



Case Study 2: School Pupils, Skills for Work

Skills for Work – Health Sector Intermediate 1 Course, West Lothian College

This course introduces pupils to the health sector and provides the opportunity to gain an SQA qualification at Intermediate 1 level. The units covered in the course include an introduction to the health sector, roles and responsibilities of those working in a health setting, health awareness, working safely and working in the life science industry.

This course was initiated as a result of an existing partnership between West Lothian College, Johnson & Johnson and Inveralmond Community High School.

Testimonials: West Lothian College/ Inveralmond Community High School partnership with Johnson & Johnson Pupil of the Skills for Work Health Sector Course Intermediate 1

I am 14 years old and I go to school at the Inveralmond Community High School. In 3rd year at school we were given a choice about what subjects we wanted to do the following year and I was interested in the Skills for Work Health Sector Course. We come to the West Lothian College

every Wednesday afternoon to learn about the health sector and to visit workplaces like Johnson & Johnson. When we went to Johnson & Johnson, we got to dress up in protective clothing to learn about sterile environments. We learnt a lot about hygiene and made sure that we used hand sanitisers and kept our hair tidy in the health workplace. I am looking forward to more workplace visits. I enjoy the course and in the future I would like to be a medic in the navy.

Pupil of the Skills for Work Health Sector Course Intermediate 1

Before going on the course I knew I wanted to work in health but I didn't know what type of job I would like to do. We have been on workplace visits to Johnson & Johnson. We were told about how to dress in sterile work environments. Make-up was not allowed and nails needed to be cut back, with our hair clean and tidy. They also showed us how easily bacteria can grow with an experiment growing bacteria in a petri dish. We were shown some of the products made by Johnson & Johnson like sutures and we learnt about how they are used in hospitals. At the moment I am working on a project where I have to research the roles people have in health in the voluntary sector, the life sciences and the NHS. I have learnt



that some of the jobs in the health sector include nurses, surgeons, midwives, pharmacists and also non-medical staff like receptionists, cleaners and janitors. I would recommend this course to other people because it gives you a wide knowledge of industry. Since being on the course, I now think that I would like to be a nurse.

Pupil of the Skills for Work Health Sector Course Intermediate 1

When we visited Johnson & Johnson we found out that they make artificial heart valves. They told us about the importance of quality and product testing in the life sciences industry. On the course I have also found out about some roles in secondary care that I didn't know about. These include people in health care who take blood samples from patients and deliver them to scientists to carry out blood tests, which help in patient diagnosis. Before going on this course, I thought that hospitals were just about doctors. I didn't realise that there were that many specialist areas including different types of surgeons and dentists. I would like to do nursing so this course is a good step for me.



Margaret Forisky, Schools Development Officer at West Lothian College

The activities offered through The Health Academy programme have had a very positive impact on all the students involved. As well as fuelling an interest in the healthcare industry, the programme also supports the development of a range of employability skills.

The Health Academy has given students access to the best of both worlds, as they have a recognised qualification as well as experience of studying in college and seeing what it is like to work in a healthcare environment.

The programme is rapidly gaining a reputation as a best-practice model for partnership between colleges, schools and industry. All the staff involved



have built excellent relationships and adopted a flexible approach to allow the pupils to get the most from the project.

David Brown, Bridge to Employment Programme Leader at Johnson & Johnson

Through the Bridge to Employment programme we aim to introduce students to a wide range of career options within the health sector and hopefully may inspire some of them to set their sights on a career in healthcare. We are delighted with the enthusiasm the students have shown and we look forward to continuing to support the Bridge to Employment initiative.