



Dear Supporter

As the new Principal, it is my pleasure to share with you our latest ESMS Community Impact Report, which celebrates the difference that your generosity has had in changing children's lives.

Our Schools have their history rooted in our Founders' principles of providing education to children, whose families do not have the means to pay, and I am proud to continue this tradition today. I would like to think that if Mary Erskine, Robert Cunningham and Daniel Stewart were alive today, they would likewise be proud of the ways that we continue to honour their legacies, through widening access to ESMS and transforming children's lives through the gift of education.



Providing access to an ESMS education through a bursary is something that we cannot achieve alone, and I am indebted to each and every one of you who has chosen to support our Access to Excellence programme and our Pupils' Hardship Fund. Thank you.

I would particularly like to highlight the unprecedented way in which our community responded to our Covid Appeal, which ensured that none of our pupils had to face the hardship of leaving school because of financial circumstances.

Thank you to everyone across our community that came together and chose to give during that crisis, we are incredibly grateful. Special thanks must also go to the Stewart's Melville College Former Pupil Club for their generous contribution to this Appeal.

I hope that you enjoy reading our Impact Report and on behalf of the pupils and staff, please let me extend my most grateful thanks to you for your kindness in supporting our work and continuing to play such a key part in our ESMS community today.

Kind regards

Anthony Simpson
Principal

Access to Excellence

Since our last report in July 2019, our Access to Excellence (A2E) work has continued apace, as well as our Pupil Assistance Fund as part of our Pandemic Hardship Appeal during the Covid-19 crisis. We have also continued to play an active role in the wider community, with a wide variety of charitable events and activities happening across the ESMS Junior School, The Mary Erskine School and Stewart's Melville College.

Our Programme of Support

The Access to Excellence Programme offers:

- Full and partial means-tested **bursaries**
- **Fee support** for families who experience unexpected financial hardship
- Grants to cover the cost of activities, for example school trips, through the **Pupils' Fund**

All financial awards are means-tested and pupils must meet the usual academic entry requirements.

Thank You

Over the last four years, with your generous support through donations, income from the A2E Endowment Fund as well as from new pupils' enrolment fees, **we have given bursaries totalling £1,426,230 since August 2019.**

This has enabled 142 awards to be awarded to pupils, giving them the opportunity to access an ESMS education, allowing them to fulfil their potential.

Over the 4 year period, in total the Schools have distributed **598 means-tested bursaries to assist pupils to attend ESMS through financial support. 142 of these bursaries were funded via Access to Excellence** and 37% were Transformational Bursaries for full fee remission (figures from August 2019 to April 2023). The remaining awards are funded directly through school fee income and an annual grant from the Melville College Trust.

Melville College Trust

Through the generous support of the Melville College Trust, £915,011 has been given since August 2019, with a total of 100 bursaries being awarded. 30% of these awards were for Transformational Bursaries.



Harry's Story

“ I am truly grateful to ESMS for providing me with a bursary during secondary school. Along with it has come many opportunities which I have not taken for granted. I have received a great level of education at each stage of school and received all the support I could have needed. This was especially the case during Covid which happened at the same time I was doing my SQA exams. The school ensured that during the lockdowns I was still being educated as best as possible and let me earn the Higher Grades I needed and wanted.

Outside of my studies I have had many extra-curricular opportunities. I fell in love with rugby as soon as I first played it and am now a proud member of the 2nd XV. I have taken part in CCF as an army Cadet, and I am now a Colour Sergeant training other Cadets – over the years I have been on different camps; captained the ESMS Drill Team in a national competition and participated in the Honour Guard as part of Remembrance Day. Also, as part of Access to Excellence, I was offered substantial financial support on a school trip via the Pupils' Fund. With this I went to Iceland for Geography and saw many landmarks such as the Blue Lagoon and had a lot of fun with friends there. These are just a few experiences I doubt I would have had if I was not at ESMS.

I have now applied to study Mechanical Engineering and have received an offer from The University of Glasgow. The school gave me all the advice and resources I needed in terms of picking a course and University. Now thanks to them, it looks like I will be doing a great course for me at the University of my dreams. I cannot thank the school enough for having me - being at ESMS has definitely changed my life for the better. I know that later in life I will donate to the Access to Excellence Scheme myself to help other children have the opportunities that I have experienced. ”



Pandemic Hardship Appeal

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our families were put into immediate and unexpected financial hardship, experiencing job losses and short term, cash flow issues. Fearing this would put the education of some of our pupils in jeopardy, the Schools called on former pupils, parents past and present, and our alumni organisations for their support.

With the community's help, we raised £451,300 from 40 supporters which offered critical, financial assistance to many families.

A special thank you must go to the Stewart's Melville Former Pupil Club for their incredibly generous donation of £215,000 in respect of this fund.

As a result of the kindness of our community, no pupil had to leave ESMS for economic hardship because of the pandemic.

“My parents were keen that I should have a good education. Times were still hard in the years immediately after World War II but they were prepared to make sacrifices to allow me to attend Daniel Stewart's College, as it then was. Sadly my father died suddenly when I had just turned 12 but the school had funds for pupils who found themselves in situations similar to mine, which meant that my fees were paid and I could continue to attend Stewart's. I received an excellent education and was the first person in my family to go to university. I am therefore very keen that gifted and talented young people have the opportunity to attend ESMS even if their family is suffering financial difficulties. The Access to Excellence programme provides such a mechanism and I support it wholeheartedly. It is a source of great satisfaction to see pupils thriving and going on to successful careers when they might not have had the chance without Access to Excellence.”

Adam McBride (Daniel Stewart's College 1951-1964)

With Your
Help, We Raised
£451,300



Long Term Ambition

We continue to work towards **our goal of raising a capital sum of £15m** to generate an annual income for Access to Excellence to pay for bursaries every year for children ranging from Primary 7 through to S6.

As at 31 December 2022, the value of the Endowment Fund was £5,841,929.53.



Community Work

Being a valued part of our wider community, beyond our school gates, is central to the ethos across ESMS and pupils are encouraged to learn about different charities' causes and how they can offer support.

Each School had different charities that have been supported throughout the academic sessions through a range of activities including sponsored events like the KiltWalk, an obstacle challenge, the P7 Challenge, bake sales, vintage clothes sales, non-uniform days, as well as collections at Christmas time for Social Bite and for food banks at harvest time.

Over the last three years, pupils of all ages from Snowdrops to S6, have fundraised or volunteered for a wide number of charities from local ones such as the Edinburgh Food Project, Edinburgh Women's Aid and Simpson's Special Care Babies to larger, national ones such as Red Card to Racism, Breast Cancer Now, Poppy Scotland, Maggie's Meals, Chesney Trust and My Name5 Daddie Foundation, to name only a small number. In total ESMS pupils have raised £136,593.42 from August 2019 to June 2022 for local and national and international causes.



Further Information

If you would like more details about our work, please contact Angela Alexander, Director of Development in the Development Office – 0131 311 1131 / development@esms.org.uk.