



Jonny Kane is the owner of the Roseleaf café bar in Leith, Edinburgh.

I attended Drummond from around 1986 until 1991 (it was a while ago!). The year I left was the transitional year where they were introducing the new Standard Grades to replace the old system. I got 6 Standard Grades and left school soon after to get a job.

I enjoyed all the technical subjects (Craft & Design, techy drawing) and Art at school and this has without a doubt helped me throughout my working life.

I remember the school organised a job idea/fair where you were introduced to certain jobs available. Due to my interest in all things technical, I applied for a job in a TV engineers shop. First job I applied for and I got it! I did this for almost a year and enjoyed learning the ropes and settling into a working environment. It was also sales based where we sold repaired TVs & video players (no DVDs in 1991!). I would definitely add that being in sales enables you to learn speaking & interacting with the public which will always be a benefit to you.

I did however have a burning ambition to travel.....how could I do this & get paid? Join the Royal Navy was my decision! So I reluctantly left my TV engineer job to enrol in the Forces and spent 15 years in the Royal Navy as an electrical engineer. This job has many benefits but isn't for the faint hearted: if you don't mind discipline, exercise & travelling the world then it could be for you. I should say that you do spend a lot of time away from home and it's kinda like being at school as you are constantly learning....all the time. Exam scenarios at school definitely helped me during my navy days also.

So fast forward 15 years and I had reached Petty Officer level. Unfortunately for me there wasn't much prospect of promotion so I decided to leave. This decision was made a lot easier as I wanted to be with my wife whom I married in 2003. My wife had always worked in restaurants and we decided to look into this as something we could both do. Soon after leaving the Navy, we opened Roseleaf bar cafe in Leith.

I can honestly say that the skills I learned in Drummond and further pursued in my working life have definitely been a major part of the success of our bar. The diversity of the pupils I had at school whether it be race, colour, sexuality or class helped me along the way of dealing with all sorts of people in life. Personal discipline, able to interact with customers and the technical way to see things (and fix them too) are essential in a restaurant/bar environment.

No one knows what route their life will take but it is down to the decisions you make.

The more things you try out the bigger the scope you have of what you can do.

If I could pass on any advice, all I'd say is go for it!

You'll never know unless you give it a go.

Jonny