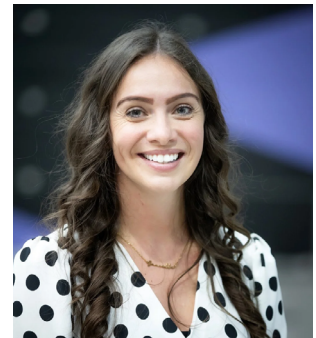


# Scotland Newsletter

## March 2026 | Issue 21



**Danielle Miller**  
Central Scotland Chair  
26/27

### News & Promotions

#### A note from Danielle Miller, Branch Chair for Central Scotland

Stepping into the role of Branch Chair for Central Scotland this month has been both an honour and a privilege. Over the past year as Vice Chair, I've had the opportunity to connect with so many inspiring members and supporters across our region, and it has reaffirmed what makes Women in Property such a brilliant network. WiP is powered by the energy and commitment of its volunteers, and I am incredibly proud of the dedication shown by our committee. Their hard work continues to deliver an inspiring programme of events, including CPD sessions, site visits, networking opportunities, and webinars that bring our community together.

Alongside **Claire Cockburn (Vice Chair)** and **Rebecca Stuart (Junior Vice Chair)**, I'm excited to lead a vibrant and engaging programme for the year ahead. Our theme for this year is **Male Allies**. While Women in Property has always championed women across the built environment, meaningful progress comes when everyone is part of the conversation. This year we will focus on growing and strengthening our network of male allies, encouraging men across the industry to actively support, challenge, and champion greater gender balance. We are stronger when we work together and collectively commit to creating a better, more inclusive working environment for all.

Building on last year's focus on removing the stigma surrounding mental health, this year we will also be **raising awareness of miscarriage and menopause**. These are not new topics for many people, yet despite how common they are, they remain surrounded by stigma and misunderstanding. My aim is to raise awareness, create visible peer support, and generate funding for two charities doing incredible frontline work in these areas. I strongly believe that when we create spaces for open conversation and support, we challenge stigma far more effectively than information alone. I've chosen these causes because I want women in our workplaces, our networks, and our communities to know they are not alone.

Finally, I would like to thank **Built Environment – Smarter Transformation (BE-ST)** for their support in enabling me to take on this role.

I would also like to recognise the incredible individuals who make up the Women in Property Committee. I have experienced first-hand the power of a supportive professional community. The culture of openness, encouragement, and collaboration created by our past Chairs, committee members, and members is what makes this network so distinctive and so valuable.

Together, we are not just building networks; we are shaping a more inclusive, supportive, and forward-looking industry for the future.

**Membership:** 23% increase in membership over the past year and 168% over the last 4 years.

**Award Recognition:** Winner of the 2026 Scottish Property Awards – Excellence in Equality and Inclusion Award.

**Student Success:** Supporting 17 students in Central and Northern Scotland, and 142 across the UK, through the WiP Student Awards programme.

**Annual Dinner Charity Partnership:** We were proud to support Chris's House at this year's Central Scotland Annual Dinner, helping to raise an incredible £25,000.

**LinkedIn Growth and Engagement:** Following the week after the dinner, LinkedIn impressions increased by 53%, alongside 80 new followers, 191 new page visitors, and appearances in 14,383 searches, demonstrating growing visibility and interest in our work.

**Events:** Hosting 62 events in the past 12 months across Edinburgh and Glasgow.

**Schools initiative:** Working with 70 pupils across two schools to bring the construction industry into primary and secondary education.

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# WiP Scoops Scottish Property Award for Excellence in Equality & Inclusion



We are thrilled to share that Women in Property Scotland has won the 2026 Scottish Property Awards Excellence in Equality & Inclusion Award. The ceremony took place on Thursday 26th of February at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Glasgow.



**SCOTTISH PROPERTY AWARDS 2026™**

The Excellence in Equality and Inclusion Award recognises organisations making a lasting impact in advancing diversity across the property and built environment sectors. It celebrates leadership that goes beyond policy statements, supporting initiatives that break down barriers, expand opportunities, and embed inclusive practices at the heart of the industry.

Across Scotland, we are making tangible progress—expanding mentoring, strengthening regional networks, championing female role models, and engaging the next generation through outreach and advocacy to inspire future talent and shape conversations around representation and culture. This includes hosting workshops, panel discussions, and networking events that connect emerging talent with experienced professionals. We are committed not only to helping women enter the industry but also to ensuring they thrive and lead within it.

We were delighted to have Laura McGuigan, Mairi Murray, and Anamika Dwivedi collect the award on behalf of the branch, representing the passion, resilience, and dedication of our entire community.

This recognition also underscores that equality and inclusion are central to building a resilient, innovative, and future-ready property sector. A diverse industry is stronger, and this honour affirms the value of sustained, collective action in achieving that vision.

This achievement belongs to our members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners whose support drives meaningful change across Scotland. We are proud of this milestone and inspired by what comes next.

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# Sequins, Strength & Success: Scotland WiP Annual Dinner 2026



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# Sequins, Strength & Success: Scotland WiP Annual Dinner 2026



The Women in Property Central Scotland Annual Dinner at the Hilton Glasgow once again proved why it has become a must-attend event in the property and construction calendar.

Our biggest dinner ever, with 473 attendees, brought together hundreds of brilliant, supportive, and inspiring women and allies. The evening celebrated connection, progress, and community. It was a reminder of how much progress is driven by women lifting each other up, challenging the norm, sharing experiences, and creating space for the next generation.

This year's "Strength, Success and Sequins" theme added Roaring Twenties-inspired glamour, with a sparkling drinks reception, a delicious three-course meal, and lively entertainment that kept the dance floor full.

A highlight came from speeches by Laura McGuigan and Danielle Miller. Laura's words resonated across the room: "Change never starts with comfort." It was a simple but powerful reminder of the courage and collaboration shaping the future of our industry.

The evening also had an important purpose beyond celebration. This year's dinner proudly supported [Chris's House](#), an organisation providing life-saving support to individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts while raising awareness of mental health. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, donors, and attendees, an incredible £25,000 was raised to help continue this essential work.

With inspiring role models, meaningful conversations, and a packed dance floor, the Women in Property Central Scotland Annual Dinner continues to bring the industry together in a truly uplifting and impactful way.

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# Sequins, Strength & Success: Scotland WiP Annual Dinner 2026



“ So well organised, fantastic theme, such a great charity partner, and what an awesome overall buzz. Loved, loved, loved it. Can't wait until next year... I suspect we'll be taking a few more tables so the whole BE-ST team can enjoy whatever you've got planned to top this one. ”

Stephen Good, BE-ST

“ Huge thank you to everyone involved in the evening. It was the best event that I have ever attended. What an absolute triumph by you all. ”

Iain Sneddon

“ I very much enjoyed the dinner. It was my first time attending the event, having only attended some very formal engineering dinners before, so I was surprised at how different it was and how much fun it was! It was also incredibly moving and inspiring listening to all the speakers. ”

Emma Towle

“ Really, it is the best dinner I have been to – the dance floor made it, and the piper, saxophonist, and DJ were such great fun ”

Jonathan Hindle, University of St Andrews

“ I honestly haven't stopped talking about the event since! It's definitely going to take some beating next year. I'm still grinning every time I think of it, such a great job by you all. ”

Gayle Murphy, Solace Interiors



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# WiP Scotland AGM: 2025 Highlights & 2026 Vision



It's AGM season at Women in Property, and the Scotland event, held at Everyman Cinema Edinburgh, was a fantastic reminder of the inspiration, impact, and truly special community WiP creates. Bringing members together to celebrate achievements and look ahead, the evening reflected the energy and ambition driving the branch forward.

A key highlight of the evening was recognising the exceptional contribution of outgoing Chair Laura McGuigan, who has led an outstanding year for Scotland. Under Laura's leadership, membership has grown by an impressive 68% over the past four years — a testament to the consistent delivery of engaging events, meaningful connections, and initiatives that support women across the property and construction industry. From workshops and networking events to mentoring and advocacy initiatives, Laura's commitment behind the scenes has ensured the branch continues to evolve while staying true to its core purpose. Her passion, drive, and dedication have left a lasting impact on members across the network.

The AGM also marked an exciting transition to incoming Chair Danielle Miller. Sharing the powerful message, "Never look down on someone unless you're helping them up," Danielle set an inspiring tone for the year ahead. Supported by Claire Cockburn as Vice Chair and Rebecca Stuart as Junior Vice Chair, she leads a dynamic team ready to build on this strong momentum, delivering new initiatives and opportunities for members across Scotland.

We were also delighted to hear from Catherine Dryburgh and Shona Boyd, outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Northern Scotland Hub, who shared updates on the exciting activity and growth happening in the North. The evening was further enriched by incoming National Chair Samantha McCabe, who highlighted the wider direction and ambitions of Women in Property across the UK. Together, the event celebrated achievements, strengthened connections, and set a positive tone for an ambitious year ahead.

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# Mentoring Programme

Claire Cockburn



Our mentoring programme continues to run, with regular training sessions held for new members. In November, we held our first event dedicated to the Mentoring Programme in Edinburgh, providing an overview of the scheme. WiP members Karen Pickering, Morag Dearsley, and Anamika Dwivedi also shared insights from their mentoring experiences, from both the mentee and mentor perspectives. Their stories demonstrated the value of the programme and the positive impact these relationships can have on careers and confidence. We intend to run a follow-up event later in the year in Glasgow, so keep an eye out for details.

The programme relies on volunteer mentors, so please consider putting yourself forward—anyone can be a mentor. We all have valuable experience that can support others. The programme is open to members only, and participants must attend a training session first. Contact [mentoring@womeninproperty.org.uk](mailto:mentoring@womeninproperty.org.uk) or [claire.cockburn@purcell.com](mailto:claire.cockburn@purcell.com) for more information.

## Mentee benefits:

- Gaining confidence
- Career goals clarity
- Broader insights into opportunities
- A supportive role model

## Mentor benefits:

- Personal fulfilment
- Renewed enthusiasm for their own careers
- Increased confidence
- Valuable self-reflection,
- The reward of helping someone realise their potential

# Student Awards Kick Off

Morag Dearsley and Eilidh MacPherson



We're delighted to share that we had 17 student nominations from Central Scotland, who attended regional interviews in Edinburgh and Glasgow this March.

We're also thrilled that our three sponsors — Tilbury Douglas, Avison Young, and BakerHicks — are once again supporting this year's Student Awards.

The Women in Property Student Awards are a regional highlight across our UK branches, as we seek out the brightest and best built environment students.

Why not join us in showing your commitment to the next generation? We still have some fantastic sponsorship opportunities available. Find out more [here](#).



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# Winter Drinks 2025



## Upcoming Events

### MARCH

**Webinar: Renters' Rights Act**  
27 Mar / Virtual

**WiP x BPF Futures Political Briefing  
Breakfast – Dentons**  
30 Mar / Edinburgh

### APRIL

**Next Gen Kick-off Event**  
2 Apr / Glasgow

**New Members Welcome Breakfast**  
22 Apr / Edinburgh

**The People-Innovation-Place Summit  
2026 hosted by Women in Property**  
23 Apr / Manchester

**Royal Botanic Gardens Biomes  
– Site Visit**  
30 Apr / Edinburgh

### MAY

**The National Centre for Music  
– Site Visit**  
7 May / Edinburgh

**Central Scotland Summer Drinks &  
Student Awards Celebration – The  
Scotsman Hotel**  
14 May / Edinburgh

**The Avenues – Site Visit**  
19 May / Glasgow

**The Avenues – Site Visit**  
19 May / Glasgow

**WiP National, Breakfast Panel  
at UKREiIF: Drivers and Barriers  
– Market Update 2026**  
19 May / Leeds



More than 115 members and guests came together last December in Edinburgh for the Women in Property Scotland Winter Drinks, an evening full of festive energy, conversation and connection. Fortunately, the winter weather cooperated this year, allowing everyone to arrive dry and ready to celebrate.

Hosted at Bonnie & Wild's Scottish Marketplace, the venue provided the perfect backdrop for a relaxed yet lively evening. As canapés circulated and glasses clinked, the room quickly filled with animated discussion and new introductions.

We were delighted to hear from a fantastic group of speakers. Laura McGuigan celebrated the Central Scotland branch's achievements over the past year, while Samantha McCabe shared insights from a national Women in Property perspective. Cameron Stott provided updates from the Scottish Property Federation, and Lynn Kelly highlighted the important work of Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH). Kevin Urquhart also spoke about Suicide Awareness training delivered in partnership with SAMH.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and made the evening such a success.

Find out more about [Suicide Prevention in Construction Training here](#). Details are also available via: [ciif.training@samh.org.uk](mailto:ciif.training@samh.org.uk). Both organisations and individuals can book onto the training.

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# Laura McGuigan Wraps Up Year as WiP Central Scotland Chair



We asked Laura to sum up her year as chair, achieving absolutely phenomenal things and pushing the boundaries. Here's what she said:

"I can't believe it's this time already; it's a bittersweet moment. As I wrap up my year as Chair, I'm incredibly proud of what our Central Scotland branch has achieved together.

This year, my focus has been supporting **mental health and challenging stigma for people of all genders and career stages**. Through events, open conversations, and signposting support, I've worked to help create safe spaces where people can thrive. A standout moment was collaborating with **CITB, SAMH, Barratt Homes, and**

**David Wilson Homes** to develop a **construction-focused Suicide Awareness Training Programme** — important, necessary work I'm grateful to have contributed to. ([Training details available via: ciif.training@samh.org.uk](mailto:ciif.training@samh.org.uk))

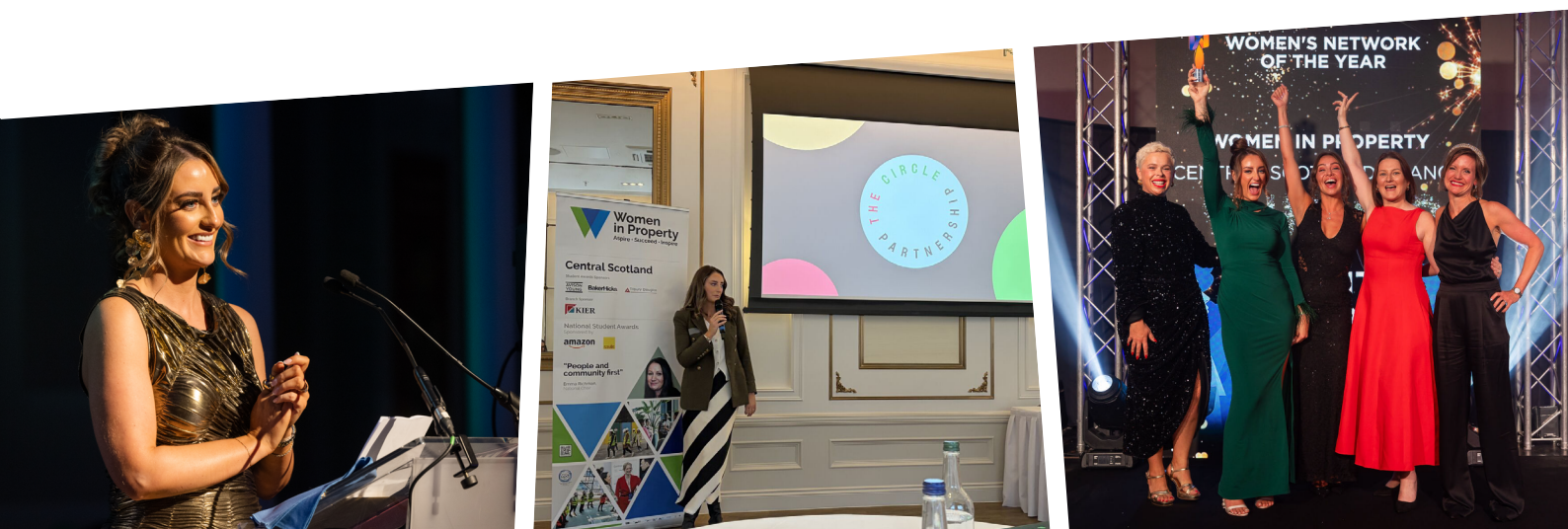
Women in Property's strength lies in its community — diverse, welcoming, and supportive at every career stage. From our **school outreach** and **student awards** to the launch of our **Next Gen Committee** and the growth of our **Northern Scotland hub**, our network is opening doors for the next generation while also supporting our members through **1-2-1 mentoring**.

I'm especially proud that our branch was recognised externally this year, winning: **Inspiring Women in Construction & Engineering – Women's Network of the Year** and **Excellence in Equality & Inclusion at The Scottish Property Awards**. A testament to the impact we're making across the UK and to building the foundations of a more inclusive and equitable industry.

My sincere thanks go to our branch sponsor, **Kier Construction**, whose support has enabled me to fully embrace this role and give it everything I could.

I'm delighted to hand over to the exceptional **Danielle Miller** — a powerhouse of organisation, drive, and vision. The branch is in brilliant hands, and I am not going too far. We achieve the most when we do it together. Thank you to everyone who has supported, volunteered, collaborated, and championed our mission this year. Let's keep building a more inclusive, confident, and connected industry for all the women who follow."

Laura McGuigan you are a total powerhouse and well done on everything you've achieved over the last year!



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### A Note from the 2026–27 Northern Chair – Shona Boyd

It's a real privilege to step into the role of Chair for the Northern Scotland Hub of Women in Property. I joined Women in Property in 2022 as a member and soon after became part of the committee. From day one, Women in Property has been a supportive, uplifting space for me, and as I've progressed in my career here in the North East, I have felt incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by a network of talented women.

Part of what drew me to the organisation is the ongoing need for better representation. Across the UK and Ireland, women make up only 17% of Chartered Surveyors (RICS Insight Report, 2023), showing that we still have a long way to go. As Chair, I'm keen for us to continue showcasing the opportunities available to young women considering surveying or other roles in the property sector. Alongside this, it's vital that we bring male colleagues into the conversation. Real progress relies on open dialogue and collaboration, and I want to help make our industry accessible and welcoming for everyone.

We have a busy year ahead, and I'm delighted to be working with our Vice Chair, Catherine Cope, and the wider committee to deliver an exciting programme of events and initiatives across the region. We're also thrilled to have a sub-committee now running events in Tayside, complementing what we're delivering in Aberdeen.



#### Business Breakfast: Taking Control – Financial Wellbeing for Women – January

Our Northern Scotland branch began 2026 with this event, sponsored and hosted by Graham + Sibbald in Aberdeen. Led by Sally Bryant of The Bia Partnership, the session explored key financial challenges facing women, including the pension and gender pay gaps, divorce and pension awareness, and menopause-related career impacts. Sally shared practical guidance on budgeting, saving, investing, and retirement planning, leaving attendees with greater clarity and confidence around their long-term financial wellbeing.



#### Wellbeing Series: Yoga with Breakfast and Networking – February

In February, the Northern Scotland branch organised a wellbeing morning at CMS Aberdeen's new Queens Road event space, bringing together yoga, breakfast, and networking. Laura Watt from [Breathing Space](#) led a 45-minute session, focusing on movement, mindfulness, and energising the body and mind. Attendees enjoyed a light breakfast afterwards, with time to connect and network. The session was praised for promoting wellbeing, fostering collaboration, and setting everyone up for a productive day.



#### WIP x SPF Policy Bites – Post Scottish Budget Briefing and 2026 Policy Outlook – February (Webinar)

Women in Property Scotland, in collaboration with the Scottish Property Federation, kicked off their 2026 Policy Bites webinar series. The first session featured SPF Director David Melhuish, who unpacked the 13th January Scottish Budget announcement and its implications for the real estate sector. He also provided a policy outlook for the year ahead, covering key topics such as the Building Safety Levy and the Housing (Scotland) Act.

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### WiP x Breathe – Getting the Most from 2026 – January

Members and guests gathered at Kong, Glasgow, for the WiP event 'Getting the Most from 2026 – Stop Being Busy, Start Being Strategic About Your Visibility at Work', hosted by Cara Ashton. Attendees heard from Bev Williams of [Breathe Executive Coaching & Consulting](#), who shared practical insights on the difference between being busy and being strategic at work. The session explored intentional visibility, purposeful networking, and practical tactics to help professionals raise their profile and support long-term career progression.



### Inside Shore Station, Leith – Site Visit and Project Tour – February

WiP members visited the Shore Station development in Leith, hosted by Civic and the wider project team. Lucie Killen, Ross Campbell, and Alice See-Hoo shared the vision and design approach behind the scheme, highlighting its response to the historic waterfront setting while delivering high-quality contemporary homes. The visit offered insight into this key regeneration project and the collaboration of the design team. Thank you to Civic, MLA, and McAleer & Rushe for hosting and sharing their expertise.



### IWD Special 'Pilateas' Event: Rewind over Pilates, Tea and Networking – Sponsored by BE-ST – March

We marked International Women's Day with a special "Pilateas" event in Glasgow. Hosted at The Delphine in Princes Square, the evening began with a 45-minute beginner-friendly Pilates session, followed by relaxed networking over tea, matcha, soft drinks, and cake. Kindly sponsored by Built Environment – Smarter Transformation (BE-ST), the event offered a welcoming space for women across the property sector to unwind, connect, and prioritise wellbeing after a busy day.



### Inside HMP Glasgow – January

Twenty WiP members had the chance to visit the new HMP Glasgow construction site in January, kindly hosted by main contractor Kier Construction. We heard from Rebecca Calam, Design Manager, and Steven Cheyne, Operations Manager, who guided us through the site and explained the project's holistic, rehabilitation-focused ethos, thoughtful design principles, and modern construction methodology. Located on the former Provan Gas Works site in Glasgow's East End, this major development will replace the 143-year-old HMP Barlinnie.



The scale is incredible — over 1,000 people are on site at any given time, supported by a dedicated logistics team ensuring safe and efficient delivery. Seeing the vision and progress up close was truly impressive. Now that we've explored both the design and the site, we can't wait to watch the project take shape over the coming months. A huge thank you to our sponsor, Kier, for hosting us and sharing such valuable insight into this transformative project.

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# Schools Outreach

Jillian Love and Kim-Marie Bryce



The Schools Outreach Programme at Falkirk High School is progressing extremely well, with pupils on track to present their model designs and final presentations at the end-of-year showcase in May at the newly redeveloped Rosebank Distillery.

The programme resumed in January with a Quantity Surveying session, supported by volunteers from Kier Construction and AtkinsRéalis. February featured an exciting programme, including a hands-on visit to the BE-ST factory in Hamilton on Thursday 12 February, followed by a Business Development, Bids, and Marketing session on 24 February.

Jill Love, Submissions Manager at Kier Construction and programme facilitator added:

"The sessions help pupils connect their skills and interests with career opportunities in the industry. It's been brilliant to see their confidence grow as the programme progresses. Hearing from volunteers who have taken different routes into construction reinforces the 'no wrong path' message and eases anxiety about the future.

Our industry volunteers have been incredible, both in planning and in their time with pupils. We extend a huge thank you to everyone involved. Stepping away from the office can be challenging, but the positive impact on pupils makes it truly worthwhile."

**If you'd like to find out more about our Schools Outreach Programme, please get in touch:**  
[k.bryce@mlaarchitects.co.uk](mailto:k.bryce@mlaarchitects.co.uk)  
[jill.love@kier.co.uk](mailto:jill.love@kier.co.uk)

**"We do have industry representation across a range of subjects, but we haven't had this level of commitment before. The support from Women in Property, Kier Construction and MLA has been fantastic. The pupils know what's expected of them and when each session will take place, which brings real consistency to the programme. They're engaged, working well in their groups, and developing the design and construction skills they'll showcase to Falkirk Council, the head teacher and their parents in May."**

**Ashley Campbell, Faculty Head of Technologies and the teacher leading the programme**



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