



Caley Update

News from the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust

Winter 2009

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:

The Royal Caledonian Schools Trust
Unit 75 WENTA Business Centre
Colne Way, Watford, Herts WD24 7ND
Tel: 01923 215350 Fax: 01923 215354
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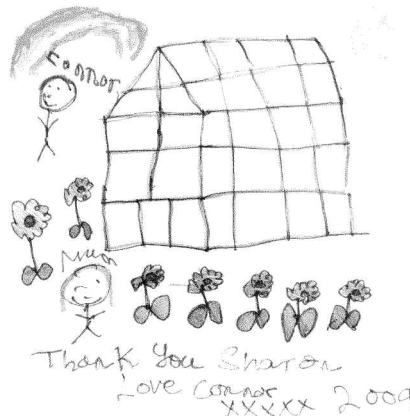
Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Chairman: D Keith Robertson FRICS
Chief Executive: John Horsfield

Really making a difference!!!

The Caley's aim is to make a real difference to the education of qualifying young Scots. We leave you to judge for yourself, by reading the following, whether we are beginning to achieve this!!

Connor

19-year-old Connor suffers from autism and has found it difficult to cope with school and other training. He did however develop a passion for plants and growing things. The Caley gave him a grant so that a safe, reinforced glass house could be purchased and Connor is now enjoying his horticulture. The drawing on this page was his way of saying thank you.



Connor's Thankyou

Billie

Billie has been chosen as our Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Scholar for 2009/10. For much of her childhood she was the carer for both her parents and has for some time been determined to go to university and study mental health nursing. After overcoming a number of educational hurdles, she hopes to start at university later this year and we are helping with a grant towards expenses.

Jackie

Jackie has an eight-year-old autistic son and has had to fight to ensure that he gets the education he needs. The Caley have been helping her with grants so that she can undertake courses to understand better how to manage her son. Early next year we hope to launch a support system for other parents to steer them through the complexities of the education system.

May

15-year-old May, pictured below, is a champion skier who would like to make the 2012 Olympics. We are providing a termly grant to help her parents meet some of the training costs.



May Fisher during a competition

Clothing Grants and School Activities

Each year we provide clothing grants to the families who are struggling to meet the ever-increasing costs of clothing for their children and ensuring that their children do not miss out on activities enjoyed by their classmates. Much of this work is done in cooperation with SSAFA Forces Help.

Katie

Katie is studying mechanical engineering and wants to join the RAF to become a pilot. She was recently chosen as our Alice Robertson 2009/10 scholar. This was a much loved Chairman of the Grants Committee and would highly approve of this choice.

Fabienne

After achieving three straight "A" grades and a place at Cambridge University to read divinity, Fabienne decided to take some time out and spend the year widening her experience of the world. We have previously helped with her education and have now awarded a Caley grant to help with the cost of the trip she is planning to India, where she will be teaching English to Tibetan refugees.

Old Caleys

In July over 60 Old Caleys attended a reunion in the British Legion Hall, Bushey. The event was a great success and we are grateful to the Purcell School for arranging two tours of the old school now much improved. The Old Caleys are planning another reunion next summer.

JOHN TO RETIRE

John Horsfield who has been Chief Executive of the Caley since 1995 has decided to retire in July at the end of the current academic year. Arrangements have already started to find his successor. We are planning two fund raising farewell events to mark John's retirement in London and Edinburgh

The Caley Service Children's Education Project

Whilst the grants referred to overleaf are for helping individual young people, the Education Project is already beginning to make a real difference to the education opportunities for the children of Army, Navy and RAF personnel serving in Afghanistan, as well as others serving away from home, for example, deep sea Mariners. In the 12 months since Carolyn MacLeod has been the Scottish-based Project Manager, the project has really taken off. Earlier this year we awarded grants to 11 schools so that they could implement a number of projects aimed at integrating service children and understanding more about their lives. We have had a number of meetings with the Scottish Government and have played our part in getting a stakeholders group formed and in getting service children included in future school censuses. We have also held a highly successful conference attended by over 70 delegates, including representatives of the Armed Forces, school psychologists, teachers and parents and others interested in ensuring that service children do not lose out. This progress is in part due to the generosity of the Robertson Trust who have awarded us grants to support our work. **Lots of coverage is given to the heroes but we are one of the few charities speaking out on behalf of the children of these heroes.**

We can only continue with this work with the help of our supporters and we hope you will be inspired to do your bit on behalf of our special Scottish service children.

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

You are also making a real difference

To provide the kind of help and to manage projects like those on the front page we depend on the help of our supporters. Below are just a few ways in which we have been helped.



Shawn Lawrence receives his Caley 200th Anniversary Badge from his Provost

The Sponsored Swim

For some years we have been helping 20-year-old Shawn Lawrence. Shawn has never allowed his cerebral palsy to get in the way of his swimming and is now working tremendously hard to see if he can make the team for the Paraplegic Olympics. Together with his very supportive mother, Tricia and his carer, he raised £600 for the Caley by undertaking a sponsored swim.

The Legacy

Early in 2008 we received a letter from a firm of solicitors which said that Maureen had left us the residue of her estate. As she was not listed as a Caley supporter, the solicitors were telephoned and confirmed, as far as they knew, she had never had any contact with the Caley. However, she decided that her money was to be used to help others and she had made a new will, after reading an early addition of the "Caley Update". They went on to say that the residue of her estate would come to over £550,000!!! In compliance with her wishes we entered into an agreement with her Executors, that the legacy would be spent over a five-year period. Maureen's generosity has enabled us to employ Sharon Cooper-Collins as Grants Officer and Carolyn MacLeod to manage the Education Project in Scotland. We were also able to increase our general grants budget and the budget for the Education Project grants by £20,000 each. We are now in the second year of the cycle and are giving serious thought to how we can replace this income once five years has elapsed.

Old Caley's

A number of those who attended the schools are now helping us, some have also become Guardians as a result of their kind donations.

We were recently delighted when one of the last group of students at the Caley and one of the first recipients of a Caley education grant, contacted us wanting to make a regular monthly donation to the trust, as she felt she would never have achieved what she has without our help.

Other Charities and Trusts

Like all those working with veterans and children we can only achieve what we do in cooperation with other charities. We would particularly like to mention Poppy Scotland, the RAF Benevolent Fund and SSAFA. The valuable support of the Robertson Trust has enabled us to move forward in a way we could not have done on our own.

Individual Supporters

When there are so many charities to choose from, we are particularly grateful at how many Scots throughout the UK continue to support our work and the number is increasing. One of the most helpful ways is for supporters to make regular donations via their bank so that we can more effectively plan our finances.

Local Scottish Societies

There are a number of societies who readily support our work but this is an area where numbers seem to be decreasing and we are anxious to find more societies, to see if they are interested in helping.

Commercial Support

We would like to thank UBS Wealth Management for sponsoring our highly successful Scottish Service Children's Educational Conference held last month in Edinburgh. We are trying to identify more support from the commercial sector.

Above are just a few examples of the kind of recent help we have received. But we constantly need to find new ways of fundraising and new supporters. If anyone has any ideas or friends who would be willing to become supporters, please contact us. We can assist you, should you want advice on making a bequest to the Caley, help with sponsoring events or anything else we can do to turn your ideas into cash to help the Caley.