



Caley Update

News from the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust

Summer 2010

Are we making a real difference, what do you think?

In June 1995 the Directors of the Caley took a careful look at how best the Trust could continue to fulfil the wishes of our original founders, to support and educate the children of armed forces personnel who are natives of Scotland and the children of indigent Scottish parents resident in London. They decided it was time to close our residential premises in Bushey and become an Educational Trust.

Since 1996 when we awarded the first grants, we have helped many hundreds of children and young people. We have helped with school clothing, school trips, schools fees (in exceptional circumstances) and living expenses to those in higher and further education.

We are very proud of our scholars. We have helped create 10 doctors of medicine, a successful author of gardening books and we have three young scholars hoping to represent the UK in 2012 Olympic Games. Not to mention a comedy actress regularly appearing on television and the lead harpist of the Brazilian State Orchestra.

As well as these successful young people there are many hundreds of families that we have been able to help, often with quite small grants, to enable them to ensure that their children also get the chance to achieve their full potential.

Although we still help London Scots, it is with service children where our work continues to grow. With over 175,000 service children in the UK the need for our help is increasing. As more serving personnel engage in activity in Afghanistan, requests for grants have risen over 30% in the last year.

The Caley Service Children's Education Project is working with schools and teachers to help increase understanding of the issues affecting these special children and to provide some support to those teaching them.

We have recently completed an education Well-being Project in Fife. Aimed at educating teachers about the impact of war on service children and to supply the tools to enable them to deal effectively with the children who are affected by the war in Afghanistan.

Looking back on his 15 years in charge, the outgoing Chief Executive John Horsfield said, "shortly after I joined the Caley I wrote 'Life and Times of the Caley' under a photograph of the statue of St. Andrew. I wrote 'the Caley spirit will ensure that the new trust continues the caring tradition of meeting the educational needs of young Scots' – I am happy to leave it to you to decide if you think we are achieving this objective".



Sheelagh Harwell, a future Caley doctor

THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN SCHOOLS TRUST

Our aim is to help applicants reach their full educational potential

Who can we help?

- The child/ren of a Scot who has served or is serving in the Armed Forces
- The child/ren of a poor Scot living in the London area (within the M25 ring).

What will we help with?

- school clothing and uniforms
- sports equipment
- dance clothes
- living expenses for further and higher education
- books and equipment
- after-school clubs and activities
- school trips
- music and art training
- additional tuition fees
- school fees (only in exceptional circumstances)
- GAP projects
- group educational projects.

We view education in its widest sense and welcome enquiries from applicants to see if we can help them.

Is there an age limit?

No, but preference is given to children and those in full time education including those seeking an educational 'second chance'.

TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION FORM CALL US ON 01923 215350 or email sharon@rcst.org.uk

Contact Details:

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e-mail: admin@rcst.org.uk
Website: www.rcst.org.uk

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Chairman: D Keith Robertson FRICS
Chief Executive: John Horsfield
(until 31 July 2010)

Old Caley

We are hoping to update the Old Caley page on our website www.rcst.org.uk and need input from you.

After his retirement, John will be writing a history of the Caley and your memories and suggestions would be very useful.

Emily's Dad

Not long ago someone, who should have known better, asked John our Chief Executive "what makes service children special?"

The best person to answer that is a service child and we are very proud of 16-year-old Emily Mullens, a Caley scholar who we helped when she was 10 in trying to overcome quite severe dyslexia. Emily has written a moving account of how she misses her dad when his is away and just how



Emily

proud she is of him. The following are just brief extracts from 'her essay'. The whole essay can be found on our website www.rcst.org.uk

She starts by saying "being an army child through and through I was used to the constant abandonment from my father as he went on tour and the endless flood of tears from my heart broken mother. I remember one time he went away to Iraq for 6 months and that was hard and not just for me" "the whole concept as to why my father had to leave me for half a year to fight, rebuild and communicate with Iraq was beyond me and the only way we could communicate is with these "blueys" (A4 size pieces of blue paper that you can send free to and from Iraq to keep in touch with your loved one).

The morning he left was not actually that hard, I don't think it had sunk in yet. We said our goodbyes and gave our final kisses, not to mention sobbed some more. Just at that moment it dawned. What if he forgets me. What if he gives up because he feels he has nothing to fight for. I remember telling him to wait there at the bottom of the stairs as I fled to my room in a frantic searching spree..... I rummaged around looking for something. Any thing! I found the little red

sharpener. I ran downstairs to meet my awaiting father and held out the minute red sharpener. I was expecting a letdown like "I'm not taking a sharpener with me" but no, a heartfelt look of understanding. He bent down to eye level, looked at me and spoke softly the words that I held him too "I'll treasure this until I come home". With this I knew he wasn't going to leave me.

Emily goes on to write about going to the airport where her mother had told her they were collecting her uncle, "So I was standing in Edinburgh airport bored out my tiny brain staring at the ceiling, wondering when we'll get home and what's for tea. When I saw a face in the oncoming crowd. It made me skip a heartbeat and take a double look for certainty. Bald, tired, wearing camouflage and the biggest grin on his face since my baby brother was born".

The essay ends "other kids with parents in the army I knew were sad, lonely but proud as well, so I comforted them and they comforted me and shared stories of what our dads got up to. It was good meeting new friends with parents in the same place and doing the same thing as mine. If my dad ever had to go again, I will be half as worried but 10 times as proud".

2010 Practitioners' Conference

Monday 8 November 2010

Queen Victoria School
Dunblane
FK15 0JY

The aims of the conference are:

- Improving support for children and families of Military Service personnel (Tri-Service) facing deployment to operational zones, and support for their teachers
- Promoting good practice on mitigating the effects of mobility for Service Children
- Developing co-ordinated action to meet the educational needs of Service Children in Scotland

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Grace Clifton

Topics of Focus:

- Cross Border Comparator of Curriculum/Credits/ Qualifications
- Issues related to education of Tri-Service children and youth
- Passports/Learning Logs
- Assessment (transfer) related to mobility issues
- Additional Support for Learning
- Behavioural and Emotional Support and Curriculum for Excellence
- Critical Incident Response

Audience:

Headteachers and teachers from schools with service children; local authority officers; support services and MoD staff responsible for the welfare of service families

For further information please email jo@rcst.org.uk



Children of Dalmeny school, one of the many schools the Project has been able to help

Deep in the Archives

The Caley Archives are a virtual treasure chest for those interested in history, especially genealogy. Our collection consists of Order Books, Registers, Matron's Report Books, Pupil Files and numerous Minute Books. While recently looking for the records of a pupil who joined the Schools in the 1850's we made an important discovery – bound books of the earliest Petitions for Admission to the Schools and reports of some of the meetings when these petitions were considered. This means we may be able to provide even more information to relatives not only about these early scholars but also about those whose applications were not successful. If you require further information please contact jo@rcst.org.uk

If we are to continue to support people like Emily we can only do so with your help.

Please send your donations to
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Watford
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or via our website www.rcst.org.uk