

Centre of
Excellence

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

NCFE


world**skills**suk



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The youth
employment
challenge:

delivering
opportunities
through skills
excellence



Department for the
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Scottish Funding Council
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Ysbrydoli Skills
Inspiring Skills



Aserni gys
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WorldSkills UK brought together employers, educators and MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum to discuss how innovation and excellence in technical education can help address the ongoing NEET challenge.

The discussion showed how WorldSkills UK's programmes, alongside provider-led innovation, are transforming young people's engagement in education and training, raising achievement and strengthening readiness for work. This pamphlet captures the key insights and lessons from that discussion. I hope it demonstrates the powerful role the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence can play in unlocking talent, building confidence and improving young people's futures across the UK.



Ben Blackledge
Chief Executive, WorldSkills UK



Delivering skills for employment

- For Skills Champion Rosie, taking part in WorldSkills UK competitions deepened her passion for following her career choice as an aircraft mechanic. She found she developed better practical and employability skills than her peers with the same theoretical knowledge.
- Luke started a three-year apprenticeship straight after his GCSEs and leveraged his involvement with WorldSkills UK to expand his knowledge and skills beyond the standard apprenticeship framework, giving him a distinct advantage over peers following a solely academic route.
- Harry, who set up his own joinery business, found that WorldSkills UK provided a platform for faster business growth through externally validated recognition for his world-class skills. This built trust with prospective clients, allowing him to win large-scale local jobs.





Ambition and opportunity – preparing young people to thrive in the world of work

- WorldSkills UK's local and national skills competitions give learners the chance to test their skills in real-world challenges giving them improved confidence, self-belief and resilience.
- The WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence delivered in partnership with NCFE is focused on improving the life chances of young people living in areas of high deprivation.
- Initiatives like 'Power up your potential' at North Warwickshire South Leicestershire College give learners a framework to develop and record their employability skills.

"I entered politics because I thought it was wrong that where people are born is the greatest indicator for where people end up in life. It was inspiring to see how WorldSkills UK and its partners are empowering young people with the work-ready skills, confidence and resilience they need to succeed. I would encourage political colleagues to find out more about skills competitions and educator workforce development happening in their constituencies and see how WorldSkills UK is equipping young people with the right skills to secure good jobs and meaningful opportunities."

Sarah Smith MP



World-class workforce development

- Young people want learning that is engaging, industry-aligned and develops critical employability skills and we must support educators to deliver that.
- The WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence is developing a confident, future-ready teaching workforce through NCFE-endorsed training.
- Involvement in WorldSkills UK's programmes helps forge stronger links between industry professionals and education, using their expertise to reflect the latest industry trends in teaching and connecting local employers with the content and judging of skills competitions.

"Being a member of the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence has created a community of best practice for staff across the group, empowering them to network and collaborate for the benefit of learners and local employers. Helping our educators to implement pressure testing through world-class teacher training has enabled us to improve learner performance and systematically measure their educational gains as they progress through their courses."

Julie Kaye, Vice Principal,
Education Programmes Young
People, DN Colleges Group





Driving excellence in technical and vocational education

- The Centre of Excellence empowers education leaders to innovate, delivering lasting institutional change and enhancing the reputation of technical and vocational education.
- Bringing inclusivity together with high standards and developing an excellence mindset helps young people who haven't had a good experience in their earlier education to engage and achieve more.
- Colleges serving communities with significant disadvantage have transformed their achievements at lower levels using WorldSkills UK benchmarking methods. At Middlesbrough College, through creating a sense of belonging, it has given learners a wider purpose, psychological safety to attend college, learn, achieve and thrive.

“We’ve been proud to partner with WorldSkills UK and invest in the Centre of Excellence, giving educators across the country access to an evidence-based and high-quality professional development programme”.

Philip Le Feuvre, Chief Operating Officer, NCFE

We believe every young person deserves the skills, confidence and opportunities to thrive at work. If you'd like to find out how WorldSkills UK is helping tackle the UK's youth employment challenge, or explore how we can work together, email getintouch@worldskillsuk.org