

INDUSTRY: TRANSPORTATION, MECHANICS, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
 PROGRAMME: BIKE CLINIC
 BUSINESS: THE PRINCE'S TRUST, THE MEN'S SHED, GM4X
 SCHOOL: DENNY HIGH SCHOOL

INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM INSPIRES ENTERPRISING PUPILS

The Bike Clinic at Denny High School is a fantastic example of pupils, teachers, specialist partners and local employers working in partnership to plan and deliver an innovative curriculum offering for pupils who are unlikely to follow a traditional academic route throughout their senior phase.

This truly immersive project has, at its heart, a clear focus on supporting pupils to become as engaged as possible with local employers and partners who can provide work related contexts for learning and who can help them to understand the skills employers need.

It also provides an opportunity for pupils to gain industry recognised qualifications, to tap into their entrepreneurial side and to be active members of their local community.



The project began as a flexible learning & teaching solution for one particular pupil who, due to a number of factors, was unable to achieve qualifications via the traditional academic curriculum. He had a natural interest in all things 'bike', so alternative curriculum options were explored. Work experience with the 'Men's Shed' took place, the pupil began to achieve qualifications and the school bikes began to get a bit of a makeover.

Denny High School recognised the potential to develop this further and in partnership with the Prince's Trust, developed a project plan and engaged more budding Bike Clinic entrepreneurs. Covid put many *spanners in the work* (pardon the pun!) but the resilience of the pupils and teachers was amazing and a further partner in GM4X was engaged to provide bike skills masterclasses.

"The lads have been so full of knowledge and really keen to help and teach each other. They have been so engaged. I expect them all to be a great asset to any company."

GORDON MCGREGOR, DIRECTOR GM4X.

"Working with the school has taught us things we didn't know. The work experience pupil has been a breath of fresh air."

THE MEN'S SHED



So where is the project now? Pupils looking for a more flexible curriculum run their own Bike Clinic, meeting monthly, under the supervision of a staff member, to fix staff and pupil bikes for a fee that allows them to manage funds to have enough spares, overalls and other equipment. In addition, the pupils will offer Cycle Safety checks for the associated cluster primary schools.

Throughout the school year pupils will complete Personal Development Awards to sit alongside their SQA Bike Maintenance Unit. Towards the end of the school year pupils will take on a leadership role when they will introduce the next generation of budding entrepreneurs to the wonderful world of the Denny Bike Clinic.

Through this project pupils will have developed a range of employability and vocational skills required for them to gain a positive and sustained destination (including confidence, communication skills, commitment, customer service, customer care and courtesy).

The power of the partnerships involved in this enterprising project have contributed massively to the level of employability skills and the quality of experiences the pupils were able to take part in.

Evaluation of the project impacts is ongoing with the hope of further expansion of this project to include:

- further income generating enterprise opportunities in the local community
- increased staff development to support
- expansion of employer partners including suppliers of bicycles
- partnership working with Forth Valley College
- continuity of project within the school curriculum and timetable



A BIKE CLINIC PUPIL TELLS US:

"I didn't think I had any skills when I first started trying to create a personal statement and a CV. I don't have lots of qualifications and I wanted to go to college so I was a bit down. Mrs Lee and Mr Vaughn-Sharp reminded me about all the things we had done with the Bike Group and I was able to see that these are the skills employers are looking for. I have now got a place at Forth Valley College. I would not be going there if it wasn't for the Bike Group experiences."

CAROL LEE, DYW SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR FOR DENNY HIGH SCHOOL SAYS:

"I am expanding the employer engagement support for this project and there are already local businesses who are poised to offer career insight visits, undertake CV checks and deliver mock interviews. This will enable a specific pupil group (not following the traditional curriculum pathway) to have a meaningful learning and teaching experience within an environment that will provide the opportunity to gain experience and skills to support their transition into the world of work. Contact us using any of the methods below if you are involved in the world of bikes and would like to share your skills, knowledge and experience."

To contact DYW Forth Valley please email: GETINVOLVED@DYW.FORTHVALLEY.AC.UK

You can also visit our website at: WWW.DYWFORTHVALLEY.COM

**Young
Person's
Guarantee**

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