



SPOTLIGHT ON MENTORS

YOUNG GLASGOW TALENT



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Audrey has been mentoring a pupil at Whitehill Secondary School for one year. She is enjoying building a relationship with her young person for one hour a week and help her think about her future.

“Things will come up, but I can’t let her down... I’m there for her”

Why did you choose to become a mentor?

I think the relationship is the best part of it for me. That consistency every week we’ve built up that relationship, we’ve built up that honesty. It’s also an amazing thing to see her resilience and I want to be there for her. Quite often, these young people have others giving up on them and that’s what makes you, as a mentor, exceptional - you’re not going to be like that.

What changes have you seen in the young person you mentor?

I see her confidence building every week now that she’s got someone who will actually listen. In the beginning, we talked things she likes but nothing serious. It went from talking about dogs, to talking about what’s good in her life and then eventually we started digging and now I get absolutely everything - the good and the bad. She’s found her voice and someone she can confide in.

How has being a mentor changed or impacted you?

As a manager in the workplace you’re always so busy doing different things and giving out directions, but for an hour a week I’m just listening to whatever my young person wants to talk about. And I don’t guide in any way, I have to follow her path. I now spend much more time reflecting, and I’ve tried to bring my reflection back to my work. It makes me look at things differently.

What would you say to someone about becoming a mentor?

It’s really rewarding - you get to help give a young person a voice. But, it is a commitment and you have to be there. You can’t just change it because you’ve got something going on. You have to make sure you’ve got that time commitment and make sure your employer buys into it. Things will come up, but I can’t let her down. I don’t let anything get in the way unless it’s an emergency. I’m there for her.