

CELEBRATING

100
YEARS

OF EDUCATION

1914-2014



STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY



The Cadman Frieze

For the past 100 years (and whether they've noticed it or not) students entering the Cadman Building have passed underneath a stone frieze carved by the sculptor Charles Vyse. As well as being artistically accomplished, it's rich in symbolism. In 1914, its scenes and figures set out a clear manifesto for what the new college hoped to accomplish.

The sandstone frieze is split into three sections. The outer ones illustrate the industries of Stoke-on-Trent, while the centrepiece represents learning and the sciences. On the left side, four miners are depicted with the tools of their trade: a railway cart, pickaxes and a Davy lamp. On the right, four ceramics workers are shown with a potter's wheel, kiln and completed vases.

Welcome to our special supplement marking Staffordshire University's 100th birthday, and a whistlestop journey through its past, present and future.

For those like me who are fortunate enough to work in higher education, one rule holds true: change is the only constant. We are always moving forward, adapting to new challenges and innovating to improve our offering to students. So it's fascinating for me to take a step back and read about the longer-term story of Staffordshire University and its ancestor institutions.

My own involvement with the University spans just over a quarter of its history. I first came to North Staffordshire Polytechnic as Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer in 1986. Almost immediately, I was heavily involved in the process of gaining independence from the County Council, which we achieved in 1989. Then, as a self-governing institution, we had to work towards University status in 1992; and in the same decade we faced the challenge of rising student numbers, as the Government sought a 40% participation rate in higher education.

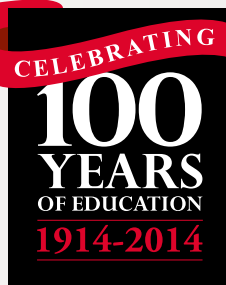
Thanks to the effort and enthusiasm of our staff and students, as well as some far-sighted supporters in business and the local community, we not only overcame these challenges but thrived on them. Reading over this magazine supplement, I'm struck by the even greater trials faced by my predecessors – not least the tragedy of two world wars. They deserve our gratitude for setting down the foundations upon which today's University prospers.

For 100 years, this University has been a beacon for higher education in Staffordshire. Long may it continue to be so.

Ken Sproston

University Secretary and Clerk to the Board of Governors
Staffordshire University

Join in the celebrations



Pay a visit to the Stoke or Stafford campuses and you'll find the Centenary is being marked in a whole range of different ways. You'll first notice the special lamppost signage, which picks out significant years in the University's history.

An eight-foot timeline has been installed in the foyer of the Cadman building, and the Thompson Gallery (opposite the library reception) has been refurbished to host a rolling programme of exhibitions. Also within the building is a high-resolution print of the original architect's plans for



A CENTURY – NOT OUT!

Forming the centrepiece of this year's festivities is a special cricket game at Leek Road Playing Fields in June. Both teams are composed of staff, students, alumni and friends of the University.

The result of the fixture is unknown at the time of going to press, but it's sure to be a fiercely fought competition – in the friendliest possible way, of course. Spectators have been invited to bring a picnic and to dress in cricket whites or period costume, ensuring an appropriately historical atmosphere.

So why is the University's heritage being celebrated with a cricket match? Wander around the College Road site and the answer will be beneath your feet. The campus was built on land that was originally the Staffordshire County Cricket Ground, a fact also referenced in the name of the Pavilion restaurant. It's perhaps fitting that a place where players once tried to hit boundaries is now given over to expanding the boundaries of learning!



the College, blown up on to a large canvas triptych.

The best way of keeping up with the celebrations is to check out the special Centenary website at www.staffs.ac.uk/centenary, which will be updated throughout the year. It includes the Staffs timeline, picture galleries and profiles on significant figures in the University's history.

It's not a one-way process: through the website, you can read the stories of students and staff past and present, and share your own reminiscences. If you'd like to get involved in the celebrations on Twitter, use the hashtag #STAFFS100.



#STAFFS100

A COLLEGE FOR STAFFORDSHIRE



Campus core: the Cadman Building in 1914

In 1914 a new type of college opened in Stoke-on-Trent and soon made its mark on a country racked by war

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Central School of Science and Technology, the most direct ancestor of Staffordshire University. And although its beginnings were modest, the original school will be recognisable to today's students: it all started in the two-storey brick building which – much extended, admittedly – is now known as the Cadman Building. Inside were mining and pottery departments, laboratories and lecture theatres, a reference library, an assembly hall and a museum.

Permanent accommodation for the mining and pottery schools was long overdue. Before the Central School's official opening, the two departments had been stuck in poky temporary premises for several years. It was abundantly clear to visiting school inspectors that these buildings, hastily constructed out of corrugated iron, were not sufficient, and that it would be better to replace them with a single school to teach

science and technology. But the Central School as a whole was an idea whose time had come.

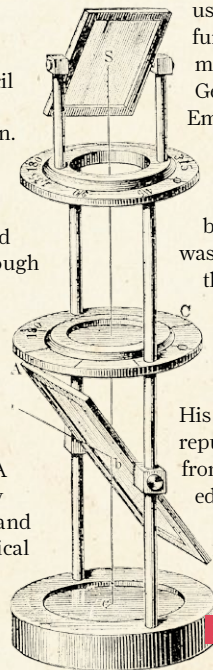
In the late 1890s, it had been felt that technical schools in the Potteries were ill-equipped for scientific or academic courses. So in 1900, plans were drawn up to create a North Staffordshire University College. To raise the £20,000 needed for construction of the new college, a fundraising council was founded, chaired by the industrialist Alfred Sohier Bolton. A two-acre site was purchased on Victoria Road (now College Road); and by 1910, Bolton's heirs Francis and Thomas offered the land to Stoke-on-Trent's Borough Council, on the condition that pottery and mining institutes would be founded there.

The Central School of Science and Technology was officially opened by the President of the Board of Education, Joseph Albert Pease, on April 20, 1914. A year later, physics and chemistry departments were inaugurated; and by 1917, there was also a mechanical and electrical engineering

department, which ran part-time courses in technical electricity for coal miners.

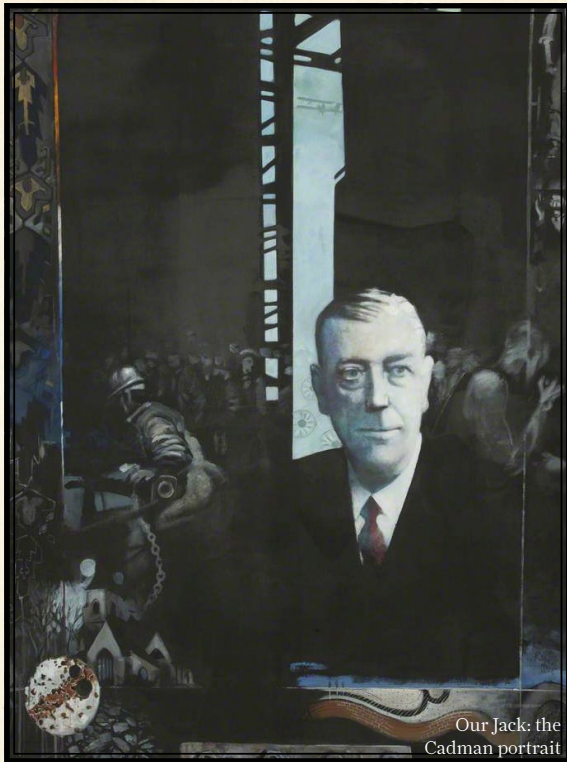
Of particular note in this period, though, was the ceramics department. It was headed by Joseph William Mellor, who provided a vital solution to a wartime problem. Before hostilities broke out, the raw materials used to manufacture fire bricks and furnace linings had been imported from mainland Europe. But connections with Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire were abruptly severed when war was declared in August 1914.

The British steel industry urgently needed support to maintain its blast furnaces, especially as steel was vital for the weapons needed by the Allies. Mellor's work in the Central School laboratory resulted in the development of a new type of furnace lining, which ensured production of steel could continue. His efforts cemented the Central School's reputation as a centre of excellence from the start – and in turning cutting-edge research to solving real-world problems. Joseph William Mellor epitomises the spirit of Staffordshire University.



Lab kit: early optical equipment

KEY FIGURES: LORD CADMAN OF SILVERDALE



Our Jack: the Cadman portrait

Even after being awarded a knighthood, a peerage and several awards for bravery, John Cadman (affectionately called “our Jack”) never forgot the needs and priorities of working people. Born in Silverdale

in 1877, Cadman’s family background was steeped in the coal industry. After accompanying his father as a mining apprentice, he went on to study geology and mining at a college in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Cadman not only had an

innate understanding for the workings of mines, but expressed great concern for the welfare of mineworkers. A tireless participant in rescue work, he would be awarded a Gold Medal for bravery thanks to his efforts in one colliery disaster in Birmingham.

During World War I he became regarded (by Winston Churchill, no less) as an authority on oil, and helped secure an abundance of motor power for the Allies. At the end of the war, Cadman was knighted.

In later years, he flourished as Managing Director and Chairman at the Anglo Persian Oil Company, and appeared on committees determining the future of broadcasting and aviation. At the outbreak of the Second World War, he was keen to help Britain once more, but his health was ailing, and he died in May 1941 at the age of 63. A picture of Cadman – depicted in a mining setting – was commissioned to hang in the Faculty of Science at the turn of the millennium.

SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND THE ‘TEN-SHILLING SCHOOL’

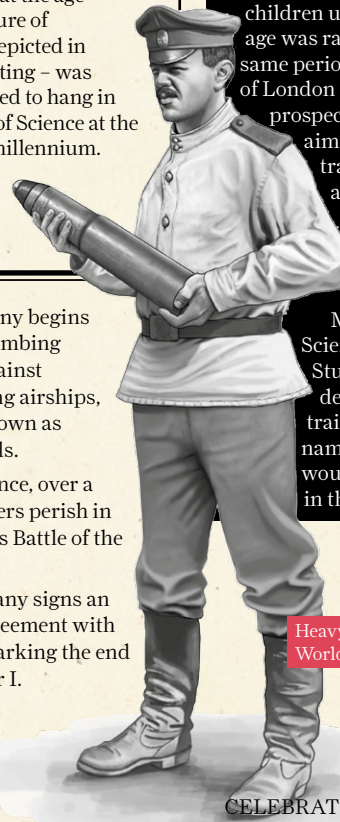
Before the establishment of the Central School of Science and Technology, there had been precedents for working men in North Staffordshire who wished to “better themselves”. As far back as 1825, an annual membership of 10 shillings provided access to evening classes at the Potteries Mechanics Institution in technical drawing, engineering and ceramics. Within two years, night school classes were being organised in Hanley, with the Institution opening a new building in June 1835, comprising a lecture theatre, library and science laboratory.

After the closure of the Potteries School of Design, two art schools opened in Hanley and Stoke, and Burslem became the home of the Wedgwood Institute, established in celebration of Josiah Wedgwood’s life and work. Here, science and chemistry courses would soon be augmented by classes in pottery and porcelain manufacture.

By the late 19th century, attitudes to education began to change. In 1880, schooling was made compulsory for children under 10, and the leaving age was raised to 12 by 1899. In the same period, the City and Guilds of London Institute expanded the

prospects for higher education, aiming to provide vocational training for British apprentices and craftsmen.

And in Stoke itself, the art and science schools had merged in 1889 to form the Stoke Municipal School of Art, Science and Technology. Students of note in the next decade included a certain trainee colliery manager named John Cadman, who would soon take on a vital role in the history of the University.



Heavy casualties: World War I infantry

MEANWHILE...

1901 – Aged 81, Queen Victoria dies after 63 years on the British throne. Her son, the Prince of Wales, becomes her successor as King Edward VII.

1903 – In North Carolina, USA, Orville Wright’s aircraft becomes the first known and successful powered flight.

1906 – Much of the city of San Francisco is destroyed by an earthquake.

1910 – George V succeeds Edward VII as King of the United Kingdom.

1912 – On its maiden voyage to New York, the RMS Titanic liner sinks in the Atlantic Ocean after striking an iceberg.

1914 – In Sarajevo, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated by a Serbian nationalist, an event that within a month will trigger World War I.

1915 – Germany begins a strategic bombing campaign against England using airships, in attacks known as Zeppelin raids.

1916 – In France, over a million soldiers perish in World War I’s Battle of the Somme.

1918 – Germany signs an armistice agreement with the Allies, marking the end of World War I.

INTO THE MOTOR AGE

The Twenties and Thirties were a time of technological progress and artistic achievement, but dark clouds were again starting to gather on the horizon

The years between the First and Second World Wars were marked by profound social and educational upheaval. For the Central School of Science and Technology, this period would see a name change (to North Staffordshire Technical College, in 1926) and the appointment of the first principal to oversee all its departments.

In 1919 the Central School welcomed back the craftsmen whose apprenticeships had been cut short by war, and who could now resume their education. Alongside them, disabled ex-servicemen enrolled to learn how to become motor mechanics. Theirs would be a much-needed skill: transport links were improving across Britain and the automotive industry was expanding. In 1921 the £225 Austin Seven became the UK's first mass-produced motor car, and this prompted the Central School's mechanical and electrical engineering department to invest in its own second-hand car in 1924 – a £38 Wolseley Tourer for the use of motor engineering apprentices.

The ceramics department also saw some welcome improvements. Within a week of the Armistice being signed in November 1918, the Solon Ceramic Library was opened, housing some 3,500 books from the collection of the late pottery designer Marc-Louis-Emmanuel

Solon. The following year, a new Ceramics workshop was built. Under the enlightened leadership of Joseph Mellor, the department would come to be regarded as a centre of excellence in ceramic technology and science.

Mellor's assistant in the ceramics department, the American-born Harry William Webb, would in 1934 become the first overall principal of what was now the North Staffordshire Technical College. Prior to Webb's appointment, each individual department had published its own prospectus, as if it were a technical college in its own right. Webb imposed

a single leadership structure – and feeling that the ceramics department had become too theoretical, he added more practical courses.

By the mid-1930s it was recommended that the college should expand further. A cricket ground site opposite the Cadman Building's College Road base was chosen for redevelopment, but progress proved slow. Eventually, the outbreak of war in September 1939 curtailed all non-essential construction work. For the time being, the ambition to reorganise and improve vocational education in Staffordshire would remain unfulfilled.

Students' studio; below, the ceramics workshop in the late Thirties. Right, Joseph Mellor, who led the department



The Making Shop



Skills drive: the Wolseley Tourer bought for the use of engineering apprentices

THE ART OF INSPIRATION

While North Staffordshire Technical College was progressing and expanding, so was another Stoke institution that would later form part of Staffordshire University. Overseeing Stoke-on-Trent College of Art in Burslem from 1919-34 was the visionary industrial designer and artist Gordon Mitchell Forsyth, and he attracted a wealth of raw talent to the school.

Scottish-born Forsyth, who had spent much of World War I in the Royal Flying Corps, believed that art needed to be taken more seriously in the secondary schools to attract the best apprentices and designers to the pottery industry. He founded in-service training programmes from 1932, encouraging teachers to spot budding artistic talent in the classroom. He strongly believed that art should benefit the local community, so it became customary for his students to decorate children's hospital wards with colourful murals.

Several noteworthy figures studied at the

College of Art during this period. The ceramic artist Clarice Cliff (1899-1972), whose work would prove popular with royalty and the public alike, was there in the early 1920s. At the turn of the 1930s, sculptor Arnold Machin (1911-99) attended classes in modelling and later became a tutor at the Royal College of Art. His most enduring creation was his 1966 effigy of Queen Elizabeth II, which was used on all British coins and postage stamps. It's an image that remains familiar to this day.



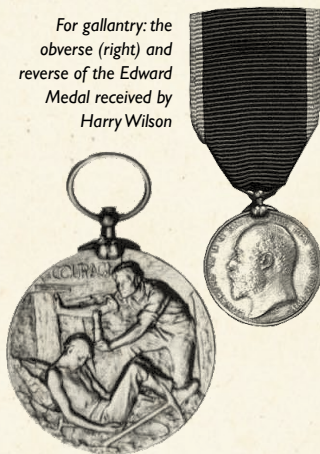
ALUMNI TALES: HARRY WILSON

Harry Wilson was one of the most extraordinary of the Central School's students. A roadman at Harriseahead Colliery, he was also studying part-time at the college for a fireman's certificate. His duties as a fireman would include checking that the working environment below ground was safe and well-ventilated.

On March 10, 1924, the lower levels of Harriseahead Colliery were flooded. Most men fled to safety, but one, Edwin Booth, was engulfed by the rising waters. The colliery manager Pailing Baker enlisted volunteers including Harry Wilson for a rescue mission; but on going underground, most felt it was too dangerous to proceed. Not so Baker and Wilson, who opened a ventilation door - slowly releasing the water pressure - and guided Booth to safety.

For their remarkably courageous act, Harry Wilson received the Edward Medal from King George V. Wilson received an additional reward: the Carnegie Trust announced it would pay his Central School tuition fees. And many years later, in 1971, Harry was invited by Queen Elizabeth II to exchange his Edward Medal for the George Cross - the highest award for civilian gallantry.

For gallantry: the obverse (right) and reverse of the Edward Medal received by Harry Wilson



MEANWHILE...

1919 - Nancy Astor becomes the first woman elected to take her seat in the House of Commons.

1921 - Albert Einstein is awarded the Nobel Prize for his groundbreaking work in Theoretical Physics.

1922 - The British Broadcasting Company (BBC) begins a regular radio service on the London station 2LO.

1924 - Britain elects its first Labour Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald.

1929 - The worst financial crash in the USA's history takes place at the New York Stock Exchange.

1930 - The first FIFA World Cup takes place. Host nation Uruguay are the tournament's first winners.

1933 - Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Nazi Party, is appointed Chancellor of Germany.

1936 - King George V dies. His eldest son succeeds him as Edward VIII but soon abdicates - whereupon Prince Albert, Duke of York, becomes King George VI.

1939 - Germany invades Poland, triggering the Second World War.



RISING TO THE C

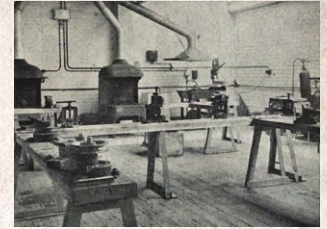
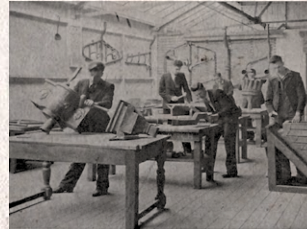
The College played a vital and often overlooked role in the war effort – then in peacetime, some familiar names first appeared on campus

During the Second World War, North Staffordshire Technical College found itself at the centre of a dramatic recruitment drive. Many of Britain's coal mine workers had been enlisted in the armed forces, leading to an alarming drop in coal production. By 1942, there was a serious risk of a fuel crisis. If not tackled, this would lead to a shortage of electricity and gas, gravely affecting public transport and the heating of the nation's households.

Something had to be done to reverse the decline. Ernest

Bevin, the Minister of Labour and National Service, requested that mineworkers in military service should return to the coalfields, but it soon transpired that an extra 50,000 volunteers would be needed. It was decided that they would be trained at the North Staffordshire Technical College, before being sent to work in the nearby coalfields. The college would also provide teaching for some instructors, who would train workers bound for coalfields outside Staffordshire.

However, recruiting so many volunteers at such short notice proved impossible. On December 2, 1943, Bevin announced an alternative plan – the use of conscripts. Within a few weeks, the first 75 recruits arrived in the Potteries ready to begin their training at North Staffordshire Technical College. These recruits, and others like them, would be known as “Bevin Boys”. Though conscripts had no say



in whether they were sent down the mines or to fight, many Bevin Boys faced prejudice for not being in the armed forces. It would be 2007 before the surviving workers would be honoured for their work in supporting the war effort.

The expansion of North Staffordshire Technical College was interrupted by the war, but soon continued. In the mid-1940s the college refurbished the Cauldon Pottery factory – damaged by a fire in the previous decade – and made it the base for catering and building departments. The latter trained young men aiming for careers in carpentry, plastering, plumbing, joinery and allied trades. Because

of its past use, the style of the building department's interior could be startling: a lecture theatre room had previously been a bottle oven.

Meanwhile, as Victoria Road was renamed College Road in 1950, the main Technical College transformed a 30-acre golf course site in the suburb of Meir into a sports ground with six pitches and club house facilities. The move was necessary because the cricket ground used by the college was needed for two new constructions. The Mellor and Dwight Buildings provided much-needed space, and their names remain familiar to students at today's University.



Going underground: Bevin Boys. Top right, the plumbing and plastering workshop. Middle right, the “pit bottom” used for training

CHALLENGE



CERAMICS REACHES FOR THE SKY

In the 1950s, the North Staffordshire Technical College found a brand new home for its acclaimed ceramics department. On October 7, 1957, the Labour Party's Michael Stewart MP (then Shadow Cabinet spokesman on education) officially opened the six-storey Mellor Building. It was described somewhat optimistically by Stoke-on-Trent's local newspaper, the Sentinel, as the area's first "sky-scraper". It would house 10 laboratories, several lecture theatres and a library.

The neighbouring Dwight Building was a workshop for pottery, with all the vital facilities necessary – from high-temperature electric furnaces to tunnel kilns – for manufacturing all kinds of ceramic ware. It was an environment where students could gain precious practical experience in a variety of pottery-making skills.

Once it inhabited the Mellor and Dwight Buildings, the ceramics department became a college in its own right (the College of Ceramics) – although confusingly, it remained part of the North Staffordshire Technical College. In 1962, its name would revert to the ceramics department, but by now, the College as a whole would have changed its name yet again – a process repeated many times in Staffordshire University's long history!



High standards:
the new Mellor Building

PUTTING OUT THE BLITZ

Air raids were an ever-present threat in wartime Stoke-on-Trent, and the wavering note of the siren became a frequent and chilling interruption to normal life. For most civilians, it was a signal to seek cover as best – and as quickly – as they could. But for some brave students, the warnings were a cue to find a vantage point and wait for the bombers to arrive.

Men who were enrolled at North Staffordshire Technical College were expected to volunteer for the fire-watching

rota, and would take turns to spend the night in the empty building. Their task was to keep a look out for any conflagrations caused by German incendiary bombs – and if nearby, to try to put them out with buckets of sand and a crude stirrup-pump.

In the event, bomb casualties around Stoke were light when compared with Midlands cities such as Birmingham and Coventry. But with targets such as Shelton Bar steelworks and the Swynnerton munitions factory nearby, there was every reason to fear the worst.



MEANWHILE...

1940 – Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as British Prime Minister. In July, the Battle of Britain begins between the

German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force.

1941 – After Japanese forces attack a naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, the United States becomes involved in the Second World War.

1944 – D-Day: 155,000 Allied troops arrive on the beaches of Normandy, starting the liberation of Europe.

1945 – V-E Day: The surrender of Germany brings about the end of the Second World War in

Europe. In August, after atomic bombing by the USA of Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Emperor Hirohito announces the unconditional surrender of Japan.

1948 – Under British Prime Minister Clement Attlee (elected in 1945) the National Health Service is founded.

1952 – King George VI dies, aged 56. His eldest daughter Princess Elizabeth succeeds him to the throne at the age of 25.

1953 – Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay become the first two men to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

1956 – In the Suez Crisis, British and French forces launch a disastrous attack on Egypt to force the reopening of the Suez Canal.

THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

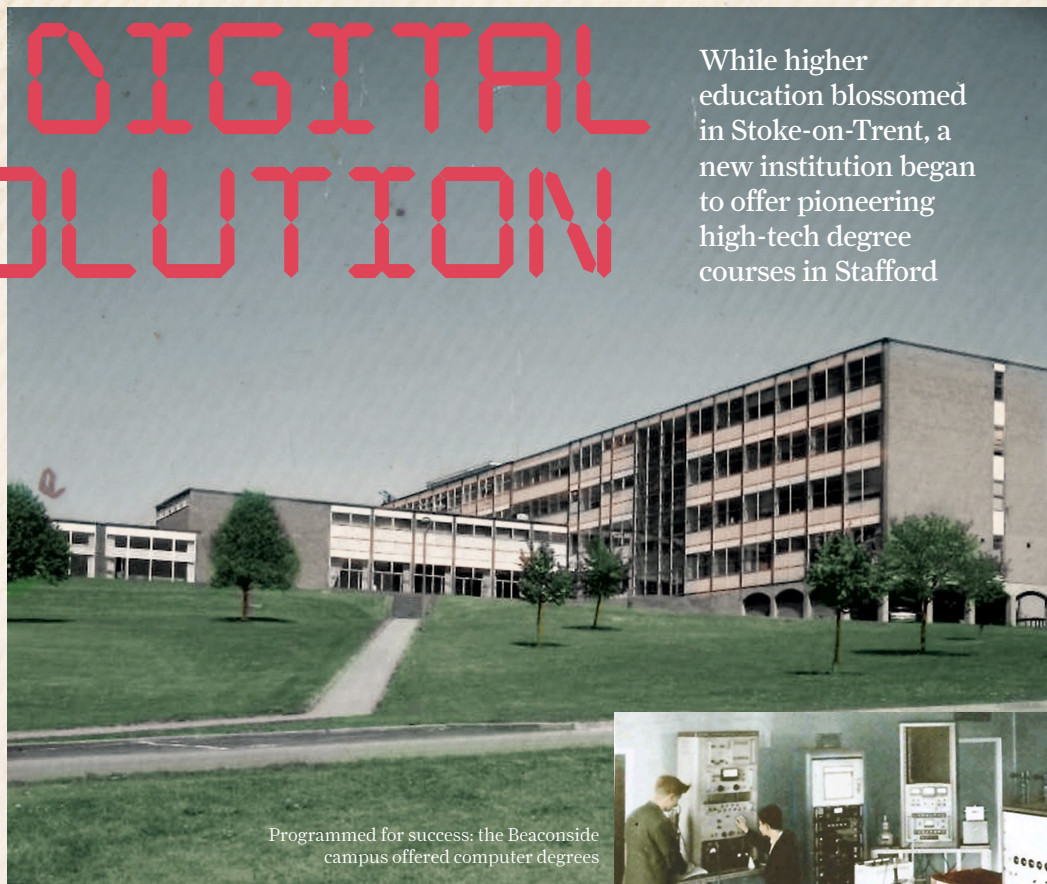
While higher education blossomed in Stoke-on-Trent, a new institution began to offer pioneering high-tech degree courses in Stafford

During the 1960s, a newly opened college in Stafford would be at the forefront of a radical experiment to unite education, commerce and electronics. Having been established in 1959, Staffordshire College of Technology opened its campus at Beaconside in the early Sixties, with Ronald Paradise – a mechanical and civil engineering graduate of London University – as its first principal.

Based in a four-storey teaching block, a small set of laboratories and a clutch of workshops, it began to offer a wide range of courses for students who had left secondary modern schools with no academic qualifications, as well as better-qualified applicants. Its subject areas ranged from the strictly vocational – accountancy, banking and shoemaking – to engineering and even nuclear physics. To encourage postgraduates to come to Stafford, it introduced one-year graduate diplomas in mechanical engineering.

But it was in the field of computer studies that the college would make its biggest impact. Its premises were adjacent to the Nelson Research laboratories of English Electric, a company which manufactured numerous components for guided missiles and military aircraft as well as diesel and electric locomotives and heavy electrical equipment.

In 1965, the college's computing science degree course became



Programmed for success: the Beaconside campus offered computer degrees

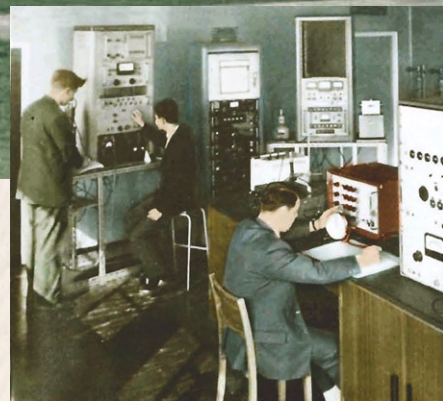
one of the earliest of its kind in Britain. It was devised by a team comprising both academic staff and industrialists, who together worked on developing programming languages and software systems. The department soon acquired its first computer. Manufactured by English Electric, the model was known as the Digital Electronic Universal Computing Engine – DEUCE for short – and was so large that it could only be installed through a second-floor window at the college with the aid of a crane.

Almost from the beginning, the computing department took an active role in community engagement – something that permeates the Staffordshire ethos to this day. The college encouraged pupils at local

schools to apply for its degree courses, and the children were invited to participate in DEUCE programming experiments. They would compose their programs on paper tapes, which would then be forwarded by their teachers to the department for processing.

English Electric wanted to be allowed to send its apprentices to the college to study for diplomas in technology, but the Ministry of Education was not convinced this was a worthwhile scheme. English Electric's reaction was to threaten to boycott the college. Such was its status as the leading electronics manufacturer in the country that the Government backed down.

The first graduates in computer studies received their certificates



from the Staffordshire College of Technology in 1968, but the name of English Electric would not survive much longer. In the same year, the Labour Government ordered that the company should be merged with ICT to form International Computers Limited (ICL). Similarly, it was announced by the end of the decade that the Staffordshire and North Staffordshire Colleges of Technology were to merge. It was time to open the next chapter in the history of Staffordshire University.

COLLEGE RULES

Ayouth revolution may have been in the air in the Sixties, but higher education was still conducted along far more formal lines than it is today. In each year's prospectus for North Staffordshire College of Technology at Stoke, a section was given over to College rules. These, the text informs us, "are displayed on the various notice boards throughout the College, and all students should make themselves familiar with them".

Punctual attendance at classes and lectures was mandatory, with a register taken. What's more, the rules stated that if a

student arrived after the register had been taken, he could "enter the class only with the consent of the lecturer and cannot in any event be credited with an attendance mark for that particular class." Worse still for dawdling students who were on day release from their regular jobs to attend college, "absence and lateness reports are sent to employers".

Other parts of the rules dealt with college hours (students were required to be off campus before 8.45am and after 9pm), loitering in corridors and general discipline. This last category required students to "conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the College". No further detail was considered necessary!



MEANWHILE...

1960 – The first episode of Coronation Street is broadcast by ITV.

1961 – Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union becomes the first human in space.

1962 – The Beatles release their debut single, Love Me Do. Within 18 months they become the biggest musical sensations in the world.

1963 – US President John F Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1965 – Sir Winston Churchill dies at the age of 90. His state funeral is attended by representatives from 112 countries.

1965 – The USA enters the Vietnam War when 3,500 of its troops arrive in South Vietnam.

1966 – At Wembley Stadium, the England football team win the World Cup for the first (and to date, only) time.

1968 – Civil unrest breaks out in France, with student occupations followed by strike action that brings the country to a halt.

1969 – Apollo 11 lands on the Moon, and Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to set foot on its surface.

ALUMNI TALES: PAUL NIBLETT

Paul Niblett was one student who benefited from both of the institutions that would become Staffordshire University's twin campuses. An apprentice engineer at the Stoke-on-Trent-based tyre company Michelin in 1966, he would attend classes at North Staffordshire College of Technology's Cadman Building every Thursday – an education intended "to keep us academically interested," he recalls. "It was a male-dominated engineering environment," he says. "All the students in those days were male. All the lecturers too."

Paul next embarked on a four-year degree course at the Staffordshire College of Technology. By the time he graduated in 1971, that college and his previous one had merged to form North Staffordshire Polytechnic. "They were still very vocational colleges," he says. "That's how the polytechnics developed. They were brought in to raise the standards of colleges of technology."

After graduating, Paul continued to work at Michelin, and eventually became its head of communications. He retired in 2006.



JOINING



FORCES

When the colleges in Stoke and Stafford came together to form North Staffordshire Polytechnic, a new institution was formed that played to both their strengths

The 1970s saw the appearance of a new type of institution in higher education. Between 1969 and 1971 well over 20 polytechnics were created across the UK, by merging individual colleges into larger units. North Staffordshire Polytechnic, which launched in 1970, was originally the product of no fewer than three parent institutions: the Stoke-on-Trent College of Art, the same city's North Staffordshire College of Technology, and the Staffordshire College of Technology, based in Stafford.

The seeds of the plan for polytechnics lay in the Robbins Report on Higher Education, published by Harold Macmillan's Conservative Government in 1963. Out of this, the Council for National Academic

Awards (CNAA) was granted a Royal Charter to accredit degrees in non-university institutions. Its predecessor, the National Council for Technological Awards, was only allowed to award degrees in technological subjects, but now the CNAA could reward study in a wide range of subjects.

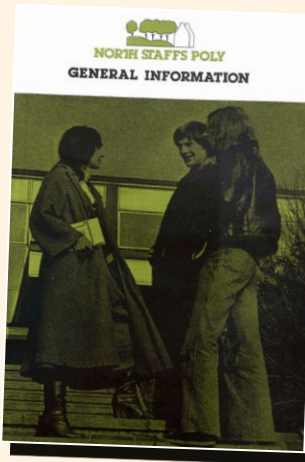
There was a recognition that the increasing demand for higher education could not be addressed by universities alone.

A Government White Paper entitled *A Plan for Polytechnics and Other Colleges* announced ambitious plans to develop existing colleges as comprehensive academic communities "to complement the universities and the colleges of education".

These new centres of education, to be called polytechnics, would be more closely affiliated with the scientific, professional, industrial and commercial worlds. They would use resources, including teaching staff, more economically than the existing universities did.

To form them, some 200 institutions would be merged into around 30 polytechnics.

In Staffordshire, the imminent formation of a new polytechnic was big news, and reported



in *The Times*. "This should have a very considerable influence on the industrial, commercial and social life of the area," wrote the North Staffordshire College of Technology's principal, Dr WE Lewis, in February 1969.

Advertisements for the polytechnic's new courses began to appear later that year. It would offer degree courses, diplomas in art and design and Higher National Diplomas. Its new name was accompanied by a freshly designed logo, featuring two icons which

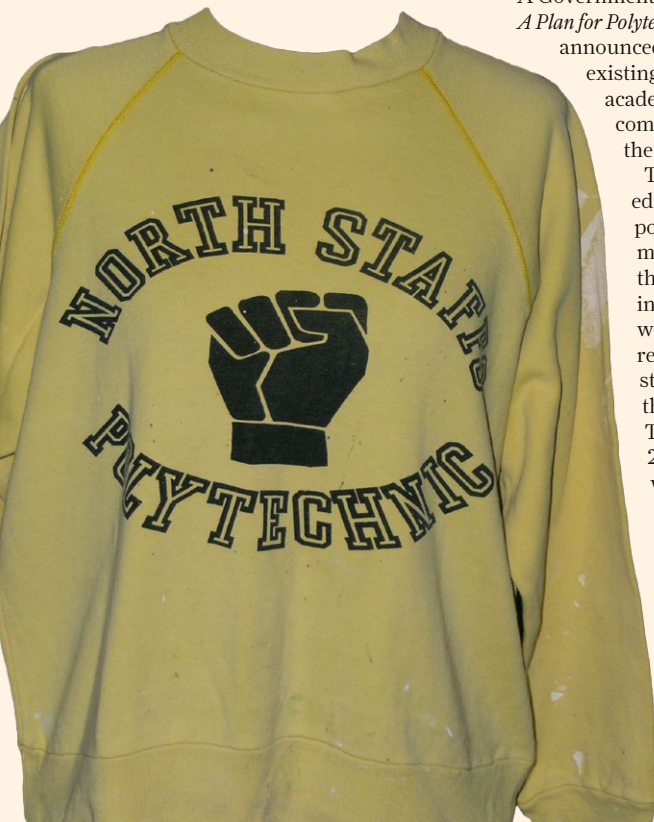
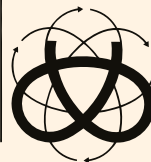
would become known by future students as "milk bottles" – but which actually represented bottle ovens from Stoke's pottery industry.

The merger was a success, but the educational needs of society continued to change. In the years that followed, some of North Staffordshire Polytechnic's departments would face closure. Despite its reputation, the Mining Department shut its doors in the 1980s, mirroring the general decline of the coal mining industry. But at the same time, the Polytechnic asserted its place on the cutting edge with trailblazing degree courses such as international relations and film studies – the latter advertised in one prospectus with images

of screen icons including Clint Eastwood and Marilyn Monroe.

There was one further change to come in the Eighties. The name of the institution was changed to Staffordshire Polytechnic, and the new logo featured the Staffordshire Knot – the ancient emblem of the county – for the first time. It has remained at the heart of the University's graphic identity ever since.

STAFFORDSHIRE
POLYTECHNIC



TEACHING THE TEACHERS

In 1977, North Staffordshire Polytechnic absorbed Madeley College of Education, an institution that had specialised in teacher training for many years.

After the school-leaving age had been raised to 15 in 1947, schools needed more teaching staff, and this had resulted in the creation of the County of Stafford Training College – in turn renamed Madeley College in 1960. By then, the female-only student intake had been joined by some male students, mostly due to the introduction of a course for physical-education teachers. The incoming head of the PE department, Sam Heafield, oversaw the construction of new facilities at the Madeley campus, near Crewe.

By the mid-1970s, a declining birth rate meant that there were fewer student places in teacher training, despite the popularity of the new Bachelor of Education courses across Britain. Many colleges of education faced the choice of a merger or closure. In Madeley College's case, Sam Heafield favoured a merger with Keele

University because of its impressive sports facilities; but Staffordshire County Council, which held the purse strings, insisted on a merger with North Staffordshire Polytechnic.

Eventually, for geographical reasons, the Madeley facilities were closed in 1983, and trainee teachers were integrated into the Poly's main campuses. By then, a pioneering new degree course in sport and recreation had been created, which

blended PE with subjects like geography, politics, sociology and economics. Despite government cuts during the 1980s, it became a popular subject, surviving at its new home until it was split into five more specific courses in 1993.

Teacher training at what had been renamed Staffordshire University was moved out to a new campus in Lichfield in 1998, where it today exists as a brand-new School of Education under its head, Dr Michelle Lowe.



Poly pride: left top and centre, a new official logo didn't prevent students making up their own (bottom left). Bottom centre, a name change and the Staffordshire knot. Right, PE teachers in training and a very trendy prospectus

THE BINARY DIVIDE

One of the oddities of higher education in the UK between the Sixties and the early Nineties was the so-called "binary divide" between universities and polytechnics. The qualifications that students earned at the two types of institution were of an exactly equivalent standard. However, polytechnics lacked their own degree-awarding powers, so they were formally conferred by the CNAA (for degrees) or BTEC (for diplomas and certificates).

Many innovations that are now commonplace

in university-level education were being driven by the polytechnics – among them sandwich courses which included a year in the workplace, and more vocational, professionally oriented degrees. The polytechnics' lack of autonomy to award degrees became less and less defensible.

In 1992, Kenneth Clarke's Education Act would finally abolish the binary divide, bringing all providers of higher education into a single regulatory framework – and launching Staffordshire Polytechnic on the latest chapter of its history...

MEANWHILE...

1973 – Along with Ireland and Denmark, the United Kingdom join the European Economic Community (EEC), later to become the European Union (EU).

1974 – After the Watergate Scandal, US President Richard Nixon announces his resignation. His replacement is Gerald Ford.

1975 – When forces from North Vietnam take the city of Saigon, South Vietnam surrenders, and the Vietnam War ends.

1977 – The music world mourns the death of Elvis Presley at the age of 42.

1979 – The Conservatives win the General Election and Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first female Prime Minister.

1980 – Former actor Ronald Reagan, later Governor of California, is elected President of the USA.

1980 – Former Beatle John Lennon is shot dead in New York City at the age of 40.

1981 – Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer marry at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

1982 – After Argentina invades and occupies the Falkland Islands, Britain becomes involved in the Falklands conflict.

1985 – Top recording stars including David Bowie, Queen, U2 and Madonna join forces to raise £50million for famine relief in Africa at Live Aid concerts in London and Philadelphia.

1989 – The fall of the Berlin Wall paves the way for the reunification of Germany in 1990.



Multifaceted: the pioneering Octagon building. Below, IT tuition at Stafford

THE SEAL OF APPROVAL

In 1992 the Polytechnic received its Royal Charter as Staffordshire University, with full powers to award its own degrees – and student numbers continued to rise

Like other polytechnics across the UK, Staffordshire Polytechnic celebrated its achievement of university status in 1992. With its Royal Charter, the new Staffordshire University was freed from the authority of the CNAA (Council for National Academic Awards) which had previously accredited all its degrees. From now on, it had the ability to confer its own qualifications.

In May 1991, Prime Minister John Major had announced a package of education and training reforms, and one of these was to banish the “Binary Divide” – the distinction between polytechnics and universities. A White Paper called *A New Framework* established the Government’s reasoning: “At the heart of our reforms is the determination to break down the artificial barrier which has for too long divided an academic education from a vocational one.”

After the publication of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, some 35 polytechnics became universities later in the year. Because of Staffordshire’s

dramatic increase in student intake – there were now a total of 7,500 students, around 3,000 of them full-time – a programme of improvements was accelerated in both Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford. The new University also faced an accommodation shortage, so further residential areas were quickly planned and constructed.

At the heart of redevelopment on the Stafford campus was the four-storey Octagon building, completed in 1992. At its centrepiece of which was a concourse equipped with more than 300 computer workstations – at the time, a staggering concentration of technology.

With the town’s Beaconside base being so pioneering in its computing courses from the 1960s, it was entirely appropriate that the new facilities would become the nerve centre for courses such as computer science itself, software engineering, information systems and computer-aided design. When

the nearby Nelson Research laboratories faced closure, some of them were retained and formed the Nelson Library, which was opened by Lord Nelson of Stafford – fittingly, a former Managing Director of English Electric.

Back in Stoke-on-Trent, other major buildings were completed. In November 1991, the Pavilion was opened, which overlooked the site of the former Staffordshire County Cricket club. By the autumn of 1995, a new Law School (costing around £3million) had been constructed on the city’s Leek Road, to house the Institute of Industrial Law Studies (IISL).

In addition, the Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford bases of Staffordshire University shared a business school, which developed courses in enterprise, innovation and communications. It was a conscious bid to appeal to the region’s private sector – and has since sparked off many successful partnerships with the local business community.



KEY FIGURES:

LORD ASHLEY OF STOKE

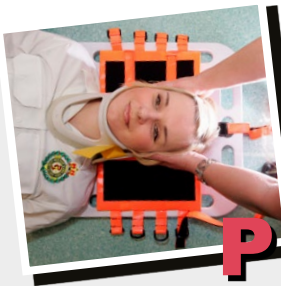
Lord Ashley of Stoke, Staffordshire University's first Chancellor, had an unusually varied background in manual labour, broadcasting and crusading politics. Born in Widnes in 1922 and one of four children, Jack Ashley lost his labourer father at the age of just five, and left school to work as a coal heaver. Yet he landed university places at Ruskin College – the adult-education centre at Oxford – and then Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, before joining the BBC in 1956 as a television producer. His credits included early editions of *Panorama* and the arts magazine series *Monitor*.

He was politically active throughout his life. Aged just 22, Ashley had been elected to Widnes Council, becoming the youngest borough councillor in the country. In 1966, he entered national politics, becoming the Labour MP for Stoke South. Soon afterwards he contracted an ear infection and lost his hearing, but was persuaded to

stay in his seat. In the years that followed, he became a committed activist in Parliament, seeking help and justice for disabled people, victims of domestic and sexual abuse and victims of bullying in the armed forces, amongst others.

In the 1990s, a cochlear implant restored much of his hearing; and in 1992, the same year he was elected to the House of Lords as a life peer, it was announced that Baron Ashley would be Staffordshire University's first Chancellor. He brought with him a great understanding towards the institution, and a natural empathy towards both students and members of staff.

He died in 2012 at the age of 89. Professor Christine King, the University's Vice-Chancellor Emerita, was one of many senior staff at Staffordshire to pay tribute: "He understood that to succeed, as an individual or as a university community, we have to stand up for what we believe in and be prepared to fight for it."



THE CARING PROFESSIONS

Staffordshire University expanded again in 1995 when it absorbed the Shropshire and Staffordshire College of Nursing and Midwifery. Even though its outposts in the Shropshire towns of Shrewsbury, Telford and Oswestry were retained, it was decided that the headquarters of the new School of Nursing and Midwifery would be on Blackheath Lane, at the centre of the University's Stafford operations.

The School has offered training and qualifications at a number of levels, from foundation courses to professional doctorates, and has operated its programmes in close

collaboration with employers in the health sector. It's also a leading centre for research, overseen by a resident Professor in Dignity and Care of the Older Adult and a Professor in Midwifery.

Since 1995, Staffordshire University's nursing and paramedic teaching programmes have gained particular acclaim. In the Guardian's University Guide for 2013, Staffordshire was ranked first in England for its courses. A further vote of confidence arrived in the National Student Survey, in which it was rated well above the national average by students across all eight main categories.



MEANWHILE

1990 – Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years. Four years later, he becomes South Africa's first black president.

1990 – Margaret Thatcher resigns as British Prime Minister. Her successor, announced six days later, is John Major.

1991 – In the Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm begins with air strikes against Iraq.

1992 – Democrat Bill Clinton becomes US President, replacing George Bush. He will serve two four-year terms.

1993 The Maastricht Treaty formally establishes the European Union.

1994 – The Channel Tunnel, linking England with France, opens.

1997 – After 18 years of Conservative government, Tony Blair's Labour Party defeats John Major in a landslide victory at the General Election.

1997 – Princess Diana dies in a car crash in Paris at the age of 36.

As the streamers were cleared away after the Millennium celebrations, it swiftly became clear that Britain was embarking on a period of unprecedented change in higher education. Tuition fees had been instituted for the first time, and maintenance grants were to be phased out in favour of loans. More and more institutions were about to accede to the title of “university”, making for a more crowded and competitive marketplace than ever before.

One of Staffordshire University’s responses was to make sure that every student had access to the best possible facilities. Over the past decade and a half, a programme of modernisation and renewal has transformed the campuses at Stoke and Stafford.

In 2006, for example, both campuses saw significant additions. At the Beaconside Campus, HM The Queen opened the Ruxton Technology Centre. This housed an industry-standard TV centre, plus a range of facilities geared to students in Computer Games Design, Music and Film Technology, Sports Technology and a host of other innovative courses.

Meanwhile at Stoke, former BBC Director-General Greg Dyke cut the ribbon on the new Broadcast Newsroom. The £1.5million development has helped turn Staffordshire University’s journalism courses into some of the most respected and successful in the UK, with graduates taking up positions in prestigious media organisations around the world.

However, the best was yet to come. The University’s most ambitious expansion scheme came to fruition in the Olympic year of 2012, when – appropriately – Staffordshire Graduate and double gold-medallist Andrew Triggs Hodge opened the new Science Centre. After two years in construction, the landmark £30million building opened its doors to become the centrepiece of UniQ, Stoke’s regenerated University Quarter.

The Centre has brought almost all the University’s science teaching and research under one roof for the first time, and represents a new age of commitment to the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). What’s more, it also serves the community, with public exhibition spaces and facilities that are shared with Stoke’s sixth-form colleges. In doing so, it stays true to the educational mission first embarked upon by John Cadman more than 100 years ago.

UNIVERSITY FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Since 2000, Staffordshire University has adapted to the new realities of higher education with an ambitious programme of modernisation



Learning central: the new Science Centre



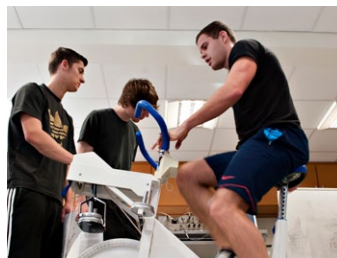
THE MARK OF EXCELLENCE

So in the year 2014, what's so special and distinctive about Staffordshire University? Many would argue that it's the quality of graduates who emerge from its programmes, having been able to enrich themselves through its top-class tuition and achieve their full potential. They're supported in this endeavour by the Staffordshire Graduate pledge – a scheme that represents the culmination of a century's excellence in higher education.

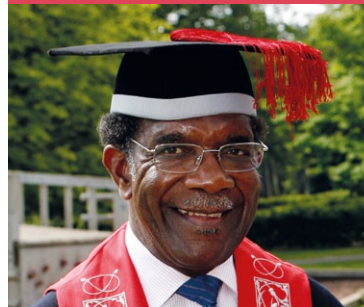
The Staffordshire Graduate promise is the University's commitment, both to students and employers, that everyone graduating from its degree programmes will not just be academically qualified. They'll also have an understanding of the real world and how they can make a mark on it.

While at University, Staffordshire Graduates have developed the key skills of employability, enterprise and entrepreneurship, making them attractive to employers and valuable to society at large. They are able to identify opportunities, find new solutions to old problems and understand both risk-taking and innovation.

Though only a few years old, the Staffordshire Graduate is an idea that has its roots in the very earliest traditions of practical higher education in the Potteries. And it's certainly working: the stories of graduate achievement in the "Alumni news" section of SA Magazine are a powerful testament to its success!



KEY FIGURES: LORD MORRIS OF HANDSWORTH



Lord Morris of Handsworth became the second Chancellor of the University in 2004, succeeding Lord Ashley of Stoke. Born Bill Morris in Manchester Parish, Jamaica, he emigrated to the UK to join his mother in 1954. He found work in a company that manufactured car parts, and soon joined the Transport and General Workers' Union.

After becoming a shop steward, Morris rose up the ranks of the union, holding a number of posts at a regional and national level. Morris became National Secretary of the Passenger Services Trade Group in 1979. He was later elected deputy general secretary in 1986, working under general secretary Ron Todd.

From 1992 until his retirement in 2003 he served as general secretary of the TGWU – the first black leader of a British trade union. In recognition of this work, he was awarded the Order of Jamaica and received a knighthood in the Queen's 2003 Birthday Honours. Finally, in 2006, he was elevated to the House of Lords as a Working Peer, taking the name of Baron Morris of Handsworth in the County of West Midlands. In Westminster, he pledged to champion "those without a voice" and has served on the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights.

In July 2011, Lord Morris stepped down as Chancellor after seven years' service, during which he achieved much to raise the profile of Staffordshire University.

ALUMNI TALES: MEL RAMSAY

Journalism graduate Mel Ramsay credits Staffordshire University with revolutionising her life. "I came from a very poor background and I'd lived independently since leaving home at 15," she says. "But Staffs Uni was

great at supporting me with bursaries, and I got a job in the Students' Union in the first year, which really helped."

She thrived on the course, securing an internship with Sky News, where she hopes to work in the future. After

graduation in 2013, she spent a year as Students' Union vice-president, and will be taking up the presidency next year. She says: "The atmosphere you get on campus is amazing. I don't think I would have got such support anywhere else."

MEANWHILE...

2000 – Despite widespread fears, disruption to the world's computer systems caused by the "Millennium Bug" is minimal.

2001 – New York's World Trade Center is destroyed and the Pentagon damaged by hijacked planes in the September 11 attacks.

2004 – The Boxing Day Tsunami causes widespread devastation around South East Asia and the Indian Ocean.

2005 – Angela Merkel becomes the first female Chancellor of Germany.

2007 – JK Rowling publishes Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, the final book in the hugely successful series.

2010 – Britain's first coalition government since the 1930s takes power, with David Cameron as Prime Minister.

2011 – Atlantis blasts off on Nasa's final Space Shuttle mission, more than 30 years after the programme's first flight.

2013 – Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999, dies.



WHERE DO YOU
WANT TO
GO NEXT?

Maintaining success in higher education means never standing still, and the University is aiming for excellence in its plans for development

MEANWHILE...

2016 – The vast majority of courses offered at Staffordshire University will now be offered at the Stoke-on-Trent campus.

2017 – According to research conducted by Staffordshire University and the Centre for Business and Economic Research, STEM-related occupations will account for 7.1% of all UK jobs. This will equate to 140,000 new jobs in the sector.

2020 – The Summer Olympics will take place in Tokyo. It is almost certain that Staffordshire University students will be involved in covering the games for the world media!

2025 – Stoke-on-Trent will celebrate its centenary as a city. The borough gained its city charter on June 4, 1925, after a direct appeal to King George V.

2026 – The planned year of completion for the first phase of HS2, the high-speed rail link between London and the West Midlands.

2035 – The number of university places needed in the UK will have grown to 460,000 (from around 368,000 in 2012) according to a report by David Willetts, the Universities Minister.

How will Staffordshire University look at the end of this decade – and beyond? The University Plan sets out the ambitions and goals to be achieved within the coming years. Here are some excerpts.

The University will be a leading provider of higher education. This will have been achieved by being an excellent teaching-led university, with staff delivering excellence in programmes and support for students who are at the heart of all University activities. All our programmes will be producing graduates with subject-specific knowledge and skills, and the attributes set out in the Staffordshire Graduate – in particular the 3Es of employability, enterprise and entrepreneurialism.

More students will be graduating with Staffordshire University awards having studied on campus, with our further-education college partners and with our overseas partners. We will have grown our part-time and online provision and will have increased our fast-track full-time degree provision. Through a renewed focus on social mobility and inclusion, we will have significantly contributed to the increased engagement in higher education of people who traditionally have not engaged.

Businesses will have turned to us to utilise our expertise; and our academic staff will have a reputation for excellence in teaching, scholarship and applied research that makes a difference to the curriculum we offer and to the businesses that engage with us. All our staff will be as skilled as we can support them to be.



Ever since the Staffordshire and North Staffordshire Colleges of Technology came together in the early Seventies as North Staffs Poly, each of the two sites has maintained its own character. The Beaconside campus at Stafford has always had the reputation of being a friendly, close-knit place, thanks to its small size. And as the University's main base for computing and engineering, it has always fostered a distinctively technological atmosphere.

This year, it was announced that Staffordshire University will be vacating the Beaconside campus by 2016 at the latest. All computing and entertainment-technology degrees will now be delivered in Stoke-on-Trent. The University is retaining and investing in its Blackheath Lane site as a base for its nursing and midwifery courses, as well as those in paramedic science and public health.

The decision to close Beaconside was not taken lightly. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Gunn, says: "It follows a considerable amount of work to understand how our estate is currently used. We have consulted widely with staff and local stakeholders, and we have consulted students and investigated what it is they want from a university education.

"It makes economic sense and will enable us to give our students the best possible student experience. Competition in the university sector has never been higher, and we need to put ourselves in the best possible position to attract students to our excellent courses."

Many Staffordshire graduates will have fond memories of Beaconside. Older alumni will remember DEUCE, the Technical College's vast valve-driven computer. Others will recall the rows of blinking computer screens in the Octagon Building – a state-of-the-art wonder when first unveiled in the early Nineties.

Then there's the accommodation: those who studied at Stafford in the Seventies may remember Brooke Court, the 16-storey tower block in which the Polytechnic's undergraduates were housed. Later students may have enjoyed the camaraderie of living in the Yarlet hall of residence.

The University has now embarked on a planning phase which will determine timescales for the move and the investment required in Stoke-on-Trent, so that the campus can comfortably accommodate the extra students.



First-rate facility: the new £200,000 Operating Theatre Training Suite at Blackheath Lane

KEY FIGURES: LORD STAFFORD

During the July degree ceremonies Francis Fitzherbert, the 15th Baron Stafford, will be inaugurated as the University's third Chancellor. He will be following in the footsteps of former Stoke South MP Lord Ashley of Stoke and trade unionist Lord Morris of Handsworth.

Lord Stafford has been involved in higher education for more than 25 years. He is a past pro-chancellor of Keele University, and in 1997 established the Lord Stafford Awards to help Staffordshire's universities develop closer links with the business world. The scheme was extremely successful in supporting university-driven innovation over 15 years, and many Staffordshire students became finalists or winners. The final set of awards were conferred in 2012.

Outside his work for the university sector, Lord Stafford served as High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 2005 – the first peer to hold the office since Medieval times. He has held a number of roles as patron of Midlands trade associations and several non-executive directorships, and continues to oversee the running of the 3,000-acre family estate at Swynnerton, around five miles south of Stoke-on-Trent.

Professor Michael Gunn, the Vice-Chancellor, says: "Lord Stafford has already proved himself to be a great ambassador for the county through his previous role as High Sheriff of Staffordshire. I am delighted that he has agreed to represent Staffordshire University at the highest level, as its Chancellor – an appointment confirmed by the University's Board of Governors.

"The honorary position of Chancellor was created when the institution was first granted university status in 1992. As such an important appointment is part of the University's history, it is especially fitting that the inauguration of the University's third chancellor happens in a year in which we celebrate 100 years of our education heritage."



“This is a year in which we celebrate 100 years of education heritage – and our direct and continuing support for local industry, the wider workforce and the regional economy.”

PROFESSOR MICHAEL GUNN,
Vice-Chancellor of Staffordshire University

“No telegram from the Queen but if ever one was deserved, this was it. A wonderful year to celebrate a century of exemplary education in the Potteries: academic, vocational, and most recently with the business school. It’s a totally multi-disciplinary modern university. Stoke is a lucky city and Staffs Uni is a blessing for it.”

EMMA BRIDGEWATER, ceramicist and
honorary Doctor of the University

“WHAT A FANTASTIC HERITAGE! I’M DELIGHTED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY – ONE OF THE MOST VIBRANT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS I HAVE EVER VISITED. MANY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ANNIVERSARY.”

*ANDREW MARR, broadcaster
and honorary Doctor of the
University*

“A HUNDRED YEARS AND STRONGER THAN EVER – WHAT AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY FOR THIS SEAT OF LEARNING THAT HAS SERVED STAFFORDSHIRE SO WELL. FROM DOUBTLESS QUITE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS WE NOW HAVE A VIBRANT, MODERN UNIVERSITY STRAINING EVERY SINEW TO ENSURE THAT SOME 20,000 FULL AND PART-TIME STUDENTS MAXIMISE THEIR POTENTIAL. WOULD OUR FOUNDING FATHERS HAVE IMAGINED THAT WE WOULD NOW HAVE 15,000 STUDENTS STUDYING OVERSEAS FOR STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATIONS?”

DAVID GAGE, Deputy Chair of the Board
of Governors and Chair of the University
Development Board

“Staffordshire University is a place where ordinary people can achieve great things – a University for the people. I was from a working-class background and it helped me become a solicitor-advocate involved with high-profile cases in the Crown Court. I wish the University the very best on its centenary, with the hope that it continues to provide an excellent education for a wide diversity of people.”

DANNY SMITH, lawyer, alumnus and benefactor

“Happy 100th birthday, Staffordshire University! My family’s long association with ‘Staffs’ is something I am very proud of. It is a hugely successful and inspirational university. Any visitor will immediately notice the warmth, ambition and sense of community.”

JACKIE ASHLEY, journalist and honorary
Doctor of the University