



Caley Update

News from the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust

Spring 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
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Website: www.rcst.org.uk

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen
Chairman: D Keith Robertson FRICS
Chief Executive: John Horsfield

Making a difference for Service Children



Princess Anne meets Caley Scholars – see also overleaf

Only those who have experienced it, can imagine what it is like to be a service child in the 21st. Century. You have probably attended a number of different schools each time having to say goodbye to your friends. Your dad or mum has just returned from being away for three months on overseas training and now they are now about to leave for Afghanistan, where you know that soldiers get killed.

This reality faces thousands of British service children. By April 6300 troops will be deployed in Afghanistan and many others remain in Iraq or are posted elsewhere. Other parents are away for months at a time whilst serving with the Navy or RAF. Yet very little is being done to prepare and support these children or the staff who are trying to teach them.

Recently a school with many Army children contacted the Caley after two very young mums were heard in the playground talking about what funeral they would want if their husbands were to be killed in Afghanistan. Our Caley Service Children's Education Programme was able to provide some limited

training and will be providing extra support staff while those troops are away but this is just "a drop in the ocean" and will only help just a few of the children whose parents will be serving in this dangerous area.

John Horsfield the Caley's Chief Executive has spoken out asking, "who is speaking up for these kids". He writes "I have huge respect for groups like Help for Heroes but everyone seems to have forgotten that heroes have children and they don't want to be worrying about them whilst doing dangerous front line duties." In the two weeks before writing this article John has spoken to three British Generals, including top Soldier Sir Richard Dannatt. None of them disagreed with John's Hypothesis that concern about their children must inevitably be affecting the moral and effectiveness of British troops. We can't take away the anxiety of these children or their parents but believe we could widen the scope of our project so that more teachers could have the support needed to help these children. But this will take money and this time some of it should come from central government and pressure must be put on the British government and the Scottish Executive to ensure that they act. If you are willing to help please email john@rcst.org.uk.

ARE YOU DOING YOUR BIT?

If we are to continue with our work we need your help. Please consider:

- Making a donation
- Entering into a monthly/annual commitment
- Leaving a legacy to the Trust
- Introducing the Trust to others who may also want to help

Old Caley's

During last year we were able to meet up with a number of Old Caley's and we hope some of the photos on your page on www.rcst.org.uk will bring back happy memories. We would like to include information about what you are doing now so please email us on admin@rcst.org.uk

Needed more than ever

As we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the launch by the Highland Society of London of the successful appeal that led to the creation of the Caley, it is sad that our Scottish troops are still engaged in conflicts that affect their families. Like many service charities we are experiencing an unparalleled increase in requests for help. The current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are taking their toll and we have particularly found that service wives are showing the stress with mental health and similar problems. We also continue to help the children of poor London Scots. Below are just a few examples of the help we have provided recently. You will understand that some of the details have been altered so that families can't be identified.

- Paying for after school clubs for 5 children whose mother had been admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act
- Providing a lap top with specialised software for use by a child with cerebral palsy
- A school clothing grant for three children whose mother had had to move to a women's refuge
- Helping with the living expenses of a 20 year old who was in his second year at university when his father was killed in an accident whilst on duty
- A grant for clothes for the younger brother of an autistic boy who gets most of the families attention
- Helping with the living expenses of a young ex soldier who was medically discharged. He is trying to get retrained.

As well as the above the Caley continues to try and give talented young people a real chance to achieve their dreams. This summer the following Caley Scholars will graduate: a talented pianist, a dress designer, two world class Pipers and four young actresses plus host of BA's and BSc.'s

Clothing Grants and Help with School Trips

The number of these grants continues to grow. This is one way in which we can help low income families. New applications are always welcome.

The Caley Celebrates

"2008 was a very lively year for the Caley as well as facing up to an increase of 25% more requests for grants, we have been celebrating the 200th anniversary launch of the successful appeal by the Highland Society of London which led to our foundation.

We held a number of events to mark this anniversary and these are just a few of the many photos now joining our archives. We would like to thank H.R.H. The Princess Royal Princess Anne and every one else who joined in our celebrations"

Our Chairman, Keith Robertson, with the staff who were presented with their 200th anniversary badges in June 2008, by the Mayor of Watford



Mairead Anderson emphasising a point to John Horsfield



Princess Anne meets Old Caley's



QVS Drummers play for the Caley

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