

DYW and Employability

Newsletter

November 2020



What's New?

Welcome to our second newsletter. It has been a busy term for us in DYW so far. Mrs Bryson led a staff training session on our vision and work we plan to do over the academic year. During this session we had superb input from Arlene Nicol at DYW West Lothian and Kathleen O'Neill from Founders4Schools who both outlined ways in which staff can easily engage with outside agencies to enrich classes and develop their learning and teaching skills in terms of Employability and DYW.

This month we will be working with the school's SCQF Ambassadors and looking at ways we can work together to promote alternative pathways and promote skills profiling across the curriculum.

Finally, in November some of our Senior pupils will be taking part in virtual 'Street Law' sessions. Street Law is a way for us to provide legal education in schools, but in a format that pupils can really connect with. It's designed to be engaging and really get people talking via themes like street crime and human rights, or formats like mock-trials.

We aim to get all pupils thinking about a career in that law, by raising aspirations and encouraging skills to be used like critical thinking.

Pupil Opportunities

All pupils, particularly our Christmas leavers, S4 and S5 leavers and those not seeking to go to university in 2021 should keep an eye on the opportunities listed on the DYW West Lothian web page. A range of jobs are listed from casual work, apprenticeships and full time opportunities. See Mrs Bryson if you wish to apply and need some help!

<https://www.dyw-wl.com/jobs-board>

Tip of the Month

UCAS personal statements, be a STAR

Having trouble selling yourself in your personal statement? Why not STAR your qualities/ examples of suitability for your chosen course? Follow this general outline to really organise and highlight your great attributes!

S – Situation - set the stage of your story/ experience

T – Task – describe your role in the situation or challenge

A – Action – what did you do? What qualities did you use? This part of your experience should relate to your suitability to the course and be the longest of the four.

R – Result – what was the outcome reached because of your actions? Be positive here!

What Lucerne does:

Lucerne is a Care at Home company. That essentially means that we help people to stay in their own homes, empowering them to remain independent, to make choices within their lives and encourage them keep doing things for themselves.

Most people who require care need assistance with some element of their life but not all.

A good carer will encourage people to do all they can for themselves and support them with the parts of their daily life that is presenting them with the challenges. It is not to come into their homes and do everything for them. Our main roles include, washing, dressing, medication administration, moving and manoeuvring of people, continence management, food prep and feeding, safety checks. We believe the most important thing we do is to provide social contact and a friendly face.

Sometimes, Lucerne's carers are the only person our client might see all day. Social isolation, loneliness and neglect are unfortunately growing issues in the UK today.

What skills you look for in new employees?

Caring and compassionate nature, all other skills can be learned either working within a good care company with a supportive training programme or within a college environment. I can train any skill to any person, but I cannot train a good attitude

Team working – its vital. Being a carer is tough job but when you are part of a team, you feel supported, encouraged, and empowered to make real differences in people's lives.

Communication abilities. The ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing is required. You have daily reports that must be completed and if I am honest, our clients like a good chat.

As you are looking after people you also must be confident to pass on relevant information to other carers, supervisors, nurses, doctors, family etc in whatever format is appropriate

Good time keeping and reliability. You could be assisting some of the most vulnerable members of your community where regularity and punctuality are essential for their health and wellbeing. People may need medication given at a certain time (people with Parkinson's Disease must get their meds on time every time, people with Alzheimer's need routine and repetition to help stop the decline in cognitive abilities.) People also just want to know who is coming to their house and when.

What career pathway opportunities there are in the Care sector for young people?

The Scottish Government requires all carers to be SVQ2 qualified by the end of 2022

If you are considering care, please ensure that you join a company that has a training centre or training path available to you to enable you to gain this qualification.

Starting your Health and Social Care qualifications and gaining practical hands on experience is also a good safe start.

Being part of a company with its own training centre for SVQ qualifications really means that you can earn and learn at the same time. Gaining qualifications through your SVQ also means you do not have the burden of student loans. Yes it takes longer to achieve but the experience you will gain along the way is invaluable. The qualifications available does not stop there, you could then progress to Registered Manager Award, Degree Apprenticeships etc.

Why consider care as a career of choice?

- What other job allows you to make a difference in so many people's lives, daily?
- Our clients are so grateful for the help we give them
- Especially now with Covid19, people are scared to go into Care Homes.
- They want to remain at home
- They want to remain independent
- They have the right to make these choices

The only way we can ensure that some of our most vulnerable members of the community get to stay at home, where they want to be is to encourage more people into Social Care. Follow this link for more information -

<https://learn.sssc.uk.com/careers/>

Opportunities for Staff

My World of Work – Meet the Experts

Bring the world of work to life with our virtual Meet the Expert sessions.

As part of the My World of Work Live programme, the 40 minute sessions will help inspire young people to consider careers in key sectors.

Experts from a range of sectors will cover topics like their role and how they got there, as well as hints and tips for anyone thinking about a career in that sector.

Young people will be able to interact and ask questions, giving them a chance to gain valuable insight to the role.

Why take part?

The Curriculum for Excellent highlights the importance of linking learning to the world of work. Meet the Expert will help you bring learning to life and the young person develops an understanding of the responsibilities and duties placed on employees and employers.

How to get involved

To get involved, head to [Marketplace](#) and register your class for an event.

Here's a list of what's coming up:

- 3rd November 2020 – [Virtual Meet the Expert: Balfour Beatty, Construction](#)
- 4th November 2020 – [Virtual Meet the Expert: Wasteswitch, Circular Economy & Recycling](#)
- 10th November 2020 – [Virtual Meet the Expert: Hearts of Midlothian Football Club, IT and Digital Technology](#)
- 11th November 2020 – [Virtual Meet the Expert: Booth Welsh, Engineering Services](#)
- 17th November 2020 – [Virtual Meet the Expert: City of Edinburgh Council, Construction](#)
- 1st December 2020 – [Virtual Meet the Expert: Aegon, IT & Digital Technology](#)
- 10th December 2020 – [Virtual Meet the Expert: Zero Waste Scotland, Circular Economy](#)

Education Scotland – Wee Blethers

Education Scotland are running a number of CLPL opportunities for staff as 'Wee Blether' sessions. See the link below to book your place. Sessions are running from October right the way through to the New Year.

<https://professionallearning.education.gov.scot/learn/events/>

In House CLPL

Mrs Bryson will also be running another CLPL session on the work going on in school and how DYW West Lothian and Founders4Schools can support this. Details will be circulated shortly.

Useful Links

DYW and Business Links Coordinator

Mrs Rachel Bryson –
rachel.bryson@westlothian.gov.uk

01506 843211 / 07472665604

Skills Development Scotland Careers Adviser

Ross Phillips -

ross.phillips@sds.co.uk

01506 434249 / 07990 652722

Linlithgow Academy DYW website

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/dywlinlithgowacademy/>

Follow us on Twitter -
[@academy_dyw](https://twitter.com/academy_dyw)