



Employ-ed NEWS...

Issue 8

Dec 2011

A big thank you!

Local organisations do a great job working with schools and pupils recently organised an evening to say 'thank you' to around 100 business leaders.

East Ayrshire Council held an Employer Recognition Event in Grange Academy that highlighted the work that local business bosses do in classrooms across East Ayrshire or through the work experience programme, which gives youngsters a taste of working life.

The event was organised by Grange Academy first year pupils who designed and produced certificates for the employers. Ross Fitzpatrick, Gemma McCabe and Emma Laird were excellent young hosts, while other pupils also attended to greet guests and present certificates.

A string quartet played at the start of the evening as guests enjoyed refreshments made by pupils in the hospitality class. Talented third year musician Rebecca Herd also played guitar and sang.

Local business leader Marie Macklin gave a presentation on the employers' perspective and pupils from different schools spoke about their involvement with organisations. Councillors Hugh Ross and Jim Roberts, Spokespersons for Lifelong Learning, attended along with Executive Director of Educational and Social Services Graham Short and Head of Schools Andrew Sutherland. Councillor Hugh Ross said: "This was an excellent evening which was organised and run by the young people themselves. We clearly have many talented budding entrepreneurs in our schools and I know the employers who attended were very impressed by their achievements".

Councillor Jim Roberts said: "The commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by so many local business leaders in continuing to work with pupils in schools and also in offering work experience opportunities is to be commended. This support plays a major role in helping young people prepare for the world of work".

Schools and companies involved in the presentations were:

- Silverwood Primary and East Ayrshire Credit Union (Silverwood Savers)
- Park School and ACT Business Services (Young Enterprise)
- Auchinleck Academy and Hope Homes (Pathways to Employment course)
- Dalrymple Primary and Proof is in the Pudding (Charlie & the Chocolate Factory)
- Cumnock Academy and SFA (Football Academy)
- Nether Robertland and Dean Park Ranger Service (John Muir Awards)
- St Andrew's Primary and BTCV and J Wilson & Son (Outdoor Garden)
- Loudoun Academy and Beekeepers Association (Support for Learning project)



Blooming Marvellous

S3 Intermediate 1 Biology students from Irvine Royal Academy participated in a 'hands on' horticulture lesson at SCOTPLANTS, Beith.

Douglas Boatman demonstrated a variety of key skills to the students that make up part of their Growing Plants topic in Intermediate 1 Biology, including stem, leaf cuttings and grafting. Under the guidance of Douglas students were then allowed to take a variety of cuttings from different plants. The students will return in the spring to see how their cuttings have progressed and developed, and will be allowed to take the cuttings home for their own garden.

The students were also given a tour of SCOTPLANTS, seeing all the different procedures, machines and plants that the company has at their disposal. This part of the trip was of particular use as it is things that we simply cannot deliver to them in the classroom setting.

The students had a wonderful time and we have received a lot of positive feedback from them. Experiential learning opportunities such as this help to develop the understanding students have of the essential elements of the course.

Ayrshire pupils are top class

Keen fifth and sixth year pupils from 23 secondary schools from all over Ayrshire took the opportunity to find out more about careers in the NHS. In total 230 pupils attended an Awareness Day at Ayr and Crosshouse Hospitals.

Staff from a range of disciplines and departments were on hand to talk about their work, including; Addiction Services, Catering Services, Healthcare Science, Nursing and Pharmacy.

The pupils took part in interactive information sessions and saw demonstrations of clinical equipment before taking part in an Inter-Schools Challenge quiz.

During the Ayr Hospital event Auchinleck Academy and Marr College emerged victorious with Loudoun Academy and Stewarton Academy winning at Crosshouse Hospital. The winning schools all received a trophy donated by Enterprise in Education Development Teams from the three local authorities.

Lynne Todd, Assistant Director Human Resource, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, commented: "On behalf of the department I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who participated in making this such a successful day."

The Icing on the Cake

Sixth year students at Greenwood Academy, who are studying Intermediate 2 Creative Cake Production, took part in a workshop led by Pauline and Gail from Cake of Your Dreams in Prestwick.

Gail demonstrated the art of model making before the students had a go on their own. There were a few interesting expressions on faces – concentration on the part of the students, and happy smiles on the models.

Pauline then demonstrated how to gradually add petals on to a base shape to form a rose. The Home Economics Department are grateful to both Pauline and Gail for giving up some of their valuable time to work with the group and assure us that the group are now enjoying practicing their newly acquired skills in class.



Ooh La La

Class Chat from St Matthew's Academy

When we were told that Glasgow Prestwick Airport was holding a film-making competition to win a trip to Paris, we jumped at the chance and began brainstorming! After months of hard work, we won!

When the day finally came to pack our suitcases and say goodbye to our parents at Prestwick Airport, we were filled with anticipation and excitement. We arrived in the city at 9pm, and our first sight was the Eiffel Tower, lit up in all its glory. We walked through the Champs Elysees, and saw the Arc de Triomphe at night.

The following morning we went on the metro and made our way straight to the Eiffel Tower. It looked even more astounding than we could ever imagine. Even though we never got to go to the top of the tower, from the second floor, the view of the city was incredible. Walking down all the stairs made us realise just how high up we were!

Making our way to the train station, our stomachs were growling with hunger and we were more than happy to see quirky streets filled with small restaurants. We had a memorable meal, and some of us were brave enough to try escargots! (Snails!) We then went to the Notre Dame, but spent so much time taking photos of it, we didn't have enough time to go inside! Then we returned to the Champs Elysees one last time to see the astonishing Arc de Triomphe in daylight.

Sadly, by then it was time to leave. Flying home to Scotland, we realised how much we had accomplished in one day, and of course, just how tired we were! It was an amazing experience we will never forget and will cherish always.





It's a gas, gas, gas by Brian O'Neil

Thousands of Ayrshire teenagers have had their first taste of life in the workplace thanks to the Work Experience programme.

Run by Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the scheme encourages local businesses to provide opportunities for Work Experience for young people within schools in Ayrshire, offering pupils the opportunity to prepare for the challenges of working life.

One of the most recent success stories is that of 15-year-old Belmont Academy pupil Ryan Simpson, who completed a one-week placement with Ayr-based gas service company O'Neil Gas.

Ryan spent his week with gas engineer Colin Hume, during which time they visited a range of customers to inspect, service and fit new gas boilers. Colin has worked as a gas engineer with O'Neil Gas for 12 years and was impressed with Ryan's enthusiasm as he shadowed him on the job.

Colin said: "I really enjoyed passing on my knowledge to young Ryan. He was very keen to learn about all the aspects of gas safety and the workings of a gas heating system. If this is the career path he chooses to take then I'm sure he'll have benefited from his time with us."

Ryan said: "I study all the science subjects at school and I had an idea that I wanted to become a plumber or gas engineer. After my week with Colin I am now sure that's what I want to do because I really enjoyed my time on the job with him."

O'Neil Gas Manager Brian O'Neil said:



"Our company has always been proud of its links to the community through various channels, including our apprenticeship programme which we have been able to run successfully due to being the current gas maintenance contractor for South Ayrshire Council and Ayrshire Housing.

"This is the second year we have participated in the Work Experience scheme and I am sure that Ryan will have gained a valuable insight into life outside school and gained valuable knowledge of what it's like in a working environment.

"Over the past seven years we have taken nine school leavers into the company, trained them and now employ them full time as highly qualified gas engineers. The Work Experience scheme has benefited greatly from the Chamber's involvement and youngsters like Ryan will have reaped the benefit of a structured and well-organised programme."

Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry took over the programme in 2008 and is working hard within the business community to offer as many placements as possible, enabling the pupils to make links between subjects studied at school and their relevance in the field of work.

Each year about 4500 pupils are given work placements within Ayrshire, with the Chamber and local businesses working around school timetables to provide maximum opportunities for the fourth year pupils.

Chamber spokesperson Helen Laverie said: "The pupils benefit in many ways, including a development of skills, an understanding of working life and raised awareness of rights and responsibilities, equal opportunities, health and safety and environmental implications in the workplace."

Any business interested in taking part in the Work Experience Programme should contact Helen Laverie at Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 01292 678666.



Here at William Kennedy Plumbers we feel it is very important to give the youngsters an insight of working life ... we understand that times are very difficult at the moment for school leavers to get into the workplace, however the work experience programme really does help them by letting them see working life first hand.

We have participated in the work experience programme for some years now and hope that it has helped the young people focus on what is required of them by an employer . My chat with them at the end of the work experience week helps them gain further experience I advise them to "stick in" at their



Lee of Ayr Academy

studies and stress how important they are. I go on to wish them all the best in their career but I always finish with note of what I look for in a potential employee ----- I'm looking for someone with a "good attitude towards work and someone that will apply themselves to the best of their ability" you can ask no more.

Beth "in action"- what a joy she was! Such a lovely, polite, well-mannered girl- who worked extremely well - she spent the week split between the two businesses- down-stairs in Renaldos she was serving customers, helping with the ice cream, filling up etc- but most of the time was spent in the chocolate factory upstairs-I showed her once what to do, and she repeated everything, step by step, exactly as I'd shown her with no wastage. We have told her that as soon as there is a space available-she's hired!!



We pride ourselves on our staff-but eventually the older girls move on to other jobs, taking with them the experience and confidence that we have given them.

We now believe that the Work Experience programme is a valuable tool which we will use from now on to recruit our staff.

Thank you so much-we'll have more of the same please!

Linda Galli CHOCOLATI - for Handmade, Hand Selected Luxury Chocolates

Beth of Belmont Academy



Business Advocates Programme

by David Ritson

St Joseph's Academy's approach to enterprising and entrepreneurial thinking is at the forefront of innovative practice in Scottish Education today. Enterprise is at the heart of what we do. It is not about creating a school full of business people; or about saying anyone can start and run a successful business. It is about cultivating enterprising, creative habits of mind and behaviours in all that our young people do.

Here at St Joseph's Academy we have a vision to develop a curriculum which is pupil-centred and teaches the high order skills needed for an ever changing and uncertain world.

To do just that the Business Advocates Programme was conceived three years ago. We believe that the partnership between the school and business is essential to developing an exciting, relevant and coherent curriculum that will best serve all of our pupils, staff, stakeholders and business community. Our discussions with prominent local business people supported by The Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce highlighted the desire from the business community to be involved in the development of their "Client or Employee of the future". The Programme was developed to be a sustainable and mutually rewarding partnership.

What started as an idea to engage with business three years ago has evolved into an organic way of working. As far as we are aware there are no other examples of partnership programmes on this scale. The success of the Business Advocates programme is continually praised by the myriad of partners we have, from local to multi national companies as being forward thinking in its approach and highly creative in its delivery. In June 2011 we reached the finals of The Scottish Education Awards in the Enterprise & Employability category.

To date our young people have cooked and appeared on STV's The Hour Show with Michelin star chefs from Braehead cook school; created a news piece on the rejuvenation of their town with James Matthews, who is Sky News Scotland Bureau Chief Reporter; debated nuclear power with British Energy/EDF Representatives; created original theatre for The Klin Group; practiced CV writing and interview techniques with Barr Construction; secured apprenticeships with Thales Optronics. Pitched to; John Howie Managing Director - Marine Babcock | Marine & Technology Division, Peter Lederer CBE, FIH, MI Chairman, Gleneagles Hotels Ltd, Gordon Mitchell, General Manager Caledonian Paper UPM-Kymmene Corporation. These are a few of our partnership examples and the relationships continue to grow.

"The BAP is a pioneering project that is 'Leading The Way on how business and education can work together .This in turn is creating the future entrepreneurs of Kilmarnock and Scotland who have the belief that they can make change. The BAP programme is equipping future generations of entrepreneurs with the skills and aspirations to aim higher .It is not a case of 'No We Can't but a 'Yes We Can' attitude . It's this change which will result in a new breed of Young Scots who will create a growing economy which will lead to increased employment opportunities for future generations and be recognised world wide. Whatever you are doing – you are doing something right. Keep doing it" Marie Macklin The Klin Group – our first Business Advocate.

If you are interested in investing in the future product / client of the future then please contact David Ritson or Ben Davis on 01563 526144 or alternatively Gill Cameron at The Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber get involved too!

Amy – Belmont Academy Work Experience



Doing my work experience at The Ayrshire Chamber was an amazing experience. I had the opportunity to attend and help out at many of the events such as the Business to Business Exhibition as well as meeting some amazing people like Alf Young. The talk with Alf Young was the highlight of my week however all of my experiences this week have been very memorable. From the Renewable Energy Roadshow to going out on potential member visits the very busy week kept me working hard and gave me a real taste of working life. The time I have spent at the Chamber has been fantastic and I have learned and gained a lot from work experience.

Drongan Primary 7s Hope Home development at Knockroon

Hope Homes Scotland recently played host to 40 pupils and staff from Drongan Primary School when they visited the Knockroon visitor centre and show homes as part of the Education Industry Link that has been in place between the school and Hope Homes for many years.

During the visit the pupils were able to try their hand at many activities including bricklaying, surveying and marketing. At the end of the visit, the children took part in a quiz with lucky winner Bailey Hannah receiving a book token as his prize.

All at Hope Homes feel that the Education Industry Link and visits like these provide a valuable and positive learning tool. They are hopeful that in the not too distant future, they will see some familiar faces taking up apprenticeships in the building trade. This will not only result in helping to alleviate the national skills shortage but will provide useful and rewarding careers for those who take up the challenge.

Thanks to everyone who supplied an article!

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

OR

SCHOOLS—To feature your school events or good news stories please contact one of the Business Liaison Team on

01292 678666