



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I wish to congratulate the Trustees, staff and supporters both of the Royal Wanstead Children's Foundation and the Joint Educational Trust (JET) on their decision to merge into a new charity which, from 1st December 2010 will be known as The Royal National Children's Foundation. This merger will have many benefits:

The two charities are very close partners and have been working together to support vulnerable and disadvantaged children for more than 20 years. Many of those young people whom I have met since I became Patron of Royal Wanstead have been co-funded with JET.

The two charities are similar but they are also complementary, and I believe the blended skills, experience and resources of both will enable the new charity to support yet more young people over the long-term.

The new Royal National Children's Foundation will create a new, clearer focus for people and organizations wanting to support our work on behalf of some of the most vulnerable young people in society.

However, for all the "newness", there are many generations of experience involved in the merged organisation. Those benefactors, on whom our work depends, can recognize our strong new charity and name. But they can also feel assured that it is drawing on a history of 183 years of helping to transform the lives of vulnerable young people.

Royal Wanstead is the older of the two charities, having been founded by Dr. Andrew Reed in 1827. But it has survived and thrived in its third century by adapting to meet circumstances and changing times. Once, it was an orphanage for infants, then it was a boarding school in Wanstead and, for the last 40 years, it has been the charity which has supported more than 2,000 young people in some 150 boarding schools throughout the UK.

JET has its origins in prep school head teachers joining together in the 1970s to help support vulnerable children; a similarly distinguished, if shorter, history. The two charities share a focused, highly cost-effective approach to providing school-based support for vulnerable young people at risk in their home or family environment.

I am pleased to be Patron of The Royal National Children's Foundation and encourage all our supporters and would-be supporters of this combined charity to do everything you can to ensure our continued success in the years ahead.