



NAME

SIMON BALL

YEAR OF LEAVING

1996

CURRENT JOB TITLE

FARM SHOP MANAGER

### FAVOURITE SUBJECT IN THE CASTLE SCHOOL AND WHY?

BIOLOGY - ITS WHAT GAVE ME MORE OF AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURAL WORLD WHICH IS A PASSION FOR ME

### WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SINCE LEAVING THE CASTLE SCHOOL?

I LEFT FULL TIME EDUCATION WITH AN AIM TO DIVERSIFY MY FAMILY BUSINESS. IN 2009 I WAS AWARDED A NUFFIELD FARMING SCHOLARSHIP WHICH GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL THE WORLD OVER AN 18 MONTH PERIOD AND STUDY "THE MARKETING OF FOOD AND EDUCATION OF CONSUMERS" WHICH HAS GIVEN ME AN INVALUABLE INSIGHT TO MY INDUSTRY.

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT IN LIFE AND HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CASTLE SCHOOL HELP YOU TO ACHIEVE OTHER SUCCESSES?

I CAN NOW SUPPORT MY FAMILY THROUGH MY DIVERSIFICATION AND HAVE SECURED OUR FUTURE - AT LEAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE!  
SUBJECTS SUCH AS MATHS AND ENGLISH ARE IMPORTANT IN THE MODERN BUSINESS WORLD BUT GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS AND A GREAT FRIENDSHIP GROUP IN SCHOOL GAVE ME INVALUABLE SKILLS TO CONFIDENTLY STEP OUT ON MY OWN AS AT TIMES THINGS GET VERY HARD. COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT ARE KEY

### WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO CURRENT STUDENTS?

CONTINUE TO SET YOUR SELF LONG AND SHORT TERM GOALS THROUGH YOUR LIFE AS STRUCTURE LEADS TO ACHIEVEMENTS

### WHAT'S YOUR NEXT BIG GOAL?

MY CURRENT BUSINESS GOAL IS TO RETURN A 20% NET PROFIT AND ACHIEVE A ONE MILLION POUND TURNOVER!