

Latest news from the Keele Gateway

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Keele Gateway newsletter 16 December 2020

Last month marked the fourth anniversary of Keele University's Business Gateway - the 'one-stop-shop' for local businesses and organisations to access Keele's knowledgeable academics, talented students and experienced business support experts.

Since its launch in November 2016, the Business Gateway has facilitated vital research, development and growth support for hundreds of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire's most innovative companies.

Over the course of the past four years, the opportunities available through the Gateway have increased significantly, meaning that organisations, charities and social enterprises in the public and third sectors are now also able to take advantage of the unique benefits that University collaboration can bring.

To better reflect the opportunities now available to the wider community, the Business Gateway has recently relaunched as the **Keele Gateway**.

Support for businesses still remains a significant component of the Gateway, with a number of collaboration opportunities available exclusively for Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire's small-and-medium-sized enterprises.

To find out more, keep reading, visit the [Keele Gateway website](#) or, for a confidential discussion, contact the team at business.gateway@keele.ac.uk.



Keele signs renewable energy partnership



Two wind turbines and 15,000 solar panels are set to be installed on the Keele University campus through a new partnership managed and financed by ENGIE, to support the University's pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.

ENGIE, a leading energy and services company focused on producing and supplying low-carbon energy, has agreed a 25-year deal with Keele University to fund, design, build and operate a multi-technology energy park that will generate up to 50% of the University's campus electricity requirements from renewable sources.

The University's new low carbon energy project will see the development of two wind turbines, an industrial size battery for storing the generated energy, and 15,000 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels installed at ground level in fields on the edge of the campus which will be managed and financed by ENGIE.

After installation, the renewables will provide up to 50% of the campus electricity needs and the combined carbon emissions savings from the wind and solar farm will be around 1,500 tonnes per year – the equivalent of taking 800 cars off the road.

Excess electricity will be fed back to the local grid providing zero carbon energy to the local area, and the battery will help to balance the local and national electricity networks.

Read more about [this partnership on the Keele Gateway website.](#)

Opportunities available through the Keele Gateway

With funding in place until at least the end of 2021, there are still plenty of opportunities for

- **Research & Innovation Support programme** - Develop the products and services that will enable your company to grow. [Enquire today.](#)
- **Innovation Leadership programme** - Be equipped to lead your business through future challenges. [Applications now open for the next cohort \(March-July 2021\).](#)
- **Smart Energy Network Demonstrator** - Support the UK's drive towards a zero carbon future by collaborating with Europe's largest demonstrator to embed sustainability in all aspects of your business. [Enquire about our three-month research and development project opportunities.](#)
- **Business Bridge** - The rapid development of new healthcare and medical technologies has never been more in focus, and this programme has the networks and resources to help your business enter and develop into these markets. [Find out more.](#)

Please note that the above programmes are exclusively available to SMEs in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. However, thanks to the ongoing expansion of the Keele Gateway, organisations of all shapes, sizes, sectors and locations are now able to access more elements of support, such as:

- **Talent** - The students and graduates at Keele University are officially amongst the most employable in the country and, with funded internships available, they offer a fantastic opportunity to integrate the latest industry and academic thinking into your workplace. [Find out how you can access the next generation of workforce.](#)
- **Space** - Relocate your business to Keele University Science & Innovation Park and you'll be in the heart of the UK's largest campus, with immediate access to everything that the University has to offer. [Discover the opportunities available.](#)
- **Expertise** - Keele University's interdisciplinary institutes are undertaking cutting-edge research that aims to tackle some of society's most pressing challenges. By bringing together students, academics and researchers from across the University, they serve as collaborative hubs that also have the potential to benefit businesses, organisations and the wider community. [Find out how you can gain unique access to university resource and expertise.](#)



Find out how your organisation can benefit from partnering with Keele University by clicking the four buttons above, or visit keele.ac.uk/business.

Breaking the Mould Awards 2020

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Some of the region's most innovative organisations have been acknowledged for their achievements at Keele University's **Breaking the Mould** awards, part of the University's commitment to developing an inclusive open innovation community in the region.

Breaking the Mould celebrates the successes of the hundreds of local businesses, not-for-profits, charities and entrepreneurs that have collaborated with Keele University to develop products, services and people that have had positive impacts not only locally, but across the country and beyond.

The award categories were carefully curated to represent the wide-ranging collaboration opportunities available with Keele University. As well as covering key areas such as sustainability, social inclusion and the development of talented and employable students, this year's awards also recognised the contribution that local organisations have made in the wake of the coronavirus in the form of a dedicated 'Pandemic Response' award.

The winners of the eight award categories, as announced live during the online ceremony on 2 December, are:

- **Focus Games** – Health and Wellbeing Award, sponsored by Caja
- **Laundry Efficiency** – Sustainability Award, sponsored by ENGIE
- **YMCA Crewe** – Social Inclusion Award, sponsored by Synectics Solutions
- **Mondrem** – Cultivating Talent, sponsored by we are aspire
- **Cobra Biologics** – Keele University Science and Innovation Park Company of the Year
- **Moneyshake** – Leadership Award
- **Realise** – Pandemic Response Award, sponsored by ITS Test Kits
- **Eureka Inventions** – Collaboration of the Year Award, sponsored by Staffordshire County Council (*Pictured below: Anita Rani (Host of Breaking the Mould 2020) speaking to Dr Desai from Eureka Inventions*)

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Read more about the [Breaking the Mould awards on the Keele Gateway website](#).

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**The following support programmes available within the Keele 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.



**Research
England**

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