

Celebrating five years of partnership with QTS

Summary

Leading rail contractor QTS was the funding partner of YPI in Ayrshire for five years, donating more than £150,000 for young people to grant to local charities.

QTS has been an involved and proactive partner, judging at more than 80 YPI final showcases and mentoring students from across the region ahead of their final presentations.

There has been a deep and lasting impact created from this funding partnership.

"It is inspiring to see how many of the young people stay involved with their charities and who get so passionate about the cause they are campaigning for. Their creativity and enthusiasm are infectious and we really enjoy getting to see all of the presentations."
Alan McLeish, QTS



Students

Murray from Kyle Academy secured £3000 for local poverty and homelessness charity SeAscape with his teammate Julie. Their presentation was developed digitally during a period of lockdown.

"Being isolated at home with nothing to stare at but four blank walls consumed our lives for months and made us vulnerable to getting ourselves back out there again. YPI completely eradicated that. It grew our confidence, provided us with lifelong skills which can repeatedly be utilised, and gave us a challenge to solve when nothing else seemed to be happening in our lives."
Murray, Kyle Academy

Teachers

Doon Academy's finalist teams were mentored by QTS staff, who supported them in areas such as presentation skills, business case, and creativity.

"The QTS employee has given more value to the project and therefore the pupils are taking it more seriously."
Doon Academy

"It is wonderful to see QTS investing in our young people to support them in making a difference. We have had a great experience with QTS mentoring our finalists."
"QTS has also been really helpful in supporting our other whole school initiatives such as the Learn4Work Challenge. We have been able to establish and maintain a close partnership with them."
Gillian Dunsmuir, Stewarton Academy





"YPI is important as it gives young people this very real opportunity to make a difference."
Michelle Robertson, Children 1st

Charities

Michelle Robertson of Children 1st shared that the grant secured by Girvan Academy students will fund its Girvan Food Pantry which supports 180 people facing food insecurity.

The Wood Foundation

To support the sustainability and growth of YPI, The Wood Foundation works with likeminded funding partners regionally and nationally. These partnerships offer organisations the opportunity to delegate their grant making to young people and meaningfully engage in the community.

"We are incredibly grateful to QTS for its support of YPI in Ayrshire over the past five years. The team's commitment to young people and the local community has been evident throughout their active engagement in mentoring and judging, as well as sharing their experiences."
Ali MacLachlan, UK Director



75% of QTS staff who were YPI mentors stated an increase in job satisfaction; their pride and commitment in the company; and motivation towards work.

"With that boost to confidence as well through speaking to all the teachers and pupils and judging members, I definitely feel more comfortable standing up and doing my own presentation."

"I feel like my leadership skills have improved and I am now a lot more confident."

QTS staff

Top three skills improved by Ayrshire's young people through YPI: teamworking, problem solving, and research.

77% of Ayrshire's young people recognise the transferability of skills developed through YPI. This is 19% higher than the national average.

Top social issues represented:



Mental health



Health



Domestic and sexual abuse

