

Our Leavers' Stories

Summer Fun

On the Horizon

Another school year brings *new* beginnings...

Time to pack up the sunscreen and dig out your notepads and pencils because school is back! We hope everyone in the MCR family had a relaxing and restful summer and is ready for the start of term.

In June, more than **400** YST young people took their first step into adulthood, leaving school for their next destination. Whether they're heading to college, university or a job, we wish them well. Thank you to our mentors for being there each and every week, encouraging our young people to be their best. When supported, young people spread that positivity, transforming our schools, workplaces and country. This is #TheRippleEffect of mentoring, an impact that will last generations. We've dedicated this newsletter to celebrating their stories.

We're also excited to **welcome 637 new S3s onto the programme** in schools across Scotland. Over the holidays, our #SummerSignUps campaign, introduced you to a few of them. Keep reading for more of their stories. Can you help us find the perfect mentor for each of them? Tell your friends, colleagues and family about the difference they can make when they [get involved!](#)

In the last part of the newsletter, we'll give you a sneak peek of all the exciting activities and changes we've got planned...



46

Schools MCR
supports nationally



637

New YST S3's
looking for mentors



400+

Young people moving
onto their next steps

Our Leavers' Stories

More than 400 of our young people are starting down the path to adulthood. Their motivation, commitment and resilience - which lived inside them all along - shines brighter now thanks to the support of their mentor. Here are a few of their stories:

STEPS TO APPRENTICESHIP

Cameron* was first approached to join the YST programme because her school was concerned about her **lack of motivation**. For her, school was about seeing her friends - not thinking about her future.

When approached about having a mentor, Cameron was open to the idea but guarded. She was matched with Tricia, who was dedicated to supporting her. **Their relationship grew slowly, but over the course of their meetings it blossomed**. Cameron lacked confidence and self belief, but Tricia helped her tackle those feelings. She listened to her concerns and was always there for her, never missing a meeting over the years they met together. Gradually, they began talking more about the future and career paths, debating colleges and apprenticeships. Cameron expressed an interest in Childcare and, **for the first time, she started to feel really excited about her future**.

Over the two years they met, Cameron went from a shy girl who couldn't make eye contact and who had no idea what to do after school, to actively applying for college and apprenticeships. She left school in 2019, taking up a work placement which ultimately lead to her **gaining an apprenticeship with Glasgow City Council!**



Why Mentor?

“You’re helping a young person who might really need it. You don’t need to have the best advice in the world, you just need to be there for somebody. It’s literally you just giving your own advice.” - Mentored Young Person, St. Mungo’s Academy

“I have seen my young person grow more confident and focused on his school subjects, mentioning educational goals and future planning – which is a great step in the right direction.” - Mentor, Ken Lindsay

FUTURE TO HEAD COACH

Mo* is a sporty young person who lives with his mum and his older brother, who is his primary carer. As English is not his first language he often struggled with this and other subjects. He showed great potential, but his attendance was erratic. Donna, his school's Pathways Coordinator, felt that a mentor could really help him focus.

Mo was keen to get involved and was matched with Ross, who worked as an Assistant Manager at a Sports Centre and had travelled the world. Soon after meeting it was obvious that **this was a perfect match!** They bonded over their love of sports and would spend their meetings chatting away.

Ross encouraged Mo to find volunteer opportunities as part of his Sports Leadership award. They also spent quite a bit of time exploring career options and writing a personal statement. Over their meetings, Mo's attendance improved significantly and he began to take part in extracurricular and volunteer activities. **Mo met conditions for college and had a start date for HND Coaching & Developing Sport at City of Glasgow!** Always kind and mature, now Mo has become more engaged in his community and the school thanks to the help of his mentor.



“Mo has been a joy to work with. I felt from the very beginning of our relationship that he already had the tools inside of him, but he needed help to bring it out and realise all his skills. He has a maturity, but still makes time for himself to do the things he enjoys. However, he dedicates his time to others.” - Ross, Mo's Mentor

PATHWAY TO NURSING

After the sudden passing of her mother, Jenna* began disengaging from school. Bright, lovely and ambitious, Jenna dreamed of becoming a nurse, but was struggling to cope. She was matched with Stacey, a deeply caring woman who gave Jenna **a judgement free space to talk about her challenges.**

The two **quickly bonded over their shared interests.** Stacey helped her find a balance, supporting her grieving while also encouraging her to focus in school. Jenna knew she had to work hard in her classes to achieve the grades she needed to get into a Nursing course.

Over two years, Stacey **continued to support, listen to and cheer for Jenna** at every step of her journey. She encouraged her to attend a nursing Talent Taster, and even helped Jenna with a housing issue. Over the sessions, Jenna's confidence grew she was even appointed Head Girl in S6. Jenna is now studying HNC Care and Admin Practice at South Lanarkshire College and is well on her way of pursuing her dream of becoming a nurse.



Summer Fun



INTERN TAKEOVER

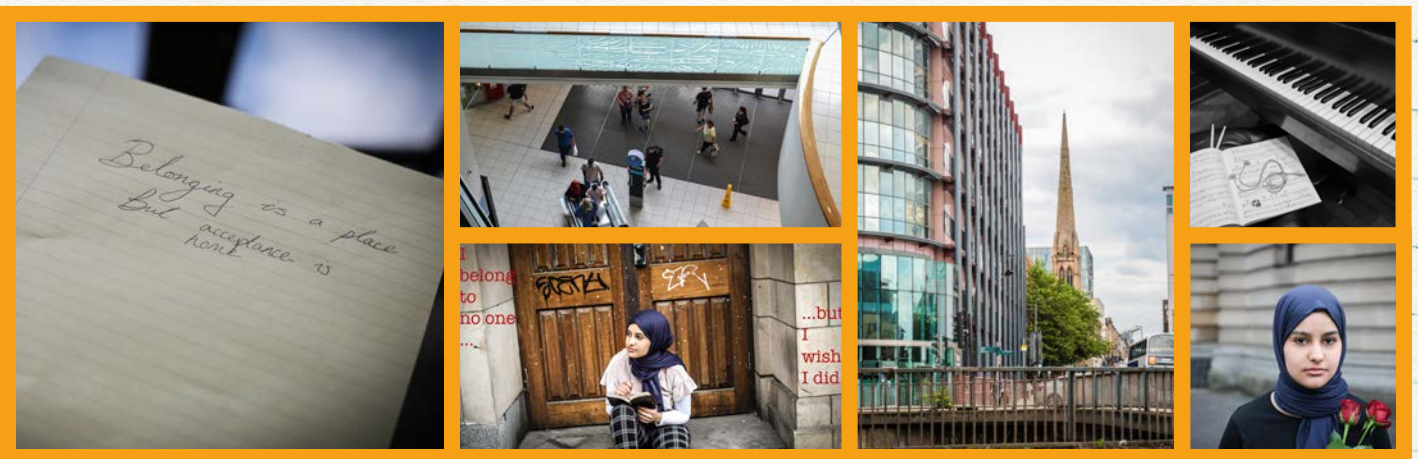


Over the summer we had some fresh faces in the MCR central office! Over the course of 6 weeks, our fab group of interns - all ex-mentored - took over the office. It's important to us that young people's voices are core to our programme's delivery and development and the best way to do that is by having them work beside us. [Check out their introduction blog here](#) to find out a little bit more about them! They also blogged about their experiences working in the office, high points and low. We'll be releasing their blog very soon - so keep an eye out on social media!

WORKSHOPS GALORE!

While schools might have been quiet, over the summer the MCR HQ was a whirlwind of activity! Along with our talented interns, we also had some amazing partners delivering workshops for our young people.

The fabulous Elaine Livingstone led a photography workshop, teaching the attendees how to capture and express emotion through images. They even hosted an exhibition for the MCR team and blew us away with their talent. Keep an eye on our social media to see some of the amazing results! Below is a sneak preview of some of the photos - [check them all out on our blog](#).



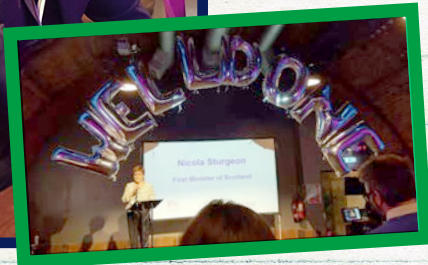
Keira Lucchesi and Clare Gray from [Witsherface Comedy Troupe](#) also ran a hilarious comedy workshop, helping our young people perfect their comedic timing and build confidence. They had an absolute blast! **Thank you to everyone who's so graciously donated their time to work with our young people.**

A big thank you as well to Nicola McKenzie and Glasgow City Council for delivering engaging and sensitive Child Protection Training to our Glasgow Team. It's fantastic to work with so many caring individuals and helping create safer environments for our young people.

SQA EXAM CELEBRATION



On 6th August, a group of our YST Ambassadors and the MCR team were thrilled to join First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and celebrate their SQA Exam Results Day in Glasgow. Though a nerve-wracking day, it was brilliant to come together and cheer them on. Young people from both Glasgow & Edinburgh attended and they were proud to get a photo with the First Minister!



Congrats to all our school leavers - we know that no matter their results they're going to make their mark!

MEET OUR NEW S3S!

Did you catch our **#SummerSignUps** campaign? With beautiful illustrations designed by the incredibly talented volunteer [India Stewart](#), we had so much fun introducing you to just a few of the **637** young people moving into to S3 this month. Here are a few more of their stories; from around the country:

Elaine* is one of the first ever Young North Ayrshire Talent pupils and has been with the programme since it's beginning at Auchenharvie Academy. She loves PE, playing football and is a real movie buff. Things at home can sometimes be a little tough, so she would love a patient mentor who loves to talk about sports.

Laurie* from Cathkin High School in South Lanarkshire dreams of going into the Police Force when he is older. He wants a mentor who is 'wise and will listen.'

#SummerSignups

L has skills! From cooking to performing arts, he'll give it a go! He's looking for some one who can help him reach his dream job of becoming a police officer.



**MCR
PATHWAYS**

YST young
scottish
talent

Danielle* from Govan High School adores make-up & dreams of working in fashion. She lives with her adopted parents and siblings, but struggles sometimes to make friends. Danielle would love a mentor who's a good listener.



#SummerSignups

D would love a job in fashion. She loves make-up and the gym. Can you help her to catwalk in the right direction?



Nathan* at Clydebank High School in West Dunbartonshire lives for the outdoors and spending time with his friends. His home life can be a little crazy sometimes, which can lead to him being distracted in class. He would **THRIVE** with a mentor who could be a good role model.

David* at Craigroyston Community High School in Edinburgh is a real history buff. He loves exploring historical sites like castles and learning about battles. He's really keen to go to university, but doesn't know what he wants to do when he leaves school.



#SummerSignups

D is a history buff who loves exploring castles. Can you help him find his dream career?



On the Horizon

TALENT TASTERS

It's nearly that time again! In October and November, young people in S3 and S4 will be getting a sneak peak of their life after school. MCR Talent Tasters are a chance for young people to try out a job, college, or university in short, bite-sized sessions. They are designed to engage and inspire the younger generation with hands-on learning experiences, to raise aspirations.



Keep an eye on Pathways Pulse and the Mentor Hub for information about Talent Taster Training and how you can make sure your young person gets the best experience possible. **If you are interested in hosting or think your employer could host Talent Tasters please get in touch by emailing: TTteam@mcrpathways.org**

THE CLACK'S OUT THE BAG!

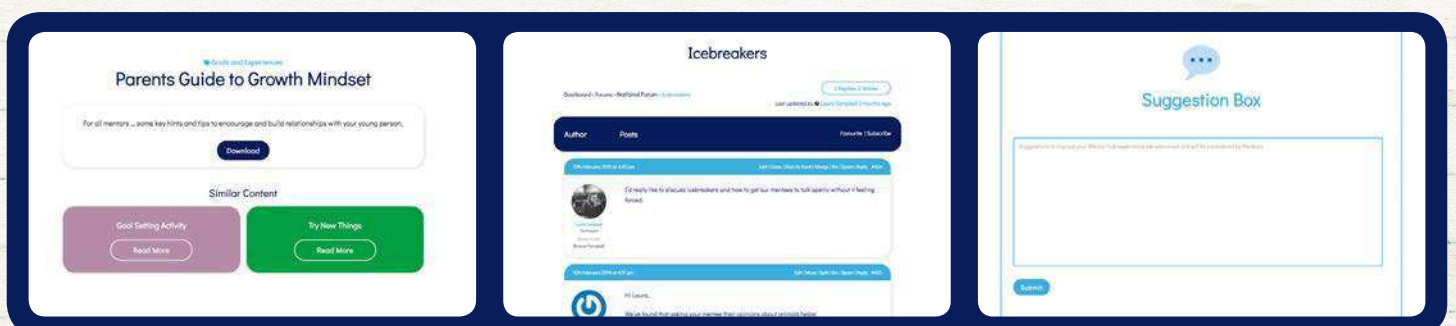


We are hugely excited to be launching in three schools in Clackmannanshire! The programme will be launched in Alloa Academy, Alva Academy and Lomshill Academy. We're growing our team ready to support as many young people across the area.

Thank you to both the [Alloa & Hillfoots Advertiser](#) and [Clackmannanshire Council](#) for sharing the news of our launch. Click the links to read more.

MENTOR HUB

We're delighted that our new and exciting [Mentor Hub](#) has now replaced our former Mentor Resource Centre and Facebook Group, with many new features to support our mentors throughout their journey. Mentors have the opportunity to access: **Weekly Feedback Forms**, **Meeting Ideas & Resources**, **Training Courses & Materials**, **Upcoming Events** and **Online Forums** - chat with other mentors across the country! We hope you are enjoying it.



MENTOR PACK REFRESH!

Over the summer, our wonderful Design Volunteer Kenny MacAskill has given our School Mentor Pack a full upgrade. The School Pack is full of great hints, tips and information to help you support your young person. Keep a look out for it on the Mentor Hub in the coming weeks!

The School packs includes:

- **Programme Overview**
- **Updated Icebreakers**
- **Pathways Information** - positive and sustainable pathways
- **Applying to Jobs, College or University**
- **School Options and SCQF Framework**
- **Study Skills, Hints and Tips**



YOUNG PERSON'S HUB

We're excited to announce that we're also working on a soon to be launched Young Scottish Talent's Young Person Hub. Designed by young people, for young people, this new Hub is our guide to support YST pupils' every step of leaving school.



1. Thinking About What's Next

(Final year of school)

Application Support & Processes and Information on Destinations



2. The Transition

(Planning to Leave)

Funding & Scholarships, Summer Schools, Housing and Internships



3. Step To Independence

(Just Left School)

Inductions & Matriculation (enrolment), Workers Rights and Results & Clearing



4. Settling In

(First Year of Destination)

Student Support Services, Budgeting and Part-Time Employment



5. The Next, Next Step

(The Great Beyond)

Re-Applying, Continued Funding, Housing and Your Next Step

Thanks everyone for reading. We hope you're looking forward to the 2019/2020 school year as much as we are!