

INDUSTRY: ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAMME: FARMER JONES ACADEMY
ACTIVITY: WORK-BASED LEARNING
SCHOOL: NAIRN ACADEMY

Farmer Jones Academy is a project led by farmer Richard Jones, along with business partner Sarah Mackenzie that teaches young people about all elements of the farming, food and drinks industries, from growing their own food, to marketing it and selling it, as well as how to use it in a kitchen environment. It also allows pupils to complete a Foundation Apprenticeship in food & drink – the first in the region.

In addition to the above, environmental conservation runs through the whole programme. The FA is housed in Nairn Academy, and has included the installation of poly tunnels for food production and a pupil-run Beach Café. There are also incredible plans for an orchard and other food growth sources. The pupils have also developed a convenience product 'Speedy Beans', served in the Beach Cafe.



On Wednesday 21 August 2019, Nairn Academy welcomed Deputy First Minister John Swinney to share how efforts to promote Scotland's food and drink industry have led to far-reaching opportunities for the region. As part of his role as Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Mr Swinney discovered how the school is working with industry partners to get more young people into the farming & food and drink sectors.



"Innovative projects such as the Farmer Jones Academy provides opportunities for young people to develop their skills right here in the Highlands and go as far as their talents will take them and that can only be good for young people and the wider community."



Despite the plentiful opportunities in the sector, relatively few young people have chosen it as a careercareer path in recent years. To remedy this, Nairn Academy has forged a first-first-of-its-kind partnership with Farmer Jones Academy.

The success of the programme will support the Scottish Government's aim of doubling the size of the food and drink industry to £30bn within 10 years. With the support of Developing the Young Workforce Inverness & Central Highland, Skills Development Scotland and Food and Drink Federation the Farmer Jones Academy have successfully bid for 40 Foundation Apprenticeships in Food and Drink Technology.

The Apprenticeships are open to senior pupils and will be delivered in Nairn Academy & five other schools across the region. Younger pupils will be offered gateway courses.



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