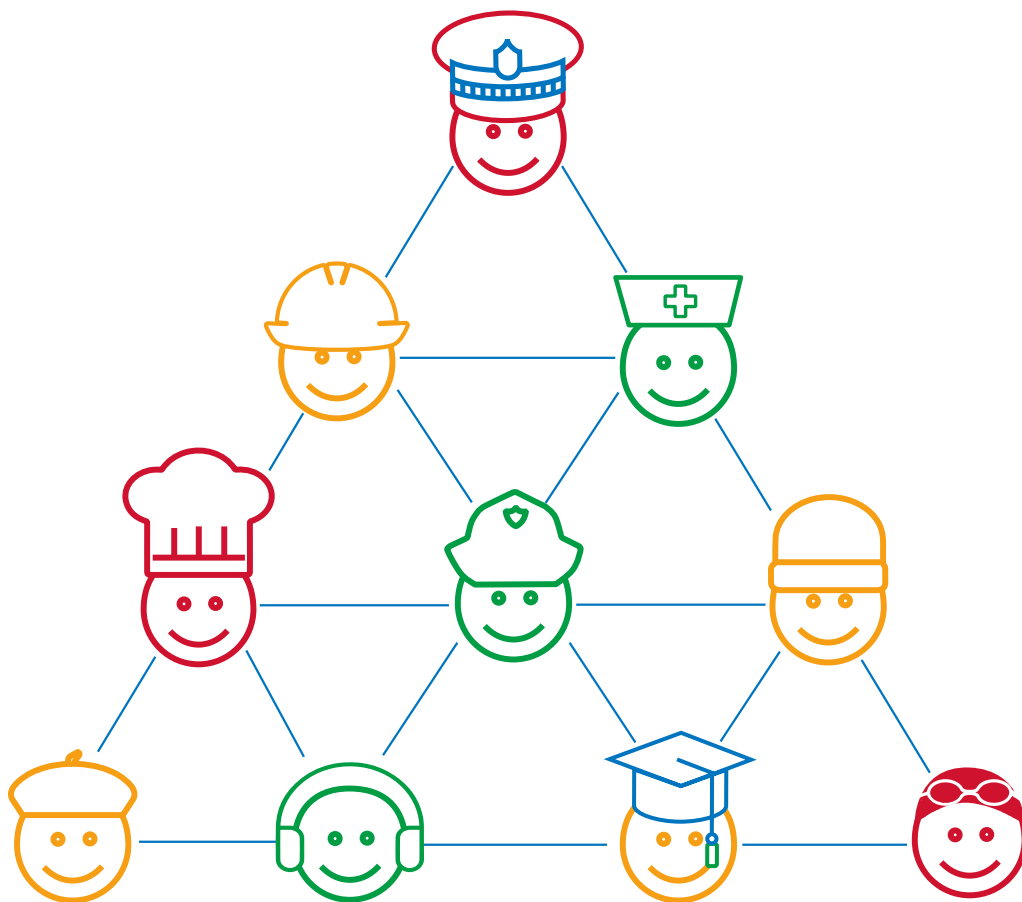


MENTORING MATTERS

MARCH 2016



REFER A FRIEND!
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH MORE YOUNG PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

It's been an amazing few months for MCR Pathways. The launch of our new Young Glasgow Talent campaign was fantastic! A big thanks to all who made it to our Civic Reception. To those who couldn't make it, we're looking forward to a catch-up soon.

We have lots of exciting news about the development of MCR Pathways, including that we are now working hard in 10 schools with St Mungo's and St Paul's joining just last week. Our citywide expansion is underway but our focus will always be on the quality of individual relationships and their impact. The young people will always come first and drive everything that we do.

Thank you for all your amazing support so far.

YOUNG GLASGOW TALENT LAUNCH

CIVIC RECEPTION

The Civic Reception ran beautifully, down to the hard work of the young people, partners, supporters and MCR team, who all got stuck in to make it happen. It was fantastic to see so many of us in one place. A huge thanks to those who helped especially the SECC, Maguires, Bees Nees TV, AD Events and of course our magnificent Glasgow City Chambers, The Herald and all of our Pioneering Partners.



INSPIRED MOMENTS

There were loads of inspired moments. Especially the rousing speech from Liam, which reminded us why we do what we do. The St Andrew's Secondary School band added fantastically to the atmosphere of the evening with their wonderful musical talents. The most important people there were of course our young people. They showed off their brilliant hosting talents, demonstrating why they inspire us so much.



WHAT WAS ON DISPLAY?

We were thrilled to see the artwork on display which was proudly contributed by our young people across all our participating Schools. St Andrew's Secondary School was represented by a beautifully crafted chair from a young person who was finding it hard to maintain his focus on education. This chair represents the brilliant changes that can happen when a young person finds a spark of interest.

Springburn displayed a striking painting from a YGT young person with a talent for art. She was inspired by visiting artist Toby Paterson's studio and enrolled in a widening participation week at Glasgow School of Art. Now her future ambition is to attend the School.

Lourdes Secondary contributed their award winning comic book strips which were recently published by Opposable Thumbs Comic. After a boost and push in the right direction from their Pathways Coordinator, the YGT young people are thrilled they achieved such great success.



NEW SHORT FILMS

We hope you got a chance to see our new short films. If you are viewing on your laptop and you'd like to have a look again or are curious to see them for the first time, just click the links! If not, please search **MCR Pathways** on Youtube!



Young Glasgow Talent Animation

<https://goo.gl/tiav1d>



Young Glasgow Talent Mentoring Campaign

<https://goo.gl/OiMdaS>



An update from Nicole
January 2016

<https://goo.gl/qq6SIU>



An update from Liam
January 2016

<https://goo.gl/oVWQaZ>

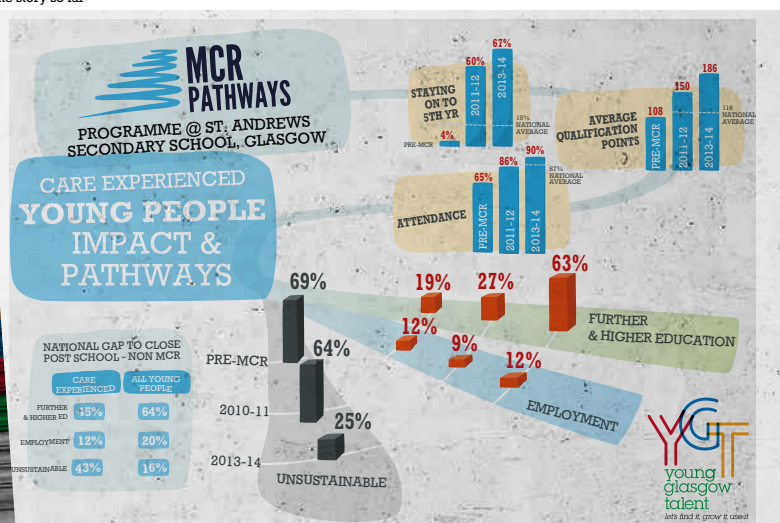
LEARN EVEN MORE ABOUT YGT

At the Civic Reception we were also giving out our new Young Glasgow Talent brochures and leaflets. If you'd like to find out more about the programme, email or give them to your friends and family to help us spread the word, they're there at your disposal!

Simply go to www.youngglasgowtalent.org and look for the download links.



The story so far



WORLD-CLASS PAINTING UNVEILED

A spectacular moment of the night was the unveiling of Gerard M Burns' painting 'Bridge to the Future'. We are over the moon with it's perfect representation of Young Glasgow Talent by MCR Pathways. Gerard spoke about his work and how it is built to carry a message and to evoke emotion so it is accessible to all. The painting itself shows mentee graduates Liam and Nicole reaching for their futures and beckoning others to join to create a human bond and bridge. It captures our DNA and spirit fantastically well. We still can't believe it's ours! Thank you Gerard!

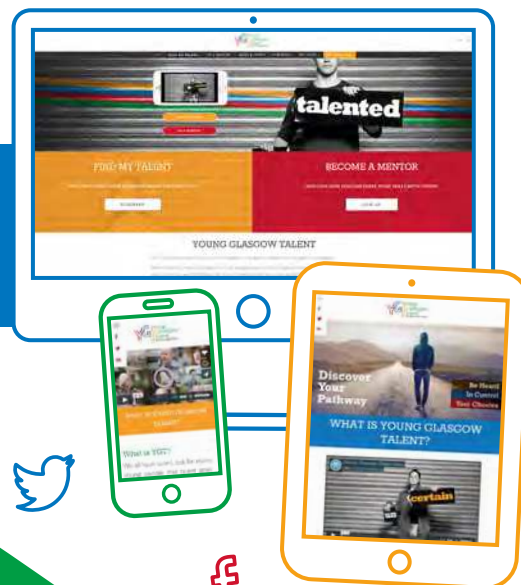


NEW CAMPAIGN WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The Civic Reception marked the launch of our YGT citywide campaign and website. This campaign and commitment will reach our young people across the city with positive and motivated support to help them find, grow and use their talents.

Whether you're an individual interested in dedicating your skills, time or resources, a young person who's looking for guidance, or an organisation who wants to help enable and encourage young people to find their talents, this is the website to go to!

Please go to **www.youngglasgowtalent.org** and click on 'Get Involved'. Here you'll see all the ways you can contribute to our cause. Be sure to follow us on **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **LinkedIn** too to keep up with all our latest news, inspiring stories and community buzz.



INSPIRED SUPPORT FROM THE HERALD

We'd like to thank The Herald. Their commitment to making a big difference to the most disadvantaged young people in Glasgow is inspired. Their coverage highlighted our plans for the future including being established in every single secondary school within 3 years. They also covered the night of the Civic Reception and the unveiling of the painting 'Bridge to the Future'.



Mentoring project to expand to all Glasgow schools

Painting celebrates children's project

A PAINTING inspired by the work of a groundbreaking project that seeks to help disadvantaged children reach their potential in life has been unveiled as the scheme embarks on a major expansion.

The artwork, by native Glasgow artist Gerard Burns, commemorates the MCR Pathways project. This provides mentors to schoolchildren with experience of the care system to help them gain access to greater opportunities in the workplace or further education.

It was unveiled at a civic reception at Glasgow City Chambers, where MCR's founder Iain MacRitchie announced a three-year plan to provide support for young people in every secondary school across the city.

Mr MacRitchie said: "I have been inspired by Gerard's work and his ability to create emotion and a powerful message on canvas. He has an incredible talent and we are hugely grateful to him for taking the time to produce such a brilliant artwork."

It is fantastic to be part



of an increasing group of like-minded and committed people and organisations who give so freely of their time and resources. The three-year plan will target the recruitment of more than 1,000 mentors and other volunteers as well as partnerships with 100 organisations. "If you are a motivated and committed adult, you could offer the support young people need to overcome the barriers that mean so few make it to higher education. As little as a week, plus travelling time, and a willingness to be a listening ear are the only skills you will need to help. Training will be given. To get involved, visit mcrpathways.org/therald."

Click here to read our 3 year expansion article!

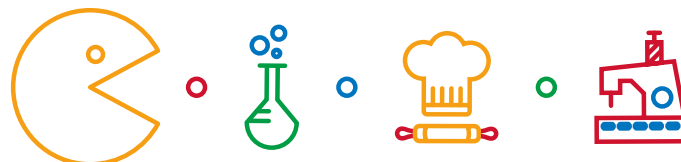
The Herald

TALENT TASTER EXCITEMENT BUILDS

We are now starting large scale trials for our Talent Tasters.

HOW DO THEY HELP?

We already have almost over **100 Talent Taster experiences** on the menu for our young people to choose from. They are designed to revolutionise work experience and how we motivate our talented but most disadvantaged young people. Tasters will help them get the best from school and make the right choices for their future career. All in a way that works for the young people, schools and employers.



WHO OFFERS TALENT TASTERS?

Wheatley Group are one of the first to run the trials and are offering an inspiring 40 Talent Tasters. The trials are going forward with 50 of our young people, who will be getting stuck-in to tell us what works for them. We can't wait.



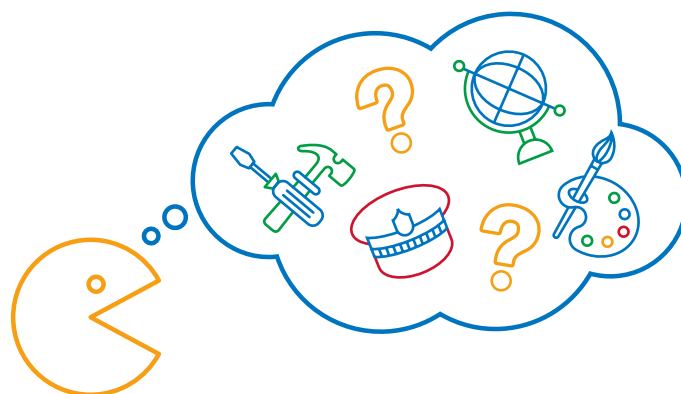
HOW DO THEY WORK?

Talent Tasters start off as a menu of options from different organisations all over the city. Organisations such as Wheatley Group, Santander, Glasgow Life, Strathclyde University, Impact and RBS have already come on board. The young person chooses an entry level option in one of the companies. If they enjoy it, they can go back to experience a managerial position and if they enjoy that, they can spend an hour with a big boss. These are radical new work experience opportunities, but we're already spreading to cultural, artistic, sporting and social tasters too.



WHY DO THEY WORK?

Talent Tasters are designed to find a 'spark' of interest, a hidden talent or motivation for a young person in what could be a future career. The best part of all? If a young person doesn't like one experience, they can keep trying others until they find one they want to pursue. Knowing what you don't like is just as important a part of the journey as discovering what you do like. It is the ability to make informed decisions and have the ability to articulate these.



VIEWS FROM THE FRONT LINE

TWO NEW SCHOOLS TAKE US TO 10!

St Paul's and St Mungo's have joined our expanding community of schools. We have two motivated Pathways Coordinators utilising their YGT experience to build quality relationships and support for their young people. As with our other MCR schools, they are passionate about making sure their young people have the best chances in life possible and we're thrilled to be working with them. Welcome to MCR Pathways!



WHAT HAVE OUR SCHOOLS BEEN UP TO?

When it comes to finding inspiration, we never have to look further than our schools. We have some incredible stories that wouldn't have been possible without the work of our Pathways Coordinators, Mentors, Schools and Colleagues alike.

LOCHEND HIGH SCHOOL

The YGT youngsters at Lochend High School are currently completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. In a great show of their compassion, they have chosen to spend their volunteering hours fundraising for Barnardos. Their Pathways Coordinator Emma told us they chose Barnardos as they wanted to support young people who are facing challenges in their personal lives. The goal they set was £400 and they have already reached a staggering £360! This was achieved by organising a charity raffle and a school dress down day. Fantastic!

£360
RAISED!



The young people are seriously committed and it's an absolute pleasure to see.

Well done Lochend, keep up the good work! We would also like to say a massive thank you to all those mentors that took part and made donations.

Emma, Pathways Coordinator, Lochend High School

LOURDES SECONDARY

Lourdes Secondary have also had reason to celebrate recently. Three YGT third year pupils entered the 'Out of the Blue' Comic Book competition ran by Artcore in Edinburgh, and won! Pathways Coordinator Alba encouraged the pupils to go for gold after noticing their fantastic artistic talents. All three were successful and their works were published in the Opposable Thumbs Comic. We are incredibly proud of them. If you attended our Civic Reception you would have seen the comic strips displayed pride of place. We're thrilled they have been supported so well in finding, growing and using their talents.

I am very proud of the hard work that the young people from Lourdes put into creating their Comic Book Submissions. Each young person pushed themselves out of their comfort zone to create a style of work that was new to them and tried something a bit different. Our competition winners are excited to find out that their submissions had been successful and loved seeing their work in print.

Alba, Pathways Coordinator, Lourdes Secondary School

ICT UPDATE

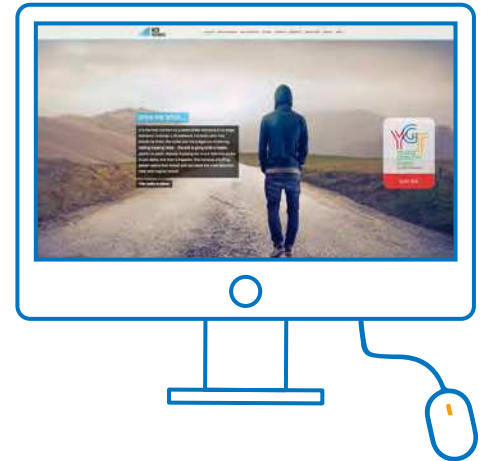
Our team of ICT 'Gurus' have been beavering away in their top-secret IT cupboard in order to bring you a few updates. Here's what they've been up to...

MENTORING RESOURCES

Our new Young Glasgow Talent website has a page that has been designed especially for all of our MCR Pathways mentors which contains links to all the resources you should need each week to support and supplement your mentoring experience. Links to the online communities, the mentor resource centre and the weekly feedback form are all there.

To find out more, simply browse to:

www.youngglasgowtalent.org/mentoring



NEW, IMPROVED MEETING FEEDBACK FORMS

We love to get feedback from our mentors and, as a result of that, we have been listening to what you've been saying and have made some important changes to the feedback forms that we use.

Weekly Feedback Form

A new streamlined version of the Weekly Feedback form is ready to launch. This updated form is simpler and much quicker to complete and provides a more straightforward way for you to provide feedback.

With hundreds of meetings taking place across the city each week, this short update allows us to keep track of attendance and how things are progressing. It also provides a way for you to notify your Pathway Coordinator if there is anything you would wish to discuss with them in more detail.

Monthly Feedback Form (coming soon)

Our new monthly feedback form is being designed to capture some more qualitative information about how your relationship is progressing and will be used to supplement our research.

To make things easy for you, a link to the monthly feedback form will be automatically emailed out to all mentors who are matched and meeting with their young person. We will also, via your MCR Pathways account, be able to provide you with a link to the information you provided so that you can refer back to it each month to allow you to see how things have changed or developed.

We hope you find these new forms easier to complete and more helpful. We really do appreciate the time you take to fill them in.

MENTOR TRAINING

MENTORING RESOURCES

As you know the MCR team are hugely committed to supporting our mentors through their journey. This means giving you all the tools you need to ensure your young person achieves their full potential. With that in mind, we'd like to invite you to a few training sessions!

These will help you expand your knowledge and continue to support your mentee in their pathway to higher education, further education, or employment. If you can please come along to learn about the pathway your mentee is interested in, or one you just feel you would like to know more about.

You should have an email describing what's on, and you can come along to none, one, two or all three of the training sessions. It's entirely up to you!

Encouraging HE Aspirations: Routes to University: 2 hours

27th April 2016 4:15pm to 6:15pm

Refreshments 4:15pm

University of Strathclyde
(Richmond Street entrance
to the Graham Hills Building)
Room: GH/514

My World of Work: 1.5 hours

17th May 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Wheatley House

Focus Point: 1 hour

15th June 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Springburn Academy



COFFEE MORNINGS

Our coffee mornings are thriving within all our of schools. Thank you to all who come along! We love seeing our mentors spending some quality time with each other and their Pathways Coordinator. Please find some of our up and coming coffee mornings below:

St Rochs Secondary School	21st April	10am – 12pm
Lourdes Secondary School	22nd April	10am – 12pm
Eastbank Academy	26th April	10am – 12pm
Drumchapel High School	28th April	10am – 12pm

YOU



(REFERRING A
FRIEND)



A REAL
DIFFERENCE

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH MORE YOUNG PEOPLE.

Our 3 year plan to reach every disadvantaged and care experienced young person in Glasgow is ambitious but desperately needed. We are determined but really need your help to make it a reality. Do you know anyone that wants to make a life changing difference and could become a mentor? You know what it takes and we know your words will be powerful and persuasive. It would be fantastic if we could each convince one more person to sign up. The power of our time and relationship skills is the bridge to a positive future for our young people and essential to help them find, grow and use their talents.

www.youngglasgowtalent.org/get-involved-with-us