

# **The Willingham British School Trust**

## **An Educational Charity Registered Number 311393**

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### Annual Report for the year ending 05<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The Willingham British School Trust has been awarding educational grants to benefit the young people of the Parish, either through individual or institutional funding applications, since 1979, when the Trust's Scheme of Regulation was originally approved by the Charity Commission. This Report focuses on the Trust's activities over the last 12 months.

The Trustees offer a range of backgrounds and experience. The current Chairman, Ray Manning, was one of the original founding Trustees. Two new Trustees – Emma Wake and Sam Peacock - have been appointed recently. Both Emma and Sam have received financial support from the Trust in the past. Valued support is also provided by the Parish Council nominees, Councillors McKee and Mansfield.

The Trustees are obliged to hold one meeting each April. In practice they also plan to meet every January and October, reflecting the range and amount of business they are required to conduct. Reports of those meetings continue to be placed in the Willingham News. To encourage the number of applications received from young people starting their undergraduate university and apprenticeship programmes notices of the Trust's funding are sited in the Library and the Bushel Box Farm Shop. The Trustees thank everyone involved for allowing this.

Over the past five years the Trust has received between zero and five individual applications from young people about to start their undergraduate or apprenticeship programmes. In response to receiving last year no individual applications from students or their parents an approach to encourage more applications was piloted. This was judged to be unsuccessful. In the next 12 months the Trustees will develop a Facebook profile, to further publicise the funding offered by the Trust.

This year the Trust is supporting three undergraduates, starting their studies in Animation, English Literature and Film and Journalism Studies respectively. The Trust seldom receives requests for apprenticeship support, reflecting the lack of programmes currently available. A robust interest in Trust funding from village groups continues, especially the Primary School.

The Charity Commission continues to develop a more pro-active role in its relationship with charities, following the introduction of individual administrator accounts and tailored support and information 'to help run the charity better'. The Trustees continue to engage in this changing environment, completing successfully the Trust's Annual Return to the Charity Commission and taking the opportunity to participate in the Commission's online knowledge refresher programme. This is designed to pose questions based on everyday scenarios that Trustees may encounter while conducting Trust activity.

Careful financial management has generated the availability of readily accessible funding. Returns on investments have allowed the Trustees to uplift annually awards to individuals in line with inflationary pressures. Potential individual or institutional applicants to the Trust for grants to support general educational costs or travel associated with education are extremely welcome. Applicants are best advised to approach any of the helpful Trustees with an early enquiry. The appropriateness of any funding request can then be given proper and prompt consideration and support provided, where necessary, in the application process.

Ray Croucher  
Secretary, Willingham British School Trust