



Edge Hill
University

Annual Review

2019-20

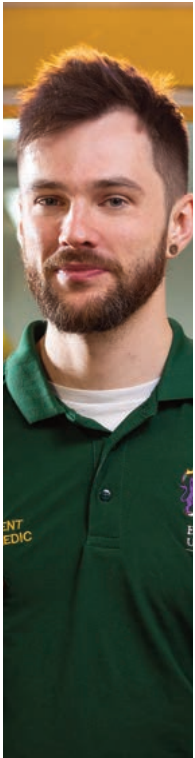
A Year in the Life of Edge Hill
Rising to Challenges

**“ Our Edge Hill
community
has gone
above and
beyond
and risen
to the
challenges
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past year.**

**Thank you,
there is
much to
be proud of.**



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“ During the start of the pandemic I was placed with the ambulance service in an urgent care role. It was definitely really useful to get experience working as a clinician rather than just as a student. We were initially shuttling patients to and from hospitals, but as the pandemic progressed our responsibilities shifted more towards treating the ‘not critical’ but still quite sick patients. This meant supporting patients and families, getting a history, identifying injuries, and working out how to extricate patients to get them to hospital; all without having a paramedic mentor to rely on.

Given that the elderly fallers, chronically ill and generally unwell are the ‘bread and butter’ of the paramedic’s role, I feel more prepared to qualify having had this opportunity to practice.

Luke Rowe
BSc (Hons) Paramedic Practice



This past year has been like no other. The coronavirus pandemic has tested leaders and their organisations around the world.

Welcome



Our Edge Hill community has gone above and beyond and really pulled together in response to the crisis. Not only have we risen to new challenges, we have continued to innovate, change and improve lives.



The contents in this report will demonstrate just how much our students, colleagues and partners have been making a difference. From the 750 students who volunteered to support the NHS, or the new research borne out of a need to make a positive impact, to the many acts of kindness, support and new ways of learning that has been displayed in such an unprecedented time. There is much to be proud of.

Holding the TEF Gold award for ‘consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students’, we continue to invest in facilities and the student experience with £300m testimony to this commitment.

We are building a stronger reputation for research; doubling the number of research active staff and opening three new applied research institutes in 2019.

Our new Medical School is focussing on providing training and support for the North West NHS and we continue to develop key partnerships with major health providers.

In fulfilling our role in supporting the regional economy, our Productivity and Innovation Centre is providing SMEs with training and support to address challenges and develop business skills.

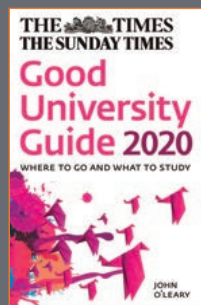
The icing on the cake was our most recent news that Edge Hill has been shortlisted for the coveted title of University of the Year in the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards – the ‘Oscars’ of the education world. We’ll find out on 26th November whether we have won.

On all fronts, Edge Hill is a University to be proud of, and 2019/20 exemplified that success.

Vice-Chancellor
Dr John Cater

2019

September



The University improved its position in the *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020*, rising to the institution's highest ever placing as well as being in the top four universities in the North West. This followed hot on the heels of entering the top fifty UK universities in *The Guardian University Guide*.



The University won first place in the *National Student Housing Survey Awards* for the most affordable accommodation in 2018/19.

October



The hotly anticipated winner of the prestigious *Edge Hill Short Story Prize* was announced as David Szalay.

November



An inaugural awards evening was hosted by the University's Productivity and Innovation Centre to recognise some of the finest SMEs and business partners from across Lancashire.



The Institution's Language Centre was officially accredited by BALEAP, the global forum for English for Academic Purposes (EAP) professionals, which recognises institutions that enhance the quality of the management, teaching and learning of EAP and add value to the academic success of international students.

December



Chancellors Court and Chancellors South were placed number 25 in the Best UK Student Accommodation category.

2020

January



Staff joined partners Everton in the Community to welcome The Duke of Cambridge during a visit to find out more about Tackling the Blues mental health programme.

February



Edge Hill shortlisted for the coveted title of University of the Year in the *Educate North Awards*, which celebrates the finest work in higher and further education (winner to be announced in November 2020).

March



DETECT, an innovative healthcare project developed with Alder Hey Children's NHS Trust and partners scooped the *Patient Safety Innovation Award* at the *North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards*. It uses electronic devices to record patient information in order to detect early deterioration in children and to prevent critical care transfers.



A £1.8 million contract was awarded to the University and the Royal College of Physicians for trainee doctors to benefit from leadership as well as medical education.



April



Tackling the Blues, a mental health awareness programme developed by Edge Hill and Everton in the Community, was awarded half a million pounds in recognition of the vital impact it has on the student experience. Funding will be used to grow arts and wellbeing activities with Tate Liverpool.

A Year in Highlights

Here is a selection of highlights, awards and achievements from across the University community. You can find out about more of our successes during 2019/20 on the news section of the website www.edgehill.ac.uk/news.

May



Award-winning broadcast journalist Emily Maitlis was confirmed as the author of this year's Big Read book, an award-winning initiative which creates a sense of community to all new undergraduate students.

July



Edge Hill was voted by students best in the North West in this year's *WhatUni Student Choice Awards*. Having been placed nationally in the top 10 by students for the University of the Year title, we now rank top in the region for this, as well as for Best University Facilities, Best Job Prospects and Best Student Support.



A record number of our students received good degrees and had the chance to celebrate during a special virtual graduation week when new dates for physical ceremonies were unveiled for 6-10th April 2021.

June



TechUP Women, delivered by the University and key partners, won the Employment and Skills category in this year's *Digital Agenda Tech for Good Impact Awards*.

August



The Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) and the Academic Quality and Development Unit scooped an *Advance HE Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE)* in recognition of their collaborative approach to curriculum design and teaching delivery to enhance the student experience.

September

THE AWARDS 2020

Edge Hill shortlisted for University of the Year in the *Times Higher Education (THE) Awards* – the most prestigious accolade in the Higher Education sector. The winner will be announced virtually on 26th November 2020.





Fulfilling Student Potential

As a leading University, we are dedicated to creating opportunity from knowledge – a philosophy that drives our teaching and our commitment to providing students with a great experience that unlocks their full potential, leading to a rewarding career.

With the highest rating in the national Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) for delivering 'consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students' we strive to create an environment where opportunities know no boundaries.



When the NHS asked students to volunteer for frontline nursing it was a massive relief to know that I could get involved and help out in what felt like a more helpful role. It's the nature of our profession. Of course, I had to consider my own safety and my family. However, I had the full backing of my wife and children to go ahead.

My experience was a very positive one. As a student it can be difficult to integrate into a team but during the pandemic I had my own role to fulfil and I felt more valued. Working in a more autonomous way for me meant that I gained more experience by being hands on. It also allowed me to appreciate the value of other roles in the NHS. The care and compassion shown by every member of staff during this extremely sad and difficult time is something I will never forget and is something I will take forward into my career.

As a mature student I have held a varied career path from being in the prison service to a professional singer, but I have never felt more proud in putting on a uniform and going into a workplace as I have during this pandemic. Not because of my contribution but just being a part of this amazing establishment that stood up in unity to fight what felt like a war.

Matthew Price
MNSW Nursing and Social Work

**To our students and colleagues
who supported the NHS...**

Thank you

As one of the largest providers of health and social care education in the North West and home to the new Medical School, Edge Hill has always been at the forefront of developing the next generation of practitioners.

Healthcare provision has never been more important than today due to the devastating impact the coronavirus pandemic has had globally.

The value of the NHS has reached a new level of esteem, and because of this global event, the healthcare offer at Edge Hill will continue to develop to meet the changing requirements of caring practice.

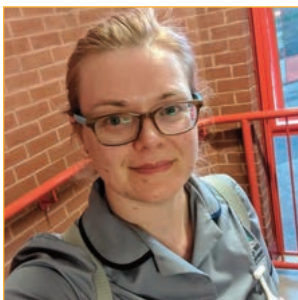
More than 750 nursing, midwifery, operating department practitioners (ODPs) and paramedic practice students volunteered to support the NHS during the Covid-19 pandemic and overcame their own personal fears and difficulties to work for the public good – in a time-honoured professional way.

**Thank you to each one of you
- we couldn't be prouder of you.**

Adult nursing student, May Woodward was one such volunteer who worked in the spinal unit at Southport and Formby District General Hospital.



During my time on extended placement I experienced the highs and lows of nursing, from losing a much loved colleague, to seeing patients recover from COVID-19 and other illnesses. It has been an incredibly difficult time but I managed to complete my second year and I'm looking forward to my final year as a student and ready to except the next challenge. This whole pandemic has made me look at nursing in a different way, it has made me love it even more and I can't wait to be a part of it when I graduate.





During lockdown, I have been working as a volunteer for DeafBlindUK as a telephone befriender. I call a 93-year-old man every Wednesday and we chat for a couple of hours each week. It has been great to hear that my call brightens up his day, seeing as he lives alone and is self-isolating.

Volunteering, especially during a global pandemic, has been a worthwhile and rewarding experience and a good use of my free time while being away from University. It has really improved my communication skills, as well as my patience and understanding of different people in our society, and will also be a great thing to add to my CV! I would recommend anyone to take part in some form of volunteering to gain valuable life skills and help someone in their community.

Amy Hardman
First Year, Primary Education with QTS

When the UK went into lockdown, it threw up a lot of challenges for the Third Sector and its army of volunteers, not least because face-to-face helping opportunities were suddenly limited as organisations were forced to close their doors.

Working with vulnerable communities

Volunteering is a big part of student life at Edge Hill, and despite being in self-isolation, our students were desperate to find out how they could still get involved with charitable organisations, make a difference, and gain useful skills remotely.

Volunteering Advisors in Careers sprang into action, creating two new online resources to support students wanting to volunteer, wherever they were in the country.

Drawing on Edge Hill's extensive network of partners across the UK, the team were able to offer students a broad range of opportunities, from becoming a mentor for vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to contributing to important scientific research – all without leaving their sofas.

Creative Care



Elderly people have been hit particularly hard by lockdown. The Creative Writing department came up with a 'novel' way to bring care home residents some comfort and help them feel less isolated while they couldn't see their friends and family.

Creative Writing students recorded themselves reading extracts from famous works of literature, and these were shared with care home staff across Lancashire and the Liverpool City Region, who listened to them with their elderly residents. All of the Creative Care project recordings can be found on our website and as podcasts on anchor.fm.



Great works of literature can bring a lot of comfort in uneasy times. Regardless of the emotional, physical or mental place you may be in, some words have a way of transporting you out of it for a time and, these days, I think that's more important than ever.

David Colebourne. Creative Writing



From classroom to living room – moving, learning and teaching online

When the nation went into lockdown in March, educational institutions were forced to move all of their teaching online in a matter of days.

Fortunately, Edge Hill University is no stranger to online learning. We've been at the forefront of technology-assisted learning since we established SOLSTICE, our designated Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, in 2005.

The knowledge and expertise that we've developed over the years meant we were able to hit the ground running when it came to switching to 100% online teaching.

In the Faculty of Education, staff and students have adapted brilliantly to the 'new normal' of online learning and found innovative ways to bring the curriculum to life – and keep a sense of connection – remotely.

As well as delivering interactive lectures and tutorials online, the Faculty has embraced social media and now engages with more than 1,000 students on Twitter. There have also been online 'draw-alongs' for creativity, themed podcasts to get students away from their screens and get them thinking, and even a virtual visit from author Frank Cottrell-Boyce, who read from one of his best-selling books and discussed how the text could be taught.



The idea was to 'meet them where they are.' We had to take what students were already comfortable with and use it to bring the magic of the classroom online. It was out of our comfort zone, but it has given all of us the courage to try new things, many of which we will be incorporating into the curriculum in the future. In many ways, the virus has accelerated what we already wanted to do.

Sarah Wright
Senior Lecturer in Primary Education

Links to Learning

When lockdown was announced, teachers faced the unprecedented challenge of quickly moving all of their teaching online.

To help, we set up Links to Learning, a virtual learning hub that brings together the best online resources to support schools and families through the pandemic.

It was made available to schools, families and communities to support them through the pandemic and beyond, with hundreds of partners making the most of the resources.



Links to Learning has provided schools and the wider community with a gateway to a wealth of online resources at the touch of a button. Staff from across the education sector can find a pathway to an incredible range of websites – which both saves time researching and also enables staff to see websites they might otherwise have missed.



KIRKBY
COLLABORATIVE OF SCHOOLS

As we move into new ways of working, it also provides parents, carers, and students with the same opportunities to explore relevant and useful resources to help children with their learning.

Steve Dixon, Development Manager
Kirkby Collaborative of Schools

Fast response for Fastrack

This summer, Edge Hill's Fastrack programme for people returning to learning, has been delivered entirely online for the first time – with impressive results.

With face-to-face teaching moving online, staff quickly developed a flexible, supportive online programme that not only allowed students to gain the academic skills they needed to progress to their chosen degree, but also feel connected to the University and to their peers.

The students rose to the challenge in style – more than 185 students successfully undertook the online programme, taking them a step closer to getting the degree they've always wanted.



[The programme] has... removed the trepidation that I felt about starting academic study. I am extremely grateful to the team for working at short notice to put the online course together as it means that I haven't missed out on my Uni place this year.

Fastrack 2020 student



When the school first closed, I wasn't thinking about my PGCE, I just wanted to get stuck in and help however I could.

Erin Muir,
PGCE Secondary Physical Education



Edge Hill is the largest provider of teacher training in the North West and has a well-deserved reputation for producing outstanding graduates and offering exceptional support for the school workforce.

Supporting teachers, now and in the future

Even during a global pandemic, our staff, students and partners continued to work together to minimise the disruption to learners and keep a love of learning alive during the most difficult circumstances.

Despite their placements being officially suspended in March, many of our students opted to carry on supporting the schools – and students – they were with before lockdown. Rather than pack up and go home, they stayed on, providing vulnerable and key workers' children with consistency and routine during a very unsettling time.

All of these students showed an unwavering dedication to their profession. We couldn't be prouder that the future of education is in their hands.

Erin Muir was in the final months of her PGCE in Secondary Physical Education when Covid-19 struck. She stayed at her placement school, Carr Hill High in Kirkham, helping them out with everything from PE sessions to packing food parcels for families in need.



It was quite tough at first, but I've learned so much about myself. I've really changed the way I approach things; I'm much more flexible and adaptable than I thought.

I've now been offered a role at the school, starting in September, and I already feel like one of the team. It's not the way I wanted to end my PGCE but I wouldn't change it for anything.





Research for Impact

Growing our vibrant community of academic researchers, nurturing postgraduate students and those in the early stages of their career is enabling us to make a real-world difference.

Doubling the number of research active staff, opening three new applied research institutes in 2019 and responding to society's challenges is allowing us to build a stronger reputation for producing research that has a lasting impact.



You will never know the pain, until it comes to your door. We are the reminder, we're here to tell the truth. It's too late for my life; others who have been abused have contacted me to say as long as I keep speaking out, organisations and governments will never be able to forget about us, or what has happened to us.

Karen Leach,
ex-swimmer and abuse survivor

Spotlight on Research Centres

Edge Hill researchers are renowned across the world for their expertise in a wide range of specialist areas. The launch of new research centres this year brings together research excellence from across the University, with the aim of increasing collaboration to address major issues in society.



With Black Lives Matter protests sweeping across the globe and racism at the forefront of public debate, the launch of the **International Centre on Racism** could not be more timely. Building on Edge Hill's foundation as an institution dedicated to inclusion and diversity, the centre aims to be the go-to source of research-based information on all forms of racism.

The centre is a founding partner of MONITOR Global Intelligence on Racism, the world's only magazine dedicated to bringing expertise on racism to the wider public, and is supported by a global team of experts in Europe, North America and Australia.



The denial that racism lives in the mainstream of society, or that it even exists as a serious problem, is perhaps the biggest obstacle that its opponents face. This challenge remains, even after George Floyd.

Dr James Renton, Director of the International Centre on Racism

Another recently opened research centre is working to understand and eradicate a problem that has blighted sport for many years. The launch of the **Centre for Child Protection and Safeguarding in Sport** will focus on the prevention of abuse, exploitation and maltreatment in sport and will promote the positive welfare of participants, from grassroots to elite sport.

By bringing together academics at the forefront of national and international research and education, the centre has generated hope for real change among those who play sport and those who deliver, manage and govern sport.



North West MEP Jane Brophy was the guest of honour at the launch of Edge Hill's **Institute for Social Responsibility** (formerly the Institute for Public Policy and Professional Practice or I4P), which aims to critically examine social responsibility across the social sciences, arts and humanities.

The re-launched centre acts as a hub to co-ordinate and support research, bring together academics, practitioners and the wider public, and stimulate debate on what social responsibility means in today's society.



We are all living and working in a time of transition and change; ISR provides a home to those who want to reflect and to think strategically and differently about conceptualisations of social responsibility in our changing world.

Professor Jo Crotty, ISR Director



As we emerge from lockdown, we are presented with a once in a generation opportunity to redefine our social values. Greed and mass consumerism can now be replaced by a way of life that values the environment and fosters a new sense of community.

Bill Grimsey, businessman and author of *Build Back Better: A Covid-19 supplement for town centres*

Edge Hill has always been committed to carrying out research that improves people's lives, locally, nationally and internationally.

Research inspired by Covid-19

Rather than limiting research activity, the coronavirus outbreak has prompted some fascinating and timely new studies that could influence the way organisations and individuals respond to the pandemic in the future.

What now for the UK high street?

Edge Hill has been involved with the Grimsey Reports into the future of high streets since 2013, sharing our retail expertise and insights into consumer behaviour. The recommendation has always been to repurpose high streets as community hubs, with less focus on shops and more on green space, health, education, culture, housing, leisure, art and crafts, and the sudden impact of Covid-19 has only confirmed that high street retail as we know it has to change.

The recently published Grimsey Report Covid-19 supplement, which includes a contribution from retail expert Professor Kim Cassidy from Edge Hill's Business School, suggests that rather than sounding the death knell for UK high streets, the pandemic could actually have a positive impact.



Professor Cassidy notes that retailers across the country have shown great resilience, agility and imagination in their response to the crisis, with many diversifying their offers or collaborating with community organisations to survive. The supplement suggests that lockdown has accelerated and reinforced the importance of community involvement to the future success of town centres, so perhaps instead of Covid-19 bringing about the death of the high street, it could be the catalyst for a better way of living.



We've already seen huge brands winding up and others shutting hundreds of stores. I'm really glad I had the opportunity to contribute to the review and demonstrate how these problems can be dealt with via drastic changes to how our high streets operate.

Kim Cassidy, Professor of Services Marketing



How do young children make sense of a pandemic?

An international study into how children access and process information about Covid-19 has revealed that they understand much more about the virus and how to mitigate transmission than people think.

Using innovative analysis of children's drawings alongside surveying children and parents, the study found that parents acted as the gatekeepers of information and often shielded children from health messages, particularly around daily numbers of deaths.

However, the children polled demonstrated that they could engage with health messages if they were presented in an appropriate way.

The project, which involved children aged between seven and 12 and their parents, is the first to look at children's access to health information about coronavirus from the early stages of lockdown across six countries.

Child health literacy expert Professor Lucy Bray (pictured above), who led the research with colleagues from Edge Hill, hopes the findings will not only result in more targeted, child-friendly information but also help understand how health messages are shared between parents and children.



Doing the survey was really useful in helping us talk about [Covid-19] and what he actually knows, I hadn't realised he was worrying about it, he always says he is fine.

Research participant and mother of 11-year-old

Breathing space for nurses



Covid-19 has put the spotlight on the life-saving work of respiratory nurses, but until now, their personal experiences of working through a pandemic have been largely ignored.

A group of nurse researchers are giving these vital front line workers a voice in a research project that aims to document the positive and negative experiences that have emerged during the crisis to ensure lessons are learned for the future.

Dr Carol Kelly (pictured), who was a respiratory nurse herself for many years, is part of a team of five respiratory nurse academics for four UK universities who are working on the project.

They are asking nurses across the country to complete a survey and keep a diary to 'capture a unique moment in history' and also to give them a chance to reflect on their individual emotional response to the pandemic.



The diary helped me deal with the experience of delivering care during the peak of a pandemic, which at times was intense and traumatic. Revisiting my experiences by putting them to paper afforded me the opportunity to debrief and to make sense of them... It was akin to counselling. Participation in this research was therapeutically beneficial.

Respiratory nurse and research participant

Sharing our vital facilities



It's not every day you get army vehicles driving onto campus, but during a pandemic, anything can become 'normal'.

In March, the Government requested the loan of equipment worth tens of thousands of pounds from the Biosciences department for use in Covid-19 testing – and we were more than happy to help.

Among the equipment collected by the British Army were seven polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines, which can amplify DNA to look for the presence of the virus before people get symptoms, and several -20c freezers to store samples.

Once they are back off official duty, the machines will return to the labs to help our researchers tackle other global health challenges. The PCR machines are used for a variety of DNA-based projects at Edge Hill including insecticide resistance in mosquitos that spread malaria, and research into genetic skin disorders and cystic fibrosis.



As biologists and scientists, we felt helpless when the pandemic hit so we were honoured when our department was one of those chosen to loan vital equipment to fight Covid-19. We managed to get everything together in just 48 hours. We are so pleased that the department was able to help the country by contributing to the front line of virus testing.

Dr Clare Strode, Reader in Vector Biology





Engaging with our Communities and Partners

Edge Hill is a university with a strong sense of place. Being part of our local community and working in partnership with external organisations is central to everything we do here.

Over the past year we have continued to forge relationships and build networks that will bring benefits to our staff, students, partners, local communities and businesses, during lockdown and beyond.



“ We provide a range of high-quality domiciliary care services helping to keep people safe, in the comfort of their own home, for longer. When Covid-19 hit we realised we needed to safeguard the existence and future of our family business. With just over 20% of our clients immediately shielding and others so understandably very anxious, we needed to act fast and with some degree of certainty.

The programme ultimately provided us with the business tools necessary for us to stabilise our business, restructure based upon our clients' new priorities, utilise technology, re-focus our own internal processes and priorities and to help us eventually start to plan for growth, in these unprecedented Covid-19 times. We remain immensely indebted to the Productivity and Innovation Centre team for their professionalism and ongoing support throughout this challenging time.

Robert & Gail Godson, Managing Directors for Home Instead West Lancashire and Chorley.



Over the last year the Productivity and Innovation Centre (PIC) has provided innovation, guidance and advisory services to Lancashire businesses and more than 90 SMEs have accessed this support to address their growth and scale-up challenges.

Helping businesses on the road to recovery

On average, SMEs who completed the PIC programme – which is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund - achieved between 22% to 40% growth.

Never has this vital lifeline to the business community been more important than during Covid-19, which hit many SMEs hard, even forcing some to close their doors.



Stepping in to help, the University's business experts were quickly able to offer exclusive digital-based crisis recovery sessions to help SMEs stabilise, refocus and embed plans to alleviate the devastating effect of the pandemic.

On the back of this support, many SMEs have been able to adapt their business model in response to the changes to help them survive, which is in turn helping the economy as it starts to rebuild again.



We help create awareness of the issues affecting a business, support them, understand how these can be addressed, ensure there is the knowledge to accept change and help build their confidence to make the necessary changes.

Professor Simon Bolton, Associate Dean of Enterprise and Employability and Director of the PIC

Keeping the creative economy moving

Our Institute for Creative Enterprise (ICE) has been working with partners to help keep the creative economy moving, especially for young people.



The Lonely Arts Club podcast was first launched last year and features interviews with creative and cultural people, following their journey into the arts and where it's led them. From film directors and musicians to arts consultants and exhibition curators, the idea behind the initiative has been to give advice about embarking on a career in the industry.

More recently, a partnership was formed with Culture Liverpool and Screenlife Liverpool to capture life under lockdown across the Liverpool City Region.



It is important at this time to keep the creative economy moving, especially for young people. This film has done a lot to bring the University community together at a time when students were practising isolation. The film captures a moment in time that in retrospect will come to be a historic moment across the globe.

Professor Martin McQuillan, Director of ICE



Boosting life prospects for the Wigan community

As an institution that constantly strives to improve opportunities for local people, our most recent collaboration between Wigan Council, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Wigan and Leigh College will boost education, health and economic prospects for these communities.

Together, the partners have pledged to provide more life chances and prospects for people locally, particularly those at school, college and university.

The type of education, health and economic projects under development include increasing the number of apprenticeships and work placements; increasing research and development activity; working with small and medium-sized businesses, identifying skills gaps and working collectively to bridge those gaps.



This partnership supports our strategy for the borough and our ambition to support people into skilled employment and really goes to show what we can achieve when we work together.

Councillor David Molyneux
Leader of Wigan Council



#LiverpoolReads



Edge Hill has been working with partners across Liverpool to improve literacy across the city.

The University is an official partner in #LiverpoolReads, a year-long celebration of the magic of reading, and has pledged to provide 10,000 library cards for young children to encourage engagement with books from birth.

Working with Liverpool City Council, The Reader, Liverpool Learning Partnership and Comics Youth, the project is already inspiring people to spend some quality time with the written word.



Reading is not only a source of enjoyment and entertainment, but many people also find it a source of solace and comfort and that is what we need in these uncertain times.

Cllr Barbara Murray, Liverpool City Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills

Award helps tackle lockdown mental health



One of our most successful partnerships, Tackling the Blues, has been awarded half a million pounds by the Office for Students and Research England to help improve the lives of more children across the region.

The project, a collaboration between Edge Hill's Faculty of Education and Department of Sport and Physical Activity, and Everton in the Community and Tate Liverpool, uses sport, art and education as a way of engaging with young people who have, or are at risk of developing, mental illness.

The award comes at a time when children's mental health has been severely impacted by coronavirus, particularly those who are living in challenging environments.

The new activities will contribute to the 'recovery curriculum', to help children recover from the stress of lockdown and prevent future mental health issues.



Tackling the Blues has been such a great project for our children to be involved in. It has challenged them to think about their lives as individuals and also how they relate to one another. I feel that it has helped the pupils gain awareness about social media, healthy eating and talking about their emotions.

Class Teacher, Springwell Park Primary School





Investing in the Future

Cultivating an environment in which our students, graduates and staff can grow and look ahead to bright prospects is at the heart of the Edge Hill ethos.

We continue to invest in new courses, facilities and a stunning campus that meets the needs of an ever-changing society and provides an environment of the highest quality teaching, learning, research and knowledge exchange.



“ I’ve had such a positive experience in my first year; having to learn online for the last few months hasn’t changed that. You get so many opportunities to expand your knowledge and, as it’s such a small group, you get a lot of one-to-one support. If you need help, there’s always someone there to ask.

Since I’ve started the course, I’ve been involved with the Widening Access to Medicine Society. We go out to schools and talk to children about careers in medicine. We show them that you don’t need to be from a privileged background to become a doctor. If I can do it, you can do it too.

Heral Vaghela
First cohort, Foundation Year for Medicine



The University first started training nurses over 50 years ago, and has grown to become one of the largest providers of health and social care education in the North West of England.

A new era for Medicine at Edge Hill

This year, we have expanded that provision even further with the opening of our Medical School – one of only three new freestanding medical schools in the country and the only one in the North West.

The school will build on our 20-year experience of providing postgraduate and professional development programmes for medical staff, with a brand new five-year undergraduate Medical degree which started in September 2020.

With a curriculum developed entirely in-house, the Medical School aims to provide additional doctors for the North West at a time when they couldn't be more needed.

Widening access to Medicine

As you might expect from a university that strives to make Higher Education more accessible, the new Medical School has an emphasis on widening access to medicine.



In 2019, 17 students embarked on the first Foundation Year for Medicine programme, designed to give bright students from the North West, whose backgrounds might otherwise limit their life chances, the opportunity to study medicine.

As well as breaking down barriers to the medical profession, the programme will develop a new generation of doctors who understand the needs of the local communities they serve and can drive forward new models of care.



The students coped admirably with the twin challenges of starting a brand new programme and then having to rapidly switch to online learning. I think this extraordinary experience will serve to build their confidence and resilience to the demands of Higher Education and working in healthcare even more.

Dr Peter Leadbetter
Programme Lead, Foundation Year for Medicine



New Nurse Paramedic Masters degree first of its kind in UK

Earlier this year saw the launch of a ground-breaking new Nurse Paramedic integrated Masters degree - the first in the UK.

The four-year MSci Nurse Paramedic (Adult) degree is designed to tackle the changing delivery of acute and primary care and improve staff retention within the NHS.

Students involved in the design of the course have championed the programme as “bridging the gap between disciplines to ensure that evidence-based patient care can be delivered to improve patient outcomes in an innovative way” and reported that it was a fantastic opportunity to be involved in such novel course development.

Students will be on the frontline of healthcare, qualifying as both a nurse and a paramedic, and will be able to apply for registration with the regulatory bodies for both professions – the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).



This is an exciting time for the students who have signed up as their skills will be highly desirable in the workplace and they will be able to contribute directly to the development of the course and this ground-breaking role as real ambassadors for the new profession.



Eleanor Fenney, Nurse Education Programme Development Lead



Main halls accommodation benefits from revamp

A major refurbishment project of student accommodation in the main halls on campus has been completed.

Nearly 100 bedrooms have been upgraded and the work in Stanley and Clough halls ensures that accommodation now boasts en-suite facilities and new shared kitchen/common areas, in a similar style to newer campus halls such as Woodland Court.



Trailblazing programme to support mental health in schools and colleges

To support the Government's priority of increasing access to mental health and wellbeing support in schools and colleges, a new programme was launched earlier this year to train people for these new roles.

The Education Mental Health Practitioner PGDip course sees students work across education and healthcare settings to provide early intervention mental health support for children and young people in an education setting.

First of its kind Bioethics Unit opens on campus

The Ormskirk campus is now home to England's only UNESCO Bioethics Unit to tackle some of today's most pressing ethical issues in healthcare.

Rapid advances in medicine, biology, cultural diversity and world changes brings with it many ethical conflicts.

By opening the North West's very first unit of its kind on the Ormskirk campus, we aim to build the foundations of good moral behaviour and encourage students, academics and practitioners to operate to the highest ethical standards.





Graduation and Honorary Doctors

The culmination of the academic journey is the University's Degree and Award Ceremonies, where our graduates celebrate their achievements, receiving well-deserved recognition for all their hard work from the University, their family and friends.

Edge Hill's Honorary Awards celebrate individuals who have roots in, or connections to, the region and have made exceptional contributions to society that align with the values of the University. For a full list of other recipients who have enjoyed success in a range of fields spanning health, education, arts and sciences visit:

www.edgehill.ac.uk/graduation/honorary-awards/





**Well done to the Class of 2020
who worked so hard and graduated
in such exceptional circumstances.**

Celebrating the achievements of our graduates

While we were not able to host summer graduations on campus during July 2020, we were able to announce new dates for physical ceremonies on 6-10th April 2021 and marked their achievements with a virtual celebration.

Our Edge Hill graduates join a community of more than 90,000 alumni and a network of ambassadors and mentors to support them on their next step of the journey.

If you're one of our alumni, don't forget to sign up to Edge Hill Connect for the latest University news, exclusive alumni events, to re-connect, give back to others, expand and get ahead. Join now at www.edgehillconnect.co.uk.

Honorary Doctors who have joined the Edge Hill community

For December graduations in 2019 we welcomed Nisha Katona, founder, CEO and executive chef of Mowgli Street Food restaurants, and Judge Professor Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque, European Court of Human Rights judge, into the fold of honorary fellows.

Former barrister **Nisha Katona MBE** is best known as a successful restaurateur, food writer and broadcaster, regularly appearing on television and radio as an entrepreneur, food and business expert.

Nisha, who was born in Ormskirk, opened contemporary Indian restaurant chain, Mowgli Street Food in 2014; in 2018 Mowgli was listed in The Sunday Times Fast Track 100 Businesses, she was appointed by the Cabinet Office as Ambassador for Diversity in Public Appointments and recognised with an MBE in the 2019 New Year Honours list for services to the food industry. She was made an Edge Hill Honorary Doctor of Business Administration.

Judge Professor Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque has been Judge of the European Court of Human Rights since 2011. As an international judge, he has authored more than 150 opinions and has significantly contributed to the development of international human rights law.

Judge Pinto de Albuquerque has also significantly contributed to strengthening Edge Hill's research profile in human rights law and enabling the University to establish institutional links with courts at a national and international level. He was made Honorary Doctor of Laws in recognition of these contributions.

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**“ On all fronts,
Edge Hill
is a University
to be proud of,
and 2019/20
exemplified
that success.**

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