

## Exploring progression pathways with SCOTS at Forth Valley College

### Partners

Forth Valley College and Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils, Schools

### Focus

The Schools College Opportunities to Success (SCOTS) programme provides S4 pupils who are at risk of not sustaining a positive destination with an opportunity to explore progression pathways at college.

Pupils on the programme attend college one afternoon per week and experience eight different

subjects: construction, hair and beauty, engineering, business administration and tourism, care, fitness, health and exercise, creative industries and science. They also work towards the Falkirk Employability Award throughout the course.

Within their schools, the young people involved also work with teachers to improve their skills for learning, skills for work and skills for life. They also develop employability skills such as researching for jobs, creating a CV, preparing for interviews and also learning more about the “taster” subjects they were undertaking within Forth Valley College.

Mitchell Brown (pictured here with his trophy at the FVC Stirling Campus) from Bannockburn High School, who won the Stirling SCOTS Student of the Year Award in 2019, said: “I have to say I am proud of myself for winning the SCOTS Student of the Year award. My favourite part of the course was the Sound Production and the Creative Industries subjects, and it has allowed me to focus on what I would like to do once leaving school. I would also recommend the SCOTS programme to other school pupils.”

Also, in the photo are (from left to right back row) Ernie Romer, FVC’s School Provision Coordinator, Fiona Brown, FVC’s former Vice Principal Learning and Teaching, Kevin Kelman, former Chief Education Officer at Stirling Council and FVC Principal Dr Ken Thomson OBE.



## Success factors

- The college and participating schools link to jointly interview students for the programme
- The college team and a designated member of staff from each school then work together to support learners, sustain attendance and ensure proactive reporting and monitoring
- Enables easier transition by streamlining the progression route

➤ **“We’re absolutely delighted with the impact the SCOTS programme is having on the lives of young people in the local area. The figures speak for themselves in regard to the success of the programme. The innovative model helps pupils to explore a wide range of potential career paths, especially ones they may never have considered. It opens their eyes to the opportunities out there and helps them make an informed decision about their futures. The programme is also an excellent example of how we have worked closely with partners to create a solution which overcomes barriers to learning and which will contribute to a sustainable long-term workforce within the local area and beyond.”**

Dr Ken Thomson OBE,  
Principal of Forth Valley College

## Impact

From 2013-2018, 849 pupils have participated in the SCOTS programme, with 814 successfully finishing the course, a completion rate of 96%. By tracking the young people’s journeys for three years afterwards it was found that 97% were in a positive destination (such as employment, full-time education or further training) the year following their graduation from the SCOTS programme, just when they reached statutory school leaving age.

A total of 91% remained in a positive destination two years after SCOTS and 85% were confirmed in a positive destination three years after completing SCOTS.

These are incredibly positive results, given that these young people were at risk of moving into a negative destination upon leaving school.

The results demonstrate the considerable impact that the programme is having on pupils upon leaving school and the College is delighted with the results.

## Moving forward

The College is now also working with Stirling and Clackmannanshire Council to offer the programme to high schools in their local authority area.

➤ **“We have already established a successful partnership over a number of years with our 18 local secondary schools, where more than 1000 pupils currently attend courses as part of our school college provision. We run many courses including SCOTS, Skills for Work, City and Guilds Qualifications, Foundation Apprenticeships across 10 frameworks and several HNCs. We want to keep building on the great foundation we have already established, ensuring that we are continually improving and expanding the provision, maximising opportunities for our young people in Forth Valley.”**

Helen Young, Head of Forth Valley College’s Learning and Quality

