

insight

February 19

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Hospital and College team up to “home grow” local NHS workforce

Warrington and Halton Hospitals and Warrington & Vale Royal College have teamed up signalling a commitment to ‘home grow’ the local NHS workforce of the future.

Hospital Chief Executive Mel Pickup and College Principal Nicola Newton have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cement the new partnership.

The Trust's relationship with the college is the latest in a number of academic partnerships with universities, colleges and schools across the region and is intended to promote initiatives and opportunities for developing the employability skills of and opportunities for college learners and apprentices.

Speaking at the formal signing of the MoU, the Trust's Chief Executive Mel Pickup said: “We have launched our new strategy ‘Becoming an Outstanding organisation for our patients, our communities and our staff’ and have committed to being an employer of choice with a specific ‘People’ pledge that states ‘We will be the best place to work with a diverse, engaged workforce that is fit for the future’.

“This MoU is an important step in ensuring that we can access and develop local talent required for our future workforce. We offer so many apprenticeship, volunteering and job opportunities that are both clinical and non-clinical – there really is something for everyone as part of our team.”

Key to the partnership is the focus on learners' experiences in the workplace and the potential employment pipeline into the Trust. Together the MoU sets out how the parties will work on:

- Improving the skills of the workforce

so more people can access jobs from the local population

- Giving those without the right skills a second chance to get job ready skills
- Building on the successful apprenticeship hub and work with businesses to develop higher skilled apprenticeships
- Concentrating on supporting graduate level jobs to attract the highest skilled workers
- Enabling school leavers to get the qualifications they need to access and create the jobs of the future.

Warrington & Vale Royal Principal and CEO Nichola Newton said: “Our partnership will develop opportunities that will meet the needs of learners on a range of programmes, enabling them to participate in high quality and realistic work place experiences, including apprenticeships, traineeships and supported internships.

“The College will ensure that learners are prepared for work place experience through promoting the high expectations of the Trust ensuring that our local NHS has committed and motivated learners in the work place, who could be considered viable candidates for future employment within the Trust on successful completion of their study.

Cementing the relationship the College joins the Trust's Council of Governors as a partner governor and similarly the Trust's Director of HR and Organisation Development Michelle Cloney joins Warrington & Vale Royal College's Governing Body.



Charity moving forward with plans to deliver a National Disability Museum

WARRINGTON Disability Partnership is moving forward with plans to deliver a National Disability Museum in the town.

The charity's founder and chief Executive Dave Thompson says he has been inundated with positive feedback since first mentioning the possibility on social media.

Dave, who helped set up the charity nearly 30 years ago after breaking his neck playing American football, says initial discussions via social media platforms attracted nearly 1,000 very positive comments and discussions all fully supporting the idea of developing a bricks and mortar National Disability Museum.

This was followed by further positive discussions with leading organisations such as the British Health Trades Association, British Red Cross, various disability organisations, disabled people, educational establishments and professionals working in museums.

Dave said: “All support the notion of creating a museum dedicated to preserving the history of disability through exhibits, collections, archives and educational programmes.

“Suggested outcomes include greater awareness and understanding of the

lives of disabled people, created through sensory stimulation from exhibitions of equipment and archived materials, storytelling boards and dialogue.

“Current thinking suggests that a purpose built centre of excellence could be developed into a national resource, with a three-strand approach catering for local, national and even international needs.”

- Locally, a new facility could replace the current Centre for Independent Living displaying modern day mobility and independent living equipment.
- Nationally, a new facility could include the Disability Museum aimed at preserving history, heritage and culture of disability.
- Internationally, a new facility could include a Design and Development Hub, providing space for equipment designers to display their latest equipment. Disabled people, carers, health and social care professionals could be invited to try and test the equipment on display, and provide feedback to developers, with the aim of designing mobility and independent living equipment that disabled people want, and not simply need.

Dave added: “It is nationally accepted that Warrington offers excellent links to road, rail and air travellers, with

experience of developing a number of focussed/themed museums including RAF Burtonwood Heritage Centre, Cheshire Police Museum and Warrington Museum of Freemasonry.

Warrington Disability Partnership is an internationally recognised user led pan-disability charity with nearly 30 years' experience of developing and delivering a wide range of services focussed on mobility and independent living, and WDP also runs the world's largest annual voluntary led pan disability event, Disability Awareness Day that was established in 1992.

The charity has a Disability Timeline spanning over 30 metres in the main corridor at their Centre for Independent

Living, and together with BAS (NW) they have refurbished a 100 year old wheelchair that they display at local vintage car rallies.

The Board of Trustees at Warrington Disability Partnership have agreed that WDP should lead the debate on this development and a list of possible partners has been drawn up.

Anyone who would like to be involved in the discussion about the possible development of a National Disability Museum, please contact Dave Thompson, Chief Executive at Warrington Disability Partnership Email davethompson@disabilitypartnership.org.uk or call 01925 240064.



From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



Recruitment Crisis

Companies are facing the biggest recruitment crisis in a generation according to a major quarterly study by the British Chambers of Commerce.

The lowest unemployment rate for nearly 40 years has started to take its toll on businesses with four in five manufacturing firms reporting difficulties in securing skilled workers. In the services sector which makes up nearly 80pc of the economy, seven in 10 said they had struggled to recruit.

Meanwhile a wider economic

slow down appears to be weighing on firms with the share of companies reporting growth in orders and sales falling to a two year low, the study found.

The data was gathered from 6,000 firms employing more than 1 million workers in November last year.

Firms had suggested their confidence in the future had slipped with the number of firms expecting their turnover and profitability to improve in the coming months falling back.

However there were some positive signs in business investment which has been adversely affected by political deadlock over Brexit. The balance of firms reporting increased investment in staff and equipment rose slightly across manufacturing and service companies.

The closely watched purchasing managers index (PMI) scored 54.2 in December up from 53.6 in November and well above the neutral level of 50 that separate growth from contraction.

Meeting with Maxime Couvreur

My recent meeting with Maxime Couvreur Trade Counsellor Belgian Embassy at his request was a very positive meeting and I was able to enlighten him regarding local businesses in Warrington and significant businesses in Cheshire/Warrington he was clearly impressed with the information regarding the Cheshire/Warrington economy and Warrington's economic standing in the North West.

Late payers told to clean up their act

Public sector outsourcers who take months to pay their own suppliers face being blocked from bidding for contracts under new government plans to crack down on late payments.

From next autumn procurement bosses will be expected to assess whether or not suppliers on contracts worth more than £5m per year

have "robust measures" to ensure that sub-contractors are paid on time and are settling 95pc of their invoices within 60 days of receipt.

A minister at the Cabinet Office said those who were found to be paying their suppliers later "could stop winning public contracts altogether - until they clean up their act".

The Government has also relaunched its "Mystery Shopper" scheme which allows contractors to complain anonymously about misbehaviour in public sector supply chains.

It will now be known as the Public Procurement Review Services.

New Year, New Office?

As a new year comes around, thoughts often turn to your business. Are your current premises the best place for you?

Are you managing your own workspace but need to devote more time to your own business rather than worrying about office space? Perhaps your business is currently based at home, and you've decided that this year, it's time to make the move into offices. If this is the case then serviced offices may offer you the best option. This may be your first move into serviced offices, or you may be relocating from your existing serviced office, but either way, it is a stressful time and choosing where to move to isn't a decision that should be taken lightly. Follow our top tips to make sure that the office you choose is the right one for your business and, just as importantly, the right one for you.

- Visit the business centre
This may sound silly, but many

people will make their decisions over the phone and the internet. The centre may "sound" great, but you need to actually visit it to make sure it is projecting the right image for your business, and providing the right amenities.

- Check the history
New business centres open up regularly, so look for one that has been established for some time. Moving into a business centre is supposed to make your life easier, so the last thing you want is to have to find somewhere else if the centre closes in six months time. Don't be afraid to ask questions - a reputable, established centre will be only too happy to provide its credentials.

- Speak to the receptionists

The receptionists will be the front line to your business. You need to be 100% happy with the service each one is providing.

- Plan for the future
You know where you want your business to be in three years time. Does this centre fit the criteria? Can you expand within the premises? Is the centre investing in technology? While it may be suitable for now, you also need to be confident that you can grow your business comfortably from it.

Having been established for over 25 years, Portal Business Centres can help you make the move into a serviced office seamlessly and efficiently. With centres in Warrington, Ellesmere Port and Bromborough, Portal has offices that can accommodate from one person, right up to 20+. Our centres also have a large range of meeting rooms on site. For more information or to book a tour of one of the centres, contact the team 0345 456 4592 or visit www.portalbusinesscentres.co.uk

Small Business Saturday

The Chamber joined forces with the Department for International Trade when an "Introduction to Exporting" event was held at the International Business Centre to promote Small Business Saturday, this was one of a number of events being held throughout the UK and attracted 40 delegates.

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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

Bid to unlock students' full potential

STUDENTS from Warrington have visited some of the world's most successful and innovative businesses to help raise their own ambitions.

Priestley College has teamed up with Bryanston Square and entrepreneur Marcus Orlovsky to give 10 young people the chance to learn from inspiring leaders beyond Warrington's borders as part of the Unlock programme.

They started a whistle-stop tour of London by meeting Dan Ison who helped create the BBC iPlayer and is now media and entertainment lead partner at auditors Deloitte UK.

Next stop was the offices of Lucky Generals marketing agency where they met the team who produced a Superbowl halftime advert for Amazon and who have worked with the likes of Hollywood star Jeff Bridges and singer Mariah Carey.

Harry James, a former Sir Thomas Boteler student said: "What we found out is that the businesses don't want people from any particular background so I can see myself working for one of them."

"They are looking for a range of skills and backgrounds because they think they can do their job better that way."

Also during the packed day they met a team from Metro Bank, the UK's fastest growing bank.

Award-winning Brigade, a restaurant that trains and employs homeless people to give them a chance in life, while the final appointment was with Andrew

Buisson, a senior partner at the international law firm Norton Rose Fulbright, hosted lunch.

Mark Salmon, a Senior Tutor at Priestley College, said: "I was so

impressed with the range and diverse experiences of the hosts.

"Particularly captivating was Dan at Deloitte who talked so candidly about the discipline, skill and motivation that drove him in his childhood to pursue his ambition to become an actor, attributes that he

now uses in his current career."

Following the trip the students presented back to senior staff at Priestley College about their experience and also wanted to share their findings with peers so gave two presentations to classmates.



Tech-savvy students show their class

A TEAM from Priestley College won the Barclays Tech Innovation Challenge – the third time in four years Priestley has won the competition.

Jared Skelton, Patryk Stec, Alex Parr and Tom Beesley believe they impressed the judges because they were the only team who had developed a working prototype of their app.

"We were the only team who took it that far and I think that is what won

us the competition," said former Birchwood Community High pupil Jared.

All of the Priestley team study the IT Extended Diploma and used both what they had learned in lessons and their own time.

Barclays set them a challenge to come up with a solution to one of four questions. They chose to work on an idea for how to teach young people coding.

Their app – called Multi Code – teaches people basic skills of coding through games. They developed a logo that combined some code and the symbol for infinity to give their app a strong look.

"The great thing about taking part was that we got to practise a number of skills such as branding, coding and working in a team," said Tom, a former pupil at St Peter and Paul Catholic College.

"We had to present our idea to senior managers from Barclays, which was nerve-racking, but also a great experience."

Each team member received a £25 Amazon voucher and the college won a 3D printer.

Tutor Alasdair Reid said: "Just taking part is a great experience that will stand out on our students' CVs, but the fact they impressed the judges enough to win is even better.

"From a college perspective we are delighted because the consistent success we are having in this competition against schools and colleges from the across the region shows we are preparing our students well for this kind of work."



Another price freeze and reduced bus fares

To kick start 2019, local bus company Warrington's Own Buses has reduced even more bus fares on top of a four year price freeze on its normal fares.

There have already been several reductions since Summer 2017 and this latest wave of reductions goes even further.

When bought through the 'Warrington's Own Buses Touch & Go mobile app', a Day Rover is reduced by £1; a weekly by £3 and a monthly by an eye-catching £20.

The bus fare reductions come

at a time when railway ticket prices and the fares of other bus companies in the area have increased.

Ben Wakerley, Managing Director of Warrington's Own Buses said: "This latest round of discount tickets is in addition to a fourth year of fares freezes for our main fares.

"Our bus fares are more attractively priced. As an example, our Westy Way & Breezer products are among the cheapest weekly tickets in the UK."

Blue Whale Media looking ahead to 2019 with excitement

It's the new year! At Blue Whale Media, we're incredibly excited about everything that the new year will bring for our company and our clients.

We find that January is a brilliant time for self-reflection and thinking back to all the amazing things we achieved as a team throughout 2018. It's incredibly therapeutic to reminisce about the incredible things you have accomplished during the new year, as it helps you to realise how far you've come and how much you've grown.

At Blue Whale, we love taking that time to sit back and appreciate everything we've achieved throughout each year – especially as an ever-expanding company that just keeps growing!

New Additions to the Team

We are truly astonished and proud

Cheshire business leaders meet Commercial Attaches at House of Lords

Embassy Trade Officials from Germany, Canada, Ireland, China, India and South Africa were among guests of the Cheshire Business Leaders for a lunch at the House of Lords on 21st November alongside the Cheshire and Warrington MPs and business leaders from the region.

This annual event always sparks a lively debate and this year the prime focus of attention was the anticipated outcome of the Brexit negotiations.

Opinions differed on the precise outcome but the prime feature was the enthusiasm shared by all of the Embassy representatives was the enthusiasm to increase the co-operation with locally based businesses in Cheshire and Warrington. Naturally they are very supportive of good relations continuing regarding the purchase of their national products, but noticeably they expressed even greater support for their national businesses to improve access to the expertise and quality of products and services available from our local businesses.

The CBL will work with Warrington Chamber to develop inbound visits by interested overseas companies to our local businesses which are to be arranged through the embassies. Any interested local companies should contact the Chamber to assist the planned agenda for such visits."

at how much we've grown this past year. Our hard-working team have allowed us to broaden our horizons, which means that we've had to bring on more like-minded, innovative people to add to our team! So far during 2018, we've hired ten new members of staff that have helped us grow our brand even further than ever before.

An Abundance of Charity Events

Throughout the year, we like to get involved in as many charity events as we can! From fun runs to full-blown marathons and even the odd mountain climb – we've done it all. We enjoy a good charity fundraiser, especially as a lot of them are brilliant team building exercises! We've even planned fundraisers for the new year, which you can keep track of on our social media and our website.

Brand New Services

To stay on top of the game, we decided to add a couple of new services that we can offer to our clients. In this new world of social media and engagement, the need for videography is becoming more evident in this industry. We wanted to stay ahead of the competition and begin to offer two new services

– Videography and Drone Footage. Through these new services, our clients will receive cutting edge and incredible footage to showcase on their websites and social media that will help them get ahead of their competition too!

Brand New Clients

Another brilliant achievement that we like to pride ourselves on is our rapid growth within the business. This includes new clients looking for brilliant services that we pride ourselves on, and we know we can help with. This includes web design, content writing, graphic design, social media management, videography and drone videography

services! If you're looking for a talented web agency that can help you achieve your goals, then Blue Whale Media is the place for you.

Here's to 2019

Now we've had a wonderfully eye-opening reminiscence about the past year, it's time to move forward and make 2019 even better than the year just gone. We aim to grow and develop our teams' skills even further, get involved with many charity events as humanly possible and welcome new clients to the business like never before! Keep an eye out for Blue Whale Media, because we're on the up and we're not slowing down.



Wizz Air announce another new route from Liverpool

Wizz Air, the largest low-cost airline in Central and Eastern Europe have announced another new route from Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA), with flights to commence next Summer to the Bulgarian Black Sea resort of Varna.

Flights will commence on 1st July 2019, operating to Varna three times a week with departures on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

This latest new service will be the airline's 8th route from Liverpool complementing their existing seven routes to Warsaw, Gdansk, Katowice, Budapest, Bucharest, Cluj and Iasi.

Varna is the largest city and seaside resort on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. It is popular with holidaymakers, is a major tourist destination and often described as the area's most interesting and

cosmopolitan town.

Paul Winfield, Director of Aviation Development for Liverpool John Lennon Airport commented, "We are delighted to see the addition of this new route to Varna which becomes the Airport's 70th destination and Wizz Air's 4th new route from Liverpool for Summer 2019, taking the airline's number of frequencies to over 20 a week next Summer.



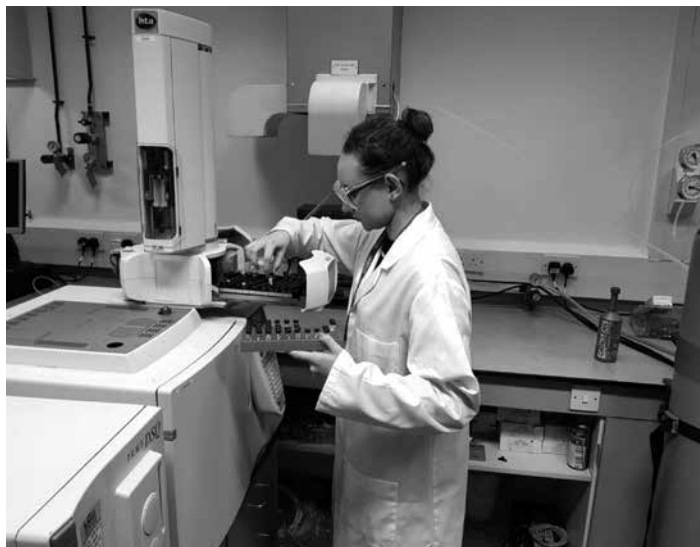
Students at Thornton Science Park improve commercial prowess

Two Chemical Engineering undergraduates at the University of Chester impressed their work placements so much that they are now taking an unscheduled 'year in industry' with the same companies.

Nicole Fisher, aged 21, from Shrewsbury and Rebecca Meadows, aged 21 from Liverpool, are both studying Chemical Engineering degrees at the University's Thornton Science Park. The BEng degree is a three-year programme, but both Nicole and Rebecca were

so impressive during their second-year five-week work placements that the same companies have taken them on for an unscheduled sandwich year, before they return to University in September to complete their final year.

Rebecca has been working for



Student Rebecca Meadows working in the Analytical Laboratory at Thornton Science Park.

Thornton-based motorsport engineering company Motrac Racing this academic year. Rebecca was initially involved with the company when she successfully secured a part-time research and development position advertised by Motrac. She then carried out her work placement there, liaising with both the Faculty of Science and Engineering's Dr Gavin Phillips and Motrac's owner, Steve Hammond, to help with the evolution and testing of the next generation of fuel treatments being developed by Merseyside-based fuel treatment manufacturer, Cataclean Global Ltd., which trades globally. The work was completed and Cataclean staff were so impressed, that they strengthened their partnership with Motrac through increased investment in Research and Development by creating a year-long sandwich placement role for Rebecca, so that she could continue her work on new product development and product testing (investigating fuel additives in a variety of aspects).

Rebecca said: "As a student, working in an industrial environment, I have been able to use knowledge I have gained from university and the whole experience has been invaluable. Working at Motrac has allowed me to develop a whole range of skills: communication; interpersonal; meeting deadlines; working under pressure and presentation; as well as technical skills. It has also increased my commercial awareness as I have gained an understanding of how things work in terms of business."

Rebecca's work is on the analysis of particulate emissions and exhaust gases – which also marks a new direction for Motrac Racing, away from its core motorbike business. This shows that Rebecca's research and development skills are proving invaluable to both her as a student and to the company too.

She said: "Establishing test protocols and conducting tests for a product in its development stage, together with evaluating the outcomes, is a massive learning experience and furthers my knowledge and understanding of a process that I would never have gained from university alone. As a result, I feel significantly more prepared to graduate. Throughout, I have had a great deal of support from the University and I have had the opportunity to work with academics from a range of STEM departments."

Steve Hammond, Owner of Motrac Racing, said: "Working closely with the Faculty of Science and Engineering was always part of the intention when Motrac moved to Thornton. It is not just out of sentiment that we do this; it does give a sense of satisfaction to see students progressing into their professional careers, but it also taps into fresh outlooks, youthful enthusiasm and good access to current academic knowledge. It is an all-round win-win situation

which makes sound business sense. This is something that we continue to develop.

"Often, undergraduates are still searching for direction for a future career, so giving them a window into the wider world of commerce really helps. Industry bemoans skills shortages as a key factor holding back growth. Maybe more focus should be placed on the 'Thornton way', where students can interact with, and learn from, commercial partners, whilst helping their businesses thrive."

Fellow student Nicole Fisher had a similar experience when she began her second year work placement with Winsford-based disinfectant products company Safe4disinfectant, through the University's Analytical Centre, which is part of the Department of Natural Sciences (also based at Thornton Science Park). The company was so impressed by Nicole's attitude and approach to work that a 'sandwich year' role was made available for her.

She is now spending her year in industry working with Safe4disinfectant and the University on a project to help the company map out what is required by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for registration of its products under the biocidal products regulations (which protect humans, animals and the environment from harmful substances).

Alan Dudley, Managing Director of Safe4, said: "We first went to the University's Analytical Centre in the spring of 2017 to do some analytical testing. When we went to collect the results, Nicole and I officially met. I asked her if she was interested in taking the project forward - she said yes and the rest is history, as they say. We worked with Nicole and the University through the autumn of 2017, using her reading days and weekends to get ourselves in a position for her to join us last May. During this time, it became clear to me that she would be a real asset to the company, as her work ethic and effort were first class. We have taken two overseas business trips and she has helped with half a dozen very different conferences. She is confident in all aspects of work and has an excellent customer facing ability. We are hoping that she will keep up some part-time work in the next academic year, and then work with us as we support her through her Master's."

Nicole said: "Gaining this job has helped me as a student and is crucial to Safe4. My interpersonal skills have been enhanced as I am constantly in contact with colleagues, customers and suppliers, so it has made me realise how important it is to judge how to approach situations differently. It has also helped my time management skills as there is always something going on! It's been a huge eye-opener to be able to apply what I have learnt over the last two years into real life situations and take responsibility for a large

Northern Powerhouse Manufacturing and Renewable Energy Trade Mission to Ethiopia

24 - 29 March 2019

Ethiopia is the fourth largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa. It is predicted to be the third largest by 2025.

Delegates will be accompanied by an experienced International Trade Adviser and benefit from the following programme activities:

- Briefing meeting and reception hosted by the British Embassy
- Business to business meetings
- Industry site visits
- Meetings with relevant Ministries

During this mission, companies will have a unique opportunity to understand the variety and depth of business opportunities on offer to UK businesses in the Ethiopian Market in sectors including:

- Manufacturing
- Engineering
- Construction
- Food and liquids processing and packaging
- Transport and logistics
- Airport design consultancy and planning
- Renewable energy and power

The visit is aimed at new and existing exporters to Africa, and also coincides with direct flights now operating from Manchester Airport by Ethiopian Airlines.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

The Northern Powerhouse has a GVA of £325.4 billion. In 2017 alone, businesses based in the region exported £58 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:

European Regional Development Fund

Help local employers with their

scale project. My role is crucial for Safe4, as the company cannot continue to legally sell products in Europe without submitting this dossier.

"I'm loving the job and it has allowed me to see every aspect of a company from the manufacturing side to the product being sent out of the door. It's great that when new products are being developed, I can just go straight into the lab and get stuck in, gaining the hands on experience I believe not many students would have the opportunity to do. I strongly believe that this opportunity has widened my future job prospects. (I have already been headhunted on LinkedIn for a biocides manager for a European company!)"

She continued: "I would highly recommend studying at the University and in particular Chemical Engineering. The facilities are second to none and the links with industry (I believe this is massively due to the location) are great. The highlight of my experience at the University I would say is the amazing support network I have around me, formed from staff to fellow students. My experience would definitely not have been as enjoyable without it."

Rebecca added: "I would definitely recommend Chemical Engineering to potential students because of its vast applications and possible directions. I would also highly recommend taking a year in industry to anyone. It has given me a fresh perspective on my course and opened my eyes to the opportunities after university. To work in an environment where I make an impact and influence a commercial product being developed for the mass market is so exciting and rewarding. To have this opportunity to do this was beyond all my expectations when I started the course."



Student Rebecca Meadows working with Motrac owner, Steve Hammond.



Student Nicole Fisher.



Gareth Davies, Laboratory Manager, University of Chester; student Nicole Fisher; and Alan Dudley, Managing Director of Safe4disinfectant.

Government's Chief Scientific Adviser visits Thornton Science Park

One of the Government's Chief Scientific Advisers recently paid a visit to the University of Chester's Thornton Science Park, to find out more about the North West's bid to be the UK's primary hydrogen economy, and about the University's progressive work investigating the clean energy potential of hydrogen.

Professor John Loughhead is the Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). He previously had the same role in the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and is a former Executive Director of the UK Energy Research Centre. Also attending was Rita Wadey, Deputy Director of Hydrogen Economy at BEIS. Their visit was organised to mark that it is 'one year on' since the publication of the Government's Clean Growth Strategy.

Welcomed by the University of Chester's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tim Wheeler, Professor Loughhead and Ms Wadey started their visit at the Energy Centre, which was opened last year by the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, Jake Berry MP.

They also visited the Faculty of Science and Engineering's hydrogen fuel cell laboratories, where they were given an overview of how hydrogen can be used to power electric fuel cells. Hydrogen energy is being heralded as a way to decarbonise industry and support clean energy growth. When pure hydrogen is combined with oxygen and burned, it produces only heat and water – with no harmful CO₂ emissions. In fuel cells, it produces no particulate emissions, which makes it better for air quality in terms of a transport fuel too. Recently a new partnership of industry leaders (Atkins Global, BOC, Cadent, Costain, Peel Environmental, Shell, and the University of Chester) launched the NW Hydrogen Alliance (NWAHA) to put the North West firmly on the hydrogen energy map, and showcase the research and development programmes about hydrogen which are already underway in the region.

During their visit, Professor Loughhead also found out more about Cadent's HyNet North West project, a hydrogen energy and carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS) initiative, which aims to reduce carbon emissions from industry, homes and transport, and to support economic growth in the area.

Professor John Loughhead said: "During my visit to Thornton Science Park, I saw some of the cutting-edge technology being developed as part of the Government's clean growth ambitions in its modern Industrial Strategy which will be crucial if we are to meet our ambitious climate change targets. I am excited to see the next steps as they develop."

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chester, Professor Tim Wheeler, said:

"It was a great pleasure to host BEIS's Chief Scientific Adviser and their Deputy Director of the Hydrogen Economy. The University is extremely proud of the work undertaken at Thornton Science Park in the areas of clean energy growth – of which the Energy Centre is our flagship.

"Thornton has already played host to several Government ministers, including two Chancellors of the Exchequer and the Northern

Powerhouse Minister. To add such key Governmental representatives to that list – especially those with such a pedigree in energy research – is further proof of Thornton's regional, and national, importance."

Professor Joseph Howe, Executive Director of the Thornton Energy

Institute, and Chair of the NHWA, added: "We need to find ways of decarbonising industry and hydrogen can be used as an energy source to deliver clean growth for businesses.

"We were proud to have the opportunity to share with Professor Loughhead and Rita Wadey the fantastic research, innovation and development of skills that is being undertaken here at Thornton and in the wider area."

More information about Thornton Science Park can be found at: www1.chester.ac.uk/businessgrowth/

locations/thornton-science-park

Companies wishing to find out more about the Energy Centre can contact:

- Email: businessgrowth@chester.ac.uk
- Tel: 01244 567 500
- Twitter: @EnergyThornton
- Commercial Operations, University of Chester, Thornton Science Park, Pool Lane, Ince, Cheshire, CH2 4NU



Left to right: Professor Joe Howe, Paul Vernon (both University of Chester), Rita Wadey, Professor John Loughhead (both BEIS), Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Wheeler and Garfield Southall (University of Chester).

Warrington to host a 'world first' as part of RL World Cup 2021

WARRINGTON has been successful in its bid to be a host for the Rugby League World Cup in 2021.

The outcome, announced live this morning means that Warrington will play host to three men's group games and, for the first time, a Physical Disability Rugby League (PDRL) World Cup, separate to the men's, women's and wheelchair tournaments.

Paul Taylor, chairman of Warrington's Rugby League World Cup task group, said: "I'm delighted with the outcome of our bid and the prospect that Warrington will once again play its part hosting the sport's biggest competition on the world stage.

"The bid process for the tournament was hugely competitive and a record number of 80 applications were submitted. Although we've missed out on the chance to host the women's final, to have been rewarded with three men's games and the exciting prospect of hosting the first ever Physical Disability Rugby League World Cup is an unbelievable opportunity for our town."

Warrington's initial bid was based on legacy and the long-lasting community benefits the tournament will bring. The bid submitted by the task group explored the social, health, educational and cultural benefits that being a host town would create, alongside a Warrington-wide celebration of Rugby League.

Borough Council leader Cllr Russ Bowden, said: "Warrington's business, sporting, community and cultural leaders worked together on a fantastic bid that really showcased our town's

rugby league credentials, and our ambitions to inspire a future generation of supporters and players. I'm delighted that this work has culminated in the World Cup coming back to our town in 2021.

"Hosting this most prestigious competition once again will bring huge benefits to Warrington. It will boost our local economy, it will bring communities together, it will raise our sporting and cultural profile, and it will enable us to create new Rugby League stories that will be shared on the global stage."

Professor Steven Broomhead, chief executive of the council and vice chairman at Warrington Wolves, explained: "The heart of our bid focused on the social, sporting and economic opportunities and benefits that being a host could bring to our town and beyond. Today's announcement is fantastic news for our town and the sport of rugby league.

"I'm particularly looking forward to hosting the PDRL World Cup. We have key partners such as Warrington

Disability Partnership and Wolves Foundation who have long since been disability champions and whose community impacts have been immense. And, with Warrington Wolves PDRL team winning the World Club Challenge against South Sydney Rabbitohs last year, it's fitting that we have been picked to host the first PDRL World Cup tournament in 2021.

"We want to play a part in making sure the World Cup in 2021 is the biggest, best and most inclusive Rugby League tournament ever. The opportunity for us to host a world first Physical Disability World Cup is the cherry on top of an already mouth-watering cake!"

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will be the sixteenth staging of the World Cup and will be held in October and November 2021. Warrington's hopes of also providing a team base camp are yet to be announced.

For more information about Warrington's World Cup bid, visit www.warrington.gov.uk/rwlc2021



It's never too late to put theory into practice

Wind back forty years and Andy Page was the first Head of Business Studies recruited by, what was then, a new secondary school in Warrington, Gt Sankey High School. His former students of the 1980s might recall Andy's enthusiasm for what was then called "learning by doing" with the involvement of local business, competitions, role-play and other active learning exercises being regular features of his teaching. That enthusiasm has never waned.

Keen to put into practice the economics and business studies he had taught since the 1970s, Andy jointly set up in 2011 a social enterprise, The Very Enterprising Community Interest Company*, as a "retirement project" whose mission is to excite and inspire young people about the world of business.

Following appropriate market research and extensive trials involving more than 500 pupils from more than 30 schools along the M62 corridor, 'Business on the Move' was published in 2014, a fun and educational board game based on UK trade and supply chains with China. Through the generosity of business sponsors such as DHL, John Lewis and Marks & Spencer (whose branding featured as an active part of the game), some two thirds of the production run went free-of-charge into UK schools. What is more demand grew to the point where, not only is the game now in some 90 universities, more than 40% of sales are exported across five continents.

Consequently the summer of 2018 saw the launch of a new Global Edition of Business on the Move, particularly relevant to the modern globalised world with a focus very much on West-East and East-West trade and transactions in \$s rather than £s.

A total of 42 sponsors currently support the new edition including the three companies named above alongside businesses such as CHEP/Brambles, CILT International, Clipper Group, DP World, the Freight Transport Association, Heathrow Cargo, HFW, Jungheinrich, Kuehne + Nagel, Michigan State

University, Nestle, Novus Trust, Think Logistics, TT Club, Worldwide Chain Stores and XPO Logistics.

The new Global Edition may have wider international appeal in today's competitive and globalised world but the core concept remains the same: players run multimodal businesses delivering freight as quickly, profitably and responsibly as they can. Players must make the same decisions businesses make every day. How do I deliver? Will I make a profit? How should I grow? How can I cut my carbon footprint?

The new Global Edition of Business on the Move also retains the original's versatility to meet the needs of widely differing learners, from pupils in primary school to post-graduates in international supply chain management as well as seasoned professionals looking to convey the 'big picture' of logistics to trainees new to the sector.

Andy who lives in Great Sankey, Warrington, remarks: "This is a huge and important sector with 40,000 companies and more than 10 million employees across the globe and yet supply chains are under the radar, even invisible, to most young people, despite their relevance to our everyday lives and the diverse career opportunities they offer. Our game seeks to address this anomaly through an educational board game that captures the big picture of logistics across the world in a fun and flexible way."

For more information, either email info@businessonthemove.org or visit www.businessonthemove.org



Thirty years on from when Jonathan Davies shocked the rugby world

THIRTY years ago Welsh wizard Jonathan Davies shocked the rugby world by switching codes including a spell at Warrington Wolves.

Although his stay at Warrington was relatively short, he made an major impact during his time in the town on and off the pitch – and proved a big hit all over the town, where he moved with his family, living at Westbrook near the cinema.

He was often in demand for photo shoots, including these never seen before PR pictures taken at the former US Army Burtonwood Airbase by local photographer Eddie Whitham.

It was on January 7 1989 when Widnes Coach Doug Laughton pulled off one of the biggest coups in the game by convincing Davies to switch from a successful international career at Wales to join Widnes, where he had four

successful years.

But when Widnes hit financial problems Davies switched to arch rivals Warrington for three seasons, making 67 appearances, scoring 43 tries, 232 conversions and 26 drop goals.

While at Warrington he was also named player of the 1993–94 season, winning the RFL's Man of Steel Award.

The switch saw fellow Welsh Rugby Union stars Allan Bateman and Rowland Phillips become Wilderspool favourites.

Prior to joining Warrington Davies took on a further challenge when he spent the summer in Sydney playing in the 1991 NSWRL season

for the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs.

During his time in rugby league he represented both Great Britain and Wales, scoring a solo try in Great Britain's defeat of the Kangaroos at the old Wembley in 1994 where he sprinted 50 metres to score in the corner. Although he left the field with a dislocated shoulder, his efforts in both attack and defence saw him named as man of the match.

Davies again played in Australia when he joined the newly-formed North Queensland Cowboys in 1995.

His last rugby league match was as captain of Wales against England in the 1995 World Cup Semi-final at Old Trafford, which Wales lost 25–10.

Playing as a stand-off, Davies kicked 3 goals for Wales taking his total score for Wales to 21 points (10 goals, 1 field goal), all scored in the 1995 World Cup.

After the birth of daughter Geena in 1995, Davies' wife Karen was diagnosed with cancer. In need of family support, and as rugby union had turned professional, Davies went back to South Wales and signed to play for Cardiff RFC.

In 1996, Davies was awarded an MBE and went with his family to Buckingham Palace to collect his award. In 1997, his wife Karen died.

Since retiring from rugby he has worked in the media as a commentator and pundit in both codes, mainly for the BBC.

Pictures Eddie Whitham



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Five new faces feature in Ryan Atkins' testimonial match

WARRINGTON Wolves marked Ryan Atkins' testimonial with a 38-12 win over local rivals Widnes as five new signings made their debut.

In their first run out in 2019, the Wolves handed a debut to five players, with one of those, Jake Mamo, scoring a hat-trick of tries.

They found the going tough against their Championship opponents, and only led 12-6 at half time having trailed to a Liam Hood try before Mamo and fellow new recruit Blake Austin got them on the board.

Dec Patton scored within two minutes of the restart, but Widnes weren't ready to roll over and Brad Walker's converted score put them back within four.

But eventually the Wolves' class would tell, they led 22-12 by the hour mark thanks to Daryl Clark's touchdown, and there were further tries for widemen Tom Lineham and Josh Charnley.

Meanwhile the club has confirmed that vice captain Kevin Brown has suffered a ruptured achilles injury at training and is likely to miss much of the season.

Brown, aged 34 who joined the club from Widnes at the start of

the 2017 season, underwent scans which have confirmed a ruptured Achilles with a recovery time of around nine months.

The club has announced it will fully support Brown throughout his recovery and rehab.

Brown suffered the injury in training

while the club was preparing for a pre-season game at Rochdale when a young Wolves squad defeated the championship side 20-24.



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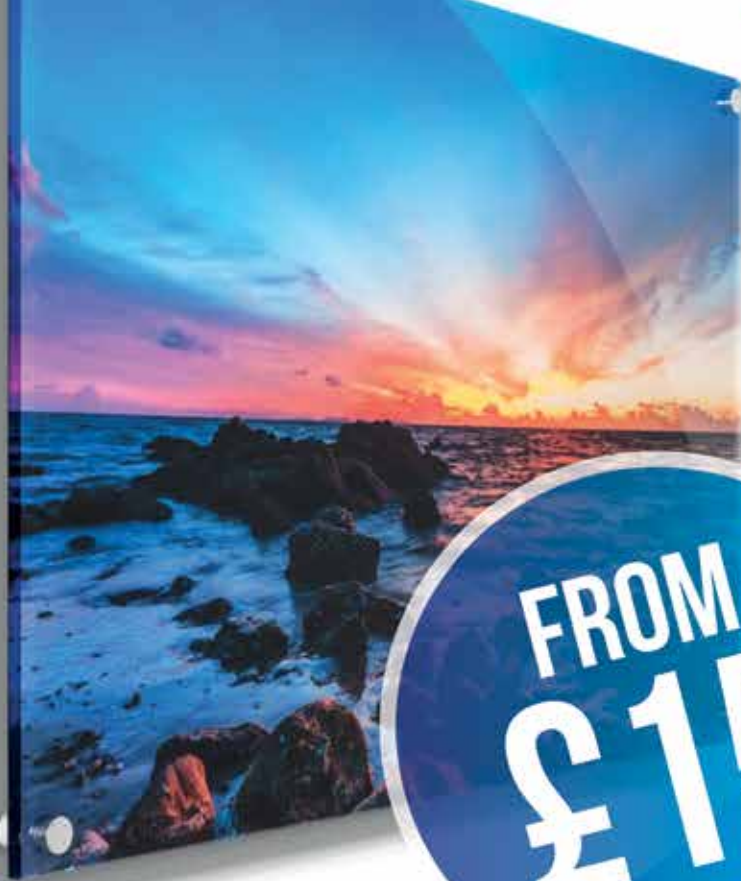
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