

2008 is already looking to be a busy and promising year for skills and training at Forster. We recognise that recruiting, retaining and developing skills in our people is fundamental to our business success and as such we are involved in a number of community and industry projects to make a difference where it really matters.

Enterprise in Education

On a local level we will strengthen our existing partnership with Brechin High School and participate in a unique model of delivering construction vocational training to school pupils. In April 2008, seventeen S3 pupils will attend Forster's Training Centre, every Thursday afternoon for a twelve week block programme to complete the new vocational roofing unit as part of the Scottish Executives Skills for Work programme. This is a pioneering approach between industry, further and secondary education establishments, Angus College will provide the lecturer and teaching materials, Brechin High will of course provide the pupils and teacher support and Forster will facilitate and manage the programme and in turn provide the pupils with a learning experience in a real working environment.



Angus Construction Training (ACT) Group

Forster continues to play a leading role in the administration of our regional ACT training group which in its first year completed the equivalent of 200 training days! Our first AGM in November 2007 saw the agreement of our Group Training Plan for 2008 based on the training needs of all our members. To date, two First Aid and six Health & Safety Awareness sessions have been delivered at Forster Training Centre and we look forward to those coming up including the Site Supervisor Certificate Scheme, CDM Regulations Planning & Supervisors course and PASMA Scaffolding Certificate.

Homes for Scotland, Skills & Training Group

Nationally, Forster is playing an active part in the Homes for Scotland Skills and Training Group who have been tasked to address the skills agenda for the home building industry in Scotland. Recognising that "another policy" alone will not provide the catalyst of cultural change required, Forster will work with other members of the group to create a strategy document supported with practical "How to" guides covering Apprentice Sponsorship Schemes, Company Training Plans, Management Development, CSCS certification. The Homes for Scotland strategy document and "How to" guides will be launched in April 2008 at Scotland's very first Skills & Training forum for the home building industry.



For more information about our commitment to the skills agenda or any of the initiatives above please contact Maureen Douglas, Forster's Human Resources Manager at maureen.douglas@forsterroofing.co.uk