

ASSESSING THEIR FUTURE!

For the second year running, GSK opened their doors to S3 pupils from three North Ayrshire Academies to show them what it's like to go through their apprentice assessment centre.

Supported by current apprentices and staff, pupils from Largs, Kilmarnock, and Ardrossan Academies were given advice on interview and presentation techniques, along with a practical task changing gaskets on a pipe rig, and a team-based exercise which highlighted communication, reasoning, and leadership skills. Mike O'Sullivan, GSK Irvine Site Director commented: "GSK is passionate about supporting the next generation and inspiring new talent. At our Irvine manufacturing site, we have a well-established apprenticeship programme across a range of disciplines. We recognise the value of apprenticeships as employers, but also to students looking at their career options."

"This is the second time we have run a Mock Assessment Event for local students which helps them develop real life skills, as they get the opportunity to experience an interview, group scenario test and practical assessment in a safe environment. As our team shares techniques, such as the STAR approach to answering interview questions, and provide constructive feedback to each individual student – it really helps them to develop, and build their employability skills. Skills for life that will ultimately help them secure an apprenticeship, a university place or job in the future."

"As a local employer, it was a great opportunity to see the quality of future candidates which are testament to the strength of our local schools and teachers."

Paul Birns, Technological Studies teacher from Ardrossan Academy added: "Thanks so much for an amazing opportunity for our students. I also really enjoyed the day."

The DYW team are already looking forward to working with GSK again in the upcoming academic year to offer this fantastic experience to another three schools in North Ayrshire, and thanks to all at GSK who have made this opportunity possible.



JOHN IMPRESSES ON ARRAN PLACEMENT

Ardrossan Academy pupil John Galloway joined up with the Health Facilities Scotland team as they carried out maintenance work on medical equipment at Lamlash Hospital on Arran.

Murray Galloway, Validation Engineer, at Health Facilities Scotland explained: "John conducted himself very well at Lamlash Hospital, and was a big hit with the staff there. He was keen to get involved in the work being carried out, and eager to find out what and why we were doing too."

"This was a trip to conduct annual validation tests on two surgical instrument washer-

disinfectors at the Dental unit in Lamlash Hospital. The work, conducted over the week, included getting the test equipment into the department, unpacking and setting up of test kit used for the measurement of temperatures within the machines, as well as the actual tests.

"During testing he was asked to verify the calibration of the test equipment against the machines being tested, and demonstrated an understanding of the calibration process and how we transfer this to the tested machines. He recorded information from both the test equipment and the machines, for later use in the Annual report."



"To complete the experience, I 'tested' his understanding of the process at the end, asking him to explain the wash program, the temperatures involved, what constituted a pass or a failed test, and how we transfer calibration. With so much new information, he showed a good understanding of the whole process, which demonstrated he was paying attention throughout."

ARDROSSAN PUPILS 'TAPAS' OF THE CLASS

Hospitality pupils from S4 worked alongside Garfield's tapas bar in Ardrossan to plan, prepare and host a staff tapas buffet lunch raising money for the Ayrshire Hospice in the process.

Darren Fisher from Garfield's lent his expertise to help the learners create a selection of tapas dishes, which they prepared and cooked for around 35 staff members.

The staff enjoyed their wide selection of tapas from Garlic Mushrooms to Chorizo, Black Pudding and Goats Cheese. The event in total raised £115 including a raffle.

Ron Melke, Ayrshire Hospice, said: "Garfield's Tapas & Wine Bar in Ardrossan have been excellent supporters in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice. The local restaurant regularly raises funds through the hospice collection cans and Terramundi pots on display in their venue. They also raised over £2,400 last year when the team completed a sponsored climb of Goatfell in fancy dress."

Earlier in the year, Garfield's also held a tapas fundraising event following work that they had completed with pupils from Ardrossan Academy. Darren had been working with the pupils for a number of weeks and the pupils prepared a variety of tapas dishes, sold tickets to the lunch to staff at the school and organised a raffle. The event raised £114.94 over one lunchtime.

Fourth Year pupil Lewis Austin managed to secure a week's work placement in the restaurant.

He said: "I enjoyed making and trying foods that I had never had before. I think the event helped me to build confidence in my own skills, and the work placement Garfield's offered me taught me how to interact with different customers. I also got to see what life is like as a chef, which is great as I hope to be a chef when I leave school."

