

EDUCATION AND BUSINESS BOOST FOR LEADING SCOTTISH CHARITY

Free to use image (landscape) of new trustees for The Polar Academy (l-r: Mike Hancock (Cornhill Building Services; Chris Tiso, CEO Tiso Group; John Gilmour, headmaster Craigclowan Prep School - pix credit Peter Sandground Photography)

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The Polar Academy, a leading Scottish charity with a vision to inspire youth through exploration, has today (Monday 20 March) further boosted its business and education credentials with the appointment of three additional trustees.

Chris Tiso, CEO of Tiso Group the outdoor adventure specialist and who is renowned for his passion for the great outdoors, will further strengthen the business acumen of the impressive six-strong Trustee panel.

Mike Hancock, the founder of Cornhill Building Services (CBS), a leading Edinburgh based building contractor also further complements the considerable business experience on the trustee panel. It already includes Keith Neilson, CEO of Craneware plc, Andrew Ford of tax specialists Barr & Ford Ltd and Mike Robinson, CEO of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS).

John Gilmour, headmaster of Craigclowan Preparatory School in Perthshire and who formerly served in the Royal Navy has also accepted an invitation to join as a trustee from the charity's founder, Craig Mathieson. With the charity increasingly engaging pupils and teachers across Scotland about its work, Gilmour's 19 years of experience in education will be invaluable to The Polar Academy.

Referring to his appointment, John Gilmour said: "I am very pleased to be invited to support the work of The Polar Academy as a trustee, and I look forward to sharing my many years of experience of the educational system. As a former member of HM Forces and for many years a member of Swanage lifeboat crew, I also passionately believe in helping to nurture team work and leadership in

young people. These are skills that increase self confidence and instil the all important 'can do' spirit embedded in the work of The Polar Academy."

Chris Tiso, who is also a founding supporter of the charity, added: "Craig Mathieson is a remarkable individual and friend with whom I share the belief that Scotland's youth can be inspired through exploration. Over the past three years I have seen first hand how the charity has positively transformed the lives of many young people who previously felt trapped by feelings of self doubt and their personal circumstances.

"As the third expedition of The Polar Academy prepares to depart for Arctic Greenland, I look forward to being part of the trustee team, supporting The Polar Academy in the next phase of its inspirational journey as it helps ordinary individuals to achieve the extraordinary."

Tomorrow (Tuesday 21 March), the third expedition team of The Polar Academy departs on a 10-day, 100km expedition through Arctic Greenland. After eight months of rigorous training and supported by Craig Mathieson (Bo'ness) and three fellow expert guides, the Edinburgh based teenagers (all aged 14-17) from Fettes College and Broughton High School will haul their own 45kg sledges, navigate and camp on the sea ice. The expedition is designed to instil greater self-confidence and belief in young individual's who Mathieson has identified as 'invisible' in the school system.

Like two previous expeditions, the pupils return to Scotland ready to speak to thousands of fellow school pupils about their personal challenges and experiences. Often described as the living breathing proof that ordinary individuals can achieve the extraordinary, they in turn seek to inspire their peer groups, urging them to overcome feelings of insecurity, self-doubt and anxiety in pursuit of their own dreams.

Established in 2014, The Polar Academy is wholly self-funded by donations from companies and private donors. Tiso Group and Bergans of Norway are founding supporters of the charity that needs to fundraise over £170,000 per year.

Last week, after working with Links Design, the charity launched its new website with the latest information about its mission and successes. Further details can be found at www.thepolaracademy.org

Notes to the editor

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