

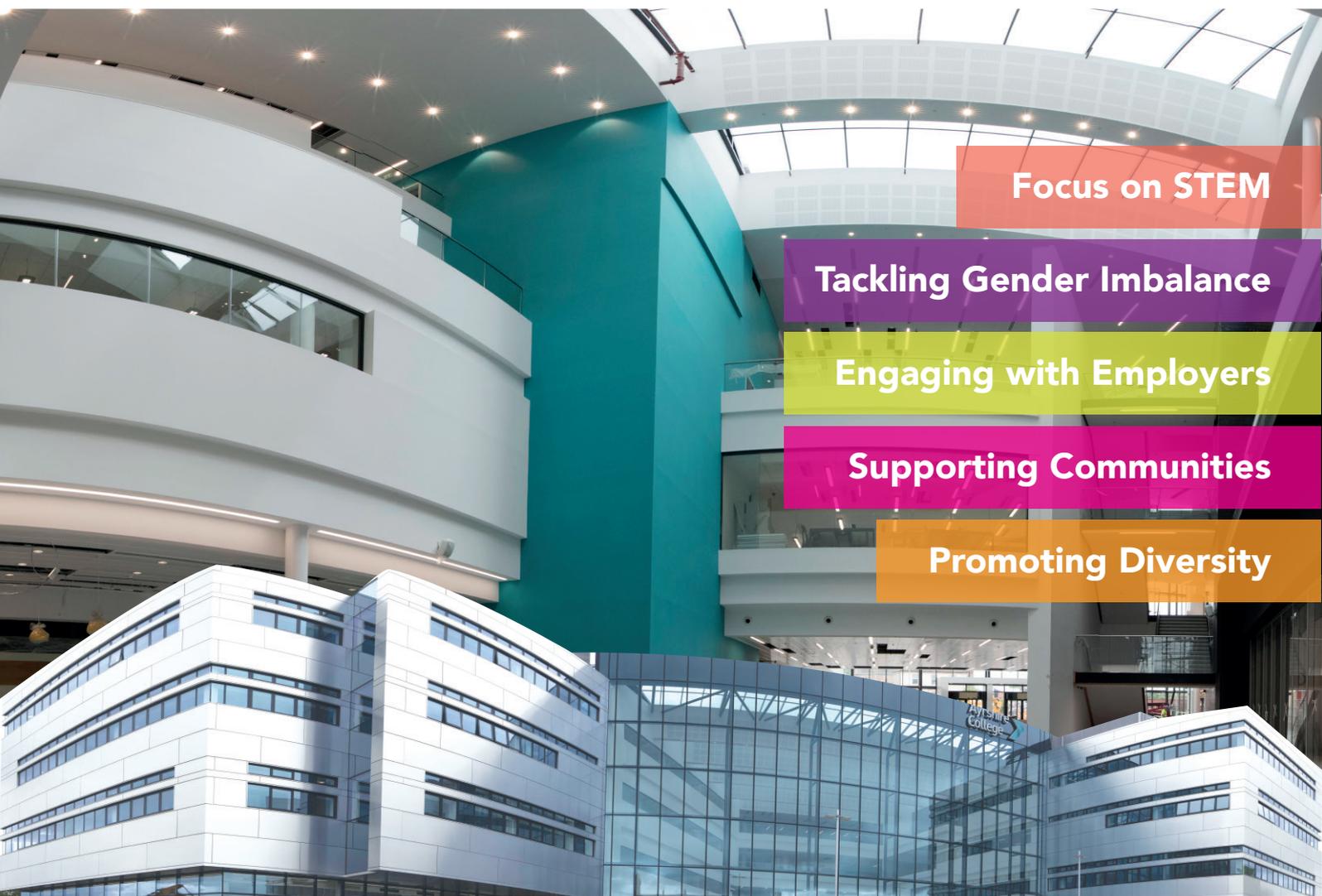
RAISING ASPIRATIONS
INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT
INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES

connect

Ayrshire
College

The magazine of Ayrshire College • Summer 2016 Issue

www.ayrshire.ac.uk



Focus on STEM

Tackling Gender Imbalance

Engaging with Employers

Supporting Communities

Promoting Diversity

A NEW CAMPUS FOR EVERYONE OPENING 24 OCTOBER



MISSION DISCOVERY

Ayrshire hosts out of
this world opportunity



#thisayrshiregirlcan



Celebrating success





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MISSION DISCOVERY

WE HOSTED AYRSHIRE'S FIRST EVER MISSION
DISCOVERY SPACE SCHOOL PROGRAMME,
DELIVERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE
SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRUST (ISSET), TO
150 SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS
AND 50 COLLEGE STUDENTS.



AYRSHIRE COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Ayrshire
College

East Ayrshire
COUNCIL

South
AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL



North Ayrshire Council



The event was a huge success - the participants got the once in a lifetime chance to create space experiments with former NASA astronaut Michael Foale CBE, NASA's Assistant Chief of EVA, Robotics & Crew Systems, Sarah Murray, and ISSET's Chief Scientist Dr Julie Keeble.

The winning team will now see their experiment blast

off into space, where it will be carried out by astronauts on the International Space Station. Their experiment looks at the speed of slime mould on different materials.

The Mission Discovery programme took place from 13-17 June at our Ayr campus and was funded by the Ayrshire College Foundation. ISSET director Chris Barber

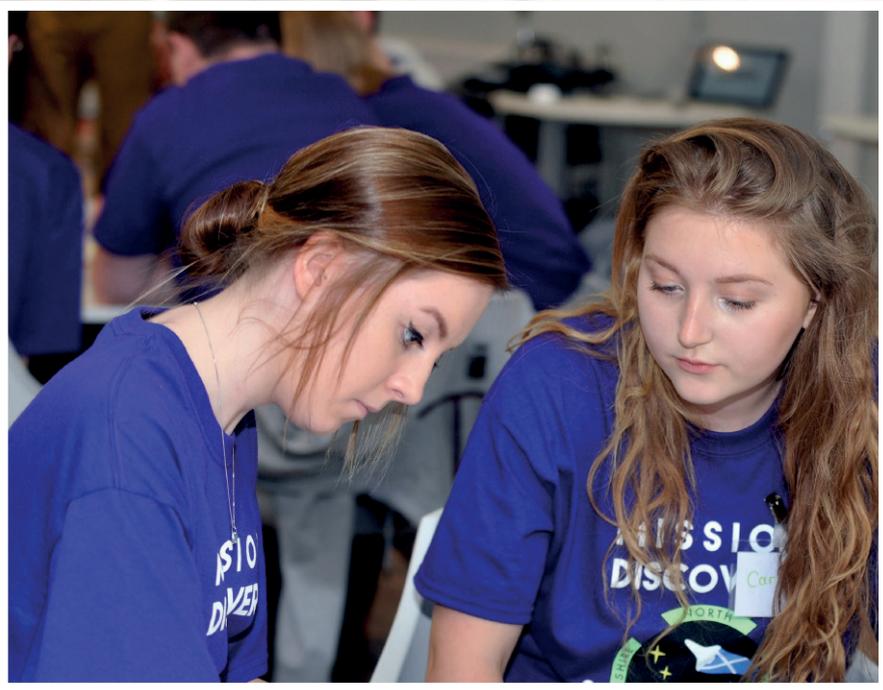
announced on the final day that Mission Discovery Ayrshire 2016 was one of the best programmes they have ever run.

Members of the public also got the chance to hear from former NASA astronaut Michael Foale at our 'Meet the Astronaut' night.



**“Members of the public
got the chance to hear from
former NASA astronaut
Michael Foale at our ‘Meet
the Astronaut’ night.”**





Click here to see our flickr photos 



The Big Bang

@ Ayrshire College

WHAT A BLAST WE HAD AT THE BIG BANG @ AYRSHIRE COLLEGE EVENT – PARTICULARLY DURING THE BBC MICRO:BIT ROCKET CAR COMPETITION



The contest was organised by the Bloodhound project and saw pupils from East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire secondary schools compete in a series of high-speed races at our Ayr campus.

had small sticks of dynamite strapped to them – race against each other.

Under the supervision of the British Army and engineering lecturer William Morton, their rocket cars raced in a straight line to establish which pupils had engineered the quickest model.

Queen Margaret Academy pupils were crowned the champions after their rocket car recorded an incredible speed of 48mph.

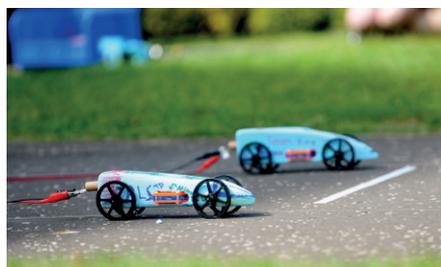
Ardrossan Academy, Auchendarvie Academy, Greenwood Academy, Irvine Royal Academy, and St. Matthews Academy each had two teams which battled it out over the morning session.

Auchendarvie Academy's second car won with a speed of 41.42mph.

The Big Bang @ Ayrshire College event was set up to get Ayrshire pupils excited about science, technology, engineering and maths.

That speed was blown out of the water in the afternoon

There is little doubt that the event has sparked an interest in many of the pupils who took part, after they watched their specially designed cars – that





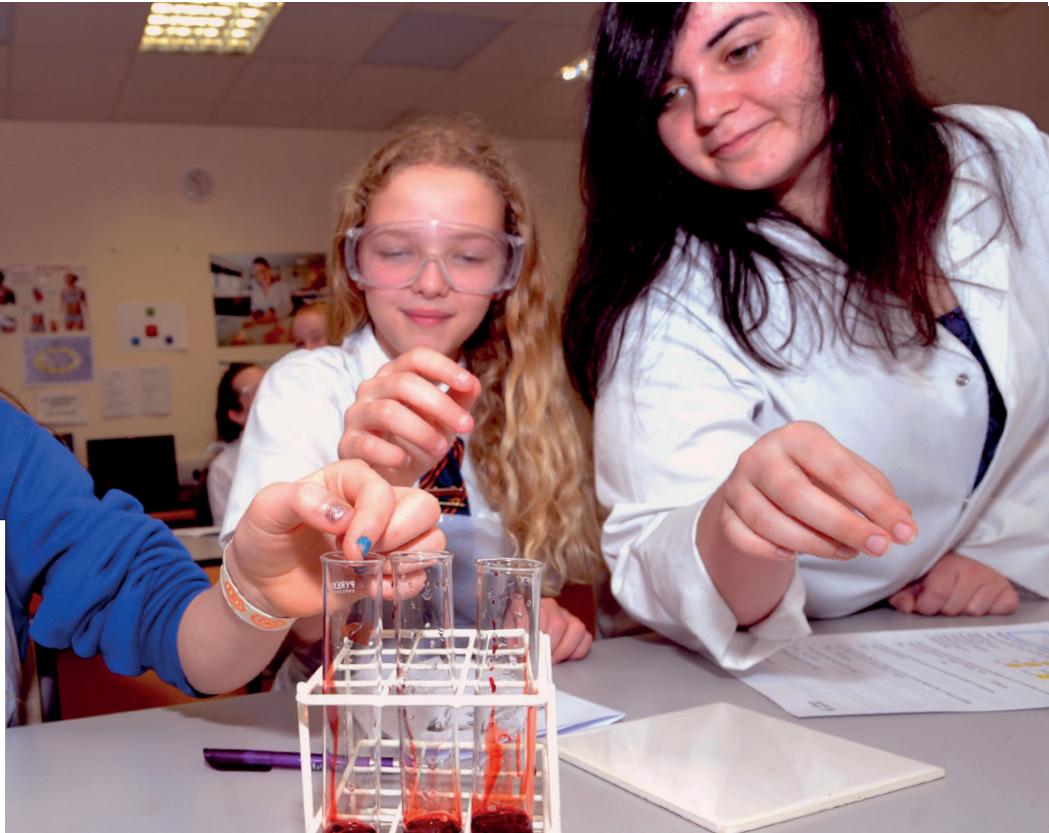
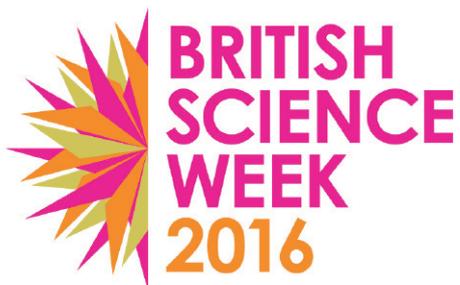
session, when Queen Margaret Academy pupils saw their rocket blast off at an unbelievable speed of 47.59mph. They were up against teams from Ayr Academy, Belmont Academy, Kyle Academy and Prestwick Academy.

When their cars were not racing outside the College's Riverside Building, pupils visited the stalls set up by the British Army, Royal Aeronautical Society, Royal Air Force and United Technologies inside the College. The College also invited the pupils to hear about the range of STEM courses that they offer, including the Foundation Apprenticeship in Engineering.



The Big Bang





BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK WORKSHOPS

OUR STEM CURRICULUM TEAMS HOSTED WORKSHOPS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS AS PART OF BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2016 – A TEN-DAY PROGRAMME OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHS EVENTS.

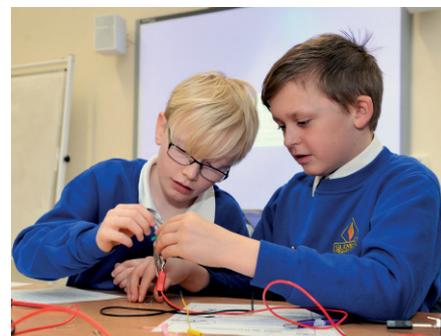
British Science Week provides the perfect platform for us to showcase our science courses to school pupils.

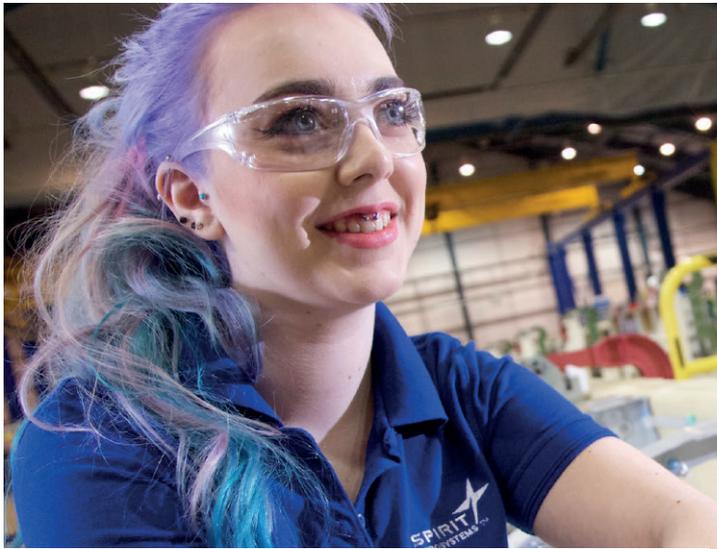
Primary 6 and 7 pupils from Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary School, Crosshill Primary School, Glenburn Primary School, Maidens Primary School, Monkton Primary School, St. Patrick's Primary School, and a group of secondary pupils from Prestwick Academy took part in a number of practical activities at our Ayr campus.

First up was the 'Gumdrop Challenge' which involved pupils working in teams to create a support structure from toothpicks and gumdrops that was capable of supporting a heavy book for at least thirty seconds.

Pupils also took part in physiological activities to see how their heart and lungs were working. After using peak flow meters, lung bags and pulse rate meters to monitor initial results, the pupils performed star jumps before measuring results again.

Every group was supported by current science students who volunteered to facilitate the workshops and offer advice to the pupils. The students spoke about their experience at college and what their courses involved.





AYRSHIRE CONNECTS

MISSION DISCOVERY WEEK PRESENTED THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH AYRSHIRE CONNECTS - A MENTORING NETWORK FOR FEMALE STUDENTS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM)



SARAH MURRAY, NASA'S ASSISTANT CHIEF OF EVA, ROBOTICS & CREW SYSTEMS WITH AYRSHIRE CONNECTS STUDENTS

Ayrshire Connects will provide female STEM students the opportunity to connect with each other, with students in other colleges and universities, with senior pupils in secondary schools across Ayrshire, and to employers and women in the industry sectors they aspire to enter.

Vice Principal Jackie Galbraith chaired the packed launch event, with Sarah Murray, NASA's Assistant Chief of EVA, Robotics & Crew Systems, delivering the keynote speech.

Jackie explained why the College is committed to supporting this network and encouraging more females to take up a career in STEM.

Holly Bates, new Student President, introduced the '#ThisAyrshireGirlCan' film which highlighted the great work of our former and current female STEM students.

Sarah delivered an engaging and inspirational talk to students and employers about her life, her education and her impressive NASA career, before taking part in a Q&A session.

[Click here to visit our website](#)

#THISAYRSHIREGIRLCAN



We welcomed First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP to our Kilwinning campus on International Women's Day, as she put her backing behind our #ThisAyrshireGirlCan campaign.

The #ThisAyrshireGirlCan campaign aims to inspire women to take up traditionally male-dominated careers.

The First Minister spoke about her rise to the top in Scottish politics and inspired the packed audience of female primary and secondary school pupils and students to follow their dreams.

'#ThisAyrshireGirlCan' was created by the Ayrshire College Student Association to encourage more women to think about careers in sport and STEM areas where female participation is traditionally low.

A specially created film celebrating the campaign's one-year anniversary was shown at the event. The DVD celebrates 22 women studying science, technology, engineering and maths courses at Ayrshire College, including Modern Apprentices working in companies like GSK, Hyspec Engineering and Spirit AeroSystems.

Two of the stars of the film - Adele Baird and Abbie Robb - explained what motivated them to choose their STEM careers. Afterwards, the First Minister held an enlightening Q&A session with the audience.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said "#ThisAyrshireGirlCan will not only help young women see the opportunities that a STEM career can bring and



give them confidence to pursue their ambitions, it will also help Scotland's economy to be as strong as it can be - by ensuring that we are tapping into the talents of all of our people and not underusing the skills of half of our population."

The College organises events throughout the year to encourage young women to consider a career in traditionally male-dominated sectors.



First Minister on International Women's Day

FOR THOSE NOT IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF #THISAYRSHIREGIRLCAN, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PRODUCING A VIDEO DOCUMENTING THE EVENTS OF THE DAY.

Further good news is that First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP kindly agreed to share her speech with our online audience through our blog.

The following is an excerpt of the speech which can be viewed in full on our blog.

[Click here to read our blog...](#) 

“ It’s fantastic to join so many other Ayrshire girls to celebrate International Women’s Day, and to launch this hugely worthwhile initiative.

And thanks also to Abbie and Adele, for providing such great role models of young women in science. There are many others. Last year’s modern apprentice of the year for the whole of Scotland was Laura Black, who is an engineer for BAE systems on the Clyde. 12 of the 18 Science Festivals in Scotland are run by women. I’m fortunate enough to meet excellent female apprentices, researchers, employees and managers on visits to colleges, universities and factories across Scotland.

They follow a distinguished history of women in science in Scotland. You might have seen that the Royal Bank of Scotland recently decided to put Mary Somerville on its new £10 banknotes. She was a nineteenth century astronomer from Jedburgh, whose work was very influential in leading to the discovery of planet Neptune. She now has a crater on the moon named after her. ”



International #GirlsInICT Day 28 April 2016

*Expand horizons,
change attitudes*

www.girlsinict.org



GIRLS INTO ICT DAY

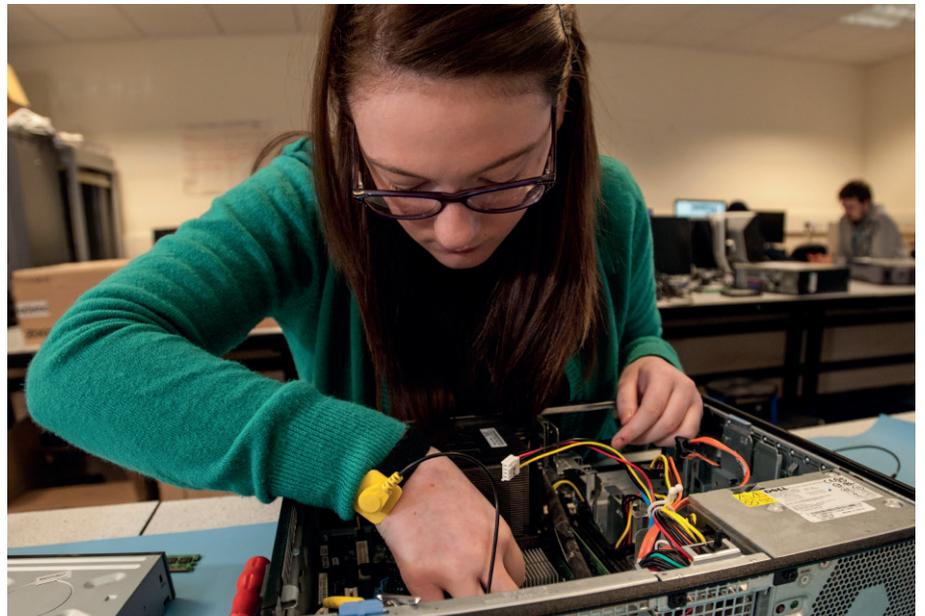
WE TURNED GIRLS INTO ICT DAY INTO A WEEK-LONG CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS COMPUTING ON OUR BLOG THIS YEAR.

Our major announcement over the week was that we would be recruiting two Modern Apprentices - one in ICT, the other in Digital Marketing.

Women are under-represented in IT occupations, making up just 17% of ICT specialists in the UK. We are trying to address this by sparking an interest in computer coding and technology at a young age, particularly through our popular CoderDojo coding clubs.

Take a look at our blog and read the inspirational stories of Google's Senior User Experience Researcher, Heather Traher, The Data Lab's Chief Executive, Gillian Docherty, brightsolid's Service Desk Analyst, Claire Beattie, and our very own ICT technicians, Helen Blakely and Dawn Rowe.

We also spoke to two of our current students: Shireen Robb, HND Technical Support, and Lauren Brock, HNC Computer Games Development.



SHIREEN ROBB, HND TECHNICAL SUPPORT STUDENT



HEATHER TRAHER,
GOOGLE



HELEN BLAKELY AND DAWN ROWE,
ICT TECHNICIANS



GILLIAN DOCHERTY,
THE DATA LAB

Click here
to read our
blog...



Cutting edge



CoderDojo

After watching the inspirational #ThisAyrshireGirlCan film featuring young women excelling in male-dominated areas, primary school girls couldn't wait to get to work at an exclusive CoderDojo Coding Club set up just for them.

Once the pupils had finished at the 'Selfie Station' with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP, they piled onto the computers at Kilwinning and got to coding!

CoderDojo is a programming club for 7-17 year olds where they learn how to code, develop websites, apps, programs, games and explore technology in an informal and creative environment.

Over 500 young people across Ayrshire have taken part in clubs run by the College since November 2014.

It was excellent to see the primary school pupils brimming with enthusiasm as they worked on the CoderDojo computing tasks.

[Click here to read our blog...](#)





WE HAVE PRODUCED A SERIES OF VIDEOS SHOWCASING THE DAILY LIFE OF FIVE MODERN APPRENTICES.

This campaign is called #WhatIActuallyDo and features the apprentices throughout their typical work day. The apprentices were also interviewed about what attracted them to their Modern Apprenticeship.

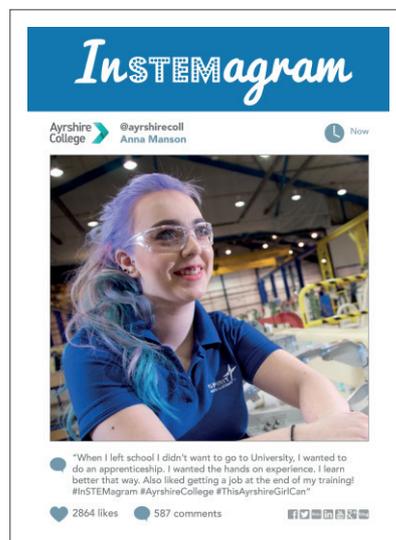
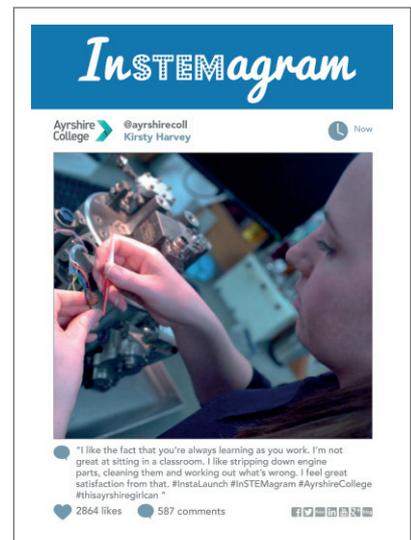
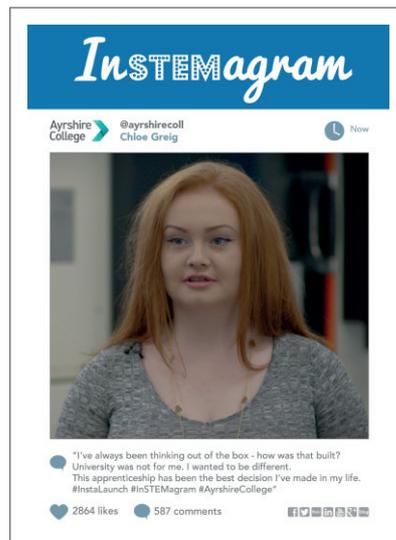
We would like to thank Hyspec Engineering, GSK, Woodward, Spirit AeroSystems and Prestwick Aircraft Maintenance for allowing us to film Megan Forrest, Chloe Greig, Kirsty Harvey, Anna Manson and Abbie Robb respectively, on site.

Anna was on hand for the first showing of the video, which was played to guests from Spirit AeroSystems and Skills Development Scotland at Spirit AeroSystems in Prestwick. While there, Chairman Willie Mackie said of Anna "I have rarely met such an enthusiastic ambassador for engineering. Great credit is also due to Spirit AeroSystems who are recognising her talents and providing her with a marvellous opportunity to develop her skills."

The campaign was supported with funding from the Skills Development Scotland's Equality Challenge Fund, and aims to improve the perception of careers in STEM by school pupils. The videos provide positive female role models to

encourage young women into engineering.

All Ayrshire primary and secondary schools have received a DVD containing the videos, which are now available to watch on our website and YouTube channel.

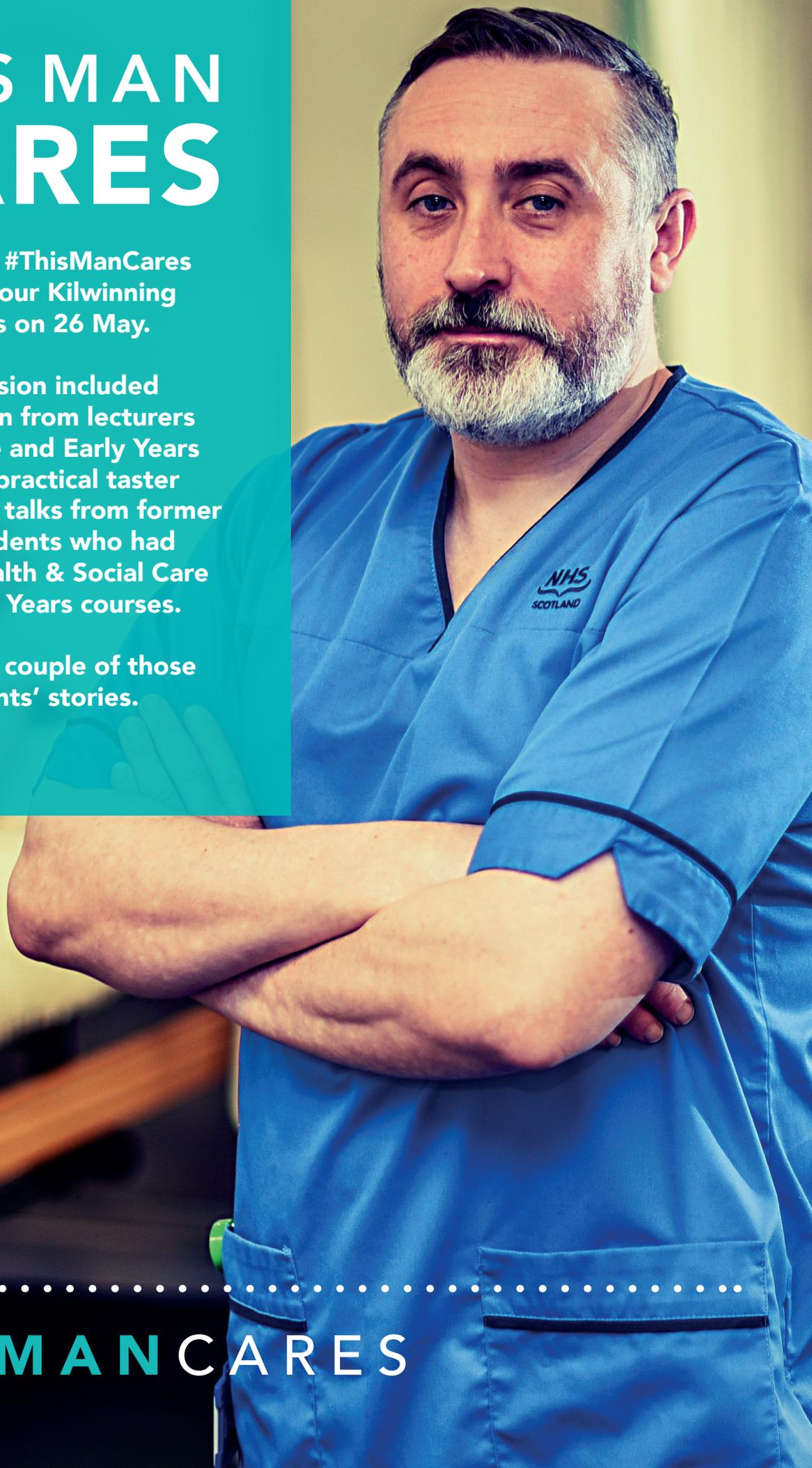


THIS MAN CARES

We held a #ThisManCares event at our Kilwinning campus on 26 May.

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

Here are a couple of those students' stories.



.....
#THISMANCARES

THIS MAN CARES

FROM TREE SURGEON TO COUNSELLOR

Ali Coughtrie



I am a tree surgeon to trade who has worked in environmental education. Through these I have been involved in mountain rescue. Throughout my life I have been relatively unaware of the care sector as, other than the doctor and dentist, I have not used these services. However, when my mum had a stroke it made me think about health and the services that help support us to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

It was a defining moment and I made a life changing decision to retrain in health and social care. Initially I investigated the Scottish Ambulance Service with

a view to becoming a passenger transport assistant. However, I soon realised that all my qualifications and experience were related to my previous jobs in the outdoors and I needed to get some relevant qualifications.

I enrolled in a NC Health and Social Care course which was a great foundation. During the NC course I loved the psychology classes, so this year I am studying the HNC Counselling course. I was encouraged to get involved in volunteering to gain relevant experience. I work on the South Ayrshire Befriending Project and I am also doing driver training with the Ayrshire Hospice.

Counselling is a fascinating area of study where you learn about which approaches are best for a particular client. I've got a lot out of this course, especially more self-awareness as we are encouraged to keep journals of our everyday experiences.

I've changed how I respond to situations as I stop and think now before I speak and I am more open minded.

I've also been given opportunities to attend NHS short courses on a range of interesting topics including dementia, legal highs and child protection. I have enjoyed interacting with a wide variety of people on these courses and it has enhanced what we learn at college.

I was a bit worried before I came to the college that I would be the only man. However, there are about six men out of twenty on the course and I have a number of friends and colleagues through my volunteering that are male. Things are changing and there is more of a mixed workforce now.

I think it's important to have both male and female staff in the care sector because clients may respond better to the care giver if they feel more comfortable with a man or a woman.

#THISMANCARES

THIS MAN CARES

FROM PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER TO NURSE

Martin Ure



I am doing the Access to Nursing course which will give me the entry requirements needed to start a nursing degree at university. I don't have enough qualifications to go straight into university so an "Access" course is the perfect way to start my career.

I've been working as a support worker in a secure mental health unit, and it is mental health nursing I really want do. I find my work with these patients really interesting, especially learning about the different illnesses and how each is diagnosed and treated. I am fascinated about how the brain works.

While I was there as a support worker, I noticed there was a lack of male nurses. Some patients are more comfortable talking to another man or would prefer to have their personal care supported by a male nurse. I know there is a demand for male nurses and together with my increasing interest in mental health my mind was made up to take a big step and retrain as a nurse.

I think there are more men becoming interested in nursing than ever before which is really encouraging as it's a career that can suit both male and females. It's a really challenging job where every day is different. You can make a difference to a patient's quality of living just by making small changes or taking time to listen or observe.

It really is a great course and we cover a wide range of subjects. We get good support from the lecturers. It has been a shock to the system to return to learning

after eleven years, however it's quite a mature class and we all help each other out. I think the difference is that we have all chosen what we want to do and are more focused, with our mind set on getting into university.

As a mature student I find it much easier to study compared to when I was at school. My dedication has taken me and my family completely by surprise. I have got a whole new future ahead of me – this is the career I am going to be doing for the rest of my life.

It's a far cry from where I was when I left school. At the age of sixteen I was offered a professional contract with Rangers and played with them for two and half years followed by a stint at Queen's Park. I had various jobs after this and now only play football to keep fit.

#THISMANCARES

[Click here to read our blog...](#) 

Community Placement for Students

Students from the HNC Working with Communities course have been completing a 300-hour placement with the Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) based in Ardrossan.

Ashley Cook, Dale McCarlie, Teresa McTaggart and Abbie Whannel worked with TACT to create a new community garden within the grounds of Eglinton Country Park in Kilwinning.

Teresa called it a “very worthwhile project”.

She said “The site is currently not much more than a large field but things are slowly evolving.

“Alongside myself are a small group of general volunteers who have been beavering away creating bays for different materials, breaking up pallets so we can reuse the wood and marking out where our raised beds and polytunnels will go.

“We have also been working in partnership with North Ayrshire Council’s Criminal Justice department, who have been a great help in collecting materials being donated and building the new beds ready for the first growing season.”



Prince's Trust 150



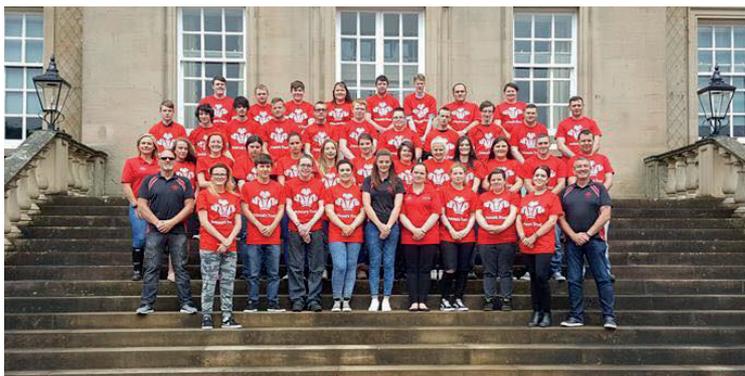
Team programme

THE PRINCE'S TRUST PROGRAMME HAS RETURNED – AND THIS TIME ALL THREE CAMPUSES JOINED TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE TEAM 150!

The Prince's Trust Team Programme is a personal development programme for unemployed 16-25 year olds.

Over the 12-week programme, the students gain a variety of new skills as they take part in an action-packed residential week and get involved in a community project of their choice.

We will be following the progress of this special Prince's Trust group over the summer on our website.





GET KILMARNOCK ACTIVE

OUR SPORT STUDENTS HAVE BEEN HELPING THE EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY GET ACTIVE THIS YEAR.

Their 'Get Kilmarnock Active' campaign was designed to inspire and engage the shoppers of Kilmarnock town centre to introduce subtle changes to their lives, which would ensure significant health and environmental improvements to both themselves and their community.

The project offered active travel advice, heritage tours of the town, free health checks, a referral scheme to free fitness classes for children, older adults and families, dietary tips and cooking advice.

Over 3,000 shoppers in the town centre have engaged with the campaign over the past four months.

The campaign brought together local professionals from the community including Sustrans, East Ayrshire Vibrant Communities, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, and Kilmarnock History Club.



focus | ON YOUR community

WE ARE PUTTING THE FOCUS ON COMMUNITIES, FOR EXAMPLE IN CUMNOCK AND THE GARNOCK VALLEY.

Working with partners like Skills Development Scotland, the Job Centre, and the council, our 'Focus on your Community' newsletters highlight short courses in the towns and villages in different parts of Ayrshire to help people to develop their employability skills.

Looking at inspirational stories from local Ayrshire College students, the aim of the campaign is to help communities see the wide range of courses the College has to offer, e.g. short courses, Modern Apprenticeships, courses for school pupils, as well as full-time courses.

Courses are designed to meet demand from employers in Ayrshire and beyond, and we are committed to increasing opportunities for people in every community in Ayrshire.



Ayrshire College focus | ON YOUR community
RAISING ASPIRATIONS INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT
www.ayrshire.ac.uk

Ayrshire College has a wide range of courses for people in Cumnock, the surrounding area, and the whole of Ayrshire.

Working with partners like Skills Development Scotland, the Job Centre, Yipworld and East Ayrshire Council, the College runs short courses in the towns around Cumnock to help people develop their career and employability skills.

Our courses are designed to meet demand from employers in Ayrshire and beyond. Working with partners, we are committed to increasing opportunities for people in your community.

START HERE / GO ANYWHERE

Read more about local students, like Liam, Adele and Graeme, modern apprentices, partnerships and projects going on in the Cumnock area...

Ayrshire College Apply now for August courses
www.ayrshire.ac.uk

RAISING ASPIRATIONS INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT www.ayrshire.ac.uk

“We are committed to increasing opportunities for people in every community in Ayrshire.”



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE AND COUNSELLING STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ASSISTING AT DEMENTIA DOG DAYS ACROSS AYRSHIRE.

Dementia Dog events inform patients and carers about the benefits of assistance dogs for people living with dementia.

Our students have been only too happy to help out at events held at our Kilwinning and Kilmarnock campuses, as well as Ailsa Hospital.

To see our students with the lovely dogs that have been spreading joy across Ayrshire, visit our flickr page.

Click here to see our flickr photos 





Community quilt is *sew impressive*



there are plans in place to frame the quilt and position it in a prominent place within our new Kilmarnock campus.

Towns represented on the unique community quilt are: Ayr (Ayr Racecourse), Hurlford (a propeller as the town was known for producing large ship

propellers), Irvine (Irvine Harbour), Kilmarnock (Dean Park, Johnnie Walker logo, Bellfield House), Kilwinning (Kilwinning Abbey), Largs (Largs Beach), Mauchline (Robert Burns), and Muirkirk (Tibbie's Brig). The current and new Kilmarnock campuses also have patches on the quilt.

THIS COMMUNITY QUILT HAS BEEN SEWN BY THE HANDS OF A TIGHT-KNIT GROUP OF STUDENTS ON THE LEVEL 4 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE COURSE.

Each student in the class designed one square which represents their home town.

We are so impressed by the students' work that





Foundation Apprenticeship

Could you help to Develop Ayrshire's Young Workforce?

We are looking for Ayrshire employers to support young people on three exciting Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities at Ayrshire College in 2016/17. Your input might be a site-visit, an industry talk, supporting young people to complete an industry challenge project or placing students with your organisation.

What is a Foundation Apprenticeship?

A Foundation Apprenticeship is a new two year course for school pupils in fifth year. Pupils opt for a Foundation Apprenticeship alongside their other subject choices and attend the College part-time to complete their course. As well as the underpinning knowledge taught at College, all Foundation Apprenticeships include elements of the relevant Modern Apprenticeship framework and substantial experience in industry or with an employer. Every pupil must gain industry standard experience as part of the course, exposing them early on to the world of work and employer expectations.

When someone finishes a Foundation Apprenticeship, they are awarded an industry recognised qualification. The opportunity of completing a

Foundation Apprenticeship could lead a young person to take further college courses, a Modern Apprenticeship, a university course or enter employment.

All Foundation Apprenticeships have been developed by Skills Development Scotland in partnership with relevant Sector Skills Councils.

Why we need employers

Foundation Apprenticeships are key to Scotland's Developing the Young Workforce strategy and provide opportunities for employers to work with schools and Ayrshire College to support young people still at school to become work-ready.

Ensuring we have sufficient employer input and work placements available to pupils is paramount to the success of Foundation Apprenticeships and ensuring we positively contribute to economic growth in Ayrshire.

Why employers need Foundation Apprentices

A Foundation Apprenticeship ensures a work relevant educational experience for young people. It is also about meeting the skills needs of employers and producing a skilled qualified workforce for the future.

Involvement in a Foundation Apprenticeship gives employers the chance to interact with and identify committed, skilled and motivated young people who could be recruited in the future.

What Foundation Apprenticeships does Ayrshire College offer?

We currently offer Foundation Apprenticeships in:

- Information Technology (Software Development)
- Social Services (Children and Young People)
- Engineering

Next year we hope to expand the range of Foundation Apprenticeships on offer to Ayrshire's young people.

Click here
to visit our
website



If you are interested in supporting Foundation Apprenticeships, please get in touch with kirsty.taylor@ayrshire.ac.uk for further information on what your contribution could be.



DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE



“This is not just about education and training nor is it just about getting youth unemployment levels back to 2008 levels. It is about Scotland’s long term economic success and wellbeing...”

Sir Ian Wood
Chair of the Commission
for Developing Scotland’s
Young Workforce



A key goal of the Scottish Government’s youth employment strategy was the establishment of regional industry-led Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) groups across Scotland to:

- encourage and support more employers to engage directly with education, and
- encourage more employers to recruit more young people and promote diversity in the workplace.

The government wants DYW regional groups and local authorities to work together to support the development of effective long-term partnerships between schools and employers, building on existing structures and expertise, and working with key partners like colleges and Skills Development Scotland.

The Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire (DYWA) regional group is one of a number of groups funded by the Scottish Government. A dedicated team is based at the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and they are keen to meet

local employers to find out how to help them become more involved with schools and the College to develop Ayrshire’s future workforce.

The DYWA group held its first focus group to engage with small and micro businesses in June. Nineteen local companies took part in discussions on employer engagement, work experience and Modern Apprenticeships.

The event provided the DYWA team with valuable feedback and ideas for developing new approaches to help small employers engage with young people.

For more information on the Ayrshire group visit the website, follow DYWA on Twitter and LinkedIn, and check out the blog.

Click here
to visit our
website 

Click here
to read our
blog... 



Making Your Business *our* Business

AT AYRSHIRE COLLEGE WE WANT TO BE THE TRAINING PARTNER OF CHOICE FOR LOCAL EMPLOYERS. WE WORK WITH BUSINESSES TO UNDERSTAND THEIR NEEDS TO MAXIMISE THEIR POTENTIAL AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS – THEIR FUTURE WORKFORCE. BY WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP, WE ENSURE EMPLOYERS HAVE ACCESS TO THE RIGHT SKILLS IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

In February 2014, at our inaugural annual business dinner, we launched our Making Your Business Our Business approach for engaging with employers. Two years on, we summarised this approach in our Making Your Business Our Business strategy which describes how we will continue to work with the business community to achieve their aspirations.

Employers at our most recent business dinner spoke positively about how we make their business our business.

Willie Kennedy, Director at William Kennedy Plumbers Ltd,

said "I started my career as a plumbing apprentice. At the age of 23 years, I started my own plumbing business and I now employ 27 people. It's important to have the right people on my team so I work with the college to recruit new apprentices every year. Most of my staff have trained at the college."

Margarette Bryan, Retail Sales Manager at Moobrook Textiles Limited BEGG SCOTLAND said "We engage with the college in a variety of ways to provide opportunities for students. As a world leading manufacturer of cashmere, we provide the fashion students with a creative brief and samples of cashmere to inspire their imaginations and create exciting fashion designs. We also arrange a factory tour so they can see how cashmere is made from the yarn to the finished pieces."

The College's approach to employer engagement has been recognised by being shortlisted in the Outstanding Employer Engagement category at forthcoming Herald Higher Education Awards in July 2016.

Sharing our work with the rest of Europe

British Council showcased the College's approach to employer engagement in its most recent Vocational Education Exchange magazine.

Click here to read...



Sharing our work with the college sector

Stuart Millar has lead responsibility for employer engagement at the College and hosted a workshop on college-employer partnerships at the College Development Network Emporium Finale on Friday 17 June. You can see Stuart's presentation here:

Click here to view...



Engaging with EMPLOYERS

Making Your Business *our* Business

Ayrshire
College 

[Click here to read our Making Your Business Our Business strategy which describes how we support employers](#)

[Click here to read...](#)



Engaging with EMPLOYERS

SCOTTISH APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2016



in 2015-16

873

Modern Apprentices
were trained at
Ayrshire College



SCOTTISH APPRENTICESHIP WEEK IS OUR CHAIRMAN'S FAVOURITE WEEK OF THE YEAR. THE WEEK IS A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN WHERE WE CELEBRATE APPRENTICES.

This year our Chair Willie Mackie decided to take on two challenging apprenticeship roles for a day!

Willie became an aeronautical engineering apprentice in the morning, before joining Cecchini's in Ardrossan where he was an apprentice chef in the restaurant kitchen.

Connor Duncan, a first year apprentice with Spirit AeroSystems, guided Willie through a basic riveting task at our Aeronautical Engineering Training Centre.

Willie said "Courtesy of Connor's skill, patience and good humour - and excellent coaching from lecturer John Sloan - I managed to get the rivets in the right place."

Apprentice chef Emma Tait showed Willie his way around the kitchen at Cecchini's.

Willie added "There is no substitute for meeting face to face our inspiring students who are directly benefiting from Modern Apprenticeships.

"The common theme running through these visits was how the modern apprenticeship experience was building relevant skills as well as the confidence and ambition of the students."

At the start of Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2016 the College announced that we had trained a total of 805 Modern Apprentices at the College in 2014-15. We are delighted to report that this increased to 873 in 2015-16.

AYR GUILDRY APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY STUDENT STUART QUEEN WAS NAMED AYR GUILDRY APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AT OUR EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY FOR THE AYR CAMPUS.

Each year the Ayr Guildry honours one apprentice who has excelled in his or her chosen craft.

Stuart was chosen as the 2016 Apprentice of the Year after an impressive twelve months that included being named one of our Students of the Year at our graduation ceremony, and placing third in the 2015 Skills Show in Birmingham.

Michael Hitchon MBE, Dean of the Ayr Guildry voluntary group which dates back to 1325, presented Stuart with his eye-catching award and said "This award recognises people with craft skills. You can guarantee the workmanship of a person who achieves this sort of level. Stuart has demonstrated the highest quality standards so we are delighted to award him the title of Apprentice of the Year 2016."

Congratulations Stuart!





GAMESA PARTNERSHIP

IN MAY THE COLLEGE ANNOUNCED A PARTNERSHIP WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY FIRM GAMESA THAT WILL SEE THE COMPANY OFFER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO OUR HN GRADUATES.

Gamesa recently employed two of our graduates and were looking to increase the number going forward. They have now agreed to offer up to 10 full time roles to suitable candidates from our most recent wind turbine technician courses.

The emerging partnership will also see Gamesa support us in delivering a new transitional training course for experienced local engineers to retrain as wind turbine technicians.

We have applied for funding from Skills Development Scotland to facilitate the course, which would be supplemented by Gamesa through both a financial and an 'in kind' contribution to support candidates.

A stakeholder briefing at our Kilmarnock campus was attended by partner bodies such as East Ayrshire Council, Energy Skills Partnership, Skills Development Scotland, the Department of Work and Pensions and Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, as well as Alan Brown MP and Provost Jim Todd.



TIME TO RENEW?

WE WILL SOON BE RUNNING A NUMBER OF COURSES FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS TO RENEW A LICENSE IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THEIR JOB.

Whether you need to renew your bartending license or you work in gas installation or first aid, we will be able to provide the necessary training for you.

Dates are still to be confirmed but to register your interest, please e-mail businessdevelopment@ayrshire.ac.uk.



Click here to visit our website 

STUDENTS *shine* AT AWARDS CEREMONY



NATASHA KERR

We would like to extend our congratulations to Sport and Fitness student Natasha Kerr, who has been nominated for the Contribution from a Student category at The Herald Higher Education Awards 2016.

In May, Natasha was also named by YWCA Scotland as one of the top 30 women under 30 in Scotland.

Natasha has already achieved great success this year as she was named both Volunteer of the Year and Youth Worker of the Year at YouthLink Scotland's National Youth Worker of the Year awards. The latter award was the main prize of the night.

Natasha was also shortlisted in the volunteering category at the Sunday Mail's Young Scot Awards 2016.

21-year-old Natasha dedicated more than 800 hours last year to her volunteering work with Kilmarnock Harriers, Catrine Youth Club and East Ayrshire Vibrant Communities, where she coaches young people in a variety of sports.

On collecting her awards, Natasha said "the smile on the young people's faces makes it all worthwhile."

CALVIN NILSEN-BARNES

Also at the Sunday Mail's Young Scot Awards, fellow student Calvin Nilsen-Barnes was nominated in the 'Young Hero' category by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP.

Calvin is studying Connect to Learning at Ayr. After suffering a brain haemorrhage at two weeks old he was left with severe learning disabilities. He faces many challenges day to day but takes them in his stride,

and always with a smile. Last year Calvin wrote to the First Minister asking to meet her and soon afterwards he was invited to Holyrood.

Nicola Sturgeon said "It was a pleasure to meet Calvin when he came to visit me in parliament. It was great to chat to him when he came to my office and his enthusiasm for everything he tackles in his life is an inspiration."



"his enthusiasm for everything he tackles in his life is an inspiration."

EXCELLENCE

AWARDS 2016



Students from our Ayr, Kilmarnock and Kilwinning campuses had their talents recognised at our annual Excellence Award ceremonies in May and June.

One student per group is nominated by their lecturers to receive a medal and certificate to identify them as exceptional students of the College.

It is an honour to receive this recognition, so congratulations to anyone who celebrated at our ceremonies at Ayr Racecourse, Irvine's Gables Hotel and The Park Hotel in Kilmarnock.

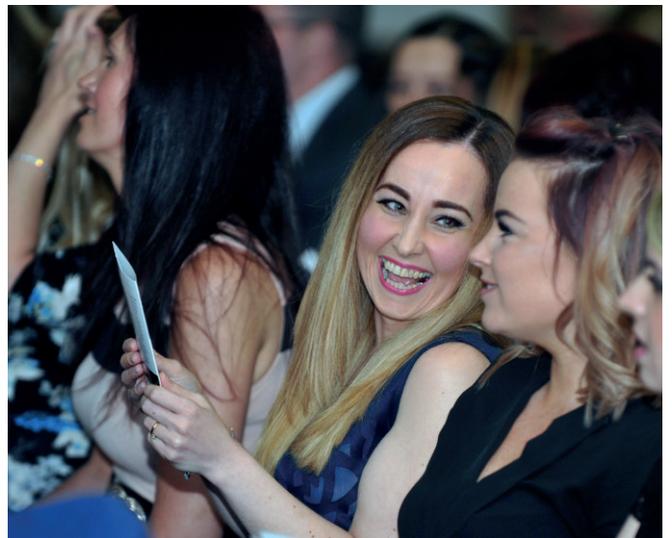
Photographs from these events are now available to see on our Flickr account.

[Click here to see our flickr photos](#)



THE JOHN MATHER CHARITABLE TRUST

AWARDS CEREMONY MAY 2016



Former students who have secured employment or established their own business within the past 12 months reaped the benefits of the John Mather Charitable Trust.

145 students from the following curriculum areas received a brand new set of tools at the Awards Ceremony at The Park Hotel: beauty therapy, complementary therapy, hairdressing, make-up artistry, hospitality, aeronautical engineering, landscape gardening, engineering and renewables, motor vehicle, and trades.

In front of a packed audience of proud families, friends and employers, the students collected their awards from Trustee Marlynn Mackay, who shared fond memories of John Mather in her speech.

John Mather began his career in the accounts department of the Clyde Navigation Trust in 1953 straight from school, and went on to become the manager of finance and marketing, then managing director, deputy chairman and executive chairman of Clydeport. John received a CBE in 1993.

Bernadette McGuire, Vice Principal for Learning and Teaching at Ayrshire College, said "On behalf of Ayrshire College, I would like to offer my congratulations to you on your achievement of the John Mather Award."

"John Mather's story should inspire the students throughout their careers. Hopefully, the tools they have received tonight from the John Mather Trust will help them succeed in their chosen trade."

AWARD SUCCESSES

THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF AWARD WINS FOR OUR STAFF MEMBERS AND STUDENTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

Sport and Fitness student **Natasha Kerr** triumphed at the YouthLink Scotland ceremony with two award wins.

At the same ceremony, **NC Environmental Management students** were nominated in the 'Climate Change Champions' category for their partnership work with the Dragon Finder project and East Ayrshire Countryside Service, while the College's Sport and Fitness team were nominated for the 'Innovative Practice' award based on their community outreach work.

The **Ayrshire College Students' Association** won the FE Students' Association of the Year award at the NUS Scotland Awards.

Our partnership with **Medics Against Violence**, which involves training our students in domestic abuse awareness, was shortlisted at the prestigious Times Educational

Supplement Further Education Awards.

Apprentice engineer **Abbie Robb** reached the top three in the Interconnect Scotland Female STEM Student of the Year award and was the only college student in the final.

Our Marketing team won a bronze award in the Digital Marketing category at the College Development Network Awards.

Murray Baxter, music lecturer, has been named as one of the finalists for the Bridge 2 Business Entrepreneurial FE College Educator of the Year award.

Finally our employer engagement strategy 'Making Your Business Our Business' has been recognised by The Herald Higher Education Awards, with its shortlisting in the Outstanding Employer Engagement category.

[Click here to read our blog...](#)



SPORT

come to Skills Centre
excellence



“Ayrshire College has a strong partnership with Active Schools, providing a high number of volunteers to each of the three Ayrshire Local Authorities.”

[Click here to read our blog...](#) 

TWO AYRSHIRE COLLEGE CLASSMATES HAVE BEEN BUSY REPRESENTING SCOTLAND IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPORTS AHEAD OF CRUCIAL INVOLVEMENT IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION.

Hayley Sinclair represents Scotland U19's at football while Natalie Mackinnon plays with the Scotland U18's hockey team. Both are currently studying HND Applied Sports and Exercise Science at the College's Skills Centre of Excellence in Irvine.

Natalie has a home tournament coming up this summer while Hayley pulled on the Scotland kit for European Championship qualifiers in Portugal in April.

Hayley recently returned from Portugal, where she played in two friendly wins over Switzerland and Czech Republic.

Meanwhile an Ayrshire College sport student gained a lucrative position with South Ayrshire Active Schools.



Kelsey-Marie Adams, who studies HND Coaching and Developing Sport at the Skills Centre of Excellence in Irvine, has been hired by South Ayrshire Active Schools on an internship.

Active Schools aims to provide more and higher quality opportunities for children to participate in school sport. Ayrshire College has a strong partnership with the Active Schools organisation, providing a high number of volunteers to each of the three Ayrshire Local Authorities.

#THISAYRSHIREGIRLCAN

Celebrating SUCCESS

Creative SHOWS

Click here
to see our
flickr
photos 



Ayrshire College Graduate Show

This exhibition features a range of specially selected creative work from a variety of disciplines that have been developed and produced by students of Art and Design at Ayrshire College. The students aim to showcase a body of expressive and personal work, chosen as highlights of their year in study at a variety of levels. The exhibition is an opportunity for the students to showcase their work to a local audience, before they apply to art schools around the country.



OUR CREATIVE COURSES HAVE HELD THEIR END OF YEAR SHOWS!

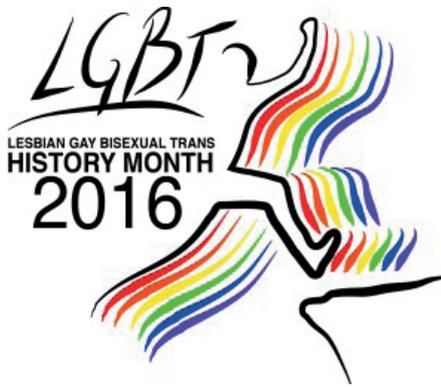
You can see fantastic images on our Flickr page of:

- The NQ Make-Up Artistry competition
- 'Metamorphosis' – the HNC HND Graded Unit showcase event
- Our annual Fashion Show
- The HNC Performing Arts theatre performance of 'Trojan Barbie'

And...

- OPUS: HND Art and Design Student Show

Well done to all of our students involved in these fantastic visual events!



FOR LGBT HISTORY MONTH OUR EQUALITY AND INCLUSION TEAM ORGANISED A HOST OF ENGAGING EVENTS.

Trans activist Oceana – who has contributed a guest post to our blog – hosted trans awareness sessions at each campus. There was also a webinar titled 'I don't want to slot into a male/female box', which was about how we can make our educational

spaces more welcoming and inclusive for those who may identify outside of the expected gender binary of 'man' or 'woman'.

There were drop-in clinics and information stalls at each of our main campuses to discuss sexual health, and an LGBT+ Student Forum at Ayr and Kilmarnock.

The 'Translating LGBT+ Conference' organised by the Ayrshire LGBT+ Development Group, of which Ayrshire College is a member, was live streamed via Periscope from East Ayrshire Council's headquarters.

Sara Turkington, Equality and Inclusion Officer, also writing for the College blog said: "We have been proactive in addressing the visibility of LGBT

role models and I am especially pleased that we continue to be innovative in achieving many firsts; a trans awareness webinar on GLOWTV, a non-binary webinar on both GLOWTV and College Development Network and LGBT student forums to name a few.

"We are also developing ever stronger relationships with our local schools."



Trans activist, Oceana

CARE EXPERIENCED BLOG SERIES

IN MARCH WE PUBLISHED A SERIES OF BLOG POSTS ON CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE HELP OF WHO CARES? SCOTLAND.

Who Cares? Scotland delivered Corporate Parenting training to our staff. In a recent article on our blog, their Corporate Parenting Officer Robert Foster discussed his role in working with colleges and universities to improve the outcomes of care experienced young people.

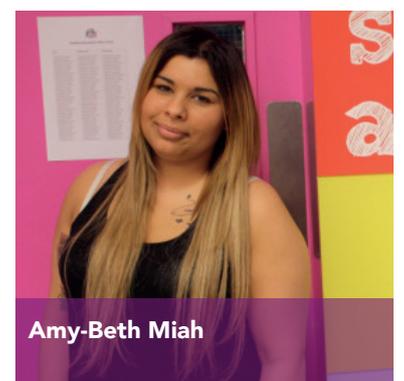
Our Director of Student Services, Helen Canning, explained how we support care experienced young people at the College.

We also heard from Who Cares? Scotland care leaver ambassadors Ashley Cameron and Jamie Dalgoutte, as well as current student Amy-Beth Miah.

[Click here to read our blog...](#)



Ashley Cameron, Jamie Dalgoutte, Heather Dunk, Principal and Robert Foster



Amy-Beth Miah

AYRSHIRE COLLEGE TACKLES

SECTARIANISM

STUDENTS FROM THE 24/7 PLUS COURSE TOOK PART IN A COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE LEADING ANTI-SECTARIANISM CHARITY NIL BY MOUTH.

'Pitch Perfect' is a marketing competition that asks students to create and design an anti-sectarian awareness campaign.

The Ayr group won with their idea for an educational app that explained what sectarianism is and the law around it, in a bid to raise awareness of the issue amongst fellow students.

The Kilwinning group proposed an awareness raising campaign featuring one-off workshops at each campus specifically focusing on asking students to think before they post messages on social media channels.

The Kilmarnock group also designed an app urging



football supporters to 'Take Back the Game' and report instances of sectarian abuse to ensure the sole focus at football matches is football. Nil By Mouth will now work with the students to roll out a version of the winning product across all campuses.

Meanwhile, our Sport and Fitness students supported the 'Colour of our Scarves' event at Rugby Park, where over 100 school pupils took part.

'Colours of our Scarves' is a Scottish Government funded project run by Supporters Direct Scotland with the aim of tackling sectarianism in Scotland around football and sport.

Project Manager Mark Reid called on Ayrshire College students to assist at his Rugby Park event, which had six activities including a workshop on sectarianism.

nil by mouth

Challenging Sectarianism

NEW KILMARNOCK CAMPUS OPENING 24 OCTOBER

We will be moving into our brand new Kilmarnock campus at Hill Street and saying goodbye to our current Holehouse Road campus on October 24th.

Benefits to the wider community include a casual dining training restaurant and bar, a coffee shop, learning resource centre, hair and beauty salon, sports hall, gym and dance studio and 5-a-side pitches. All of the new facilities will be open to members of the public, employers and key stakeholders.

If you would like to see how the new £53m campus is shaping up, click below to visit our flickr page.

Exciting new Learning spaces



Click here
to see our
flickr
photos



RAISING ASPIRATIONS • INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT • INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES

Facilities

OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE:



S&B
SALT & BARREL
BAR • RESTAURANT



You.

HAIR • BEAUTY • MAKE-UP
COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY



Centre of Sporting Excellence

GYM • DANCE STUDIO
3RD GENERATION
SYNTHETIC PITCH

THE
STILL
ROOM





Willie Mackie joins Scottish Enterprise

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHAIRMAN, WILLIE MACKIE, ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE AS A NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER.

With over 36 years of experience in the financial services sector, Willie holds a number of positions within the Ayrshire business and education community.

As well as his role at Ayrshire College, Willie sits on the boards of Skills Development Scotland, Colleges Scotland and the College Development Network. Willie is also a member of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership,

Chair of Taste Ayrshire and a past President of Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Willie told us "It is a great privilege to be joining the board of Scottish Enterprise. I am really looking forward to supporting the board of management and the Executive team to deliver on their strategy for economic development."

Everyone at the College welcomes Willie's appointment and wishes him the best of luck in the role.



Principal Heather Dunk has joined the Board of The Scottish Council for Development and Industry, an independent, not-for-profit economic development network engaged in activities across Scotland.

Join the thousands reading our



A WEEK BEFORE THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF OUR BLOG, THE NUMBER OF VIEWS REACHED A STAGGERING 20,000!

We launched our blog on 13 May 2014 during Scottish Apprenticeship Week and two years on, the readership of our blog continues to grow.

134 posts

viewed.....

20,000 times

by

11,260 visitors

from

99 countries

in

6 continents





Taste@

IRVINE

Our new restaurant at the Skills Centre of Excellence, Taste @ Irvine, received a spectacular review by The Irvine Herald, which called it a "hidden gem."

Students from hospitality courses cook and serve the food to paying customers. It is a great way for the groups to gain experience of working in a live kitchen.

If you would like to support the students at Taste @ Irvine, and enjoy a delicious meal into the bargain, you can book a table by contacting the team on 01294 555304 ext. 2401.



Click here
to visit our
website 

connect

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Ayrshire
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Average airport security clearance time is 10 minutes. Please note security will close 40 minutes before all flight departures.