

# THE JAMES GILLESPIE'S TRUST

[www.jamesgillespietrust.com](http://www.jamesgillespietrust.com)



5 December 2022

To the alumni of James Gillespie's High School, wherever you are ....

## Coronavirus

It's been a long haul, longer perhaps than we initially expected, but there is definitely a return to some kind of normality now. Over this period the Trust has continued to support the school as much as possible, with substantial emphasis currently on addressing and improving the mental health of all involved in the school.

## Small Grants and Staff Grants

The Trust has, for many years, run a Small Grant system whereby pupils can apply for a modest sum of money to allow projects to be completed. We have increased the maximum sum to £500 and we have also introduced Staff Grants (maximum £3,000) so that members of staff can apply directly to the Trust for larger amounts for specific projects. Both grants are awarded for projects that underpin the Trust's principles.

This year the Trust has been able to support three big initiatives: a basketball school which addresses behavioural issues, a wellbeing area where those needing support can access it and another year of the S1 Residential which will take place in March 2023.

## Impact of JGHS

The JGHS Trust exists to enhance the educational experiences and personal development of current and future pupils at James Gillespie's High School. We raise and disperse funds to support pupils in need and we aim to make a difference by supporting initiatives led by pupils and staff. We also have an interest in the holistic development of young people and how they might learn and benefit from those who went before them.

To help us understand how the Gillespie's experience has impacted on the lives of former pupils, we would like to hear from former pupils, of all ages and stages in life. We would like to receive personal stories from people like you, telling us about how your school experience has impacted your life. It may be personal or professional, it may involve the school community in Marchmont or wherever you ventured after school anywhere in the world. You may have a hobby or interest that started or developed at school. If you have an interesting story to share, please send it to [mail.jgtrust@gmail.com](mailto:mail.jgtrust@gmail.com)

## Accounts

Our accounts, audited annually, have been submitted to OSCR. This ensures we maintain our charitable status. You can see the links to them, including the annual report, on our website: <https://www.jamesgillespietrust.com/trust-reports/> - look for the section headed "Trust Accounts 2021-22".

### **Eric Melvin Talk – Friday 3 February 2023 at 2pm**

It's been quite a long time since we have been able to organise an event for our alumni but, at last, we have a presentation for you. We all know the Edinburgh of our schooldays but we are probably much less familiar with the Edinburgh of James & John Gillespie, and so we have invited Eric Melvin to give a presentation on Edinburgh and the Golden Age. Some of you may have attended some of Eric's classes for the City of Edinburgh's Community Education Programme and will know just what an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker he is. A real joy to listen to! The presentation will take place at 2pm on Friday 3 February 2023 in the Spark Theatre in James Gillespie's High School, followed by light refreshments which can be purchased from the Parent Council, and you should be on your way home by 4pm. The presentation will be free but please let us know if you plan to come, to give the Parent Council numbers for catering.

James and John Gillespie lived through some of the most fascinating years of Edinburgh's rich history. Inspired by Lord Provost George Drummond, Edinburgh burst from the confines of the medieval Old Town and started to build what even then was described as the New Town. At the same time as Edinburgh was being transformed physically and socially, its intellectual reputation saw the City referred to as "The Athens of the North." This was due in no small part to the reputation of the University which attracted some of the finest academics of the day to live and to work in Edinburgh. With their shop in the High Street, the Gillespie brothers were witnesses to exciting times. Their successful tobacco and snuff business saw them amass a fortune which they left to the City to support charitable enterprises. Their generous legacy continues to this day.

The talk will draw heavily from the work of their next-door neighbour, the artist John Kay who recorded many of the characters of the Golden Age - including portraits of the Gillespie brothers.

### **AGM**

On 15 November 2022 the Trust held its AGM. Sheena Purdom will continue as chair and Jean Knox will continue as treasurer for another year, and we have two new Parent Council reps: Vikki Plant & Nicolas Boyes. However, we will need more Trustees and Office Bearers next year and we hope that you will consider joining us. We will need someone to take care of all alumni matters (using Excel), someone to keep our website up-to-date (using WordPress) and someone to be treasurer (using Excel). None of these tasks are particularly onerous but they are essential to the running of the Trust. Please contact us on [mail.jgtrust@gmail.com](mailto:mail.jgtrust@gmail.com) for more information.

We hope that you will continue to support us as generously as you have done in the past. If you would like to make a contribution to future projects, please either send your cheque, made payable to James Gillespie's Trust, together with your details (name and dates), to Treasurer, Mrs Jean Knox, at James Gillespie's High School, 120 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh EH9 1DD or make electronic payment to James Gillespie's Trust, Bank of Scotland account number **17854260**, sort code **80-22-60**, using your name as reference and email her at [alumni@jamesgillespietrust.com](mailto:alumni@jamesgillespietrust.com).

Kind regards,

Jean

Jean Knox,  
James Gillespie's Trust