

Latest business news from Keele University

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The Business Gateway is the one-stop shop to boost your business through Keele University's world-class research, facilities and knowledge, backed by substantial funding opportunities.

For a confidential discussion, and to find out how your business can benefit, please contact us on 01782 733001, business.gateway@keele.ac.uk or visit keele.ac.uk/business.

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Construction begins on new business incubation facilities

Keele University has celebrated the commencement of works on its new multi-million pound facility that will house both Keele Management School and state-of-the-art facilities for business collaboration and incubation in a Smart Innovation Hub.

Partners and representatives from organisations across the region attended the event at Keele University, where they heard about the value of the new facility and details of its benefit to current and prospective students, businesses and the local economy.

The new facility will co-locate the University's new Management School alongside the

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environment that will not only support the creation and growth of new businesses and encourage more innovation-led business growth, but also aims to stimulate a new collaborative approach to business and management research which will benefit businesses locally and globally.



By 2021, and as a result of the new Smart Innovation Hub facilities, the University will grow its established programme of business support accessed via its dedicated Business Gateway, by an additional 300 business collaborations, leading to the creation of at least 80 new high value jobs. An independent appraisal signals that investment in facilities and programme of business-collaboration will contribute an additional £50 million to the local economy by 2033.

For more information about the new facility, please see the [full story on our website](#).

Work begins on Smart Energy Network Demonstrator

Work has officially started on Keele University's landmark [Smart Energy Network Demonstrator \(SEND\)*](#) – the first project of its kind in Europe.

The project will transform the University campus into an at-scale living laboratory for research, development and demonstration of new smart

energy technologies and services in partnership with business and industry.



The project will enable smart analysis of energy consumption using smart technologies, and how the interplay between contributory factors affects that use. The 'living lab' will give evidence to the energy research and business community and local energy and related sector SMEs who will have access to the University's unique infrastructure to develop and test renewable and smart technologies.

For more details, please see the [full story on our website](#).

Can we help your business grow?

Is your business thinking about, or in the process of, developing a new product, process or service? The [Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme \(KRISP\)](#)* can provide resources to help.

Join the KRISP team as they take their coffee morning tour across Staffordshire, stopping off in Cannock, Milford, Lichfield and Leek.

- Tuesday 24 July – The Barns Hotel, Cannock
- Wednesday 22 August – The Barley Mow, Milford, Stafford
- Thursday 11 October – The Cathedral Hotel, Lichfield
- Thursday 8 November – The Abbey Inn, Leek

The drop-in sessions will provide a relaxed opportunity for small businesses to come and chat with the team about the ideas that you feel can grow your business and take it to the next level, all over coffee and cake!

All sessions take place from 8.30am until 10.30am. Booking is recommended but not essential – [click here](#) for more details.

Employer Advisory Group

Keele University has recently hosted the first meeting of its Employer Advisory Group – a regular forum of employer representatives from businesses and not-for-profit organisations of all sizes across a number of sectors.

The purpose of the group is to advise the University and share best practice concerning what employers demand and expect from university students and graduates. By working with such employers, Keele will be able to ensure that it produces talented individuals that are fully prepared for the world of work.

The first meeting, which took place in June at Keele Hall, included a diverse range of employers such as PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Siemens, NHS England, Bet365, Sibelco, Strategi Solutions, University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Pedddle, with attendees reacting positively to Keele's new approach to employability and employer engagement.

For further information about how businesses and employers can benefit from Keele University's talented students and graduates, or to get involved in shaping their curriculum, please visit www.keele.ac.uk/talent.

**The following support programmes available within the Business Gateway are receiving funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020:*

- - *Keele Research and Innovation Support Programme (Ref: 32R16P00711);*
- - *Smart Energy Network Demonstrator (Ref: 32R16P00706);*
- - *Business Bridge (Ref: 32R16P00713);*
- - *Mercia Centre for Innovation Leadership (Ref: 32R15P00229).*



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund.

Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>.



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