

It's incredible to think that it has been a year since the first lock down measures were implemented and we all moved to a more virtual world. Whilst it has been a challenging 12 months for everyone, there are positive indications for the future.

We are continuing to work with partners across all sectors and business sizes to develop digital, and, when permitted, in person, engagement options for young people in education. We have also welcomed Mary Jack from Drummond Laurie to the DYW Forth Valley Board and look forward to further expanding on the great engagement activity they have provided over the last couple of years.

If you are wondering what you can do to support young people, please watch our animation (link below) that explains the different, meaningful types of engagement activities at each age and stage of education. If you would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you.

An increasing number of employers are pledging their support and commitment to the Young Person's Guarantee to support young talent and build their future workforce. An update on the Young Person's Guarantee is available [here](#).

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED THIS YEAR...

Resilience has been the key characteristic of the last year for me and I am proud to be part of such a resilient DYW Forth Valley team who continue to work tirelessly with our wider partners in business and education for the benefit of our young people and future workforce. Everyone has their own way of developing and sustaining their resilience and it's really important to recognise what works for you and build that into your daily routine.

JEN HENDERSON, PROGRAMME MANAGER

WATCH OUR ANIMATION
TO FIND OUT WHAT EMPLOYER/EDUCATION
ENGAGEMENT ACTUALLY
ENTAILS?
CLICK HERE

KAREN'S REFLECTIONS

#TEACHERSAREAWESOME

All of our education partners have gone above and beyond over the past 12 months to help their pupils navigate a blended learning model, whilst at the same time continuing to support them to consider their future pathway options and explore the world of work.

Teachers at Falkirk High School are just one example of how to successfully embrace the world of virtual career insight. People definitely inspire people! Click [here](#) to read more about how they engaged their S3 pupils by bringing the world of work into their classrooms.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED THIS YEAR...

Embracing the virtual world is definitely here to stay and has many advantages. I have also learned that digital fatigue is **REAL** and I have tried to grab the face-to-face 'walk and talk' moments whenever I can.

MICHELLE'S HIGHLIGHTS SCHOOL COORDINATORS

We are delighted that we now have a DYW School Coordinator in all schools in Forth Valley whose energy, enthusiasm and commitment is focussed on bringing employers and businesses into the classroom to help young people be better prepared for the world of work and make more informed decisions about their futures.

When we asked our School Coordinators what they were looking forward to doing most, they said *"Re-energising and re-organising the school DYW employer engagement activity"* and *"meeting other DYW School Coordinators to share knowledge"*.

This is already happening. They are creating innovative ways to share their DYW messages with their staff, parents and pupils, via virtual engagement, social media, digital platforms and even podcasts. We can't wait to collaborate further.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED THIS YEAR...

It's good to try something new, shake it up and try a different approach, it might just be the boost you needed!

VISIT DYW SCOT TO ACCESS
THESE VIRTUAL RESOURCES
HERE

RACHAEL'S UPDATE

BUILD YOUR FUTURE

This has been a really challenging year for so many people and businesses, particularly within Construction, so to have continued to work collaboratively with over 40 partners, to produce Build Your Future has been a real highlight.

Thanks to the commitment of these individuals to create these virtual resources, young people can still be informed about the opportunities that exist in the industry and inspired to consider their options and next steps.

Check it out [here](#).

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED THIS YEAR...

Adaptability has proven itself to be the key skill that we have all had to use and develop in the last year, with the shift to a more virtual working and learning space being one of our biggest adaptations. This is a key piece of learning for us, let alone any young person.

READ THE 'EMPLOYERS SUPPORT
BUILD YOUR FUTURE' CASE STUDY ON
DYW SCOT TO SEE HOW OVER 40
BUSINESSES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS
VIRTUAL RESOURCE!

LYNN BLAIKIE'S THOUGHTS

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce has been an active member of the DYW Forth Valley Board since implementation in 2017. Through the Chamber we have supported the DYW Regional Group to reach out to our members to engage them in some wonderful insight activity for young people, provided the opportunity for teachers to gain insight into some of the businesses we support, created work placements and internships and so much more.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED THIS YEAR...

Challenge and change brings with it opportunity. The next evolution of support for young people through the Young Person's Guarantee has the potential to ensure that young people do not slip through the gaps but charge a head and grasp the opportunities presented to them. Supporting the Young Person's Guarantee by engaging with DYW Forth Valley to raise awareness of your business and the opportunities that exist is mutually beneficial and I urge all businesses to get involved.