



Know Your Neighbour

The Royal Caledonian Schools Trust

John Horsfield occupies Unit 75 of the Wenta Business Centre, as the chief executive of The Royal Caledonian Schools Trust. The Caley, as it is affectionately known, is an educational charity set up in 1815 to help the children of a Scot who has served in the Armed Forces or the children of a poor Scot living in the London area (within the M25 ring). The organisation is legally known as the Caledonian Asylum, but for obvious reasons is trading as The Royal Caledonian Schools Trust!

The Caley was originally set up as a school in London but in 1995 the directors advised to close the school and to become an educational trust. During the past 10 years as a trust, it has been awarded grants in excess of £1 million, which have helped various local people like Dr Stuart Daly, who the trust helped through medical school to become a surgeon. John explains that this is how these grants help the local area, as the people helped can become assets to the community.

Before becoming Chief Executive, John was previously Mayor of Watford, but when he stepped down he wanted a new challenge, which he found with the Caley!

John moved the business from Bushey into the Wenta Business Centre in 2004, and since moving to Wenta, the trust has expanded and the staffing

level increased. John is now joined by Debbie and Jo, who deal with administration and genealogy respectively. Debbie arrived the day after John moved into the Wenta Business Centre and deals with the day to day handling of the grant applications and ensures the smooth running of the office. Jo deals with genealogy as the Caley finds it has lots of enquiries from decedents of former pupils about family trees and past history. A staggering 95% of the time, they can help people with their enquiries.

Outside of the organisation, John has various interests, including Watford Football Club, gardening and the arts. His wife is an artist and he has set up art exhibitions in Watford and London. He also has three grandchildren that he enjoys spending time with.

John believes in making use of the resources around him, and has regularly taken advantage of Wenta's free of charge business advice. He believes it is a distinct advantage to have an outside perspective and has used Wenta's advisors on numerous occasions as a sounding board to help grow his business.

Here at Wenta we understand that businesses come in all shapes and sizes, therefore our facilities are designed to cater to your individual requirements.

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*John Horsfield
The Royal Caledonian
Schools Trust*

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