

Employ-ed NEWS...

Issue 7

June 2011

Students pass Business Challenge



Students from across Ayrshire got the chance to experience the pressure of the Apprentice boardroom at this year's Schools Business Challenge.

The annual event, which is hosted by NATS at Prestwick Centre, challenges teams of six students or fewer from nine schools in the local area to compete against each other in a tricky business project.

The challenge aims not only to test their business, teamwork and presentation skills, but also gives them a chance to see the range of potential careers available at NATS.



NATS Information Solutions Manager at Prestwick Janine Taylor, who organised the event, said: "It's the third year we've held the challenge and we wanted this year's to be the best yet.

"This year's challenge set the students the task of designing a recruitment campaign for young people. Working within a set budget they could use any types of media to get their message across, but we wanted them to put particular focus on destroying the perception that we only do air traffic control here at Prestwick."

Students had a few weeks to prepare their projects before they were invited into the centre to present to a team of NATS senior management.

Janine said: "We also like to throw a curveball in on the day to give students experience of the real-life challenges they'll face in the workplace, so we reduced their expected presentation time down to only five minutes on the day, letting them use breakout sessions to adapt their presentations accordingly."

In addition, the students got the chance to hear from a variety of guest speakers, including Cpl Martin Cassidy and Sgt Gary Shand of the local RAF Recruitment Centre and former NATS employee Danny Anderson, who now runs his own successful events

Business Gateway Ayrshire support Queen Margaret Enterprise project!

The Business Studies department recently ran an introduction to Marketing Competition with the higher Business Management class. The class was split into four groups. As part of the competition each group had to design and make a prototype of a product and develop a marketing strategy to support the launch of this product.

The groups then had to construct and deliver a presentation on their product and marketing strategy to the class and to judge Mr Frank Gormanley Marketing Support at Business Gateway. Mr Gormanley was very impressed by the amount of hardwork and effort that had gone into the presentations and the creativity and innovation demonstrated by all the groups.

Mr Gormanley delivered positive and constructive feedback to all the groups and presented prizes and certificates to the winning team "Smiley Pops" with their idea of lolly pops for adults aimed specifically at adults attending music festivals. The winning team consisted of, Tashana Johnstone, Jemma Beck, Katerena Nowosad and Paul Hough.

The Business Studies Department would like to congratulate all those who took part, the standard of work for the competition this year was phenomenal and a good time was had by all. A special thank you however must go to Mr Gormanley from Business Gateway for stepping in at the last moment to judge the competition, for his professionalism in judging and in his very positive and motivating feedback to all the pupils.



Troon Primary Science Week

Troon Primary held a very successful Science Week from Tuesday 3rd to Friday 6th of May. It was an exciting week, which provided the pupils with opportunities to work with a wide range of visiting specialists, carrying out investigations and working collaboratively. Throughout Science Week, the pupils were encouraged to develop their natural curiosity and understanding of our living, physical and material world.

Each stage of the school worked on activities based around a mini-theme. We had a busy schedule! Here are a few of the highlights.

Early Level – Nursery and P1

Our Nursery and P1 classes focused on Living and Growing.

Nursery Classes

The Nursery classes worked with Animal Man and his mini-zoo; participated in an Owl Magic Workshop; set-up a Butterfly Garden and grew plants with Mr Fraser of Fraser's Garden Centre in Dundonald.



Primary 1

P1 learned about invisible life through working with a local scientist, Frank Wayman. They also participated in workshops with Animal Man and Owl Magic. Mr Fraser taught them how to grow food by planting seeds. By working with Dundee Science Centre, P1 learned about 'Healthy Body Bits' and they thoroughly enjoyed joining Generation Science for a 'Day or Night' Science Show.

First Level – P2, P3 and P4

Primary 2

P2 pupils learned about The Senses by: going on a 'sounds walk'; making model ear drums; and examining how our eyes filter light. Rosemary, our school cook, organised a tasting session, where the pupils sampled sweet, salty, sour and savoury foods. P2 also learned about how animals use their senses by working with Animal Man and Owl Magic. At the end of the week, P2 had a great time 'Investigating the Senses', participating in activities led by a parent who has specialist skills in teaching science. Finally, P2 learned 'How to be a Scientist' with Dundee Science Centre.



Primary 3

P3 learned about flight through participating in: an Aircraft Design Challenge with Gillian Cameron of Spirit Aero-systems; working with Troon Primary parents who have specialist skills in and knowledge of flight and an Owl Magic workshop in which they learned about how owls fly. Our P3 pupils also joined Dundee Science Centre to find out about Healthy Body Bits and will participate in a Generation Science 'Day or Night' Science Show.

Primary 4

P4 were very busy learning about light and shadow through examining how light travels and carrying out investigations into the colours in light. They participated in a photography workshop with a local photographer, Eddie Telford, and a Shell education Workshop.

P4 also had a fantastic time carrying-out investigations with Fab-Lab – they were very fortunate to visit the Fab-Lab Mobile Workshop which was set-up in our playground for the day! At the end of the week, P4 joined Dundee Science Centre for a 'How Does Sound Travel?' experiment; met with the SSPCA to learn about caring for animals and participated in a 'Wonderful World of Water' Science Show with Generation Science.

Second Level: P5, P6 and P7

Primary 5

P5 learned about Materials from Earth through examining the structure of the earth, constructing model volcanoes and making replica sedimentary rocks. They worked with Neil Smith, from Dolphin House Outdoor Education Centre, visiting Barassie Beach to explore the area for igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. P5 also took part in a 'How Does Sound Travel?' investigation with Dundee Science Centre, a SSPCA workshop and a Science Related Careers talk with Ayr College.



Primary 6

P6 pupils focused on the Solar System, participating in a: Shell Education workshop and a Thrust and Flight Challenge with Coreen McCubbin of Spirit Aero-systems. The pupils worked in co-operative groups to research the planets and present their findings. P6 were also involved in a 'How Does Sound Travel?' investigation with Dundee Science Centre and a 'Wonderful World of Water' Science Show with Generation Science.

Primary 7

P7 pupils learned about Renewable Energy through taking part in: a generating electricity experiment with a parent who has specialist knowledge in the field of electrical energy; activities on renewable energy sources led by scientist Chris McGinnis; a workshop on renewable energy in our local area with scientist Frank Wayman and a 'Hydrogen Fuel Cell Cars' investigation with Neil Smith from Dolphin House. P7 also participated in a workshop with the SSPCA, a Generation Science 'Wonderful World of Water' show and a 'Cells and Genes' activity with Mrs McClymont, who worked as a scientist before becoming a teacher.

Science week was made possible by a generous donation of £1000 by our Parent Council Fundraising Group – a huge thank you goes to them. Also, the profits made on the Tempest Photographs earlier in the year, a further £1000, was also used. We would also like to thank Gill Cameron from the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce for help in contacting visiting speakers. Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to all of the parents and STEMNET ambassadors who worked with the pupils to bring learning to life.

Fiona Paterson,
Troon Primary School



Farming Burns—a historical trail for Ayrshire children

“The Royal Highland Show came to Ayrshire!” one teacher said, commenting on the Estate Day which took place on the SAC Auchincruive Estate on 30th March.

Well, not quite! But 400 Ayrshire children from 15 schools did enjoy 22 activities and demonstrations which included working Clydesdale horses (Ruth and Bell), sheep dog demonstrations with Liz, shoeing of the big horse Otis, carriage driving, woodland activities such as coppicing and greenwood turning, as well as many more. The Farming Past and Present estate day was organised by the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) Ayrshire & Arran Countryside Initiative.

This themed day focused on farming past and present, with 22 activities and demonstrations available to the children, provided by costumed volunteers from the rural industry. Staff from the Burns’ Birthplace Museum enacted some of Burns’s poems – in period costume. There were also costumes from Dalgarnen Mill for the children to try on in the historic rooms of Oswald Hall, as well as watching a demonstration of spinning. The children got a real feel of life as a farmer, both now and in the Ayrshire in which Robert Burns lived and farmed. This day tied in with their studies of Robert Burns’ poetry, plus topics of food and farming in the classroom.

The P6 pupils saw John Morton’s Clydesdale horses harrowing a field, a demonstration of sheepdog trials with Peter Hetherington (of ‘One Man and His Dog’ fame), old-fashioned carriage driving with Mugs Montgomery, and the shoeing of a horse by Alan Ferrie.

One popular activity focused on tractors, old and new, including a ploughing demonstration with a vintage tractor. Another favourite activity took place in the apiary, identifying the important Queen Bee in a bee-keeping demonstration by Tony Riome and members of the Ayrshire Beekeeping Society.

Hands-on activities included making butter and grinding grain, as well as the ever popular activity of milking Rheeta, the local RHET dairy cow. The children also had tours of the farm yard seeing cows and calves, sheep and lambs. In the woods they were able to see the skills of coppicing and green wood turning.

Primary schools attending from East Ayrshire were St Andrew’s, St Sophia’s, St Patrick’s, Catrine, and Mauchline. North Ayrshire schools were St John’s Ogilvie, Winton, Blacklands and Dregghorn. Dalmilling, Annbank, Newton, Kincaidston, St Johns, and St Ann’s represented South Ayrshire.

One pupil from North Ayrshire reported on her day:

“My day at Auchincruive was very good and I would go there again. Auchincruive is a working farm with animals, workers and farmers. When we got there the first thing we got to do was to go inside the Oswald Hall in a nice big room and we got to dress up in different clothes. Then we got to see the spinning wheel and how you use it. Then when we left the hall we saw a farmer and his pony going to market.

My favourite thing on the trip was the bee keeping. We got to see the queen bee and the way we spotted her is because she had a white dot on her head. After we spotted the queen bee we all got a sticker. Also in the bee keeping room we got to see the honey on the honey comb and how a worker bee works and what the queen bee does all day long. That was amazing to see.

My next favourite thing was the sheep rounding. The sheep dog was called Liz and the owner was called Peter. Peter can whistle differently to Liz the dog to tell her what to do like run clockwise and run anti-clockwise, even tell her to come here and he does not even need to speak to her. Peter has been at this job for over 60 years. Liz is only 3 but she is properly trained.

I can also remember the horse shoe making. It was very loud. Jim Ferry was the man who made the horse shoes. He is a world class horse shoe maker and he makes lots of shoes each day. He makes the shoes for a horse called Oatis. He is a very big horse.”

The children may have differed on which activity was their favourite but there was general agreement that “It was a brilliant day!” and “I would go there again!”

Commenting on the events of the day, RHET Project Co-ordinator Susan MacDonald said: “The children really seemed to enjoy the range of activities provided. They had choices to make about what they wanted to see. They were engaged in the presentations and activities and they asked the providers interesting and relevant questions. It is definitely an event which RHET would like to run again at Auchincruive.”



A strong foundation *By Taylor from St Matthews Academy*

“I had the choice of two firms of architects to go and do my work experience with, and chose North Ayrshire Council. When I was in the office, I asked to design my own house. To do this, I used Google Sketch-up and I received a lot of help and friendly advice from the staff as well. I was also taken on site visits to experience how an architect influences the site. I also got to experience how the surveyors and technicians work alongside Architects.

I think that this was a good experience as I now have a better understanding of the job I would like to do”

Examples of Taylor’s work:



“Taylor came on his work experience with a clear idea of what he wanted to do, and he made the most of his time at North Ayrshire Council. This will benefit him in his future career. He settled in well during his week at North Ayrshire and would be a useful addition to any office. We wish him well in the future.”

North Ayrshire Council

A secure experience

By William from James Hamilton Academy

Dear Mr Sivewright

S4 Work Experience placement

I am writing to thank you for taking your time to give me an experience within your company. I learned a lot from the experience and I am thinking of going to College to study Electrical Engineering and hopefully this will give me the added skills to apply for a job at Fortress Security. Could you also thank the rest of the team for giving the time to teach me the skills of the business and making me feel like part of the team, it was very much appreciated.

Thanks again!

Yours sincerely

William



Smiles all round

by Sophie of Garnock Academy

Work experience at Kilbirnie Dental Centre was beneficial to me because it has opened more options to me for a career. It was a really good experience. The staff were all very friendly and helpful towards me. There was always smiles and laughter; I would definitely recommend to anyone to give the experience a shot. From working at the Dental Centre I have learnt more about oral hygiene and how to take good care of your teeth.



Stacey Gilmour, Senior Dental Nurse

I feel work experience is a good way to give young people an insight into a job before making final decisions on a career and let them work out if the job is right for them. All the staff at Kilbirnie Dental Centre enjoy having the pupils here and telling them the pros and cons of the job. They are a very good help to us we miss them when they leave. I think more businesses should get involved in the programme as we have all got to start somewhere!

Creative Culture *by Merlin Currie , LX Arts*

For Carrick Academy pupils Claire and Lewis, old clothes were essential.

The difficulty for us in offering work experience is not knowing what we’ll be working on at the time, but, it is ‘more real’ as the pupils commented, to be doing something relating to their interests with a view to helping them make informed career decisions.

Having a glimpse of the creative industry in however small a way is valuable and we also gain from the young people’s fresh objective approach.

To show how partnerships between industry and the arts can benefit the community certainly impressed the students and their subsequent recognition of the need for versatility, practical experience and creative qualities not covered by the curriculum culture, was gratifying.



A rewarding experience all round!

School pupils Determined to Succeed

Craft Town Scotland was once again involved in the Determined to Succeed (DtS) programme delivered across all three local authorities by the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce. DtS is the Scottish Government's strategy for enterprise in education and its aim is to foster an enterprising culture where young people can develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

Claire Baird of ACCI contacted Maggie Broadley looking to find an inspirational maker to take part in Blacklands Primary School's Food and Textiles week – and once again Lorna Reid of chookiebirdie fitted the bill. Lorna takes up the story:

"This project started with a call from Claire Baird at Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce inviting me to speak to the pupils of Blacklands Primary School in Kilwinning as part of their 'Food and Textiles week' held in March of this year. I was keen to participate as I have a strong belief that innovation, creativity, imagination and artistic talent are important skills that are often undervalued. I believe these skills should be nurtured and encouraged in all people - especially young children - all of whom inherently have these qualities.

I spoke to the upper school pupils about my career in textile design: being a self-employed designer, where I get my inspiration from ,and the process of creating and selling printed textile designs and fabrics. The lower school pupils heard of my business 'chookiebirdie' in West Kilbride where I design and hand make gifts and bespoke household accessories. It was an inspiring day with lots of interest from the pupils, some searching questions and overall great enthusiasm for the creative process. I also received an enormous amount of support and enthusiasm from Yvonne White, Principal Teacher, on the day.

Children from the whole school entered a competition to design a cinnamon heart (one of my most popular products) for me where the winning designs would be interpreted in felt and stitching.

This competition had a fantastic response and the standard of designs was very high making my choice difficult. In the end choosing two winners was near impossible and I decided to recognise another four designs as very close runners up!" The pupil's design work and the finished cinnamon hearts were on display in the Craft Town gallery space in the Happyhills corner studio.

Maggie Broadley was delighted to offer the space.

"Lorna showed me the designs and the finished cinnamon hearts and I was amazed – the level of design work from the pupils was quite astounding and Lorna's faithful recreation of them into finished cinnamon hearts was a joy. Lorna and I agreed it would be wonderful to let the public see the result of the project, which would also give the pupils a taste of the whole process from design to making to exhibiting".

Pupils, their families and Yvonne White, Principal Teacher, came along on Thursday 2nd June for the preview of the show – this was the first time the pupils had seen their prizewinning designs made into a 3-d reality. As a small memento of the day each pupil was given a 'Budding Designer Award" certificate from Craft Town Scotland but the real prize will be taking the cinnamon hearts based on their designs away as a permanent reminder of their experience.

Thanks to Blackland's Primary School pupils and staff, Claire Baird of Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Lorna Reid for their dedication and enthusiasm.

Here is the list of prizewinners and Lorna's comments on why she chose them:

Joni Faddes Primary 3 Age 7 Winner

I call this the 'Story book heart' - with its pretty ribbon reminiscent of the beanstalk and its jolly sun it reminds me of an illustration in a story-book.

Joni has done a lovely job with the tree, it is beautifully drawn and along with the simple fresh colours and perfect placement of each element the design was a pleasure to stitch.

A very accomplished design Joni - well

Shannon McDonald Primary 7/6 Age 11 Winner

Shannon obviously put a lot of thought and effort into her design and I was particularly drawn to her explanations and design tips!

I chose Shannon as a winner because her design was perfect for my techniques of working - I could immediately see this in felt and knew it would look good.

It's kind of like a chookiebirdie design but completely different at the same time. The colours are not obvious but they really work. The placement of all the elements is very good and they are all motifs I am particularly fond of!

Now that it is stitched my favourite bits

Gary Brown Primary 1 Age 6 Runner up

I call this the ' Art Heart'. I was immediately drawn to the design because of its unusual and confident use of colour, shape and line.

I would never normally mix these elements in this way but Gary has done it really successfully. This heart has a modern abstract feel and I very much enjoyed the challenge of interpreting Gary's design in felt.

In truth I'm still not sure I've done this lovely design

Saul Todd Primary 2 Age 6 Runner up

Wow! What a fantastic design challenge from Saul - I had no idea how I was going to stitch this when I chose it but I knew I had to try!

I love all the colours and the vibrancy of the lines and I think it's made a beautiful heart.

It's completely different to my style and to achieve the look I had to use multiple layers of felt: something that was new to me and I really like the result. I will definitely be developing this technique in the future - thanks Saul , your design was truly inspirational!

Holly Grimes Primary 5/4 Age 9 Runner up

This is a classic chookiebirdie design with a twist! I was immediately drawn to Holly's design because of her fantastic use of punchy colour and of course the dots!

I have never used beads in this way on one of my hearts but they were the perfect way to interpret the small dots - I think they look like hundreds and thousands! It's a party heart!

Adam Smith Primary 6/5 Age 9 Runner up

Adams design with its lovely lines and bold bright colour made me want to stitch the minute I saw it! I knew it would be fun to make and would have a high impact with its bold colour and texture and that is why I chose it!



Good food, good times at Kilmarnock Academy

Merchants, Kilmarnock visited Kilmarnock Academy recently to assist with the preparation for exams. Alisdair Hood, Owner got the students and teaching staff off to a great start by motivating the pupils and giving them some inspiration and ideas for their challenging test this year. It was inspiring for the pupils to see first hand the standard of skill and presentation that practice and dedication can bring, and to hear about your experiences in the real world of Hospitality.



Alisdair at work



Student lends a hand



Finished demo

Money talks

Auchinleck Primary recently held a Finance week which was a great success, with the children taking part in a wide variety of activities and meeting a number of local business people.

Mr and Mrs Beatson who own and run the Boswell Arms in Auchinleck gave a most interesting insight into the running of their business. The children were fascinated by the fact that Mr Beatson is the only chef and cooks large numbers of meals on a regular basis.

A number of staff from the local Tesco told the children about various aspects of running a large supermarket.

Mr J Davidson who is the secretary and treasurer of Ballochmyle Golf Club informed the children of the different ways in which the golf club raises money. The children showed a keen interest and this was reflected in their questions.

Mr Allan Morris, a former pupil of Auchinleck Academy has set up his own business called Mint Cosmetics. Again the children were interested and also challenged by just how hard he has to work to make his business successful.

There was also input from Mrs Lindsay Walker from The Royal Bank of Scotland, Mrs Wendy Murray from the Finance Department of East Ayrshire Council and Mr Ronald Courtney who works as a volunteer for the Financial Education Partnership. The interactive activities provided by the Royal Bank allowed the children to be fully involved. They were able to write cheques and withdraw and deposit money. They were amazed when Mrs Murray told them how much money it costs for their education.

The children had a most worthwhile week and have learned a great deal!

Early years Enterprise at Gargieston Primary

This year we have worked with two authors - Matthew Fitt during our Scottish week and Aileen Patterson at the beginning of the session. The children loved these hands on session, learning all about the process of writing a book as well as some interesting Scottish words!

John Gall from Brownings the Baker came along with Lisa to teach us how to decorate a cupcake. We had a delicious, and very messy, afternoon adding icing, sprinkles, chocolate buttons and Smarties to our cakes. It was hard to resist licking the icing on the way home!

Warburtons came and worked with us on healthy eating. We learned about the different types of bread you can get, how to keep germs out of your food and then had the chance to make our own healthy sandwich. We were lucky enough to get a loaf to take home and share with our family.

When we were studying the Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch the Coastguard came to talk to us about keeping safe at the seaside. This was an interesting afternoon and followed on from our visit from the Firefighters when we got to try shooting water from the high pressure hose and wearing the protective clothing.

Maxine Gough from Love Divine Inspirations came along at Scottish week and made delicious shortbread with us, we have worked together with Maxine on lots of occasions, it was great to see her again.

Pauline Adams taught us some Zumba steps in May - this was great fun although a little tricky at times! Centrestage also kept us fit and healthy this year with a music theatre workshop and catwalk skills day ready for our own fashion show at the end of June.



Thanks to everyone who supplied an article!

**EMPLOYERS—To find out about how you can link with a local school or
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