

Latest business news from Keele University

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Business Gateway newsletter - 14 May 2020

Keele University is committed to supporting our community, both locally and nationally, in the global fight against COVID-19.

This support ranges from the significant number of Keele medical and nursing students who have chosen to serve on the front-line earlier than initially planned in order to directly help with the national crisis, through to the School of Pharmacy responding to a request from the local NHS Trust to manufacture World Health Organisation-approved hand sanitiser in scaled-up quantities.

Other key interventions include academics conducting research into the infection, students providing support to vulnerable and 'shielded' groups, and business partners working in collaboration to produce vaccines and ventilators. You can see an overview of the [University's response to the coronavirus pandemic on the Keele website](#).

Although Business Gateway team members are now working from their respective homes, they are still working hard to support businesses like yours - facilitating access to the University's world-class research, knowledge and talent, backed by substantial funding opportunities.

For a confidential discussion, and to find out how your business can benefit, please get in touch using the details below.

The Keele University Business Gateway team

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Keele Talks Business - Free expert webinars

experts from across Staffordshire and beyond.



Staffordshire County Council: Responding to COVID-19

- Monday 18 May 2020 (12pm-1pm)
- With **John Henderson**, Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council

Business Funding: Finding the right financial support for your business

- Wednesday 20 May (12pm-1pm)
- With **British Business Bank** and **BCRS Business Loans**

Visit the [Business Gateway website for information and to register](#).

Recordings of the previous sessions are [now available online](#) and include:

- *"Managing Tax"* with Dains Accountants
- *"Post Pandemic: Can Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent businesses survive and then thrive?"* with Alun Rogers, Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership
- *"Content is Key: Discussing marketing approaches during COVID-19"* with Plinkfizz and Exesios
- *"Working in isolation: supporting yourself and others"* with Work Best and ReStoke

Science Park tenant working to create coronavirus vaccine

Cobra Biologics, one of Keele University Science and Innovation Park's longest-

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COVID-19.

Cobra, an international contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO) for biologics and pharmaceuticals, is working as part of a consortium led by the Jenner Institute at Oxford University to rapidly develop, scale-up and produce a potential adenoviral vaccine candidate known as ChAdOx1. [Read more.](#)



Innovation Leadership programme graduate helping in fight against COVID-19

A company that has benefited from Keele University's Innovation Leadership programme is now supporting the fight against COVID-19 through the production of specialised components for the manufacturing of ventilators.

Gary Smith, Joint Managing Director at Newcastle-under-Lyme-based Staffordshire Precision Engineering (SPE), took part in the Keele University Science & Innovation Park Smart Innovation Hub programme in 2018 to enable him to develop and embed new business leadership techniques that could be used to grow the company.

Now, less than two years later, the learning and contacts that he made during the programme have helped SPE to play a significant role in the UK's response to the global pandemic. [Read more.](#)



Office space available for coronavirus companies

The Keele University Science and Innovation Park is offering up to 6,500 sqft of office space, with individual access, to organisations that are supporting the NHS and its partners in response to COVID-19.



Interested parties can submit initial enquiries by emailing kusip@keele.ac.uk.

Sustainability research projects for Staffordshire SMEs

Keele University is looking to commission a series of exciting opportunities with local SMEs, delivering research, development and innovation projects linked to the Smart Energy Network Demonstrator (SEND).

The research projects, which will last three months and focus on sustainability and renewable energy, will see a dedicated support team from the University working with businesses to progress their research ideas from concept through to completion.

[Find out more on the SEND website.](#)



Innovation support available to local businesses



The current coronavirus outbreak has led to businesses around the world trying to predict what they will need to do in order to survive, maintain and grow once the lockdown measures start to be lifted.

If your business is currently looking to innovate and develop a new product, process, service or business model,

Keele University's Research and Innovation Support Programme is here to help. The fully-funded programme has the knowledge, expertise and resources that could make a real difference to the direction of SMEs across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. [Get in touch today.](#)

COVID-19 economic impact survey

Businesses across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire are being urged to let their local enterprise partnership know about the support they need.

The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council have launched an online survey for businesses to better understand the impact the coronavirus is having on them. [The economic impact survey is available to complete online via this link.](#)

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**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 University Science & Innovation Park Smart Innovation Hub (Ref: 32R17P01691);*
- *Smart Energy Network Demonstrator (Ref: 32R16P00706);*
- *Business Bridge (Ref: 32R18P02530).*



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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