

## PEN PICTURE: SkillForce and Newlands Junior College

It has been a privilege for SkillForce to work in partnership with Newlands Junior College in Glasgow. Championed by Scottish Businessman Jim McColl, Newlands Junior College stands apart by offering every one of its young people a guaranteed apprenticeship at the end of their course. Combined with a Curriculum for Excellence education that offers variety, individualisation, opportunities for achievement, integrated communication with both students and their parents/ carers, the focus within Newlands Junior College is on nurture, health and wellbeing and employability skills. These capacities are embedded and run alongside academic qualifications, for example each young person is provided with breakfast and lunch. SkillForce works in Newlands Junior College on a daily basis and we enjoy a positive and productive relationship with Principal Iain White and his colleagues.

The environment is conducive to learning and with the focus on health and wellbeing and nurture it offers those young people with additional needs increased support. During our partnership SkillForce have already delivered a number of awards and qualifications with the young people in Newlands Junior College including ASDAN Bronze, Duke of Edinburgh, Emergency First Aid and National Navigation Award. We have also delivered a number of Fearless course modules that focus on a safer community by helping young people aged between 11-16 to report crime or suspicions of crime without being contacted by Police. During the course we also made a film about social issues around drugs, 'Fearless'.

We have constant communication with the young people's parents/carers and this helps to maximise engagement, as well as providing us with useful feedback on the programmes we offer. We can see the development of our young people at Newlands Junior College via our tracked results – in their character, behaviour and attendance. There has also been an intense focus on outdoor experiences and outdoor learning which has contributed towards the results of our young people. Going forward we will continue to work through the SkillForce Stepping On programme and will also deliver the SkillForce Prince's Award in conjunction with our Royal Patron HRH Duke of Cambridge.