

February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Foundation Apprenticeships for Pupils Entering S5 or S6**

In partnership with Skills Development Scotland - the national skills agency – I'm writing to parents and carers of young people going into S5 and S6 about a new qualification open to school pupils in this age range.

A Foundation Apprenticeship is designed to provide young people with real experience of the world of work, whilst gaining a qualification at the same level as a Scottish Higher (SCQF 6).

It usually counts as one option choice and it's taken alongside other S5 and S6 subjects. The young person spends time in a real workplace, helping them develop new skills and gain experience.

Assessment takes place as you go, so there's no final exam. Time spent on placement gives technical workplace knowledge, and can help build confidence, communication and teamwork skills.

A growing number of Foundation Apprenticeships are available in Edinburgh in 2019, covering eleven different job types and career pathways, including Early Learning and Childcare, Engineering, Financial Services, Digital Media and Technology, Health and Social Care.

A Foundation Apprenticeship may directly support your child's post-school choices:

- If your child is planning to enter the world of work, Foundation Apprenticeships can offer an opportunity to impress local employers, gain relevant experience and try their preferred career before leaving school.
- If they're planning to undertake a Modern or Graduate Apprenticeship a Foundation Apprenticeship could help them get a foot in the door with an employer, whilst the skills and experience they gain could help them fast-track through part of their MA or GA.
- If they're planning to go into higher or further education, Foundation Apprenticeships are recognised by every college and university in Scotland. As well as gaining credits towards their preferred course, they will gain experience which could help them stand out from the crowd in personal statements and interviews. It could also help inform their choice of course and career.

Parents who wish to find out more are invited to visit Skills Development Scotland's [www.apprenticeships.scot](http://www.apprenticeships.scot) website. It has further information on how Foundation Apprenticeships work and types that are available in your school. Please also see the link to Edinburgh College below, where there are more details of foundation apprenticeships <http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/Schools/Are-You-Still-At-School/Foundation-Apprenticeships>

Your son or daughter can register their interest online and their details will be passed on to your qualified school careers advisor who can discuss their options further. Your child's Pupil Support Leader or Depute Headteacher with responsibility for S5/6 curriculum will also

be able to advise about the range of Foundation Apprenticeship options and the application process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorna Sweeney". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lorna Sweeney

Service Manager, Schools and Lifelong Learning