

CONNECT:

THE NEWSLETTER OF AYRSHIRE COLLEGE

1,000 APPRENTICES TRAINED AT AYRSHIRE COLLEGE



Ayrshire College welcomed this year's Scottish Apprenticeship Week by announcing that it has trained 1,000 apprentices, employed in over 500 companies, since it was created less than two years ago. A further 300 apprentices will start their training with the College in 2015-16.

The Scottish Government has a target of creating 25,000 new apprenticeship places each

year, with an ambition for this to reach 30,000 a year by 2020. Ayrshire College is helping to make this goal a reality for the benefit of local people and businesses.

Willie Mackie, Chair of the College said "Modern Apprentices add real value to businesses, young people and Ayrshire's economy.

"The skills developed through work-based learning are valued by employers and by young

people looking to get the best possible start in their careers.

"Ayrshire College is a major provider of apprenticeships and I am delighted that, just 20 months after the College was created, we had trained 1,000 apprentices."

Most of the apprenticeships supported by the College are in the Engineering and Construction sectors but Automotive, Hospitality and Hairdressing apprenticeships are also offered. From this year, Fashion and Textiles, Horticulture and Creative modern apprenticeships will be available through the College for the first time.

"The skills developed through work-based learning are valued by employers and by young people looking to get the best possible start in their careers."

CHAIR LOOKS BACK ON 2014-15...



At the time of writing it's the start of the Scottish Apprenticeship week, one of the most important and inspiring weeks of the year. This high profile campaign reminded me how fast the past 12 months have flown by. I thought it also provided a good opportunity for me to share some personal reflections on the year just passed and to comment on some of the national priorities which will feature or to continue to feature over the next 12 months.

I would say without any hesitation it's been another dynamic and challenging year for the College as we continue to embed and work with the new regional curriculum delivery plan.

The sheer breadth of our curriculum as a regional

college demands that we work closely with our staff, students and employers to shape the curriculum that ultimately will deliver the best possible outputs for our students. Nothing therefore stays still in this fast evolving process.

However, it is absolutely critical we get this right as it's a key dependency that sits right across our business and I would like to commend those members of staff and students who have proactively contributed to the continuing evolution of our curriculum delivery plan over the past 12 months.

I have had the privilege of meeting many employers over the last year and the College

has rightly been recognised as leading the sector in terms of how we engage with employers across Ayrshire's key industry sectors. This is a high priority for me as Chair to be out and act as an ambassador for the College.

The Regional College structure has increased the number of opportunities to engage with employers and stakeholders across the region – Ayrshire College is very firmly established in both the community and the economic development of the region and I would commend the work that Heather and staff across the College have done in raising our profile in this way.



Students Niki Kerr and Scott Mc Millan, Heather Dunk, Principal, Angela Constance MSP and Willie Mackie, Chairman.



“I would like to recognise the achievements of our students who continue to deliver awards and accolades at local and national level. They are a real credit to Ayrshire.”

The graduation ceremonies are my personal highlight of the year and 2014-15 was no exception. I am overwhelmed at the response from friends and family of our graduating students who regularly approach me after the graduation to say thank you for the impact the College has made on their son or daughter's future. Sometimes they say it has changed their lives too!

I have been delighted to see various capital works projects progressing during the year and I am looking forward to see the summer works programmes at Ayr and Kilwinning completing over the next few months.

This time next year we will be fast approaching the completion of our new campus in Kilmarnock. I would like to recognise the fantastic contribution our contractors McLaughlin and Harvey are

making - not only to the new campus build, but how they are engaging with local Ayrshire based businesses. I had the privilege of standing on top of the skeleton structure recently which brought home to me the legacy the new campus will deliver for our students across Ayrshire in the years to come. Roll on 2016!

One of my personal highlights of the year was the creation of the new Skills Centre of Excellence at Irvine Royal Academy. Thanks to the vision and focus of the Principal and the Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council, this project was delivered from start to finish in only a few months. It is one of the best examples I have seen of like-minded people wanting to get the job done. Our colleagues at the Scottish Funding Council could not have been more helpful and further support was

obtained from the Edge Foundation and Skills Development Scotland. The outputs have been truly transformational. If you haven't visited Irvine Royal Academy Skills Centre of Excellence yet, I strongly urge you to do so.

Finally, I would like to recognise the achievements of our students who continue to deliver awards and accolades at local and national level. They are a real credit to Ayrshire and to themselves as ambassadors for the College and I would like to add my congratulations to them and the lecturers who regularly go the extra mile to support them.

As I write, summer is alleged to be close by – I hope the summer will allow a time of rest and relaxation in glorious Ayrshire sunshine!

Willie Mackie
Chair of the Board of Management

➤ Growing the Economy and Skills

SCOTTISH APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2015

At Ayrshire College, we promote the contributions and achievements of our apprentices throughout the year, by featuring case studies on our website, in our e-magazines and at awards ceremonies.

Scottish Apprenticeship Week is a great opportunity to demonstrate the rewards of taking on an apprentice to those who haven't yet done so – take a look at these six apprentice and employer interviews on our Videos page to hear their stories.

Click here for more about apprenticeships



Tammy Niven
(GSK)



Jack Lynes
(Billy Bowie Tankers)



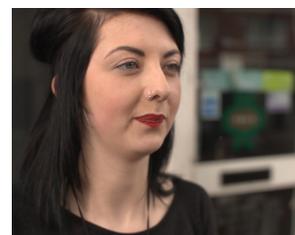
Jacqui Dunlop
(Susanna's)



Paul Tyrrell
(Trump Turnberry)



Emma Tait
(Cecchini's)



Shannon McClue
(Urban Hair)

Employer's perspective



Over 45 years ago Wallace McDowall was established as a sheet metal fabricator and has grown into one of the UK's leading sub-contract engineering companies.

The company is committed to the continual development of its highly-skilled workforce and investing in new technology.

Wallace McDowall values modern apprenticeships and recruits new apprentices every year. At one

point last year, they had 17 apprentices in different roles in the workshop and the office – all but one of them recruited through Ayrshire College.

The company recruits apprentices from students who have been on the Performing Engineering Operations course and uses work experience placements as part of recruitment process.

Logan Collins, Operations Director at Wallace McDowall, talks about how he works with the College to get the right apprentices for their needs.

“Our apprenticeship program is integral to the growth of our business and we are committed to developing our future workforce with the help of Ayrshire College.

“We believe that by bringing young people in as apprentices, who serve their time here and know the way we work, they will stay with us. We have former apprentices working successfully at all levels of our company including senior management. This year, we're looking to take on four fabrication apprentices and two machine shop apprentices.”

Post your job vacancies in our JobZone



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LOCAL FIRM SECURES CONTRACT AT AYRSHIRE COLLEGE

Major work is to be carried out at Ayrshire College's Ayr Campus by local firm McLaughlin Construction over the next five months to provide brand new learning and social spaces for students.

Student-facing services will be redeveloped to ensure there is a consistent, customer facing model across all of the College's

three main campuses in Ayr, Kilmarnock and Kilwinning. All essential student support services will be brought together to make them more accessible for students. Students will also benefit from a new refectory with new kitchen facilities.

Ten tenders were received by the College and McLaughlin Construction, an Irvine based

company, was awarded the contract worth £1,461,518.

Meanwhile, W H Kirkwood will be carrying out the work at the Kilwinning campus. They are a building and public works contractor from Greenock.

"Student-facing services will be redeveloped to ensure there is a consistent, customer facing model."

AYRSHIRE COLLEGE APPRENTICES STEP UP TO THE PLATE



A huge audience turned up to watch Ayrshire College modern apprentices compete at the prestigious ScotHot 2015 Awards held in Glasgow.

ScotHot is Scotland's biggest hospitality, tourism and food and drink show with competitors from all over the country.

Ayrshire College works in partnership with Trump Turnberry to train modern apprentices in Hospitality at both SVQ Level 2 and 3 in the workplace.

Working to meet the needs of the world famous resort's business, the College devised the flexible training solution to allow their apprentices to be based solely at the resort, with regular workplace assessments being facilitated by the College.

Paul Tyrrell, Scott Jackett, Leigh McGill, Steven Walker, Robert McCurdie, Charley Dedman, Andrew Mackay and Ruaidhri Patterson all took part.

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PAST STUDENT WINS L'OREAL COMPETITION



FORMER HNC HAIRDRESSING STUDENT LESLEY SNOWIE HAS WON AN EXTREMELY PRESTIGIOUS COMPETITION IN LONDON CALLED THE L'OREAL SCOTTISH COLOUR TROPHY.

The victory comes six months after the entry process began with a photographic submission. Once she was successful in that, Lesley took part in the regional final at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow.

She was one of 35 entrants at that stage and had to work on her model's hair and make-up before sending her down the catwalk to be judged.

Lesley, who has her own salon - Lesley MacDonald Hair and Beauty - based in Troon, was chosen as one of four Scottish salons to travel to the grand final in London. As a result of her performance in Glasgow, Lesley and her team won the L'Oreal Scottish Colour Trophy.

Lesley said "Since the regional final, the phone's been going non-stop with people talking about it which is great. It's going to give us big changes for the business.

"Anytime anyone's asked me what it's like to be the winner, I can only say that it's like an out of body experience.

"The other three salons that were selected from Scotland are well established businesses - Glasgow's Toni and Guy and Alan Edwards, as well as Chaplins in Falkirk. I knew my look was good but maybe not that good! The judges obviously liked what they saw."

"Since the regional final, the phone's been going non-stop with people talking about it which is great. It's going to give us big changes for the business."

➤ *Growing the Economy and Skills*

Sir Tom Hunter Challenge



CHAIRMAN WILLIE MACKIE AND PRINCIPAL HEATHER DUNK WERE DELIGHTED TO BE ON THE PANEL OF JUDGES FOR THE 2015 SIR TOM HUNTER CHALLENGE – WHERE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PITCHED THEIR OWN BUSINESS IDEAS IN A BID TO WIN £3,000.

Sir Tom Hunter has been challenging local school pupils to come up with new business ideas for the past three years.

In East Ayrshire, St. Joseph's Academy students Kuda Tapatapa, Tatenda Tapatapa, Kieran Fenton, Becca Bunten and Chloe Beveridge were crowned the winners, after

presenting their innovative idea.

The team designed a lifestyle product which included an app, a wristband and a travel plug with a warning light which flashes when you are becoming over exposed to UV radiation.

In joint-second place, Doon Academy – last year's winner

“Sir Tom Hunter has been challenging local school pupils to come up with ideas for new businesses for the past three years.”



David Ross, Keppie Design; Heather Dunk, Principal of Ayrshire College; Marie Macklin, Ayrshire College Board of Management; Sir Tom Hunter; Willie Mackie, Chair of Ayrshire College

➤ *Growing the Economy and Skills*

Sir Tom Hunter Challenge

Cont.

– and Kilmarnock Academy scooped £1,500 each for their concepts.

Doon Academy created pre-printed revision flashcards for National 5 Business Management, while Kilmarnock Academy created an electronic dog bag dispenser powered by solar energy, called Doggy Doo.

Meanwhile in South Ayrshire, Girvan Academy pupils came out on top with their 'Blueshoe' idea.

Jay Mooney, Kyle Brown, Marc Fraser, Gillian Ferguson, Beth Radic and Sandie McMillan created a sportshoe with a Bluetooth device which linked to an app to help promote health and fitness.

Queen Margaret Academy came second and also won the overall audience award.

All of these great ideas came from S3 pupils, and it was exciting to see the level of research and hard work that had gone into each pitch.

AYRSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ANNUAL DINNER 2015



Waiyin Hatton, President of Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Ayrshire College Board member; Heather Dunk, Principal of Ayrshire College; Donald Trump; Liz Cameron, Scottish Chambers of Commerce Chief Executive; Val Russell, Chief Executive of Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce

DONALD TRUMP AND HIS SON, ERIC, WERE VIP GUESTS AT THE RECENT AYRSHIRE CHAMBER ANNUAL DINNER AT AYR RACECOURSE.

Mr Trump shared his vision for the Turnberry resort which, once achieved, will give a significant tourism boost to South Ayrshire.

Chairman Willie Mackie and Principal, Heather Dunk were able to speak with both Mr Trump and his son, Eric, at the event, and they are sure that the College has

a great opportunity to develop and strengthen our partnership with Trump Turnberry in the future, for the benefit of our students and the local economy.

“the College has a great opportunity to develop and strengthen our partnership with Trump Turnberry in the future.”

➤ *Growing the Economy and Skills*

SECOND GSK STATUE UNVEILED

A second sculpture, designed by an art and design student and constructed by the Fabrication and Welding team at Ayrshire College, has been unveiled at GSK in Irvine.

GSK approached Ayrshire College and Forth Valley College to design and develop two sculptures each to depict their four values.

The first design represented 'Patient Focus', showing profiles of many faces, and arrived in GSK's garden during their Patient and Consumer Week celebration.

This second design is all about 'Respect for People' and shows a couple with a young child on the man's shoulders.

HNC Art and Design students Laura Purves and Jean Muir were behind the first and second sculptures, respectively.

The Artist Statement for the 'Patient Focus' design reads: "This sculpture representing Patient Focus was inspired by people, patients and living.

"The heads represent GSK's patients – it shows the diversity of the individual, their potential for growth and the different directions peoples lives can take."

For the 'Respect for People' design, the Artist Statement reads: "The artist has chosen a 'family unit' to represent Respect for People. Portraying them as being interlinked with each other, demonstrating caring gestures of affection and respect.

"Caring for others is a basic demonstration of respect both for the individual, team or unit and the environment."



Alistair Loughton, GSK Site Director; Jean Muir, Ayrshire College HNC Art and Design student



Chris Mackenzie, Ayrshire College Art Lecturer; Laura Purves, Ayrshire College HNC Art and Design student; Michael Woods, Ayrshire College Engineering Technician

Ayrshire College Hosts WorldSkills Regional Heats



The Scottish heats for the prestigious WorldSkills UK event are well underway and Ayrshire College played its part by hosting competitions across a number of beauty treatment categories this month.

45 students from all over the country arrived in Kilmarnock all with the same aim: to secure a place at the 2015 National Final in November.

WorldSkills UK aims to inspire people to be ambitious in their pursuit of skills to the highest level and drives excellence in workplace skills through competition.

Ayrshire College offered its Kilmarnock Campus on 3 June for a full day of competition over a range of categories, with

the College represented in each one.

The College had 20 students participating throughout the day - with 6 entrants in the Nail Enhancement category, 4 in Beauty Therapy (Body), 3 in Nail Services and 2 in Beauty Therapy (Hands and Face).

Congratulations are extended to Alison McPhail, who managed to finish second in her Nail Services heat!



CoderDojo

“The young people enjoyed learning about computer science and technology in a fun, thought provoking and inspiring way, encouraging them to consider studying and to recognise the opportunities available in the rapidly expanding ICT industry.”

➤ *Tackling Inequalities*

GIRLS INTO ICT DAY/ CODERDOJO



organised by the College. The centre provides young people with experiential learning, providing the ideal setting for the CoderDojo club.

The young people enjoyed learning about computer science and technology in a fun, thought-provoking and inspiring way, encouraging them to consider studying and to recognise the opportunities available in the rapidly expanding ICT industry.

AYRSHIRE COLLEGE PROMOTED INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY BY HOLDING TWO GIRLS-ONLY COMPUTER CODING CLUBS IN IRVINE AND KILMARNOCK.

International Girls in ICT Day is an opportunity for girls and young women to see and experience technology in a whole new light. The College ran a week long social media campaign which featured guest blogs from women who have forged successful careers in computing, as well as students at the beginning of their IT career.

CoderDojo is part of a global network of free computer coding clubs for young people.

The College has held seven clubs since November, including the first all-girls CoderDojo at the Skills

Centre of Excellence at Irvine Royal Academy in April. This club helped to change the opinion of pupil Carmen Wilson, age 13, who said "I was never really into computing before, but CoderDojo club made it fun and interesting".

The brand new Morphy Richards STEM Centre at Dumfries House hosted a recent CoderDojo club

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➤ *Tackling Inequalities*



Men into Care Event

AYRSHIRE COLLEGE HELD A 'MEN INTO CARE' EVENT AT THE KILMARNOCK CAMPUS TO PROMOTE CARE AS A CAREER CHOICE FOR MEN.

The session included information from lecturers about Care and Early Years courses, practical taster sessions and talks from former male students who studied Health and Social Care and Early Years programmes.

Sharing his experience on a care course, Routes to Care student, Gary Reid from Ayr has proved that you are never too old to start a new career. After attending a

“The Men Into Care event was definitely what made my mind up. I’m almost 50 years old – I’d written myself off. I wish I’d done this ten years ago.”

previous Men Into Care event, he enrolled on the Routes to Care course.

Gary said “The Men Into Care event was definitely what made my mind up. I’m almost 50 years old – I’d written myself off. I wish I’d done this ten years ago.”



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to our blog
yet?...**



NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENGINEERING DAY

Nearly forty female pupils from East Ayrshire schools came together at Ayrshire College for an insight into the opportunities available for young women in the engineering sector.



The visit was organised as part of National Women in Engineering Day, 23 June, which aims to celebrate the achievements of women in engineering and encourage more girls to consider a career in the industry.

The S3 pupils – from Cumnock Academy, Loudoun Academy, and St. Joseph's Academy – took part in activities across the Construction and Trade, Engineering and Science, Automotive Vehicles, and Computing departments at the Kilmarnock campus.

The College had their lecturers and current female apprentices on hand to talk the groups through the various demonstrations and explain why engineering is a great career path to go down.

A number of the pupils said after the event that the workshops had been a real eye-opener and they were now going to seriously think about a career in engineering.

➤ *Tackling Inequalities*

ANTI-SECTARIANISM WORKSHOP PUT ON FOR SPORTS STUDENTS



SCOTLAND'S LEADING ANTI-SECTARIAN CHARITY, NIL BY MOUTH, HAS BEEN DELIVERING WORKSHOPS TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF COACHES AT AYRSHIRE COLLEGE'S TOWNHOLM CAMPUS, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE INSIGHTS, TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGIES THEY WILL NEED IN THE WORKPLACE.

Although not all sectarian offences are linked to sport, many people associate sectarianism with football.

Dave Scott, campaign director for Nil By Mouth, spoke with groups of Sports Coaching and Development students to help them understand what sectarianism is and the consequences it has on society.

He stressed how important it was for them to know how to deal with difficult situations once they are in coaching jobs.

Nil By Mouth was established in 1999 and has called for a nationwide rehabilitation programme for people convicted of sectarian offences.



STUDENT'S ANTI-STALKING POSTER TO GO IN SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UK

Ayrshire College student Leonie Smith has won a prestigious design competition organised by the founder of the campaign group Action Scotland Against Stalking, Ann Moulds. The winning design will be on display in all primary and secondary schools across the UK.

➤ *Tackling Inequalities*

HEALTH AND WELLBEING DAY



AYRSHIRE COLLEGE STAFF WERE LOOKING AFTER THEMSELVES ON FRIDAY 26 JUNE AS THEY TOOK PART IN EXERCISES, ACTIVITIES AND RELAXATION AS PART OF STAFF WELLBEING DAY.

The event was arranged by the College's Health and Safety advisors and everyone was encouraged to take part in something, with a minimum £1 donation going towards Ayrshire Hospice.



➤ *Tackling Inequalities*



THIS AYRSHIRE GIRL CAN

THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED THE 'THIS AYRSHIRE GIRL CAN' CAMPAIGN ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

The hope is to empower and encourage women to enter careers or learning programmes where women's participation is traditionally low.

Students took to Twitter using #ThisAyrshireGirlCan to upload their own photos.

The students aimed to encourage women to pursue traditionally male-dominated subjects by explaining why they decided to follow their career paths.



➤ *Building Community Capacity*

WETLANDS CREATED BY STUDENTS OFFICIALLY OPENED



AYRSHIRE COLLEGE STUDENTS, WHO HELPED CREATE LAGOONS AT DEAN CASTLE COUNTRY PARK, WERE AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW WETLAND AREA RECENTLY TO SEE THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOUR.

Environmental management students and other volunteers at the College from sports, social science and uniformed services courses dug in last year to create a new wetland habitat for the lagoon area of

the park in collaboration with the conservation charity, Froglife.

Froglife is a national wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles.

The opening took place in the form of a walk-and-talk around the area. The new wetland area will help to attract and support a range of amphibian and wetland invertebrate species.

“The new wetland area will help to attract and support a range of amphibian and wetland invertebrate species.”



➤ *Building Community Capacity*

Ayrshire College leads the way with successful Police Scotland and NHS Ayrshire and Arran Partnerships



AYRSHIRE COLLEGE ARE SECTOR LEADERS AFTER THE SUCCESS OF THEIR PARTNERSHIP WITH POLICE SCOTLAND AND NHS SCOTLAND.

The creation of two jointly funded posts, Campus Liaison Officer and Addictions Liaison Officer, has had a positive impact on students and the wider community by supporting positive life choices.

Lisa Thomson and Cara Durnie have engaged with students through a number of training and education

workshops and overseeing several key projects, such as Respect Week and Alcohol Awareness Week, to raise awareness and get students involved.

Overall feedback for the events was very positive with 94% of students rating the information they received as very useful.

Campus Liaison Officer, Lisa, has had the opportunity to improve life chances across Ayrshire. She said: "I have improved relations between the Police and young people by breaking down barriers

through student engagement showing that Police Officers are approachable, fair and willing to help."

The College partnership with NHS Ayrshire and Arran and Police Scotland is having a positive impact on the students of Ayrshire College and the wider community by supporting positive life choices.

The partnership also supports the Community Planning Partnership theme of Health and Wellbeing and Safer Communities.

"By delivering workshops on areas of concern to the College such as social media, drugs/alcohol, domestic abuse etc. students are provided with accurate information which helps them to have a better understanding of the law and in turn can make better life choices."

➤ *Building Community Capacity*

SPORTING SUCCESS



A football festival for hearing impaired primary school pupils took place at Rugby Park, with Ayrshire College students helping 80 young people from across the West of Scotland participate in footballing activities.

The annual event is organised by the Scottish Football Association (SFA) South West

region and the Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service. This year is the first time the festival has taken place at the home of Kilmarnock Football Club, Rugby Park.

Sport and Fitness students from Ayrshire College helped to coach the youngsters through different football drills over the four hour session.

PARTNERS SHOW APPRECIATION

Students from Ayrshire College's HNC Care and Administrative Practice (Administration Route) attended a ceremony at University Hospital Crosshouse, where they were rewarded after successful placements within NHS Ayrshire & Arran.



Ayrshire College social care students on placement at Willowbank School were recognised for their dedication and excellent work at an award ceremony last week.



Creative Candy

Ayrshire College's creative students put on their first ever end of year showcase event at Ayr Racecourse last week to celebrate their hard work over the past 10 months.

Over 500 guests were treated to spectacular performances throughout the evening from a range of courses in hair, drama, make-up artistry and fashion,

with photography, media, fine art and graphics exhibitions also taking place.

The event finished with entertaining live performances from HNC and HND Music students.

Watch video of this event here...



➤ *Developing Ayrshire's Workforce*

NETWORKING LUNCH IS A SPEEDY SUCCESS FOR AYRSHIRE COLLEGE

IN MAY WE WELCOMED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND CAREERS ADVISORS TO MEET COLLEAGUES FROM ALL THE CURRICULUM AREAS, STUDENT SERVICES, STUDENT FUNDING, INCLUSIVE LEARNING, MODERN APPRENTICESHIP AND MARKETING TEAMS.

The purpose of the event was to meet face to face to share key information about their areas of interest. Each event was organised like "speed dating" whereby the careers advisors had 5 minutes to visit each of the 12 information stands. During a networking lunch they could

follow up for more information with their new contacts.

The Careers Advisors are really important partners to the College as each one is responsible for a secondary school in Ayrshire where they help young people apply for courses as they prepare to leave school.

From our evaluation we received really positive feedback on the usefulness of the event.

The most popular comments were:

"This event was useful to gain information on the interview procedures for different courses

and to find out further information about courses and what spaces are still available."

"It was good to make new contacts, enabling us to know exactly who to speak to if we have questions about particular courses, funding or support."

"Tips on what to include in the personal statement was really useful because we can use this to advise pupils when they are completing their application forms."

We look forward to further information events later this year.

Skills Centre of Excellence Lunch



North Ayrshire MPs, MSPs and councillors came to our Skills Centre of Excellence in Irvine for a fantastic three-course lunch, cooked and served by our NC Hospitality and

Professional Cokery students.

The politicians, including newly elected Philippa Whitford MP, were able to see the impact the centre has made to the learning

and development of the students and hear about further plans for developing Ayrshire's Young Workforce.

Meanwhile, MSP Margaret McDougall visited earlier in May. She enjoyed her visit so much that she hopes to be able to invite our students to cook and serve within the Holyrood restaurant in the future!

Watch a video showcasing our Skills Centre of Excellence here...



➤ *Developing Ayrshire's Workforce*

EMPLOYERS ON BOARD TO HELP DEVELOP AYRSHIRE'S WORKFORCE



AYRSHIRE COLLEGE RECENTLY HELD A MAJOR EMPLOYER NETWORKING EVENT ON THE THEME OF 'DEVELOPING AYRSHIRE'S WORKFORCE'. EMPLOYERS, LOCAL PARTNERS AND INDUSTRY LEADERS CAME TOGETHER TO HEAR THE COLLEGE'S VISION FOR ENSURING POSITIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Heather Dunk, Principal, welcomed guests to the College's Kilmarnock Campus, where they enjoyed a mouth-watering three course menu prepared, and served by, hospitality students.

Heather Dunk said "Events like this

are valuable for students as their talent is demonstrated to potential future employers on the night.

"They are valuable for employers because they gain a better understanding of the benefits of working with the College to develop their current and future workforce.

"And, of course, they are invaluable for the college as they give us another opportunity to talk with employers about their skills needs, and how well our courses and students are fulfilling their requirements."

Employers had the opportunity to make commitments on what they would be willing to do to help

develop Ayrshire's school and college students, for example by taking on apprentices, offering work experience placements or arranging site visits.

Guests were shown videos, produced by the College for last month's Scottish Apprenticeship Week, featuring apprentice chefs and engineers. This footage showed the young employees in their work environment as they and their employers - including Trump Turnberry, Billy Bowie Tankers and GSK - spoke positively about the apprenticeship route.

The event was an ideal setting for organisations to network with each other and enabled the College to enhance its already well-established relationships with Ayrshire's business community.

"Events like this are valuable for students as their talent is demonstrated to potential future employers on the night."

➤ *Developing Ayrshire's Workforce*

AYRSHIRE STUDENTS RECEIVE TOOLS OF THE TRADE AT JOHN MATHER AWARDS



FORMER AYRSHIRE COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO HAVE SECURED EMPLOYMENT OR SET UP THEIR OWN BUSINESS WITHIN THE PAST YEAR HAVE BEEN GIFTED 'TOOLS OF THE TRADE' COURTESY OF THE JOHN MATHER CHARITABLE TRUST TO HELP SUPPORT THEM IN THE WORKPLACE.

In total, 127 students benefited from the John Mather Trust and attended a ceremony at the Park Hotel in Kilmarnock on 20 May, where they received an award alongside their tools in front of a packed audience of

proud parents, partners and friends.

The students collected their awards from Trustee Marilyn MacKay, who shared fond memories of John Mather in her speech.

John left school at 16 and started working life as an office boy in the accounts department of the Clyde Navigation Trust in 1953. He later went on to become company chairman of Clydeport and built up a personal wealth of several million pounds.

He set up the John Mather Charitable Trust in 1996 to help young people in the West of Scotland get started in their trade. Since then hundreds of students have benefitted from the generosity of the Trust.

A number of the former students' employers were in attendance on the night, including Jewson, Wallace McDowall and Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd.

[View our Flickr gallery here...](#)



➤ *Developing Ayrshire's Workforce*

EXCELLENCE AWARDS



HUNDREDS OF AYRSHIRE COLLEGE STUDENTS CELEBRATED THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AT THREE EXCELLENCE AWARD CEREMONIES THIS MONTH, HELD AT STUNNING AYRSHIRE VENUES.

The Excellence Awards were created to enable students from non-advanced courses to receive recognition for their hard work and commitment over the duration of their course. Class lecturers nominated one student per class group to receive the honour.

“The Excellence Awards were created to enable students from non-advanced courses to receive recognition for their hard work and commitment over the duration of their course.”

Celebrations began at the Ayr Racecourse on June 3, The Gables Hotel in Irvine held the ceremony for Kilwinning students on June 10 while Kilmarnock's Park Hotel rounded things off on June 17.

Friends and family of the students packed out each event, which started with a

welcome from the Principal, Heather Dunk and also saw Student President Angela Alexander make a speech to the assembled crowd.

View our Flickr gallery here...



➤ *Developing Ayrshire's Workforce*

EXCELLENCE AWARDS



➤ *Developing Ayrshire's Workforce*

Performing Engineering Operations

OUR NEW PERFORMING ENGINEERING OPERATIONS COURSES ARE AN EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO SCHOOL PUPILS IN FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH YEAR AT SCHOOL.

It's the chance to spend part of the week out of school, doing hands-on engineering at college resulting in highly respected qualifications backed up by real-life work experience.

Great reasons to choose a Performing Engineering Operations course with Ayrshire College...

- *Start to build towards a career while you are still at school.*
- *Gain national SQA qualifications that are highly valued and recognised by employers.*
- *Visit a range of companies throughout the course.*
- *Experience a substantial work placement at the end of each year.*
- *Opportunities to be interviewed by companies wishing to recruit Modern Apprentices.*
- *Boost your CV/ application for a job or higher education place.*
- *Step into exciting and growing industries that needs skilled young people.*



Click here for more on our STEM Courses





“Our new Performing Engineering Operations courses are an exciting new opportunity open to school pupils.”



● MISSION ● STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ○ VISION ● VALUES

AYR CAMPUS

Dam Park,
Ayr, KA8 0EU
Tel: 01292 265184

KILMARNOCK CAMPUS

Holehouse Road,
Kilmarnock, KA3 7AT
Tel: 01563 523501

KILWINNING CAMPUS

Lauchlan Way,
Kilwinning, KA13 6DE
Tel: 01294 559000

- / RAISING ASPIRATIONS
- / INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT
- / INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES