

ENTREPRENEURIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

SOMETIMES IT'S THE HAYSTACK YOU NEED TO
FIND, NOT THE NEEDLE

St Andrew's RC Secondary School
2019

NoTosh Team:

Ewan McIntosh, Malie Watson,
Geraldine De Fazio, Keith Cook

Many young people struggle to find a meaningful work experience placement - either they can find none, or they're reduced to making tea and not gaining a realistic flavour of work. However, we know that entrepreneurship can happen anywhere - it doesn't need an office outside school. Crucially, entrepreneurship comes from a learnable set of skills and attitudes.

"It's simpler than we all think to make more of a dent in the world" -
Robyn

The 6th Year Student group at St. Andrew's RC Secondary School in Glasgow were set a challenge by NoTosh - to find a problem that they cared about, create a big idea to solve it, and then have their idea hit national television news before the end of the following month.

The entrepreneurial work experience was kicked off with an examination of the United Nations' Global Goals - things we know to be important but are less sure about in terms of their role at a local level. The S6 students were challenged to think like entrepreneurs and to find the relevance of these goals in their local, Glasgow or Scottish community.

Students worked across three intensive days, in small self-selected groups to produce a single 'How Might We' statement that propelled their self identified local problem, within the context of their UN goal, to a place of action, where ideas and potential solutions could then be floated, discussed and imagined.

To push their skillset further and challenge the students to operate in a work-like pressured environment, they were tasked with building and presenting a Pitch around their work. Each group was responsible for ensuring that every one of their members was equipped and prepared to tell the story around their problem and that they were able to give kind, specific and useful feedback to the other groups upon hearing their pitch.



“I now feel as though I can overcome tough challenges, never give up and feel confident about my ideas, make my voice be heard, and keep trying to always improve my targets” - Ana

Each of the pitches focused on changing the lives of other students, vulnerable members of the local community and the quality of life lived by many in Glasgow, with a clear problem and a forward-thinking, innovative but achievable plan to make the change required to begin to solve the issue at hand.

“If I have a goal or aspiration I want to achieve, I can’t let anyone get in the way of it” - Emma

Pitches were delivered in a ‘Market Place’ setting which saw each member of every team both present and listen to the pitches of others in the room before each student was then able to vote for up to five of their favourite pitches, but not their own.

The top six teams, voted for by their peers, were tasked with presenting to a full audience on the final day. However, the names of these top six teams were not immediately revealed and instead all teams worked on the assumption that their team may be one of the six to present.

Upon the final reveal, the top six teams were given 30 minutes to prepare before they stepped up and pitched to the full room before engaging in a short Q&A session at the close of their pitch.

Those students who did not find themselves pitching as one the top six groups were asked to listen carefully and consider which of these ideas they were most interested in and could offer support to and at the close of the final pitch, they were asked to head over to that team and begin to work on a plan of action for the next few weeks, in order to see the idea make national tv.

“You don’t have to wait for someone else to make the change for you, and you can be from any background” - Erin

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Let’s start talking.
info@notosh.com

**NOTOSH LTD
(EMEA)**
27 Lauriston Street,
Edinburgh,
EH3 9DQ,
UK

**NOTOSH LTD
(AUSTRALIA)**
PO Box 47,
Collins Street West,
Victoria, 8007,
Australia

**NOTOSH INC
(USA)**
PO Box 1520,
New York
NY 10013
USA

**NOTOSH INC
(CANADA)**
PO Box 646,
Toronto P,
Toronto ON M5S2Y4
Canada