

# YST CLASS OF 2019

## YEARBOOK

**THE FINAL BELL IS ABOUT TO RING** and school will be out for the summer for another year! The 2018/2019 school year has been our busiest and most exciting ever. In the past 12 months, we've brought mentoring to 6 new Local Authorities and there are now more than **1000 mentors** matched and meeting young people across **46 schools!** But we're not even close to being done.

While we plan on doubling the number of young people supported, what remains most important is the small steps we all can take. Our mentors spend just one hour a week supporting their young person, but this small action has enormous power. This is the Ripple Effect of mentoring. When young people are supported to be their best, everyone benefits. Our schools see the difference, communities feel a change and organisations see the impact in the next generation of employees.

Thank you to our mentors, partners, and volunteers for all the hard work you do each and every day for our young people. You are part of something truly special.

Read on for the highlights of the year and to find out what's coming up!



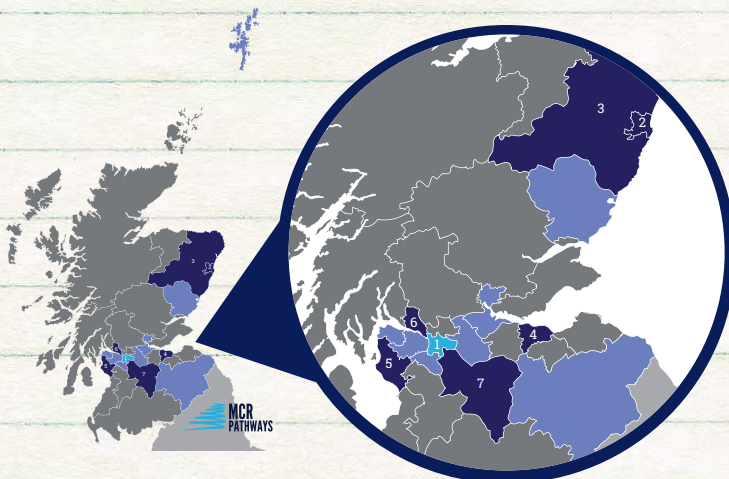
**1020**  
ACTIVE MENTORS



**2011**  
YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED  
THROUGH GROUP WORK &  
1:1 MENTORING



**621**  
YP ATTENDED TALENT  
TASTERS IN 2018/2019



**3000**  
YOUNG PEOPLE MCR PLAN ON  
REACHING IN 2019

# OUR LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

## FIRST MINISTER VISIT

In June, we welcomed a very special guest to MCR HQ! First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon visited our office to meet and listen to our current mentored and Next Steps young people as part of the **1000 Voices pledge**, a project to understand better and improve the lives of children in care.

Our YST Ambassadors shared their inspiring stories of bravery and resilience as well as their hopes for the future of Scotland's young people. Thank you to our mentors for supporting young people to realise their potential every week. So much of their confidence and strength comes from your incalculable support.



The Scottish  
Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

## MCR PATHWAYS SHORTLISTED

## FOR UK'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS CHARITY AWARD

In May, we were thrilled to be shortlisted for **The Charity Awards Education and Training award**. The Charity Awards is the UK's largest and most prestigious third sector award and we are enormously honoured to have received this recognition. We are so happy to have been able to share mentoring and our young people's stories with a wider UK audience. [Read more about it in our blog here.](#)



### Thank you from MCR Founder Iain MacRitchie:

"We are honoured to have our mentoring programme recognised and shortlisted by the Charity Awards. From one Glasgow school to now supporting more than **2000** young people across the country, our goal has always remained the same: making sure all young people are defined by their talents, not their circumstances."

# MENTOR HUB

In June, we began rolling out our brand new Mentor Hub - keep an eye on your inbox for your login details. The Hub is an online **'one-stop-shop'** designed for our mentor community and replaces the Facebook Group and Mentor Resource Centre. Mentors will have access to a range of content and features to support and enhance your journey as a mentor. From your personal homepage, you can access features including:

- **Forums** • **Resources** • **Courses** • **Upcoming Events** •
- **Weekly Feedback** • **Contact MCR** •

Hi, Zoe  
Welcome to your Mentor Hub

No meeting scheduled.

Your Mentor Hub  
Welcome to your new Mentor Hub. We have developed this resource to ensure you have a quality mentoring experience.

- 1 Getting To Know You [Read More](#)
- 2 Relationship Building [Read More](#)
- 3 Goals + Experiences [Read More](#)

### Dashboard

You will have your own personalised dashboard that will show when your next meeting is, you can access all the Hub's features from here.

### Mentoring Resources

We have curated some resources specifically around mentoring.

- Mentor Calendar [Read More](#)
- School Pack [Read More](#)
- Video Gallery [Read More](#)

### Resources

All of the resources you need are online and tailored to the relationship stage you and your mentee are at. Making it easier to locate what you need, when you need it!

Topic	Voices	Posts	Freshness
Welcome!	2	2	Online since 1 day ago
Icebreakers	2	3	Online since 1 month ago

Viewing 2 topics - 1 through 2 of 2 total

Create New Topic In "National Forum"

Your account has the ability to post unrestricted HTML content.

Topic Title (Maximum Length: 80):

### Forums

Get chatting in our new online forums, share best practices, ask questions and socialise with other mentors in your area and across the country.

### Weekly Feedback

Please tell us how your meeting went and when the next one is.

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Select the scheduled meeting this report refers to: \*  
Select A Meeting

Meeting Attendance \*  
Please tick as many of the boxes as you feel appropriate.

Meeting took place  YP did not attend  
 Mentor not able to attend  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following statements best describes the meeting?

<input type="checkbox"/> felt comfortable	<input type="checkbox"/> a little awkward
<input type="checkbox"/> good relationship building	<input type="checkbox"/> not made a connection yet
<input type="checkbox"/> shared some skills	<input type="checkbox"/> talked about school stuff
<input type="checkbox"/> I had to do most of the talking	<input type="checkbox"/> fun
<input type="checkbox"/> made progress on goals	<input type="checkbox"/> mentee was feeling low
<input type="checkbox"/> mentee was really engaging	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable - the meeting did not take place
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Were there any agreed actions or points to follow up for the next visit?  
(Only applicable if the meeting took place. Please do not refer to your mentee by name)

### Weekly Feedback

The Mentor Hub will allow you to be able to complete and submit your Weekly Feedback forms in the one place. You can also schedule in your next mentoring meeting here as well.

# JOURNEY TO THE TOP!

4

Young People in process of achieving **Gold**

8

Young People achieving **Silver**

103

Young People achieving **Bronze**

We've become one of the largest groups delivering the award, and are knocking down the barriers that have traditionally prevented young people from taking part. We have supported a diverse group of young people through this fantastic challenge, and these are just a couple of those stories.

## CADY CONQUERED!



Cady is in S4 pupil in Glasgow, and always has a smile on her face. She has Cerebral Palsy, but has worked hard to never let that get in her way. She has a love of the outdoors which made her Coordinator, Ashleigh, think she'd be a **great candidate** for the DofE. Despite the obstacles, **Cady persevered and completed the award.**

Cady said that while there were times when she didn't think she could make it, she kept going because, **"I just thought: I don't want to give up."**

## SUMMER SUCCEEDED!

Summer is also in her 4th year at another Glasgow secondary school. Summer is blind but is eager to take part in all MCR Activities. To make sure Summer could complete the expedition, Pathways Coordinator Vickie and the MCR DofE Coordinator **created routes** that allowed her to **navigate using sounds.**

Despite the challenges, bad weather and **endless walking**, Summer and the group all completed their Bronze DofE.

**And the best part for Summer? - - -**



**"Completing it! I woke up in the morning to go to school afterwards and I thought my legs were gonna fall off, cause they were so sore."**

Thank you to our skilled and committed team who help our young people, no matter their ability, to succeed and find the strength no matter the challenge.

# REACHING MORE YOUNG PEOPLE

## SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

In March, we hit a new milestone and brought mentoring into 6 schools in South Lanarkshire! We are so excited to welcome our new Pathways Coordinators at **Calderside Academy**, **Cathkin High**, **Hamilton Grammar**, **St John Ogilvie High**, **Stonelaw High** and **Trinity High**.

### Highlights from South Lanarkshire

At **Stonelaw High School**, Pathways Coordinator, Helen shared this sweet story about how young people are really starting to engage:

**"A wee girl who was adamant that she did not want to participate is now taking part and actually came to my office this morning to ask if she could come more than just once a week!"**

While over at **Cathkin High**, group work is going great and the young people are eagerly getting ready for S3 and mentoring. One young person drew his ideal mentor, so if you have a friend who would be interested in mentoring in South Lanarkshire please share: [mcrpathways.org/south-lanarkshire/](http://mcrpathways.org/south-lanarkshire/)



**"With my mentor Charley, I can truly be myself. Charley has been beside me the whole way. He's shared how he got through tough times in his life. He's helped me focus. He's helped me think I could go to college which is something I've never believed before." - Jack, YST Young Person at Inverurie Academy, Aberdeenshire**

**"The benefits to the mentor are massive! It's not just us that benefits from getting one of you. You benefit from getting one of us! It's true, we are magical! You get to hear our perspective on things and that can really help, you can see the world in a whole different way." - Dylan, YST Young Ambassador**

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Meanwhile, our West Dunbartonshire Pathways Coordinators at **Clydebank High** and **Our Lady & St Patrick's High** have been just as busy and their hard work has paid off! The first mentors have been matched and began meeting with their young people, starting the first ever mentor journeys in the area. **We need more mentors for these schools, can you help share our impact?**

### Highlights from West Dunbartonshire

At **Clydebank**, one mentor and mentee pairing have bonded over a love of art and already started working on an art project which they plan to continue over the summer.



## NORTH AYRSHIRE

In North Ayrshire, **Auchenharvie Academy** Pathways Coordinator, Stephanie, also has her **first 5 mentors** working with their young people and she's delighted! Stephanie told us how her S2's are talking about what they want from a mentor, so we're hoping more people get involved for the next term! Can you share [mcrpathways.org/north-ayrshire](http://mcrpathways.org/north-ayrshire) with someone in Ayrshire you know would make a great mentor?



"I never thought I would be working or would end up studying at college. Before I had my mentor, I was thinking about leaving high school. But she helped me see, without putting any pressure on me, that staying on would be more beneficial for my sake. I am so grateful that in the end I did. And I'm proud that I managed to get a job, plus I'm able to study a subject that really interests me at college."

- **Caitlyn, Leaver from Lochend Community High School, Glasgow**

## GLASGOW



**Radio Scotland's Jamie McIvor** interviewed 3 Glasgow leavers about the difference mentoring has made in their lives. **Caitlin** from St Roch's Secondary, **William** from Lochend Community High School, and **Sophie** from Eastbank Academy, were all mentored in the programme and are now pursuing their own university pathways. They bravely shared their stories on BBC Radio Scotland and encouraged more people across Scotland to get involved. [Click here or the video to the left.](#)

**Liam**, from **Whitehill Secondary**, dreams of working in marketing and has been working hard to reach that dream! He started a [Whitehill YGT Twitter account](#), writing and creating the majority of the content, and just recently completed work experience with the MCR Central team. He learned the ins and outs of how MCR marketing works and wrote a fab blog about his experiences - [check it out here!](#)



**Michaela** from **Rosshall Academy** is the first young person to secure a Modern Apprenticeship through our partnership with FARE, Glasgow Guarantee, Skills Development Scotland, Jobs & Business Glasgow & Glasgow Community Planning Partnership.

She just started working with Young Movers and is excitedly working towards becoming a fully qualified Youth Worker! **A big congrats to you, Michaela!!**

"When I first joined the programme I was wary of letting anyone in but over time I started to trust that maybe I did need a little bit of help." - **Kieran, YST Leaver & Next Steps Ambassador, Glasgow**

"I wasn't sure at first but what appealed to me was the idea of a mentor. Having someone to talk to, someone who was there because they cared, someone who was there just for me. I met Heidi, my mentor, we are still getting to know each other but already there is a connection. I look forward to getting time out from everything else, just talking about life, what my dreams and ambitions are, what my hopes and fears are." - **YST Young Ambassador at Shawlands Academy, Glasgow**

## EDINBURGH



Over in Edinburgh our young people have been making waves! **Craigroyston Community High School's** Pathways Coordinator, Laura, shared a brilliant picture of her young people, all of whom won awards at their school's ceremony. **Congratulations on all your hard work guys!** Can you help us reach more young people in Edinburgh by sharing [mcrpathways.org/edinburgh](http://mcrpathways.org/edinburgh)

## ABERDEEN & ABERDEENSHIRE

Our 5 Aberdeenshire schools are celebrating their first year with MCR Pathways! Relationships have begun to grow and young people are even starting to share stories of how their mentors have helped them. We are delighted to share the stories of just a few of our **Aberdeenshire mentors and young people in our latest film, check it out!**



At **Fraserburgh Academy**, Pathways Coordinator, Gillian received this lovely bit of feedback from one of her new mentors:

**"Every time I see you I get more excited about volunteering with MCR Pathways. I can't wait to get started!"**



At **Inverurie Academy**, mentors are truly becoming a fixture in the school. There are now more than **20 mentors** meeting or just recently matched!

At **Peterhead Academy**, mentor relationships are also taking off! One mentee & mentor pair have set themselves a healthy challenge for their meetings, swapping biscuits for fruit and going for walks during their meetings. The mentee is loving this and wrote that it's **helping her with her confidence.**



Over at **Banff Academy**, one pair have taken on a unique turn with mentor, Hugh, helping his mentee improve on their cycling skills!

**Fab job guys!**



### Aberdeen

At **St Machar Academy**, we also have some wonderful matches meeting and we have built close links with the Wood Foundation. Hear more from UK Director Ali and comms manager Suzanne as to why they encourage other organisations to get involved in mentoring by **clicking here.**



St Machar Academy

**Please continue to share the power and impact of mentoring with friends and family and encourage them to get involved.**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE: BRAVE; NOT BROKEN

On the 18th of April, **more than 400 attendees**, mentors, policy makers, school leads and individuals all came together for our national conference: **Brave; Not Broken**. With mental health and well-being as the theme, more than 60 Young Scottish Talent Ambassadors led the day with an afternoon of powerful presentations and interactive workshops. Our young people asked the audience to see beyond the 'face' we all hide behind when encountering mental health challenges.



The Ambassadors interviewed our expert panel made up of **Fiona Duncan**, Chair of the Independent Care Review, **Maureen McKenna**, Glasgow City Council Executive Director of Education, **John Swinney**, Deputy First Minister & Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, and **Sir Harry Burns**, Professor of Global Public Health, challenging them on policies and advocating for change.

It was a brilliant and emotional day. We've captured the highlights of the day in this [short video to the right, check it out!](#)



## #TheRippleEffect LAUNCH EVENT

Looking back to February, we launched our 2019 **#TheRippleEffect** campaign in style at a fab event at the Glasgow Science Centre hosted by our inspirational young people. Evening Times and The Herald described how MCR Mentors **Annemarie O'Donnell**, Chief Executive of Glasgow City Council, **Amber Livingston**, Travel Presenter at Clyde One, and **Raymond Porter**, entrepreneur, shared their stories of The Ripple Effect they've seen since they've started mentoring.





# PRESS COVERAGE

The last six months have been absolutely brilliant, with hundreds of inspirational moments between young people and mentors. Thank you to all the wonderful journalists and publications for sharing our stories! **Here are some of the best bits - keep an eye on our website to read more!**



**Click to read more about Eastbank Academy pupil Hayley who has a new path in life thanks to supportive mentor Louise, in The Evening Times.**

**Irvine Times**

**Clydebank Post**

**Sharing our launches into new areas - Click the above to read more!**

**Glasgow mentoring Charity in line for top award - Click here to read the full story.**



We were delighted to have an article published in the Scottish Journal of Residential Care, outlining the MCR journey and highlighting the changes we feel are necessary to make sure all Scottish young people are defined by their talents, and not their circumstances.

**Click here to read the full article.**



**Finally, we want to take this opportunity to wish our 2019 leavers all the luck in the world! We are so proud of you all and look forward to welcoming you to the Next Steps Group to hear about the next stage in your journey! ♥**



"YST has helped not only me but an abundance of young people find the space to find out who they are. In my case it gave me the opportunity to learn how to take chances and become a part of a group. It's helped me branch out and network with others, without YST I don't think I'd be doing what I am doing right now." - **Fabio, YST Ambassador & 2019 Leaver**

"I had thought about going to college but with Louise's encouragement I started to look at more options. She talked about university, I didn't think I was good enough, clever enough. Louise believed in me, she helped fill in my application forms. I'm proud to now be going to university to study Business Management."

- **Hayley, YST Ambassador & 2019 Leaver**

"I have been involved with YST for 4 years and have been meeting with my mentor Giulio for nearly 4 years. Over this time we have built a strong, trusting relationship. My home life can be quite challenging at times but Giulio has always been there, listening to me, making time for me and believing in me."

- **Bryan, YST Ambassador & 2019 Leaver**

"I've been meeting my mentee for nearly three years now, and she'll be leaving school this year after her sixth-year exams. When we first started meeting she wasn't sure what she wanted to do after school – and I'm chuffed to say that she's now got three conditionals for universities across the city."

- **Louise, Mentor of YST 2019 Leaver**