

From School Pupil to School Pastor in 50 years!

I started my secondary school education in 1965 at what was then called PHS and was situated on the present PGS site in Gowans Terrace. I had failed my 11Plus exam and instead of going to Perth Academy which was a hundred yards from my home I had to make the journey into town then up to Gowans Terrace. Little did I realise then that 50+ years on from that first day I would return as a School Pastor!

I enjoyed my time at the school and although not the most studious pupil I did achieve enough O Grades and Highers to start work with the insurance giant GAFLAC. In my first year I was in class 1x2, and my registration teacher was Mr Hay, I often wonder where my former classmates are these days and what they are up to, I do know about a few of them, and one became my brother in law! (Photo attached)

When the new PHS was built, I was in my 4th Year and myself and many others volunteered to help pack up the books and equipment and transfer it to the new building, so from May after sitting my O grades I did no school work at all and when the new term started after the Summer I only had a short journey up Oakbank Rd to school instead of four bus journeys a day.

In truth I was more interested and still am in playing sport and although my parents were probably disappointed that I did not manage to get a place at Perth Academy I was not overly disappointed as they did not play football there, only rugby and hockey which did not really interest me. Little did I realise then that I would take up hockey at PHS when the new head of PE arrived when I was 16 who was an ex Olympic hockey player for GB and that 50+ years later I would still be involved in playing and organising hockey in Perth and Midlands. I also never thought that my youngest daughter and son in law would also end up teaching in the school where I was educated, who knows what lies in front of you.

In 2014 I became a Street Pastor and then a School Pastor and fate brought me back to what is now known as Perth Grammar School when the current Head teacher welcomed School Pastors to be involved in the life of the school after all these years.

For those who are not aware of School and Street Pastors, we are group of Christians from various Churches and denominations who volunteer to go out on the Streets of Perth to Listen, help and care for all people, pre Covid we were out on Thursday and Saturday evenings from 10pm until 4am and School Pastoring is an extension of this work, and we are around the school on Friday lunchtimes. We enjoy what we do, and it is good to get to know the pupils as they grow up and venture out in the night-time economy be it in the town centre or on one of the Inches, so if you see us around the school or the town, please say hello to us. On behalf of Perth Street Pastors, we congratulate Perth Grammar School on their 50th Anniversary and look forward to continuing our partnership.

G Loudon – Chairperson of Perth Street Pastors and Ex pupil.

