



**CASHBACK
2025/26**



CASE STUDY

Patrick

Growing Through Rugby and the Cashback Programme

PATRICK

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1. Background: Life Before CashBack Involvement

Patrick's journey with the Cashback Programme began in the 2020–21 academic year, while he was in Primary 7 at Clovenstone Primary School. Living in the Wester Hailes area of Edinburgh, Patrick was raised by his mother, a dedicated single parent working full-time to support her two sons. She was actively looking for positive and accessible opportunities to keep her boys engaged in structured activities that could support their personal development and wellbeing.

Cost, locality, and trust in the programme staff played a significant role in her decision to involve her sons in the Cashback Rugby Programme. The major turning point came during the summer of 2021, in the wake of COVID-19, when Patrick and his younger brother took part in a free three-week rugby camp run by Murrayfield Wanderers as part of the Cashback Programme. This experience marked their first step into the world of rugby, offering structure, social connection, and a sense of purpose during a challenging period.

2. Involvement in Cashback: Challenges, Achievements, and Growth

Upon transitioning to Wester Hailes High School, Patrick quickly became a consistent and committed participant in the Cashback Rugby Programme. As early as S1, he regularly attended extracurricular rugby activities, including lunchtime and after-school clubs. These sessions helped Patrick build not just physical ability but also confidence and resilience, encouraging him to make the leap to club rugby through the Wandies Academy.

Patrick has since become an integral member of both the U14 and U16 squads. One of his standout achievements was playing a vital role in the U16s' successful 2023–24 campaign, which saw the team reach the semi-finals of the Scottish Rugby East Shield competition. In S3, he completed the Developing Players Programme at Wester Hailes High School, significantly boosting his gym and rugby skills, while also focusing on personal development.

3. Impact and Positive Destinations

Patrick's involvement in the Cashback Rugby Programme has had a profound impact on his life. From a quiet and reserved pupil, he has grown into a confident, sociable, and motivated young leader. His personal development has been matched by athletic success: Patrick became the first ever Wester Hailes High School pupil to represent the Edinburgh U16s and feature in the high-profile 1872 Cup match against Glasgow—a major milestone.

His leadership qualities have flourished through captaining his team on numerous occasions within the Wandies Academy, and he continues to be a role model to younger players coming through the Cashback Programme.

Patrick's involvement in The Cashback Rugby programme has helped him exceed the qualifications expected of S4 pupils leading to him being presented for Higher Physical Education rather than National 5. Patrick's Rugby is now played at a standard that he was beyond N5 and received full marks for both Rugby and 5000m running. We await Patrick's final grade at Higher but believe the programme has put him in an excellent position to achieve well at this Level 6 qualification which would not have been possible otherwise.

Looking ahead, Patrick has been invited to join the Edinburgh U17s programme next season and is actively exploring college course opportunities. His journey illustrates what can happen when talent, opportunity, and support align.

Quote from Patrick:

“Before rugby, I didn’t really see myself as confident. But the school and Wandies sessions and my coaches helped me find something I’m good at, and now I feel like I can lead and help others too.”

Quote from Marko Mladenovic, Murrayfield Wanderers Rugby Development Officer:

“Patrick’s growth has been phenomenal. From day one, he’s shown resilience, humility, and a drive to improve. He’s now setting the standard for others in his school and community. His story shows exactly why Cashback matters and the impact it can have on young people’s lives in Wester Hailes.”

Quote from Blair Henderson, Head of PE at Wester Hailes High School:

“Patrick is an excellent role model for his peers and pupils in the years below him of how application and a willingness to try something new can massively impact your life. There are few pupils in Patrick’s area that train and take part in organised sport and very few who engage at the level he is now operating at. His engagement and success have inspired many around him and below him to get involved with our Cashback programme, which is now stronger than ever in Wester Hailes High School”

Quote from mother, Sylwia:

“Since he started playing rugby at the beginning of high school he has improved in many ways such as commitment to trainings and his decision making along with making new friends, connecting him with different communities and schools around Edinburgh. He is so thankful to be part of Edinburgh Regional programme and cashback programme because of how it helped develop his skills on and off the pitch, including his confidence. And he is very proud to represent Wandies and Wester Hailes High School.”

Reflection and Learning

Patrick’s journey reflects many of the wider themes that emerged across Phase 6 — the importance of welcoming first experiences, strong school–club partnerships, positive peer environments and consistent encouragement over time.

While rugby created the initial opportunity for engagement, the long-term impact emerged through the confidence, relationships and sense of purpose developed around the programme. Patrick’s progression from a young person trying rugby for the first time after COVID-19 disruption to representing Edinburgh Rugby pathways demonstrates the potential of sustained community-based support when young people experience environments where they feel encouraged, connected and valued over time.

Watch Patrick’s Story

Scan the QR code or visit: https://youtu.be/esG_SclFxyO

