

Cameron House Foundation

Scholarship Programme Update Charitable Trust (1114983)

Dear Parents,

I would like to update you on the Cameron House Foundation scholarship programme, which currently supports its first scholarship pupil at the school. Both Lucie and the class teacher, as well as the child's family, are extremely pleased with the progress that this child has been making in the course of the school year. The school and the foundation are very enthusiastic about the example our first scholar has set, and are keen to expand the programme to provide for a second pupil. However I am aware of several misconceptions about the scholarship programme in general, and I would like to address these.

Why can't the foundation support current families who find themselves in financial difficulties?

When such a situation has arisen, the Trustees have reluctantly concluded that the foundation's public mission statement inhibited the foundation from providing financial aid in that particular situation—the Trustees can only disperse funds for the purpose for which the funds have actually been raised, and only according to the publicised criteria and selection process. In this case, our fund-raising has been based on the premise that children from outside the school would be given the opportunity to apply for the scholarship each year.

Possible New Initiative: The Fellowship Fund – a volunteer needed!

Given the above, it has become clear that a hardship fund for current parents would be widely supported, and the Trustees have discussed creating a separate fund to aid current parents in financial difficulty, provisionally named the Fellowship Fund. No decisions have been made regarding how it would be administered, and the need for financial aid among well-qualified candidates may always be higher than the available funds. If any current parent would be interested in leading such an initiative, we would be delighted to hear from them, and Cameron House and several Trustees have generously offered to provide starting contributions to such a fund if it is established.

Does the school gain a tax advantage from the scholarship programme?

The school gains no tax advantage whatsoever. Schools that are charities must provide benefits to the public in order to maintain their charitable status under the new tax code. However Cameron House is not a charity, and these provisions are not applicable. The only tax benefit from the bursary programme accrues to donors who Gift Aid their support.

The scholarship programme is funded by the Cameron House Foundation, a charity supported by a group of interested parents who would like to bring into the school two or three children who would benefit from such an education but who would not otherwise have access to it (and simultaneously benefit the school). Sixty-five percent of the scholarship pupil's fees are actually covered by Cameron House itself. The school benefits by increasing diversity, raising its academic standards, utilising the available capacity in the upper years, and setting an example of altruism for its pupils.

Fundraising for the Foundation Fund: what can parents expect?

The Foundation was set up in May 2006, and Autumn 2006 saw a concerted drive to raise funds to establish the programme. Voluntary contributions were sought from a wide variety of sources and we are hugely grateful for the generous support of over 60 donors to the fund: parents, past parents, trustees, staff, friends of the school and the school itself. We are delighted to have raised over £120,000 after expenses so far, through a fundraising event held in November 2006 and individual contributions since then.

Our overall goal is to raise another £100,000 to endow the scholarship programme in the perpetuity. However, we are mindful of the generosity of parents at the programme's start, and aware of the many requests for support from other charities made on you. We are therefore limiting our fundraising target this year to a level which will allow us to support our current bursary pupil and add an additional new pupil in the Upper School in 2008-9. We do not expect to hold another fundraising event until Autumn 2008.

Why are most of the Trustees not current parents?

Charitable ventures take some time to come to fruition. The Trustees are all either present or past parents, some of whom were current parents when the foundation was first proposed but whose children have since finished at the school. The Trustees would welcome any and all involvement by current parents in the foundation. Opportunities for Trusteeship and for running fundraising events are available for those who would like to be involved. Please let me or Lucie know of your interest.

Are scholarship pupils helped to integrate into the school?

Integrating any new child into an existing class takes time, and the school is very sensitive to this and provides as much support as is necessary. We are confident that the current parent and pupil bodies endeavour to make all new pupils and families feel welcome and settle quickly into the school community. Support will also be provided to help the scholarship pupil apply to the appropriate secondary schools when the time comes, and these schools fortunately usually offer similar bursary arrangements.

I would like to thank all of you who have supported the idea of helping a child who could not otherwise come to Cameron House, and hope that you will participate in our fundraising events in the future.

If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, you can contact me or Lucie, or give Lucy in the office a cheque (made out, please, to the Cameron House Foundation).

In the meantime, if you have any questions that I have not addressed, or would like to discuss supporting the bursary in any way, please do contact me (0207-581-1574 or 07771790076, rvcesar@aol.com).

Best regards,



Renata Cesar