

## Developing Young Workforce Overview

The independent Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, chaired by Sir Ian Wood, published "Education Working for All" in June 2014. The report set out a series of recommendations to help Scotland produce better qualified, work ready young people with skills relevant to modern employment opportunities. The recommendations which related directly to schools included, better preparing young people for the world of work, increasing the number of vocational pathways available, development of career education standards, more meaningful work placements and a strong working partnership with employers from various industries. A seven-year timeline has been developed with milestones for schools to meet year on year up until 2021, by which point all of the recommendations featured in the report should have been implemented.

### What have we done?

We have made good progress in meeting some of the key recommendations set out in the report, particularly around the areas of *Employability Skills*, *Career Education* and *Partnership Working*. Each Faculty has produced a Skills map of what pupils are developing within the subject and where a link can be made to careers. We're making use of the challenge questions within 'How Good Is Our School 4' to inform our thinking and ensure Skills are emphasised throughout learning and teaching. We have an established framework that is successful in providing information for pupils to access necessary careers information that is relevant via PSE lessons through engaging with My World of Work and Skills Development Scotland. In addition, each Faculty displays appealing noticeboards outlining where the subject may lead them to in later life. Pupils in S2 through to S6 have received inspirational presentations on employability skills from some experienced corporate individuals representing large-scale organisations. A DYW focus week has been implemented focusing on *Skill Development* and *A Learners Pathway to success* for pupils in S1-3, in addition to an interdisciplinary STEM workshop. Our cluster primary schools benefit from planned events such as our P7 "Think Ahead" day that involve various representatives from some of the city's major employers coming into school and putting on workshops for primary pupils to engage with.

## Careers Fair 2017

In February this year, we held our inaugural Careers Fair in school for pupils in S3-6 as well as parents/carers. The event was an outstanding success and incorporated a presentation for parents/carers which provided information on learner journeys and option choices in the Senior School. 35 different organisations were represented and the planning and very positive engagement of our pupils with our education, public sector and business partners created a vibrant atmosphere. Pupils found out about employment opportunities from industry experts and learned about further post-school study opportunities from representatives from colleges/universities. Parents reported that it was an invaluable opportunity to help their children make positive career choices and the organisations represented were very impressed by our pupils (all 450 of them!) and the way in which they engaged. By all accounts, a huge success! Councillor Maureen Childs accepted our invitation to attend and her comments were full of praise for the event and how our pupils took full advantage of the information made available to them.



## Career Ready 2017 Graduation.

Congratulations to Tehreem Shahid, Niyyah Muhammad, Pellagia Maraaridze, Benita Fameyeh and Carys Lauder (S6) who all graduated from the Career Ready programme at Perth Conference Centre in April. The event was a great spectacle and the pupils enjoyed various presentations and inspirational talks from some of the top executives in global business, before receiving a well-deserved certificate and praise from their family and mentor.

The Career Ready programme is a two-year commitment run in school, starting with pupils in S5 being paired with a mentor from business whom they work alongside for the duration of the journey. A four-week paid internship at the mentor's organisation is provided for students at the midway point of the programme. Holy Rood currently has five new pupils on board, with room for a further six within our new S5's.



## **Mercat Tours Excursion 'Edinburgh Experience'**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 our S2 year group were offered a fantastic opportunity to participate in an 'Edinburgh Experience' excursion. This was provided free of charge by one of our partnership organisations, Mercat Tours in line with the Developing Young Workforce recommendations of fostering good relationships with employers. In 2016 this excursion was offered to 90 S2 pupils, although due to the success of this excursion and the generosity of Mercat Tours we were able to extend this to allow all 170 of our S2 pupils to attend this.

The day focused on pupils participating in events based around the tourism industry, they learned about the skills and qualities required to work within certain organisations such as, the Scottish Seabird Centre, Edinburgh Castle and The Lyceum theatre. Pupils did not let the weather put them off as they explored Edinburgh and experienced a number of tourist attractions. Feedback from the pupils was overwhelmingly positive – a great opportunity to experience Edinburgh and learn about possible future pathways within the tourism industry. A big thank you to all the organisations who participated and a special thank you to Mercat Tours for organising the day and supporting Holy Rood.



## Micro-Tyco Challenge

Holy Rood participated in the Micro-Tyco challenge again this year, making this our 5<sup>th</sup> time. Throughout the entire month of November teams of pupils had the opportunity to participate in the ultimate enterprise challenge. Pupils were asked to work together using their problem solving skills to generate ideas that would help generate money from a £1 seed investment – pupils were tasked with growing this income to as much working capital as possible. All of the proceeds from the challenge go to a worthwhile cause, in the way of providing microfinance (small loan) to entrepreneurs in the developing world who would not be able to access funds to kick-start their own businesses without this support.

Throughout November, 7 teams raised a fantastic £177.05 by holding bake sales, raffles and ‘guess the number of sweets in the jar’. Pupils had excellent ideas and we are excited to see what next year brings. Get your thinking caps on now as the Micro-Tyco challenge will run again in November 2017!

MICRO<sup>£</sup>-TYCO<sup>£</sup>