

Employ-ed NEWS...

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Ayrshire Pupils aim for eco-friendly classrooms

School teams from Ayrshire attended the Go4SET Launch Day on the 28th October to take part in this year's new Go4SET challenge The ECO Classroom. The event was held at Prestwick Airport's Aviator Suite with Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce supporting the venue. Each participating school fields a team of six S2 (12-14 year old) pupils who will be supported by their teacher and a company mentor throughout the project.

The theme this year is 'ECO friendly design & building' and the teams have been tasked to research what makes a building environmentally friendly, look at renewable sources of power and design an ECO classroom with appropriate use of recycled and/or renewable materials. They will also visit their mentor companies and local organisations such as Ardagh Glass, BPI Polythene, Dumfries and Galloway Council, GlaxoSmithKline, Goodrich and North Ayrshire Council to investigate how they handle environmental problems.

All teams will work on the same project brief over a period of 10 weeks. The programme culminates in February with a Celebration & Assessment Day, which provides an opportunity for pupils to display and demonstrate their individual projects to a group of assessors and guests attending the event.

Go4SET is a national programme, which is part of the EDT's suite of educational schemes aimed at stimulating the interest of young people in science, engineering and technology (SET) at a key stage in their education.

Duncan McSporrán EDT Scotland Director said: "Go4SET is an excellent, innovative, hands on programme which really encourages young people to think about careers in science, engineering and technology"

Claire Baird Business Liaison Coordinator at Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce commented "This is an excellent initiative and I am delighted it is now running in Ayrshire promoting STEM subjects to our young people."

Cashing in Early Reaps Dividend

BELFIELD Primary in Kilmarnock recently held a Money Week, where cross-curricular activities were organised. The aim was to promote understanding of the problems and needs that arise when managing money throughout their lives.

In order to achieve this, staff in partnership with pupils organised and planned the activities for the week. Over the week, classes looked at a variety and range of financial aspects. This included each class running their own soap company. The children thought up a business name, logo, made the soap, packaged it and made order forms. They then got the opportunity to decide how to spend the profits.

In order to promote the importance of saving money, every child made their own money box. The children were rewarded with fake money throughout the week, which they saved in their money banks. They were then able to 'spend' their money on the Friday afternoon by taking part in fun money related activities. This was a really exciting activity that motivated the children who were determined to achieve with excellent results.

A school spokeswoman said: "Through partnership with the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce many employers presented aspects of finance to our pupils.

"The Royal Bank of Scotland worked with Primary 5 on keeping accounts and Primary 7 on recognising the difference between good and bad debt. We also had volunteers from a local post office branch working with Primary 4 and 5 focusing on ways they could help financially."

"Our staff and pupils evaluated the success of the week and are already thinking of ways to improve our next money week venture."



Making soap to sell



Piggy banks



Money games

IT'S A POLICEMAN'S LOT FOR PUPILS

A DOZEN pupils got the chance to look behind the scenes of our crime fighters. Six years ago Strathclyde Police in partnership with North Ayrshire Council introduced Campus Police officers into seven secondary schools. And it was these officers who now organise and deliver the work experience program for the secondary school pupils in North Ayrshire. This year 12 pupils from Garnock, Greenwood, Irvine Royal and Kilwinning academies signed up. The program involved the pupils attending the Police Museum at Pitt Street Headquarters. They also attended Strathclyde Police force training centre at Jackton providing them with an insight into the training facilities and the recruitment process. Operational Support Division then arranged a full day to observe the specialist support services they provide to daily operational policing, with visits to the Helicopter, Dog Branch and Public Order Unit. A full day visit was arranged to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court to allow the pupils to observe the day to day business of the court and for officers to attend court to provide evidence. At the end of the work experience week a course evaluation was carried resulting in positive feedback from the pupils.



A pupil from Kilwinning said: "This is the best work experience you could ever go on and I am sad it is finished, it was so so fun."

South Ayrshire Campus Police have recently created a similar programme for all South Ayrshire schools, this is fantastic news as the pupils really benefit from the experience!



HUNTERSTON A SITE GRAPHITE WORK EXPERIENCE

As part of its continued commitment to supporting education, Hunterston A Site has created four unique work experience placements for local teenagers on the Graphite Pathfinder Project.

Ryan Dooris, a fourth year pupil at Largs Academy, is the first pupil to work on the Graphite Pathfinder Project; a feasibility study looking at an alternative way of dealing with Hunterston A waste graphite.

The feasibility study was initiated and funded by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and a specialist team at Hunterston A is exploring the technology behind the project. If, after considerable research the concept proves to be safe, environmentally acceptable and technically feasible, this could represent a multi-million pound investment that is likely to generate positive economic benefits for the local community including employment opportunities and potential contracts for local businesses.

The work experience placements at Hunterston A Site are an integral part of the new Curriculum for Excellence, which aims to achieve a transformation in education in Scotland by providing a coherent, more flexible and enriched curriculum. Together Hunterston A Site and the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce are working to ensure that children and young people in Scotland develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future.

Throughout Ryan's week at Hunterston A Site he learned how the Graphite Team interact with other departments; from Engineering and Safety to Security and Environment. He saw the basic technical aspects of the job and got a feel for the amount of preparation and engineering work that has to go into a project like this.

Commenting on this unique work experience placement, Ryan, 15, said, "I really enjoyed it! I learned that the Graphite Pathfinder feasibility study is looking at potential siting locations for a safe and permanent disposal facility for waste graphite. Ryan continued "It is important to find a solution for the graphite that is long term and I think it should be disposed of in a near surface, near site facility like the Scottish Government policy. This work experience has made me think about a career in the nuclear industry and I found the Technical Integrator role very interesting"

Peter Roach, Director of Hunterston A Site added, "We are delighted to give young people the chance to see the work that is involved in a project of this depth. Ryan did exceptionally well during his week at Hunterston A and I hope it has given him some thoughts for his future career. We look forward to welcoming the three additional work experience pupils who will join the Graphite Pathfinder Project over the coming months."

Ryan on his placement



Matthew from Kilwinning on his communications placement



Daniel from Largs on his IT placement



Davis from Auchenharvie on his Graphite placement



Pudsey goes to Holyrood—with Team Loudoun

Youngsters from an East Ayrshire school raised the roof at the Scottish Parliament as they belted out their specially-written song for Children in Need.

Guests of Willie Coffey MSP, the Loudoun Academy pupils performed You Gave Back a Part of Me to an audience which included First Minister Alex Salmond and Education Secretary Mike Russell.

Said Depute Head Teacher Eleanor McLean: “We made history when Pudsey entered the Scottish Parliament building for the very first time – along with Team Loudoun!”

The young people wrote and recorded the song, which is available for sale or as a CD or download, with all profits going to Pudsey.

They travelled by coach from Galston to Edinburgh, with a BBC crew on board filming the journey. Willie Coffey and Linda Fabiani MSP took the young people on a tour of the Parliament building and then treated them to a buffet lunch.

The group performed live at Children In Need Rocks Scotland at the SECC Glasgow on 19 November, presented by Dr Who and Torchwood star John Barrowman. A documentary of the making of the song will be broadcast as part of the show, which is expected to have an audience of millions.

The Loudoun group has also been booked to perform at the switch-on of the Christmas lights in Kilmarnock on 21 November.

Since 1997, Loudoun Academy has raised over £90,000 for Children in Need. This year, with the help of the new song, Team Loudoun intends to take the total to £100,000.

Pudsey’s pal at Loudoun, Depute Head Teacher Eleanor McLean, said: “Team Loudoun is passionate about Pudsey. We believe he makes a real difference to young people’s lives. We are grateful that we have the opportunity to help make that difference.

“Willie Coffey did a great job for Team Loudoun and told them how proud he was of what they have achieved. We are growing in confidence and the CD is selling well. We are on target, but every penny counts. Please get behind us and help us make history here in East Ayrshire, by reaching that £100,000.”



Willie Coffey MSP said: “Team Loudoun gave a fantastic performance and made a real hit with the First Minister and the Cabinet Secretary for Education.

“The teachers and pupils were a credit to the school and their visit will be remembered as a special day in the life of the parliament.

“It is great that Loudoun Academy see Children in Need as an opportunity to learn while making a contribution to the community. They show that our schools really can deliver excellence.

“Parents and teachers must be very proud of what the youngsters have done. And, as they watch the Children in Need programme, the whole community can take pride in the school’s achievements.”

Councillor Hugh Ross, Spokesperson for Lifelong Learning said: “I am delighted at Team Loudoun’s continuing success and congratulate all involved in this excellent enterprise for Children in Need.

“The debate in the chamber that morning was on Curriculum for Excellence – and Team Loudoun’s performance is the essence of what CfE is all about.”



RBS issues a small magazine called pocket money which is available in some branches for our younger customers to pick up. This magazine is full of relevant articles and usually has several competitions with great prizes for the winning children.

Royal Bank of Scotland’s marketing department would be happy to supply these free of charge direct to schools to distribute to their pupils. The magazine is aimed at young people aged 7 to 11. If you would be interested please let [Gill](#) or [Claire](#) know and we will advise our Royal Bank contact.

Can you give Chelsea a chance?

THE SEARCH is on through Your Business for a very special employer willing to give a special teenager a job placement. Seventeen-year-old Chelsea – we’re keeping her surname from publication - is from Tarbolton and endures epilepsy.

Her uncontrolled fits are threatening to wreck her whole life, but she’s desperate to launch her career in the hope a routine will help her condition. She said: *“I get very frustrated that my epilepsy is stopping me from working, I just want to be given the same chances as everyone else.”* And that’s what we are trying to do in co-operation with Skills Towards Employment Project (STEP) which provides employability help to the disadvantage youth in South Ayrshire.

The young people face a range of barriers that include homelessness, leaving care, disabilities and health issues. STEP Employment & Training Support Workers offer 1-1 support to help individuals develop an action plan towards entering employment, education or training, ongoing support includes personal development opportunities, short work related courses, CV preparation, job search and work placements.

STEP relies very much on local employers to offer supportive work placements for the young people involved in their programmes. Placements can range from one day per week over a month, to five days a week over a six month period. STEP work closely with the employer and young person to ensure support is ongoing throughout the period of the placement.

The project’s Mairi Templeton said: *“We are highlighting the plight of Chelsea in the hope that there may be an employer out there who thinks they could provide the right supportive environment to give this young person a chance. “Her parents and grandparents provide the main support to Chelsea as she can’t be left alone due to the nature of the seizures.*

“Chelsea has had epilepsy since she was 5 years old, over the years she has tried many different medications to try to control her epilepsy, and has even had an implant fitted that sends an electrical pulse to her brain in the hope that it will prevent the seizure. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful.

“Chelsea takes two types of seizure; tonic clonic (grand mal) and partial. If a tonic clonic seizure continues for more than five minutes emergency medication needs to be administered. There is no pattern to her seizures

“The seizures impacted on Chelsea’s schooling, despite this she managed to attain five standard grades and an intermediate one at grades 3-5.” The girl herself has identified childcare, administration and retail as potential workplaces. Following this an administration placement was set up in a local school and she found the experience invaluable.

Mairi added: *“The ideal placement for Chelsea would be in a small team where there would always be someone around who could assist if she had a seizure. “Staff would need to be trained in how to safely deal with a seizure. Further information on training and advice to employers in supporting people with epilepsy can be provided by STEP and Epilepsy Scotland.”*

If you think you can help then please contact Mairi Templeton at STEP, 01292 612301 mairi.templeton@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



An event is being organised in February to allow employers to find out more info on how to become involved with our young people who are in need of More Choice and More Chance in life.



If you would like to find out more please contact [Claire](#) or [Gill](#)



By Craig Auld, Kyle Academy

For my work experience placement I was offered the chance to go to the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry. My work experience started week beginning 25th October which was Ayrshire Business Week a very, very busy week for the Ayrshire Chamber. During my placement I was given the chance to travel to “Ayrshire Connections”. At the trade exhibition I saw many different exhibitions and workshops from local businesses. This was a good experience for me because it improved my knowledge of business, trade and the work that Ayrshire Chamber does.

By Gerry McAvo, Loudoun Academy

I began my work experience on the 18th Oct at Dustacco Engineering. The first thing I did was sort the cars and vans file which contains vehicle check lists. I put all of the registrations into numerical order starting with the oldest car at the front and so on and filed all the check lists into it. I also compiled a spread sheet which contained all staffs' direct dial and mobile numbers and I had to put them in alphabetical order which had everyone name that works in the office.



I then made another spreadsheet which contained all the people who work in the work shop which is used to identify holidays and absences.

The next day I made another spreadsheet which was a drawing register for clients then later that day I was asked to go to stores where I sorted nuts, screws and bolts then I made a spreadsheet to identify consumption of items e.g. boots, tools, high visibility jackets etc. I had to come up with an idea which they would use for next year so that they would have less paper work for each person so I thought of getting everyone’s names and putting it at the side of the spread sheet and at the top I put all of the items they take out. I made one for each month which this means it has easy access via computer rather than a folder and it has less paper work which doesn't get lost.

On Wednesday I had to make a new folder on the computer which contained labour not available dates, labour allocation overview and a labour planner. I copied last years ones and put them in the 2011 file then I had to delete all the information from this year and sort into dates for next. Later I had to change the Lev (Local exhaust ventilation) reports, these are used for testing filters and see how much pressure it was using. I had to fill this information on the Lev files on the computer then I used Auto CAD on which I used it to draw a filter for manufacture.

The next day I had to draw some different parts of filters and I had to put all the measurements into the drawing. I had to draw all the different elevation and also draw all different sizes of the filter then once the drawings were completed I passed it to the workshop supervisor who programmes the jobs for manufacture for the client.

I got lots of useful skills and information out of my work experience which I will take into whatever job I am going to do in the future.

I enjoyed my time at Dustacco because I was learning and doing things I wouldn't normally do, I think I would consider a career in engineering because I enjoyed my work experience.



Chamber champs

Top businesses were honoured with prestigious awards at the first Ayrshire Business Awards. The event which was principally sponsored by Ayrshire Chamber was hosted by TV personality Kaye Adams and provided an opportunity for the 200 plus guests to celebrate the very best of Ayrshire business.

Deputy Chief Executive Val Russell said: "Although this is the first Ayrshire Business Awards we were overwhelmed by the response. We know that times are tough for many companies out there however the range and quality of applications displays how resilient our local businesses have become. These awards are the perfect opportunity to celebrate the strength of the Ayrshire Business community whilst recognising those who excel within their field."



The Engagement with Schools category was one of the categories with the most entries and was shortlisted to three worthy finalists:

- Frankie & Benny's
- EDF Energy
- The Energy Agency

The prize was scooped by Frankie & Benny's who set South Ayrshire S2 pupils a challenge to design an original pizza or pasta dish and the winner is sold in the restaurant.

Well done to all who entered and good luck to all for next year!!

Workshadowing Winner

Jonathan Gallacher of Marr College fought off strong competition to become this year's CMI Workshadowing Challenge winner after completing his shadowing at the Barcelo Marine, Troon. 56 students went through an extensive process, they first had to apply to become part of the Challenge then were put through a series of interviews. If successful they were matched with a manager for 3 days then had to write and submit a report to the CMI and only 5 finalists were identified to present at the Final.

Thanks to all the employers who gave up their time to host a workshadow.



**By Ewan Bulger & Liusaidh McMaster –
Arran High School**

I refer to the above two pupils who attended Brodick Pier for work experience. Both pupils were placed with us for a week, during which time they were shown all aspects of the port operation. During both weeks the port was subject to service disruption and both pupils were able to experience this from "the other side of the counter".

I would have to say that both pupils are an absolute credit to the school, the attitude they displayed to the work environment was quite remarkable, considering their age. Both showed a willingness to learn and integrated themselves very well with the team at Brodick, indeed all of my staff were very impressed with both pupils.

I hope that both pupils enjoyed their time with us at Brodick and would have no hesitation in employing them at a later date.

I do believe that the work experience scheme is a very worthwhile project, especially when the participants are of such a high calibre and are genuinely interested.

We look forward to next year's work experience pupils, although the bar has been set very high!

The employer engagement team at Ayrshire Chamber would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with our local schools over the last year. Whether you have offered work experience or participated in a school event we are truly grateful and look forward to working with you all in the New Year.



**Festive wishes
Claire, Helen, Suzanne and Gill**