

# MENTORING MATTERS

NOVEMBER 2016



## INTRODUCTION

As we approach winter, Mentoring Matters is celebrating a lot. It has been a phenomenal year with more young people being supported than ever before. We hit a major milestone in August as Glasgow City Council signed a Public Social Partnership (PSP) agreement with MCR Pathways. Our young people returned to school following some brilliant exam results feedback and our first big group of school leavers have headed off to some amazing post-school destinations.

As well as looking back in this Newsletter, we'll be looking forward. Our Young Glasgow Talent programme is now running in an additional 5 schools taking us to a total of 15 Glasgow secondaries. Your continued fantastic support will mean more than ever as we work to reach the 1000 young people out there that need our help!

# NEWS/MILESTONES

## PSP ANNOUNCEMENTS

History was made in late August as The Herald and Evening Times announced Glasgow City Council's Public Social Partnership agreement with MCR Pathways. One of the country's biggest agreements, it will see our mentoring-based programme embedded in all 30 of Glasgow's secondary schools over the next three years. Thereafter it continues as business as usual.

Mentoring works. You've shown that! This historic news guarantees generations of young people the support and guidance they deserve to discover aspirational pathways to the destination they dream of.



Councillor Frank McAveety, Leader of Glasgow City Council, was as delighted as we were with this agreement: **"The mentoring project is making an incredible difference to the lives of some of our most disadvantaged young people. In conjunction with other council initiatives, it is helping to close the attainment gap in Glasgow and tackle some of our well documented social challenges. This new Public Social Partnership will mean that mentoring – using people from all walks of life to help our children – will be embedded in our schools across the city. This is a large commitment from all of the partners and funders who have a common goal – to raise the attainment, aspirations and the life chances of these young people."**

Dame Barbara Kelly CBE, chairman of The Robertson Trust, who join the Partnership along with STV Appeal and the Life Changes Trust, said

**"We are delighted to be involved in this pioneering project which we believe will transform the educational outcomes and life chances for disadvantaged young people in Glasgow. As well as benefitting Glasgow's young people, we hope this project will be a national exemplar for partnership working between the Third Sector and local authorities."**



This wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of so many within the MCR Community. In particular, you, our mentors. Who consistently go above and beyond for your young person.

## Thank You!



## HERALD SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS



Thanks to **you**, we are **absolutely thrilled** to announce that we have just been awarded the “Education Initiative of the Year Award” at The Herald Society Awards 2016.

The awards celebrate projects and initiatives that demonstrate value, innovation and best practice in Scotland’s public and third sectors. They are among the toughest to win with a huge number of entries and an expert judging panel.

### On behalf of all of the team, we want to thank:



Our **dedicated mentors** who give freely of their time and energy to support and encourage our young people to find, grow and use their talent!



Most importantly, the **fantastic young people of Glasgow!** You are our inspiration and it’s our privilege to work with you each day. This award belongs to **YOU!!**



**Glasgow City Council** and their committed staff and teachers, along with our **funders and partners** for enabling us to reach out and impact young people across the city. With a big shout out to **our 15 current schools** - All Saints, Drumchapel, Hillpark, Knightswood, Lourdes, Eastbank, Lochend, Rosshall, Smithycroft, Springburn, St Andrew’s, St. Mungo’s, St Paul’s, St Roch’s and Whitehill.

Please **share and spread the word** to friends, colleagues and family and let’s get more volunteers on board for our young people. Each one a potential life-changer! We now have 1000 people who are MCR and here’s to 5000 in the future!



## 1000TH MCR VOLUNTEER NOW REGISTERED

It's been an autumn of milestones at MCR pathways! We were delighted to recently reach our one thousandth online registration of support! Over 1000 Glaswegians have registered their interest to help the young people in our city that deserve our support. We now have over 300 trained mentors and other types of volunteers too.

We're so grateful for all you do. We have over 3500 looked after young people across every age in our city. Over 1000 in our secondary schools. With these numbers of young people needing MCR's help, we need your help! Do you have any friends, family or colleagues that you think would be an excellent mentor? Please help spread the word and encourage them to mentor our young people. The more mentors, the more young people we can reach.



Visit [www.youngglasgowtalent.org](http://www.youngglasgowtalent.org) or email [info@youngglasgowtalent.org](mailto:info@youngglasgowtalent.org) for more!

## 5 NEW SCHOOLS WELCOME MCR PATHWAYS



We're delighted to announce that 5 more schools in Glasgow will get the support of MCR Pathways' Young Glasgow Talent programme. All Saints Secondary, Knightswood Secondary School and Rosshall Academy are now getting the support of our mentors. We're also in Hillpark Secondary and Whitehill Secondary Schools at the minute, introducing their pupils to our programme, ready for mentoring in the turn of the year.

Pauline Swan, Head Teacher at Whitehill Secondary said "We are delighted to embark on a partnership with MCR pathways to strengthen our commitment to our 'Inclusion' agenda. As a school we are always striving to break down any potential barriers to learning. Working in partnership with MCR pathways, we will continue to support our young people in reaching their maximum potential. We envisage that the mentoring component of the programme will engage our most vulnerable young people as this support will provide a consistent input from a trusted adult where the young person can share their experiences and aspirations."

A huge 'welcome' to all new schools. We're really looking forward to working with you and reaching more young people that will benefit hugely from the support of their mentor.



## WHAT HAVE OUR SCHOOLS BEEN UP TO?

Since our previous newsletter, our schools have been embarking on loads of fabulous experiences - including Talent and educational Tasters, as well as the Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

Since May, over 130 of our young people have experienced the best of college, university and work in the city. Thanks to partners including Glasgow Life, Glasgow Kelvin College, Strathclyde University and The Herald, our youngsters have had inspirations and aspirations sparked as they explore their study and career pathways. High quality, hands on experiences took place over half a shift of front line jobs, as well as middle and senior management perspectives of both the organisation and remit.



MCR Pathways pilots its first ever Sporting Talent Taster! Young People took in the Scotstoun Arena, home of the Glasgow Warriors. The Glasgow Life venue is one of the city's biggest and was key in the 2014 Commonwealth Games.



The role of Gallery Assistant was one of 19 employment Tasters offered by Glasgow Life. Our young people learned about what it takes to work in one of Glasgow's most popular attractions and coordinating the displays visitors enjoy seeing so much





Also generating amazing feedback from our young people was a Stage Technician role Taster at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Young people explored the various preparations involved on, side and back-stage ahead of the Anastacia gig at the venue.



Our young people had an amazing trip going behind the scenes to see the workings of one of Scotland's biggest newspapers! Spending the day with Barclay McBain, Deputy Editor of The Herald and Magnus Llewellyn, then Editor-in-Chief of The Herald. Our young people even wrote about their day and their week long visit to The Herald later in June: **"After The Herald Talent Taster back in May, I knew journalism was something I wanted to learn more about. I know I want to go into an industry where I'm excited to get up and use my time doing something I enjoy. I can't say I wasted a single minute of my time during my week at The Herald. I wasn't even afraid to work the long hours! It was one of the best experiences of my life."**



***"My favourite part of the Sports Taster was watching the rugby training, as you got to see the coach plan and set out training!"***

You can read about all of our Tasters, the Duke of Edinburgh expedition and more on our blog - <http://www.youngglasgowtalent.org/news/>



## LEAVERS

This summer has seen the biggest group of mentored young people ready to leave school and pursue their new, exciting pathways! 60 young people have all benefitted hugely from having a mentor. They've had help and guidance in planning their educational and career pathways and support throughout their exams:



**"My mentor helped me feel more comfortable about going to college and is going to meet up with me when I start."**

(Kate, S4 2016 Leaver).

**"I had three ideas of what I wanted to do. My mentor helped me research into these and come to a conclusion on what was best for me. YGT has really helped me, it gave me time away from what was going on at home and gave me someone to talk to about it."** (Kaitlin, S6 2016 Leaver)



**"My mentor supported me each step of the way. She took me on countless visits to the University of Strathclyde to see my end goal of being a university student. I have definitely enjoyed my time with YGT while at school. I wouldn't change it. It built my confidence, gave me someone I could talk to who is outside school and my family. It's made me motivated to do things. I met new people at all the events I got to go to."** (Pamela, 2016 Leaver).

**"It's good to have a mentor to talk to. My mentor is really nice and made me feel comfortable to ask her for help if you needed it. She was dead nice. I feel more confident in going to college and ready to go!"** (Chloe, 2016 Leaver).



**"Before, I didn't know what to do and I was kind of scared. My mentor calmed me down so I knew what to expect. I've really enjoyed my time with YGT - you are really supporting people and you supported me a lot. My mentor was like one of my best pals. I'm more confident about what I want and I know what to expect from life and college"** (Catherine, 2016 Leaver).

And the feedback from our mentors has been fabulous - as they see their young person begin their exciting new journey.

**"I've enjoyed this mentoring experience very much. I found it very enjoyable passing on life experience. It was a good relationship with my young person from the start. He was very keen to learn and wanted to be at our meetings. It was his choice and he was there for a good reason. I saw him become more confident over the two years. He was quite confident anyway, but he became more confident in his ability to become a chef in the future."** (George Gray, Mentor of a 2016 Leaver).



And that's not the end of our relationship with our 2016 Leavers. They're joining us on a private Facebook Community group. We're here to continue to help them with any questions they may have in the future and will support them as they take their next steps after school.



## COMMUNITIES & SUPPORT

### New Facebook Community for Mentors

Our mentors should all have received an invitation to our shiny new Facebook Group. If you haven't already, then please pop on and say "Hello" - search for MCR Pathways Mentor Community. We're looking forward to seeing you there! This private Facebook Group for approved MCR Mentors has been created as an alternative option to the Google Communities, and will contain lots of information and news to keep you updated as well as another forum to ask general questions or share ideas.



## ICT UPDATE/COMMUNITIES

### Weekly Feedback Form



Hopefully by now, many of you have used the updated weekly feedback form. By popular demand, the latest version of the form allows a copy of the feedback to be sent to your Inbox. We appreciate the time you take to fill in the form each week and hope you are finding this new feature useful!

### Coming soon to MRC

We are in the process of making some changes to the Mentor Resource Centre. A brand new section will be added soon signposting to some excellent resources and links that your mentee can use for practising skills like numeracy and literacy. If you have any suggestions of tools or websites that we should add, please drop us a line and we'll take a look!

## Volunteering Opportunities



Can you represent MCR Pathways? And encourage new audiences to become mentors and get involved? Our friends at Glasgow Life have an events schedule that we can pitch up at with our marketing materials. Glasgow Life manage some of the biggest and busiest venues in the city. This is a huge opportunity to meet more Glaswegians, spread the YGT word and encourage more mentors to join our community. We've already had some success with this form of recruitment - so your help would be appreciated! You will be briefed in advance and don't worry - you won't be doing it yourself! The MCR Team will be there at all times! Please email [deborah.quinn@mcrpathways.org](mailto:deborah.quinn@mcrpathways.org) for more information and campaign dates!



## Events



Keep your diaries clear in November because we have two events coming up and you won't want to miss them!

Bridge to the Future is a moving new exhibition by MCR Pathways at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. It tells the story of the difference made to Glasgow's disadvantaged young people by amazing, committed mentors like you, using objects that represent the amazing bond between mentor and mentee. The exhibition will be in the main hall under the laughing heads to the right.

Some of you have been mentoring for years, some only for a few months, but all of you are going the extra mile to make a difference to a young person's life. We want to celebrate that! To thank the many individuals and organisations who have paved the way to make MCR Pathways model the norm for Glasgow. By 2019, every single care experienced child in this city will have the opportunity of being matched with one of our exceptional mentors. That's cause for a party, isn't it? And our pioneering partners at Glasgow Life have invited us to hold that party at **Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum on Thursday 10 November.**

Please Save the Date and accept our email invitation which you should have received recently - we would love to see you there!