

## Skills profiling from primary school, throughout secondary school, into college and beyond in Dundee

### Partners

Dundee and Angus College, Baldrigon Academy, Skills Development Scotland, local authority schools and employers

### Focus

Embedding meta skills into everyday learning as part of the learner journey

### Success factors:

- Industry involvement
- Meta skills awareness and shared understanding
- Embedding skills in the curriculum
- Student skills profiling
- Skills ambassadors
- Learner journey approach

 **“The Education Team is committed to developing innovative exemplar approaches with strategic partners to widen opportunities for more young people to benefit from a seamless learner journey approach to skills profiling.”**

George Junor, SDS Education Manager (Partnership)

 **“Dundee and Angus College strives to embed meta skills awareness, development and enhancement as part of every learner’s educational journey. We are delighted to be working with our colleagues in both primary and secondary schools along with SDS to provide that joined approach to skills development within the region”**

Kirsty Paterson, Head of Sector  
– Business, Access and Education

### Challenges

- Pupils lacking awareness and confidence to identify skills
- Teacher knowledge of skills and transferability
- Relating skills to life beyond the classroom
- Consistency of skills understanding

### The pilot

- Pilot with S3 year group, cluster primaries and selected college student groups in AY 19-20
- Joint CPD with teaching staff in secondary school, college lecturers and employers
- Skills champions in secondary school to help support primary colleagues
- Scale model across city

### Engaging students, supporting staff

Embedding meta skills into everyday learning as part of the learner journey is the focus of this innovative local authority wide School-College Partnership. This is in recognition that the idea of ‘a job for life’ is essentially a thing of the past, and that the education system must prepare young people to continuously develop new skills and embrace lifelong learning. The partnership involves two key strands:

- Student engagement in their skills development and profiling throughout the learner journey
- Supporting staff in their continuous professional development towards a better awareness and understanding of meta skills to enhance learning and teaching

A pilot project, involving Baldragon Academy and cluster primary teaching staff and employers, aimed to enable young people to identify and develop their meta-skills such as *adapting*, *creativity* and *initiative* so that learners are fully equipped to be able to enter and succeed in the changing world of work.

The pilot evolved from evidence from school staff that many pupils lacked an appreciation of their skills or confidence to identify progress made in activities both in and out of school. Teachers recognised the opportunity to highlight and embed meta-skills into learning and teaching practice and wanted to develop a better, shared understanding of what meta skills are.

Involving local employers in the pilot ensured the skills identified were industry relevant. The goal was to embed these skills within the curriculum to improve learner engagement and to enhance the learner journey, especially around key transitions to college, university or work.

Part of the innovation involved harnessing the My World of Work (MyWoW)<sup>1</sup> platform (available to young people in Scottish secondary schools) to allow pupils to record and be able to track and plan their skills throughout their learner journey. For example, learners on Foundation Apprenticeships can capture and build their meta-skills evidence in their My World of Work account, alongside their technical skills, whether in school, at college or on work placement. The profile can form the basis of a personal statement at any given time that can be used for college, university, or job applications.

The approach of this innovative partnership is directly in line with Education Scotland's Guidance for Teachers and Practitioners '*Supporting young people in profiling their skills and achievements*' and supports key national strategies including the *DYW Career Education Standard*.

### Moving forward

The experiences of the staff and learners involved will be evaluated and will inform the further roll out of the pilot across the local authority and beyond.

1 [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk)

