



AMBITIOUS FOR AYRSHIRE

Supporting:
Enterprising Students
Collaborating Communities
Innovation for Learning



Small
Business
Week 2021

Programme
inside



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR



Tracey Stark
Ayrshire College
Foundation Chair

Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of our Ayrshire College Newsletter. At this point in the year we are looking forward to the promise of spring and the hope it represents for the start of new and positive change. It certainly feels like we are nearing the end of the pandemic and all the challenges and losses it has brought.

Who could have imagined little over a year ago that our personal and business lives would be affected in so many ways. Throughout the pandemic I couldn't help thinking about all of our Enterprising Students who had just started up their own business, and our community partners who received funding from our Collaborating Communities fund to support lots of wonderful educational projects in Ayrshire. How had they all been getting on? Had they managed to weather this storm?

When you read the updates on all of our projects, I am sure you will be inspired by how many of them creatively adapted their businesses and continued on online, or used the time to take part in training and development. I was delighted to hear that the 'The Hushed Salon' business was booming between the two lockdown periods. I can't wait for Sheila Munro and Anya Rae's complementary therapy salons to finally open after all their hard work setting up their new premises, and I'm blown away with the energy of Sandra Laurenson from 'Jollywellmade', who has continued to create and deliver embroideries all over the UK. All of this whilst balancing home schooling her three children and trying to finish year 3 BA New Media Art at UWS! It is all incredibly inspiring, and on behalf of all of the trustees, I'd like to say well done to all of our students for their enthusiasm and entrepreneurship.

I am grateful to all our beneficiaries for keeping us up to date and for their resilience over such a long and difficult period. I'm also grateful to the trustees who have managed to digitally upskill in order to continue the work of the Foundation, and ensure that our process for project funding has been 'business as usual'.

Best Wishes,
Tracey Stark

Small Business Week 2021

The aim of this event is to showcase our Enterprising Students businesses and help our students promote their businesses to a wider audience.

We also want to raise awareness of our Enterprising Students project to current students and encourage new applications for funding.

Here is what we have planned for this special week. Some of the events are for students and staff only, others are open to everyone and the link to register your interest if you would like to attend, is included below.



Mon 26 April

pm

**Hello Creatives: Media and Photography
Enterprise Event**

This event is for Creative students/staff only

Tue 27 April

10am-11.30am

**Social Media Training Producing Engaging Online
Content Digital Boost Webinar by Business Gateway**

This is a great course for anyone interested in learning how to create engaging content on social media. It's free and you can book via this link:

<https://www.bgateway.com/events/producing-engaging-online-content-digitalboost-webinar-20300>





Wed 28 April

Available on Spotify

Hello Creatives: Music and Sound Production Enterprise Podcast

with John McBlain, Lecturer and Creator of Rockpool Podcast, who is nominated for the FE College Enterprise Educator of the Year Award

Thu 29 April

10am

Barclays Business Planning for Start-Ups

Suitable for anyone at the very start of their business planning journey

- Get Inspired – Video (5 mins)
- Your Enterprise Journey – identifying your skills and qualities
- Enterprise Planner Tool – fleshing out your business idea
- Business Planner and Handbook – putting your idea into action [7 steps to starting a new business]
- Business types - should I be a sole trader or limited company?
- Benefits of getting a mentor
- How different working environments can help your business
- How to open a business bank account

Full information and to register for this session:

<https://event.bookitbee.com/32468/ayrshire-college-small-business-week>

12noon

Barclays Business Growth for SMEs

This course is for people who have already started a business and want to grow their business.

The topics offered will be:

- Benefits of getting a mentor
- How different working environments can help your business
- Importance of Working Capital
- Business Planning continued
- Finance options to grow your business
- What financiers will want to know from you
- Know Your Numbers
- Resources
- next steps

Full information and to register for this session:

<https://event.bookitbee.com/32468/ayrshire-college-small-business-week>

pm

Hospitality Enterprise Event

This event is for Hospitality student/staff only





Fri 30 April

10am

**Ayrshire College Foundation
Enterprising Students Showcase**

For staff/students and also open to the public

Welcome: Tracey Stark Chair Ayrshire College Foundation

Key Speaker:

Sir Tom Hunter, The Hunter Foundation

"The importance of small businesses to the economy, and why students should consider starting their own business as a realistic destination after their college course. Why now is the perfect time to go for it!"



Bridge2Business Enterprise Partnership with Bryce Dunlop

Enterprising Student Showcase with case studies from:

Magdalena Zielinska: Soft Olive

Sheila Munro: Aroundtuit Complementary Therapies

Jamie Agnew: Jamie Agnew Photography

Q and A



Frank Gormanley: President of the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce -
Connect Me: new Business Mentor programme and Future Chamber

Vote of Thanks: Tracey Stark

To attend this event book via this link

<https://event.bookitbee.com/32468/ayrshire-college-small-business-week>



TBC

**Hair, Beauty, Complementary Therapies
Employer Network Launch**

This event is for invited guests only

2pm

Business and Computing Enterprise Event

This event is for Business and Computing students/staff only



2pm

Sports Enterprise Event

This event is for Sports students/staff only





Mon 3 May

3pm

**Business Growth:
Free taster course for SMEs Office 365**

Microsoft 365 for Business is an affordable online subscription service which gives access to Microsoft's cloud productivity suite. This includes email, online conferencing, file storage and sharing, plus desktop versions of the full Microsoft Office suite.

Microsoft 365 for Business is a fantastic way for smaller companies to increase their productivity and make a big impact.

This session will provide attendees with an overview of some of the features available and the ways in which they can be put to use within a small business; improving communication, increasing productivity and keeping information secure.

To register for this course:

<https://event.bookitbee.com/32468/ayrshire-college-small-business-week>



Tue 4 May

10.30 - 11.30am

**Business Growth:
Free taster course for SMEs MS Planner –
tracking and monitoring your business plan**

MS Planner is a fantastic digital tool for project planning, progress tracking and resource management. It can be utilised at any stage of business growth, from formation to maturity, and as part of the Office 365 suite of apps, can be utilised from within MS Teams, thus allowing collaboration on projects and activities through this platform, as well as the standalone version. Attendees will benefit from gaining enhanced planning, monitoring and project tracking skills.

To register for this course:

<https://event.bookitbee.com/32468/ayrshire-college-small-business-week>

Ayrshire
College

**Small
Business
Week 2021**

**Ayrshire College
Small Business Week
26 April - 4 May**

Visit our events page to find
out more:

[https://www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/
news-events/events/](https://www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/news-events/events/)

**Bridge 2 Business
Local Hero of the Year**
Ayrshire College Enterprising
Student and Sport & Fitness
Graduate, Lucy Thomson



AYRSHIRE COLLEGE WINS AT BRIDGE 2 BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Ayrshire College has been named Enterprising FE College of the Year at the Bridge 2 Business Educator Awards, while two of its students earned special recognition at the ceremony.



*Complementary Therapies student,
Fi Thorburn*

Sport & Fitness graduate Lucy Thomson, known in the Ayrshire community as Coach Lucy, won the Local Hero of the Year Award. Complementary Therapies student Fi Thorburn was Highly Commended in the Enterprising Student of the Year Award category, where fellow Ayrshire College student Kirsty Campbell was also shortlisted.

Two other Ayrshire College representatives were nominated at the awards - student Anya Rae in the Bridge 2 Business Innovation Award category and fashion lecturer Elaine Watson for the FE College Enterprise Educator of the Year Award.

Bridge 2 Business is a Young Enterprise Scotland programme designed to inspire, connect and support college students into business. The Bridge 2 Business awards celebrates the hard-working and enterprising efforts of students, lecturers, and colleges in Scotland.



Ayrshire College won the Enterprising FE College of the Year for demonstrating it is leading the way in enterprise within further education in Scotland, particularly through its innovative partnership between the Ayrshire College Foundation and Bridge 2 Business.

Ayrshire College offers all of its students the opportunity to learn enterprise and business skills no matter what course they are on. Students have the opportunity to apply for up to £5,000 worth of grants for a business start-up or development of an existing business through the Enterprising Students Fund.

Stuart Millar, Head of Apprenticeships and Work-Based Learning at Ayrshire College, said: "We are delighted that Ayrshire College has been awarded the Enterprising FE College of the Year award. We're particularly proud to see a number of our students recognised by Bridge 2 Business for their enterprising efforts and we hope that those students who have set up a new business with support from the Enterprising Students Fund have continued success in the future."

Lucy Thomson, who won the Local Hero of the Year award for her wellbeing business Coach Lucy's success, said: "It's a privilege to be receiving an award like this and to be recognised for the work we do within our community. Our ethos is about showing how important fitness is for more than just your body and aesthetics, but for your mental health too. I am extremely grateful to have been considered for this award never mind to be receiving it."



*Fashion Lecturer,
Elaine Watson*



*Sport & Fitness graduate
Lucy Thomson*



Hello Creatives Launch Networking event

" We are delighted that Ayrshire College has been awarded the Enterprising FE College of the Year award. We're particularly proud to see a number of our students recognised by Bridge 2 Business for their enterprising efforts and we hope that those students who have set up a new business with support from the Enterprising Students Fund have continued success in the future."

The Little Room of Hope, Heart and Healing



Paula Ferguson,
The Little Room of Hope,
Heart and Healing



Paula Ferguson, former HND Complementary Therapies student is the latest person to receive funding from the Enterprising Students fund.

“ The difference this business could make to peoples’ lives cannot really be put into words. These lives will be changed forever with me only having being a small part at the final stage of their journey; but possibly making the biggest impact. ”

My business is called The Little Room. It is a space that will carry out tailored holistic therapy treatments to provide clients with hope, heart and healing. I specialise in fertility related issues as I want to help people conceive naturally or get their body in the optimum condition for assisted conception. The funding I have received will allow me to construct a building to carry out these treatments from and purchase the essential equipment needed to make this possible.

I want to provide a homely and welcoming environment for clients to attend at a difficult time in their life. It is a space that will allow them to heal but also to feel all the emotions of the journey. I want a space where clients can be truly cared for whenever they visit and I want to make this space as safe and secure as possible.



“ I am very grateful to the Ayrshire College Foundation for giving me this wonderful opportunity and for helping me start the foundations to help so many others. ”

The difference this business could make to peoples' lives cannot really be put into words. I have lots of feedback from clients I have treated over the past few years; with a variety of health conditions, but those fertility messages are the ones which hit you right in the heart. The gift of a child is a miracle on its own, but to be gifted one after years of longing is possibly the most magical thing in the world. These lives will be changed forever with me only having being a small part at the final stage of their journey; but possibly making the biggest impact.

I have studied sub-fertility issues alongside being at college and now at university and I also have experience treating clients. I have worked within a clinic in Ayr, the wonderful Dumfries House Health and Wellbeing Centre which was created by Prince Charles through the Princes Trust and more recently from a little space at the back of my home that we call the sunroom.

I have been able to observe the changes within people not only the obviously physical changes, but the mental changes. The mind is a strong thing and to witness this change has got to be the most important initial stage. Many people are at the end of their tether when they seek extra help, full of negative thoughts and just devastated. To see them flourish enough to believe that things can change, is unexplainable and an honour.

I have a very personal reason for wanting to work in this line of work; my husband and I had a long infertility journey of our own. It was a very testing and deeply saddening time. However, we are now blessed with 2 little kids that I am forever grateful for. I was never aware at the time of our struggle that there may have been alternative therapies and how they could assist couples experiencing difficulties; and I often think if I had known then about these, maybe we wouldn't have struggled for so long and the pain would have been more bearable. However, I know now that life is a journey and maybe I had to experience that path to truly empathise with those who now find themselves on it.

I am looking forward to creating this new space for my business and raising awareness of the help I can provide. I am very grateful to the Ayrshire College Foundation for giving me this wonderful opportunity and for helping me start the foundations to help so many others.





Ambitious
for Ayrshire



Enterprising Students

PROJECT UPDATES

£81,994

FUNDING AWARDED

The Ayrshire College Foundation provides funding of grants up to £5,000 for students of Ayrshire College who are interested in developing ideas to start up their own business. To help us inspire more students to be enterprising, we are working in partnership with Bridge 2 Business to support idea development.

We have supported 17 students so far. Click here to read their blogs: <https://www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/blog/?category=enterprise&department=&campus=>

As we all know the last year has been challenging for everyone as our personal and work lives were turned upside down as we have tried to control the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

One of the hardest hit must surely be those fledgling small businesses, at the start of their business life cycle. You might be expecting this update from our Enterprising Students to be full of doom and gloom and yet as you will hear, our enterprising young people have shown great determination, reliance and ingenuity as they adapt and in some cases diversify, to keep their businesses going against all odds.



Enterprising
Students

Soft Olive



Greig with his partner, Magdalena and their baby daughter

Greig and Magdalena Allan set up a natural cosmetics store in Troon. They received funding to manufacture their own line of natural and organic gin inspired cosmetics called Bathtub Gin.

Due to the pandemic they closed their shop and turned their attention to the online market which has been ticking over during lockdown, and continued to sell products through a family business in Poland. Greig says, " Once everything starts to open up again we will reach out to various shops and outlets around the small tourist towns as we feel they will be looking to introduce fresh new ranges, and consumers will be desperate to get out and about around Ayrshire and surrounding areas to visit these shops.

We have been working on 5 new scents to cover more gin styles and broaden our range. These are now all registered so we can release them whenever we are ready."

www.softolive.com





**Enterprising
Students**

Coach Lucy

Former HND Health and Fitness students set up her own personal training business, Coach Lucy.

Lucy believes her business is unique; "Coach Lucy is unlike any other gym facility around Ayrshire, we focus on the wellbeing and mental health of our clients rather than the aesthetics that exercise brings. We create long lasting relationships within our community between coaches and clients. It's unique in its offering in a way that we can allow you to fit fitness into your life rather than your life around fitness. The space which we are creating for our clients, their friends and family will encourage them to have exercise in their life in a positive way.

Reflecting on the last year Lucy said, " I invested in more equipment to allow us to train outdoors 1-2-1 as this is still permitted. As well as investing in more kit for clients to be able to use our online packages, I now deliver a large percentage of my 1-2-1 through Zoom which has allowed me to

continue to work just through a different platform. I have continued to offer our classes online as well as adding more classes to the timetable and weekly seminars in some evenings.

I've used my funding to invest in the kit which will be beneficial for both the situation we are currently in, as well as when we do get the opportunity to move into the new gym to teach."

www.coachlucy.co.uk

" Coach Lucy is unlike any other gym facility around Ayrshire, we focus on the wellbeing and mental health of our clients rather than the aesthetics that exercise brings."





The Hushed Salon



" After reopening in the summer my business had been completely booming. I could never have imagined to be so busy. The business soared. I still had to follow the restrictions but I coped with this well within the salon."

Stylist Lorna Hamilton used her funding to set up a hair salon at 29 John Finnie Street, Kilmarnock. It is designed to support clients who are anxious, depressed or self-conscious about going into a salon. It's also a safe, comfortable and low noise space for children with special learning needs.

Lorna said, "during the lockdown I used my time to qualify for Teacher AET level 3 qualification to enable me to fit the mesh integration system this benefits women who have lost hair due to medical issues. I also created a closed off salon in the back of the shop for these clients to come and feel comfortable in the salon setting.

After reopening in the summer my business had been completely booming. I could never have imagined to be so busy. The business soared. I still had to follow the restrictions but I coped with this well within the salon.

Most of my clients prefer the quiet salon atmosphere. Their feedback is that the salon is welcoming and relaxing. They feel at ease when having a treatment.

I took a holiday in October for the first time ever since I started my business in 2015. This was to create workbooks and lesson plans to add the teaching school to the business and become an accredited educator within hair & beauty. I planned on starting the training courses in January but that has been put on hold for the time being.

This lockdown seems to have lasted forever but I still have a good client base waiting for me to reopen. Which I'm more than happy about. On reopening I will have an apprentice joining me in the salon. She will be working towards gaining her level 2 hairdressing qualification then hopefully next year level 3.

You can contact Lorna though her Facebook page [@hushedhair7](#)

ENTERPRISING STUDENTS UPDATE



Funny Grump Clothing

Ex-fashion student Chris Saby set up a business making custom fitted clothes for plus sized men who are fashion conscious. He said, I've continued to sell handmade masks, and I've had over 100 orders placed for them. I work from home at the moment so I've had no real restrictions. I've continued to make and sell some plus size items of clothes but things have definitely slowed down due to the pandemic.

You can view Chris's designs on his Instagram account [@funnygrumpclothing](https://www.instagram.com/funnygrumpclothing)



Aaron Gregory,
Artificial Pathegon

Artificial Pathegon

HNC Business Management student, Aaron Gregory, from Ayr started a business, Pathogen Merchandising and Fulfilment, selling promotional merchandise for bands worldwide.

Aaron said, "the start of the pandemic didn't really affect me, however it's getting tough now. I'm doing work here and there but not as much as I'd like, I'm getting new equipment this week to help with faster print turnaround times. I've managed to secure a relationship with a client that gets millions of views on each of his songs, so that's gave me a lot of work.



Bryan Shaw,
1815 Media

1815 Media

Bryan Shaw from New Cumnock, studied HNC Photography at Ayrshire College and when he left he decided to turn his hobby into a career and set up a photography and videography business. With funding from the Enterprising Students fund he bought new equipment and this enabled him to secure impressive new clients such as The Lost Distillery and Rum and Cane.

During lockdown Bryan has continued to be productive and used the time to focus on his studies at university along with developing ideas to work in new areas. Bryan explains his ambitious plans for the future, "I'm hoping to invest more funds into astrophotography which can bring with it a bigger brand name in a specialised field, as well as print sales and more advertising with higher marketing concepts with global possibilities such as the whisky marketing."

Contact Bryan at: 1815medialtd@gmail.com

ENTERPRISING STUDENTS UPDATE



**Anya Rae,
Ayrshire Healing Centre**

Ayrshire Healing Centre

"I will be opening the Ayrshire Healing Centre from 26 April. This will be a multi-disciplinary healing centre and the only one in Ayrshire offering talking therapies, complementary therapies, holistic treatments, holistic coaching, holistic gift products, workshops and retreats.

The meditation centre upstairs will offer sound baths, yoga, Pilates, meditation etc. I have also started a community enterprise CIC for families and teens affected by poor mental health. I open Monday 26 April for 1:1 pre booked treatments and at the end of May we will be fully operational. A shaman is hosting a fire walking ceremony on our open day to celebrate and it is our first joint practitioner workshop."



**Jamie Agnew
Photography**

Jamie Agnew Photography

Jamie specialises in Equine photography and used his funding to buy more equipment allowing him to expand more into dog photography. He says, " the difference in my work quality with the new camera was night and day.

I also bought a new printer helping me to extend my Christmas order cut-off deadlines, which in-turn allowed me to take on additional Christmas orders with confidence that I would be able to deliver physical prints without having to rely on a printing lab and Royal Mail.

Since the second lockdown I can't partake in photo sessions due to the current guidelines, so I've made use of my new PC and monitor and offered more logo design services, while also re-editing some of my older work to keep my social media presence current.

Since undertaking the grant processes I've had so much more confidence in both myself and my work, and decided to enter a few competitions. I've won the title of Equine Photographer of the Year UK 2020 by the much-esteemed institute The Training Barn. As well as the title and a certificate, I won £500 training credit which I'm using to study their course 'The Business of Equine Photography' and further hone my skills.

As was sadly expected all the Horse Shows I was booked to cover in the 2021 season have once again been postponed; however, all shows have asked me to re-book them for 2022, and I have accepted these bookings gladly with the knowledge that my new equipment would allow me to come back bigger and better than they're expecting."

www.jamieagnewphotography.co.uk

ENTERPRISING STUDENTS UPDATE



**Sheila Munro,
AroundTUIT Complementary
Therapies Ltd.**

AroundTUIT Complementary Therapies Ltd.

Sheila Munro, graduated from Ayrshire College, Kilwinning Campus and has used her funding to open her business AroundTUIT Complementary Therapies Ltd in Newmarket Street, Ayr. Sheila is collaborating with two other Integrated Health Care Practitioners with the aim of establishing a wellness centre for the benefit of the Ayrshire community. This enables a wide range of complementary therapies to be on offer.

Unfortunately, as Sheila's business is 1-2-1 close contact and her business has been severely affected during the Covid-19 lockdown. Sheila has put this time to some use by networking events via Zoom and Webinar, building up her social media presence and continuing with her training, allowing her to learn advanced reflexology techniques and a new massage therapy for temporomandibular joint diseases and disorders (TMJ). Sheila has been able to meet the criteria for continuing professional development points as required by the Federation of Holistic Therapists and is keen to restart her business.

Sheila has a further growth opportunity at the Newmarket Street premises for sub-letting rooms at a reasonable rate to other students/new businesses that will complement the existing businesses (drummers need not apply) for those wanting to work in the local area.

www.aroundtuitcomplementarytherapies.com



**Scott Haddow,
11:11 Events**

11:11 Events

Scott Haddow offers a range of entertainment to bars, clubs, hotels and host private events across Ayrshire and Glasgow. Entertainment ranges from Comedy nights, Live Music evenings to Magic Shows.

Unfortunately due to the nature of his business, Scott has had to halt his events business until restrictions are lifted. Meanwhile he has diversified and is using his creative skills to offer online services including graphic design, marketing design materials, and web design. He has been working with Business Gateway as well as New Enterprise to get this started.

Scott says, I'm also working on a new wristband product to fight back against social media trolls. I want to educate people to stop, think, and then speak before they say anything that could potentially hurt somebody. There are far too many people writing nasty and horrible comments to others to continually bringing them down and I just feel like I cannot stand back and let it happen without doing anything."

ENTERPRISING STUDENTS UPDATE



**Meli Beseu,
Bespoke Lounge Wear**

Meli Beseu - Bespoke Lounge Wear

Mary-Beth Pearson has just started her business making lounge wear. She is using social media to raise awareness of her products and make sales. Mary-Beth says, "My social media posts are getting a lot attention. A few posts reached over a 1,000 people with 200 engagements. Facebook receives more attention than other platforms."

Mary-Beth is also studying full time at the College completing a Design/maker course learning more skills to help her develop the business.



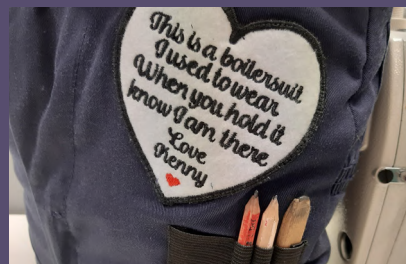
**Sandra Laurenson,
Jollywellmade**

Jollywellmade

Sandra Laurenson from Prestwick started a business called Jollywellmade, designing personalised free motion embroidery pictures. She used her funding to buy an industrial sewing machine.

Over the last year Sandra has continued to be busy creating embroideries for all over the UK and balancing this with home schooling her three children and trying to finish year 3 BA New Media Art at UWS on top.

[Etsy.com/shop/Jollywellmade](https://www.etsy.com/shop/Jollywellmade)
www.jollywellmade.com



**Sharlene Atkinson,
Handmade Sewing Boutique**

Handmade Sewing Boutique

Sharlene Atkinson from Saltcoats used the funding from Enterprising students to buy an industrial sewing machine. The idea for this dressmaking and alterations business was inspired by Sharlene's mum – while she was growing up her mum encouraged her to make her own clothes and have something unique to wear. Through this love of sewing she has created a successful business. Sharlene says, Over the last year I have moved to new premises which is more financially manageable.

As well as continuing with my alterations, I am focusing on the reuse and recycle aspect of my business, especially in regards to kids school clothing. I plan to take these items in, repair them if need be, then give to a child in need. The memory bears and cushions, a great keepsake have been a popular with my customers.

The current pandemic has made me feel very stressed, and got me thinking maybe I should close, but I won't give up. I have managed to keep my business going with the support of family and customers.

Tel. 01294 537520
Contact Sharlene through Facebook @sewingboutique34 or Instagram @sharlene_sews



**Enterprising
Students**

How to apply for the Enterprising Student Programme

Who can apply?

Current students at Ayrshire College or if you have been a student in the past two years you can enrol on the 'Preparing to Start a Business' SQA unit which would make you eligible. (Contact Sandra.ferguson@ayrshire.ac.uk if you would like to find out more about this unit).

Who is it aimed at?

If you are you thinking about starting your own business and need help writing a business plan, then you need to join this programme! If the business plan meets our high standards then we will support you with funding to help you get started, or if you have already started, funding to help you develop your business?

What is the offer?

Funding

The Ayrshire College Foundation offers a programme of support and funding of grants up to £5,000 for students of Ayrshire College who are interested in developing ideas to start up their own business. To help us inspire more students to be enterprising, we are working in partnership with Bridge 2 Business to support idea development.

Mentoring & Support

Through our partnership with Bridge 2 Business, you can gain start up support through their programme. The programme, which is available across the college, supports students into and through enterprise. Bridge 2 Business at Ayrshire College is delivered by Programme Executive - Bryce Dunlop. Support includes guidance on creating a business plan, free online courses to support your learning for business and employment, start-up focused workshops and advice to help develop a business idea. (For informal enquiries email bryce.dunlop@yes.org.uk)



Networking

Bridge to Business have a wide variety of support partners that are available to advise and support you on your journey to self-employment.

We will invite support partners to all our future enterprise events future events, and referrals can be arranged to connect you with them at one to one meetings and training workshops.

We will introduce you to LinkedIn and show you how this tool can help you develop your business.

Support

Once you join our Enterprising Students programme, through Bridge 2 Business you can access FREE online Digital Skills Training Courses offered by Accenture (9 in total)

Students within the age bracket of 18-30, can also apply for up to £100 with their "Test Market Grant" – available via application to the Programme Executive at Bridge 2 Business.

(Please note, approval subject to meeting eligibility and criteria)

How to apply

To join our Enterprising Students Programme complete a Student Enquiry form: <https://bit.ly/3qzB042>

Forward the application form at any point in the year to: shelagh.mclachlan@ayrshire.ac.uk

We will then set up an appointment with Bryce Dunlop – Bridge 2 Business Programme Executive. With support from Bridge 2 Business, you can access one to one support and training through a series of meetings and workshops.

What's the outcome of the programme?

Over time you will work on your business plan and cash flow documents with support, from Bridge 2 Business. Once you are both happy with it, you submit it to Shelagh.mclachlan@ayrshire.ac.uk and your plan will be presented to the Enterprising Students panel for consideration for funding. Please note that funding is not guaranteed.

We consider applications in April, June and September of each year. Successful students will be notified by email on the next stage to attend an interview with the panel.

Following the panel interview - students will receive a letter from the chair of the panel advising on the outcome of their application.

You can find our Student Enquiry Form here:

<https://bit.ly/3qzB042>





Ambitious
for Ayrshire



Collaborating Communities

PROJECT UPDATES

£46,745

FUNDING AWARDED

The Collaborating Communities Fund has been set up to provide grants for community projects. This means that schools, voluntary organisations, charities, churches, community centres, sports clubs and so on, can apply for up to £5,000 for small projects which will benefit the community.

It's an incredible opportunity to apply for funding to support a wide range of groups in the community that need extra funds to be able to deliver projects and services.

We are especially interested in projects that could benefit Ayrshire College students perhaps by providing volunteering opportunities or work placements.

The Ayrshire College Foundation has supported 15 community projects over the last two years and provided £46,745 in funding.

The newest community groups to receive funding are:

Active Schools Leadership Academy

Providing sports coaching governing body awards to the S3-S6 pupils on this leadership programme.

Galston Youth Football Club

The funding will be used to provide new equipment for the club.

Galston Gladiators

This is a kickboxing club and they required support to buy a laptop to enable them to take online payments.

Loudoun Community Sports Club

The club offers basketball and netball and has plans to expand its activities to offer dance, badminton and gymnastics. The funding will be used for new equipment.

COLLABORATING COMMUNITIES UPDATE

The following updates on existing projects have been provided by project leaders:

Build to Succeed

This wood craft heritage project resurrects the building of traditional coastal rowing skiffs. The aim of this particular Ayr initiative is to increase community capacity and employability skills with targeted pupils in Ayr Academy and the local community. Pupils will learn boat building skills, woodcraft and engineering skills, rowing and basic water safety and seamanship skills. This project will also link into the RNLI "Respect the Water" sea safety programme.

The wooden boat kit has been ordered from Jordan Boat along with additional wood, glues, paints and stainless steel fittings. The boat building shed use donated by Allanvale Land Investments at Auchencruive estate, is confirmed.

Covid restrictions have had an impact on progress but adult volunteers are ready to start when safe to do so and pupils from school have been identified to be involved in the project. Some parts of the boat will be built in school and some at the shed location.



Community Garden

Our community garden project for supported learning students on the Kilmarnock campus is still in the early stages of completion due to the unexpected impact of COVID 19. Collaboration between all of our partners has been very successful.

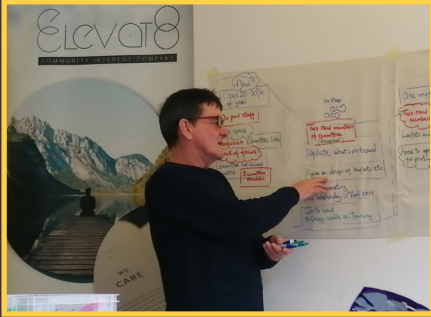
During the planning phase there were lots of educational benefits. The Connect to Communities class joined with the Garden and Landscaping class to discuss ideas and create schematic diagrams of potential gardens. Connect to Enterprise were able to study the lifecycle of plants from seed/bulb to flower and planted some bulbs in the garden to study. Early Years and Supported Learning discussed how we could jointly use the space for learning and

teaching and agreed upon resources which would be beneficial to both sets of students.

We had a successful launch of the Collaborating Communities fund. It brought together all of our partners and allowed us to share our plans. Our partners at Willowbank School sent us some trees from the Woodland Trust. Garden and Landscaping Lecturer met with Chris Hall and our students to plant the first donation to our wellbeing garden. We plan to make a plaque dedicating this section of the garden to our partners at Willowbank.

We were just about to begin the garden transformation and lockdown happened.

COLLABORATING COMMUNITIES UPDATE



“ The funding provided the opportunity to bring isolated and marginalised people together and enjoy the experience of laughing, learning and sharing together and to step up and move forward with their lives.”

Elevat8

The funding provided the opportunity to bring isolated and marginalised people together and enjoy the experience of laughing, learning and sharing together and to step up and move forward with their lives.

The key objectives were to, increase self-confidence, motivation, self-belief and personal resilience. We met these by Patchwork Group members helping to co-facilitate the sessions with the facilitators. Those taking part in the course gave verbal and written feedback that they had grown in confidence and self-belief during the sessions.

We also met our objective of increasing social networks for individuals who participated in the sessions. This was done by sign posting individuals to other groups that were available to them which resulted in mixing and meeting new people.

Garnock Community Campus

The Boosting Reading at Garnock initiative, involves senior pupils that have completed a two day intensive training course delivered by the Professional Learning Academy, supporting S1 pupils who are in danger of falling behind in their reading. Unfortunately, due to lockdown and school closures, no progress was able to be made with our “Boosting Reading” project. We plan for our current S6 volunteers to undertake training (virtually), and then start the reading scheme when the restrictions are lifted.



Hello Creatives

This was a network set up to bring employers and practitioners in the creative sector together with staff and students. The most important benefit for students is that they have the opportunity to meet and hear from employers and artists working in the sector. The message students have been given is that it is important to complete their qualifications, and also to gain experience through participating in live briefs and other opportunities they may be offered. The network not only informs students about creative careers, but also inspires them to embark on one and start their journey by completing their courses at the College.

COLLABORATING COMMUNITIES UPDATE



Kidz4kidz

Kidz4kidz

Caledonia Digital Communications CIC (CDC) is a social enterprise company, set up by existing and post-graduate students in Business, Marketing and Media subjects.

It offers work experience and paid internships to students, support post-graduates who are starting a creative business, and working with schools to find and develop creative skills in pupils who are disengaged and or struggling with the existing education system and unlikely to find a positive destination on leaving school.

Due to the Global Pandemic this project has not been able to move forward.

Memories Garden

For students in Early Years, the value of an outdoors project is immense in terms of their being able to truly understand how a child develops and learns; indeed the possibilities are endless and our students have been studying different documents in preparation for planning activities in the outdoor space.

We have been thinking of children and students as "nature detectives" eg observing bugs; watching seeds develop; exploring natural materials and also as creative thinkers with the wider opportunities the outdoor brings to express themselves e.g. building dens; exploring transient art; building a mud kitchen.

For essential skills, we wanted to improve staff and student confidence in embedding the outdoors into and across the curriculum areas involved. We also want students to report a reduction in stress or anxiety in the college environment.

We have made progress with the project by preparing the site and buying resources. However the pandemic has meant that further progress has been delayed.



" For essential skills, we wanted to improve staff and student confidence in embedding the outdoors into and across the curriculum areas involved. We also want students to report a reduction in stress or anxiety in the college environment."

COLLABORATING COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Yipworld

Our staff on the Our Future Now Project, worked with 35 young people in the initial six months of Collaborating Communities funding.

165 milestones were reached (this includes things like applying for jobs, attending interviews, being confident enough to speak to someone over the phone)

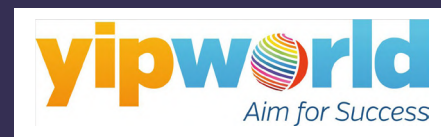
15 young people have progressed into positive destinations so far. 2 into education

6 into employment, 2 into further education, 1 into training and 4 into volunteering.

We are on track to work with 60 young people this year, with a good number of them moving into positive destinations.

Staff feel that they are making a real difference in young people's lives, which is the clearest indicator that we have of the success of the project.

Despite challenging circumstances throughout the year, staff have been able to offer young people vital support in isolation, relieving loneliness and helping to implement structure and routine. progress has been delayed.



Garnock Community Campus

We used the funding to buy a gazebo. This is used daily by a group of S3 and S4 pupils. In the 'rural skills' course, pupils improve their employability, communication, building skills.

Building the gazebo made pupils use their creativity in planning and building recycled furniture. The benches and tables will be made by S3/4 Rural Skills pupils. Each pupil and teacher in whole campus will be able to freely use this space.

" Building the gazebo made pupils use their creativity in planning and building recycled furniture."



**Collaborating
Communities**



To find out more about this project funding and to make an application please go to the Ayrshire College Foundation website.

<https://ayrshirecollegefoundation.weebly.com/>



**Ambitious
for Ayrshire**



Innovating for Learning

PROJECT UPDATES

£175,631

FUNDING AWARDED

This project funding is available for Ayrshire College staff to support innovative practice in learning and teaching or enhance service delivery to increase student success. The Foundation has supported a wide range of projects.

Ayrshire College staff can find out more about this funding and apply on the staff intranet.

Caring for Bariatric Patients (Obesity) - Bariatric Bed, Hoist and Mannequin

Engaging students by simulation is the best way of giving students a real idea of what it's like to be obese and to safely move and handle bariatric patients.

Due to COVID 19 our students have not been able to get out on placement and we have had to simulate all clinical skills and the above resource has been paramount in this.



Improving the productivity of the workforce of Ayrshire through top class education and skills

The funding has allowed us to purchase two robotic arms and six small robots, and 12 PLC's. Training rigs will be built and we can now teach students skills required for automation in manufacturing.

Enhanced CPR and First Aid Training Equipment

We now offer enhanced CPR training with electronic feedback on performance matrices.

IRIS Connect

This is a classroom reflection tool and once restrictions are lifted we will use these to improve performance.

Drones

Used by construction and forestry students to carry out aerial surveys.

Lego Robotics Project

Our HNC Mechatronics students have enjoyed using the new LEGO Mindstorms Robots and the LEGO Spike robot.

Sensusaccess

We were able to pilot the sensusaccess platform as both a means of allowing users to convert online content into a format that works best for them but also to support our ongoing work to increase awareness of accessibility when creating content.

Digital Upskilling

The funding paid for two students to complete a three month work experience placement with the marketing team.

INNOVATING FOR LEARNING UPDATE



Hospitality and Tourism - delivery of work experience in the Salt & Barrel training restaurant

This funding has allowed us to employ a total of 3 interns in the last 3 years. The interns ran the daily operations of the restaurant which are not in a lecturer's role. Duties included: managing bookings and customer relations, being responsible for all our social media, advertising, bar stock control, menus and allergen information, food takeaway sales and supporting the lecturers.

Promoting access and inclusion through technology

The funding was used to purchase a number of e-reader pens and exam reader pens. These have been used very successfully by students across the College.

The pens can help students with reading and understanding written text and they enable students to work independently, which helps to build their confidence.



Taking PEEP outdoors - Kilwinning

All Early Years students will have access to new resources and space during practical experience sessions outdoors.

Installation of MDM server in order to better improve the usage and maintenance of iPads

The MDM server was purchased in order to allow us to better manage iPads across the Inclusive Learning service. The server allowed the Team to manage apps and upgrades centrally to ensure that the iPads were regularly maintained and upgraded and that students and staff had access to the same Apps and resources across the three campuses.

Improving STEM opportunities in early years

30 HNC Childhood Practice Students have been identified for STEM ambassador status and will take STEM into the activities they will deliver on their placements.

Ayr Community Wellbeing/ Early Years Garden

Early Years students aim to start to use the new outdoor space after the spring break, when COVID restrictions are lifted and we can return to campus.

Sun Turtle Record Label

Kingfisher is the band chosen to be the new STR artist and a A/A single is ready to be mixed and mastered as soon as we can get back into college.

We recorded and filmed a live session with JOG. We are waiting to get that mixed and edited for distribution.

With no live sound gigs so far, our students have been given hypothetical briefs to prepare Tech Rider Documents.

We are planning an acoustic live stream gig and online Club night.



Ayrshire College - A centre of craft brewing excellence

We made three 10l test batches of beer (amber ale, stout and Belgian ale). All batches were deemed successful after a taste test. A suitable training room has been refurbished. We have been awarded a brewing/beer holding licence from the HMRC. Once the college re-opens getting the practical brewing course up and running could be done relatively quickly.

Gas Analysis Equipment

The equipment has been ordered and is awaiting us reopening for delivery. When we open we will have a sport science lab in Kilwinning. We will be able to demonstrate to sport and care students what the facility can offer. When it is safe to do so we will engage with community groups.

Ayrshire College, a catalyst for improvement of Primary school STEM education across Ayrshire (Marko Prorocic)

Successfully organised and ran CPD sessions for Primary Teachers from NAC and EAC. The feedback received was very positive, teachers enjoyed the sessions and were confident in using resources created by the Ayrshire College.

Boxes of teaching resources that were to go with the booklet were distributed to the primary schools in Auchenharvie and St. Josephs Academy clusters. Activities from the booklet were used by primary school pupils and their teachers from clusters in NAC (~140) and EAC (~150-200).

To facilitate further rollout a dedicated email address STEMInitiative@ayrshire.ac.uk was set up as well as an online form (<https://form.jotformeu.com/92694483886377>) where interested schools could select the resources they are most interested in

We organised online "Ask A Scientist" sessions which were taking place in Nov-Dec 2020 and which were well received, but with the fully remote primary school delivery these have been paused.

Ayrshire College staff can find out more about this funding and apply on the staff intranet.



TRUSTEE INTERVIEW:

Marion McLarty



After completing a DCE at Jordanhill College of Education, I began a career in Primary Education. Living and working in Glasgow, I found myself in areas of the city which were regarded as more challenging and this experience led me to seek a transfer to what was then known as 'Special Education', working with learners with mild/moderate learning difficulties.

A move to Ayrshire in 1978 presented the opportunity to be one of the first teachers in Scotland to move into the education of learners with severe and profound learning difficulties. This was particularly challenging as the centres which had catered for these young people had few, if any, curricular structures and the new teachers were required to devise appropriate methodology and curricula while working in the field.

The next few years saw me continuing to work in this field in temporary contracts while having two daughters and undertaking study towards an honours degree in English with the Open University in Scotland. I returned to full-time employment in 1985 and was promoted, in 1987, to Assistant Head Teacher of Carnbooth School in Glasgow, a unique, residential school for learners who were deafblind.

In 1989 I became Head Teacher at Carnbooth School and was subsequently seconded to Moray House College of Education, then part of Herriot Watt University, to undertake a Masters Diploma in the Education of Blind Children. This diploma

became part of my MA in Education which was completed at the Open University.

In 1993, due to a developing interest in research and staff development, I joined the Department of SEN (subsequently the Dept. Of Educational Support) in the Faculty of Education at the University of Strathclyde. During my time there, I was involved in a range of courses, from undergraduate, postgraduate to Masters in the area of school education as well as designing and delivering modules in Community Education, Community Arts and Social Work as well as collaborating with James Watt College in the development of a shared degree programme.

My main research interests were, early communication, particularly non-verbal, as well as all aspects of disability and equality such as Law, Rights and Culture. I served for 10 years on Senate as well as on a range of committees at Faculty and University level. I was promoted to senior lecturer and served as Course Director on the Masters Course in Educational Support.

I was interested in being involved with the Ayrshire College Foundation as it will give me an opportunity to continue my involvement in various aspects of education and trust that my career has provided me with experience and insights which will be useful in the work of the Foundation.

I have been particularly impressed by the range of educational enhancements and entrepreneurial activities facilitated by the Foundation and I look forward to involvement in these areas with staff and students.