

Working in partnership with our three local authorities we help expand employer involvement in education.

YOUR knowledge & expertise will help our young people develop the necessary skills for learning, skills for life & skills for work required to help them go on to create a smart successful AYRSHIRE.

## Employ-ed NEWS...

Issue 2

March 2010

### Ayrshire's ACE Young People

Business people from across the region were the first to share in the celebrations of the first ever Ayrshire ACE award. The award developed by the Education Business Links team at Ayrshire Chamber recognises **Achievement, Courage & Endeavour** of young people of senior school age.

Three finalists; Gregor Keachie from Kilmarnock Academy, Melissa Robson from Largs Academy and Kieran Wardrop from Prestwick Academy, were invited to attend the Chamber Annual dinner where they were called up on stage in front of a 500 strong crowd to receive their prizes from David Frost, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce.



Melissa Robson, Gregor Keachie & Kieran Wardrop

Congratulations goes to Gregor Keachie, the overall winner on the night. Gregor was nominated by his school for his determination and positive attitude to life. Diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta when less than 24 hours old, Gregor, now 16, is a keen musician and sportsman, playing principal cornet in the school Brass Band and wheelchair basketball for the West of Scotland.

### U Can Do it 2!

Over 500 S2 pupils from secondary and special schools in East Ayrshire attended a workshop event recently in the Park Hotel.

**U CAN DO IT 2!** Roadshow was organised by the Determined to Succeed team in conjunction with Business Liaison Officers from Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce.

Appropriately focused Career Education is one of the main strands in this initiative. It is important pupils are aware of local & national opportunities & have the chance to talk to & work with employers.

This was a highly successful day due to the immense amount of work put into the workshops by all 18 organisations in attendance. These were: Alzheimer's Scotland, Arnold Clark, Ayr College (Fashion), Ayr College (Construction), British Energy, Galleon, Goodrich, gr8enterprises, Kilmarnock College (Childcare), Kilmarnock College (Hospitality), Land Engineering, Martin McLachlan Photography, Occupational Therapy, PULSE Recording Studio, Royal Air Force, Solar Wind Applications, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue, United Renewables Ltd.

Following an introduction by John Wilson, Links Officers in Arts & Education all pupils attended two of the interactive workshops and then had the opportunity to visit all other workshops to gather information.

A big thank you goes to all organisations involved for giving of their time.

Cookery demo at U can Do it 2 Roadshow from Kilmarnock College Hospitality Students

Gregor said, " I had a brilliant night and was really pleased to have won the award, I really didn't expect it, it was great!"

Claire Baird, Business Liaison Co-ordinator said, "To read about some of the daily challenges some young people face is truly inspiring. We recognise the courage and achievements of all the nominees, selecting the finalists was not an easy task. We wish them all every success in the future."

### Return to Sender

This year's **Work Experience** paperwork is on its way and Helen and Suzanne can't wait to have the forms returned to them with the updated info for 2010/2011 placements.

We have taken your comments on board and hopefully you will find them easier to complete. So if you can return the paperwork in the pre-paid envelope provided we would be most grateful.



# Employ-ed NEWS...

## Parlez-vous Français?

Queen Margaret Academy developed a partnership with **IBM** as a result of their **European Languages Day held** on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2009. Following on from this very successful event IBM returned to QMA to speak about creating a link with the Modern Languages Department. Various suggestions were made such as competitions, mentoring and speaking sessions with native speakers who are employees of IBM. It was decided that dialogue sessions would be most beneficial as Higher Speaking makes up 25% of the Higher French & Spanish exams & it was felt that the positive impact oral sessions would have on the results for the Higher Languages pupils was too good an opportunity to pass up.



A European Union

From November to January two French employees and three Spanish employees came to work with the Higher Languages classes once every fortnight during their double period. They started with warm up games to help the pupils relax and lose their inhibitions about speaking in a foreign language. The sessions got more intense as they continued and the IBM employees began working with small groups of pupils on their spoken French. In the final session the employees were working one to one with pupils communicating solely in the foreign language.

Alba Minaur, Eva Maria Mayo Zamorano and Abraham Cabrera from the Contact Centre in IBM attended the school fortnightly. Alba was impressed by the level of Spanish they have and their enthusiasm: "They are very enthusiastic and it looks that they have already acquired some confidence in language".

Emillie Genest and Delphine Hotua shared their French skills fortnightly. Delphine think this is a wonderful initiative: "What is more encouraging than having native speakers to talk to? The pupils are really motivated and we try to do some role plays so that they don't feel they are working and it improves their self confidence".

This has had an incredibly positive impact on the Higher Languages pupils & they were very sorry to see the employees leave in January. The feedback from the pupils was nothing but positive & most importantly the results of the speaking exams were excellent.

## Bright Sparks

Callum with John McKissock

So far this year, **McKissock Electrical** have had two bright sparks out on Work Experience; James Bell of Marr College & Callum Provan of Prestwick Academy.



John McKissock said we believe it is an excellent opportunity for pupils to see first-hand whether or not they would be suitable for a career within the electrical contracting industry & also gives us an opportunity to see for ourselves any potential candidates for future employment.

Both pupils were enthusiastic & hard working individuals who demonstrated what the scheme is really all about; giving young people the chance to try out different careers & opportunities for themselves on a practical basis which cannot be replicated in a classroom environment.

We are delighted to have been associated with the Scheme in the past & hope to be involved for many years to come. Wishing all past and future participants the very best in their chosen careers.

## Show your Fashion

**Matalan**, Kilmarnock have kindly offered the use of their store for any school wishing to host a fashion show...so what are you waiting for???

You can raise funds through Ticket sales, raffle, selling cake & candy or light refreshments. Matalan provide you with a venue and up to the minute fashion garments. Sunday Evenings only and they are exclusive to you!!

**For more info contact: Graeme Whiteside, Store Manager  
on 01563 555040**

## Money, Money, Money!

In order to develop Financial Education Auchinleck Primary School held a Money Week from 1<sup>st</sup> February until 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

The school invited several local people in to talk about starting a business. These included Mrs Kirkpatrick who has recently set up *Diva Dance Wear* in Auchinleck & Mrs McMurdo of *The Wee Bakers* in Auchinleck. The pupils really enjoyed hearing about how to start up a company. The fact they may use these companies made it even more relevant.

During the week, representatives from the Bank of Scotland & the Credit Union came into school to talk about how to budget money. A whole school poster competition then followed, with pupils designing posters about budgeting.

All pupils in the school had the opportunity to save pretend money throughout the week. They were then able to spend their money in order to take part in fun activities during Golden Time on Friday afternoon.

Auchinleck's Money Week has heightened the awareness of financial matters in a fun and relaxed manner.

## Employ-ed NEWS...



Ryan Byrne on the job

### Made to Measure

Janette & Robert Gibson of **James T Young & Co** were delighted to have two pupils from Marr College on work experience. Janette & Robert said both Ryan Byrne and Emma Farnington were bright, enthusiastic pupils with a keen approach to the tasks set them. They were not afraid to ask questions and seemed to enjoy their work experience. They were given a wide variety of jobs to carry out & observe within the workroom & our staff enjoyed their company. Both pupils seemed quite at ease in the working environment & we felt both would be an asset to any future employer.

### Work Experience...Lets Talk

Our very own Helen Laverie went along to parents evening at Queen Margaret Academy to give parents of S4 pupils a presentation on the Work Experience Programme. Also keen were Prestwick Academy who opted for Helen to show pupils and parents the WorkIt System & to answer any questions they had on Work Experience.

**Please contact Helen & Suzanne if you are interested in having an informative presentation on work experience at your school.**

### Every Little Helps...

Morag Gower is the new Community Champion based at **Tesco Extra**, Kilmarnock. Morag is keen to link with local schools in Kilmarnock & the surrounding district and will happily help support things such as **Health Weeks, Store Visits, Visits from the Tesco Opticians. Tesco also have a School Gardens** programme designed for primary school children to gain hands on experience of growing food for themselves. If you would like more info a free pack is available to download from [www.tescoschoolgardens.com](http://www.tescoschoolgardens.com)

Morag is looking for schools to take part in the '**Great School Run**'. The 2k event runs **w/c 14 June 2010**. For more info & to register your school please visit [www.greatschoolrun.com](http://www.greatschoolrun.com)

New Tesco Extra store in Kilmarnock has blank notice board space that Morag is keen to fill with school artwork. If you would like to see your schools artwork displayed on the board please sent it to: **Morag Gower, Tesco Community Champion, Tesco Extra, West Shaw Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 4BS**

### Work Shadow

Congratulations to **Katy Vallance of Belmont Academy, winner of the 2009 Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Work Shadow initiative**. This initiative gives S6 students across Ayrshire the opportunity to take part in the CMI's work shadow programme.

To take part in the work shadowing students must submit their CV. If successful at this stage they are interviewed & told if they have made it to the next stage which is having the opportunity to shadow a senior manager for 3 days. Once on their placement students must write a report on their experience. The selected finalists are then asked to deliver a presentation and answer questions on their time with their manager to an audience made up of business people, teachers, other finalists, friends & family. A panel of business managers from the public & private sector then ask questions of the students, and subsequently select the winner.



Katy receiving her award.

Katy fought off stiff competition from other finalists; Amy McGowan of Prestwick Academy, Claire Gower of James Hamilton Academy, Francesca Capaldi of Girvan Academy & Ross Hynd of Greenwood Academy. A big thank you to all the businesses who offered work shadow placements; **Barcelo Marine, BDF Ltd, GE Caledonian, Goodrich, Jobcentre Plus, Kilmarnock College, Largs Yacht Haven, Munro Architects, NATS, University West Scotland.**

If you can offer a work shadow placement for the 2010 initiative please contact Claire Baird at [cbaird@ayrshire-chamber.org](mailto:cbaird@ayrshire-chamber.org) or **01292 678666**

### We're a' Jock Tamson's Bairns!

Gargieston Primary pupils held a Scottish themed week and the children had a fantastic time taking part in all things Scottish.

Look at what they have been up to...

#### Monday

Making shortbread & pancakes with the dinner ladies.

#### Tuesday

Making Scotch Broth.

#### Wednesday

Entertained by pipers from Auchinleck Academy. McCallum's Bagpipes showing tartan samples-children then made tartan of their own on laptops & with collage materials

#### Thursday

Linda Strachan, author of Hamish McHaggis books talks to pupils about her books, Scottish words & places.

#### Friday

Scottish Dancing demonstration from parent of Maizie Montgomery. Scottish Poetry & songs.

Tasting afternoon – porridge, oatcakes & haggis (donated by WW Wales).



The Highland Fling!

Mrs Roan said "our enterprise links with businesses were excellent & helped the children develop a keen sense of the world of work. Our activities led into many classroom lessons, giving the pupils more meaning & relevance—for example pupils developed their writing skills through recipes, instructions and reports on our events and maths involved weighing and measuring ingredients".