

DYW

ORKNEY
Developing the
Young Workforce

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome Message

Welcome to this edition of the DYW Orkney Newsletter. In this issue, you can read about a new DYW Scotland campaign which aims to celebrate the achievements and resilience of young people. We have also supported the purchase of resources for primary schools to help develop skills needed for STEM careers and you can read about what we got up to during Scottish Apprenticeship Week this year.

If your business requires any support or assistance from DYW Orkney contact us on orkneydyw@uhi.ac.uk.

Rachel Scarth
Project Manager – DYW Orkney

Young People are Great Campaign

We are inviting local employers to get involved with a new DYW campaign which celebrates the achievements and resilience of young people.



YoungPeopleAreGreat

The Young People are Great campaign aims to highlight the key achievements and resilience of young people across Scotland, raising awareness of the greatness young people bring to any workforce and spreading good news, success and motivation.

Employers can get involved by spreading the word about the campaign to young people in their business, encouraging them to get involved. You can also share good news/success stories from young people in your team on your social media channels – if you tag us in your post we will share them on our pages.

Keen to get involved? Download the relevant campaign pack, resources and graphics from our website ([here](#)) and share your stories with us on social media from Monday 19 – Friday 30 April using #YPAG21.

Supporting Development of STEM Skills

We have awarded funding to the Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE) programme to help them purchase Meccano, coding creatures, minicomputers, toolkits, and workbenches for each of our local primary schools.

These will be distributed to 19 schools, benefitting more than 1,500 children.

Colin Nisbet, RAiSE Education Support Officer in Orkney, will deliver training to all schools on how to make the most of the resources, as well as developing resources to support learning experiences and opportunities.

He said: “This funding award is incredibly welcome. We want to bring STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) to life for our children. Educational toys and kits help to spark curiosity, ambition, and problem-solving skills in fun and accessible ways.

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“I am going to work alongside our schools to offer training, advice, and ideas so we can get the most from these very valuable resources.”



Pupils from Shapinsay Primary School are pictured playing with the Meccano sets provided by DYW Orkney and RAiSE.

The sets will promote engineering through play, programming digital technology, and the use of tools. Local businesses will be profiled within the support materials and schools will be encouraged to connect with industry to further bring these lessons to life.

Closing the Disability Employment Gap

The Scottish Union of Supported Employment (SUSE) is the lead partner in the Disability Employment Gap Public Social Partnership (PSP), which has been commissioned by the Scottish Government.

The Disability Employment Gap PSP is focused on working with Scotland's employers to help them address gaps in their knowledge and expertise to improve the employment prospects of disabled people.

They are keen to work with businesses to help them develop their organisation and staff. They will do this through support sessions and training courses.

If you would like to learn more about how your business can help close the disability employment gap, visit suse.org.uk or email David.Stewart@susescotland.scot

Scottish Apprenticeship Week

Scottish Apprenticeship Week was held at the start of March and this year's theme was Business Backing Talent.

Throughout the week we shared stories from local employers and their apprentices to show the value apprenticeships bring to individuals, businesses and the economy. You can view these case studies on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.



SCOTTISH APPRENTICESHIPS WEEK 2021

ANDY TAIT, MODERN APPRENTICE BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE ORKNEY



"I have previously undertaken courses at Orkney College like Preparation for Progression, Young Enterprise and NC Administration. I wanted to gain more Qualifications, so decided to do a Modern Apprenticeship.

"An apprenticeship is a great way of gaining new qualifications whilst working and earning money and also learning new skills along the way. Working for DYW has helped me improve my skills and build working relationships across different organisations."



For more information about apprenticeships, visit: www.apprenticeships.scot



One of the Case Studies we shared on social media during Scottish Apprenticeship Week.

We also shared information about the three levels of apprenticeship available in Scotland – Foundation, Modern and Graduate. If you would like to learn more about apprenticeships and find

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out if they are right for your business, you can read more on our website, [here](#). You can also read more at apprenticeships.scot

We're always happy to discuss apprenticeships with anyone interested in learning more, just get in touch with us by emailing orkneydyw@uhi.ac.uk

Graduate Apprenticeships

Businesses who are interested in offering a Graduate Apprenticeship to new or existing staff may like to know that Heriot-Watt University are now offering the qualification to people based on Orkney through distance learning.

They join Robert Gordon University, The University of the Highlands and Islands and Open University in offering the qualification through distanced learning, which may be ideal for local businesses and individuals.

For more information visit the following links:

[Heriot-Watt University](#)
[Open University](#)
[Robert Gordon University](#)
[University of the Highlands and Islands](#)

Kickstart Scheme

If your business is in a position to support an unemployed young person in finding a job, the UK Government have launched the Kickstart scheme, which provides employers with funding to create new six-month job placements for young people who are at risk of unemployment.

Early statistics indicate that young people will be adversely affected by the economic impact of COVID-19 so if local businesses are able to offer

placements to young people to help them move into the world of work, it would be a real benefit to these young people.

You can read more about the Kickstart Scheme [here](#), or email kickstart@aspireorkney.com for more details.

PACE: Providing Redundancy Support

We are all aware of the economic impact of coronavirus and that unfortunately, some businesses have either made - or are having to consider making - redundancies. This is not an easy process for the employer or the employee, but help is at hand to provide support.

The local PACE partnership offers a free, confidential redundancy support service for businesses of any size. The service is free and employers can use it to help them and their staff navigate redundancy.



It is managed by Skills Development Scotland, and Claire Sim from the Kirkwall team has made a short video explaining more about PACE and the support they can offer Orkney businesses. You can watch it on our website, [here](#).

If you would like to learn more about PACE, contact Claire on claire.sim@sds.co.uk