



## Technicians Newsletter– Feb 21

Welcome to the latest edition of the TechNet newsletter aimed at providing relevant information to all Warwick University technicians. This newsletter will be produced monthly and if you have anything you would like to add, please email: [technicians@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:technicians@warwick.ac.uk).

### Getting to Know...

In a series of highlighting our Technicians here at Warwick we look at one of our School of Life Sciences Staff member's:

**Name:** Kevin Murphy

**Dept:** School of Life Sciences

**Role:** Senior Support Technician



#### 1. What does your role involve....

I work as a Senior Support Technician for SLS, though the role also includes helping out with Warwick Medical School and Clinical Research Labs on the University Hospital site at times. My role involves supporting all the users of the School of Life Sciences, so that their research and other work can continue as efficiently as possible. The job is primarily a reactive role, responding to the changing needs of the department. We ensure that new starters, contractors, and site visitors have the correct information, through inductions on arrival and further training to ensure they are safe while they are on the site. I help with the planning and rearranging of labs and office spaces, I make 3d computer models of the spaces as this helps with the visualisation of the areas much simpler. I create short videos to help with inductions and training, especially during the current pandemic.

#### 2. What is the most rewarding part of your job....

I find that the most rewarding part of my job is being given a task or problem and working a way around it to make it work as this gives me a chance to use a lot of different skills and often stretches me. Its most rewarding when those work a rounds are successful.

#### 3. When did you join Warwick and how ....

Before joining Warwick I was a Senior Lab Technician in a school. I wanted to expand my skill set and look for other opportunities, so in 2018 took on a role with the Chemistry Department Stores Team. In 2019 I managed to get a position with the Chemistry Technical Team, which allowed me to use a wider range of my skills, particularly regarding facilities and general problem solving. I recently moved to my current role with the Life Sciences Technical Team, where I'm gaining knowledge from a more established team, and am hoping this will help encourage the sharing of good practices amongst different departments.

#### 4. What if any advice would you give others....

Always look for the silver linings in any given situation. It can be very difficult but sometimes it is the only way to make it through the day.

#### 5. What are your hobbies....

I enjoy Photography, painting and drawing, I also enjoy making things, some small, some big, from carved wood jewellery to a huge infinity curve for a friends studio. I enjoy constantly learning new things and putting them into practice. I also enjoy cycling (sometimes).

#### 6. Tell us an interesting fact about yourself....

I spent six months in Tanzania doing marine conservation research which included a lot of SCUBA diving, on my 24<sup>th</sup> birthday we saw a Humpback Whale mother and Calf which was amazing. It still is one of the best moments in my life.

#### 7. If you were moving to Mars what three things would you take and why.....

My camera, so I could take lots of photos. A computer/tablet loaded with books, music and movies to keep me entertained during the night. And finally Matt Damon, as he seemed to cope quite well out there the last time he ended up there.

# Technicians Commitment– Action Plan

The University submitted the Stage Two Self-Assessment and 36 month Action Plan for our Technician Commitment to the Science Council. All the documents submitted are published on our [TechNet pages](#)

## Social Media

*Don't forget for all information related to Technicians please visit the website:*

*<https://warwick.ac.uk/research/technicians>*

*Email us : [technicians@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:technicians@warwick.ac.uk)*

Also please follow us on our twitter:  [@technetwarwick](#)

## Papin Prizes

**Nominations open for the Papin Prizes - recognising the achievements of technical colleagues across UK higher education and research.**

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Papin Prizes, which will be awarded at a special ceremony at HETS 2021. The Papin Prizes recognise the outstanding work that higher education technicians do to ensure that the highest possible quality of teaching and research can be delivered. For more information visit: [UK Higher Education Technician Summit \(midlandsinnovation.org.uk\)](#)

## Extra Annual Leave

In recognition of the significant level of support from the staff community to meet the challenges the University has faced over the last few months, all members of staff will receive four additional annual leave days over Easter.

## Careers Advisor

**TALENT Technical Careers Advisor - Dr Michelle Jackson**



Michelle is the TALENT Careers Advisor and is available to speak to any technical member of staff at Warwick about their career. There is a careers page added onto the TechNet [website](#). Michelle can be contacted via email [Michelle.Jackson@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Michelle.Jackson@nottingham.ac.uk)

## Apply for MI Technical Training and Empowerment

Please remember there is applications available to various MI Talent funds such as (Technical Placement Scheme, Technical Conference & Skills Fund and Technician Led Training Fund). The applications are open until 5 March 2021 with the programmes to be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Further details and how to apply can be found [here](#). We expect conferences/training courses to be mainly virtual in this period of time. The placements will occur when coronavirus restrictions have lifted but we are still encouraging Technicians to apply.

*Our Technician Commitment  
Your future, our focus*