



18 August 2009

Deserving Stevenson College Students Awarded Bursary to Progress to University

Two students from Stevenson College Edinburgh have been awarded the Helena Kennedy Foundation bursary which recognises students' difficult circumstances and their inspiration, commitment and dedication to continue their education.

Erin Grieve and Antonio-John Abrante, both from Edinburgh, completed their Higher grades at Stevenson College and are progressing to Edinburgh University where Erin will study Ecology and Environment and Antonio will study Politics.

Erin (25) has just received three straight A's in Highers English, Biology and Politics; a great achievement for any student but more so because Erin is dyslexic and a single parent of a four-year-old child. On winning the award Erin said:

"I'm so happy to have been awarded the bursary which I will put towards childcare costs for Emily. I had a fantastic teacher at Stevenson College and I will always be grateful for her support. My dyslexia was not properly diagnosed until I studied at Stevenson and the help provided enabled me to achieve the grades I did. They were also very understanding of my circumstances with my daughter."

She added: "I'm much more confident now and feel better equipped to deal with life and although I'm a bit nervous about starting uni in September, probably no more so than most students."

Antonio (19) also had to overcome difficult circumstances. Born in Tenerife to a Scottish mother and Spanish father he moved to Edinburgh aged 9 and at that point spoke very little English. Shortly after arriving in Edinburgh he was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome and Dyspraxia and school life was often a challenge as it was not easy for him to socialise. After leaving school Antonio decided to spend a year at college both to study and develop his social skills.

Head of Continuing Education at Stevenson College Janis Stirton said:

“Although Antonio is a modest young man, he has tremendous willpower and an engaging personality. He has worked hard to develop the strategies he needed to study alongside others in a busy environment. I am confident that Antonio will be as successful at Edinburgh University as he has been at Stevenson College Edinburgh.”

This is the sixth consecutive year that students from Stevenson College Edinburgh have been awarded bursaries from the Helena Kennedy Foundation and the Trustees have recognised the tremendous support provided by the College.

Director of the Helena Kennedy Foundation, Ellen Dawson, said:

“We are delighted that two students from Stevenson College have been successful this year. The College is a member of the HKF Friends Scheme and a valued supporter of the Foundation. The quality of applications from Stevenson College has always been very high and their students have been successful every year for the past five years. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the College and wish Erin and Antonio every success for the future”.

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