



Myton School students celebrate "Jess Carter" train naming with teacher, Rachel Cole

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West Midlands Railway names train “Jess Carter” after local Lioness ahead of Euro 2025

West Midlands Railway (WMR) has today (Tue 1 Jul) named one of its newest trains in honour of England footballer Jess Carter as the Lionesses prepare to defend their Euros title.

Experienced defender Jess, age 27, grew up in Warwickshire and pupils from her former secondary school were among the guests at a special ceremony in her honour at Leamington Spa railway station this morning.

Jess has won more than 40 caps for the Lionesses and was a member of the triumphant squad which famously lifted the Euro 2022 trophy at Wembley in front of 87,000 fans. She started in the 2023 World Cup final and is expected to play a key role in the upcoming Euros tournament, which kick off in Switzerland tomorrow (Wed 2 Jul).

Jonny Wiseman, WMR customer experience director, said: “The incredible success of the Lionesses in recent years has been inspirational for the country and we are thrilled to celebrate Jess’s achievement as a local footballer in this way.

“The West Midlands is passionate about football and by proudly bearing Jess’s name we hope this train will promote and encourage women and girls to get involved in sport and possibly inspire the next generation of Lionesses.

“In the meantime, we’ll be cheering the Lionesses all the way as they defend their title in Switzerland this summer.”

Rachel Cole, teacher at Myton School, said: “Jess was a talented all-round athlete and it has been inspiring to see how her career has progressed since leaving school.

“From winning titles to representing her country in the World Cup final, everyone at Myton is incredibly proud of what she has achieved and we’ll be supporting her and the Lionesses all the way this summer.

“We are delighted to play our part in naming a train in Jess’s honour and we hope it can help inspire the next generation of Jess Carters to achieve their sporting potential.”

Born in Warwickshire, Jess played youth football for Warwick Juniors before signing for Birmingham City aged 16. She later transferred to Chelsea, where she won five consecutive Super League titles, completing the domestic treble in 2021. Jess now plays for top American side NY/NJ Gotham FC in the National Women’s Soccer League.

The newly-named “Jess Carter” train is part of the Class 196 fleet with the unit number 196002. The fleet came into service in 2022 on routes to/from Shrewsbury and the trains now serve destinations across the West Midlands

including Hereford, Worcester, Nuneaton, Coventry and Leamington Spa. The trains include modern features such as smart air conditioning, WiFi, power points at every seat and improved accessibility.

The train naming ceremony took place with the support of Chiltern Railways, operators of Leamington Spa station.

About London Northwestern & West Midlands Railways

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- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast Main Line to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street and Birmingham Snow Hill.

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