

Kitchin cooks up plan to train a teen

A NEW restaurant has taken on a 15-year-old schoolboy to help him realise his dream of becoming a world-class chef.

Tom Kitchin, owner of The Kitchin, on Commercial Quay, has handed a job to George Heriot's school pupil Alistair Grant.

Mr Kitchin, who learnt his craft in Michelin-starred restaurants all over Europe, said: "Alistair wrote me a very convincing letter after he read the story of how I had taken my first steps down the road to opening my own restaurant.

"When Alistair read my story, it inspired him," said Mr Kitchin. "His eyes lit up when he walked into the kitchen.

"I want Alistair to know there are a lot of unsocial hours - my boys in the kitchen are working long days.

"And I don't want him to be shocked by how a kitchen works - it's a very hostile environment, especially when service is on.

"Then, there are no friends, and there is a lot of straight talking, shall we say. The food has to be perfect."

If Alistair sticks to his dream, Mr Kitchin said he expected him to do at least two and a half years in his first job, including college courses.