

THE DEDHAM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Four centuries of tradition in education

The Dedham Educational Foundation celebrates its centenary this year, at least in its modern form. Although its governing Scheme dates from 1917, minutes still exist from as far back as 1599. The modern Scheme, states that it relates to “the Foundation known as the Royal Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth (I) with endowment for the benefit of the area consisting of the parishes of Dedham, Ardleigh, Great Bromley, Bradfield and Stratford St Mary.”

The Old Grammar School next to the Royal Square, had been rebuilt in 1732, was eventually closed and sold and the proceeds were invested. The Foundation now relies on the income from those investments and rent from land, to award grants to university, sixth form college or institute and secondary school children living in any of the five parishes mentioned above.

The land that it owns is the fields on the east and west of the road leading out of Dedham towards Stratford St. Mary, immediately adjacent to the river on the Suffolk side.

The Foundation currently has eight trustees including one nominated by Essex County Council and one by the Dedham Parish Council; each of the parishes is represented by one trustee as well. Following extensive advertising in the five parishes, students apply for grants in October each year and the amount paid depends on the number of applications received, but in the last few years the university grants have been £800 with a lower figure for college and secondary school students.

Many students write to the trustees after receiving grants. Here is a sample of comments received last year: “It really does make a difference and is much appreciated”, “we are very fortunate to have such a foundation in our locality”, “as a student at whatever level one is always short of money and this will really help”, “the money will help a lot, especially with the many reading books that need to be purchased” and “the grant given is very much appreciated and of enormous benefit”.

David Druitt, Chairman

During October residents of the parishes of Ardleigh, Bradfield, Dedham, Great Bromley and Stratford St. Mary can apply for educational financial grants:

Secondary Schools, Six Form Colleges Applicants must be at least 12 years old on the 1 August 2017

Universities, Colleges of Further Education Applicants must have lived in one or more of the five parishes for at least two years.

For an application form contact the Clerk Jean Flewin ☎322 215, Coppins, Crown Street, Dedham, CO7 6AT.

Closing date for applications: **Tuesday 31 October 2017**