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Edinburgh Guarantee News

Edinburgh Guarantee wins awards

The Edinburgh Guarantee's efforts to help young people into jobs, training or further education were recognised at the COSLA Excellence Awards 2013. The initiative won silver in the 'Securing a workforce for the future' category. The COSLA Excellence Awards showcase and celebrate innovative projects that are making a real difference in local authority areas across the country. The Edinburgh Guarantee has also been commended by judges in the MJ Local Government Achievement Awards 2013. This year saw the highest number of nominations ever received, making this commendation even more of an achievement. Thanks to all of our partners across the city for helping us to achieve these accolades.



Edinburgh Student wins Career Academies UK Award

Hollie Sword, a sixth year student at Tynecastle High School, has been named 2013 Career Academies UK winner of the Sir Win Bischoff Award (Scotland and Northern Ireland). The award recognises the student who has 'travelled the furthest' in terms of personal development and commitment during the programme. Hollie believes that the progress she has made in developing her confidence, self awareness and understanding of the business world is in no small part due to the support she has received from her mentor, Keith Mitchell of Clydesdale Bank, and her summer internship at Ernst & Young. For more information on becoming involved in Career Academies UK contact Elizabeth Turnbull, Employability in Schools Officer, elizabeth.turnbull@edinburgh.gov.uk.



Standard Life Investments create trainee opportunities

Standard Life Investments are offering eight new opportunities to young people in their Edinburgh office as part of their involvement in Investment 2020, a UK wide initiative within the investment management industry (<http://www.investment2020.co.uk>.) Placements are being offered for a year with a salary of £16,000 and they are targeted at young people aged 16-24 years with a minimum of 2 Highers. The opportunities will be advertised on their website this month. www.standardlifeinvestments.com/careers.



Edinburgh Guarantee School Leavers' Toolkit

A new toolkit has been developed for school leavers in Edinburgh to help them make decisions and prepare for the world of work. The toolkit includes key economic information on Edinburgh: school leaver destinations, the largest employers, growth sectors, and qualifications, as well as links to general sources of advice and support to help young people improve their CV, identify their key skills, and understand their employment rights. The School Leavers' Toolkit is available on the Edinburgh Guarantee website:

www.edinburghguarantee.org



Positive Destinations

Health & Social Care Academy

Edinburgh College in partnership with NHS Lothian and the City of Edinburgh Council has developed a Health and Social Care Academy for senior school pupils. The programme offers them a weekly placement in the NHS or a social care setting as well as the opportunity to take an industry relevant qualification while still at school. The three entry points are: clinical (health and social care settings); non-clinical (administration); and health sciences (laboratories). The programme will be piloted in August 2013 and will involve 6 secondary schools and 100 pupils.



Step Into Careers in Finance

Royal Bank of Scotland hosted senior students and staff from Edinburgh schools to learn about careers in the financial services industry. Organised by the Financial Skills Partnership, companies including KPMG, Deloitte, PWC, Aviva and RBS laid on a range of activities to inform and prepare pupils for careers in the sector. Students had a tour of the RBS campus and the opportunity to network with reps from all the companies. They gained insight into recruitment and selection processes and had a go at assessments and psychometric tests. They were also made aware of the sector's School Leaver Programmes as an alternative to university.



Skills in Renewables

The Scottish Renewables Skills Conference was held in the city last month. Sector employers, educational institutions and energy partnership groups all agreed the need to engage with young people to showcase the industry as an attractive career choice. Modern Apprenticeships were acknowledged as a vital pathway into employment in the sector at technician level and Skills Development Scotland outlined various initiatives to help increase opportunities. Modern Apprenticeship places have been ring fenced for the energy sector, a Modern Apprenticeship in Wind Turbine Operations has been introduced and the Low Carbon Fund is available to Scottish businesses providing up to £12,500 towards employee training costs. To find out more visit the employer service section of www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk



Events, events, events!

Employer Engagement staff event

A 'Build your knowledge' workshop for employer engagement staff in the city is being held later this month. The event will allow staff from Jobcentre Plus, Skills Development Scotland, Business Gateway and the city council's Economic Development service, including the Edinburgh Guarantee team, the opportunity to share with each other the wide range of services that they each offer to employers. Under the banner of 'Joined Up For Business' the partners aim to deliver a comprehensive service to employers that supports business growth, unlocks latent vacancies and helps de-risk recruitment for small and medium sized employers in Edinburgh.



Scottish Modern Apprenticeship Week 2013

May 20th – 24th is time to celebrate Scottish Modern Apprenticeship Week and the week kicks off with a special event in St Andrews Square Gardens on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st May. Young apprentices from several local businesses will be demonstrating a range of traditional building skills from 10am-4pm. Staff from the City of Edinburgh Council will also be on hand to discuss their current Modern Apprenticeship opportunities. The Edinburgh Guarantee has partnered with Historic Scotland, Edinburgh College, Edinburgh World Heritage, Stone Federation, National Federation of Roofing Conservation, National Specialist Contractors Council, Construction Skills in Scotland and the Painting and Decorating Association to showcase this event.



Edinburgh Guarantee Developments

Achieving the vision

Over 150 organisations across the city have been working together to realise the Edinburgh Guarantee vision, increasing the number of opportunities available to Edinburgh school leavers. In the last financial year partners created over 400 opportunities for Edinburgh school leavers. 324 of these opportunities have been delivered and young people have been and are being supported in Internships, Modern Apprenticeships, permanent positions, fixed term positions and training programmes. We extend our thanks to everyone who has helped our young people so far and we look forward to continuing to work with you as well as creating new relationships to strengthen the vision for the year ahead.



Scottish Waterways Trust's new employability programme

An innovative employability programme designed by the Scottish Waterways Trust to help address youth unemployment in Edinburgh and Falkirk will open this June. The outdoors 'canal college' will run on the Forth & Clyde and Union canals for two years, offering a 14 week course to volunteers aged 16-25 years. The participants will learn heritage and environmental skills through a wide range of practical projects around the built, natural and cultural heritage of the two hundred year old canals as well as work towards a number of awards and certificates. The programme has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Canals, the European Union Interreg IVB North West Europe programme and Scottish Natural Heritage. For more information visit www.scottishwaterwaystrust.org.uk or call 01324 677 809.



Apprenticeships to be the new norm

David Cameron has pledged to make apprenticeships the "new norm" for school leavers who decide against going to university. The prime minister said he wanted work-based training to sit "at the heart of our mission to rebuild the economy". He said such schemes gave school leavers "the chance to learn a trade to build their careers" and allowed the creation of "a truly world-class, highly skilled workforce that can compete and thrive in the fierce global race we are in". Forecasts suggest apprentices could add up to £3.4bn a year in economic gains in the UK. Call 0800 783 6000 or visit www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk for more information on Modern Apprenticeships.



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