Press Release

23 March 2022

Avanti West Coast's Climate Train is named "Opportunity"

- *Pendolino used for the Climate Train named following nationwide competition*
- *Winning name and nameplate emblem will be attached to the wrapped train*
- *Industry partners commit to using Climate Train to reduce carbon impact on route*

Avanti West Coast's Climate Train will now be known as "Opportunity" following a nationwide search to find a worthy name.

A competition on social media was launched last October after the Pendolino was wrapped in a unique design championing rail travel, as part of Avanti West Coast's partnership with Eurostar to transport delegates attending the COP26 Climate Change Conference between Amsterdam and Glasgow.

The successful suggestion was put forward by Kyla Louise Poulton, 18, from Milton Keynes, which was picked by an Avanti West Coast panel from 150 entries.

There was also a contest to design the emblem on Opportunity's name plate, which will adorn the Pendolino. That was was won by 10-year-old Luca Fazakerley from Liverpool, who created the artwork themed on what the planet meant to him.

Kyla explained she took inspiration from Avanti West Coast's Pride Train, which is named Progress.

She said: "The name was an idea I had after talking to my friends. We knew about the Progress train name, so I wanted to come up with a name that was on a similar line to that so that they were linked in some way.

"I just thought about how I see the future of transport is being changed by climate change and how trains represent an opportunity to provide low emission transport services," she added. "It's just very cool to have your chosen name on a train because I use them so much."

Luca, speaking about his winning design, said: "I just couldn't believe it when I was told I won the competition."

He continued: "When I see the train out on the line with my picture on it, I'll be like: 'I made that. That's mine!'"

The pair were each presented with their own replica nameplates and the original will be attached to Pendolino (390121) in the coming weeks.

Earlier this month Avanti West Coast and Eurostar were recognised with a special honour at the prestigious Golden Whistle Awards for their efforts to showcase rail during COP26 with the Climate Train. The journey saw hundreds of delegates arrive at St Pancras on a Eurostar train from Amsterdam to connect with a Pendolino at Euston taking them to Glasgow.

Alongside Avanti West Coast and Eurostar, the event was organised in collaboration with Dutch rail operators NS and ProRail as well as Youth for Sustainable Travel.

Opportunity is also wrapped in a unique design, with slogans including "Our planet means the world to us" and "Ride against climate change". The wrap was applied with the support of Aura Graphics, train builder Alstom, and rolling stock company Angel Trains who own and invest in the Pendolino fleet.

Avanti West Coast, Alstom and Angel Trains have also recently signed an agreement to commit to working collaboratively to use Opportunity as a trial train to continually reduce the carbon impact of the Pendolino fleet and in turn the West Coast Main Line to provide a sustainable, safe, as well as an attractive transport journey for passengers.

The announcement comes as Avanti West Coast hosts its Sustainability Week, which is designed to share stories internally and externally about the intercity operator's efforts to make rail travel greener – recognising initiatives it has delivered over the last 12 months and how it plans to build on these.

Head of Sustainability at Avanti West Coast, Gareth Williams, said: "Kyla couldn't have picked a more fitting name and Luca's emblem looks fantastic.

"'Opportunity' showcases our commitment to climate change and protecting our planet. As the train travels up and down the West Coast Main Line it will provide a constant reminder that we can all do more to reduce our carbon emissions and one simple step could be taking the train, as a low carbon form of transport, to 'ride against climate change'."

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Avanti West Coast

Avanti West Coast, operator of intercity rail services on the West Coast Main Line, is a joint venture between FirstGroup and Trenitalia, delivering a cleaner, greener railway that drives the West Coast forward.

We're on a mission to revolutionise train travel, linking together the towns and major cities of the UK to create an iconic railway the country can be proud of. We've got big plans including a fleet of new intercity trains, as well as the complete refurbishment of the existing Pendolino train fleet. We will introduce more train services every week with new routes added, and a much-improved onboard service with enhanced free Wi-Fi, plug sockets, 25,000 brand new seats and improved catering. Since 8 December 2019, passengers have benefitted from improved passenger compensation, available for journeys delayed by just 15 minutes.

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