages playtime!

Children will benefit greatly from accessing their funded childcare entitlement

- Your child will have the chance to play and learn, this can help them gain confidence and develop their social skills.
- It prepares them to be school ready and establishes a routine
- Building friendships with peers can encourage speech which can develop rapidly during the preschool years.
- It also gives your child independence and an 'I BELIEVE I CAN' outlook.

Childcare helps us make friends!

Warrington has over 300 childcare settings, including Childminders, School Nursery, Preschool and Private Nurseries. This means that there is lots of choice and flexibility available.

Childcare helps develop our social skills!

For an open and honest discussion about your childcare needs and to find out how we can help, get in touch now by calling the **Families Information Service on 01925 443131** and we can provide you with a list of childcare providers to suit you and your child's needs. We can also provide you with details on how to apply to see if you are eligible for the funded places for 2 year olds, along with information on 15 hours and 30 hours nursery funding

Childcare prepares us for school!

COVID-19 Face masks and coverings

CHAMBER members, Warrington based J&K Ross safety wear are supplying face masks and coverings suitable to the mandatory requirement by the government to wear such items when entering shops from this Friday (July 24) onwards.

Their aim is to aid and protect both yourselves and others as the country re-opens for business. The J & K Ross Team are health and safety specialists whose prime concern is the safety and wellbeing of all their customers. They offer a complete range of health and safety clothing and equipment to all sizes of business and members of the public via their trade counter.

Best in class social distancing measures including:

- *Barriered queuing system outside of the store
- *Hand sanitising stations at the entrance
- *One way system with barriers and floor markings
- *Wheeled baskets for customers, sanitised after every use
- *Staff located behind state of the art screening around the pay counter
- *Staff wearing masks at all times
- *Card payment only (unless you have an account)
- They also stock a full range of head to toe PPE to help get you "back to work" also:
 - *Hand sanitisers – in stock now
 - *Washable "healthcare" masks, pack of 5 £ 15.95 (only £ 3.19 each) no vat – in stock now
 - *Hard surface anti-viral cleaner, 750 ml trigger spray, Vira-Wipes (tub of 225 anti-viral surface wipes) £ 24.95
 - *A full range of social distancing products including desk screens, barriers, floor markings.

New opening hours at the Warrington store on Kerfoot street are Monday to Friday 0830 to 1230 and 1300 to 1700

www.jkross.co.uk Customer Support : 01925 645645 E: safety@jkross.co.uk

Warrington tops town centre footfall recovery chart

A "Centre for Cities" report released at the end of June positioned Warrington as having the highest increase in footfall since lockdown was relaxed and non-essential retail started to reopen.

According to the report large towns and smaller cities are generally having faster recoveries due to the concentration of shops and jobs in a single city centre, whereas large cities have multiple neighbourhoods spread across the city-region. After Warrington, the English cities and large towns with the most footfall include Hull, Telford, Bournemouth and Sunderland.

Figures are taken from monitors which are positioned on the four main high streets: Bridge Street, Horsemarket Street, Buttermarket Street and Sankey Street. Reports from the first week in July, when

many of the hospitality businesses reopened show that the upward trend continues to rise.

Golden Square and Cockhedge Shopping Centre have reported similar increases with retailers reporting that average basket spend is up.

Warrington BID Manager, Harriet Roberts said: "The slow, steady upturn in the number of visitors is a sign that people are feeling confident in the measures that have been put in place to make the town centre safer and that as a partnership, we have got the messaging right across all our channels.

"We are all working together to position the spotlight on those people behind the headlines who are still in the eye of the storm and adjusting to new ways of working to create a Covid-19 secure, safer

environment for customers and staff."

Cllr Tom Jennings, Chair of Supporting the Local Economy Policy Committee Bewsey & Whitecross Ward who is also on the board of Warrington BID said: "Having one of the highest increases in footfall with rising average spend reported, shows how vital collaboration is between

businesses and partners to keep people safe whilst encouraging them to spend well. The Council will continue to play its part in helping establishments get back to business."

The opening of the brand new multi-million pound Warrington Retail Market, will help boost footfall further.



Brand new £11 million Warrington Market open for business!

A wet and windy Monday morning didn't stop loyal customers turning out in force as the brand new multi-million pound Warrington Market opened its doors for the first time.

First in the queue was Katherine Ellis from Orford, who arrived at 7.30am and braved the elements to ensure she was first through the doors.

She has been visiting the market for more than 50 years and was presented with a £20 voucher by Market Manager Andy Ward as a thank you for her loyal custom.

Other regulars included sisters Barbara Tomkinson and Liz Dunville, who have been shopping at the market for as long as they can remember – around 70 years for Barbara.

As well as new traders and a fantastic new food court area, there were plenty of familiar faces including Dave Carey from the Lock Stall, who operates from the old kiosk which was once in Warrington Baths.

Business was brisk for many, including award winning grocer Rob Leicester, who continued his business throughout lockdown, offering a home delivery service.

The latest addition to the council's flagship Time Square development is home to over 50 local independent operators. It features the main market hall, home to 28 traders and escalators accessing the mezzanine floor, with a further 11 traders plus Radio Warrington's new studio.

The large, open plan building, also features a spacious food court and an outdoor terrace for customers to dine outside during the summer months.

'Cookhouse at Warrington Market' features 12 traders serving a variety of hot and cold cuisines from around the world – from Eastern delights such as Thai and Chinese, to the freshest Italian pizza, Indian street food and Mexican favourites – the new Cookhouse has it all. There will also be two fully stocked bars, serving a range of cask ales, local brews and cocktails.

The council has been working closely with traders to put in place support so the new building can open safely, while protecting people's health and wellbeing. This includes a range of 'COVID-secure' measures such as clear signage, social distancing, people encouraged to wear face coverings, restricting visitor numbers and reduced seating capacity for dining at the Cookhouse.

Council leader Cllr Russ Bowden, said: "The wait is nearly over as we're now finally able to open Warrington's new, state-of-the-art market. The majority of traders whose businesses are allowed to open, in line with government guidance, will be opening their doors from Monday, with a few others following suit over the next couple of weeks.

"We can't wait to show people the results of years of planning and hard work to bring this new, purpose built, contemporary facility into operation. Our traders have worked with us to put measures in place around social distancing to ensure the new building is a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

"Markets bring a vibrancy to town centres and our new market is a welcome addition to Time Square. I can't wait to sample some of the amazing new tastes

the Cookhouse has to offer. It's not quite the opening we had hoped for, but staff and traders are looking forward to a new beginning and can't wait to serve customers again."

For more information and to see the full line-up of traders in the new Warrington Market, visit warrington.gov.uk/new-warrington-market, or follow @warringtonmkt on social media.



"Locked-down" graduate teaches herself coding to hit the gaming big-time

A graduate who taught herself coding has launched an Instagram game, attracting over a million users since it launched last month.

Interactive Instagram game, "Guess The Country", is the brainchild of Master's graduate and self-taught programmer, Fran Shollo. Confined to home by lockdown, Fran used the free time studying "how to" videos online and downloading free software to write the coding she needed to bring her fun "camera-effect" quiz to life. She also taught herself high-level Adobe Photoshop skills to ensure the imagery and animation looked professional.

Three days after its May 11 launch, Fran's game had gone viral, attracting 300,000 users and global attention from celebrities, journalists and international bloggers.

Coding had always intimidated her, but Fran gained confidence through a process of trial and error, always working with the mindset, "Even when I fail, I learn".

She said: "Coding is a curiosity I have always had and during the lockdown I had more spare time to spend which helped me develop new skills. The fun thing about this experience was that I was brand-new to the field and at first I was not even sure what I was doing, but knowing how much entertaining and fun it can be in such a digital world triggered my independent learning at home."

Fran graduated at Chester with a Master's in Marketing Management and admitted she got "goosebumps" once she realised word was spreading throughout the world about her homegrown game, in which users have three seconds to guess the name of a country, based on its capital.

"Coding is now my new passion, not something to be scared of because, once you take the plunge, a new world of creativity opens up. You'll love the results and they will be all your own."

Fran's next career move is into digital marketing, once she has made a commercial success of her game. She is now inspiring future game-inventors to follow in her footsteps including an interview on LinkedIn with Chester's Senior Lecturer in Marketing and Sales, Beth Morris.

She added: "I was thrilled to see people around the world using my filter game on Instagram and I felt inspired to share that on LinkedIn where Beth invited me to have a chat about my experience. I really enjoyed our interview and it made me realise once again that at our Chester Business School the support lasts even after graduating."

Beth said she was really inspired by Fran's achievement and found her story fascinating.

She explained: "Before the UK COVID-19 lockdown, Fran was a complete beginner at coding. Sometimes people feel that certain aspects of digital marketing are too technical for them or that things like coding are a bit intimidating. I hope Fran's story shows that this does not have to be the case. It really is accessible and great fun!"

"Our BA Digital Marketing Degree is built around the notion that this subject cannot be learned simply from textbooks. Learning by doing

is so important. We support our students in experimenting with digital tools and learning by trial and error. Fran's story encapsulates that approach."

Stuart Paul, Programme Leader for the MSc in Marketing Management, added: "Fran proved that, if you design and develop an idea that is fun and interesting, people will love it and spread the word. Fran's success story is a fantastic display of what can be achieved with some intuition and enterprise. Lots of people have ideas and it takes that extra spark of coming up with a different way of looking at problems to make sure those

ideas to become a winner."

To view Beth's interview with Fran, visit <https://youtu.be/NSrHSEVIXIU>

To access Fran's Instagram filter on a mobile device, use <https://www.instagram.com/ar/1149008648791152/>

For more details about Chester's BA in Digital Marketing, visit: <https://www1.chester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/digital-marketing> and, for the MSc Marketing Management, <https://www1.chester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/marketing-management>



Fran Shollo, a self-taught coder with success at her fingertips.

Modern Day Monks transform into "Milkmen!"

WARRINGTON'S own micro-brewers, Modern Day Monks, have been transformed into "milkmen" thanks to an eCommerce website built by local web developers Carpe Diem.

Modern Day Monks started out at local Maker Markets, showcasing their craft all around the UK. They even reached the finals of the 'Young Traders of the Year'. But when the UK went into lockdown and all the bars and restaurants they were selling through closed their doors, they needed a solution to continue supplying

their customers and to stay in business.

"Innovation and adaptation are watchwords at Carpe Diem and supporting our clients as the world continues to change around us is second nature", shares Bill Carr, CEO of Carpe Diem. "So, when Jon and Jim said - 'Why don't we deliver beer to peoples' doorsteps?' - we set about making that happen."

Giving potential customers the means to order and evolving the delivery concept, Carpe Diem built a Shopify eCommerce

solution that lets 'locals' book regular deliveries. The site was built at speed, from initial sketches to launch in just five days, working directly with the Monks co-founder Jon on product page design, content and how the subscription model should work.

Orders came flooding in the moment the site was launched, with Facebook ads driving conversions in the Warrington delivery catchment. In fact, in the first six days of running the ads Modern Day Monks reached 15,136 people and converted online sales nearly 300% better

than the industry standard.

And with over 20% of all orders being subscriptions for regular deliveries, the recurring orders and regular income has made all the difference for the two brothers and the brewery they founded.

Brother Jon (pictured below) says; "We'll be looking to open up deliveries in more areas as quickly as demand can be met, so if you'd like to support a local business and order fresh beer to your door then please visit www.mdmbrewery.co.uk."



Welcome back to your Faster, Easier, Friendlier airport

2020 certainly hasn't been the year that anyone expected it to be. But with restrictions now easing and airlines taking to the skies once more, we are seeing passengers return to the terminal here at Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

Of course, we are doing everything we can to ensure that the airport is as safe as possible for passengers and colleagues, so that we can provide you with an experience that is fitting of our Faster, Easier, Friendlier ethos.

If you are flying from the airport in the coming weeks and want to know what to expect, more about

our health and safety procedures and what you'll need to do to prepare, click the button below.

Many of our operators are back up and running, covering some of our best destinations including Alicante, Budapest and Rhodes. Please check with the relevant airline for up to date Covid-19 restrictions.

Ryanair, easyJet, Wizz Air, Blue Air and Loganair are all currently operating flights in and out of Liverpool. Fancy a last-minute getaway this summer? Click one of the buttons below to discover your next destination.

What's open?

We have re-opened a number of shops and restaurants in the terminal.

Airport lounge re-opening

Our Aspire lounge is opening back up on Wednesday 5 August.

To book lounge access in advance and to find out about the COVID-19 measures that will be in place, click the button below.

Book now www.liverpoolairport.com/travel-extras/premium-lounge

Contactless payments

We encourage all passengers, where possible, to pay by card when making purchases in the terminal.

Selected retailers and restaurants will also be operating a card-only policy.

Government travel advice

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office provides up-to-date travel advice.

Get the latest information about travelling abroad including Coronavirus, safety, entry requirements and travel warnings.

www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Student pen pals reach out to vulnerable people living under lockdown

A pen pal project to befriend people living with dementia has seen 100 students reach out to care home residents living under lockdown.

The Letters Against Loneliness project was set up by the University of Chester's Volunteering Team to connect student volunteers to people who may be socially-isolated in the community. A total of 91 Chester-based and nine Warrington-based students are now writing, from the heart, hundreds of creative poems, letters and messages to vulnerable people living in 11 local care homes and those supported by the charity, Re-engage. Re-engage is currently supporting people over 75 years who may be finding the COVID-19 crisis particularly devastating, with few family members or friends to talk to.

For example, the Warrington Campus' Letters Against Loneliness team has forged strong links with two local care homes. Safety has, at all times, been the watchword. Students meet online for weekly creative workshops then laminate the mail they generate before sending it to care home staff to be disinfected. More than 50 mail items have since been sent to care home residents unable to have visitors due to the shielding restrictions.

The nine-strong Warrington group is led by two second year Mental Health Student Nurses, Abigail Price and Sarana Coppin. The Warrington Campus has dementia-friendly status (an Alzheimer's Society initiative to change the way we think, act and talk about dementia).

Sarana said: "I really enjoy our weekly online meetings because they lift my spirits"

Abigail added: "It's great to get creative together and we know, from the feedback we've had, that our efforts are really making a difference."

Mental Health Senior Lecturer, Dean McShane, said the project, launched on World Mental Health Day in October 2019, was mutually-beneficial and had the long-term goal was to expand the project to make contact with other vulnerable, socially-isolated groups.

He said: "The feedback from staff at the homes has been overwhelming. It's clear the letters have brought so much joy during this difficult period. But it's a two-way process. The students giving their time not only benefit from meeting each other online to get creative, they've had heart-warming feedback that proves their efforts are really appreciated."

Volunteer Co-ordinator, Shaunagh Smith, is a member of the team co-ordinating the University-wide project. She said: "We not only support our students to ensure whatever they're sending is sensitively-worded, we encourage them to inject some of their warmth and personality into their letters, messages and poems. After all, it's the human touch that matters – the human touch that means so much to someone cut off from family and friends at this difficult time for us all. I am very proud our students who have stepped up to this challenge and are making such a difference."



Building bridges to those living under lockdown. Warrington Letters Against Loneliness volunteers, Sarana Coppin (left) and Abigail Price (right) pictured together before the national lockdown.



Building bridges to those living under lockdown. Warrington Letters Against Loneliness volunteers Abigail Price (left) and Sarana Coppin (right) pictured together before the national lockdown.

Share a little Love with Warrington Charities Trust

WARRINGTON Charities Trust (WCT), who have funded grassroots charitable organisations since 1989, have unlocked £20,000 to help local groups bounce back from COVID19.

Paul Taylor, chair of Warrington Charities Trust said; "Many grassroots organisations are struggling to recover from Covid amid the 'new norm'. We aim to address that and hope the good people of Warrington will help us."

The Trust has also launched an initiative on the back of the Government's "Eat out to Help Out" scheme.

"Patrons will be encouraged to donate some of the money they've saved to help commendable local causes. As always with Warrington charities Trust, every single penny that is donated will go directly to local vetted charitable organisations who are struggling in this testing time."

"We appreciate its tough for many right now but passing on what you can from your reduced dining bill will help ensure there's a helping hand for others in less fortunate positions."

Donations can be made via: <https://warringtoncharitiestrust.org/Share-The-Love/> or get in touch with us on 01925 649160



New ticket system brings Contactless and Passenger Counting to bus company

NEW contactless ticket machines are now available across Warrington's Own Buses fleet, helping speed up boarding times.

Ticketer has worked around the clock to ensure a rapid rollout of 90 EMV contactless ticket machines, with mTicketing, on Warrington's Own Buses.

Passengers can now use contactless payments across Warrington's Own Buses' entire fleet.

With support from Merseytravel, passengers have been issued new ITSO smart cards so they can continue to travel as before, with no interruption to their journey across the Warrington and Liverpool City Region boundaries.

mTicketing will be available via Warrington's Own Buses app to speed up boarding times and allow passengers to purchase mTickets in advance. These can then be quickly be scanned onboard.

Ben Wakerley, Warrington's Managing Director, commented: "The new Ticketer machines

give us a serious upgrade for our customers and my colleagues. We will have contactless card and mobile phone payments across our entire fleet, which can only be good news."

Drivers and passengers alike, will also benefit from Ticketer's Schedule Adherence feature, which generates real time punctuality monitoring on bus. This directly addresses a frustration some passengers have, by preventing the early departures of services and helping the driver stick to the timetable (traffic dependent of course).

Additional operational benefits will include Ticketer's automated Vehicle Checklist feature which gives real-time visibility of reported vehicle defects electronically, eliminating the need for lengthy admin with paper checklists.

Passenger and Driver safety has been at the forefront of this implementation and drivers are welcoming the addition of Ticketer's Passenger Counting feature. This will enable them to manage passenger capacity, against thresholds set at Warrington's Own Buses depot. It

also gives passengers confidence to travel safely when combined with the new 'touch-free' payment options.

John Clarfelt, CEO, Ticketer said: "As expected, we have seen a significant rise in operators moving towards creating a completely touch-free experience for their passengers in recent months, and Warrington's Own Buses are no exception. Protecting driver and passenger safety has been a priority for them, and we have enjoyed working in tandem with their terrific team to ensure a swift, smooth transition to our Ticketer

ETMs."

He added: "Touch-free payment acceptance is obviously vital for the new world we live in, but we're also delighted that Warrington's Own Buses will be taking advantage of our new Passenger Counting feature to help adapt during these challenging times, working to ensure correct social distancing on board."

*Founded in 2009, Ticketer is now the UK's most widely deployed ticketing systems supplier, with Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) on buses across the UK.



College to become a new centre of excellence in advanced manufacturing and engineering

A new centre of excellence for advanced manufacturing and engineering is to open at Warrington & Vale Royal College's Winsford campus this September, thanks to funding from Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and support from local employers.

The new Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Training (AMET) Centre was awarded £656,000 from the LEP's Local Growth Fund and will serve the region as a specialist centre for materials measurement, testing and analysis and enhance the provision of digital and manufacturing skills training across Cheshire and Warrington. The centre will house equipment to support the skills required for smarter manufacturing techniques and accelerate the adoption and use of Industrial Digital Technologies (IDTs) such as robotics, industrial control and digital intelligence which, in turn, will enable cross-sector collaboration and raise productivity and competitiveness.

Local employers have highlighted their aspiration to digitalise manufacturing processes and upskill their employees in parallel. Winsford's new AMET centre will support this aspiration.

In Vale Royal there is a demand for hydraulics, robotics, pneumatics, PLCs and metallurgy fault-finding equipment for manufacturing. Employers such as Roberts Bakery, TATA Chemicals and Thermofisher articulated skills needs in these areas.

Nichola Newton, Principal & Chief Executive of Warrington & Vale Royal College, said: "The £656k investment from the LEP will enable the college to deliver bespoke skills training packages for our partner employers and expand on the range of technical qualifications and apprenticeships offered to students. Employers will be co-creating the curriculum with the college and this collaborative approach will enable us to provide a pipeline of talent to support the need for around 45,000 jobs in advanced manufacturing and engineering across Cheshire."

Clare Hayward MBE DL, Chair of Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership said: "We hear from companies almost daily of the importance of skills for growth and even in these challenging times those needs are only enhanced. We allocated £5m from our Local Growth Fund into 14 skills projects. It is clear that the AMET Centre will be a pivotal asset in helping our region's

manufacturing and engineering companies transform their processes as they embrace the shift towards digital innovation. We are delighted that the Centre is moving forward and will provide a new and unique learning environment from September."

Alongside the AMET Centre, Warrington & Vale Royal College's Winsford campus will also offer courses in Electrical Installation, Health & Social Care and Graphic Design.

Principal and CEO, Nichola Newton, added: "This is a very exciting time for Winsford campus and demonstrates the college's commitment to enhancing further education in Vale Royal."

"We would love to hear from any engineering, manufacturing or allied services organisations or sector specialists in the Winsford, Northwich or Crewe area who would like to become involved in the project. Maybe you would like to become a member of our Engineering Employer Group or come and have a look around Winsford campus and see for yourself how impressive our facilities are; please do get in touch by contacting amet@wvr.ac.uk"

Further details of Warrington & Vale Royal College's AMET Centre will be released at a launch event in September 2020.



Work starts on Virtual Disability Awareness Day

WORK has started on creating a "Virtual" Disability Awareness Day after this year's event at Walton Gardens had to be called off due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On what should have been the 29th Warrington Disability Awareness Day, which has now become the largest event of its kind in the world, work started on preparing for Virtual DAD.

But due to the pandemic organisers has little choice but to call it off. But undeterred work has now started on creating a virtual event on Sunday October 25, followed by a week of activities from Monday 26th to Friday 30th of October.

Warrington Disability Partnership will work in partnership to create a highly engaging virtual DAD event emulating the 'real event' with a high quality look and feel online experience, including mix of real and virtual reality (mixed reality).

Capable of taking large volume of online traffic.

It will include a new dedicated Website/Portal – capable of hosting live events, virtual models and high level of traffic up to 10,000 plus simultaneously. A click on bespoke graphical site plan or list/icon of sponsor/exhibitor, public will be able to navigate around the virtual marquees by virtual tour.

Commenting on the event WDP Chief Executive and Disability Awareness Day founder Dave Thompson said: "It feels really strange, and somewhat sad, sitting here at Walton Gardens on the day and the time when the grounds should have been full of marquees, food vendors, over a hundred stewards and volunteers, hundreds of exhibitors and entertainers and getting ready for the tens of thousands of visitors who would have attended WDP's 29th annual Disability Awareness Day.

"But instead we are shooting a promotional video with Phil and the guys from 4wardfutures that will be used to introduce our virtual event being launched on Sunday 25th October. It's going to be amazing. Huge thanks to Tony Brown and his team from Expanse Learning Group, our principal sponsors."

It is hoped the new virtual event will create a legacy and become

part of future events, enabling those who can not attend the chance to be involved.



World beating exam success for Accounting and Finance Graduate Katie

A graduate from the University of Chester has been awarded the highest mark in the world for her final exam in a professional accounting qualification.

Helen Clayfield, Programme Leader for the popular Accounting and Finance Degree at Chester Business School was delighted to read about the success of an alumna of her course in print recently.

Katie Tunstall graduated with a First from the BSc Hons degree in 2018 and has progressed to a career in management accounting. Recently completing her professional exams with CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) to become a qualified accountant, she achieved not only the highest marks in the country, but the highest in the world!

Katie said: "After graduating in 2018 with a First-Class Honours degree in Accounting and Finance, I got a job working for an online retailer. My role is the Finance and Efficiencies Lead and I focus on analysing and communicating financial data to aid strategic decisions, improve profitability and drive success across the business. While working full time, I also studied to complete the exams for my CIMA Professional Qualification, and I was amazed to find out that I had achieved the joint highest mark in the world for my final exam - the Strategic Case Study. I am incredibly proud of this achievement; it just shows that hard work really does pay off."

Leader for Accounting and Finance says: "This is an amazing accomplishment for Katie. It takes a lot of hard work, planning and determination to pass professional exams with CIMA and on top of that to get the highest mark worldwide at the final level is a significant achievement. To watch so many graduates from the Accounting programme successfully progress within their careers is a joy and we are proud of every single one of them!"

Katie recommends the degree course at Chester. She said: "I am so grateful for my experience studying for my degree at the Chester Business School. I learnt so much and received exemptions that allowed me to progress through my CIMA Professional Qualification much quicker. The thing I loved most about the Chester Business School was the small group lectures and seminars, they were so interactive and allowed more time with the lecturers to understand the information more effectively. There is also so much support available to the students both from the lecturers, who are always happy to help and assist your learning, and the facilities available such as the library and study areas.

"Personally, my favourite element of the Accounting and Finance course was the Management Accounting module. I was fascinated by the way financial information can be used to make decisions and that's what inspired me to continue my career in this area of finance."

Chester <https://www1.chester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/accounting-and-finance> helps graduates on the way to becoming professionally qualified because it offers significant exemptions from professional exams with all the accounting bodies – this means

it takes less time for graduates to become fully qualified, especially important once in a full-time job. Places are available for September 2020 and September 2021 study – see our webpage or contact us for more information: enquiries@chester.ac.uk



Helen Clayfield. Programme

Accounting and Finance at

Listening to students brings higher satisfaction in this year's NSS results

THE University of Chester has scored well above the average satisfaction rating in every aspect of the 2020 undergraduate National Student Survey (NSS) - with a particularly strong performance in listening to its student body.

The institution scored an impressive 86.4% for overall satisfaction – 3.7% above the sector average of 82.6% and with above average scores in all areas of this year's survey. These results were achieved with an impressive response rate of 72% (4% higher than the sector average of 68%).

The University of Chester is the highest performing higher education institution in the North West for listening to the Student Voice and Eleanor Lewis, President of Chester Students' Union, said: "It is wonderful to see how well the University has done in the NSS. It shows just how much the University values and uses feedback from students to make positive changes. Thank you to students for taking time to fill out the NSS and to the University for constantly striving to improve the student experience at the University of Chester."

The University also scored significantly above the sector benchmark in providing Assessment and Feedback, reflecting that students felt that marking criteria were clear; assessment was fair and that feedback was timely and helpful.

The NSS was held earlier this year during a time when universities were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The University of Chester adapted quickly to move its teaching online and support its students through this unprecedented time so it is pleased to see the significant increase in the score for Organisation and Management this year. This signifies confidence in the management and future direction of the institution with good scores for well-run courses,

an effective timetable and clear communications.

Feedback on the quality of Learning Resources saw the University rise to the top quartile of institutions in this section with good feedback on IT resources; books, online services and learning resources and being able to access equipment appropriate to their course.

Professor Eunice Simmons, Vice-Chancellor of the University of

Chester, said: "It is particularly pleasing to see that students recognise that we in the University are listening to and acting upon their opinions to make the student experience even better for the next set of students who come to Chester.

"We are working hard to physically reopen our campuses safely for the next academic year and greatly look forward to welcoming new and returning students in September."



Talia's Clearing decision leads to a First Class success

CHOOSING the University of Chester through the Clearing process has paid dividends for a soon-to-be-graduate who has been awarded a First Class degree.

Talia Kayne impressed lecturers with her commitment and self-belief and was offered a place to study Events Management at the University's Business School.

The opportunity to join Chester was a springboard for Talia to excel, repaying her tutors' confidence in her abilities to make the most of her university experience. Her student career has seen her volunteer for many community events, including what her tutors describe as an "outstanding" fund-raiser to benefit Chester Women's Aid that Talia designed, planned, organised and ran along with four fellow students in their second year of her studies.

The move to online learning during the pandemic has boosted the level of tutor/student engagement over the last few months. This ranged from formal teaching and individual tutorials to more informal fun get-togethers, such as quiz nights. The Events Management students have risen to the challenge of hosting virtual events, which they will need

to have experience of in their professional lives.

Dr Tim Brown, Programme Leader, Events Management at the University's Business School, said: "It was an easy decision for us to accept Talia straight on to the degree. Since day one she has excelled in both her studies and engagement with the events industry, actively volunteering and working on events. It has been a pleasure to see her grow in confidence and ability throughout her time with us."

Tim said Talia's tenacity and diligence, as well as her active engagement with tutors, bode well for a bright future to follow.

Talia added: "These things are meant to be and coming to Chester was not only the best choice, but part fate too! It has been an amazing experience throughout my studies, and I have made some fantastic friends – both students and staff."

It is not too late to apply to the University of Chester for entry in September this year. For help and friendly advice about applying or changing your place to Chester the University's helpful team is available to answer any questions

from accommodation advice through to course information. This can be done online by signing up for a Unibuddy account www1.chester.ac.uk/ask

To find out more about how the University of Chester is getting Sorted for September and about Clearing visit www.chester.ac.uk or call 01244 567470.



Virtual session success for SL procurement Solutions Ltd

Local Training provider turns to online and virtual teaching seminars to continue growth and support CIPS professionals in gaining their qualifications through the Covid-19 Pandemic.

S.L. Procurement Solutions Limited are a leading training provider, delivering Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Chain courses to the Warrington and surrounding areas.

The CIPS qualifications that are taught by S.L. Procurement Solutions Limited are delivered via a timetable across all level 4 Diploma, Level 5 Advanced Diploma and Level 6 Professional Diploma modules. The vast amount of course content is usually delivered via condensed face to face afternoon teaching sessions, to maximise content but minimise the usually time-consuming commitment needed to gain these sought-after qualifications.

But the company's usual course delivery had to be re-thought by Company Director Stephen Lovatt, to ensure all students continued with their studies despite being unable to physically attend the sessions, this is due individuals working from home, employees

who have been furloughed but are still able to attend training.

"We already had a large cohort of students either starting their Level 4 topics or continuing through their Level 5 and 6 topics. With all the commitment from our students already it simply was not an option to pause all teaching whilst our local Warrington meeting rooms had to close their doors to protect the public".

"We already had experience of delivering some course content to a cohort in a Southern UK region, and so we knew it was something we could tailor for our CIPS professionals who didn't want to pause their professional development despite this pandemic."

"There are a multitude of platforms to deliver online and virtually, but what I wanted to ensure is that we continued to connect positively by sharing our professional experiences and adapting them to our course content"

"We had to throw the old timetable out the window and spilt our group sessions so that we could make sure everyone could still participate in studies. Some were still working, either



in the office or from home, some furloughed, some with children and other dependents so it wasn't a case of hoping they can get the time to log in and join us. I had to make sure everyone was getting a great amount of course content during different times of the day. This has worked brilliantly and shown us how virtual sessions bring far more flexibility away from our usual fixed timetable"

S.L. Procurement Solutions Limited student Charlotte Farrell said "These topics take an immense amount of commitment and so I was thrilled to know I could continue my studies despite working from home. It was really nice to be able to see the usual cohort, despite only on screen. We managed to still engage and debate on topics and get to grips

with our new style of learning. It's been a really easy transition and I am delighted to still feel ready to sit my exams in July and not waste any time on achieving my qualification".

In fact the flexibility of the virtual sessions has brought new students to the company and they have already been enjoying the new way of learning.

"It's been amazing to see the resilience of our Warrington businesses and their employees who are striving for continued professional development, even during this time, it's a true reflection of the regions business prowess. I am so proud to be able to still deliver my courses and help them on their professional journey's," added Stephen.

CIPS Level 4 Diploma – virtual online teaching sessions

Dates: get in touch for online dates and costs and availability

S.L. Procurement Solutions Limited are a leading training provider of the CIPS qualifications.

We are delivering CIPS Level 4 Diploma topics virtually - throughout the summer and will continue to do so until our usual meeting rooms open for business. We have designated study

sessions for these CIPS topics:

Coming up next is:
Scope and Influence in Procurement and Supply (L4M1)
Procurement and Supply in Practice (L4M8)

And either continue as virtual sessions or, face to face classroom

delivery of:

Commerical Contracting (L4M3)
October 2020
Commerical Negotiation (L4M5)
October 2020
Ethical and Responsible Sourcing (L4M4)
December 2020
Supplier Relationships (L4M6)

January 2021

For more detailed course content and information, or for information on now to enrol on these weekend CIPS Topic sessions please email: stephenlovatt@slprocurementsolutions.com

CIPS Level 5 Advanced Diploma – virtual online teaching sessions

Dates: get in touch for online dates and costs and availability

S.L. Procurement Solutions Limited are a leading training provider of the CIPS qualifications.

We are delivering CIPS Level 5 Advanced Diploma topics virtually - throughout the summer and will continue to do so until our usual meeting rooms open for business.

We have designated study

sessions for these CIPS topics:

Coming up next is:
Operations Management (L5M9)
Logistics Management (L5M10)
Managing Ethical Procurement and Supply (L5M5)
August 2020

And either continue as virtual sessions or, face to face classroom

delivery of:

Achieving Competitive Advantage through the Supply Chain (L5M7)
August and September 2020
Managing Teams and Individuals (L5M1)
October 2020
Category Management (L5M6)
December 2020
Project and Change Management

(L5M8)

January 2021

For more detailed course content and information, or for information on now to enrol on these weekend CIPS Topic sessions please email: stephenlovatt@slprocurementsolutions.com

Fully Funded Training for Buyers!

A Warrington training provider is offering fully funded training courses for aspiring procurement professionals. The Westbrook based company, Aspire Procurement Training Ltd, is running the CIPS Level 4 Apprenticeship for people in purchasing, supply chain, contract management & buying roles. The one year course gives delegates their first step towards achieving their professional license to practice and provides globally accepted best practice techniques to enable them to add significantly more value to their organisation through their procurement role. The course is fully funded by the Apprenticeship Levy, and is therefore 100% funded for all levy payers.. Non levy payers receive 95% funding for the course. Aspire are running free courses in August to explain how the CIPS Level 4 Apprenticeship is delivered.

Mark Parker, Director and Head of Centre for Aspire said, "We have had a great response from

companies who have placed delegates on the course during the past two years, and who are now seeing the benefits of having buyers armed with all the necessary procurement & supply chain management tools & techniques. During this pandemic senior teams in organisations have realised how critical procurement & supply chain management is to their businesses. Almost overnight, procurement and supply chain has been recognised as pivotal to the organisation. Therefore, if employees want to raise their profile they should take a CIPS course, become qualified and project themselves up the career ladder. There has never been a time when training in procurement & supply chain has been so important".

CIPS is the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply, and is the global organisation for people in the procurement & supply chain profession.

Aspire Procurement Training Ltd

are the CIPS Centre of Excellence & CIPS Exam Centre for Warrington and the surrounding area.

Anyone interested the CIPS Level 4 Apprenticeship should email qualify@cips-training.com for more information.



Stage set for some stellar careers for Priestley students

YOUNG performers and production artists from Priestley College who have perfected their craft in Warrington are about to step out onto a wider stage.

Students from Priestley College have secured places at the UK's most prestigious theatre schools, many having auditioned for their places online during lockdown.

Among them is Connor Hawker who discovered his passion for putting on a show during his time at Penketh High. He is now headed to East 15 Acting School – voted the best in the country for drama by The Guardian this year.

"It also has 100% student satisfaction so I'm looking forward

to immersing myself into that positive environment with a new bunch of talented people with the same ambitions," said Connor.

Priestley's performers have also secured places at Bristol Old Vic, one of the most respected conservatoires in the UK, Arden School of Theatre, which boasts a number of TV actors as alumni and Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts where everyone from Lesley Manville to dancer and choreographer Derek Hough have trod the boards.

Former Golborne High pupil Nathan Cullen – who took the lead in Priestley's production of Grease last year – has secured a place at The Hammond, a centre

of excellence for dance.

Assistant Principal Sarah Graham, who is singing tutor on BTEC Performing Arts course, said: "We are lucky at Priestley to attract the most talented young performers in the area and every year they go on to great things.

"This year their route has been slightly different given the circumstances, and many students have needed to undertake a rigorous online audition process. They have all excelled and deserve to move on to their chosen destinations with a proud spring in their step."

Former Culcheth High pupil Rae Atkin is also progressing in

September as she is heading to The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama to study Stage Management & Technical Theatre.

During her time studying Production Arts at Priestley she played a key role behind the scenes on numerous productions.

It was studying under the tutelage of Mark Edgington and Debby Clitheroe that inspired her to take Stage Management.

"I arrived at Priestley thinking I knew exactly what I wanted to do in my career, but after studying Production Arts for only a few months it changed everything I thought I knew about myself," she said.



Warrington Town learn season start date

WARRINGTON Town's 2019/20 league season is set to begin on Saturday September 19.

The Northern Premier League confirmed that they had received instruction from the National League System that the new season can start in September, subject to guidance relating to stadium capacity limits and social distancing.

The Yellows haven't played since March, and last season was deemed null and void, denying them the chance to earn promotion to National League North.

They will go up against the same 21 clubs, after there was no change to the league allocations meaning the likes of FC United, Scarborough Athletic and South

Shields will once again be competing with the Yellows for glory.

The FA Cup first qualifying round is due to be held on Tuesday September 22, as more midweek games are scheduled throughout the shortened season which is due to end with the play-off final on May 15.

Meanwhile, the social club at Cantilever Park was successfully re-opened earlier in July while other work has been undertaken to improve areas of the ground ahead of the new season.

A sponsorship raffle for naming rights of the "Shed end" has also been launched and a new home kit is due to be released before kick-off.



Yellows make fourth summer signing



WARRINGTON Town have made their fourth summer signing with the capture of left-sided defender Joel Amado from Trafford FC.

Amado, 22, has already started training with his new team-mates and follows on from the arrivals of Callum Grogan, Charlie Munro and Craig Carney.

He was part of the Trafford side that won the Integro League Cup in 2019, beating Farsley Celtic in the final, and was previously with Curzon Ashton, as well as playing alongside Yellows striker Jordan Buckley at Irlam FC.

Manager Paul Carden said: "He's another good young player. A good athlete, he's 6'2", he's got pace and power and he'll give us a different dimension to what we've already got.

"Last season we only really had one player who could play left-back, in Tom Warren, so we wanted to make sure we had cover but Joel is also versatile, which is

again something that I'm looking for.

"He gives us a totally different proposition to the left-back position, he gives us balance and gives us the option to play a back three with the defenders we've got now.

"We've always tried to have young lads who are hungry around the experienced ones, and while we're still looking to add a bit more experience to the squad, Joel is another good young player who's got a chance of making it higher up in the game."

Meanwhile, the Yellows will kick-off their pre-season campaign with a friendly away at Skelmersdale United on August 15.

A home friendly against City of Liverpool on August 28 has also been confirmed, though both are to be played behind closed doors due to the current government restrictions.

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- Certification of GSP Form A preference certificates
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The copy deadline for the next edition of Insight magazine is

September 23rd

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

info@warrington-chamber.co.uk

Warrington's Rugby League World Cup fixtures revealed

WARRINGTON'S Rugby League World Cup 2021 fixtures have been revealed with the Halliwell Jones Stadium set to host three men's fixtures.

New Zealand vs Lebanon heads to Warrington on the first weekend of RLWC2021 on Sunday 24 October, 7.30pm, followed by Papua New Guinea vs Cook Islands on Tuesday 2 November, 7.30pm and Samoa vs France – Sunday 7 November, 5.00pm.

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 tournament organisers have today (Tuesday July 21) revealed the much-anticipated fixture schedule for what promises to be the biggest and best World Cup in the history of the sport, as the men's, women's and wheelchair teams all compete at the same time in a major sporting first.

In June, it was revealed that Warrington will be the team training base for Papua New Guinea's men's team.

Warrington Borough Council Chief Executive and Vice Chairman of Warrington Wolves, Professor Steven Broomhead, said: "Put simply, we have three massive, mouth-watering fixtures to look forward to next year.

"Our games at the Halliwell Jones

Stadium could play a crucial part in ultimately crowning next year's champions and the prospect of watching some of the world's greatest Rugby League stars on the global stage is something we in Warrington won't take for granted.

"The whole of RLWC2021 will be a feast of world-class action, but we have some particularly exciting fixtures that we look forward to hosting in our proud town. Bring on 2021."

Chief Executive at Warrington Wolves, Karl Fitzpatrick, added: "Today's fixtures announcement is incredibly exciting and we're looking forward to hosting what will be three hugely entertaining group games next year. We're thrilled to be welcoming some of the biggest stars not just in Rugby League but in world sport to The Halliwell Jones Stadium.

"We all remember the two epic encounters played in front of huge crowds at our stadium during the 2013 tournament and I know that we will once again put on a show for next year's event. The 2021 Rugby League World Cup will be a fantastic sporting spectacle and we can't wait to play our part in creating experiences that will live long in the memories of players and spectators."

Jon Dutton, RLWC2021 Chief Executive, said: "This is a huge moment for the tournament and for fans in our host cities and towns as we reveal the full fixture schedule.

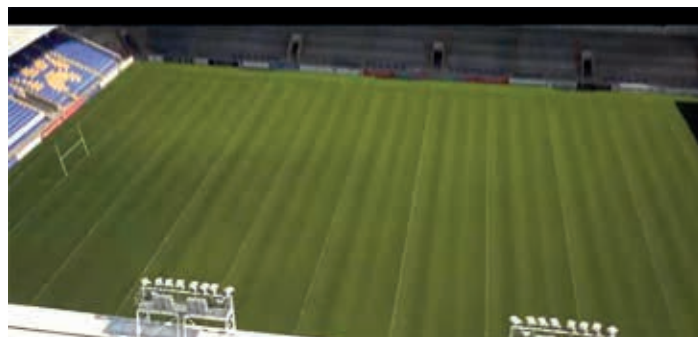
"The tournament has been gaining momentum over recent months and fans can now look forward to being part of this unique global event. With match dates and locations confirmed, the excitement will only intensify.

"RLWC2021 will bring together the very best that the sport has to offer, and you can see from the schedule that there is no end of world class, not-to-be-missed matches, across all three tournaments.

"It is an exciting day for all our Rugby League fans and communities across England who will be proud and brilliant hosts to the travelling nations as together we deliver the biggest and best Rugby League World Cup to date."

With 61 fixtures over a six-week period the tournament will showcase a festival of world class sporting action. The dates, venues and kick-off times for each of the three tournaments is now confirmed and available to view at RLWC2021.com

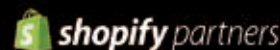
For more information about Warrington's part in the tournament, visit warrington.gov.uk/rlwc2021



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