

LIFE AFTER TANFIELD

NAME: PAUL CAINE

PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1992 TO 1997

MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD

Whilst at Tanfield, I had always wanted to work in finance so I went on to study Business at New College Durham. Having completed the course with a Distinction I then spent 6 months in Denmark studying Danish. Living away from home in a foreign country was a good experience, albeit a cold one as my stay in Copenhagen was from December to June, and their winters can get to minus 15 °C.

I then went on to study BA (hons) Business Studies at Sheffield Hallam University. Sheffield is a fantastic place and I made some amazing friends whilst living there. Having always wanted to go to university, it very much lived up to my expectations. I graduated with a 2:1 degree, then progressed to studying marketing at postgraduate level in Leeds. In hindsight, moving jobs at the peak of the financial crisis in 2008 probably wasn't the best idea, and whilst I enjoyed living in Leeds, I never settled there from an employment perspective, moving from job-to-job in marketing due to many cutbacks in that sector.

I decided that marketing wasn't the career for me and in December 2010 I moved back to the North East and studied to be a personal trainer. I successfully set up my own business running fitness boot camps, which was very different to what I had done previously and built upon my passion for fitness and nutrition. Around this time, I met up with Cheryl Nicholson, a classmate from Tanfield who I hadn't seen since school. We hit it off and very quickly were in a relationship. Shortly afterwards we had the amazing news that Cheryl was pregnant and our daughter Thea was born in 2012.

As a family we have had some great adventures, living in Lancashire and Cumbria before doing full circle and settling down in the North East. My boot camp business did not survive the transition to the North West however, and as a result, unbelievably, I found myself back in marketing for around six months before being made redundant....again!!

This led to a career change to finance and it was just what I needed. I have worked in Financial Services now for eight years and have progressed to the position of Associate Director within a financial services compliance firm. I have continued my studying and won the top prize in 2019 (Maddox Award), which is a national prize for the highest overall grades in the Country, something that I am hugely proud of.



Cheryl and I were married in 2019 and together we are exploring as many countries in the world as possible, including the Maldives where we went to for our honeymoon. Our daughter Thea is an ambassador for Born Free and is inspiring young people to think more carefully about how we as humans treat animals.

I have always been a keen sportsman and love playing both cricket and football. I still play football today although now it is for an over 40s team.