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May 18

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Former 'Wire' turned Prince's Trust Speaker inspires young entrepreneurs

A FORMER Warrington Wolves player turned entrepreneur has pledged to help young people get started in business through his new role as an Inspirational Speaker for The Prince's Trust.

Twelve years ago, Jamie Boyd, from Great Sankey, experienced a career-ending knee injury at the age of 24 and, reluctantly, had to hang up his rugby boots for good – having played for both Wolves and Crosfields. Faced with the stark reality of finding a new calling, but with no money in the bank to start afresh, there was one organisation who offered him a lifeline: The Prince's Trust.

A youth charity founded by His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales in 1976 – with a mission to help people aged 11 to 30 get jobs, education and training – The Prince's Trust loaned Jamie £3,000 to get his same day courier business, Today Team, off the ground.

Fast forward to today, and Jamie's business – based at Risley – has a seven-figure annual turnover and a first-class reputation across the North West.

"It was Henry Ford who said: 'Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right'," explains Jamie, who is a former student at St Gregory's High School

and Priestley College.

"I am a big believer in the power of inspiring words, so I was delighted to accept the Trust's kind invitation to speak to young people on the first day of each new business course."

Jamie, who is also a Non-Executive Director for Warrington Disability Partnership's Disability Trading Company (DTC), delivers a talk which is a 'warts and all' account of the highs and lows of being self-employed, as well as an insight into what motivates him.

Accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation and concluding with a Q&A session, the talk has been roundly praised by executives and volunteers at The Trust.

Melanie Hannam, Programme Executive (Enterprise and Awards), said: "Jamie provided a genuinely passionate presentation – sharing his best practices. Young people attending the course engaged really positively with his talk – enjoying a realistic and relatable story, with lots of questions to finish. We are looking forward to working with

Jamie again in the near future; he is an absolute delight."

Paul Lewis, a manager at The Prince's Trust, added: "It's brilliant to see young people empower their peers through their expertise, as often they are more knowledgeable than they give themselves credit for. We're fortunate to have Jamie give his time to the Enterprise Programme; thank you Mr Boyd!"

Looking ahead to future rounds of the Programme, Jamie said:

"If I can help young people get started in life, then I'm all for it. I was incredibly fortunate to have a helping hand from the Trust when all other doors had been closed to me; repaying that debt of gratitude in some small way is the least I can do."

For more details on The Prince's Trust's Enterprise Programme for 18 to 30-year-olds, visit <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business>



High flying Ryan returns to college to inspire

WARRINGTON & Vale Royal College students studying Travel and tourism have been inspired to follow their dreams thanks to a visit from former student Ryan Waterworth, who is now living his own dream, working as part of EasyJet's cabin crew.

Ryan, who completed the level 3 diploma in aviation operations at the college, spoke to students about his career so far, sharing industry tips that will help current learners when it comes to applying for similar roles themselves.

The former Penketh High school student first secured work within the airline industry in 2016, when he became a passenger service agent with Menzies Aviation.

Menzies provides passenger, ramp and cargo handling services to a number of airlines worldwide – including EasyJet – giving Ryan the first step he needed towards his dream job.

The 18 year old said: "As soon as I started the course at Warrington & Vale Royal College, I knew I wanted to be cabin crew and now thanks to that, I'm working at EasyJet, travelling at 38,000 ft. and seeing the world. Working for EasyJet is fantastic – they are such an outstanding and professional company."

Ryan added: "Without my time at Warrington & Vale Royal College, I wouldn't be where I am today. Without my time here, I wouldn't have known what to say or what to do in the interviews. The course has helped me so much and gave me such a great head start in the

industry.

"When I first started as a passenger service agent, I already had a great insight into what to expect because the college course taught me everything I needed to know. Studying at Warrington & Vale Royal College gave me the foundations I needed to go forward and become part of cabin crew – it's the dream!"

This is the second time Ryan has visited his former college to pass on his industry experience.

Course leader and lecturer in aviation and travel and tourism, Scott Grime, added: "It is great to have Ryan share his experiences with our students. They are now at the same stage that he was just a few years ago and the tips and advice he has given them will further enhance the skills and knowledge they are gaining during their lessons and help them to go forward and secure their dream jobs too.

"As tutors at Warrington & Vale Royal College, our primary aim to ensure every single one of our students leaves us with the tools they need to succeed in their chosen careers and industries. Ryan is a shining example of what studying at this college, coupled with hard work and dedication, can lead to.

"His visit is sure to have inspired our current students and will give them added boost as they go through the recruitment process that lies ahead."

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



From the Chief Executive

Colin Daniels



Foreign firms keep faith in UK

Factories are investing more in growth than at any point since 2014 as solid domestic demand and growing exports drive their expansion.

Sustained growth means manufacturers are butting up against capacity constraints, not seen since 2007.

Companies are reporting recruitment difficulties are greater than at any point since 2004.

Foreign direct investment has held up well so far despite fears it would plunge as a result of Brexit.

Different economic regions

took different approaches to UK investments too North American investors remained bullish with 9pc upping their stakes.

Significantly just 1pc of Western EU investors plan to shift assets out of the UK, down 10pc from a year ago.

Exports Lift March Factory Output

Manufacturers increased growth in March, defying fears that the cold snap at the start of the month would hit output.

Factory production has increased for 20 consecutive months with healthy domestic and export demand driving

growth.

The purchasing managers index – an influential survey edged up from 55.0 in February to 55.1 in March which indicates expansion in output. Companies said the weak pound combined with strong marketing campaigns have

helped to boost overseas sales which has encouraged factories to take on more staff to cope with extra work loads.

At the same time the Eurozone's manufacturing boom slowed more sharply its PMI fell from 58.6 in February to 56.6 in March.

Monthly Economic Review – April 2018

Annual UK GDP growth revised upwards.

The third official estimate of the UK economic output (GDP) recorded growth of 0.4% in Q4 2017, unrevised from the previous estimate and down slightly from the growth of 0.5% recorded in Q3. The UK economy grew by 1.4% in annual terms in Q4, down from growth of 1.8% recorded in Q3. However partly due to upward data revisions to GDP growth in the first half of 2017. Overall UK economic output is now 10.6% above its pre-recession peak.

British companies in demand

Britain's listed companies are being targeted by foreign firms in a global deal-making boom as US companies splash out in the wake of two corporate tax cuts.

A surge of takeovers in the first quarter saw the number of UK companies targeted from abroad reach its highest level since 2015.

The total deal value of bids for British Companies by foreign firms hit £59bn in the first three months of the year, double the amount of the highest quarter in 2017.

Wage rises top inflation

Britain's yearlong pay squeeze is over as wages rose 2.8pc overtaking price rates for the first time since January 2017.

Inflation fell to 2.7pc in February.

At the same time unemployment fell to a new low of 4.2pc as employment rose by another 55,000 in the three months to February.

Small firms confidence increases

Optimism among small UK firms has reached levels not seen for three years according to a survey from Bibby Financial Services. Half of all firms expect their sales to rise in the next three months.

The pickup in confidence suggested progress in Brexit negotiations has calmed fears of prolonged political uncertainty.

Travellers face new offences for illegal sites?

Travellers could face new criminal offences for setting up illegal camps on private ground.

The Government said that approximately one in six caravans across the country around 3,700

was pitched illegally. People who set up camps illegally can be prosecuted for "aggravated

trespass" if they are found to have intimidated land owners.

The plans would make prosecutions more "straight forward" adding that aggravated trespass was a "fiddly" offence and difficult to prove.

In a call for evidence ministers announced that they are considering creating offences where camps are found to have "substantially" damaged land or caused "serious inconvenience".

Manufacturers fall victim to Cyber Attacks

The UK has already suffered stealth cyber-attacks on more than 80 manufacturing plants, with criminals deploying tactics that could put critical national infrastructure at risk.

British Intelligence have warned that Russian hackers are invading unprotected networks ahead of a potentially serious attack but new evidence shows the attackers are already targeting UK factories.



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Colin Daniels, Chief Executive

FDR Law Legal Clinic

Legal advice from Chris Illingworth, an Associate Solicitor specialising in residential conveyancing based at FDR Law's office in Frodsham.

QUESTION

Any tips before I instruct a conveyancer to carry out legal work on my house purchase?

ANSWER

We would always suggest that you ask who is actually going to work on your file during the conveyancing process and find out their level of expertise.

For example, at some firms like FDR you will have direct day to day contact with a specialist conveyancing solicitor, but at others you may be left dealing with a team of paralegals and inexperienced support staff that are running your file. In the latter case, those people will normally be supervised by a suitable qualified person, but that person will not have as much time to dedicate to you.

Conveyancing is complex, time-consuming and can be a costly exercise in the long run if something is not spotted that could

result in disputes further down the line, and that's where the expertise of a solicitor will come in, as they will be able to:

- Spot inaccuracies or potential issues on the property boundary lines that may lead to access problems in the future or disagreements with neighbouring properties.
- Check the legal ownership rights could mean that a buyer purchases a house from someone who didn't actually own the property.
- Identify any obligations in the deeds that mean you cannot extend or carry out development that you plan.

The chief ombudsman, Adam Sampson, reported recently that

17.5% of the 7,500 complaints handled by their office in the last year were related to residential conveyancing complaints. Particular areas of concern were practices where transactions were handled predominately online, where there were fixed fees or on a 'no-move, 'no fee' basis.

Remember that a specialist Conveyancing Solicitor will have

the expertise and experience to identify potential pitfalls that an untrained or inexperienced eye may not see. They will also adhere to strict regulated guidelines and will have professional insurance.

For more information, contact Chris Illingworth on 01925 739300 or email chris.illingworth@fdrlaw.co.uk



HR advice from Kim Hayton, HR Director at FDR Law

QUESTION

What next, now that the Employment Tribunal Fees have been dropped?

ANSWER

In July 2017 the Supreme Court ruled that the Employment Tribunal fees introduced in 2013 were unlawful and as a result were abolished immediately.

In the four years when a fee was required in order to put forward a claim, the numbers overall dropped by 80% and there was a 91% drop in sex discrimination claims.

It was felt that many people who would have normally made a claim were not able to, due to the costs involved and therefore this was considered a discrimination in itself.

Fees are being refunded by the Government to people who made a claim during the period and as a result of the fees being scrapped, there has already been an increase of 64% in the number of claims made, and that is expected to rise further, and many will likely be from the period when fees were in place.

We would recommend that businesses take a look back over the last 4 years to identify if there could be any potential issues.

Keep a dated paper trail of any

current issues, even informally in an email to yourself can help you with remembering details and timings, which may or may not be needed in the future. It's worth noting that in Unfair Dismissal cases, the burden of proof is on the employer to prove that an employee wasn't unfairly dismissed. However,

it is the other way around for Constructive Dismissal cases and it is the employee's responsibility to provide the evidence.

For HR advice, support and training contact Kim Hayton at FDR Law on 01925 230000 or email Kim.hayton@fdrlaw.co.uk



Airports endorse 30 year Transport Plan

Airports across the North have come together to endorse a proposed 30-year transport plan for the region, which is designed to close the economic gap with the rest of England.

Transport for the North is behind the draft Strategic Transport Plan which proposes a sustained period of transport infrastructure investment which yield a £100bn economic boost and 850,000 additional jobs by 2050.

Barry White, chief executive of Transport for the North, believes the proposals are underpinned by

a "robust evidence base making a compelling case for the investment priorities that would transform the economy of the North and the UK as a whole".

Andrew Cowan, chief executive of Manchester Airport, said: "Large-scale investment in transport infrastructure, through projects such as Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2, is key to unlocking the North's full potential.

"Integrating both of these schemes with the international connections at Manchester Airport will ensure that the benefits from these

investments through greater access to global markets are spread across the whole of the North."

Robert Hough, chairman of Peel Airports - Doncaster Sheffield Airport, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Durham Tees Valley Airport, added: "Unlocking the significant existing capacity for both passenger and cargo services in the North will provide a clear economic benefit for the regions and the UK.

"Improvements in surface access to northern airports will be vital to realising this, supporting enhanced

connectivity, and ensuring growth is spread across the North."

Nick Jones, chief executive of Newcastle International Airport, has welcomed the proposals recognising the transport challenges faced across the region, while David Laws, chief executive of Leeds Bradford Airport, noted that a fast, reliable and high capacity transport network is "key to the future economic prosperity of Yorkshire and Leeds Bradford Airport".

Privilege HR celebrate 1st birthday with gift for members

Privilege HR are celebrating their 1st Birthday and have a gift for all Chamber members!

Peter Waller-Flynn and Mary Ball have an impressive combined 48 years' experience within the HR industry and it is this knowledge that gave them the impetus to create Privilege HR, taking their expertise and knowledge to market, offering a robust HR services that supports business sustainability and growth. Peter and Mary made names for themselves within the sector having worked across the globe for a number of high profile public, private and third sector companies; Alternative Futures Group, Vertex, Jardine Lloyd Thompson, Home Office, M&S, HOCHTIEF to name but a few, managing change, harmonising terms and conditions, driving effectiveness, supporting growth, making significant savings of both monetary and time value. Not only have they worked at international levels they have been part of business start-ups in a HR capacity, leading to success with multi-million-pound turnovers.

Their proven track record in leadership and project management have been the building blocks for their first year of growth and their aim is to help Warrington Chamber members to enjoy the same success.

In their first year they launched a Retained Service enabling a client to outsource all or part of their HR needs. For an affordable per employee, monthly fee-based service with options that can you individually choose or combine. The first being a HR Portal which digitally manages all your employee holidays, absences, centralised documentation and much more, an incredible tool which all businesses should implement to improve efficiency and support GDPR requirements.

Simultaneously they introduced a Telephone Support Service where by a client can speak to the team between the hours of 8am – 8pm

and a Premium Service providing all the above plus visits to site and working alongside the operational teams.

Both directors also Consult businesses on a project and ad hoc basis and the diversity of the client base is due to the commercial capability of the team. Currently they are working within the NHS developing new HR strategies.

Becoming part of the Warrington Chambers is a very important step for developing business in their 2nd year and as Mary Ball is a fellow Warringtonian it makes complete sense.

Charities look no further for Support!

In their first year of business Privilege gave the HR Portal for 12 months free of charge to Charities in the North West along with on-boarding support and they would like to offer in their 2nd year, the same support to charities in the Warrington area. Please share this

information with any charities.

Also, in the spirit of their Birthday Celebration they are offering businesses with up to 50 employees an on-boarding service with one of their fantastic account managers taking away any concerns a business may have of inputting and getting this digital tool enabled, they will do the hard work and you sit back and enjoy the benefits of driving performance. To top it off you will get a FREE month for all employees which will bring down your monthly annual charge based on 10 employees £2 per person per month.

Mary and Peter are also organising a Free workshop for all Chamber members which will consist of general contractual information and HR policy updates, a demo of the portal and you can take along your own contract and get 15 mins advice with either Mary or Peter. Call their team now on 03333444679 or email – info@privilegehr.co.uk to confirm your interest or make a general enquiry.

Women Weight Watchers aim to sparkle for St. Rocco's

A group of women weight watchers who aim to improve their fitness by taking part in St Rocco's annual Starlight Walk helped reveal the 2018 t-shirt with the aim of bringing some added sparkle to the event.

So far nineteen women from Michelle Garvin's Weight Watchers groups all over Warrington have set themselves the goal of improving their fitness and taking part at the event on Saturday, June 23.

"As part of the sessions we give out

'Sparkle' awards so we decided to call our teams the Weight Watchers Sparklers. We couldn't believe it when we heard that this year's theme for the walk is 'Sparkle for St. Rocco's,'" explained Michelle.

"Some of us have taken part before and we're really looking forward to this year's event. We're going to do some practice walks and we also have activities at group to help raise funds towards our sponsorship, so even the ladies who aren't walking get involved."

Having got a taster of the t-shirts the ladies are now working out how they are going to accessorise them in the most sparkly way possible.

"We know that our ladies often spend lots of time and effort to look absolutely amazing on the night of the walk, at the same time as raising lots of sponsorship towards patient care," said Rachel Ingham, Fundraising Manager at St. Rocco's.

"We can't wait to see everyone with loads of sparkle this year to go

along with our lovely 2018 t-shirts."

The Starlight Ladies Walk is the biggest fundraiser for St. Rocco's. It costs over £3.6 million a year for the hospice to continue to provide its care, which is completely free of charge to patients, but it relies on the generosity of the local community for 75% of that amount.

Women can sign up by going to www.starlightladieswalk.co.uk or calling 01925 575780.



School boy gets the chance to Access All Areas at Warrington Wolves

LOCAL school boy Ollie Larkin was given the chance to “Access All Areas” from the viewpoint of the media at a Warrington Wolves’ home game.

Organised by the Warrington Wolves’ Foundation in conjunction with Warrington-worldwide, it provided Lymm High School pupil Ollie Larkin the chance to experience a media match day experience.

Ollie writes about his experience here:

“My name is Ollie Larkin and I attend Lymm High School. On Friday 9th March I was given a great opportunity to go behind the scenes at the Wire to take part in the full game experience from the point of view of the match day media.

“We arrived at the stadium at 6pm and greeted by Shaun Briscoe with two ‘access all area’ passes and were given the hot of the press team sheets! From there we went down the players tunnel direct to the pitch where we were able to listen in on Phil Clarkes pre match interview with the team captains Chris Hill and James Roby.

“We then went to where the Sky Sports presenters do their tactical game analysis on the touch screen TV but we didn’t dare to touch it! Over in the camera gantry over looking the pitch opposite the tunnel in the clouds of South Stand we saw all the different TV cameras ready to capture the action. The stadium announcer said the Sky team had been setting up since 6am that morning.

“As the game got closer the stadium began to fill and the rain began to fall on the glossy green grass. Both teams came out to warm up and prepare themselves for battle!

We accompanied the social media representative from Wolves who walked around the stadium taking various snaps of the turnstiles, the band ‘Sly Digs’, the growing number of fans and not forgetting Wolfy, instantly displayed on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Just before the match we took our seats just behind the journalist and could see Wire FM and Radio5 live commentators discussing the eagerly awaited clash.

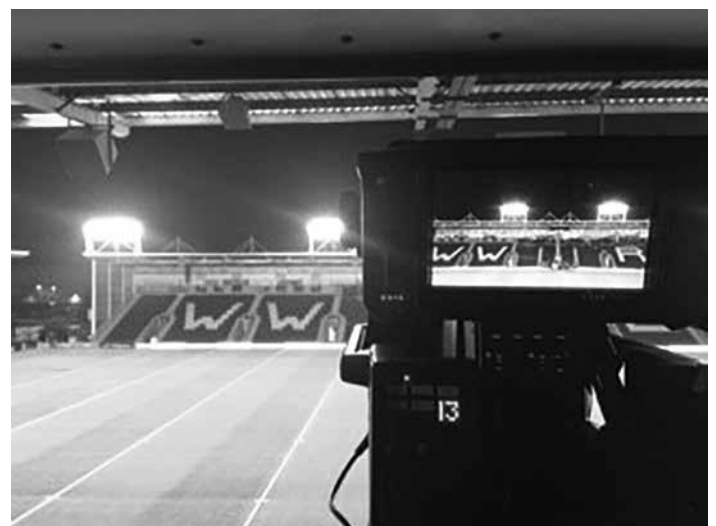
“The game was fiercely contested and Warrington were in it for long periods but two tries at the beginning of both halves was a hammer blow and Warrington did not recover going down 30 points to 12 with Saints the deserved winners.

“After the match, we were able to take some pictures with a number off players, with Benny Westwood still able to raise a smile for us! We then saw the man of the match trophy being awarded to St Helens player Mark Percival, hat trick try scorer on the night!

“Although the players night was over the managers still had to face the media.

“The assembled press squeezed into a tight room firing questions at both Justin Holbrook and Steve Price. Their assessments of the games were honest and insightful, the time was now 10pm and the press went away to write their match reports.

“All in all a really good night despite the result, thank you to everyone at Warrington Wolves for the opportunity!”



Taylor Business Park is on the market

TAYLOR Business Park near Culcheth, Warrington, is up for sale.

The management have come to the decision that it's time to look for a buyer for the site and reinvest the equity in newer, more diverse properties to vary their portfolio.

MD Paul Taylor said: "It was a hard decision to come to but we have decided to look for a buyer that can invest in the site and its old buildings so that it can improve and continue to attract new tenants in the future.

"We've always seen it as a jewel in the crown here in Warrington. It looks great, it's secure and it stays pretty full but we don't have the

access to funds that some bigger organisations do and in twenty years or so some of these buildings will be coming to the end of their lifetime. A larger organisation would have the ability to wait until a tenant leaves an older property and then demolish it and build something newer in its place that would attract higher rents."

"I always thought the biggest challenge I'd face managing the park would be HS2 but now that has bypassed us we're facing a new challenge. Although it was a hard decision to make we do feel it's the right one for our tenants and for the

company itself.

"We will be remaining in our office on the business park and will be looking for properties to invest in, and start writing a new chapter in the history of the site and family which started with fish and chip shops, slipper factories, silencer factories and F. Taylor and Sons that made the Taylor Jumbo Crane before we ended up where we are today."

Paul added: "We'll still be sticking to what we do best, commercial property, and our focus will still be on Warrington, Cheshire and the North West.

Located near to Warrington's commercial centre, only 2 miles from the M62 and M6, and just over 20 miles from Manchester Airport, it offers businesses modern office space to rent in a rural country location with free car parking and on-site security.

CBRE and Antrobus Capital Partners are acting as joint agents for Taylor Business Park Ltd and all enquiries should be directed to them at robert.woods@cbre.com or by phone at 0161 233 5668.

A number of potential buyers have already expressed an interest.

Why every business should embrace competition to their own advantage

by Callum Morgan at Morgan Branding

When setting up Morgan Branding I was aware that I was entering an already busy and competitive market.

We certainly weren't the first marketing agency to open, nor did we have a back catalogue of work to showcase. However, what we did have was bags on enthusiasm, a small, but skilled team and an open mind.

Rather than fearing our competitors I chose to research them and in some cases reach out to them to see what I could learn from them as individuals and their businesses. I listened to podcasts, watched videos, read blogs, articles in order to grow and learn. By taking this approach I was able to quickly develop an understanding of the challenges competition faced day to day and saws how they tackled them. It was through this research that I was able to identify an opportunity for us to stand out from the crowd with our state-of-the-art 360° Virtual Tour technology.

An example of this was when I first took on the marketing and management of Plas Colwyn, a luxury self-catering holiday let in Beddgelert, North Wales. My initial thought was to look at how other properties were being managed and

marketed and reach out to those owners who I could see were ahead of the game. The responses I received were mixed, as some holiday let owners were not interested in sharing their experiences, whilst others welcomed my call and were happy to share their wealth of knowledge with me as the new kid on the block.

I kept in touch with many who opened their doors to me and now I repay those favours given through supporting them in this digital era with modern day marketing techniques and strategies. Ultimately, it was this experience that led to my investment in the virtual tour equipment that is an integral part of the business here at Morgan Branding. I now work with many of the same people who helped me in the past through the utilisation of our 360° Virtual Tour service, supporting them with websites that attract more direct bookings and by offering social media management support and advice.

Ultimately, my advice when considering your competitors is, embrace them. Work out how you can differentiate yourself, but whatever you do be aware of what they are doing, as it will benefit your business in the long run.



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<p>An introduction to Exporting 9 May 2018 - Liverpool 6 June 2018 - Rochdale This fully-funded workshop will enable you to understand the benefits of selling abroad, what your company needs to do in order to position itself for long term success and how to avoid the common pitfalls associated with exporting. http://bit.ly/introexport-Liv http://bit.ly/introexport-Roch</p>	<p>Online marketing to maximise export sales 21 May 2018 - Stockport 4 June 2018 - Knowsley This masterclass will cover both country-specific and global trends, how to manage language and culture differences across your website, tools and techniques for market research. http://bit.ly/Sell-online-stockport http://bit.ly/Sell-Online-M</p>	<p>Managing Agents & Distributors 24 May 2018 - Preston 27 June 2018 - Runcorn In this workshop we will look at the three steps of identifying, appointing and managing overseas partners. We discuss the practical issues of monitoring, motivating, and evaluating their performance. http://bit.ly/Agents-Distrib-Lancs http://bit.ly/Agents-Cheshire</p>
<p>How to thrive at Exhibitions 15 May 2018 - Bury Gain an insight into just how worthwhile an exhibition is, and how to capitalise on the hundreds of opportunities walking around at a show. Pick up dozens of suggestions, ideas and tips - old hands will gain a fresh approach, and newcomers will start off on the right foot. http://bit.ly/ExhibitionSuccess-GM</p>	<p>An introduction to export market research 23 May 2018 - Northwich Marketing research is the first and one of the most vital steps for any organisation considering entering a new market. This intensive half-day course is an invaluable introduction to the process of planning and conducting marketing research overseas. http://bit.ly/EMS-northwich</p>	<p>Find out more and contact: For more information about any of these events visit http://bit.ly/DIT-NWevents To speak with an international trade adviser please contact 0333 320 0392 or email info@trade.nw.org</p>

Department for International Trade

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ICC Solutions presents at Launch of Merseyside and Cheshire Commonwealth Association

ICC Solutions was honoured to attend the launch of the Merseyside and Cheshire Commonwealth Association at Chester Racecourse on Monday 12th March, Commonwealth Day.

ICC Solutions enable banks, merchants and their technology partners globally to implement secure payment technologies such as Chip & PIN, contactless and mobile phone payments by providing software tools and services. From their centre of excellence in Warrington the company exports to over 60 countries with 95% of its revenue being international.

The company has received four Queen's Awards for Enterprise in International Trade and Innovation, is a Commonwealth First Export Champion and also a Department for International Trade Northern Powerhouse Export Champion. CEO, Dave Maisey, states "We have an enviable reputation for delivering first-class products combined with exceptional service ensuring the best possible experience for our

global clients. A pivotal point for our company was when we started trading with the Commonwealth, most notably Canada, which totally transformed our overseas activity. We currently trade with a number of Commonwealth countries such as Australia, Bahamas, Canada, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore and South Africa. We firmly intend to build on this during the course of this year, embracing the significant benefits and opportunities of doing business with the Commonwealth".

"We are passionate about exporting and wish to inspire others to embrace international trade opportunities, especially spearheading export education for young people in partnership with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DoE). Following a successful pilot which we instigated

in partnership with the DoE, exporting is now recognised as an option on the Skills Section of the DoE Award, with an online export education portal available at www.opentoexport.com/dofe.

The CEO, David Maisey, is also now Vice-Chair and a Trustee of the Merseyside and Cheshire Commonwealth Association. On Thursday 22nd March Dave was presented with the High Sheriff of Cheshire's Award for Enterprise 2017/18 for Outstanding Cheshire & Warrington Business Leader. This award recognises an Outstanding Business Leader who has shown exceptional vision and leadership at the helm of a successful and growing business which has also contributed to the development and reputation of the whole sub-region.

Merseyside and Cheshire Commonwealth Association
The Merseyside and Cheshire

Commonwealth Association helps form effective regional and national bilateral links between government, business, civil society and the educational communities of the Commonwealth. David Maisey, Vice-Chair and Trustee of the Association, states "Over 60% of the combined Commonwealth population of 2.4 billion is aged 29 or under, that is massive potential to harness and ensure education for young people in bilateral trade. These young people may well become the successful traders of the future, ensuring the Commonwealth family thrives in international trade."

David continues "The Commonwealth is undoubtedly a force for good and I encourage all those interested to join the Merseyside & Cheshire Commonwealth Association to promote the Commonwealth and enhance trade, cultural and educational links." For more information contact info@themacca.org

Bus company re-brand makes it "Warrington's own"

BUS company Network Warrington has officially re-branded as "Warrington's Own Buses".

The re-brand is the next step in the rejuvenation of the municipal bus company, which has seen major improvements across its entire network.

It signals a modernised, revamped service which meets the needs of those who live and work in Warrington.

Recent innovations for Warrington's Own Buses include discounts across several routes, the unveiling of a new bus fleet for the Cheshire Cat network to support the changes in the south Warrington bus network and the introduction of new links to Warrington Bank Quay, Knutsford and Wigan.

Managing director Ben Wakerley said: "After months of preparation, engagement and planning the time is right to reveal the new identity

of Warrington's municipal bus company.

"As one of only nine remaining municipals in operation, our local bus company is one that should be celebrated, and the new brand identity resonates with the town we love.

"We have to protect the value that Warrington's Own Buses adds to the borough whilst ensuring that we continue to make much needed improvements to the network to support as many of our residents as possible."

After polling customers and staff in late 2017 on a new logo, a wolf was selected to complement the already synonymous icon of the town - a wolf being part of the town coat of arms and the adopted name of the rugby league club.

Although the new brand identity and name signifies a step-change for the company, the rebrand is the start of

the journey for the bus company, not the end.

Mr Wakerley added: "This proud municipal bus company is part of the town's fabric. Our buses and staff have played their part in Warrington's history, and we are excited for the future of the company. We are committed to investing in a high-quality transport network that provides an excellent service for as many residents as possible.

"We aren't resting on our laurels. The company is going through some big changes and the rebrand is just a milestone as part of the

transformation of the company we want to become.

"This investment in creating a bus company that everyone can be proud of - from a sparkling new fleet, to improved routes - will come at no cost to our passengers, who will continue to enjoy frozen fares in 2018.

"I want to thank my tireless staff, customers and supporters of Warrington's Own Buses who have come with us on our journey so far, and we are excited for the next chapter in the company's story."



Green light for £6.5m Warrington Youth Zone

PLANS for a new £6.5million OnSide Youth Zone, supporting thousands of young people across Warrington, have been given green light by the town's planners.

The joint venture between national young people's charity OnSide and Warrington Borough Council will see a purpose-built facility which will raise aspirations, enhance prospects and improve health and wellbeing for young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds in Warrington.

The new Youth Zone will offer affordable activities in sports, arts, music, employability and mentoring to young people aged from eight to 19, or up to 25 for those with a disability, every day of the week.

The confirmed site for the new state-of-the-art facility in the Stadium Quarter next to the UTC, which

when completed will see Warrington Youth Club move to its new Youth Zone home. The proposed location is extremely central and accessible by public transport, enabling it to be reached by large numbers of young people from across the borough.

Cllr Jean Carter, executive board member for children's services said: "I am delighted that planning consent has been approved for the new Warrington Youth Zone. I cannot wait to see work start on site. The opportunities it will offer young people from sports to media, arts and preparing for work are hugely exciting and will benefit the whole town."

Mark Brocklehurst, Chair of Warrington Youth Club said: "Gaining planning consent is really exciting for everybody involved, especially the young people of the town. Warrington

Youth Club is already making a huge difference to the lives of young people in the area, but Youth Zones have a remarkable track record of changing the lives of so many more and we can't wait for that offer to extend to Warrington. Our next step is to get on the site and get building

this fantastic facility." Warrington Youth Zone's capital cost of £6.5m is being funded by Warrington Borough Council and a number of additional generous funders who are keen to see Warrington benefit from an OnSide Youth Zone.



Health and social care student secures place to study physiotherapy at university

HHealth, social and childcare students from Warrington & Vale Royal College are preparing to take the next step towards their dream careers and university courses.

A number of students studying at the college have secured places to continue their studies at prestigious universities on courses including paramedic science, psychology, physiotherapy, paediatric nursing and primary teaching.

One of these students is 22 year old Stuart Johnson who will be starting a degree in physiotherapy this September.

Stuart said: "I came to Warrington & Vale Royal College to try and figure out what it was I wanted to do. Both my mum and sister are in the health and social care field and I didn't feel like engineering or something like that was the right fit for me. I wanted to do something to help people in the future. After learning the different subjects and seeing what options I had available to me, physiotherapy felt like the

thing for me."

Stuart, a former Fairfield High School pupil, has received a conditional offer from York St John University, and also has an interview for Manchester Metropolitan University.

"I am really excited for university – I can't wait. We've covered the basics of physiotherapy as part of the health and social care course. The majority of people who go on to study physiotherapy at university will have come from doing science A Level and whilst it's obviously important to have that scientific knowledge, I feel like I'll have an advantage because I've got the practical and caring side – that's important too."

Stuart added: "I have really enjoyed the course and my time at

Warrington & Vale Royal College. I have enjoyed the different subjects and the opportunities that we've had, including going to Martos in Spain where we helped to look after people who didn't speak any English. That was difficult but a great opportunity for us."

As well as studying the level 3 course at Warrington & Vale Royal College, Stuart has also completed

work placements at a special educational needs school and at Scope, where he also works.

Stuart commented: "The dream is to be a physiotherapist for a sports team, ideally working abroad, but the course at Warrington & Vale Royal College has given me the foundation for any health and social care career."



Sport students help deliver more than 4,000 rugby league sessions

SPORT students from Warrington & Vale Royal College have teamed up with Warrington Wolves Community Trust to bring more than 4,000 rugby league sessions to primary school children from across Cheshire.

The week-long event saw level 3 students direct a number of refereeing and training sessions, all with the aim of helping youngsters better understand the popular sport.

Each student was given a role to play, whether that be co-ordinating the "round robin" style event, or officiating individual sessions.

Among the students taking part was former University Academy Warrington pupil, Zoe Finnerty.

Zoe said: "Supporting this event has given us all great experience of coaching and officiating that will definitely help us in the future. It was great to be able to take part in such a fantastic event – everyone had a really good time."

Fellow student Kieran Bellamy, a former Bedford High School pupil, said: "The event allowed us to put the skills and knowledge that we are learning in the classroom to the test, and gain experience of coaching children of a younger age."

The event was organised as part of the college's continued partnership with Warrington Wolves and its charitable foundations.

Other students from Warrington & Vale Royal College involved in the

week were: Josh Saxon, Callum Mac, Ben Hesketh, Callum Barnett, Liam Clark, Jared Bouch, Jade Harrison, Caitlyn Williams, Matt Rudd, Mike Rushton and Cameron Gater.

Ryan McNeely, lecturer in sport at the college, said: "This event was a prime example of the work our sport students get to participate

in on a regular basis. Being able to take part in such an event gives our students the opportunity to get first-hand experience of coaching young children – something that many of them will go on to do as they embark on a career in the industry.

"It also gives our learners fantastic experience of leading a large scale

event, with multiple activities running at the same time, and also shows that they can work well as part of a team. Every single one of the students that took part did an absolutely fantastic job, and we look forward to continuing to enhance their learning experience through our partnerships with external agencies like Warrington Wolves Community Trust."



Student group photo (L to R), Josh Saxon, Callum Mack, Zoe Finnerty, Ben Hesketh, Callum Barnett, Liam Clark, Jared Bouch.

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Wolves' Head Coach impressed by "fantastic" Peace Centre

WARRINGTON Wolves' Head Coach Steve Price was impressed by the "fantastic" Peace Centre following a tour of the pioneering facility with his family.

Steve, who visited the home of the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace with his wife and three young daughters, described the facility as "outstanding" and a "great concept."

He was given a tour by the charity's Chief Executive Nick Taylor – a St Helens fan!

Describing the Peace Centre as "fantastic" he added: "It is a great concept and I think it is outstanding for what it is doing."

"There have been a lot of good outcomes. I am very passionate about trying to help people and credit to Nick and the Foundation for what they are trying to do

changing lives around the world."

Putting rugby rivalry to one side Nick said: "Rugby League is about playing the game hard and then getting up and shaking hands."

A lot of the Foundation's work now takes place within the Rugby League heartlands along the "M62 Corridor" including Leeds, Huddersfield and Bradford and Nick says he would like to explore working alongside the Wolves' Foundation.

Meanwhile Steve says he is "loving" his time in Warrington and has offered to support the Foundation as and when he can.

The tour coincided with the 20th anniversary of the "Good Friday Agreement" which was a major turning point in the troubles in Northern Ireland following on from the Warrington Bombing 25 years ago.



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College proud of young player's incredible achievement

FORMER Warrington & Vale Royal College student Pat Moran is making a name for himself in the world of rugby league, after making his debut for Warrington Wolves in their 54-6 Challenge Cup victory over Bradford Bulls.

Pat, aged 20, came off the bench during Sunday's victory, which saw Wolves book themselves a place in the sixth round of the competition.

The young prop forward who studied at St Edmund Arrowsmith School pupil before enrolling at Warrington & Vale Royal College, followed in the footsteps of fellow Wire player Harvey Livett, with both having completed the level 3 rugby league at the Winwick Road campus.

The course is run in association with Warrington Wolves and gives students the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge to enhance their playing style, as well as earning coaching badges at the same time.

Following his debut, Pat described the experience as "unbelievable".

Pat – a former Wigan St Judes ARLFC player – has praised Warrington & Vale Royal College in the past for its part in getting him to where he is today.

He said: "The rugby league course at Warrington & Vale Royal College helped me academically by giving me the knowledge of the game and

an understanding of what goes on behind the scenes on the business side. The course also helped me to gain my level 1 coaching badge."

Pat became a first-team squad member with Wolves in 2016, giving impressive displays with their Under 19s side. He played in 19 of their 20 fixtures last season, scoring three tries, and also played for the reserves. He was also included in the England Academy squad in 2016.

Ryan McNeely, lecturer in sport at the college, said: "It is always great to see our former students succeed and for Pat to make his debut in Warrington Wolves' first team squad, in a Challenge Cup tie, is an incredible achievement. For the college to have two former students in the first team squad at one of the biggest rugby league clubs is something that we are very proud of.

"Being able to help promising young players to reach their sporting and career goals is something we pride ourselves on and is the reason that we do what we do each day. Pat's success is sure to inspire our current students, and our future students,

to do their utmost to follow and reach their own dreams. We're excited to see how Pat progresses within the Wolves squad and wish him luck with his future career."

To find out more about the opportunities available at Warrington & Vale Royal College, visit wvr.ac.uk or visit their open evening on Wednesday 27th June at our Winsford campus.



Picture: SWPix.com

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