

The Willingham British School Trust
An Educational Charity Registered Number 311393
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Annual Report for the year ending 05th April 2021, prepared for the Willingham Annual
Parish Meeting, April 2021.

Willingham British School Trust is a registered charity set up over 40 years ago to award educational grants to benefit the young people of the village through individual or institutional funding applications.

The negative impacts of the pandemic have prevented the Trustees' normal practice of holding face-to-face meetings in April, October and January. The Trustees have adapted by conducting Trust business through virtual meetings and the online evaluation of applications. As lockdown restrictions ease during the Spring and Summer it is planned to organise a face-to-face Annual General Meeting. This will enable an appraisal of the past year's activities to take place and allow an opportunity for Trustee responsibilities to be reviewed.

Interest in the Trust's activities has remained robust. Reports of the Trust's meetings and dates of meetings of the Trustees continue to be placed in the Willingham News and on the Willingham Facebook page. To increase the number of applications received from young people starting their undergraduate university and apprenticeship programmes notices of the Trust's funding have been sited in the Library, the Post Office and the Bushel Box Farm Shop. The Trustees thank everyone involved for allowing this.

Of the funds distributed by the Trustees during 2020-2021 approximately two thirds were given in grants to Cottenham Village College, Willingham Primary School and Willingham Youth Trust. These grants will either contribute to innovation in school curricula or, in the case of the Youth Trust, support ongoing activity.

Grants were also made to support individuals starting their University programmes. The Trust awarded grants to University undergraduates studying Social Anthropology, History of Art and Marine Biology at St Andrews, Edinburgh and Plymouth Universities. An award was also made to support costs associated with an apprenticeship.

Despite the pandemic the Trustees have been required to demonstrate their continuing compliance with the current regulatory environment. The Annual Return to the Charity Commission has been completed successfully.

Potential individual or institutional applicants for grants to support general educational costs or travel associated with education are always advised to approach any of the Trustees with an early enquiry. The appropriateness of any funding request can then be given proper and prompt consideration.

Ray Croucher
Secretary, Willingham British School Trust