



The James Gillespie's Trust Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018



Olga Wojtas officially opens
the Muriel Spark Walk



Former pupil meets current
pupils of JGHS



Former pupils tour the old
JGHS building on Bruntsfield

Charity contact information



The James Gillespie's Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC022811

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Email: mail.jgtrust@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.jamesgillespie'strust.com>

Facebook profile name: James Gillespie's Trust

Charity Trustees

1. Jean Knox
2. Sheena Purdom
3. Ann Henderson
4. Allison Naismith
5. Robbie McVeigh
6. Fiona Denvir
7. Donald Macdonald
8. Ian Porter
9. Melanie Main



From left to right: Robbie McVeigh, Sheena Purdom, Jean Knox, Donald Macdonald, Ian Porter, Allison Naismith

Objectives and activities

James Gillespie's Trust was set up in 1994 to advance the education and improve the circumstances of the students of James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh, by:

1. Supporting the School in providing a high-quality learning and teaching environment for all, including the wider community;
2. promoting, supporting and helping to resource projects, programmes and initiatives designed to enhance the education delivered by the School, whether local, national or international, with which the School may from time to time be associated including the provision of resources, through such projects, programmes and initiatives, to partner institutions of the school wheresoever they may be situated;
3. promoting and conducting research related to developing the educational role of the School and by providing briefings on this research;
4. promoting and conducting research into the history of the school and associated matters;
5. facilitating communication between and among students, staff, parents, former students, the community, the Parent Council or any successor organisations representing or involving the parents of students at the School; and
6. delivering resources and support to students, staff or parents/carers to help deliver the above purposes effectively.

The Trust's Main Activities

- Small Grants Scheme - to disburse funds to realisable student projects. This scheme will account for no more than 10% of the Trust's assets in any year, in grants of up to £300.
- Grants to the school to support field trips, residential experiences and special projects.
- Organising activities for the alumni of the school. In past years we have had open mornings for the alumni to peruse our archives and tours round both the old school and the new one.
- We act as a resource to help inform current practice based on past experience.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

James Gillespie's Trust is governed by a Trust Deed which has been updated twice to reflect changing circumstances.

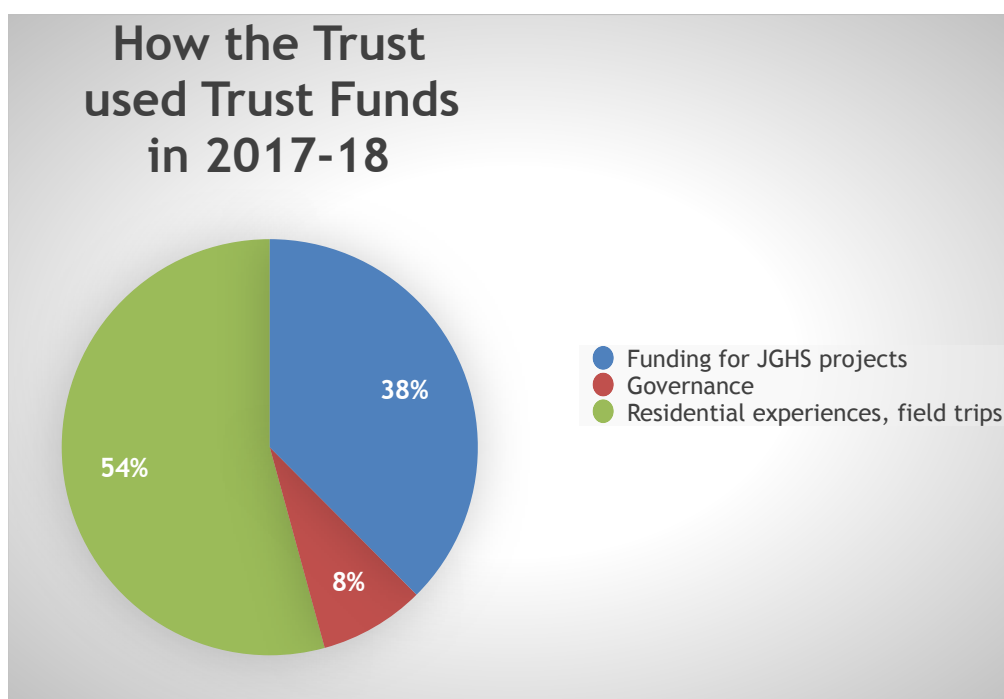
Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees and office-bearers are appointed at the AGM and, on occasions, during the year. Trustees come from a range of backgrounds: JGHS promoted staff, Parent Council for JGHS, local councillors for the school catchment area and alumni from the school. In the past year one more Trustee was appointed from the Parent Council in keeping with the guidelines within the Trust Deed.

Achievements and performance

- Throughout the year the Trust has made several financial contributions to support individual projects via the Small Grant Scheme. This allows pupils to apply for funds for realisable projects.
- Several school residential activities have been supported, e.g., S1 residential experience and geography field trip to Loch Lomond.
- Funds were made available for a reading project in the school library.
- Support is provided to enable some South African students to attend university.
- Alumni were given the opportunity to explore the old JGHS building which is now used as university residences.
- The Trust has commissioned informative plaques for each building on the campus and the construction of a display cabinet for the marble bust of James Gillespie.
- Plans are underway to celebrate the centenary of Muriel Spark's birth with a special event later this year.
- Trust funding has increased the participation in residential activities and offered previously unattainable educational opportunities.

Financial review



Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is the policy of the Trust to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the Trust at a level sufficient to sustain current expenditure for a period of six months without any income. It is estimated that a figure of approximately £2000 would provide sufficient funds to cover management and administration costs and to cover costs incurred in furtherance of the charity's objectives for that period.

At the moment the Trust is holding much more than this figure due to a very generous bequest from a former pupil and welcomes applications for funding in accordance with the Trust's aims and objectives.

Future plans

To celebrate the centenary of the birth of Muriel Spark, one of the school's illustrious alumni, the Trust has organised a literary event to be held in the new Spark Theatre in the school. Guest speakers include Alan Taylor, a good friend of Muriel's, and Jane Fowler. There will be an opportunity to purchase the new editions of Muriel's books, some of which have been out of print for several years. Refreshments will be available.

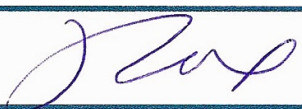
The Trust commissioned information plaques for each building on the campus and we hope to have these installed very soon.

A plinth and display case for James Gillespie's marble bust, once complete, will be installed in the school foyer.

Additional information

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

Jean Knox

Designation

Chair

Date

7 November 2018