

FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS THRIVING AT SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COLLEGE



One of our main remits as Developing the Young Workforce is to create better connectivity and co-operation between education and the world of work. This can only be done through partnership work between schools, colleges, employers and organisations like SDS. One of the best ways to achieve this goal is through developing Foundation Apprenticeships, as it allows young people to gain industry recognised qualifications within specific sectors and gain invaluable employability skills whilst at school. We felt this particular example from South Lanarkshire College is very worthy of highlighting.

We are often out at events and get talking to a lot of people. Sometimes a conversation grabs your attention and makes a real impact on you. We had such a conversation not so long ago when we met Tracey, a lecturer from South Lanarkshire College who began telling us about one of their projects with a group of Social Services, Children & Young People Foundation Apprentices.

It was clear from the beginning of the conversation that this was an amazing group of young people enjoying their experience of Foundation Apprenticeships and we wanted to know more! This project caught our attention so much as it is a great example of good practice between the College, SDS and the Council all working together to deliver a qualification of real value to this group of young people. We wanted to know more, so we went along to South Lanarkshire College to meet the apprentices and hear about their experience first hand.

South Lanarkshire College was delighted to allow us to meet the young people taking part in this project. Nine pupils from a mixture of Duncanrig Secondary, Calderglen High and St Andrews & St Brides High are currently working towards their Foundation Apprenticeships. Job aspirations among the group differ and cover fields such as Social Work, Primary Teaching, Paediatric, Dietitian, Nursery Teaching and Child Psychology. Already you can see the group is quite diverse! There are males and females within this group, which is quite unique as traditionally this sector for the best part is dominated by females. Upon talking to everyone, it's clear to see how well they have formed as a group and how much they enjoy their time at College. They told us that they love being tasked with group work and have all spent some time within the college nursery, which has given them a great insight to the sector already. One of the pupils told us that they "think the experience and qualification is well placed to help her become a Primary Teacher". It's clear to us that there is a real connection between everyone, despite arriving from different schools and pursuing different career paths, which is testament to the pupils themselves and also the environment created by South Lanarkshire College.

One member of the group has already secured a place with the Council where they will go on to do a Modern Apprenticeship. Another is completing this Foundation Apprenticeship as a one year option in her 6th year and will return to College to study for her HNC/HND. Even in such a small sample of nine, it's evident that a Foundation Apprenticeship isn't a set route.

As one pupil suggested: “It helps you decide on a career. Whether you use your experience to go on and continue down an apprenticeship path or whether you decide to go onto College or University, the experience and knowledge gained through a Foundation Apprenticeship is something of great value.”.



We were inspired by this group so much, as they were so diverse but in such a small group, they encapsulated the whole ethos of Foundation Apprenticeships. The partnership work between the College, SDS and the Council prove that if you can inspire young people to get involved with Foundation Apprenticeships then it gives them the platform and skills to be fully prepared for the world of work whether that comes sooner; in the form of an apprenticeship, or if it comes later; after further education.

A big thank you to South Lanarkshire College and Aimee, Anna, Gail, Jennifer, Oster, Courtney, Rebecca, Terence, and Amy for their time! We wish you every success for the future.