

## What has happened so far in Angus?

For a number of years, a well established partnership between Angus secondary schools and Angus College supported vocational learning and allowed pupils to benefit from high quality learning experiences. Recently, this partnership has developed to offer greater access to vocational learning and as a result:

- the uptake of accredited courses has risen by over 100% (in 2008/09, **more than four hundred S3/4 pupils - approximately one in seven - take a vocational learning option**)
- since October 2007, two new **Vocational Learning Centres** have been opened by Angus Council to meet the needs of young people and local communities in West and North Angus
- schools are **increasingly active in delivering accredited vocational courses in school** with the support of partners
- an increasing number of **employers are becoming directly involved in supporting vocational courses**; this is seen as a strength of the Angus model
- there is a growing appreciation that **vocational learning can be a valuable option for all pupils**, and schools increasingly timetable and plan for these courses like any other

## Where can I get more information about Vocational Learning?

You can learn how schools and local authorities are taking forward vocational learning within a Curriculum for Excellence by visiting:

### Learning and Teaching Scotland

[www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/index.asp](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/index.asp)

### Skills for Work Qualifications (Scottish Qualifications Authority)

[www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/32645.998.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/32645.998.html)

### Skills for Scotland: A Lifelong Skills Strategy (Scottish Government, Oct 2007)

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/09/06091114/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/09/06091114/0)

**Parents can keep up to date with what is happening in Scottish education by signing up for free email updates on new LTS publications by logging onto:**

[www.ltscotland.org.uk/news/updates/index.asp](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/news/updates/index.asp)

*You are encouraged to discuss the information contained in this leaflet with your child's school*

Insert school name and badge here

# Skills for Life

# Skills for Work

# Vocational Learning

# in Angus



**A guide for parents and carers**

## What is vocational learning?

For pupils aged 14+, vocational learning:

**Is** an opportunity to develop valuable skills for life and future employment in a work-related environment.

**Is not** intended as an early start to training for a particular job (although for some it can be a step towards a chosen career).

## What are the benefits for school pupils?

- Making learning enjoyable and relevant
- Access to a broader range of choices about what and how they learn
- The chance to learn in a different way and in a different environment
- Motivation about all aspects of their learning and not just vocational learning
- Acquiring essential skills for life and work that will enhance access to future employment
- Gaining an awareness of the workplace and the world of work
- Achieving qualifications equivalent to the more familiar 'academic' school courses; when pupils receive exam certificates, vocational courses appear in the same way as other courses
- Being able to make informed choices about future careers and employment

## What skills will young people develop?

The main focus is on helping to develop employability skills and attitudes needed to be successful in the workplace including:

- planning and organising
- numeracy and communication
- creative thinking and problem solving
- working with others
- motivation to learn
- being reflective and responsible for their own development
- using technology

## How does vocational learning fit with other changes in Scottish Education?

The ambition of a *Curriculum for Excellence* is that through their learning in and out of school, all young people can become:

**Vocational learning** is another important way

Successful Learners

Confident Individuals

Responsible Citizens

Effective Contributors

for young people to learn and develop the skills to equip them with these **four capacities**.

It also fits with the Scottish Government's *Lifelong Skills Strategy* (2007) which states "Investing in our people's skills .... is central to unlocking our potential" (Fiona Hyslop, MSP)

## What sort of vocational courses and qualifications are available?

Vocational courses are commonly delivered in partnership between a school and college, another training provider or directly with employers. Schools are increasingly finding new and creative ways to deliver vocational courses on-site. This means that pupils can choose from a number of courses including:

*Construction Crafts*

*Engineering Skills*

*Early Education and Childcare*

*Hairdressing*

*Digital Media*

*Hospitality*

*Motor Vehicle Maintenance*

*Sport and Recreation*

*Rural Skills*

*Health and Social Care*

All of these courses are offered at Intermediate 1 and 2 Level\* and are equivalent in demand and qualification to other courses that pupils commonly follow in S3/4 (eg Standard Grade General and Credit).

**Look out for information from your school on the range of vocational courses offered and how these will be delivered.**

\* Except *Rural Skills* (Intermediate 1 only) and *Health and*