

News story: Huge economic boost for Scotland as Transport Secretary confirms new HS2 routes

- HS2 route decision set to bring massive economic boost to Scotland
- thousands of extra seats and faster trains to Glasgow and Edinburgh
- improved connections between Scotland, the north and midlands of England, and London

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling today (17 July 2017) confirmed Britain's new high speed rail lines which will create business opportunities, a boost in jobs and skills and thousands of extra seats on faster trains to Glasgow and Edinburgh from London.

HS2 will give an economic boost to Scotland, with the decision to award £6.6 billion of contracts to build Phase One of HS2 being announced today – supporting 16,000 jobs across the UK. More than 100 Scottish business have already expressed interested in these opportunities and we continue to encourage interested businesses to put bids in.

Scotland will be well served by HS2: Phase One, between London Euston and Birmingham, will see faster trains onward to Glasgow, to under 4 hours. By 2027, and the opening of the expansion of the network to Crewe, the journey between Glasgow and London will be reduced by 45 minutes compared to today. By 2033 journey times between London and Glasgow and Edinburgh will be reduced to around 3 hours and 40 minutes. Transport secretary Chris Grayling said:

Britain's new railway line will bring huge economic benefits to Scotland and help ensure this government delivers on its promise to spread wealth beyond London and the south-east.

But as well as creating skilled jobs, apprenticeships and business opportunities, it will also mean real day-to-day improvements for passengers.

I am delighted that my announcements today will unlock the full benefits of HS2 to Scotland and the north of England.

The UK and Scottish governments have been working closely with Network Rail and HS2 Ltd to ensure passengers in Scotland benefit from faster and more frequent trains.

UK government Lord Ian Duncan said:

The confirmation of these new routes is fantastic news. HS2 will

mean faster journeys for passengers travelling to and from Edinburgh, Glasgow and further afield – and it is a real opportunity for the highly skilled Scottish companies who will be bidding for contracts on this project.

High speed rail will also open up opportunities for Scottish businesses that export goods and services to England and Wales, as they reach their markets faster than ever before.

This is a landmark step in delivering HS2 – and it is good news for Scotland.

In March 2016 HS2 Ltd published a report called [Broad options for upgraded and high speed railways to the north of England and Scotland](#). The report was welcomed by both governments and a joint commitment was made to work with Network Rail to identify suitable options that could further improve journey times, space and reliability on routes between England and Scotland.

We remain on track to open the link from London to Birmingham in 2026, the route to Crewe in 2027 and the route to Leeds in 2033. Preparatory work on Phase 1 has already commenced, with major construction starting next year.

[News story: Commercialisation of quantum technologies: funding opportunity](#)

Businesses can win a share of £6 million to work with research organisations or other businesses on commercialising quantum technologies.

Innovate UK is inviting UK-based businesses to apply for a share of up to £6 million to commercialise quantum technologies.

This competition aims to encourage collaborative feasibility studies that will improve understanding of the technical or market feasibility of products or services. This includes projects that focus on understanding business or market opportunities and challenges.

You can apply for funding of both technical and non-technical projects:

- technical projects will develop and establish feasibility for devices that exploit phenomena such as entanglement and superposition.
- non-technical projects will involve work to understand issues such as future markets, applications or business models

Quantum technologies is a new and exciting £1 billion sector which we predict will grow over the next decade. The UK National Quantum Programme is funding this competition as part of the government's £270 million investment in establishing the UK as a global leader in this large and promising future industry.

- this competition opens today
- the application deadline is Wednesday 20 September 2017
- proposals must be collaborative
- a UK-based business or research and technology organisation must lead the project
- there will be a briefing webinar for potential applicants on Wednesday 26 July 2017
- projects should last between 3 months and one year
- total project costs should be between £40,000 and £500,000

[Press release: Number of children getting enough physical activity drops by 40%](#)

The number of children meeting the recommended amount of physical activity for healthy development and to maintain a healthy weight, which is 60 minutes a day, drops by 40% as they move through primary school.

A new survey from Public Health England (PHE) and Disney looking at the effects of physical activity on children's emotional wellbeing, found:

- being active made the majority of 5 to 11 year olds feel happier (79%), more confident (72%), and more sociable (74%), according to their parents
- nearly all children said they liked being active (93%)
- the main motivations for kids to be more active was having friends to join in (53%) and having more activities they liked to choose from (48%)
- children's overall happiness declines with age; 64% of 5 and 6 year olds said they always feel happy, compared to just 48% of 11 year olds
- 19% of children said they were less active due to a lack of sports or activities they enjoyed

To help kids do more activity throughout the summer holidays, Change4Life is today launching its national 10 Minute Shake Ups programme with Disney and schools across the country.

The programme offers fun, 10-minute activities for kids, featuring their favourite Disney characters and shows as inspiration. The activities, designed for children to do anywhere in small or large groups with their

friends, help children get more of the 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity they need each day for healthy development and to maintain a healthy weight.

Currently, just 23% of boys and 20% of girls meet the national recommended level of activity. Furthermore, 1 in 5 children start primary school overweight or obese, rising to more than a third by the time they leave.

Eustace de Sousa, National Lead for Children, Young People and Families, PHE says:

Children's physical activity levels in England are alarmingly low, and the drop in activity from the ages of 5 to 12 is concerning. Children who get enough physical activity are mentally and physically healthier, and have all round better development into adulthood – getting into the habit of doing short bursts of activity early can deliver lifelong benefits. This programme is part of our work to help children get the right amount of physical activity, both in school and out, as set out in the Childhood Obesity Plan.

The survey also identified the main barriers to physical activity and reveals that the worry of 'not being very good' was one of the most common, affecting 22% of children. This increases with age as it affects just 17% of 5 year olds, compared to 29% of 11 year olds.

The 10 Minute Shake Ups programme focuses on fun activities all children can do and is being supported by a number of Team GB athletes, including Olympic swimmer Keri-anne Payne, who have lent their voices to the campaign to encourage more children to take part and illustrate the benefits of physical activity.

Keri-anne Payne, Olympic marathon swimmer and ambassador of SportsAid, says:

Physical activity has always been an important part of my life, as I started swimming from a very young age. But being active is not just for Olympians, it's for everyone. The 10 Minute Shake Ups provide a load of fun activities to get kids moving more. Anyone can try them and they are a great way for kids, their friends and the whole family to get moving throughout the summer.

10 Minute Shake Ups is run in collaboration with Disney and Sport England. The new Shake Ups will feature characters from Disney Pixar's latest animation Cars 3, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Moana, Frozen Fever, and Zootropolis, as well as the stars of The Lodge.

Marianthi O'Dwyer, Vice President and Head of Disney Healthy Living UK says:

We know Disney stories and characters can help inspire children and families to be more active by making it simple and fun. As part of Disney's global healthy living commitment, since 2006 we have been looking at ways to support families to live more healthily.

Last year's successful Finding Dory 'just keep moving' campaign with the ASA and Change4Life saw over 70,000 families take part in family swim sessions at hundreds of pools across the UK. Highlighting the power of partnership, we are excited to continue working together with Change4Life on the 10 Minute Shake Up programme to encourage children to be more active.

Sport England will help families try new sports and physical activities locally, whether at their local park leisure centre or through a well-known sport.

Mike Diaper, Sport England's Executive Director of Children and Young People says:

Tackling inactivity is a key part of Sport England's strategy Towards An Active Nation, and we're supporting families and children to get active together, using National Lottery funding. We know that parents can find getting their kids to be active a challenge. That's why we're proud to be supporting the Change4Life 10 Minute Shake Ups with Disney, which uses storytelling to create a fun, and imaginative way for children and their parents to get moving, perfectly timed for the summer holidays.

Last year, the 10 Minute Shake Ups programme helped over a million children get more active. When children return to school in September, more activities will be released on the Change4Life schools website to encourage them to carry on being active both in and outside the classroom.

For more information, please search '10 Minute Shake Ups' online or visit: www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up.

The opinion survey for Public Health England questioned 1,005 children aged 5 to 11 and 1,004 parents of children aged 5 to 11 in England about their attitudes to physical activity and took place in June 2017.

For further information and interview opportunities please contact: Change4lifepressoffice@freuds.com or by telephone on 020 3003 6415 or 07949 717217.

Interviews are available with:

- Team GB Olympian Keri-anne Payne
- Eustace de Sousa (National Lead for Children, Young People and Families, PHE)
- Professor Paul Cosford (Director for Health Protection and Medical

Director, PHE)

- Marianthi O'Dwyer, Vice President and Head of Disney Healthy Living UK
- Mike Diaper, Sport England's Executive Director of Children and Young People
- case studies are also available on request

This year's 10 Minute Shake Ups are focused on exploring new skills and navigating through 6 magical Disney worlds. Worksheets styled as passports and suitcases will be distributed to the primary schools in England. Inspired by key characters from 6 Disney stories, children will be able to 'stamp' their passports with stickers every time they do 10 minutes of activity and pack their suitcase with Shake Ups ideas they have developed in class.

Lesson plans for teachers will also be available on the Change4Life School Zone website to get pupils practising and designing their own 10 Minute Shake Ups in school, to help them stay active all through the summer holidays. In the autumn term, more Change4Life lesson plans and activities will be available on the School Zone to keep pupils active throughout the school day.

Change4Life is a campaign run by PHE to help families to eat well, move more and live longer. [PHE](#) exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. It does this through advocacy, partnerships, world-class science, knowledge and intelligence, and the delivery of specialist public health. Follow us on Twitter [@PHE_uk](#).

Dr Ellie Cannon, GP and author:

Physical activity and participation in sport has been found to be linked to better child emotional and social development, and positive self-esteem which any parent wants for their child. Attitudes to physical activity are ingrained from childhood so participating in physical activity as a family is important.

About Disney's Healthy Living Commitment

In 2006, The Walt Disney Company made a global commitment to support parents and create healthier families by using its stories and characters to make healthy living simple and fun. Since 2006, Disney has been looking at the different ways it can support families to live more healthily.

This includes introducing robust nutritional guidelines for food and drinks as well as their advertising, offering content that positively focuses on healthier lifestyles such as Disney Channel's First Class Chefs and Aim High, and inspiring activity and healthier eating through programmes such as Change4Life '10 Minute Shake Up' and Disney's #HealthilyEverAfter marketing campaign.

About The Walt Disney Company UK and Ireland

The Walt Disney Company, together with its subsidiaries and affiliates, is a

leading diversified international family entertainment and media enterprise. Disney is a Dow 30 company and had annual revenues of \$52.5 billion in its last fiscal year, the highest in the company's history (FY15).

The Walt Disney Company has operated in the UK and Ireland for over 80 years, employing more than 2,900 people, and is dedicated to creating innovative, entertainment experiences for children and families. The Disney brand is experienced in a number of ways across the UK and Ireland including in cinemas, on stage with 'The Lion King', on TV screens with Disney-branded channels as well as non-branded content, through a wide range of consumer products that are sold at mass market retailers and in Disney Stores.

In 2008, Disney announced its partnership with Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity with a £10 million fundraising pledge towards the hospital's redevelopment appeal, which it achieved in October 2014. Disney continues to support the charity and provides unique and memorable experiences for patients and their families.

About Sport England

Sport England is a public body and invests more than £300 million National Lottery and government money each year in projects and programmes that help people get active and play sport.

It wants everyone in England, regardless of age, background, or level of ability, to feel able to engage in sport and physical activity. That's why a lot of its work is specifically focused on helping people who do no, or very little, physical activity and groups who are typically less active – like women, disabled people and people on lower incomes.

[News story: Graduation ceremony takes place for UK's first Degree apprentices](#)

Eleven Capgemini Degree apprentices were awarded Bachelors of Science (BSc's) in Digital and Technology Solutions, following 3 years of working at Capgemini combined with study.

64% of apprentices from Capgemini achieved a 1st class honours degree and all others received 2nd class honours degrees.

Skills and Apprenticeships Minister Anne Milton said:

I am delighted to offer my own personal congratulations to the UK's

first ever degree apprentice graduates. The hard work and commitment involved is truly admirable and highlights the opportunities apprenticeships can bring.

I hope this will encourage more people to consider a degree apprenticeship. It is a great way to earn while you learn at some of the UK's top Universities and to go on to secure a rewarding job. Well done to all the students and also congratulations to both Aston University and Capgemini for breaking new ground.

Also being recognised today at the Aston University School of Engineering & Applied Science graduation ceremony was Sue Husband, Director of the National Apprenticeship Service who collected an honorary Doctorate in Science (Dsc), conferred by Vice Chancellor, Professor Alec Cameron.

Sue Husband said:

I am absolutely delighted to attend the graduation of the first cohort of Degree apprentices in the country, for what is a momentous occasion.

Degree apprenticeships are a significant step forward, providing the opportunity to develop and nurture talented individuals, and are a key part of our apprenticeships reform programme – with the ambition of creating 3 million quality apprenticeships by 2020 – and includes apprenticeships at higher levels, in more occupations and sectors.

The 11 Degree apprentices receiving their degrees today highlight the significance of higher level apprenticeships and the benefits to apprentices and their employer. Capgemini must be extremely proud of their successes.

As someone who has worked in the education and skills sector for many years, it is also a real privilege for me to receive an honorary DSc. I am a huge advocate of the transformative power that gaining skills and qualifications has on a person's life and I am thrilled to have been recognised by Aston University.

Degree apprenticeships give people the opportunity to attain a Degree from some of the country's best universities and higher education institutions whilst training in a top flight career. They are already available in sectors such as Automotive, Banking, Digital Industries, Chartered Surveying, Aerospace and the Nuclear industry. Many universities and colleges are offering higher and degree apprenticeships across the country.

Higher and Degree apprenticeships are available at levels 4 to 7 and combine work with study and may include a work-based, academic or combined qualification or a professional qualification relevant to the industry. Level 6 is equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree and level 7 is equivalent to a

Master's Degree. Typically, higher apprentices study part-time at college, university or with a training provider.

Currently, over 240,000 workplaces employ an apprentice including Capgemini, Ford, ITV, Airbus, Rolls-Royce, Barclays and the BBC, alongside many small and medium sized enterprises. There are between 12,000 and 20,000 apprenticeship vacancies across all levels on the [find an apprenticeship](#) site at any one time.

Find out more about [apprenticeships](#) on GOV.UK.

Press release: Bicentenaire de la disparition de Jane Austen

Véritable icône de la littérature britannique, l'écrivain Jane Austen est disparue le 18 juillet 1817. Avec ses livres et ses personnages, aussi adulés au Royaume-Uni qu'en France, le bicentenaire de sa disparition est symbolique des liens historiques et culturels qui unissent nos deux pays. Pour célébrer son œuvre, l'Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne en France et le British Council ont préparé une saison culturelle dédiée à Jane Austen avec un bal, un cinéma en plein air, des conférences et une compétition pour visiter sa ville fétiche.

Le Bal Jane Austen: Une discothèque du début du 19ème siècle

La saison culturelle a démarré le 30 juin à la Résidence de l'Ambassadeur avec l'association Carnet de Bals qui a effectué une démonstration d'un bal de l'époque de Jane Austen devant des jeunes Français étudiant l'anglais et des associations de fans de Jane Austen. Accompagnés par des musiciens et habillés en robe et costume d'époque, les membres de l'association ont fait valser la Salle de Bal de la Résidence, elle-même construite au début du 19ème siècle. Suite à la démonstration, les étudiants et autres invités ont rejoint la piste de danse pour un cours de danse à la Austen avant de danser aux rythmes plus contemporains d'un DJ électro. Résultat : une discothèque qui a chevauché les 19ème et 21ème siècles en plein cœur de Paris.

Le Cinéma Jane Austen: Raison et Sentiments et Orgueil et Préjugés au clair de lune

Les soirs du 10, 11 et 12 juillet, trois adaptations cinématographiques des œuvres de Jane Austen ont été projetées sur grand écran dans les jardins de la Résidence de l'Ambassadeur. Malgré la menace de pluie, plus de 500 fans de Jane Austen, dont des gagnants d'une compétition organisée par Livre de Poche, se sont installés sur des plaids et dans des transats prêtés par La

Villette, pour savourer le drame, la romance et l'humour de Raison et Sentiments, Orgueil et Préjugés, ainsi que Bridget Jones inspiré par ce dernier. Les invités ont pu apprécier une courte intervention dédiée à chaque film par Marie-Laure Massei-Chamayou, maître de conférences en anglais à l'université Panthéon-Sorbonne et expert en Jane Austen. Avec en bonus l'option de déguster un Pimms – cocktail estival so British – ainsi qu'un fish'n'chips du food-truck installé au fond du jardin.

Les Conférences Jane Austen

Deux conférences (en anglais) organisées par le British Council. La première à la [Sorbonne](#), le 18 juillet, et la deuxième au [British Council](#) le 21 juillet avec Nicolas Watson, spécialiste de la littérature romantique du 19eme siècle, qui explore l'influence de 'L'Austenmania' sur la culture britannique et européenne.

Compétition pour visiter la ville de Jane Austen

Compétition en ligne organisée par [Visit Britain](#) pour un weekend à deux au [festival de Jane Austen](#) en septembre à Bath, ville régence classée au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO et où l'écrivain a vécu. La compétition ferme le dimanche 23 juillet.

Si vous ou des membres de votre rédaction souhaitez couvrir ces événements ou avoir plus d'informations, merci de contacter [Tess Mendibe](#), Tel : 01 44 51 33 39.

Le programme bicentenaire de Jane Austen s'inscrit dans notre programme 'Les Voisins', lancé en mars 2017 par Leurs Altesses Royales le Duc et la Duchesse de Cambridge lors de leur première visite officielle à Paris. 'Les Voisins' célèbre les liens culturels, historiques et humains entre la France et le Royaume-Uni, vécus au quotidien par les centaines de milliers de Français et Britanniques qui habitent, travaillent ou voyagent de part et d'autre de la Manche.

Pour en savoir plus sur notre campagne ['Les Voisins'](#).

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