



**WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY**

15 JULY 2021

Today is World Youth Skills Day (WYSD). This United Nations' observed day celebrates the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

In this feature we take a look at the opportunities available for young people to upskill on St Helena, hear from a student currently on the Apprenticeship Scheme and introduce you to the newly established Career Access St Helena and the key role they have in upskilling our young people into professions needed on the Island.



**On St Helena our young people are key to the development of the Island.**

*"The Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio plays an essential role in the holistic development of St Helena through education, training and development of our young people and provision of further education and training opportunities for the wider community of St Helena."*

**Education, Skills & Employment Portfolio Director, Wendy Benjamin**

### Opportunities

The opportunities available to young people on St Helena to upskill or embark on chosen careers or professions include:

- Work Experience Programme
- The Apprenticeship Scheme
- Scholarship Programme
- Career Access St Helena and Life-long Learning.

*"I knew early on in my studies that I wanted to pursue a career in Law. During this time I also developed a passion for Psychology and therefore decided to base my GCSE and A-level studies around these two core subjects.*

*When the Apprenticeship Scheme was offered, I wanted to base my first few voluntary placements within sectors that would coincide with my A-level studies. I saw the Apprenticeship Scheme as an opportunity of gaining insight into those specific fields, therefore I requested to be placed within sectors that could develop my understanding and validate my career choice.*



*I have found the experiences very beneficial and have had the opportunity of learning many new things, such as being able to sit in open court sessions, which has given me great insight into legal proceedings.*

*I am due to complete my final Apprenticeship placement at the AG's Chambers in August. This will then follow a gap year where I hope to get a job that will support my aim of going to University through the Scholarship Programme to study Law and Psychology. I hope to work within a law-based role once I have completed my studies and return to St Helena."*

**Apprenticeship Student, Kelly Yon**

### Shortage Occupation List

The Island's Shortage Occupation list lists the types of job employers find it difficult to recruit into because of lack of skills or lack of people.

Career Access St Helena uses this list to identify where skills gaps exist to inform the Apprenticeship Scheme as well as in career guidance given to students.

### Apprenticeship Scheme

Kelly Yon is aspiring to study Law and Psychology through the Scholarship Programme and is currently on an Apprenticeship with the Attorney General's Chambers following placements at the Public Solicitor's Office, with the Educational Psychologist and Equality and Human Rights Office.

### Career Access St Helena

Career Access St Helena is a new addition to the Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio responsible for the employment component of the Portfolio which includes the voluntary Work Experience and Apprenticeship Programme.

Career Access St Helena is managed by Nicola Essex supported by Cynthia Bennett and Marcella Mittens.



*"Through Career Access St Helena we want to have an approved and established Career Development Programme that prepares our young people for the world of work and for the future development of the Island. We want to be able to provide the opportunity for all children to access either academic opportunities or work based training and development to increase their career opportunities through investment in an enhanced Apprenticeship Programme.*

*We will be looking to establish a Career's Centre that offers services to facilitate and support employment opportunities and employability and to have strong links with and support both the public and the private sector in the business of employment to provide training and development that meet the needs of the workforce on St Helena."*

**Career Access St Helena Manager, Nicola Essex, explaining the strategy of the service in relation to equipping young people with skills for employment.**

### Career Access St Helena Promise

We will:

- Highlight the opportunities available and empower individuals to take advantage of them to achieve our vision of 'St Helena - a great place to live, learn, work, visit and invest'
- Be informed by the Sustainable Economic Development Plan (SEDP) - ensuring that we have the necessary resources and guidance available for those wishing to pursue careers in the sectors highlighted in the SEDP
- Build on the Work Experience and Apprenticeship Scheme on offer for our youth and provide a one-stop service for career-related resources to empower individuals to increase their employability.