



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at MCR Pathways

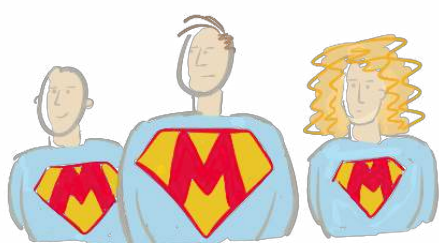
Welcome to the first edition of **Mentoring Matters**. A huge thank you for your interest and the time you have committed to becoming an MCR Pathways Mentor. MCR stands for motivation, commitment and resilience, the three key qualities that you have and the ones we need to help instill in our young people in this trailblazing Glasgow education initiative. We do this simply through the relationship you create with your mentee and by being a positive role model as you meet week in and week out. Building your relationship and growing the trust, respect and communication between you is what will really impact and help realise untapped potential. Just imagine where we will be next Christmas. In the meantime we hope you have a fabulous one this year. Please click on the link and then on the card. <http://mcrpathways.org/MCRChristmasWishes/>



Christmas and a 100 mentor milestone – let's celebrate our pioneers

We now have 100 mentors teamed up with their mentees and over 400 registrations of interest. It has taken time and the right steps to ensure we match each mentee with the right mentor. We are working hard to ensure everyone involved is informed, trained and connected to the community, team and our Pathway Co-ordinator in each school. We are also focused to ensure we complete all the necessary checks and balances required. Thank you for your patience as we build our team and systems to meet such a huge need to support our young people find, grow and use their talents. You are the pioneers of what is a shining example of How People really do Make Glasgow.

What else can we do together? – there are other ways to volunteer to make this happen



In addition to the training materials we are publishing, we want to hear your experiences and to share these with your fellow mentors. What is working for you? What are you doing that is really helping your mentee? Please join our online community to share your thoughts and ideas. In the New Year we are planning some mentor film diaries and other materials to help share our knowledge and build confidence. Our IT team also have your mentee meeting forms ready to be put online to make it easier to capture the essential feedback.

We will also send out some short online surveys and have our University research team working in the background to help quantify the results we know are inevitable and will be the basis on which this will go national in due course. There is lots happening but I am very aware time is never a friend and your time is all about the relationship with your mentee. There is nothing more important.

We have had some mentors asking what they could do to help us build our team and organisation further to reach more young people quicker. All support individually or through your respective employers or groups is very welcome. Please do email me or any member of the team directly at any time. If you have any more time and interest, we have a need for super mentors to support training, develop CSR and corporate initiatives as well as helping in marketing, IT and social media activities. Glasgow's young people need as much as we can give.

Dates for the diary – opportunities to get together when you can



Our school coffee mornings have proved popular and these are planned again for the end of January. In addition to the online community, we want to offer you a monthly opportunity to get together and share learning and experiences. If you can drop by for a short while that would be great. If other commitments make it impossible, no problem we will find other ways.

Coffee Morning Dates

- 20/1 - Smithycroft
- 21/1 - St Rochs
- 22/1 - Eastbank
- 23/1 - Springburn
- 28/1 - Lochend
- 30/1 - St Andrews

Film Launch Night

We have another opportunity with a Cineworld film launch in the Parkhead cinema on Thursday 12th Feb in the evening. [We produced a short film](#) which you will have seen with Liam, Nicole and Chantelle.

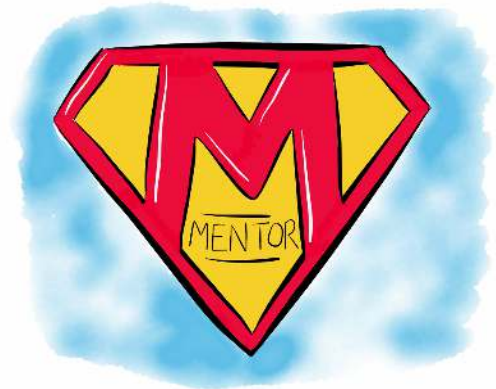
We have a 30-minute version which is great for sharing more knowledge and the views of some of the experts for training purposes. It will be brilliant to see it on the big screen. We will confirm the timing in January. It would be great if we could get all our mentors together and especially if we have everyone signed up to the online community by then. An excellent reason to raise a glass of wine in celebration.

More training & support programmes available for you to access

Our talented team of staff and volunteers have pulled together a depth of relevant materials for you to explore and deepen your understanding of mentoring. I am delighted to let you know that you will be able to start accessing these resources online throughout January, February and March.

We are also really pleased to have further training sessions for you to attend where you can. Our training is now being broken into 3 broad categories. We have our 'Core Training' which is a requirement for everyone participating. Under a 2nd heading of 'Advanced Skills' with the support of some other really committed and highly qualified individuals and organisations, we have pulled together a detailed programme. We will send this round in the New Year with some options to choose from.

The 3rd heading is then all about 'Pathway Toolkits' and making sure you know all the many sources of information and support based on the pathway your young person is on. There will be a range of resources you can use with your mentee from Skills Development Scotland, My World of Work, Focus West and SQA.





Who we are – putting some faces to the names

Lastly, I thought it might be useful for you to also look at who our team are. Please go to mcrpathways.org/pathways/who-are-mcr/ where you will meet Iain Macleod, Nyree Tobias, Iain Mitchell, Marie McQuade, Graham Connelly and programme director Donna Cunningham. We'll profile the team out in future editions and give you a chance to get to know them more. Across the team there is over a century of dedicated skills and expertise in working with young people to overcome challenge. Robin Dewar our online guru who will help you all log on to our communities is also on there and can be contacted directly to support you.

The Pioneering Partners so far – with many more committed to joining up in 2015



Our pioneering and founding partners include the **MCR Foundation**, **Glasgow City Council** education department, **Strathclyde University** and **CELCIS** (the Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland). We have a dedicated team of like-minded and committed people from each who not only provide resources and governance but also the ongoing support that you need for any issues. We all hugely benefit from having instant access to experts and support staff in the schools if and when we need it.



We have also recruited some significant corporate partners to help recruit the mentors we need from across the city. Through the **Scottish Funding Council** and also **Glasgow Chamber of Commerce**, who are examples of our fantastic marketing partners, we work to inspire other like-minded institutions and staff to support our mentoring and together to plan longer term widening access benefits for our young people. There will be more on this in the next edition.

Finally, a huge thank you for devoting your precious time and energy to our young people. Glasgow is so grateful. We can and will transform the prospects for the next generation. There is an increasing number of people who will not rest until we have.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Iain MacRitchie
& the MCR Pathways Team*

