



Caley Update

News from the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust

Winter 2010/11

THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN SCHOOLS TRUST

Our aim is to help applicants reach their full educational potential

Who can we help?

- The child of a Scot who has served or is serving in the Armed Forces.
- The child of Scots in need 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
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Tel: 01923 215350 Fax: 01923 215354
email: admin@rcst.org.uk
website: www.rcst.org.uk

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Chairman: D Keith Robertson FRICS
Chief Executive: James MacBain

HELLO AND WELCOME

Thus far, it has been an amazing journey. The Caley is an extraordinary and vibrant organisation and I feel very privileged to be a part of it. I started in September 2010, spending three weeks coinciding with my predecessor, John Horsfield. I learnt much from John and have a great respect for all his work for the Trust over the last 15 years. In the last few months I have gained a deeper understanding, not only of the way we provide support to those we help but of ways in which we can further improve on what we do.

Education and charities have formed the focus of most of my working life. I was born in Tanzania and educated in the UK and Zimbabwe. Earlier in my career, I worked with development charities supporting projects in sub-saharan Africa. As a consequence I have a passionate belief both in the value of education and training and of the role that charities have in supporting access to these opportunities. It has been tremendous to return to the charity world after 15 years working in higher education. Immediately before starting at The Caley I spent 6 months

John Horsfield and James MacBain



heading the programmes run by The Royal Commonwealth Society and it was a very useful experience. These are challenging times for the charity sector but also, I believe, an important opportunity for charities to show how effectively they can support those in society experiencing increasing challenges of their own.

Since September I have met outstanding Caley scholars, school children, supporters and partners both north and south of the border. The Caley has much to offer and I relish the opportunity in helping to deliver what we do so well.

STOP PRESS: KYLE WARREN, CALEY SCHOLAR

Kyle Warren – Caley Scholar, Piper and Composer graduated in 2010 with a First Class Honours BA in Scottish Music (Piping) from Glasgow's Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He was a finalist at the 2010 BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician Of The Year. Kyle performs with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, is currently recording his first solo CD and a book of Pipe tunes of his own composition has just been published. Kyle is a great ambassador for and supporter of The Caley.

Allison Shanley – Caley Scholar



Caley Scholar, Allison Shanley, addressing guests at The Fleming Collection in November

Allison has spent the majority of her working life so far helping and supporting young people who have found themselves working in the sex industry. Allison started volunteering at the age of 13, working with youngsters who were at risk from sexual exploitation. As a mature student, Allison has

decided to specialise in mental health nursing. With our help she is able to study full time at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing. Her studies will further develop her skills working with, and for, the vulnerable. Allison comes from a Scottish family and her parents still live in Scotland. Her father served in the Royal Artillery, Royal Navy and finished his career in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Allison was living in a shared house subsidised and run by a Christian charity. However when the funding ran out she had to move and spent 3 months moving from hostel to hostel. With support from The Caley she has now found affordable student accommodation. When Allison completes her studies she is hoping to use her skills to help those (especially children) who are suffering emotionally and mentally from experiences that have left them isolated and vulnerable.

STOP PRESS: NATASHA WATSON, CALEY SCHOLAR

Natasha Watson has won countless titles, prizes and awards at dance festivals across the UK and is also an accomplished actress. She is the youngest Scot to be nominated for a BAFTA award and has been nominated for a Scottish Variety Award in the Best Actress category, for her part in the BBC Drama "Single Father" alongside David Tennant.

The Moderator's Visit to Firrhill High School and Mauricewood Primary School



The Moderator and children of Mauricewood School

The start of a packed day - 8.30 a.m. in George Street, Edinburgh. James MacBain collected The Right Reverend John Christie, the Moderator to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and handed him a

street map of the city, asking him to navigate in the direction of Firrhill High School, on the outskirts of the City. They arrived with plenty of time to spare. Firrhill has almost 80 service children enrolled and



Kath Forsyth

Kath Forsyth with the Moderator and a pupil from Firrhill High School

Kath Forsyth, Induction Teacher at Firrhill High School, Edinburgh, was educated in Scotland, trained and taught in England and in her seven years married to a serving Officer has moved five times – that means five new houses, new communities, and making new friends. In addition, Kath lives in the military community and her husband deploys on six to seven month active tours, most recently to Afghanistan, leaving her as lone parent with an infant. This means that Kath can relate to the young people with whom she works.

Kath works as the initial contact for Children and Youth of Armed Forces Families within the school. She welcomes the young person and discusses their educational experiences, strengths and weaknesses. She receives their educational documentation; assesses skills and knowledge; liaises with parents and previous schools, as necessary; coordinates with subject teachers; and encourages the

service child to engage in the new school community. In response to 'interrupted learning' due to mobility, support is provided individually and in small groups both outside and within subject classes, in areas that promote success. As an identified 'champion' for young people and youth of Armed Forces Families (Tri-Service), Kath's classroom space is located where the pupils can take a few minutes in a busy high school day to meet with others who live similar lifestyles, have experienced varied educational opportunities, and who 'speak the same language' in an assortment of accents. As a member of the teaching staff, Kath is able to raise the awareness of other teachers to the benefits and challenges inherent in the life of a 'Service Family'. In Kath's words, she sees her role as 'being available when needed'. Her teaching position has been funded, for the last two years, by the Caley's Education Project Scotland.

the Trust provides support for a part time Induction Teacher who works with these children in school as they deal with some of the challenges they face (see the article on Kath Forsyth below). The Moderator was shown around by senior pupils, met many other pupils and staff and learnt first-hand how valuable and important the support provided to service children is. Later in the day, the Moderator visited Mauricewood Primary School, Penicuik, which has a very high percentage of service children enrolled. He was able to talk to many of the pupils about what it is like to be a service child. As at Firrhill, the Moderator found the children to be exceptional and inspiring. The Caley supports Mauricewood by providing funding for a qualified Play Therapist whose services are available to both service children and their primary carers. At the end of the day the Moderator was back in the passenger seat, map reading through the rush-hour heading for the centre of Edinburgh, with James behind the wheel. Evidence, the Moderator said, of excellent team work! Team work and partnerships are at the heart of what the Caley does in Scotland, working with schools, the military, local authorities, central government and the third sector in support of Scottish service children.

2010 Practitioners' Conference

On the 8 November 2010 the Caley held the second Tri-Services Practitioners' Conference which brought together over 70 participants from right across Scotland, as well as several contributors from England. All the participants have experience in working with service children and represented the armed services, local authorities, schools and the third sector. Through a series of presentations and workshops the Conference allowed best practice to be shared and helped to clearly identify a number of actions to be undertaken in support of service children in Scotland. The Conference was opened by the Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning. The Conference was judged a resounding success and the Trust intends holding another Conference in 2012. The Conference was organised and managed by Carolyn MacLeod, the Caley's Education Project Manager in Scotland and was held in Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, which proved an outstanding venue.

HELPING US

We constantly need to find new ways of fundraising and new supporters.

If anyone would like to become a supporter, please contact us.

**If you would like to make a donation toward our work, please send to:
The Royal Caledonian Schools Trust,
Unit 75, The Wenta Business Centre,
Watford WD24 7ND or go to our website
www.rcst.org.uk**