



Reach Forward @ UC is a partnership delivered between Universal Connections and Rutherglen High School, a specialist additional support needs secondary school. The project aims to take some of the most disengaged young people, aged between 11 and 17, out of the school environment to offer an alternative (part time) curriculum in a community setting. The project was run in partnership with a member of the school’s teaching staff to ensure that both educational attainment and CLD values and standards were equally met. Young people covered aspects of the core curriculum including literacy and numeracy, and there is an equal focus on social skills and teamwork. The group worked together to plan and then run a pop-up cafe... for one morning at Universal Connections. The programme reintroduced young people back into school with an increased sense of positivity, resilience, confidence and interest in learning.

### Direct Impact

- 8 out of 9 young people showed improvement in literacy and numeracy (they were formally tested before and after the programme)
- 8 out of 9 young people improved their health and wellbeing
- Almost all young people overcame barriers to learning and demonstrated improved engagement in learning.
- 7 out of 9 young people developed new skills, including employability skills. 2 of the young people moved on to positive destinations and the rest stayed on at school.

### Accredited awards

All of the young people worked towards a Youth Achievement Award and a Community Achievement Award from Glasgow Kelvin College.

### Youth worker reflections on outcomes

“Group members who were previously isolated started to join and integrate into other community activities... Young people also asked to continue with some of their Reach Forward work, whilst attending the evening youth club...”

### Young person’s thoughts on how the group helped them:

“This group made a huge difference to me. The staff really listen and it made me more confident”

### School feedback

“...making the learning practical allows the learner to see real world applications... literacy and numeracy levels were raised by attending the programme, even when [the young people] were going through difficult situations outside of school. The young people also improved their social skills and tolerance levels towards others in the group...”