



Foyso! Choudhury MBE

It is a great honour for me to be writing a short blog for the Drummond Community High School newsletter. Drummond Community High School has not only been an important part of my life; it has been an important part of the lives of many members of my family. My sisters, brother, cousins, nephews and my son (previous Head boy of the school) and my younger daughter are all beneficiaries of the excellent education that pupils receive at the school. I attended the school between 1984 and 1988. Since leaving school I have not only concentrated on my family, but I have devoted a considerable amount of time to charity work and my career as a businessman and entrepreneur.



Family circumstances dictated that I went into business rather than complete my course at University. I presently run a successful business in which I employ some students to help them reduce their financial problems. In the community, I am Chairman of a number of organisations including Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh and Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC). ELREC is a well-known Equality organisation and we have many distinguished and committed Board members, including Professor Sir Geoff Palmer OBE, ELREC's Honorary President. ELREC has a dedicated staff and many volunteers from a diverse and multicultural background. At ELREC we are committed to the protection of human rights in our daily work. In this regard, we are always in the frontline in condemning any hate crime and discrimination incidents that aim to undermine our society. Diversity should be celebrated not threatened or attacked.

I also have an interest in politics and hope to be elected to our parliament. This would be an opportunity for me for advancing and promoting human rights, social justice and equality in our politics as well. Although my charitable work in the community makes it difficult for me to do as much work as I would like in education, I value my educational links with my old school. The years at school have enriched my life, thanks to the good education and values that that school teaches. Then and now, the school offers opportunities for students to get involved with the community and for charities to talk about their work with the pupils. I was honoured to sponsor the football team's jersey and was delighted to assist the P.E. teacher as a football coach. I am delighted that ELREC and the school worked in partnership to support refugees in Edinburgh. Such activities will provide support and reassurance to refugees that this society will protect their rights and give them the chance to have happy and productive lives. You can read about the success of the event in the December 2016 newsletter.

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