



Former Pupil Profile



Former Head Boy, Alex Richards (Class of 2010), tells us about his entrepreneurial career and experiences in youth work and volunteering.

Where are you now?

(What has been your journey since you left HC?)

I spent 4 years studying Youth and Community Work and Applied Theology at the International Christian College and alongside this was a part time youth worker in South Edinburgh. After my 4 year-long placement finished, I had to find funding to continue the work I was doing in the local high schools. This seemed a huge task and so instead set up my own business, Activity Delivered, running activities for children's birthday parties as well as adventure weekends away and corporate events. Originally this was to run at the weekends and I would then do youth work during the week funding myself. However Activity Delivered has quickly evolved into a full time job. We now employ youth workers all over the UK helping to fund their salary by them working a few hours at the weekend for us! It has been quite an adventure but although I don't get to do as much youth work personally, I know that we are benefiting thousands of young people through the financial support we are giving other youth workers.

Tell us about your career highlights.

My biggest highlight would have to be setting up my own business. It was a huge risk for me putting everything on the line and giving up doing youth work but I had always wanted to do it. It all just fell into place! We've run corporate days for Tesco, we have a partnership with Toys R Us and even run our events at a private castle for one of Scotland's billionaires. We also had the privilege of running the activities at a new Campsite all summer in Crieff with a charity called Young Life International. This was an incredible 6 weeks of getting to work closely with an amazing team and be part of something very special happening up there.

What did you learn at Hamilton College that you have taken into your career?

At Hamilton College I had the chance to try a huge range of different experiences, from classes to extra-curricular activities. This allowed me to discover what I really loved doing. This let me really explore what I enjoyed and was able to focus on that as I progressed through the school. As well as this, the school allowed me to explore my own faith in a safe environment. I felt that because faith wasn't a taboo subject, I was able to openly discuss and think about it and make a decision that changed my life.

What advice would you give to current Hamilton College pupils?

My advice is to stick with the things you think you will never need! I remember questioning when I would ever use Pythagoras and 5 years later Activity Delivered are developing our very own range of inflatable portable buildings and I am sitting down and working out the slopes of roofs. I wish that I had worked harder in Business Management because now I find that I am having to learn things that I could have learned back at school. Listen and take in as much as you can because you will never know when you might need it!

Being confident is also a big factor, even when you don't feel it! If you can stand up in front of people and pitch an idea, sell a vision or stand up for something you believe in then you will find yourself in places you would never have imagined!

Any special memories from school?

The music department played a huge role for me. I spent the majority of high school thinking I would go on to study Opera at the then RSAMD, and so I spent a lot of my time there with some great teachers and friends. Mrs Duncanson's English classes were always quite an experience too! I remember having to write an essay EVERY WEEK! It seemed so much work but looking back now it was great preparation for University where I had 10 times the workload, as well as working a part time job! The trip to Burkina Faso was a huge highlight for me. It really rounded off my 6 years at Hamilton College.

Alex took part in the recent Careers Event and gave pupils great advice about setting up their own business and volunteering in youth work.

If you would like to find out a bit more about Activity Delivered visit www.ActivityDelivered.com