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Darfield's Jack Dixon wins Southern Hearing Charitable Trust scholarship



Photo caption: David Kent (left), Chair of the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust, with Jack Dixon, recipient of the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust scholarship for 2016. Centre is Jack's mother, Angela Dixon.

Eighteen-year-old Jack Dixon has been awarded the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust scholarship to assist him financially as he embarks on his university career.

Having received a cochlear implant at the age of 11, the young Darfield man fashioned an impressive leadership, academic and sporting record during his five years as a boarder at St Bede's College. He was a prefect in 2016.

David Kent, Chair of the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust, said that Jack was an outstanding young man and that this scholarship was to assist him during study for a Bachelor of Science degree at Lincoln University.

Jack wants to become a leader and role model with the cochlear implant and deaf communities, which is an outstanding attribute as he will be able to give advice

and potentially assist other teenagers with cochlear implants who are considering attending tertiary education.

“His ability to relate to them will be important,” he said.

From once having to struggle to be a part of conversations, the cochlear implant has allowed Jack to actively participate in many different areas.

“Being physically active is important to me. I love to go running and participate in a variety of sports activities. In my last year at school I played for the tennis seniors and was goalkeeper in the U19 football team,” he said.

His academic record at St Bede’s was compelling. He was awarded Honours Pockets in 2014 and 2015 for his achievements in NCEA Level One and Two and last year in Level Three received Excellence awards for Chemistry, Geography, Religious Education and Earth and Space Science.

“For my science degree I intend to major in Land, Water and Environmental Science which will fit with my deep interest in the environment and sustainability,” he said.

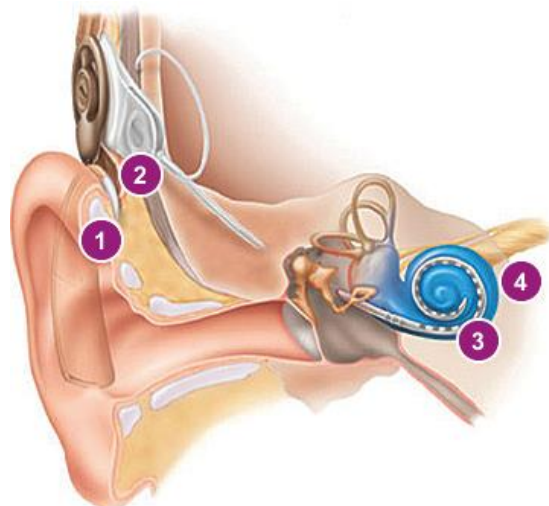
As well as his academic and sporting prowess, Jack was active in all aspects of School life. In 2014 he was awarded a NZ Federation for Deaf Children Excellence Award for his commitment and hard-working attitude. He was also a part of the CanTeen fundraising initiative, where teams of pupils ran 125km to raise money for teenagers with cancer.

David Kent said that Jack is a thoughtful, reliable and positive young man with a mature attitude who relates well to people of all ages.

Background on how a cochlear implant works.

Cochlear implants can reconnect those with hearing loss to the world of sound.

They work differently to hearing aids, which amplify sound. A cochlear implant transforms speech and other sounds into electrical energy that is used to stimulate surviving auditory nerve fibers in the inner ear.



1. Speech processor captures then converts sound into a digital signal.
2. Digital signal is sent through the external coil to the internal implant.
3. Implant converts digital signal into electrical impulses, which are sent along the electrode array, which is inserted inside the cochlea.
4. Electrodes stimulate the cochlea hearing nerve, bypassing damaged cells, sending impulses to the brain where they are interpreted as sound.