

RAISING ASPIRATIONS
INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT
INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES

connect

Ayrshire
College 

The magazine of Ayrshire College • Autumn 2017 Issue

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SPONSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT

THE DIFFERENCE COSTLEY AND COSTLEY HAS MADE



3 YEARS ON...
SKILLS CENTRE
OF EXCELLENCE

ALSO
IN THIS
ISSUE...



Our Response to
New Childcare Hours



Student Success
at Special Olympics



I N V E R

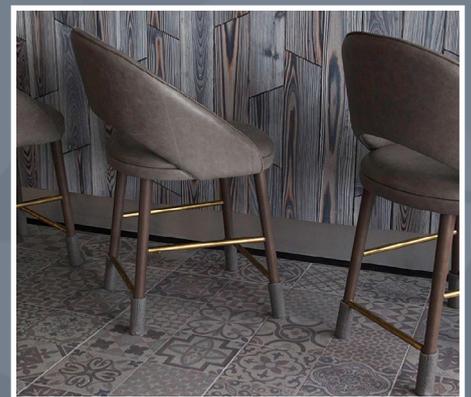
COMING SOON...

Inver is the new, stylish training restaurant on the top floor of the Dam Park building on our Ayr Campus.

Students will train and work in the restaurant and kitchens as part of hospitality courses in order to gain real life experience.

Inver will be open to the public for lunch from October to June, where you will be able to enjoy a glass of wine or a soft drink with your meal, or relax with a speciality tea or coffee.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the Ayrshire College Foundation blog for updates on the new restaurant.





4. Our Response to New Childcare Hours
7. New Campus Developments at Ayr and Kilwinning
8. Sponsorship Spotlight - The Difference Costley and Costley has Made
12. Award News
14. Three Years On - Skills Centre of Excellence
16. Mission Discovery Ayrshire 2017
18. The HIVE Summer School
20. Special Olympics 2017
21. Award Ceremonies
22. Girls with Grit
23. New Ayrshire College Student Association Team
23. Career Coach
24. Board of Management Interview Professor Alan McGregor
26. STEM Update
28. Man in the Mirror
29. Respect

FOR MORE AYRSHIRE COLLEGE NEWS VISIT OUR WEBSITE
OR CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:





OUR RESPONSE TO NEW CHILDCARE HOURS

by Dorothy Bell
Curriculum Manager
Health, Social Care
and Early Years



“HIGH QUALITY PROVISION IS AT THE HEART OF THE TRAINING PROVIDED AT THE COLLEGE, PROVIDING FLEXIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR STUDENTS.”

IN 2016 THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FREE PROVISION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE FOR ALL 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS WILL BE INCREASED FROM 600 HOURS TO 1140 HOURS BY THE YEAR 2020.

We have responded to this demand and offer several pathways into working with children, from NC to HND level. Courses offered include SCQF Level 4 Access to Early Education and Childcare to HND Childhood Practice at SCQF Level 8.

Our courses in Early Years Education provide hands-on training for those wishing to become an early years practitioner, senior practitioner, playworker, or education

support assistant. Registration with the Scottish Social Services Council is available to students who successfully complete Early Education and Childcare qualifications at SCQF Level 7 and above.

The Access to Primary Education (Scottish Widening Access Programme) enables students to prepare for degree level courses in primary education or a wide range of relevant vocational courses at college.

High quality provision is at the heart of the training provided at the College, providing flexibility and accessibility for students. In the coming academic year, an extra 62 HNC student places will be offered, with 10 HNC level courses provided as flexibly as possible. This will

include evening courses and blended learning.

Early Education courses are responding to expectations, with learner-focused, high quality qualifications.

Evidence of CPD is required for registered childminders, and the College is providing bespoke evening options to accommodate childminders who are looking to upskill.

The HNC Childhood Practice award, in particular, is suitable, not only for those looking to work as an early year's practitioner, but also those who are currently employed in this role. It is flexible and suitable for part-time students. The 2-year evening course runs once a week from September to June with 60 placement days

“IT IS A FEMALE-DOMINATED INDUSTRY, BUT THAT’S NOT TO SAY MEN CAN’T MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO EDUCATION AND EARLY YEARS.”

David McKenna
Childcare Student



David said “It is a female-dominated industry, but that’s not to say men can’t make a big difference to education and early years. The women I’ve worked with are all extremely helpful and they want to see me progress. My friend’s daughter has additional support needs, and I found it incredibly rewarding to work with her. I wanted to further that and do it as a vocation.”

To learn about our range of *Early Education and Childcare Courses*, please [click here](#)

logged and evidenced. This is suited to those already working in a childcare setting as they automatically have a placement setting.

They believe the work they do is very rewarding and they want to see more men look into following in their footsteps.

External partnership groups have been formed with employers, providing valuable information on workforce planning and training requirements. This will help to ensure that high quality provision will be the focus of developing excellent learning and teaching, with appropriate curricular delivery.

Career prospects are good, and while it is a mostly female sector, it is important that we attract more men.

Three of our male students on the Early Education and Childcare course are encouraging more men to get involved in this predominantly female workforce.

Lee Coates, John Hamilton and David McKenna are all attending the same class and have just finished work placements where they were the only men in their respective nurseries.



“IF I COULD SAY ONE LAST THING IT WOULD BE THAT YOU’RE CHANGING GENDER ROLES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE”

Evan McKiernan-Dooner
Childcare Student

#THISMANCARES

Ayrshire College encourages the recruitment and promotion of men into early years and childcare courses.

female-dominated industries such as early years and health and social care.

As part of our ambition to tackle gender imbalance in courses, the campaign #ThisManCares aims to inspire men into typically

We caught up with NC Higher Early Education and Childcare student, Evan McKiernan-Dooner about his plans for a career in childcare. Read his story on our blog.

NEW CAMPUS DEVELOPMENTS

AT AYR AND KILWINNING



With Ayrshire College Foundation funding, we have continued to invest in College campuses to provide new learning and teaching spaces, including social spaces for learning.

Over the summer we re-designed the top floor of the Dam Park building on our Ayr Campus to create a Hospitality and Tourism suite, including kitchens, classrooms and a new training restaurant.

On the Kilwinning Campus, we re-designed the Learning Resource

Centre and created curriculum resource areas in the open spaces on each floor of the building.

The Student Association office is now located next to the main reception, and a new coffee shop has opened to provide an alternative catering service with longer opening hours.

In addition to our continued investment in estates, we have also invested in our ICT services, and this investment will carry on throughout this year.

**READ MORE
IN OUR
NEXT ISSUE**



Costley & Costley
**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Supporting *our* students
Building *our* communities
Developing Ayrshire's
future workforce



THE DIFFERENCE COSTLEY AND COSTLEY HAS MADE

The Bill Costley Award for Art and Design 2017 was won by Caroline Borland who has successfully completed her HND Art and Design qualification at Ayrshire College.

This is the first year of the award, and is part of the Costley & Costley sponsorship to support talented creative students by providing scholarships, exciting learning opportunities and inspiring work experiences. It is designed to help our students move into employment and make an impact on Ayrshire's economy.

Julie Thorne, Head of Creative Arts and Fashion said,

"Every year our HND Art & Design group has students who have been with us for between two and four years, and it gives us great pleasure to see them develop as skilled artists ready to move on to art school or to set up their own practices. Whilst our End of Year Show consistently displays work of a high standard, there are usually one or two artists whose work is exceptional and this year it is Caroline's work that has been outstanding. Her

passion for her subject and her commitment and determination to succeed as an artist have also contributed to our choice of Caroline as winner of the first Bill Costley Award for Art and Design."

Caroline said, "I am thrilled to be the first person to win this award. There are so many talented students in the College and it means a lot to me that my work has been recognised and I have achieved success at this stage of my career.

"I have always wanted to be an artist. However when I left school at 16, for various reasons I was unable to pursue this as a career. I had moved around when I was young and this had an impact on my education. Even if I had been encouraged to train as an artist, I did not have the entry qualifications.

"Throughout my adult life, I have had various admin jobs and raised my family. I always liked to learn and as a mature student I progressed to the Open University and completed a science degree. However, throughout my life I have continued to be passionate about art and I kept on painting. I even opened a gift and framing shop with my husband, combining my business skills with my creative interests.



Out of the Ruins



“I AM THRILLED TO BE THE FIRST PERSON TO WIN THIS AWARD. THERE ARE SO MANY TALENTED STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE AND IT MEANS A LOT TO ME THAT MY WORK HAS BEEN RECOGNISED.”

Caroline Borland
Artist





Potting Shed



“I AM GLAD I CAME TO COLLEGE. IT HAS BOOSTED MY CONFIDENCE, ENCOURAGED ME TO PUSH MY BOUNDARIES, HELPED ME MAKE INDUSTRY CONTACTS AND THE QUALIFICATION VERIFIES I AM A COMPETENT ARTIST. OVERALL IT HAS RAISED MY ASPIRATIONS AND HELPED ME TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF AND KNOW I CAN DO THIS FOR REAL.”



“The turning point came in 2012. I broke my leg and was off work for months. I had an opportunity to paint at home in my studio full-time. I just loved the freedom and it made me think - imagine if I could get a job doing this and make an income from doing something I loved?

“It was the catalyst I needed to take a huge leap of faith and reduce my job to part-time, allowing me to paint the remainder of the week. Two years later my husband retired, and I was able to give up my job and concentrate on painting. However, it made me wonder – where do I go from here?

“Because I have an insatiable desire to learn, I was curious to know what courses I could do at college. I looked online and there was an advert for an Open Interview Day for NC Art and Design. I went along and met the lecturer, who I actually knew. As he had seen my work already, I was offered a place on the course. Finally, I realised my dream of becoming an art student.

“I have been here for three years and I have enjoyed all of it. I liked how we had opportunities to try new things, learn new skills and improve our techniques. I was always disappointed when we moved on to something new as I was having fun exploring what I had just learned. I was inspired by learning about other artists, experiencing master classes and visiting art galleries.

“I am glad I came to college. It has boosted my confidence, encouraged me to push my boundaries, helped me make industry contacts and the qualification verifies I am a competent artist. Overall, it has raised my aspirations and helped me to believe in myself and know I can do this for real.”

Caroline is hoping to put her award money towards a printing press. She is setting up her own business as an artist and is currently organising a website, social media and online shop. Part of the award involves Caroline returning to the College next year to give a presentation to art students on her experiences working in the creative industry.



Charlie

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**“I’M DELIGHTED TO PARTICIPATE
IN AYRSHIRE COLLEGE SPONSORSHIP
AWARDS AND SUPPORT THIS
INSPIRATIONAL COLLEGE FACILITY.
A CREDIT TO AYRSHIRE!”**

Bill Costley

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View more of Caroline’s work *here*
If you would like to call Caroline to
discuss a commission you can
contact her at
[www.facebook.com/Caroline-Borland-
Art-335941856857851/](https://www.facebook.com/Caroline-Borland-Art-335941856857851/)

As an Ayrshire College student
Caroline has access to
Bridge to Business, an
organisation who can help
students interested in
self-employment

AWARD NEWS



WE ARE DELIGHTED TO
BRING YOU NEWS THAT WE
HAVE BEEN SHORTLISTED AT
SEVERAL UPCOMING
AWARD CEREMONIES



CONGRATULATIONS TO
EVERYONE AT THE COLLEGE
WHOSE EXCELLENCE IS
BEING RECOGNISED BY BEING
SHORTLISTED FOR
THESE AWARDS

We are well represented at the CDN College Awards 2017, with a total of 5 nominations.

We have been shortlisted in the following categories:

- Developing a Regional Curriculum Award
- Employer Connections Award
- Inclusive College Award
- Innovative College Award
- Student Citizenship Award; where former Sports and Fitness student Kayleigh Haggio is a finalist.

Two college representatives have been shortlisted at The Herald and GenAnalytics national Diversity Awards 2017.

Employability and Engagement Officer Steven Fegan has been nominated for Diversity Hero of the Year, while Kayleigh Haggio is shortlisted in the Rising Star Diversity Award category. Recently Kayleigh was also a finalist in the Outstanding Contribution from a Student category at The Herald Higher Education Awards.

We are a finalist in the Innovating in STEM Education/Training category at The Herald Global Game Changers awards for #ThisAyrshireGirlCan.

At the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, we are shortlisted in the Excellence in People Development category for our model of staff-supportive CPD, where our staff are encouraged to share examples of good practice with each other.

We have been nominated for two awards at the Green Gown Awards, with the Park Life project shortlisted in the Student Engagement category and our Sport & Fitness students' work with the Older Adult Group named as a finalist for the Community Award.

Former student, engineering apprentice Anna Manson, has been shortlisted in the Apprentice Ambassador category of the Scottish Apprenticeship Awards.

Our Get East Ayrshire Active campaign was also nominated in the Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community and Campaign of the Year categories at the same ceremony.



Anna Manson



Kayleigh Haggio



Steven Fegan



The ICT team has been shortlisted for the British Computing Science UK IT Industry Awards for their innovative and sector leading work in the new Kilmarnock Campus.

The team invested in virtual desktop infrastructure and IGEL thin client technology. Rather than lock down classrooms with IT which limits how the building is used, this solution means students can log-in from anywhere and access their own personalised desktops and applications specific to their courses.

It also means that IT can be introduced to areas which didn't have computers, such as motor vehicle workshops, and beauty salons – enabling students to study where, when and how they like.

With investment from the Ayrshire College Foundation, this technology is now going to be rolled out to all the other campuses over the next three years.



3 YEARS ON

SKILLS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

In October 2014, we opened our ground-breaking Skills Centre of Excellence in Irvine.

Located in Irvine Royal Academy, this innovative shared campus enables a range of courses to be offered to people across Ayrshire and provides school students access to vocational courses previously available only by attending a traditional college building.

The Skills Centre supports government ambitions to ensure all young people access high quality vocational qualifications based on labour market needs.

Our ambition is that all young people should experience the highest quality learning, complemented by relevant work experience or volunteering opportunities, in a setting that builds their confidence and gives them the best possible platform to progress onto further learning or employment.

Courses support the skills needs of industry sectors with economic and employment growth potential in North Ayrshire, e.g. hospitality, care, sport and leisure, and engineering.

In year one (2014-15), 343 students took part in

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“ THE SKILLS CENTRE SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT AMBITIONS TO ENSURE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESS HIGH QUALITY VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BASED ON LABOUR MARKET NEEDS. ”
.....

vocational courses at the Skills Centre. That increased to 388 in 2016-17.

Working with Skills Development Scotland, the College introduced an engineering Foundation Apprenticeship in 2016-17, where school pupils attend the Skills Centre two afternoons a week.

It has been a great three years at our Skills Centre of Excellence and we look forward to seeing further success in 2017-18.

To learn about our range of Sport and Fitness courses, please [click here](#)



MISSION DISCOVERY

Ayrshire 2017



With funding from Ayrshire College Foundation, NATS, Glasgow Prestwick SpacePort and Ayr Rotary Club, the popular Mission Discovery programme returned to Ayrshire in June, as we welcomed NASA leaders to our Kilmarnock Campus.

Over 150 secondary school pupils and college students worked alongside former NASA astronaut Michael Foale CBE and NASA HQs Council Executive / Mission Support and Partnership Councils, Sarah Murray, at the week-long space school.

Mission Discovery Ayrshire participants worked in teams to design a viable and innovative space experiment.

Team 3, otherwise known as 'Space Raiders', won with their idea investigating 'the photosynthesis of phytoplankton in microgravity and the generation of electricity'.

The winning idea will be sent to the International Space Station in 2018, where it will be tested by NASA astronauts.

The winning team consisted of:

- Simon Gibbons (Kyle Academy)
- Alex Hill (Queen Margaret Academy)
- Adam Martin (Belmont Academy)
- Lauren McGee (Belmont Academy)
- Jodie McMail (St. Matthews Academy)
- Eva Peters (Grange Academy)
- Lee Salisbury (Garnock Academy)
- Benjamin Sonnet (Auchenharvie Academy)

Congratulations to the winning team and everyone else who tested their science skills in the company of leading space experts.





THE **HIVE**

SUMMER SCHOOL

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**“ IT’S BEEN GREAT
HAVING SOMETHING TO
DO OVER THE SUMMER.
FOR ANYONE THINKING OF
DOING THE PROGRAMME
NEXT YEAR, I’D SAY 100%
GO FOR IT.”**

Stuart McCause
HIVE Summer School Student

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Our summer schools at the HIVE were a great success.

59 Ayrshire young people attended the four-week programmes at our Ayr and Kilmarnock campuses.

The summer schools involved a variety of exciting and engaging educational visits and physical activities.

The programmes are organised in partnership with East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council, and aim to keep young people engaged in education during the summer break after leaving school. Skills Development Scotland and Street League also contributed to the day-to-day delivery of the programme.

Each student was presented with a certificate at a special celebration of success ceremony held at both campuses at the end of the programme.

Speaking about his experience, student Stuart McCause said “It’s been great having something to do over the summer. For anyone thinking of doing the programme next year, I’d say 100% go for it.”

Over thirty students from the programme are starting full-time courses at the College in Supported Learning and The HIVE as well as curriculum areas such as childcare, hair and beauty, hospitality, motor vehicle, social science, trades and uniformed services.

PROJECT SEARCH

This year's students on Project SEARCH graduated in front of 100 proud family members, hospital mentors and partners.

Project SEARCH is a year-long employability project based at University Hospital Crosshouse, which helps prepare young people for employment. It is a collaboration between Ayrshire College, NHS Ayrshire & Arran and East Ayrshire Council.

The students had the opportunity throughout the year to participate in three work placements at the

hospital, exploring a variety of job and career paths.

Each student gave a short presentation about their individual journeys which highlighted how far they had all progressed.

“SEAN FINISHED THE COURSE IN JUNE 2016 AND NOW WORKS FULL-TIME IN THE KILWINNING CAMPUS.”



Sean Poag

A previous Project SEARCH participant was invited to speak to the graduates about how the course has helped him.

Sean Poag graduated from ProjectSEARCH in June 2016 and now works full-time in the Kilwinning Campus as a Catering Assistant.

He told the group that the course boosted his confidence and helped him to gain employment in a job that he loves.

A full interview with Sean will be available on our blog in September.

Photograph courtesy of Perfect Pictures



WG13 GRADUATION

On July 31, the latest group of students graduated from the WG13 Certificate in Work Readiness course.

WG13 is a social enterprise in Kilmarnock that supports students with additional support needs in gaining work experience and industry standard qualifications and training.

An award ceremony took place at WG13 where the students received their certificates from East Ayrshire Council Chief

Executive, Fiona Lees in front of an audience of families, friends and partners.

The course participants complete a 26 week work placement at the WG13 café.

The aim is to provide access to work opportunities for people who may otherwise experience serious challenges engaging with the job market.

PRINCE'S TRUST TEAM

Our students took part in a two-week work placement as part of their Prince's Trust programme, in a range of organisations within the local community.

The placements helped build the students' confidence and communication skills on their return to the College.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

2017



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
GB NATIONAL GAMES
SHEFFIELD 2017



Congratulations to our five students who competed at the 2017 Special Olympics GB National Summer Games this August.

Jack Dickson, Laura Logan, Michael McLelland, Connaire McLindon and Frances Smilie trained hard for the past few months after learning about their Olympic Games selection. Jack and Frances took part in tennis events and brought gold medals back to Ayrshire in their singles events before joining forces in the mixed doubles to bring home another gold medal each.

Laura and Michael were representing Ayrshire in swimming, while Connaire competed in both shot put and discus events.

All five participants were on different courses at Ayrshire College last year.

At our Ayr Campus, Jack was a Connect to Enterprise student, Laura studied Connect to Community: Fit For Life, Connaire was a Connect to Careers student, and Frances was on the Transition to College course. Michael was a Connect to Enterprise student at our Kilmarnock Campus.

**WELL DONE CONNAIRE, FRANCES,
JACK, LAURA AND MICHAEL!**



*Photograph courtesy of
Special Olympics Great Britain*

AWARD CEREMONIES



At the start of the summer, nearly 1,000 people attended four award ceremonies to celebrate the achievement of 444 students.

These events allow friends and families to recognise the excellence of our students and share their success.

Photographs from each of these ceremonies are available to view on our Flickr page, accessed from our website.

Click on the links below to take you to the photo albums if you would like to look back on each occasion.

AYR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Ayr Racecourse, 7 June 2017

KILMARNOCK EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Kilmarnock Campus, 31 May 2017

KILWINNING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Gailes Hotel, Irvine - 24 May 2017

JOHN MATHER AWARDS

Kilmarnock Campus, 17 May 2017



Ayr Excellence Awards



Kilmarnock Excellence Awards



Kilwinning Excellence Awards



John Mather Awards

GIRLS WITH GRIT

AYRSHIRE
CONNECTS

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL, NO MATTER WHAT LIFE THROWS AT US.

Ayrshire Connects, our mentoring network for female STEM students across the College, organised a very successful event in June.

Over 100 people attended 'Girls With Grit' - the latest in the College's #ThisAyrshireGirlCan campaign to tackle the gender gap in STEM, and were inspired by NASA's Sarah Murray, the keynote speaker.

Sarah is NASA HQs Council Executive/ Mission Support and Partnership Councils and she spoke about how her extraordinary perseverance in dealing with sexual and racial prejudice to carve out a successful 25-year career at NASA.

Sarah shared techniques to build up resilience, and encouraged existing STEM employees in the audience to act as mentors to any students in attendance. Students then networked with STEM employers and college lecturers at the end of the event.

If you know anyone who would like to sign up for the Ayrshire Connects mentoring group for 2017/18, please contact:

ayrshireconnects@ayrshire.ac.uk



NEW AYRSHIRE COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION TEAM



We would like to introduce our Ayrshire College Student Association team for 2017/18.

Lainey McKinlay is our new Student President, and Lora Miller joins as Student Vice President.

Lainey was the Student Vice President last year, working alongside former Student President Holly Bates. Lora was a member of the Student Association's Executive Committee last year as Sport and Physical Activities Officer.



We would like to thank Holly for her efforts last year, and wish Lainey and Lora great success in their new roles.

CAREER COACH

FIND A COURSE, FIND A CAREER

We have integrated a new resource on our website to help prospective students make better choices about their career.

Career Coach is designed to help visitors to our website find the career, and course that is right for them.

Career Coach uses the most current local data on job vacancies and salaries to help people make informed decisions before they get started on a particular career path.

There is also a quick 6 question test that can be taken to find out career suggestions based on your interests.



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT INTERVIEW

PROFESSOR

ALAN MCGREGOR

Most of my working life has been spent working as a lecturer and researcher at the University of Glasgow.

My 'specialist subject' is Economics. A lot of the time I have focused on the operation of the labour market, skills and economic development issues.

I have, however, from almost my earliest working days, been involved in working with and for government departments, government agencies and a range of local authorities and third sector organisations.

For example, recently I began working on a Skills Plan for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and last year I carried out a Review of Skills for the Scottish Government.

I joined the Board after the new Ayrshire College came into being.

I had two reasons. First, I have always felt that colleges could make a bigger contribution to a range of issues of importance to me - such as giving young people the skills to help avoid

unemployment and prosper in the labour market, but at the same time help Ayrshire businesses find well trained and appropriately skilled people to make them more competitive and sustainable.

Second, I was born and brought up in Ayrshire, and feel a strong sense of commitment to Ayrshire. I feel that over the years Ayrshire has drifted backwards in terms of the health of the economy and I wanted to help reverse this through Ayrshire College's efforts.

I am impressed in particular by the excellent and ever improving work of the College in two respects. Many of our younger students come from communities in Ayrshire which for too long have suffered from economic and social deprivation. I feel the College has done really well to reach out and engage these young people, and then work hard with them to increase their confidence, qualifications and employability.

One of the things these young people aspire to is finding



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“I FEEL THE COLLEGE HAS DONE REALLY WELL TO REACH OUT AND ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THEN WORK HARD WITH THEM TO INCREASE THEIR CONFIDENCE, QUALIFICATIONS AND EMPLOYABILITY.”

.....

a decent job. I have been very impressed by the strong relationships the College has built with employers across Ayrshire. I am convinced that by helping employers meet their skill needs the College will help grow Ayrshire's jobs base - and so create more of the opportunities for which our students are looking.

I see it as my job as a member of the Board of Management to offer a constructive challenge to the way the College goes about its business, but at the same time support, in any way I can, the staff of the College to keep on improving what we deliver.

I am looking forward to spending more time discussing how we can keep improving the services we offer to our students and to employers, but this depends on the government giving us the resources needed to do this effectively. We also need to find stability in our finances as we look ahead so we can plan securely to improve our provision for students and services for employers.

Outside of the College setting I also will use any opportunities that come my way to tell important stakeholders what a great job the College does and what support we need to make it even better.

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**“I HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED
BY THE STRONG RELATIONSHIPS THE
COLLEGE HAS BUILT WITH EMPLOYERS
ACROSS AYRSHIRE.”**

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Tackling Gender Imbalance

#THISAYRSHIREGIRLCAN



Ayrshire
College

#THISAYRSHIREGIRLCAN

TECHNOLOGY WORKOUT

 Smart**STEMs**

Powered by  **EDF ENERGY**

On June 14 we hosted an industry-led Technology Workout for 250 first and second year secondary female pupils from schools across Ayrshire.

The Technology Workout was delivered in partnership with SmartSTEMs and organised as part of our #ThisAyrshireGirlCan campaign to encourage more girls into STEM.

The pupils and their teachers heard from inspirational women who have forged successful careers in STEM. They took part in interactive workshops run by companies like JP Morgan and learned how to code at our award-winning CoderDojo computer coding club.



SCOTTISH YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

One of our students triumphed in the most recent Institute of Road Transport Engineers' competition.

The Scottish Young Engineer of the Year contest is held annually at our Kilmarnock Campus, and Jack Middleton was the first winner from Ayrshire College since the competition was re-instated in 2015.

Eight competitors were given overall scores after they worked on eight different vehicles to test: braking systems, cooling systems, engine technology, fuel systems, transmission systems, steering systems, vehicle inspection, and electrical diagnostics.

Jack and the two other finalists in the competition were presented with a new set of tools for their performance on the day.



BENCHES DELIVERED TO DEAN PARK



Horticulture, tree surgery and garden and landscaping students at Dean Castle Country Park will be able to better enjoy their well-earned rests this year, thanks to construction students at the Kilmarnock Campus who built two new benches for them.

Access to Construction student Lewis McGinn said "We worked on a number of projects over the year that involve working on your own and working as part of a team.

"These benches will benefit the students at Dean Castle Country Park. It's great to work together with the rest of the joinery class to complete projects that we know will be appreciated and used well."



Man in the Mirror

We are committed to challenging discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, promoting inclusion and celebrating the diversity of our students, staff and partners.

Our 'Man in the Mirror' campaign aims to address the gender imbalance and stereotyping in the hairdressing industry by highlighting the positive learning experiences of our male students.

Hairdressing students, Jordan Fisher and Martin McCluskey, recently spoke to us for our blog.

"Hairdressing is never the same each day, it's always fun as well as being a challenge. I like the fact that I can keep up to date, and make sure that I know what styles are on-trend and pass this on to the customers.

"For any guys who want to get into hairdressing, I'd say definitely just go for it. Don't be put off by being in the minority in the classes. We're



“IT'S THE MOST REWARDING PART OF MY JOB TO KNOW I HAVE MADE SOMEONE FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEMSELVES.”

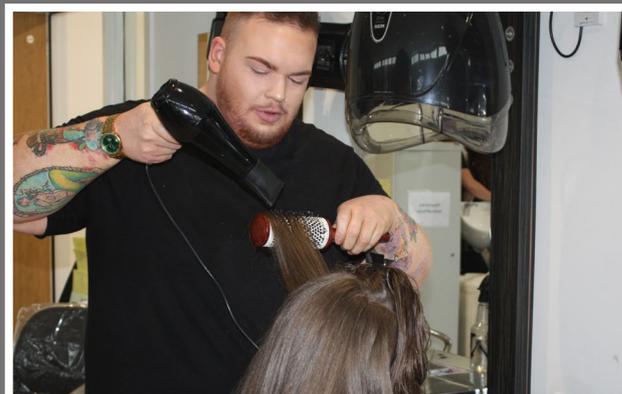
Martin McCluskey,
Student



all learning the same things and have our own goals. It's never been an issue.

"The best thing about working in hairdressing is the creativity. It's amazing how much a new haircut or colour can change someone, by making them feel happy and confident.

"I love seeing the difference in a customer from when they arrive at the salon to leaving. It's the most rewarding part of my job to know I have made someone feel better about themselves. They leave with a spring in their step. To see that gives me a buzz."





#OURAYRSHIRE

YOURSELF

ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNITY

OTHERS

#OURAYRSHIRE

Since Respect Week 2016, we have been promoting our Respect campaign online through our blog and website, and offline with the production of 'Respect' wall art across each campus.

This is an important campaign for us. We want students and staff to be proud of where they study and work, and to create a sense of belonging within the College community.

We are proud to have a campus community that is respectful, welcoming and inclusive to all.

Our latest theme in our Respect campaign focuses on the issue of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is an increasing problem for students across the country.

Our aim is to eradicate cyberbullying completely at Ayrshire College.

Our Campus Liaison Officer Kimberley Bradford and Student Association Officer Charlotte Mitchell wrote for our blog to explain what cyberbullying is, and how we can work together to tackle it.

**DRAW THE LINE
UNDER BULLYING**



Ayrshire College is a registered Scottish charity. Reg No SC021177

