

TO HEAR FROM YOUNG
PEOPLE, EDUCATORS &
EMPLOYERS
CLICK HERE

Many of us will be looking forward to wishing 2020 farewell. It certainly has been a year like no other. Teamwork, communication, problem solving, creativity and resilience are skills and qualities that we always emphasise with young people, and never before has it been so apparent that these are absolutely crucial in the world of work – whatever sector, industry or business you are in, you will have relied on these as much as we have in 2020.

Although 2020 was hugely challenging, the biggest highlight for me has been the people. From partners and stakeholders continuing to support activities with and for young people, in spite of the necessary drastic change in their focus; closer collaboration across the DYW network; and in particular, the DYW Forth Valley Team who have remained dedicated, positive and upbeat and made a fantastic contribution to the local, regional and national opportunities available for young people.

With life becoming more virtual, it's truly inspiring that partnerships have increased pupil and teacher confidence about the relevance of learning within the classroom and beyond, and have provided a real life context to the skills and knowledge being taught. I am proud to say that when we faced our own global challenge our networks reached out virtually with a specific eye on ensuring young people will not be disadvantaged due to the pandemic.

Although we have all had to adapt and make changes in the way we work and live, doing just one thing for your local school or college can really make a difference, but don't just take my word for it, watch our young people, educator and employer insight videos by clicking above, to hear it directly from the people involved! If you would like to get involved in 2021 we would love to hear from you.

JEN HENDERSON, PROGRAMME MANAGER

WHAT'S INSPIRED KAREN MOST?

#DYWKEYWORKERS

We've supported valuable campaigns this year that have aimed to raise awareness of careers, sectors and inspire young people to consider their future paths but if ever there was a campaign to showcase the amazing business community we have in Forth Valley then this was it.

Career stories and videos were produced to give young people insight into the range of careers that were critical during the COVID pandemic and showcase jobs they might be inspired to consider as a future career destination. I am proud to work in partnership with this inspiring group of people who, despite their own COVID challenges, recognised how important it is to support our young people.

WHAT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2021...

Above all I am looking forward to being able to meet and connect people face to face.

WHAT'S MOST MEMORABLE FOR MICHELLE?

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

This year we have all had to adapt and make changes in the way we work and live. For DYW it meant that we had to transform how we work with our partners to continue to inspire young people.

DYW Regional Groups came together virtually to improve our national presence via [DYW.Scot](#). Fantastic resources such as [E-DYW](#), [Scotland's Biggest Parent's Events](#) and [DYW Skills Academy](#) were created to support employers, educators young people and parents to continue to connect.

DYW Skills Academy supported school leavers at this most difficult time. Providing them with a programme delivered by industry experts, with bite sized e-learning modules, and the opportunity to have a virtual mock interview and CV check done by an employer.

WHAT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2021...

Getting employers back into the classroom, starting with the virtual 'New Year, First Career Fairs'.

RACHAEL'S SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS

EFFECTING CHANGE

This year I am proud to have worked on multiple projects that have tackled diversity, from [Women in Construction](#) in March, [NoWrongPath](#) in August and [AJobForEverybody](#) in November.

It has been heartening to work with employers who are so passionate about widening access, raising awareness and supporting young people with barriers and challenges to employment that they have continued to make an impact on young people's lives from their home offices and dining room tables.

WHAT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2021...

Evolution! What we do is continually changing and adapting to the challenges we face, whether that be personal or as advocates for others. With that in mind I am excited for the next phase of DYW and the roll-out of DYW School Coordinators!

GARY'S HIGHLIGHTS

PEOPLE INSPIRE PEOPLE

As Chair of the DYW Forth Valley Regional Group it has been fantastic to hear directly from pupils, educators and fellow business leaders during 2020 about how developing local education and employer partnerships really has made a difference.

At a time where 'isolating' has taken on a new meaning, a quote from a teacher really stood out for me: "Young people aren't just learning in isolation from a text book", now virtual collaboration is more important than ever.

It has been an extremely difficult year for many business owners and I want to personally thank those who have been able to continue to work with us.

WHAT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2021...

I am proud to be part of a strong Forth Valley employer network who are passionate about sharing their wealth of skills and knowledge with our future workforce and I am very much looking forward to continuing this work, alongside them, in the year ahead.

