

Johnston's Skills Programme

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Johnstons of Elgin have piloted their 'Schools Interaction Partnership' this session with all eight Moray Schools. Seven senior pupils were given the opportunity to visit Johnston's Woollen Mill on two mornings to learn about the different aspects of a business from the factory to the shop

floor. They watched an introductory video, were given a tour around the site, took part in short tasks which focussed on skills, received an illustrated talk by a senior member of staff and were able to interview apprentices from many different departments within Johnstons. These two mornings allowed pupils the opportunity to understand the different career paths available within one business and emphasised the expectations in terms of qualifications and skills.

On the third morning, four of the Forres Academy team delivered a presentation to several of Johnstons' senior staff. Their challenge was to explain what they felt to have been the benefits of this opportunity as well as to deliver suggestions on how the pupil experience might be improved further for future students. The Forres presentation team consisted of Angus MacLennan, Summer Midgley, Paul Walton and Fiona Muir. Summer Midgley (S5) said: "It was a good experience and gave me the chance to be independent. It was also really fun at the same time". Depute Head Teacher, Sandra McCulloch, added: "The four pupils who presented did extremely well as it is nerve-wracking for students to speak in front of senior business leaders but I was proud of their efforts and they will have improved their confidence and skills. I know all pupils who took part appreciated the time they were given to speak with apprentices and so receive a glimpse of what working life is like within a successful and historically significant local business".

Each student was delighted to receive a complementary Johnstons scarf with their initials embroidered onto it and the presenting students also received a school certificate for their participation, hard work and dedication.