



**Name**

Paul Ward

**Leaving Year**

2013

**Current Job Title**

Senior Associate

### **Favourite Priory Memory**

At Priory my favourite memory would be achieving Head Boy and carrying out all the roles that were involved. The reason I have chosen this is because it allowed me to develop in confidence, in presenting when doing speeches but also in a wide range of other skills. It was somewhere for me to start off in developing myself as individual when going through the difficult stages.

### **What have you done since leaving Priory?**

Since leaving Priory Integrated College I have studied at the University of Stirling, where I carried out my Undergraduate and Masters Degrees. While studying these degrees I worked in a variety of roles at Tesco. These included Team Leader, Checkout Operator and also in Grocery. In my Undergrad I carried out a dissertation inside the organisation of Hargreaves Plc. In this I investigated how Multi-Criteria Decision-Making could improve the efficiency of heavy plant

machinery. After completing my undergraduate I was considering going straight into the working environment, however, I still felt my experience was low. From this and speaking to my supervisor of my dissertation, I applied for my Masters. With this Masters I also received a scholarship through The Data Lab. In the scholarship with Th Data Lab it allowed me any many other students who had achieved this to attend a wide range of events including networking events with employers. Through The Data Lab and in my Masters I'm gained an internship with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). While carrying out this internship I carried out a consultancy project for my masters. In this I looked into how data and Technology are currently impacting education but also how they will have an impact in the future as they develop. Now I am finished my degrees I am now working in the Finance Industry, where I deal with large amounts of data in order to provide Clients, Members and Partners with the information that they request alongside a variety of other aspects.

### How did your experience at Priory help you achieve success?

At Priory Integrated College I had an amazing experience. Before coming to Priory I lived a different life and was a completely different individual in the terms of always being in trouble. When arriving at Priory I gained the amazing support but also the fellow pupils were great allowing me to turn my life around and become the person I am today. While at Priory I did suffer from Mental Health problems through out my GCSE's and A Levels. However the support that the teachers provided at Priory was absolutely amazing. I was able to pull through and get the great result needed to get into university and begin the path I am on today. Not only did it allow me to get the grades it allowed me to improve upon my health. The school not only provides great education but also great support the students.

What one piece of advice would you give to current students?

I would advice other students to focus on what they want to do once finished at Priory. It will change and can change. For example, if you decide to go to university and want to do teaching. Do it, it is your life and you're the one living it. If you decide to change it, change it. That is one area that I didn't do well in.

What is your next big goal?

I have a passion for business but due to the difficult experiences I have faced I also have the inspiration to help others. Even though I've also studied business, I have always thought about teaching. My next goal is to go back into education soon and achieve a PGDE to teach Secondary Business. This will allow me to assist others and continue my passion on business.

