

Hello from your Careers Adviser

MY FIRST YEAR IN LARGS

Some of you may already know me from my various guest appearances at parents' evenings and other school events.

For those of you that don't, I have now been the Careers Adviser in Largs Academy for a full year.

It's been a fast, furious and fun first year! This has been due in no small part to the pupils and staff welcoming me so readily as part of the school. By way of thanks I'd like to mark my first year by letting you know what I've been up to over the term and what I've got planned for the future.

1-1 support

I am based in school full time and throughout the year pupils can access one-to-one career coaching sessions to explore options, get help with employability, discuss ideas, set actions and develop their Career Management Skills.

Group sessions

I have been delivering Career Management Skills and subject choice group sessions to S1 -S3. S4-S6 delivery has included more focused session helping pupils with personal statements, college applications and post school options.

Twitter

I've established a careers Twitter page for Largs Academy; Paul Aitken @MrA_Careers. I'm posting live vacancies, careers information, advice and guidance. No matter what your child's post school plans it's got something for everyone, so get on and get involved!

Next term

- Continued career coaching - building on the pupil relationships I've made and looking forward to establishing more
- More group sessions –with working relationships established with the guidance team and other teaching staff, I'm planning to get more involved in PSE and other classes to further embed careers delivery
- Parent contact – I'm stepping up my profile and communication. More newsletters, further attendance at parent and broader school events. Also please feel free to get in touch whenever, through Twitter or my contact details overleaf.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Hello & Thanks!
- Skills Development Scotland - Support for pupils in and beyond school
- Career Management Skills
- My World of Work Ambassadors Recruiting Now!
- Contact Details
- Paul Aitken@MrA_Careers





SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND

As a school Careers Adviser I am part of a broader [Skills Development Scotland](#) team which works together to ensure young people have the best chance of realising their full potential.

Support from Skills Development Scotland does not stop at the school gates. SDS support is available post school and to all ages. A package of increased support is open to those who need it most to ensure that all have the best chance to access opportunities and make confident and fulfilling transitions.

To further establish access to support at the point of need, the SDS team in North Ayrshire has launched a local Facebook page.

It has lots of useful information and regular updates relevant to pupils and residents within North Ayrshire looking for employment, education or training opportunities in the area. By 'liking' our page, individuals can access information and also contact the team directly with queries and to arrange an appointment.

Likewise I am also running a Twitter page ([Paul Aitken @MrA_Careers](#)) where you will find information, advice, guidance, vacancies and more, to help you make informed choices and move on to great things.



"I would urge all parents and carers to make the most of the expertise SDS offers in person and online via My world of Work. Good careers advice is invaluable." Joanna Murphy, Chair, National Parent Forum Scotland

CAREER MANAGEMENT SKILLS—IN BRIEF

The world of work is changing fast. New opportunities pop up every day, and these days, you're unlikely to be in a job for life.; and it's important to be ready to face unexpected changes.

Having the right information, or knowing how to get it, helps when you need to make decisions about what to do.

That's where [Career Management Skills](#) come in. They help you understand yourself and the world around you, and take control of your career with all its potential opportunities.

They're grouped under four themes:

- **Self:** Understanding your personality, interests and values are key to making the right career decisions
- **Strengths:** Know how to use your talents, skills and personal qualities
- **Horizons:** Explore the world of work, training and learning
- **Networks:** Identify who can help you in your career journey

Find out more at -

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/our-products/career-management-skills/>

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options/what-are-career-management-skills-and-how-can-they-help-you>



My career options

Start by learning more about yourself, including where your strengths lie. You'll get suggestions to help you explore your options, from school subjects through to changes in your career.

Explore options >



Learn and train

Search for courses, and get advice on UCAS and college applications. There's info on qualifications, volunteering, and funding – including SDS Individual Learning Accounts.

Get started >



Getting a job

Find job or Modern Apprenticeship vacancies. Then use our tips and tools for CVs, application forms and interviews to help you get it.

Read more >

*My World of Work information options (above)
Personalisation tools to help identify the right career for you (below)*

MY WORLD OF WORK

www.myworldofwork.co.uk

My World of Work is Scotland's online careers information and advice service – offering tools to help you choose a career. www.myworldofwork.co.uk provides a unique mix of tools, features and up-to-the minute job information to help you find out more about yourself and the current and future job market throughout Scotland.

On the site you will find up-to-date information on jobs and courses, as well as tips on CV writing and interviews to help you explore your options and make the best decisions about your future.

My World of Work offers careers information to pupils and parents/carers when it's needed most and especially at critical times of the school year such as when making subject choices, during exam results time, or when applying to university or college.

The website is packed with practical advice and support for managing your career and getting a job. The online toolkits help every step of the way from career research to CV building:

Use your strengths – use the [My Strengths](#) tool to learn what your strengths are and how to make the most of them. If you understand what you're good at, making the right choices is easier

Explore your options – check out [Careers A-Z](#) to find out all you need to know about the hundreds of different jobs out there. Have a look at [Course Choices](#) to see where different learning, training or volunteering options could take you

Create a great CV – [My CV](#) gives you step by step help and templates to write and save up to five great CVs

Network – learn about using your connections and contacts to explore hidden jobs. Read tips on job hunting through social media

Perfect your interview skills – use the [My Interview](#) tool to help you prepare and understand what to expect when you go for an interview. There's also advice on handling interview nerves and how to research an employer before the big day.

Visit myworldofwork.co.uk now and sign up for all the great features designed to help you on your way.



OTHER USEFUL SDS WEBSITES

Apprenticeships.scot

Apprenticeships have changed, with more than 80 different types covering hundreds of jobs. With a Modern Apprenticeship you get a job, get paid and get qualified – in some roles right up to degree level. No wonder more than 25,000 people choose a Modern Apprenticeship every year. Want to know more? At apprenticeships.scot you can search for apprenticeships, apply for apprenticeship jobs and find out more about the different levels of qualifications. You can also check out Foundation Apprenticeships which help you kick-start your career before you even leave school.



Go to apprenticeships.scot and follow [@apprentice_scot](https://twitter.com/apprentice_scot). From Skills Development Scotland.

Digital World

Careers in digital technologies offer endless possibilities and opportunities. Scotland's digital technologies sector needs lots more people like you right now and in the future. Digital World provides information on tech careers in Scotland, ways to get in and where to study. Be inspired...find out more by visiting digitalworld.net, and follow [@DigitalWorldHQ](https://twitter.com/DigitalWorldHQ) or [Digital World](#) on Facebook. From Skills Development Scotland and Scotland's digital technologies sector.



1 Personalise your account

Select one of the sections below to get started. [Sign in or Register](#) to unlock the rest of the sections and store your results. The more you complete, the better career suggestions we can give you.

 About me	 Ambition	 Strengths	 Skills	 Education	 Experience
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MY WOW AMBASSADORS –

RECRUITING NOW!

This year Largs Academy we will be rolling out a great new opportunity for pupils to become [My World of Work Ambassadors](#).

By volunteering to be an Ambassador, pupils will gain valuable experience and skills that are transferable to the world of work.

They'll improve at problem solving, taking the lead, planning and organising, working as part of a team, communicating with people and of course, gaining a deeper understanding of their own career management skills.

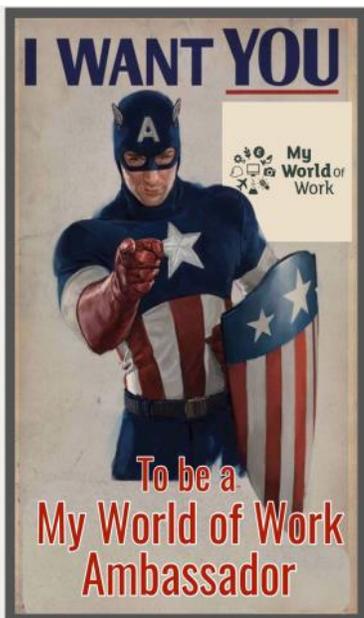
Their experiences can be used to contribute to wider achievement awards, such as the [Duke of Edinburgh Awards](#), as well as adding weight to profiles, CVs and UCAS applications.

While the Ambassadors will receive training, guidance and support from myself and a few other key members of staff, the programme will be mainly pupil led.

The opportunity will initially be open to S6 with the ambassadors' 1st task to recruit pupils from other year groups.

Full details will be released to the pupils during the S6 induction week in August.

Pupils can speak with Mr Colville, Ms Newbury or Mr Aitken for more information



CONTACT DETAILS

The support Skills Development Scotland offers does not stop at school. Pupils and parents are also encouraged to access Skills Development Scotland services throughout holidays and post school.

Irvine Centre
Unit 12 Rivergate Centre, Irvine,
KA12 8EH

Monday to Friday,
9.00am – 5.00pm

Michael Lynch Centre
Princes Street, Ardrossan, KA22
8DG

Monday and Wednesday,
9.30am – 4.30pm

Kilbirnie Library
Avils Place, Kilbirnie KA25 6BL

Tuesday, 2.00 – 4.00pm

School Careers Adviser, Paul
Aitken E-mail:
paul.aitken@sds.co.uk Irvine
Office—01294 272421

Mobile—07717 541429

During term time pupils can also drop in or request an appointment through their Guidance teacher

CAREERS LIBRARY

As well as access and support to utilise a number of excellent online resources, Largs pupils can access a range of printed resources including university and college prospectuses in our refurbished Careers Library. These resources can help pupils research jobs and understand how they can make good careers decisions.

I have also added some personal careers resources based on “frequently asked questions”. These “Careers Kits” include information on [Modern Apprenticeships](#), [Personal Statements](#), [College Applications](#) and [CVs](#). Pupils are welcome and encouraged to request and access the information as required.



School Careers Library



LEAVER INFORMATION

Future newsletters will include advice required by pupils at key decision points including completing college and university applications, compiling CVs, applying for jobs, and so on

The websites below also provide advice and information to assist with transitions:

UCAS— <https://www.ucas.com/>

My World of work— <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

PlanitPlus— <https://www.planitplus.net/>

Apprenticeship.scot— <https://www.apprenticeships.scot/>

Focus point—<http://www.focuspoint.org.uk/>

SDS—<http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/>

ME! - Paul Aitken@MrA_Careers

More sites are available to help with career path, goals and options, but those above provide good general guidance and links to other useful sites. For more individualised assistance please feel free to get in touch.

REMEMBER SUPPORT FROM SDS IS AVAILABLE BEYOND SCHOOL!