

Name: Helen Young
Job Title: Head of Learning and Quality
Company: Forth Valley College
Hometown: Bathgate



How long have you been with the company and what attracted you to the industry?

I have been with Forth Valley College just over 2 years, prior to that I worked at West Lothian College but I started my working life as a Civil Engineer working on construction sites. I found that I loved working with students of all ages and that I was effective in teaching and helping students to learn new skills so I decided to change direction.

Describe a day in your job:

My day to day role is hugely varied. One day I could be working on strategies to support lecturing staff develop their digital skills, another day I could be focussing on the quality aspect of college operations. I also work closely with schools and universities.

What training have you had?

I have completed a Teaching Qualification for Further Education which I achieved whilst I was working as a lecturer. I have also achieved leadership and management qualifications to help me progress within the college sector including a CMI Certificate in Strategic Management.

What skills have you learned and how are they important to your job?

I have varied tasks to complete on a daily basis and often things crop up with little or no warning so I often have to actively re-prioritise. I would say problem solving is a skill I have personally learned in this role and it sits alongside people skills and the ability to build good relationships as being most important to my role.

What advice would you give school leavers?

I'd strongly recommend considering a college/apprenticeship route. There are great opportunities now for undertaking Graduate Apprenticeships, which are essentially degrees that you complete while you work.

How does it feel to be a Key Worker on the frontline supporting the Country's fight against COVID-19?

I'm so happy that I've been able to contribute to the outcomes for all of our students at such a challenging time. I am also really proud to have supported staff to develop their digital skills to be able to deliver remote learning to students, and help put mechanisms in place to ensure students can be fairly assessed for their qualification.

#DYWKeyWorkers

DYW

FORTH VALLEY
Developing the
Young Workforce