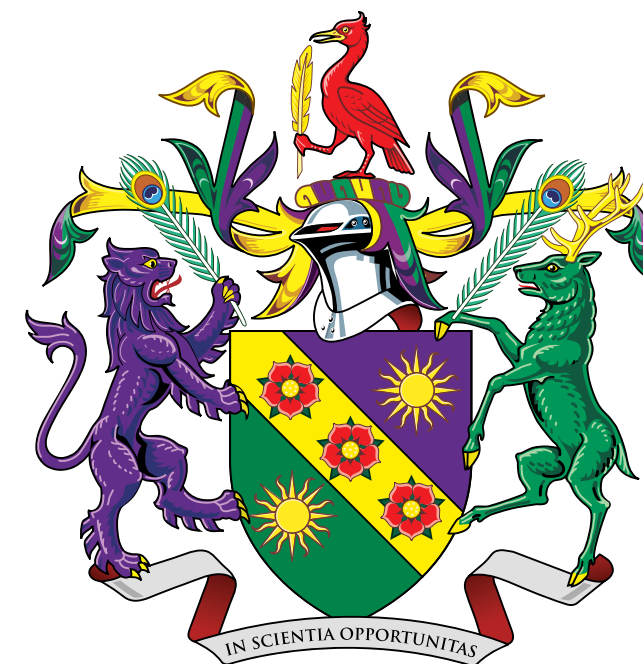




Edge Hill
University



Edge Hill
University



edgehill.ac.uk

Annual Review

A Year in the Life...
2020/21

“

Edge Hill is one of the shining stars of the modern university sector. Edge Hill has established a profile nationally as a go-ahead institution with ambition for its students.

Alastair McCall
Editor of The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide.



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WELCOME VICE-CHANCELLOR DR JOHN CATER



In April 2021, in such challenging times, Edge Hill was named *University of the Year* by *Educate (North)* in recognition of our continued commitment to deliver an exceptional student experience. This followed on from our shortlisting – for a record fifth time – as *The Times Higher University of the Year* last November. And the good news continues, the *Times Higher* (and the Minister for Higher Education) also recognising our support for students and the local community during the pandemic. But we can top that too; Edge Hill is the newly announced *Times and Sunday Times' Modern University of the Year 2022*. I am proud and delighted of what our staff, our students and our stakeholders, have helped us achieve.

What does this recognition come with? Hopefully a dose of humility. We do not and will not get everything right, but we will always try to. From the first contact a student or stakeholder has with us, we will endeavour to deliver a first class experience, and we will work to maintain that throughout an individual's journey from student to graduate, from alumni to successful career.

Education changes lives and creates life chances, and it is a sector we are privileged to be part of. As one of the United Kingdom's largest providers of education and training for the NHS and the whole school workforce, we have a direct impact on services on which we all depend. But we educate an even greater number who will graduate in the Sciences, the Humanities, the Arts, the Social Sciences, Business and Law, helping to create and sustain the richness of the society and economy that we share.

This Annual Report can only give a taste of what Edge Hill achieves and aspires to. Feel free to come and experience one of the most dynamic and personable higher education providers on one of the very best university campuses in the country. And join in; we greatly welcome your contribution to fulfilling our shared aspirations.

With all good wishes,

Dr. John Cater CBE, DL.
Vice-Chancellor



Our Success

Crowned *Modern University of the Year* in *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022* in September 2021 for providing an outstanding education for students, the prestigious award follows a host of achievements for Edge Hill. Over the last 12 months, the institution was named *University of the Year* in the *Educate North Awards 2020/21* for its continued commitment to delivering an exceptional student experience. The University's credentials were recognised on a global scale and ranked *one of the top one thousand universities in the world* in the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* for its outstanding performance across teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. The University also came in the *top three in the North West for student satisfaction in the Complete University Guide 2021*, and was voted in the *top 10 in the UK* for student support and job prospects in the *WhatUni Student Choice Awards 2020*.

Our Success

September 2020



Dr Laura McGuire scooped a *Sustainability Research Network Emerging Scholar Award* in recognition of her work to improve climate change education.

November 2020



Edge Hill and business leaders recognised for pulling together during the pandemic during virtual visit from His Royal Highness (HRH) The Earl of Wessex.

March 2021



Criminology expert Dr Rafe McGregor awarded £140,000 by the Croatian Science Foundation to uncover how the art of storytelling can inspire inclusivity in society.

October 2020



The University's stunning grounds recognised with a *Green Flag Award* for ninth year running.

October 2020



Language Centre recognised as a *Centre of Excellence* and ranked in the top 5 per cent of university language centres in the UK by EL Gazette.

February 2021



A new doorstep service devised by Edge Hill, St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group and GP providers to help GPs assess suspected Covid-19 patients officially recognised by the Royal College of General Practitioners.

April 2021



Edge Hill crowned *University of the Year* in the Educate North Awards in recognition of its continued commitment to deliver an exceptional student experience.

April 2021



Vice-Chancellor Dr John Cater awarded the *Lifetime Achievement Award* in the Educate North Awards in recognition of his vision of education as a force for good.

June 2021



Hollywood actor and former Edge Hill student Jonathan Pryce recognised with a knighthood in the *Queen's Birthday Honours list*.

July 2021



Dr Greg Irving awarded the *John Fry accolade* for his commitment to primary care research and leadership credentials.

September 2021



Edge Hill named *Modern University of the Year* in *The Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022*.

June 2021



University awarded the *National Network for the Education of Care Leavers Quality Mark* in recognition of its ongoing commitment to achieve the best outcomes for students with experience of care.

July 2021



Dr Peter Leadbetter given a *New Leaders Award* by the Association for the Study of Medical Education for his outstanding leadership and commitment to widening participation in medicine.

July 2021



Dr Carol Kelly recognised for her *Outstanding Contribution to Respiratory Nursing* by the Association of Respiratory Nurse Specialists in recognition of her legacy of achievements in the field.



Our Students

Crowned *University of the Year* in the *Educate North Awards 2020/21* for delivering an exceptional student experience, we're committed to providing high-quality education and life-changing opportunities for our students. We are a University that listens to our 'student voice', putting it at the heart of everything we do. This can be seen from the quality of our teaching and learning right through to the career-enhancing, once-in-a-lifetime experiences we've supported through our Student Opportunity Fund. **Rated Top Three in the North West for Student Satisfaction** (Complete University Guide 2021), and **Top 10 in the UK for providing the Best Student Support** (WhatUni Student Choice Awards 2020), we will continue to support our students to reach their full potential.



STUDENTS LIGHTEN THE LOCKDOWN LOAD FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

SECONDARY ENGLISH PGCE STUDENTS GAVE A HELPING HAND TO STRESSED SECONDARY TEACHERS DURING THE PANDEMIC – DEVELOPING 47 ONLINE LESSONS FOR SCHOOLS TO CHOOSE FROM.

The lessons - delivered ‘live’ or pre-recorded - supported the KS3 and GCSE curriculum and covered topics such as creative writing and Black Lives Matter, as well as specific texts such as An Inspector Calls.

The aim was to help teachers adapting to teaching in a whole new way, often alongside caring responsibilities at home. The students also saw it as a way to bring some variety to the pupils’ learning.

Kudsia Ashfaque was one of the PGCE students involved:

“Hopefully it gave teachers a bit of breathing room and a chance to get other work done. It was also a great way for me and my friends to get some extra teaching experience and use the online teaching techniques we’ve been learning about.”

To date, hundreds of schools across Lancashire and the Liverpool city region have taken the opportunity to use Edge Hill’s online lessons, giving a positive learning experience to all the students involved.

INSPIRATIONAL, GO-GETTING STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY EDGE HILL

OUR STUDENTS ARE SELF-STARTERS, KEEN TO MAKE THE MOST OF OPPORTUNITIES TO KICK-START THEIR FUTURE CAREERS OR BROADEN THEIR HORIZONS. THERE ARE ALSO THOSE STUDENTS WHO GIVE BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN A BIG WAY.

In 2020-21 the University gave out almost £1.3m in bursaries, scholarships and awards to ensure costs are no barrier to students’ experience at Edge Hill.

The Student Opportunity Fund is one such initiative which gives undergraduates the means to attend interviews, placements, conferences, or to progress individual projects. From providing mentoring in animation, undertaking community policing roles, exploring food related issues in deprived areas, through to presenting at the British Psychology Society’s Cyberpsychology Conference, students from all departments have taken advantage of this support.

A further 1,254 students received a scholarship this academic year. Worth up to £2,000, these celebrate students who help raise the profile of Edge Hill, excel academically or in a sporting environment, promote equality, motivate others, or overcome personal circumstances to achieve. From a law student who volunteered for a legal team helping Windrush victims to a student with cerebral palsy giving young disabled people a voice through his charity work, these awards recognise the whole spectrum of achievement.





REWARDING THOSE WHO GO THE EXTRA MILE

IT'S BEEN ANOTHER INSPIRATIONAL YEAR, AND IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT WE RECOGNISE THOSE TALENTED AND MOTIVATED STUDENTS WHO HAVE MADE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON LIFE AT EDGE HILL OR IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY. HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP AND STUDENT OPPORTUNITY FUND WINNERS:

Alicia Platt
BA (Hons) Sociology and Politics student



Rewarded for helping to build a school library in Uganda and setting up much-needed Scouting groups across Blackpool and Lancashire.

Oliver Moores
BSc (Hons) Business and Management with Marketing student



Rewarded for his voluntary work with Barnardo's to give a voice to young people with disabilities and special needs. Living with cerebral palsy, he has valuable experience to share.

Charlie Baker
BA (Hons) Education student



Recognised for his work in ensuring life at Edge Hill is inclusive, welcoming and fun – most notably helping those struggling with the pressures of lockdown. He has been a dedicated University champion through roles as Campus Connector, student guide and Student Union LGBTQ officer.

Tonika Stephenson
LLB (Hons) Law student



Recognised for her role in a volunteer legal team working with victims of the Windrush scandal, helping them seek citizenship and compensation from the government. The Student Opportunity Fund covered Tonika's travel costs. This ensured she didn't miss out on the experience of such a high-profile case or the chance to share valuable learnings with fellow students.

PARAMEDIC STUDENTS GET THE ULTIMATE TRAINING EXPERIENCE ON CAMPUS

THIRD-YEAR PARAMEDIC STUDENTS DIDN'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR FOR A VERY REAL TRAINING EXPERIENCE, WITH TWO DAYS OF EMERGENCY DRILLS ON THE ORMSKIRK CAMPUS.

Intense, real-life scenarios put their clinical skills to the test, with fellow students from the MSci Nurse Paramedic programme volunteering to act as patients with replica wounds and injuries.

An on-site ambulance also added to the realism, giving a flavour of the challenging environments paramedics face, and the fast-paced decision-making needed in emergency and urgent care.

Luca Alfatti is a lecturer in Paramedic Practice:

"In only a few weeks, these students will be out in ambulances treating members of the community and they will need to be able to deal with everything that the world will throw at them. No two days are ever the same as a paramedic, so we are hoping that these simulation days will be a big help towards them becoming the best clinicians they can be."



IT'S ALL GOING ON BEHIND THE (TV) SCENES...

EDGE HILL'S STATE-OF-THE-ART CREATIVE EDGE BUILDING PLAYED HOST TO SOME OF TV'S BEHIND-THE-SCENES EXPERTS, GIVING STUDENTS THE LOWDOWN ON WHAT'S INVOLVED IN GETTING TOP TV SHOWS ON AIR.

BAFTA-award winning director Dave Skinner, cameraman Andy Hetherington and floor manager Sharon Capper were all keen to share their experiences with the pros of tomorrow.

Sharon, who is currently working on BBC children's programmes, said: "I am always blown away by the facilities and opportunities Edge Hill gives to their students. It gives them the very best chance to learn what it's really like to work in television."

Students on film, television and production management degrees also received their BAFTA Albert certificates in Applied Skills for a Sustainable Screen Industry - a scheme that encourages sustainable working practices in industries. Edge Hill is one of the first institutions to offer this opportunity.

And Edge Hill's Television Studies Research Group has been keen for the public to nominate programmes that have brought us joy and comfort during the pandemic - recognising the people who have responded to challenging Covid-19 measures to keep them on air. The winners, including those of the Covid Student Production Award, will be revealed in October 2021.



STUDENTS HELP SHAPE COURSE CONTENT

A new Student Internship Scheme, launched in summer 2021, aims to support the development and enhancement of modules and courses within Blackboard – the online virtual learning environment (VLE) used across Edge Hill.

It aims to put the student voice at the heart of teaching and learning, offering students the opportunity to be involved in reshaping materials for undergraduate and postgraduate study.

STUDENT SHOWS DANCE BRINGS BENEFITS IN HOME-CARE SETTINGS



Dance student Paul Wilson has recommended dance be used in all home-care settings to improve mental and physical health.

It comes after he saw dramatic results in his research project during lockdown. This involved dancing with, or for, his clients at Alcedo Care in Blackpool.

Service users reported that the music and movement brightened their day, relieved stress, and boosted their health. Some even started chatting online about the sessions, creating a much-needed sense of community.

CARING STUDENTS MAKE MENTAL HEALTH A PRIORITY



Students have been busy supporting fellow students and the wider community to improve their mental health.

The Law Students' Society set up a new student-to-student support scheme – The Outreach Project – to help those who felt lonely or isolated during the pandemic.

Meanwhile, student mentors have been central to the success of Tackling the Blues – an award-winning education programme developed between the University, Everton in the Community and Tate Liverpool. Participating students have benefitted, with the opportunity to grow their confidence and develop skills to impress future employers.

Our Staff

Harnessing the creativity, knowledge and commitment of our staff to promote our values and enhance our activities is key to our ambitions. We strive to nurture talent and celebrate the contributions that our colleagues make to the University, whether that be through their teaching, research, supportive roles or harnessing their caring, community spirit. We value every one of our staff for the vital role they play. We are proud to support both their academic and personal lives and we encourage colleagues to achieve their full potential at Edge Hill.



MOVING UP THE ACADEMIC CAREER LADDER

OUR STAFF MAKE A DISTINCTIVE CONTRIBUTION IN THEIR ROLES AT EDGE HILL, WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF ACADEMIC PATHWAYS TO HELP COLLEAGUES CLIMB THE CAREER LADDER IN TEACHING, RESEARCH OR PROFESSORSHIP.

In the last year, more than 60 per cent of staff have benefited from the academic progression route. Anastasia Konstantopoulou, initially Head of Performing Arts, seized new opportunities and was promoted to Professor 12 months later.

“It’s an opportunity to grow, maybe even to grow in a different direction than you had originally thought you would”, said Anastasia, who is now Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching and whose promotion has also opened new doors and connections outside of the University.

Dr Chris Greenough says his move to Reader in Theology and Religion took a lot of preparation, but he is now reaping the benefits of his hard work. “My research area is very niche and can be quite a contentious subject. To me, one of the best outcomes of this promotion has been the validation and backing from Edge Hill, with the knowledge that my research is valued by the University.”



BRITISH ACADEMY MID-CAREER FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN’S LITERATURE EXPERT



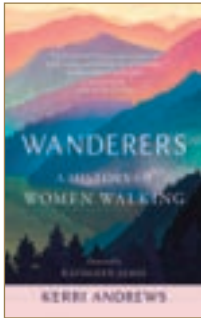
DR KERRI ANDREWS HAS BEEN AWARDED A PRESTIGIOUS BRITISH ACADEMY MID-CAREER FELLOWSHIP TO SUPPORT HER RESEARCH INTO THE LITTLE-KNOWN CORRESPONDENCE OF FAMOUS SCOTTISH WRITER AND HILL WALKER NAN SHEPHERD.

The £116,000 funding from the British Academy will enable Kerri to develop her project Nan Shepherd’s Correspondence, 1920-80.

Nan Shepherd - who gained prominence as a novelist and poet in the Scottish Renaissance - is famous for writing about her love of nature, walking and her experiences of rural Scottish life in the early 20th Century. Dr Andrews, Reader in Women’s Literature and Textual Editing, will make all 250 surviving letters available in a book to be published this autumn,

alongside undertaking an imaginative programme of public walks and performances. The British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship supports researchers and academics with exceptional research proposals that demonstrate a sustained commitment to engaging the public.

Dr Andrews said the fellowship will “enable me to bring this correspondence to the wider audience it deserves.”



EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPERT CALLED
TO SERVE ON WELSH AMBULANCE TASKFORCE

Professor Paresh Wankhade will serve on the Welsh Ministerial Ambulance Availability Taskforce (MAAT) and will provide key inputs on how to improve the ambulance service in Wales.

The appointment follows his election to the European Academy of Management (EURAM) board to improve management education across Europe.



ACADEMIC ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF THE
EUROPEAN HEALTH
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



Dr Axel Kaehne, a Reader in Health Services Research, has been elected President of the European Health Management Association (EHMA).

As President, Axel aims to increase membership and extend the reach of this key organisation which brings together academics, researchers and health care providers involved in health and social care management.

ACADEMIC JOINS ARTS AND
HUMANITIES NETWORK
TO BOOST GOVERNMENT
ENGAGEMENT



Dr Emma Butcher has been awarded a placement by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) as part of a drive to strengthen ties between government, key policymakers and academia.

Her involvement on the Engaging with Government programme aims to bring academics and policymakers together to provide researchers with an insight into the policy making process and to help them understand the policy implications of their work.



PROFESSOR APPOINTED AS
ADVISOR TO INTERNATIONAL
TRADE COMMITTEE

Political economist Professor Christopher Dent has been appointed as a Specialist Advisor to the House of Commons International Trade Committee to scrutinise the government's trade policy and negotiations on new trade agreements.

His appointment comes as Britain begins to formulate its own independent trade policy following the country's departure from the EU.



PSYCHOLOGY LECTURER SUPPORTS VULNERABLE FAMILIES THROUGH PANDEMIC

SENIOR LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY DR HELEN WALL HAS BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY DURING THE PANDEMIC TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES - BOTH ENSURING FAMILIES IN LIVERPOOL ARE NOT GOING HUNGRY AND OFFERING FREE THERAPY SESSIONS TO KEY WORKERS.

Helen wanted to give something back to the Five Children and Families Trust after the centre supported her personally many years ago. It also helped her on her career path, allowing her to work with clients during her training as a clinical hypnotherapist and solutions-focussed psychotherapist.

During the pandemic, Helen has been holding regular online psychotherapy and hypnotherapy clinics for frontline workers. She has also been supporting food donation campaigns to ensure thousands of children living in poverty across South Liverpool don't go hungry. Helen has been donating her client fees to various fundraisers to help the families most in need.

Helen said: "I absolutely love helping clients and feel very passionate about mental health and wellbeing. My training has helped me to cope throughout this pandemic and I feel very lucky and blessed to be able to help people on their life journey. I'm very keen to give back as much as possible as this children's centre work very hard day in and day out."

STUDENTS RECOGNISE THE STAFF WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

STAFF HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED FOR GOING 'ABOVE AND BEYOND' IN THE ANNUAL STUDENT-LED TEACHING AWARDS.

Edge Hill Students' Union coordinates the annual awards where students vote for the individuals or teams they feel have made a huge impact on their personal and academic lives.

Hundreds of students put forward moving and motivational stories, demonstrating the dedication of so many staff who have continued to make a difference to the lives of Edge Hill students.

Congratulations to Adrian Midgley, Adam Pendlebury, Karen Morris, Rachael Sackville-Jones, Janet Burdon, Emma Rimmer, Claire McDonough, Kennedy Horton, Campus Security Team, Hannah Andrews, Carl Simmons and Nigel Kelleher who were recognised by our student community for their contribution to the continual improvement of the student experience.

The University is constantly striving for excellence in teaching. These awards are one of the ways in which students can let the University know which staff have had a strong positive impact on their studies.



SCIENTISTS TEACH CHILDREN TO PROTECT THE WORLD’S COASTLINES

Coastal scientists have been making waves on the internet after launching their own YouTube channel in a bid to inspire the next generation of learners to protect the world’s coastlines.

In partnership with Sefton Council and Southport Eco Visitor Centre, Professor Irene Delgado-Fernandez has developed Coasts for Kids, a series of short, educational videos to teach primary school children aged six to eight about the vital role that coasts play in our ecosystem.



CHILDREN’S RIGHTS EXPERT HELPING TO MAKE LIVERPOOL MORE CHILD FRIENDLY

Children’s rights expert Professor Carol Robinson has highlighted some of the necessary steps to be taken to help improve the lives of children living in Liverpool.

Her report makes a series of recommendations in support of Liverpool City Council’s bid to achieve Unicef UK’s Child Friendly City (CFC) status. She calls for the need to develop common, cross-agency goals relating to children’s rights for all child and family-facing service practitioners and front-line workers working with children.



ACADEMIC MAKES MANX HISTORY WITH FIRST EVER PRIDE EVENT

Dr Mari Hughes-Edwards made history this summer as the organiser of the Isle of Man’s first-ever Gay Pride parade.

The founder of GenSex - which encourages debate and knowledge exchange on LGBTQAI+ and queer studies and wider gender and sexuality issues – led The Long Walk to Pride which saw walkers carry a 50-metre rainbow flag through the streets of Douglas to honour LGBTQAI+ diversity.

THE ARMCHAIR EXPLORER

Geography and geology colleagues have risen to the challenges of Covid-19 travel restrictions by organising virtual field trips, as part of their promise to equip students with the necessary skills to complete fieldwork.

Fieldwork is a pivotal element of the department’s programmes, allowing students to put theory into practice and experience the planet first hand.

Innovating and creating virtual environments has captured the imagination of the students involved, with some keen to virtually travel further afield.





Our Professionals

We are at the forefront of providing opportunities for students - above and beyond their degree study - to help them to stand out in a competitive job market. Our graduate workforce is vital to society. We train thousands of health professionals each year to go out into our hospitals, social care and community settings. We prepare trainee teachers to educate our future generations, and we arm arts and sciences students with the skills to pursue successful careers in the public, charity, business or creative arts sectors. Voted **Best Job Prospects in the North West**, and **Top 10 in the UK** (WhatUni Student Choice Awards 2020), we are committed to producing employable graduates who can climb the ladder of success - whatever their chosen career.



GRADUATE NURSE LEADS WARD DURING PANDEMIC

NURSING GRADUATE CLARE CARROLL HAS BEEN LEADING HER WARD DURING THE PANDEMIC AND HER DEDICATION HAS LED TO NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

Clare began working as a staff nurse at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals in 2020 and quickly embraced the challenges she faced in her new career.

“Nursing was possibly my destiny” said Clare, winner of the University’s Student Nurse of the Year accolade in adult nursing.

“The pandemic has been a very scary time to qualify but knowing that I have been able to play a very small part in a wider team to help the patients either get better or hold the hands of those at the end of their lives has enabled me to strengthen my nursing qualities.”

Her dedication has continued into her new career. In addition to her regular duties, she is the Palliative Link Nurse for her ward in cardiology. She has also been assigned her own set of students to guide and has signed up for mentorship and intermediate life support programmes.

CREATIVE WRITING STUDENTS IMPRESS AT TABLETOP GAMING

TWO THIRD-YEAR CREATIVE WRITING STUDENTS ARE NOW FREELANCING FOR A GAMING STUDIO - SHOWING THE OPPORTUNITIES EDGE HILL’S COURSES CAN PRESENT.

Conor Dwyer and Isabel Tyldsley worked with Crooked Dice Game Design Studio on an expansion to a popular tabletop skirmish game. They successfully applied for roles at the company after hearing about it from their lecturer, Dr Peter Wright.

Conor and Isabel worked on the game 7TV: Pulp and led the development of its first supplement, 7TV: Lurkers of the Deep - putting their course modules on table-top game creation to good use.

Lurkers has smashed its original Kickstarter £2,000 target, raising over £30,000 to fund its production. Said Connor: “I’ve always loved playing computer games and tabletop games. Having the opportunity to work on 7TV: Pulp taught me how to make games using creative writing, which has been incredible as it is totally unique to Edge Hill’s Creative Writing course.”

Added Isabel: “Conor and I wrote the story behind the game as well as all the mechanics and rules. We even helped design the miniatures and cards. I feel a real sense of achievement having worked so closely on it and even more so since the Kickstarter campaign has proven so popular.”





CREATIVE WRITING STUDENT LANDS DREAM PUBLISHING ROLE

Creative Writing and Film Studies graduate Harriet Hirshman is now working with Liverpool fantasy fiction and sci-fi publishers, Heroic Books.

Harriet, who also took a Masters in Creative Writing, is Editorial and Production Manager at the start-up, which sees her working with a host of authors, guiding them through publishing.

She shared her career journey with students keen to get into the sector at Edge Hill's Creative Industries Symposium in February.



PARAMEDIC STUDENT LANDS DREAM ROLE

Jodie Binns was forced to put her paramedic training on hold when she discovered that she was pregnant with her first child but she later returned to Edge Hill and she is now celebrating landing her first role.

Having her son Jack gave Jodie an incentive to complete her degree. She graduated in July 2021 with the news that she had secured a job with North West Ambulance Service.

FORMER PARAMEDIC BECOMES BRITISH AEROSPACE WEB EXPERT

Mature student Wade Phillips has shown there's no age limit when it comes to changing your career... or what you can achieve in the process.

The former paramedic recently graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Web Design and Development and has already secured his dream job with BAE Systems Applied Intelligence as a user experience consultant.

Wade was attracted to Edge Hill because of its high employment rate within the profession.



CELEBRATING THE INSPIRING INDIVIDUALS BOOSTING GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

Students and employers who have gone above and beyond in supporting graduate job prospects over the past 12 months have been recognised in the University's annual Employability Awards.

Organised by Careers, they celebrate students' achievements in standing out in a competitive jobs market and recognise the employers who offer students opportunities or development.

Winners included male suicide prevention charity, *James' Place*, for Voluntary Organisation of the Year, and Emma Grady for her work in mental health nursing and social work as Student Volunteer of the Year.



FORMER STUDENT SCOOPS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD... AND NOW GOES FOR GOLD



FORMER STUDENT SAM CRAGGS HAS BEEN HONOURED AS ONE OF THE *PEARSON NATIONAL TEACHING SILVER AWARD* WINNERS. SAM WAS RECOGNISED AS ‘OUTSTANDING NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR’ IN 2021 FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO CHANGING THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN HE WORKS WITH.

Selected from thousands of nominees, Sam has also been shortlisted for one of just 15 gold awards in a programme to be broadcast on the BBC later this year.

Despite being new to teaching, Sam already mentors teaching students and is regularly praised for his ability to support them in finding the most suitable training for them.

He said: “It’s a great honour to have been given a national teaching award and be in the running for a gold. It’s been a tough year for teachers up and down the country, but it’s been incredible to see the way my colleagues have adapted to changes to provide the same amazing education that they always do. I really wasn’t expecting to be chosen for an award amid such difficult circumstances and stiff competition and it’s really humbling to be recognised in this way.”



YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR USES EDGE HILL TRAINING FOR LEARNING CHALLENGES SUPPORT

A COMMITMENT TO PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS MEANT THAT REBECCA HAYES HAS BEEN ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE WITH LEARNING CHALLENGES GET THE SUPPORT THEY NEED.

Starting with a BA (Hons) in Primary Mathematics Education with QTS, Rebecca Hayes is now undertaking her FOURTH qualification at Edge Hill - an ongoing PG Dip Education (Dyscalculia). She is also an associate tutor within the University’s Faculty of Education.

Her impressive specialist knowledge and experience have equipped her to set up the Inclusive Learning Academy in Ormskirk - providing dyslexia and dyscalculia assessments for young people and adults.

Rebecca was shortlisted for a Young Entrepreneur Award 2020 for her exemplary work.

She said: “As a qualified teacher, I felt that although my training had given me a wealth of knowledge of teaching learners how to learn, it did not necessarily prepare me for supporting learners with additional needs. I studied my undergraduate degree at Edge Hill and thoroughly enjoyed my time studying at the University. I found the course informative and engaging and the staff knowledgeable. There was no doubt in my mind that if I was to study again, I would return to Edge Hill.”





STAY-AT-HOME MUM BECOMES TOP GRADUATE

Sociology student, Michelle Clegg, has shown it's never too late to turn your life around, going from a stay-at-home single mum to a First Class Honours graduate.

The 39-year-old – who had never experienced a job interview before starting at Edge Hill - has landed her first role with Blackburn Community CVS. She will focus on supporting people into education, training and employment.

HISTORY STUDENT'S CAREER IS READY FOR TAKE-OFF

History student, Luke Blackburn, has been offered a job with the RAF before he has even graduated. Luke - who is part of the Liverpool University Air Squadron - will take up the role when he graduates in summer 2022.

He praised his Edge Hill history degree course for giving him the knowledge he needs to succeed in his future career. It includes key insights into current international affairs and how past military interventions have affected people's lives up to the present day.



LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CELEBRATED THROUGH ONLINE FASHION BRAND



Former Masters student, Joshua Griffin, has launched an online clothing brand that's now an official corporate partner of the LGBT Foundation.

Joshua used his skills from his Masters in Cyber Security and IT Management to launch his online business where he and his 15-strong team of designers, manufacturers and ambassadors across the globe are committed to fighting gender stereotypes with a line of more than 300 gender-neutral products.

FROM EDGE HILL TO HOLLYOAKS...



A TV dream has become a reality for recent television production management graduate Hana Diaa after she landed a key behind-the-scenes role on Hollyoaks. As prop store junior, Hana creates everyday objects to dress sets, including phones, laptops, milk bottles and even fake cakes.

During her time at Edge Hill, Hana worked on the BBC film '*Anthony*' - benefitting from a scheme run by LA productions for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students. She also spent a year in Hong Kong learning how media, music and business are done internationally.



Our Place

Our stunning green landscaped campus provides a unique place to study, work and visit. Boasting one of the safest campuses in England and known for its nurturing, inclusive environment, our University gives everybody a sense of belonging. As a University with a long-standing commitment to widening access to higher education and providing opportunities for all, we are a true champion of inclusivity, equality, and opportunity. It is our responsibility to ensure a sustainable future, so our green credentials are important to us. We have been recognised as one of the **world's best green spaces** (Green Flag Award 2020). We have also been rated **Top in the North West for Facilities** (WhatUni Student Choice Awards 2020) and **Learning Resources** (National Student Survey 2020).



BIOSCIENCE INVESTMENT TO SUPPORT EDGE HILL WORLD-LEADING AMBITIONS

AN INVESTMENT OF ALMOST A QUARTER OF A MILLION POUNDS IN BIOSCIENCES FACILITIES WILL PUT EDGE HILL AT THE FOREFRONT OF BIOLOGY AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.

The University has been awarded more than £220k from the Office for Students to support the growth of STEM subject work - benefitting students and researchers alike.

Work is underway to expand the Biosciences building that will also house new world-class equipment. Students and staff will have access to Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) which supports research in biology and medicine, and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) equipment for imaging the surface of cells and nanomaterials. This supports research in fields such as regenerative medicine, drug development and nanomedicine.

The new facilities will also be used by global supplier JEOL Ltd as a specialist training centre, providing opportunities for students to work closely with employers to enhance their job prospects.

Professor Paul Ashton, Head of Biosciences, said: "We've seen a real surge in growth to study here and the funding is enabling us to invest in industry world-class equipment. This is ensuring we continue our journey to be among the best in the country in the field of Biosciences. It will also enhance our Biomedical research and open new areas of investigation to our academic community."

NEW PANEL GIVES STUDENTS A VOICE

A NEW STUDENT ADVISORY PANEL HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO HELP IMPROVE THE EDGE HILL EXPERIENCE FOR BLACK, ASIAN, AND MINORITY ETHNIC STUDENTS, GIVING THEM A PLATFORM TO OFFER THEIR OPINIONS AND IDEAS.

With a key focus on the University's Access and Participation plan (APP) and the national Widening Participation agenda, the panel has discussed the NUS and UUK report on the national 13 per cent awarding 'gap' between the proportion of UK-domiciled white students receiving a 2:1 or 1st class degree classification compared with those from other ethnic groups.

The group has also helped create content for a new race, ethnicity and religion toolkit to help staff support students. It has been involved in shaping The Big Read – Edge Hill's shared reading scheme in partnership with Kingston University – and has supported the University's new Diversity Access Programme, with several panel members working as student guides on open days.

Adult Nursing student Akosua Poku said: "I joined the panel to make great changes to the lives of both prospective and current students. My ambition for the panel is to influence decisions and changes that will lead to the satisfaction of all students, particularly for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups."



HEALTH FACULTY BUILDING GETS A MAKEOVER

The Ormskirk campus building housing the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine - one of the largest providers of health and social care education in the North West - is undergoing a £1m makeover. It aims to give the health professionals of tomorrow a high-quality learning environment.

Improvements will include a garden-based Baltic market-style 'grab and go' cooking station, and improved spaces to work and relax on the ground floor.



SECTOR LEADING EQUALITY STRATEGY LAUNCHED

Edge Hill has launched its new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy, outlining its commitment to fostering an inclusive culture throughout the institution.

It aims to be ambitious, leading the way for universities. It includes ensuring that learning, teaching and assessment strategies have inclusivity at their core and embeds principles of fairness, respect and inclusion in all areas of work.

EDGE HILL COMMITS TO SUPPORT CARED-FOR STUDENTS



Edge Hill has signalled its support for students with experience of care by signing the Care Leaver Covenant. It gives a commitment to help them during their time at university, and in their journey to and from higher education.

Just 13 per cent of young people who are looked after continuously for 12 months or more are involved in higher education by the age of 19, compared with 43 per cent of all other young people.

MULTI-MILLION-POUND ACCOMMODATION INVESTMENT

More than £3m of investment has been ploughed back into the University's award-winning accommodation on campus.

The refurbishment of 49 rooms within the classically designed Main Building will provide high quality en-suite, self-catered accommodation.

All first-year students are guaranteed accommodation on campus.



EDGE HILL SHOWCASES ITS GROWING LIST OF ECO-FRIENDLY ACHIEVEMENTS

EDGE HILL HAS PUBLISHED ITS ECO-FRIENDLY CREDENTIALS IN A NEW REPORT TO SHOW THE AMBITIOUS STEPS IT'S TAKING TO BECOME MORE SUSTAINABLE.

The University's annual Environmental Sustainability Report (ESR) outlines how it has made great strides to minimise its impact on the environment across various themes such as staff and student engagement, ethical investment and biodiversity.

Achievements include Bees Needs status, joining the Hedgehog Friendly Campus scheme, decreasing waste by more than 40 per cent, and a new bus contract guaranteeing lower emissions and an alternative to driving for the thousands of staff and students visiting the campus every year.

Edge Hill has also won the Green Flag award for the ninth year running for its grounds and green spaces.

Dan Bocharnikov, Edge Hill's Sustainability Manager, said: "Climate change and sustainability are issues that really matter to our Edge Hill community. By working with our staff, students, schools, local groups and partners, we're working to create positive change together."



EDGE HILL RANKS TOP FOR CAMPUS SAFETY ONCE AGAIN

EDGE HILL HAS BEEN NAMED THE SAFEST UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND FOR THE NINTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

According to data released by the Complete University Guide, Edge Hill has the lowest crime rates of all universities in the region.

The Campus Support team is available to ensure the safety of everyone on campus, with a 24/7 support system in place for residential students.

The University provides many campus-based security measures including mobile security patrols, access control, CCTV monitoring and an out-of-hours facilities management helpdesk service.

Dr John Cater, Vice-Chancellor, said: "We recognise that living on a safe campus is incredibly important to our students and their families. We're pleased to have been named as the safest university campus in the North West for almost a decade and will continue in our endeavour to provide a positive and secure experience for both our students and staff."



LOCALS HELP TRAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Members of the public have offered their services to help train the next generation of health care professionals.

They will act as patients or family members to enable students to develop and practice necessary skills in a realistic learning environment. The 'standardised participants' will undergo training, be recorded in their interactions and will give feedback to students on their experiences.



NEW ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES

A suite of computer science-related engineering programmes has been introduced into the University's growing portfolio.

It's part of a longer-term aim to introduce a range of engineering activity to complement work in biotechnology, robotics and automation.

Students who choose to study in these fields will enjoy quality facilities in the £13m Tech Hub - benefitting from learning in a 3D Computer Augmented Virtual Environment with access to specialist labs with robots, e-pucks and microprocessors.

FOURTH EDGE HILL DEPARTMENT AWARDED FOR GENDER EQUALITY COMMITMENT

The Department of Sport and Physical Activity has received the global Athena Swan Bronze Award for its commitment to support and transform gender equality within higher education and research.



It is the fourth Edge Hill department granted the award in three years, joining Psychology, Computer Science and the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine.

PLEDGE FOR STUDENTS WITHOUT FAMILY SUPPORT

Edge Hill has pledged to commit greater support for students estranged from their families or without a family network.

The Stand Alone Pledge is designed to ensure they are given the best chance to thrive at university. At Edge Hill, this includes access to mental health and wellbeing services, financial advice and enhanced accommodation support.



Our Research

Our researchers are tackling some of the most pressing problems in society today, expertly developing solutions and bringing about change. We promote peaceful, inclusive societies and encourage healthy populations. We embrace creativity, innovation, digital advances and take on some of the world's biggest challenges, such as climate change and coastal erosion. Our research builds new partnerships, enhances understanding, enriches lives and benefits our students' learning. As an ambitious University, investment in our research portfolio has resulted in real growth. We have doubled the number of staff submitting to the Research Excellence Framework 2021 and have secured a 159 per cent increase in research funding. This will ensure we continue to have a positive impact on society.



EDGE HILL TO LEAD GROUND-BREAKING AI RESEARCH INTO PANCREATIC CANCER

A NEW STUDY LED BY RESEARCHERS AT EDGE HILL WILL INVESTIGATE HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) COULD HELP IMPROVE THE EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF PANCREATIC CANCER.

By using data from patients, researchers will, for the first time, use AI to identify potential biomarkers and risk groups more likely to develop pancreatic cancer in future.

Dr Ardhendu Behera, Reader in Computer Vision and AI is lead researcher. He said: “Pancreatic cancer is one of the most dangerous types of cancer. Symptoms are usually very vague and do not appear until the cancer is in its later stages, at which point it is sadly too late to treat effectively in most cases.

“This is a data-driven approach that aims to find out whether it is possible to use AI to signal that there are links between risk groups and those who have already been diagnosed. Using routinely collected data such as CT/MRI, health conditions, pathology, and blood tests, the AI can identify the possible predictors of pancreatic cancer and will screen out people at high risk.

The year-long study will involve co-coordinator institution, Queen Mary University of London, and researchers from University College London, Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Hertfordshire.

Researchers were awarded a £100,000 start-up grant from Cancer Research UK, Pancreatic Cancer UK and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY RESEARCH PUBLISHED INTO CHILD MENTAL HEALTH

TWO OF OUR RESEARCHERS HAVE LED A STUDY INTO HOW DAILY ACTIVITY BEHAVIOURS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

Focused on children in Lancashire, Dr Richard Tyler – a lecturer in Physical Activity and Physical Education, and Professor Stuart Fairclough – a Professor of Physical Activity Education, found that replacing sleep or physical activity with sedentary (sitting) time, unfavourably impacted on the children’s mental health. Richard and Stuart will use the findings to influence positive daily activity behaviours and awareness going forward.

The research was funded by the Waterloo Foundation – an independent grant-making charity supporting projects that focus on the disparity of wealth and opportunity.

Stuart said: “It is incredibly timely to release our findings at a time when mental health is at the centre of public debate and conversation, particularly as lockdown restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic may be linked with increased mental health issues among children and young people”.





MOVEMENT AND DANCE COULD BE KEY TO AUTISM WELLBEING

Research by PHD student, Supriya Aithal, suggests that creative movement and dance, in the presence of a qualified therapist, can have a positive impact on the wellbeing of children with autism and their caregivers.

The study into Dance Movement Psychotherapy (DMP) – where the body, through movement and dance, is used as an instrument of communication – involved children and caregivers from two SEN schools in the North West and was conducted under Edge Hill University's Research Centre for Arts and Wellbeing.

RESEARCH INTO HOW THE ARTS CAN HELP HEAL RACIAL TRAUMA

Psychotherapy and Counselling Masters student, Claire Beerjeraz, is exploring how arts and creative therapies, such as music and dance, can help to heal racial trauma - giving victims of racism a voice to express their experiences.

Claire - who has worked as a counsellor for Nightline and Childline - will focus on how movements such as Black Lives Matter (BLM), and the death of George Floyd, have affected the lives of millions of people over the past year.



PROFESSOR IDENTIFIES KEY COVID-19 SYMPTOMS



Nirmal Kumar, an Honorary Professor at Edge Hill University's Medical School, was among the first clinicians in the world to identify parosmia - a distortion of smell - in patients suffering from long Covid.

The Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Clinical and Consultant Surgeon at Warrington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching NHS Foundation Trust, was also among the first medics to identify loss of smell as a Coronavirus indicator in March 2020. He urged Public Health England to add it to the symptom list months before it became official guidance.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS POOR RESPITE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ADULTS



A study involving researchers from Edge Hill has shown the struggle young people with disabling and life-limiting conditions have in accessing respite care once they turn 18.

The review – funded by the National Institute for Health Research – highlighted the major geographical and service differences when comparing the comprehensive offerings for children with complex needs.

Sally Spencer, Professor of Clinical Research and Director of Edge Hill's Health Research Institute, co-led the review with Dr Katherine Knighting, Senior Research Fellow in the Medical School.

RESEARCHERS PROVE THE BENEFITS OF RUGBY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

RESEARCHERS HAVE PUBLISHED THE FIRST STUDY OF ITS KIND INTO THE BENEFITS OF OFFLOAD – THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME RUN BY CHARITY RUGBY LEAGUE CARES.

The research - conducted by Professor Andy Smith, Dr David Haycock and Rachel Wilcock - concluded that Offload is saving lives and providing men involved with the game a safe space to discuss mental health.

Sport and Physical Activity Professor, Andy Smith said: "There has been a rapid growth in community sport and mental health programmes for men, but the key design characteristics of these programmes, and the roles played by delivery staff in their conception and development, have not yet been systematically or widely studied. Our research on the Offload programme begins to rectify this.

"Among other things, our analysis showed that men clearly preferred a non-clinical approach to discussing their mental health, often in less stigmatising environments like professional sports stadia, and using sporting analogies to support self-care."

The research took place during the pilot phase of the programme at Salford Red Devils, Warrington Wolves and Widnes Vikings. It has since enabled Rugby League Cares to expand Offload into other UK clubs.



COVID-19 STUDY CHAMPIONS IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR NURSES

THE FINDINGS OF A STUDY INTO NURSES WORKING ON THE COVID-19 FRONTLINE PROMPTED ITS RESEARCHERS TO CALL FOR THE NHS TO BOOST ITS EXISTING PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT TO HELP GET THEM THROUGH THE WINTER SURGE.

In the research - carried out by Edge Hill, in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian (GCU) and Southampton universities - just over one in five of 255 staff surveyed experienced moderate to severe, or severe symptoms of anxiety. Around 17 per cent had similar levels for depression.

It also found that younger nurses with less experience had higher levels of anxiety and depression and lower resilience levels.

More than one in 10 nurses reported that they had difficulty supporting their households emotionally and financially. Many said they felt "overwhelmed" and "exhausted" juggling work and family life.

Dr Carol Kelly, Reader in Respiratory Care at Edge Hill who was recently awarded for her outstanding contribution to the profession by the Association of Respiratory Nurse Specialists, said: "Nurses have been at the forefront of the UK's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and this study has highlighted the significant level of anxiety and depression being experienced across the workforce.

"Now, more than ever, we must support the NHS to help its workforce identify and cope with these feelings, while also increasing their resilience."



RESEARCH INTO IMPACT OF PANDEMIC LOCKDOWNS ON YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A study is underway to learn more about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns on children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Researchers from Edge Hill will join those from Liverpool John Moores University and the University of Liverpool, and will work alongside Liverpool Health Partners, and both children and young people with SEND and their parents.

The study will inform policy and funding priorities locally and nationally and is funded by the National Institute of Health Research.

RESEARCH FOCUS ON SAVING NATURE

A team of botanists, led by Dr Sven Batke, has started a project to create the first Flora of over 700 species of Honduran ferns - some under threat of extinction. In collaboration with a botanist in Honduras, the project aims to support vital conservation, botany and climate change research.

With a focus closer to home, PHD student Julia Simons is leading on new research to save the UK's most threatened butterfly - the High Brown Fritillary butterfly. It will determine which micro-habitat features are most important for the species, especially within the vulnerable early stages of its life cycle.



STUDENTS GET OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT KEY MIGRATION RESEARCH

Edge Hill's Migration Working Group North West has taken on two law students as research assistants.

Tonika Stephenson and Caitlin Stranksas will help investigate the lasting effects of Brexit on migrants living in the UK, and the fate of refugees who make the crossing into Europe.

The internship programme aims to show young researchers how academic research is conducted, helping boost their employment prospects.

PERCEPTIONS OF AUTISM INVESTIGATED TO HELP PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE

A team of researchers has been awarded funding by the British Academy (BA) to study the portrayal of autistic people in the British press.

The aim is to develop public policy recommendations to promote the acceptance of autistic people, supporting their positive mental health.

The team - being led by Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Dr Themis Karaminis - hopes to offer new insights into public perceptions and stereotypes towards the condition.





Our Community

Supporting the wider community socially, culturally and economically is a key driver for the University. Real community spirit and partnership working is at the core of who we are, and it's these strengths that benefit our town, region and wider society. For our students, we believe that building relationships, sharing expertise and working with partners provides life changing chances for them to develop, learn and realise their own career ambitions.



FEEDING VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DURING TOUGH TIMES

AS A UNIVERSITY WITH A HISTORY STEEPED IN SOCIAL JUSTICE, EDGE HILL HAS BEEN A MAJOR SUPPORTER OF FOOTBALLER MARCUS RASHFORD'S END CHILD FOOD POVERTY MOVEMENT BY SUPPLYING LOCAL SCHOOLS AND COUNCILS WITH FREE FOOD PARCELS DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

In 2020, Edge Hill supported young people in care and vulnerable families by supplying 120 food parcels to ensure nobody went hungry over the festive period.

Councillor Julie Gunn, Blackburn-with-Darwen Council's Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education, said: "Young people in our care are hugely important to us and especially at this time of year when many need our help and support even more during what can be a difficult time for them. These food parcels were a huge help to the people who needed them most."

Burscough Village Primary School also benefitted from the initiative. Deputy Headteacher Helen Crowder said: "To us it was much more than food, it demonstrates community support and kindness. Thank you, Edge Hill, for the generosity in supporting the wider community."

The project was shortlisted for an Association of University Directors and Estates (AUDE) Award for contributing to tackling community challenges and was endorsed by footballer Marcus Rashford MBE.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

THE UNIVERSITY HAS HARNESSSED ITS COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO INNOVATE AND IMPROVE LIVES DURING THE PANDEMIC. FROM THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF STAFF AND STUDENTS WORKING ON THE FRONTLINE TO SUPPORT FOR THE NHS AND TEACHING SECTORS, TO THOSE VOLUNTEERING TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Over the last 12 months we have provided free accommodation to key workers who needed to self-isolate as well as donating PPE and equipment to the NHS frontline.

More than 750 nursing, midwifery, operating department practitioners (OPDs) and paramedic practice students volunteered to support the NHS and overcame their own personal fears and difficulties to work for the public good.

To help teachers transition to online teaching, Faculty of Education colleagues set up Links to Learning - a virtual learning hub to bring together the best online resources to support schools and families through the pandemic. Thousands of teachers and parents said it had been an invaluable resource to support the education of children during the national lockdowns.

As a result of supporting the community through the pandemic, relationships have been strengthened with partners and our students have been recognised for their invaluable contributions to the community during the pandemic.





FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

As businesses across the region are recovering from the effects of Covid-19 and building their resilience, there has never been a greater need to support them.

The University's Innovation Sprint Programme, a key initiative within the Productivity and Innovation Centre (PIC), has been extended until 2023 through renewed support from Lancashire Local Economic Partnership and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The next phase will pivot efforts to focus on supporting scale-up potential small and medium-sized enterprises to increase their competitiveness and resilience, productivity, workforce development, and technology adoption.



PHARMACY-LED COVID-19 VACCINE CENTRE ON CAMPUS

Partnering up with local pharmacy, Aspire, has enabled the University to support the acceleration of the NHS Covid-19 vaccination programme.

Ali Dalal, Superintendent Pharmacist, said; "Being able to use the University's campus and the first-class facilities they have has allowed us to offer more vaccines to those eligible in our community. This crucial service is community pharmacy at its best – serving our local community as we battle through the pandemic."

LAPTOP DONATIONS TO AID LEARNING

Schools in Lancaster and Morecambe received free donations of laptops and digital devices to help their pupils continue to learn during lockdown, thanks to the support of kind-hearted member of staff Kay Kempers.



The Graduate Teaching Assistant helped to launch the community initiative which saw hundreds of people in the area donate old or unwanted laptops or tablets which played a huge part in helping local families with home learning.

ARTS PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS CREATIVITY IN SCHOOLS

Joining up with Liverpool-based arts organisation dot-art has been helping to promote creativity and good mental health in schools, something that is key to Edge Hill's own curriculum.

Throughout the project, children have been encouraged to explore their artistic side to improve their self-esteem by celebrating their art and explore their thoughts and feelings through creativity. The initiative culminated in a competition, an awards ceremony and a public exhibition of the children's work at Liverpool's Pier Head.



UNIVERSITY RESCUES PUPILS’ EDUCATION AFTER BLAZE DESTROYS PRIMARY SCHOOL

EDGE HILL STEPPED IN TO PROVIDE CLASSROOMS FOR PUPILS FROM A SMALL PRIMARY IN ORMSKIRK, ENSURING THEIR EDUCATION WASN’T AFFECTED FOLLOWING A DEVASTATING FIRE AT THE SCHOOL.

As a University rooted in community spirit, Edge Hill was able to turn a potential disaster into a positive experience for the children, opening their eyes to higher education during their time on campus.

The pupils even enjoyed a mini graduation on campus before finishing for the school holidays.

Students on teaching training courses also benefitted from the experience by developing their classroom skills.

Headteacher Michelle Speak said: “The awful fire devastated our school, but our children were given access to amazing facilities including a sports hall, a forest school, and designated outdoor spaces. This arrangement meant that our children gained experience of life on a university campus, which will hopefully inspire them for the future. Our children now have happy memories of their time at Edge Hill University.”



PARTNERSHIP REVAMPS PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT PUPILS’ MENTAL HEALTH

TACKLING THE BLUES – OUR AWARD-WINNING SPORT AND ARTS-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMME – LAUNCHED A SERIES OF ONLINE BITESIZE LESSONS TO HELP TEACHERS SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S MENTAL HEALTH DURING LOCKDOWN.

In partnership between the University, Everton in the Community and Tate Liverpool, the BLUES was developed in response to mental health and wellbeing concerns faced by schools during the pandemic.

The 48 student mentors recruited to support the project developed content to help schools across Merseyside and West Lancashire promote positive mental health and wellbeing. In total 12 schools benefited from the bitesize initiative and a further 14 schools signed up for summer term activities.

Lathom Park Primary School was one of the schools to take part. Teacher Evan Fraser said the programme had “provided an insight into how important it is to focus on emotional literacy”.

Supported by funding from the Office for Students, Research England and the Premier League Charitable Fund, Tackling the Blues uses a student-focussed model offering innovative ways to engage students in knowledge exchange activities. It aims to improve their understanding and experiences of mental health in education in local communities.



£1.7M BOOST FOR LEEDS BUSINESSES

A collaboration with partners in the Leeds City Region has resulted in a £1.7m project to enhance the growth of SMEs by building women's leadership skills.

The three-year #WECAN Women Empowered through Coaching and Networking project aims to improve skills and increase opportunities for self-employed women or those who are working for small businesses and social enterprises across the region. Funded through the European Social Fund with support from the Department of Work and Pensions, the project aims to improve the outcomes for SMEs in the region through collaborative working - boosting the local economy.

NEW INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

New partnerships have been formed with institutions from across the world to broaden students' horizons.



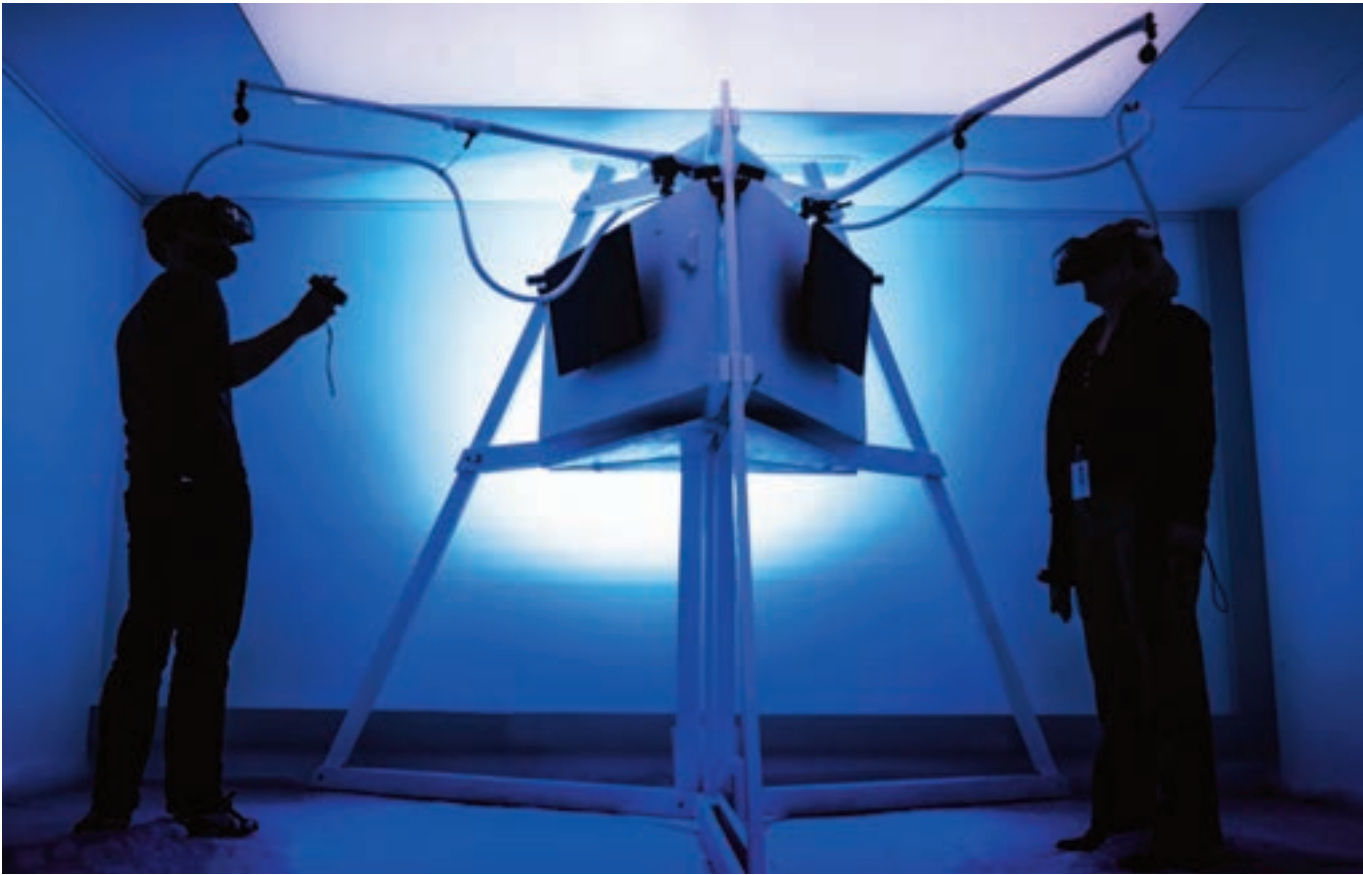
Students and staff at Edge Hill will benefit from the latest collaborations with the University of Jaén in Spain, Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Mexico and Chongqing Normal University in China.

Not only will these partnerships enhance the wider student experience, they will encourage collaborative research and will deepen mutual understanding of our rich and distinctive cultures.

PLANS AFOOT TO TRAIN SURGEONS USING NEXT GENERATION TECHNOLOGY

Options for a teaching hub in the North West, which aims to allow surgeons to learn and train remotely using immersive technology, are currently being explored. The Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) Centre, it is believed, would be the first of its kind in England.

If plans go ahead the training will be led by Professor Nirmal Kumar at Edge Hill University's Medical School, with the centre itself based in Warrington as part of the Warrington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's offer. It will deliver enhanced remote learning for trainee doctors and senior clinicians to practice medical procedures.



LANDMARK BUILDING SECURED TO HELP IMPROVE LIFE CHANCES FOR WIGAN COMMUNITY

Life prospects for local people in the Wigan borough are being improved because of the growing collaboration between Edge Hill University and its key partners.



Wigan and Leigh College has secured capital grant funding from DfE to deliver training for the health workforce of tomorrow. The investment will ensure the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Health and Social Care and is one of the first projects resulting from the partnership between Edge Hill, the College, Warrington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL) and Wigan Council.

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ACADEMIC REGISTRAR AND CLERK TO GOVERNORS
Helen Smallbone

“
*This is a great example
of how an institution
has embraced change
at a number of levels,
to improve student experience,
REF and research rating,
teaching and learning.*

Judging panel for Educate North awards

