

# SPOTLIGHT ON PARTNERS

## YOUNG GLASGOW TALENT



### ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL GLASGOW



***"Children are all gifts. It's so nice to see that you're opening another door for them."***

**Geraldine Miller** is the head teacher at St. Paul's Primary School Shettleston. St. Paul's Primary have been involved with MCR Pathways for over two years, offering Talent Taster experiences for child development officer and primary teaching roles. We spoke with Geraldine about her experience of delivering Talent Tasters for MCR.

#### **How did you hear about the MCR Pathways programme?**

As a school, we wanted to get involved because of the kind of young people MCR works with - we see these children as our children. We've got a lot of pupils that have had adverse experiences, so we know how that can impact a child's development. Some of the young people who have come for Talent Tasters have even been ex-pupils of ours.

#### **Please describe the process of running a Talent Taster?**

I want the young people to be inspired and see that there are people that love their job and want to come into work. Staff have been really positive about it. The young people came back absolutely buzzing. I've been a teacher for 24 years, so it's about understanding young people and trying to match that up. It's been a really positive experience for us.

#### **What did you enjoy most about running Talent Tasters?**

The young people and giving something back. Some of the young people when they come in are very nervous, but then they come back joking and smiling, and they have lots of questions and talk about how great it is. Children are all gifts, and I look at them as Glasgow's gift, and it's so nice to see that you're opening another door for them.

#### **How has this experience impacted you and your staff?**

We see it as added value for the teachers. Some of the teachers were quite surprised when they meet young people who they previously taught - they didn't know what was going on at home for them. I think we have grown as a staff. Now we see that emotional relationships are key to learning and teaching. We've put more focus on the mental health of young people.

#### **What would you say to others that are interested in getting involved?**

If you live in Glasgow, work in Glasgow, you need to support Glasgow's children. In terms of your own staff development, I think it's very good for people to see a different side of things. We have to nurture the next generation. I would say 100%, everyone should be considering this. Doesn't matter what service you do or what business you provide.



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Mentoring benefits everyone, but it starts with our young people...