



16 former pupils were the main focus of Calderglen's first ever **Alumni** event, showcasing the successes and achievements of some of our former pupils and giving advice to S6 who are about to take their first post school steps.

"Never ever did I think I'd be using trigonometry to calculate the angle of a blood spatter"... Just one of the reflections former Calderglen High Pupil – now 2nd year Criminal Justice student – Courtney McIntyre shared about her course with current S6 pupils.

Teachers and pupils alike enjoyed hearing about the trials and tribulations of life as a college or university student and our *Alumnettes* shared tips and experiences on everything from commuting from East Kilbride to Edinburgh on a daily basis to coping with being one of a 250 strong student audience in a Law lecture.

The World of Work was admirably represented by former leavers who embraced roles in construction, engineering, computer aided design and also included Scotland's first ever winner of apprentice barber of the year! Qualified hairdresser Montel Campbell enthused "If you love something enough it doesn't even feel like work ...just get out there and do it" he urged his enthralled audience. All the *Alumnettes* chartered their learner journeys from school, from the subject choices they made, and their achievements and ambitions for the future.

Montel made no apologies for the fact that he was one of Calderglen's most reticent pupils. Looking back, he knows that he didn't make the most of the school experience and was scared to leave. However he has never looked back!! Having completed a year's college experience covering both hairdressing and cosmetology, he was the only male student in a classroom of girls.

From there he signed up with MHFED as a young trainee barber. They entered him onto the heats of Apprentice of the Year in London. He entered for the experience but came away as the winner and brought home the prize as Scotland's first ever winner! Since then he has returned to London to perform a cut and style for a fashion shoot and has his sights set firmly on London or Paris for the future.

Business student Lauren encouraged our pupils to stretch themselves and revealed she deliberately chose a course away from home to take herself out of her comfort zone. Now driving, her daily commute into Edinburgh is a little quicker compared to her previous twice daily journeys that lasted 2.5 hours there and on the way back. "Give yourself room to grow" were her words of advice and she encouraged the current and incoming S6 to get involved in volunteering to get them used to speaking to people of all age groups and make a big impact on their confidence.

CAD technician Betsy left Calderglen 4 years ago and she explained how much she had enjoyed graphics at school. Having completed an HND in Computer Aided Design at college, she is now self-funding another HNC in Mechanical Engineering as it will give her lots more scope and involves a lot of 3D modelling which really draws upon those skills in graphics.

Another student who made the transition from college to university was Cameron who left school in S5. Now a graduate in electronic engineering, he championed the need for more girls to get into engineering and revealed that there is huge demand for jobs in this field.

As diverse as all their routes and pathways were, there were clear and consistent messages from all of our *Alumnettes*:

Read – as much as you can – you need to do that as your lecture notes prepare you for the minimum

Take Responsibility – Be on time, be prepared and make sure you meet your deadlines – no one will chase you like they do at school

Relax – be it college, uni or workplace, it will be new and bewildering for you – and for everybody in the beginning but the changes soon become a natural way of life

Network with anyone who has more experience or has done what you are doing –sometimes talking to someone who has been there can make all the difference

So many thanks to our former pupils who certainly made a hit with our S6 year group. We are extremely hopeful that each and every one of our leavers this year signs up to Calderglen Alumni. We keep in touch with our *Alumnettes* via our Twitter feed **@CglenAlumni**.

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