



News Release



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BELL BAXTER PUPILS CARVE THEIR FUTURE

Making their mark in stone eighteen young people from Bell Baxter High School worked alongside experts from the Scottish Lime Centre Trust, as part of an academy forming the foundations for traditional heritage skills.

The academy, developed and supported by Fife Council and in partnership with Bell Baxter High School, presented the students with the challenge to design and produce their own “Mason’s mark” in blocks of stone.

Heather Brown, Employability Officer, Fife Council, said:

“It was such a fantastic afternoon with a captive audience that genuinely enjoyed the practical activity”

Sietse De Vries, Bell Baxter pupil said,

“For me the stonemasonry workshop was a fantastic look into an area that I have been interested in a long time. After a short talk on all the opportunities and work placements available in stonemasonry, we began to design our masons mark drawing upon inspiration from the many marks used in the past. When the designing was finished, after some short helpful tips on how to begin carving we were left to attempt to carve our mark. While this was tricky it was also immensely satisfying to see your own design slowly reveal itself and I am happy with the end result. A huge thank you to the Scottish Lime Centre for this opportunity and I look forward to attending more events.”

The academy will also give participants the opportunity to visit numerous businesses and projects to gain a wider understanding of heritage skills. The visits will include trips to the Scottish Lime Centre, Fife Council operations and also live construction projects.

Niall Duncan, Principal Teacher Employability and Work Experience at Bell Baxter, said:

“I look forward to progressing the partnership and I hope we can look at the possibility of a Heritage focused tour of Cupar, with the potential for the pupils to get involved in some more hands on work experience.”

The training is funded by Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme.

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Did you know?

- Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is operated by Fife Council and Fife Historic Buildings Trust, and core funded jointly by Historic Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and Fife Council. The five-year CARS/THI programme, which runs until March 2019, will deliver a number of elements: priority building projects, a building repair grant scheme, public realm improvements to Cupar streets and closes, and training, apprenticeships and community engagement.
- Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, it invests in every part of our diverse heritage. To date it has invested over £588million in Scotland’s heritage.

- HLF's Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) encourages partnerships of local organisations to carry out repairs and other works to a number of historic buildings, structures or spaces. Grants range from £500,000 to £2m. To date, HLF has invested over £214m regenerating towns that have suffered serious social and economic decline.
- Historic Scotland's Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) provides financial assistance, over a five year period, for Conservation Area based regeneration and conservation initiatives undertaken by Local and National Park Authorities, community groups and other 3rd sector organisations experienced in delivering multi-funded projects. Since 2005, there have been six CARS application rounds awarding £33m of Scottish Government investment.