

Q: What do you get if you take 270 pupils, 16 employers and their apprentices from industries as diverse as customer service, engineering, hairdressing, laboratory science, fish processing and childcare?

A: Calderglen High's annual S3 year group modern apprenticeship event as part of Scottish Apprenticeship week! The event was a huge success, with **92%** of pupils saying they would maybe or definitely consider an apprenticeship for their future

S3 pupils had quite a morning of it and were allocated into three different workshops before the employers and pupils had a plenary session where pupils asked employers for advice on everything from becoming an apprentice, to hints and tips on how they could try to secure one. Depute Head Teacher Alison McDonald welcomed our invited guests for giving up their time to attend the event. For many, it was their third year in succession and explained that S3 is a critical point for many of our young people. "We can't start to speak about employability or build career management skills early enough and if we don't start to do that now – we could lose some pupils along the way". Jill Dodds DSYW co-ordinator agrees "This is such a motivating and hands on event – it's great to have the support of so many employers and this year we were able to slot the young people into the workshops that they identified an interest in." As the young people rotated around the workshops hosted by employers such as SDS, Grant Thornton and GSK, there was a buzz of excitement from the pupils. We captured some of their comments. Meg Kelly 3S1 stated that she now knew that "apprenticeships aren't just for people who are less academic but for people of all levels", her classmate Jordan Dorrens added "I've learned that going to university or college are not my only choices".

Some of the comments from the evaluations:

"I learned what an apprenticeship is and the benefits of them"

"I learned that apprenticeship opportunities are on the rise"

"There are lots of jobs that I didn't realise existed"

"You get a qualification and you get paid at the same time"

"There is more to an apprenticeship than you think"



And the final word from Head Teacher Liz White "The introduction of the Developing Scotland's Young Workforce role has been the thread that pulls together all contributions from teaching staff, business and community partners, parents and employers and is helping us maintain positive destinations for all of our leavers. We are thrilled that our most recent school leaver returns are at 97% which shows evidence that making pupils more aware of opportunities and the skills needed for them pays off in terms of positive outcomes for our school leavers".