

Date: 30th April 2026

Celebrating the career of Jane Cooke

Colleagues at Chester and Wirral Microbiology Services are celebrating the career of Jane Cooke, Senior Biomedical Scientist, who retired on 29th April 2026 after almost 40 years in science.

Jane has been an important part of the CWMS team for many years, but her career began long before that. It all started with a job advert in the Manchester Evening News, where Jane spotted an MLA post at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Following her time in Manchester, Jane moved to Stockport NHS Foundation Trust in March 1998, joining as a Medical Laboratory Assistant and working her way up through the ranks. In February 2008, she moved to the Countess of Chester Hospital as a Biomedical Scientist.



When Countess of Chester Hospital and Wirral University Teaching Hospital merged services in 2012 to form Chester and Wirral Microbiology Services, Jane continued to grow with the service. In 2016, she secured her position as Senior Biomedical Scientist, giving the service 10 years of invaluable leadership and expertise in that role.

During her time at CWMS, Jane has worn many hats. She has been the lead for Medical Laboratory Assistant staff, providing a consistent and trusted point of contact for colleagues. She has also been a NEQAS lead, overseeing external quality assurance, and has been the key person for designated laboratory sections including Blood Cultures and General Wounds.

Many colleagues will also know Jane as the “authorisation queen”, carefully checking reports before results are released to clinical requestors. Her knowledge, accuracy and attention to detail have supported high standards across the laboratory.

Jane has also been a font of knowledge for Senior Biomedical Scientists recruited in more recent years, who are extremely grateful for her guidance and support.

Colleagues describe Jane as the lab's "mother hen", approachable, reassuring and full of both professional wisdom and real-life experience. She is known for talking sense, keeping everyone grounded, and knowing exactly when to step in and when to simply listen.

What colleagues will miss most is Jane's caring and calming nature, her expertise, enthusiasm and constant readiness to help. She has always been someone people could talk to and seek advice from, part coach, part referee and occasionally a miracle worker.

Jane has always stepped up and made herself available for the lab, often without being asked. She is someone colleagues could truly rely on when it mattered. Her experience has guided many people, and her standards have shaped the way the team works every day.

Not only has Jane been a valued colleague and mentor, she has also become a good friend to many of those she has worked alongside.

While colleagues are incredibly sad to see her go, they are also pleased to know she is trading lab coats for the landscapes of Scotland.

Jane, thank you for everything. Your contribution to Chester and Wirral Microbiology Services has truly made a difference and will not be forgotten. We wish you a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.