

# Employability EXPRESS

February 2018 – June 2018

## Apprenticeships Made Easy

It is difficult to know where to start when it comes to planning life after you leave school... Do you get a job, go to College, University, take a gap year ... or do you look into the thousands of apprenticeship opportunities that may allow you to work, get paid AND gain qualifications!



Last year over 26000 Modern Apprenticeships started across Scotland. In 2018 there are 2600 Foundation Apprenticeships available in August and more that 900 Graduate Apprenticeships and this is set to increase every year.

Apprenticeships allow organisations to equip the workforce with skills that they are looking for. This allows these organisations to reduce the skills shortage in industries such as civil engineering, software development and social care.

With so many options it is important to make an informed decision that is right for you.

## APPRENTICESHIPS AT A GLANCE

### FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP

AVAILABLE IN EVERY LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA IN SCOTLAND. THEY ARE THE EQUIVALENT TO HIGHER AND SEE PUPILS DIVIDE THEIR TIME BETWEEN COLLEGE-STYLE LEARNING AND A WORK PLACEMENT WITH A LOCAL EMPLOYER, WHERE THEY'LL COMPLETE SVQ UNITS.

### MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

THESE ARE AIMED AT SCHOOL LEAVERS AGED 16 OR OVER. THEY ALLOW YOUNG PEOPLE TO STUDY TOWARDS INDUSTRY-RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS WHILE THEY LEARN.

### GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS

HELPS YOU BUILD THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT SCOTTISH INDUSTRIES NEED. YOU'LL WORK, GET PAID, AND ACHIEVE A DEGREE – EVEN UP TO MASTERS LEVEL.

FIND OUT ABOUT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS  
FOR APPRENTICESHIPS:

[MYWORLDOFWORK.CO.UK](http://MYWORLDOFWORK.CO.UK)

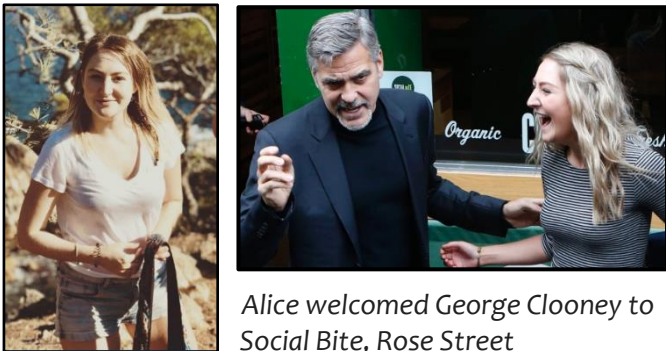
[APPRENTICESHIP.SCOT](http://APPRENTICESHIP.SCOT)

## Entrepreneurs Corner

Not sure what you would like to do in the future? **You** could set up your own business! Employability Express contacted **Alice Thompson** to ask all things Entrepreneur and find out how she co-founded her own business.

### Who am I?

I am the Co-Founder & Director of Social Bite and I'm proof that girls can be kick-ass bosses!



Alice welcomed George Clooney to Social Bite, Rose Street

### When and how did you start your business?

In 2011 when I was 21 - "how?" is a big question! Essentially my business partner and I sold an event we had created ran for two years at the SECC (it was called Scotland's Ski & Snowboard Show), and put all of the money (about £30,000) into refurbishing a shop on Rose St, which became the first ever Social Bite shop! We were inspired to start a "social business" and take the personal greed out of business by a trip to Bangladesh.

### What is the best thing about being an entrepreneur?

Being your own boss... being able to inspire other people to do what they are passionate about... and being able to make top level decisions about things you think should be done better. There's nothing more frustrating than working for someone else's company and seeing all of the mistakes they make for their staff AND their customers and feeling powerless to do something about it!


### 3 top tips for aspiring Entrepreneurs

- 1) Be bold - dream big. The world was created by people no smarter than you!
- 2) Listen - listening well means asking questions too! When you don't know how something works, or why it works that why. Listen properly, ask stupid questions - you'll end up the smartest person in the room.
- 3) Give something back - you owe a LOT to the society you grew up in. Your parents, your school (even if you hate school - your experience of it will STILL shape who you become!), the community - give back to it for the next generation, don't be too interested in what you can do for yourself. You'll go further and be more respected in the end!


For more information about Alice, Social Bite and the other projects she is involved with then visit:

<http://social-bite.co.uk/people/>



 @staugusdyw

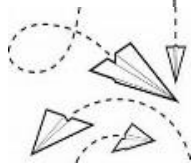
 [www.staugustinesrchs.uk](http://www.staugustinesrchs.uk)

 @stahsnews

# Positive Destinations

From school straight into the workplace

Our Former Pupils



**Name:** Chloe Hunter

**Job Title:** Assistant Secretary to the Principal & Vice-Chancellor of The University of Edinburgh

**What does your job entail?**

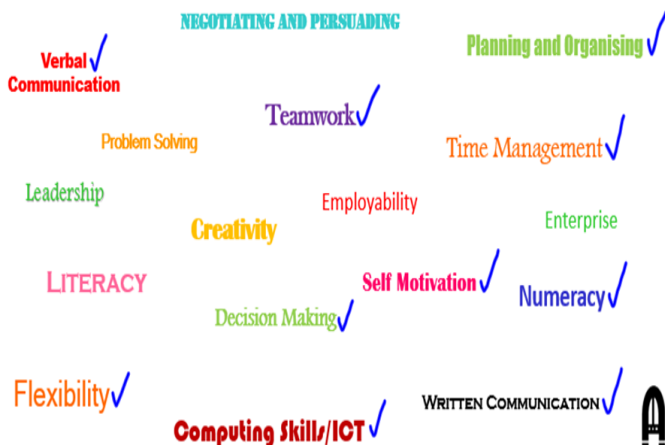
- Scanning and logging any incoming and outgoing mail
- Preparing letters for the Principal's signature
- Dealing with telephone calls regarding a vast range of issues including complaints and diary enquiries
- Arrange travel requirements and provide the University Chauffeur with an up to date diary
- General day to day running of the office

**What subjects did you study at St Augustine's RC High School?**

Business Management, Administration, Maths, English & Hospitality

**Everyday skills I use in my job:**

## Skills across the curriculum



**Why I chose a career over further education?**

I decided not to attend further education as I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do for a career. I also chose not to attend further education as you are not always guaranteed a job in the subject you have chosen to study and gain qualifications in.

While browsing on My Job Scotland, I saw a job being advertised for a modern apprenticeship in Customer Services with The City of Edinburgh Council. Although, I no longer work in Customer Services, it was a great start for me to gain experience and also add to my CV. I then managed to apply for a Business Assistant role within the Council and was then able to apply for a Personal Assistant/Secretary job as I had gained experience in working for Senior Managers. I have managed to secure a permanent job as a Personal Assistant for the Principal of The University of Edinburgh and I don't think I would have been able to get this far if I had chosen further education.

**The benefits of going straight into work after school**

Not only are you gaining experience in employment but you are also gaining a salary. After working for The University of Edinburgh for nearly 3 years, I have started to understand how expensive being a student is. Student loans are available but some students only get a small loan which means working in a part time job to cover other expenses like student halls or daily living.

**!! NEWS FLASH !!**

**Our Positive Destination figures are again one of the highest in the CEC. 96% of Our Young People achieved a positive and sustained destination.**



## S2 Career Carousel

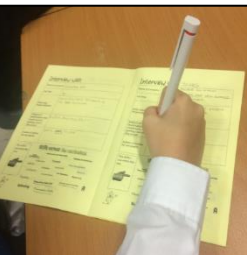
On **Friday 2 February** we held an S2 careers morning. The aim of the morning was to assist pupils with their upcoming subject choices and also enhance their career education by talking to employers and asking questions about different jobs. The following employers came into St Augustine's to take part in a career carousel where our S2 pupils spent time with each employer finding out about their jobs, roles, responsibilities and skills required to be successful in that role:

Employer Logo	Company
	<a href="#">CompanyNet</a>
	<a href="#">Can You Escape</a>
	<a href="#">Anderson Strathern Solicitors</a>
	<a href="#">RAF</a>
	<a href="#">Museum &amp; Galleries</a>
	<a href="#">Tesco Bank</a>

(Click on the hyperlink to find out more information about the organisation)



We had a variety of different organisations offering a variety of different employment opportunities including apprenticeships and trainee programs. Pupil feedback was really positive with the majority of pupils said that the event helped them with their subject choices.



## Our NEW Social Enterprise

### Preloved Prom Boutique

We have started a new social enterprise at St Augustine's, a Prom Boutique to assist pupils who may be struggling to find a dress, tie, shirt or pair of shoes for their prom. Pupils can lease these items for £5 for their prom night and can return these items to the school after prom. All money raised from leasing these items will be reinvested back into the Prom Boutique paying for dry cleaning and buying new stock. Please come along to Mrs Graham's classroom at lunchtime if you are interested in leasing any of these items.



The Prom Boutique will be run by the prom committee to help develop their employability skills.

*If any parents or carers would like to donate items such as – prom dresses, handbags, jewellery, ties, trousers, shoes (male/female), kilts, shirts or jackets then please hand these into the school reception.*

*Thank You!*

To Timpsons' at The Gyle who dry cleaned all our Prom Boutique dresses for free! Thank you for supporting our Social Enterprise!



## **WELL DONE LIAM!!**

### **Regional Winner for Edinburgh & Midlothian**

### **Career Ready Student of the Year 2018**



*We are absolutely delighted to announce that Liam Stritch was selected as the Regional Winner for Edinburgh and Midlothian for the Career Ready Student of the Year Award 2018.*

The Leidos Career Ready Student of the Year Award recognises the students who have made the most progress during their Career Ready experience.

Liam successfully completed his four week internship at The University of Edinburgh, Easter Bush Campus. His mentor, Stephen Hooker, created an excellent programme of work for Liam and the other Career Ready students and Liam really flourished during his internship.

Liam often speaks of the great relationship he has with his mentor and considers Stephen a friend. Liam speaks really highly of his internship and the team he worked with. During our Celebration of Success it was clear that the internship was both a fun and very rewarding experience for Liam.

Liam also showed a huge amount of commitment to the Career Ready programme. He attended all the masterclasses over the two year programme and assisted Mrs Graham in advertising the programme during the P7 open evening.

Well Done Liam!



## **Career Ready Graduation**



On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April we attended the annual Career Ready Graduation in Perth. The day was a great success and enjoyed by parents, teachers, mentors and pupils. The graduation celebrates the success and achievements of all the pupils in Scotland and recognises the hard work and commitment the pupils have shown over the two year programme.

We also celebrated the achievements of Liam Stritch, who was awarded the Student of the Year award for Edinburgh and Midlothian. Liam won £1000 worth of vouchers to assist him in his career journey when he leaves school!

**Well done to all our Career Ready Pupils!**



# STEM Careers Hive

In Science, 30 of our S2 pupils attended a STEM event at the National Museum of Scotland called Careers Hive. Whilst there they got the opportunity to get stuck in to hands-on workshops, listen to short, inspiring talks by motivational young speakers, and meet early and mid-career professionals from a wide range of companies and enterprises to find out more about what it is like to work in STEM fields.



Pupils enjoying a presentation by event staff:



*All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and gained a better understanding of how important STEM careers are.*

Mr Wootton, Science Faculty

## Congratulations Winse!



### Headstart Winner!

The Headstart programme offers students under the age of 18 the opportunity to spend up to a week at one of the top universities in the UK. Pupils can experience what life at university is really like and understand what exciting career opportunities a degree course might lead to. Winse will be able to connect with professionals in specific STEM industries, as well as other students from across the UK, whilst developing essential skills like problem-solving and team work.

Places normally cost £400 per student but Career Ready has been given **25 free places** for students to apply for.



Winse applied for one of these 25 free places and was successful. The Career Ready funded Headstart place has allowed Winse to secure the place she wanted at Queen's University, Belfast, within the Physics department.

Mr Dagleish assisted Winse in the application process and is delighted that Winse will be able to take part in this excellent STEM experience.

## Apex Hotel ~ Workplace Visit

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February we took a group of our S5/s6 pupils out on a workplace visit to the Apex hotel, Grassmarket. Workplace visits are a great way of enhancing our pupils understanding of the responsibilities and duties placed on employees and employers and also encourages our pupils to consider a broader view of career options and job opportunities.



The afternoon allowed our pupils to see what happens behind the scenes at a very busy and successful hotel.

We went on a tour of the hotel and found out all about the variety of job opportunities available within Apex including – Reservations, Marketing, IT, HR, Finance, Sales, Events and Laundry.

The feedback from our pupils about their workplace visit was excellent with many of them asking for contact details to see if they could get some work experience!



## Duke of Edinburgh Award



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been running for over sixty years and is now an internationally recognised scheme, with programmes running not just in the UK but also as far as Canada, Australia and Hong Kong. The wide range of skills young people develop during the Award make it a valuable addition to their CV, and will boost job and university applications.

Since October, a group of S3 pupils from St Augustine's have been participating in the Award, and have committed their own time to engage in activities from computer programming to sports leadership to learning a foreign language. Several of our pupils are making a real contribution to the community by volunteering with homelessness and disability charities.

In a couple of weeks, the Duke of Edinburgh group will be going on a hiking expedition to the Pentland Hills and camping overnight. In preparation for this, they have spent several hours planning routes and meals, and will be learning how to cook outdoors. They have had to use problem solving skills to read maps and to discuss how to stay safe in emergency situations. The expedition is a brilliant opportunity for them to put their organisation, problem solving and team work skills to the test.

**Miss Raine, Mathematics Department**



## Industry Links

### My experience at HTA Design LLP

I took Advanced Higher Graphics Communication because I want to study architecture at university, I planned my project to allow me to incorporate my interest in architecture. Going forward with the project I was advised to contact a company which could guide me with my project and how I could relate it to my desired field; architecture. I spent some time looking for architect offices within Edinburgh. I eventually contacted HTA Design LLP. After contacting them I managed to arrange a workplace visit to their office in Leith. Whilst there I met a number of professionals who were more than happy to advise and oversee my work for Advanced Higher Graphic Communication. Through some rearranging of my S6 timetable I was able to arrange 5 study periods where I could visit the office weekly. During my time at the office I had my own desk equipped with any software I might need and I was treated as a full time office employee- unrestricted access to an espresso machine, healthy snacks as well as a cooked meal at lunch. I received weekly guidance as I updated them on my progress through the term. Each week I could seek advice with any issues I was having whether it was related to software, design or simply where to go next. I am extremely happy with my coursework and I know I have achieved a good mark. I urge anyone considering this as an option to definitely try to arrange a similar relation with an industry member if you are studying Advanced Higher Graphic Communication or even another subject. I have gained skills that will directly relate to the university course I wish to study, as well as a direct contact to industry experts. I have also arranged a whole week of work experience during the summer. This has and will go on to benefit me and my studies going forwards in higher education.

Brendan Kerrisk, CDT pupil



## Language Skills in the World of Work

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January some of our S3 Modern Languages pupils took part in the SCILT careers event in Edinburgh City Centre. The event allowed our pupils to talk to employees who work in the languages industry and find out about potential career pathways they could take by studying Modern Languages.



### Farewell to Mrs Barry!

Mrs Barry is retiring from St Augustine's after 32 years. Mrs Barry has dedicated a lot of her teaching career at St Augustine's to Employability and Enterprise and Developing the Young Workforce. She has been actively involved in establishing the Career Ready programme into the school ethos and has run this successfully for many years!!



In her final Career Ready Network meeting she was presented with beautiful bouquets of flowers to signify the hard work and dedication she has shown for the programme and DYW!

*You will be missed, BB!*



## Meaningful May 2018

As part of our Meaningful May we created a programme that involved our pupils enhancing their career education by taking part in a variety of workplace visits, skills presentations and career talks.



The programme included activities in school and saw our pupils visit workplaces and colleges around the local community. The 8 day programme took place from **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May.**



The programme's key focus was employability skills and allowed the pupils to work with organisations such as JP Morgan and Investment 2020, working on CV and interview skills as well as social media training and pupil confidence.



We also had a number of exciting workplace visits that allowed pupils to explore career options in a variety of different industries including The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, McAleer and Rushe at Edinburgh Airport and a trip to The Royal Botanic Gardens.



**Well done to all of our Meaningful May pupils!**



**Thank you** to all the organisations who have contributed to the success of Meaningful May!

**Canon**

**SymbaSync**

**INVESTMENT 20/20**  
*See your future in finance / 20*

**McAleer & Rushe**



**Edinburgh College**

**LifeSkills**  
Created with **BARCLAYS**

**Aberdeen Standard Investments**

**J.P.Morgan**

**Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**

**Edinburgh Napier UNIVERSITY**