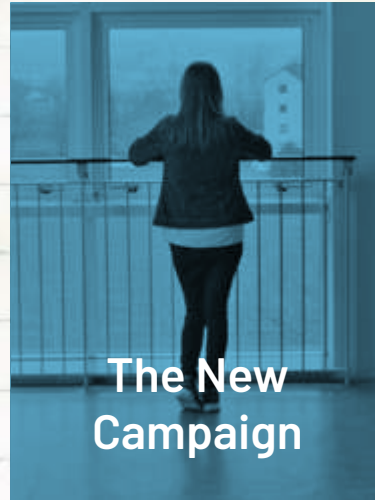




Mentoring Matters

December 2021 Issue 17

What's in this Newsletter?



Merry Christmas to you all!

It's time to look back on the year and the many highlights we can now take the time to celebrate. 2021 hasn't always been smooth sailing, but we are so proud of the fantastic MCR community who have helped the programme flourish despite the challenges we've all faced. Most importantly, with your help, we have been able to reach a growing number of young people this year with the life-changing support of a mentor.

We have also made great strides this year in our expansion plans which we can't wait to recap, including some recent appointments to the MCR family that we were thrilled to announce. As well as welcoming 2 new Trustees to our Board, we have also expanded our busy team so please read on to find out more.

In this newsletter we will also highlight our favourite moments that young people and mentors have shared from around the country and most of all say a massive thank you to everyone for your time, care and support this year.



3,500

Young People Supported



12

Local Authority Partnerships
(including our first English Schools)
and 4 more coming soon!



86

Schools Nationally
- soon to be 100!

News & Major Milestones

LOOKING BACK ON 2021

NEW TRUSTEES ANNOUNCED

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the appointment of 2 new Trustees to our Board, to help us reach more young people both North & South of the Border.

Former Children's Commissioner for England, **Anne Longfield CBE**, and renowned social researcher, **Dr Michael Little**, became MCR Pathways Trustees, joining Lord Jack McConnell, Maureen McKenna OBE, Nick Walters and MCR's Founder & Chair Iain MacRitchie.

Fay Gingell also became MCR's new CEO to lead the team during this exciting time, while former CEO **Graeme McEwan** became our new Vice Chair. Read more [here](#).



CSJ
AWARD
WINNER
2021

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE 2021 AWARD

One of the biggest highlights of this year was being announced winners of a CSJ Award! The Centre for Social Justice is an independent think tank which partners with grassroots charities across Britain, as well as experts from across the world, to tackle the root causes of poverty and social breakdown. **The CSJ team visited us in April and created an amazing film about Emily and Elaine** - a pair from Castlemilk, Glasgow, who having met for a total of 4 years, really helped showcase the impact of mentoring.

Please [click here](#) to watch and share.



BEST COVID RESPONSE AWARD FOR CHARITIES

We were proud to have been shortlisted in the 'Best Covid Response in Charities or Not for Profits' category at the Covid Response Awards 2021! What an honour to be recognised amongst finalists such as Erskine and Action for Kids for our response to the pandemic.

While the last 2 years have been a difficult and challenging time for us all, we reflect on the way MCR adapted to the challenge in our recent Covid Report, to read the report [click here](#).



OUR MENTORING JOURNEY THIS YEAR

As we mentioned in the summer, the Scottish Government announced a major funding package which offers us the chance to reach thousands more inspiring young people across the country. The Hunter Foundation also added its support by committing additional funding and showing the confidence invested in this journey.

South of the border, the very first group of schools has also launched the Young Herts Talent programme in Tring, Stevenage, Hertford, Cheshunt and Broxbourne - a massive leap forward for MCR Pathways. Impetus & The Henry Smith Charity became pioneering partners to provide support and we look forward to sharing good news stories from England in the coming months. To read more [click here](#).

A massive welcome also to the new team, mentors and schools joining MCR in the Highlands. We are excited to have launched the programme in 7 schools across the region!



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Impetus

The
Henry Smith
Charity
founded in 1828



young
herts
talent



young
highland
talent

MINISTERIAL VISIT

We were delighted to discuss the mentoring programme's impact with Jamie Hepburn, Minister for Youth Employment & Training, at Lornshill Academy, Clackmannanshire in October.

Lornshill's Deputy Headteacher, Phil Arnold, told Mr Hepburn about the impact of the programme in the school and we were lucky enough to be joined by some mentored young people. It was a pleasure to illustrate the MCR model with the minister and highlight the work taking place. **One S5 pupil told us:**

“ She helps me just get stuff off my mind. It's good because it's not like a teacher, it's not like my pals, you don't feel judged... you can talk to them about anything and we have a lot in common too. There's always something to talk about. ”

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

During National Mentoring Day in October, we asked our inspiring community to get involved and share why they enjoy mentoring. It was a fantastic day to hear from so many volunteers and also partner organisations who champion the programme and help us reach a wider audience.

A special thanks to CELCIS for sharing this lovely blog from MCR mentor Lorna and her mentee, at Alva Academy. The pair discussed their experience of the last year - please check it out here: [Celcis - 'Mentoring in Practice'](#).



SCOTTISH CAREERS WEEK

We were thrilled to get involved with the first ever Scottish Careers Week in November, supporting SDS, DYW and the Young Person's Guarantee. As part of this, we were able to attend the Scottish Chambers event to share the programme with employers from all over the country.



IN THE NEWS

As ever, we love sharing our mentoring stories and news in each region to encourage others to get involved. Here's a few favourite highlights from recent months...

THE COURIER
Evening Telegraph

The Press and Journal

ayrshirelive

During the summer months, some of our inspiring mentors shared their experience of volunteering with young people through MCR. **The Press & Journal** interviewed Ex-Aberdeen Lord Provost, George Adam, while in Perth & Kinross. **The Courier** met with mentor Daniel Bland.

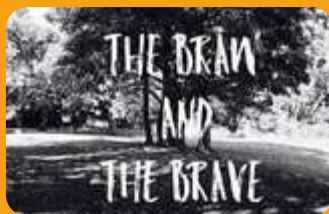
Ayrshire Live also shared our call for mentors to support the programme's expansion in the region.



MCR's Founder and Chair, Iain MacRitchie, appeared on **BBC Scotland's Stephen Jardine Programme** in August to discuss mentoring and why it makes such a difference to both volunteers and their young people.

MORTON FRASER
LAWYERS

More recently, **Morton Fraser** invited MCR's Vice Chair Graeme McEwan to chat about mentoring. They discussed the incredible impact for our young people and how it also benefits staff development and wellbeing. [Listen here.](#)



Our Founder, Iain MacRitchie, was also interviewed on the latest episode of **The Braw and The Brave Podcast**. Iain discussed MCR's origin story and the journey the programme has been on since 2007. [Check it out.](#)

GOOD DEEDS!



Thank You!



Thank you so much to everyone who took part in our #1000GoodDeeds Challenge!

Our community has been sharing and counting their everyday acts of kindness to show our mentees the amazing difference that their actions can make. We're looking forward to reaching our target of 1,000 good deeds by Christmas! Well done to everyone.

Stories From Around The Country

We visited Liberton High School in Edinburgh and met two inspirational mentoring pairs. Brendan and his mentee were just meeting in-person for the first time, while Jamie and his young person were at the end of their mentoring relationship as the pupil had recently left school. A memorable day in Edinburgh.



Click play above to see more.



When one The Gordon Schools pupil, from Huntly in Aberdeenshire, was matched with her mentor, Ann, in September 2020, the pair shared a love for all things practical. **This developed into Ann teaching her mentee how to sew!** The pair recently created small Christmas bags which they filled with sweets to give as presents.

At the end of the 20/21 school term, we visited Our Lady & St Patrick's High School in West Dunbartonshire to speak **with mentor, Zoe, and former pupil, Charis**, who had just left school. It was great to see the connection the pair had built up, how mentoring has helped Charis with her future and how they'll keep in touch.



Click play above to see more.



At Alloa Academy, Clackmannanshire, one mentoring pair have always bonded over models they make together. **Colin and his mentee recently created this motorbike and the pupil is over the moon with the results!** It's a perfect way for the pair to chat about their week while being creative.

No young person should feel alone

Share an hour

Please help back our new campaign in January

At MCR Pathways, we believe that a young person's future should be determined by their talents and never their circumstances. When life around us is overwhelming, it's difficult to think about the future. That's why we are asking for your help to ensure no young person should ever feel alone... We're launching a new campaign in January, to provide more young people with a volunteer mentor who's there just for them. We are asking individuals to sign up and inviting businesses to host an information session for their teams to share the power of mentoring.

If you'd like to hear more, please connect with us and suggest a date & time for us to host an in person or online Info Session.

Want to help further? We would really appreciate it if you could help by sharing our social media posts @MCRPathways.

2022 Plans!

January is always an exciting time at MCR and 2022 is looking no different!

As well as launching our new mentor recruitment campaign, **we are looking forward to launching in 4 new areas - Dundee, Falkirk, Fife and Inverclyde - taking us to well over 100 schools in the country.**

If you have contacts you can help share our programme with, we'd love your help to introduce MCR far and wide as we grow.

Make sure you are following us on social media so you don't miss any of our good news stories from around the country.



/mcrpathways

