

Looking back on the past academic year we have all, at some point, felt the repercussions of working from home and home-schooling whether as parents, teachers, employees, business managers/owners or as the partners and key-workers who support us all, and it is truly amazing to reflect upon what has been achieved despite the continuous challenges of the pandemic. From the development of virtual resources like [Build Your Future](#) and [First Year, New Career](#) both aimed at a national audience, to virtual mock interviews benefitting individual young people's skills development, industry continues to adapt with young people at the centre of their engagement.

From July we will be supporting this year's cohort of school leavers through [The Skills Academy](#) by offering e-learning and inviting young people who would like support with CV checks and mock interviews to get in touch with us via email below. In August, we see the return of [#NoWrongPath](#) where once again we urge all businesses to take to social media to share their routes and pathways into employment in support of this year's school leavers. Keep an eye on the [DYW Forth Valley twitter](#) page for more info regarding this campaign.

With the launch of the Young Person's Guarantee in November 2020, it is reassuring to note that young people continue to be a priority. At DYW Forth Valley, our young people are fortunate to have partners who commit to offering opportunities to engage with their businesses and sectors and we look forward to reengaging over the coming months. We are also keen to work with new businesses, particularly in relation to [COP 26](#), projects focusing on the Creative Industries and those most in need of support and would urge you to get in touch to discuss how you can benefit from getting involved in some of these projects with education from next academic term. You can find more information [HERE](#).

#### MY HOPES FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR:

The key resounding message threaded throughout Young Person's Guarantee, is about 'collaboration'. Developing strong employer/education partnerships has always sat firmly at the heart of DYW and we are proud to be able to demonstrate this. If you are considering partnering with DYW we would suggest you take a look at the [DYW Scotland Inspiration Station](#) for examples of the great partnership work that takes place, not just in Forth Valley, but across Scotland too.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

JEN HENDERSON, PROGRAMME MANAGER

Read our latest blog article on the Young Person's Guarantee to see how you can support next academic year.

KAREN SAYS:

#### EMPLOYERS CONTINUE TO BE AWESOME

To say it has been a challenging year for our local businesses would be an understatement. Despite managing their own challenges many have continued to support our young people. From delivering virtual mock interviews, producing career insight films and setting projects linked to curricular learning, we have been blown away by their enthusiasm, commitment and determination to continue to help our young talent who will ultimately be our workforce of the future.

#### MY HOPES FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR:

Massively reduce my screen time, meet with local employers face to face again and support our educators to increase the number of employers who inspire their pupils and offer pathway opportunities.

MICHELLE'S HIGHLIGHTS

#### A GREAT BIG THANKS TO EDUCATION

Another school term is coming to an end with some young people leaving school and moving into the world of work, apprenticeships or into further education while others stay on to gain qualifications and grow their skills to prepare them for their next steps.

All this would not be possible without the dedication of our colleagues in Education. In a year like no other, they have excelled with their unrelenting commitment to our young people, encouraging them to achieve excellence in everything they do, whilst also continuing to work with partners, like us, to develop and embed DYW across the whole school ensuring school-employer partnerships benefit all their young people.

#### MY HOPES FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR:

Support our education colleagues to help them understand how employer engagement can support their learning and teaching outcomes and how it relates to the world of work.

WATCH ADAM'S  
APPRENTICESHIP STORY  
HERE:

RACHAEL'S UPDATE

#### A HEART-FELT THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

There are many individuals and organisations that work in partnership to support the development of young people, this begins much earlier than many realise as DYW activity is happening between the ages of 3-24.

We want to extend our thanks to the all the partners we work with, from professional bodies and business networks, to third sector agencies and charities specialist in additional support needs and barriers to employment. This year more than ever before, the input from you is proving vital to essential skills development in young people, as we recover from Covid.

#### MY HOPES FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR:

Hybrid partnerships are the way forward, a mix of face to face and virtual engagement for our young people!

KENNY MACINNES, VICE PRINCIPAL FOR LEARNING  
AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE, FORTH VALLEY  
COLLEGE, DYW BOARD MEMBER

Our world has been changed beyond recognition by COVID-19, particularly for our young people who have found themselves at a stand-still and felt the full force of economic impact in terms of job losses and a lack of new opportunities.

As we emerge from the pandemic, the college sector will play a key role in turning things around for these young people by ensuring they have the opportunities to participate in society and contribute to recovery. We fully support the Young Person's Guarantee Scheme which has committed to delivering work, education or training opportunities to everyone aged between 16 – 24. As a sector, we already offer an extensive range of learning, training and upskilling opportunities however the new scheme will enhance these and enable us to work with our partners and employers to focus positively on a youth employment model. By working together, we can give the next generation every chance to succeed.

