



PRESS RELEASE

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Stevenson College Edinburgh Awards Ceremony Honours Exceptional Commitment

On 4 June 2010 at the Hub in Edinburgh Stevenson College presented over 40 awards to students who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to education and life-long learning.

The ceremony recognises students who have overcome personal or academic obstacles not only to complete a course, but also to excel in their own expectations and really make a difference to their future.

This year the College set up a new award for the Best Buddy. Stevenson College introduced a “buddy” scheme three years ago, which involves students volunteering to support fellow students. Rory Landale has a visual impairment and his buddy James Brown helps him both socially and in the class. Although independent, Rory still appreciates James’ help. He said:

“I enjoy having James as a buddy, he is very kind and we have a laugh. At the same time he is extremely patient and understanding and helps me when I’m finding things difficult to find or understand.”

It was a joint celebration for the buddies as Rory picked up the award for Outstanding

Performance in Administration, Information Technology and Tourism and James received the Best Buddy Award for his support of Rory. James was also presented with a second award, the prestigious Gold Millennium Volunteer's Award, for volunteering more than 200 hours this year for his fellow student, Rory. In good buddy fashion James helped Rory on to the stage to collect his award too.

James wasn't the only student to receive a Millennium Volunteer's award. A bronze award was also presented to Kris Watson for volunteering more than 50 hours to set up and run a Lunch Club for fellow students with Asperger syndrome/high-functioning autism. This provided them with a quiet peaceful place to eat their lunch away from the noise of the refectory where they play chess, trivial pursuit, cards or just eat their lunch.

The awards are in their seventh year and are sponsored by local companies and organisations including the Bank of Scotland, Clan Edinburgh, Chartered Management Institute, Hookson, Ede and Ravenscroft, Dermalogica, Ten Alps Vision, Blake Stevenson, Pearson Longman, The University of Edinburgh and Sally Salon Services. Cllr Tom Buchanan, Convener of Economic Development at City of Edinburgh Council was the guest speaker.