

## In The News | 22nd February 2024 | Latest Rail News

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In a big step forward for the East Coast Digital Programme (ECDP), new technology has now been successfully commissioned between Welwyn Garden City and Hitchin, bringing digital signalling on the East Coast Main Line a step closer.

Engineers have worked around the clock between Saturday 17 and Tuesday 20 February to carry out the



work.

Later this year, the first overnight test trains will be operated, in preparation for the first digitally signalled trains on the main line to run from 2025.

The results of a survey suggest 75 per cent of people in Bedford support the East West Rail (EWR) project.

An article on the BBC website says the £5bn railway line will link Oxford and Cambridge via Bletchley, Milton Keynes and Bedford.

A poll of 1,000 residents on behalf of the company building the scheme also found 83 per cent believed it would improve how people travelled in the area.

A rail training academy designed to support hundreds of new training and employment opportunities has been launched in the West Midlands.

An article on Insider Media Limited says the Transport, Rail and Infrastructure Academy (TRIA), which has been developed by the City of Wolverhampton College and National Infrastructure Solutions (NIS), will give individuals entry and advanced skills required to gain sustainable jobs, whilst also meeting the demand for skilled operatives to work in the construction and maintenance of train lines, tram routes and stations.

The launch took place at TRIA's new site at the Black Country Innovative Manufacturing Organisation's (BCIMO) Very Light Rail National Innovation Centre in Dudley, where the mayor Andy Street also cut the ribbon on a new Signalling Academy.

A guitarist has told how he combines playing around the world with his band and his railway job.

An article on the BBC website says Robb Weir founded heavy metal band The Tygers of Pan Tang in 1978 in Whitley Bay.

But for the past 22 years, he has been combining his rock 'n' roll life with working at train operator LNER's customer experience team.

Photo credit: Network Rail