

F4S



Ignite

inspiring Scotland's
entrepreneurs of
the future.

Educator Guide: Week 1
Who can be an entrepreneur?

Introduction

Ask most people to name an entrepreneur and, chances are, they'll name someone like Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, or maybe a YouTuber.

But the reality is that entrepreneurs from all walks of life are at work every day across Scotland – fuelling innovation, improving local communities, and driving inclusive economic growth. People like:



Lizzie Smith

Born with cerebral palsy and dyslexia, Lizzie creates books that simplify complex health conditions and medical procedures for young children.



Tynah Matembe

Tynah founded financial literacy app MoneyMatix to help others better understand how to take control of their financial lives.



Joe Donald

In their early 20s, Joe and his brother created TripTix, an app and newsletter that's helped 80,000+ football fans travel to see the sport without hassle.

In this week's Ignite, we're busting myths about what it means to be an entrepreneur. We also explore the skills needed, and show young people that anyone can do it – including them.

This guide is designed to improve your own understanding of what it takes to be an entrepreneur, so you can empower and prepare your students to gain the mindset needed.

What is an entrepreneur?

Entrepreneurs are defined not by their job titles, but by their mindset – their ability to think creatively, adapt to challenges, and take action.

The entrepreneurial mindset is at work in all aspects of life, from businesses to community projects to schools. It's not just about starting new businesses.



As educators, you have the power to **spark entrepreneurial thinking** in your students. This mindset will serve them (and Scotland) well, no matter what path they choose in life.

By equipping them with the skills and confidence to start something new, you're helping shape Scotland's **next generation of innovators, leaders, and changemakers.**

Who can be an entrepreneur?

Many often believe that entrepreneurship is reserved for the select few with specific backgrounds, degrees, or even a family history of entrepreneurship.

These misconceptions can discourage students from exploring their potential as innovators and problem-solvers.

The truth is that entrepreneurship is a mindset and a skillset that anyone can develop, regardless of age, education, or financial resources – and it's never been more accessible.



Dragon's Den's **Duncan Bannatyne** was born into poverty in Clydebank and left school at 15 without qualifications. He bought an ice cream truck for £450 and eventually grew it into a business empire spanning health clubs, hotels, and media.



Sara Blakely, the founder of shapewear brand Spanx started her billion-dollar business at age 27 with no formal business training or financial investment.

What skills are needed?



Entrepreneurship is not just for 'business-minded' people – it's about nurturing transferable skills all students can develop. How can you get your students to reflect on, and build these skills?



Creativity

Thinking differently and generating new ideas.



Problem Solving

Finding innovative solutions to challenges.



Resilience

Bouncing back from setbacks and learning from failure.



Confidence

Believing in their ability to make an impact.



Taking Action

Taking small steps toward their goals rather than waiting for the 'perfect' moment or resources.

This week's lesson

Experiences & outcomes



I can explain what it means to be an entrepreneur and understand that anyone, including me, can develop the mindset and skills to start something new.



I can identify examples of entrepreneurs from different backgrounds and recognise that entrepreneurship is for all.

Featured entrepreneurs



Renuka Ramanujam is the Oban-based founder and CEO of Huid, a biotech start-up with a focus on using onion skins to replace plastic food packaging. With the goal of eradicating single-use plastic, Renuka is merging design and science to create better solutions for our planet. She is the winner of the Innovate UK Scotland Launchpad, the Young Innovators Award, and the Scottish Edge Young Edge award.



Leah Hutcheon is the founder and CEO of Appointedd and has been named the NatWest UK Small Business Entrepreneur of the Year. Her award-winning technology powers bookings globally for brands such as Charlotte Tilbury, Lego, and Clarks. Before venturing into the tech industry, Leah worked as a magazine editor. Leah lives in Edinburgh.



Louise Hepworth is the founder of The Croft House, a sustainable knitwear collection based in Peterhead in Aberdeenshire. Her designs are inspired by the landscape of Scotland and traditional knitting techniques. For the first few years, it was a true 'kitchen table' business, but the Croft House now attracts customers from all over the world.

How to use this content

We've designed this programme to be flexible, so you can use it as homework, in class, or for an assembly. For example:

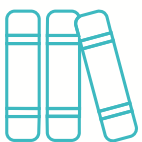


Assign one or more of this week's videos as homework. Students can access them via our [YouTube channel](#).

Encourage students to discuss the videos with their families that evening.

The following day, lead a reflection discussion in form time about the videos, using these questions:

- How does the entrepreneur's story challenge any assumptions you may have had about starting a business?
- What qualities or skills do you think have helped her succeed in her entrepreneurial journey?
- Which of these do you already possess, and which could you work on developing?
- Renuka took on a global issue, plastic waste. If you could tackle one problem through entrepreneurship, what would it be and why?



Alternatively, integrate the full lesson plan (see next page) into your teaching schedule.

The lesson plans includes a starter exercise, a development discussion, reflection questions, and a homework challenge.

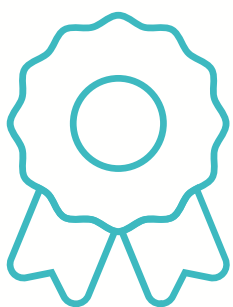
Lesson Plan (1 of 2)

Activity	Theme	Timing
Starter: Myths & reality	Present the common myths about entrepreneurship (see provided slides). Ask students to decide if each statement is a myth or reality, discussing as a class.	10 min
Development: Meet some entrepreneurs	Show pictures and brief descriptions of six diverse entrepreneurs who have excelled in different industries. Give students post-it notes to answer the following questions. Then facilitate a class discussion with feedback of ideas. <i>Similarities:</i> What do these entrepreneurs have in common? <i>Differences:</i> How do their journeys and approaches differ? <i>Traits:</i> What personal qualities or traits helped them succeed? <i>Lessons:</i> What lessons can we take from their stories?	20 min
Main Activity: Watch video	Show Renuka's video , where she shares her story and journey into entrepreneurship.	20 min

Lesson Plan (2 of 2)

Activity	Theme	Timing
Reflection Questions	<p>Following Renuka's video, lead a class discussion, using the following questions:</p> <p><i>How does Renuka's story challenge any assumptions you may have had about starting a business?</i></p> <p><i>What qualities or skills do you think have helped Renuka succeed in her entrepreneurial journey?</i></p> <p><i>Which of these do you already possess, and which could you work on developing?</i></p> <p><i>Renuka took on a global issue, plastic waste. If you could tackle one problem through entrepreneurship, what would it be and why?</i></p>	10 min
Lesson Challenge / Homework*	<p>Research a problem in your community, school, or a global issue that you're passionate about solving.</p> <p>Write a one-paragraph problem statement explaining why it's important to address.</p> <p><i>*You may also wish to assign the supplementary videos (Leah and Louise) as homework and have discussions in form time.</i></p>	20 min

Let us know how it's going



We want to hear about how you are using Ignite, and which problems your students want to solve.

Share your stories or highlights here:

[Feedback Form](#)

We'll share examples of these in our upcoming content and on social media.

At the end of the programme, we'll also ask you to submit your Student Challenges for a chance to win a prize and recognition.



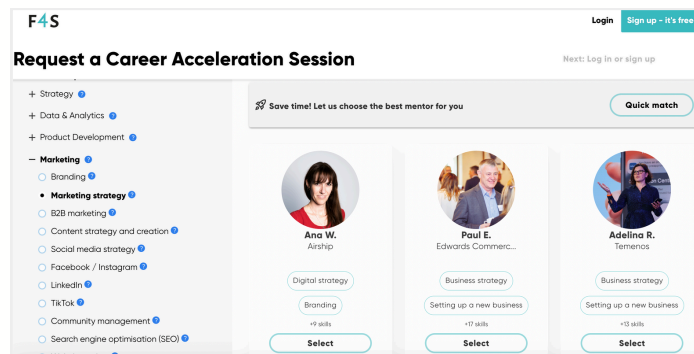
Need help? Let us know.

ignite@founders4schools.org.uk

Invite entrepreneurs to speak to your school

Supplement the Ignite video content by inviting entrepreneurs to work directly with your school and / or students.

Via our easy-to-use platform, you can search for role models and easily invite them to present to your class or take part in career events.



1. Tell us what you'd like a volunteer to speak about
2. Search volunteers' profiles (or let us choose speakers for you)
3. Invite them to speak!

It's all managed through your personal dashboard.
Get started now! [Find a volunteer](#)

Notes / Actions