

Charity News

Here at Thomas Gainsborough School we support a range of local and national charities where we encourage the students to take an active part in planning and engaging in fund-raising activities.

2017-2018 Review

Throughout this year we carried out a wide range of events raising in total £5,589 for several different charities.

We carried out a coffee morning for MacMillan, a non-uniform wear-it-spotty day for Children In Need and a whole school Race For Life for Cancer Research.

Each house is assigned an individual charity for which the House Committees help plan and carry out activities. Together the houses did run several events as a collaboration: TGS Goes Scary, Christmas Market, Christmas Jumper Day and an Easter Raffle. Then each house planned their own events:

Abbas: East Anglian Air Ambulance.

The East Anglian Air Ambulance provides Helicopter Emergency Medical Services across the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

Abbas house won the Charity cup this year for being the house who raised the most money for charity over the school year - and this comes as no surprise when you look at all of the events they ran:

Munchy Mondays - cakes were donated and made to be sold on the first Monday of every month
Unlucky Dip - for Halloween - who knew what they were going get out of here - Trick or Treat?
Christmas - some fantastic raffle prizes were donated to be won and students were able to pay to have their Christmas cards delivered to friends at form time.

Random Acts of Kindness - a joint event with Tollemache house where students bought small gifts for one another to show kindness.

The 3 Peaks Challenge - this was our big event in the Summer term where students in teams of six needed to complete 35 flights of stairs at TGS from bottom floor to top floor to match the height of the Yorkshire Three Peaks.

Overall a total of more than £1,800 was raised - what a fantastic effort and a well deserved win!

Chamberlain: Suffolk Family Carers

Suffolk Family Carers provide advice and support to those who look after a family member or relative.

Throughout the year Chamberlain tutor groups collected their loose change in pots to put together at the end of the year.

Our big Autumn event was the London-to-Brighton Relay Race where students were sponsored to complete as many laps of an obstacle course hoping in total to cover the distance from London to Brighton. The students were very successful covering over 110km (44km more than our target!).

In the Summer term we held a sponsored swim event in the glorious sunshine where we covered the distance across the English Channel as a team.

We also carried out a Sweet Raffle and Book sale, in total all of our events raised over £1,600

Houghton: Friends of TGS

The Friends raise funds for Thomas Gainsborough School to help provide additional opportunities for students.

Our first event was in celebration of Valentine's Day where students could buy a gift in secret and have it delivered anonymously to one another during the school day. Some friends were very generous in buying each other secret gifts.

Miss Barfield, Miss Keys and Mrs Canham worked very hard to recruit and demonstrate their knitting skills to make Easter Egg covers which we sold as presents. There was such a range of different covers from Easter chicks to elephants!

In rivalry to Abbas' Munchy Mondays Houghton set up Cake Thursdays where once a month cakes were made and donated to sell on a Thursday in the Lightwell.

Our Summer Event was a fantastic Girls Football Tournament - where house teams paid to enter a team to compete in a series of games. It was fantastic to see the football skills of so many young girls which inspired a female staff football match after school!

Well done Houghton committee with all of your efforts and fundraising this year.

Peyton: The Befriending Scheme

The Befriending Scheme provides friendship and learning opportunities for people (16yrs+) from vulnerable groups.

Peyton started the year by introducing the TGS Scary event across all houses. Students were able to pay £1 for which they had to wear normal school uniform but could decorate themselves from the neck up in the spirit of Halloween! We had some amazing creations and some very frightful and realistic looking injuries. The Head of the Tom Bowdidge Trust came in to be our impartial judge as some were too good for us to tell apart.

Our year finished with our favourite Smelly Welly Boot challenge. Staff volunteered to put themselves up for voting as to who was going to receive the most money to be made to put their feet in the most disgusting welly boots ever! Dog food, tuna, beans and food colouring were just a few of the items put in the boots! As ever it was a very close result between Mrs Yapp and Mrs Kelly with the latter 'winning' the opportunity to take part. The boots were so disgusting that Mr Ponsford had to bin them at the end of the challenge so we hope Mrs Kelly's feet have recovered.

Tollemache: Tom Bowdidge Foundation

The Foundation is headquartered in Colchester and its aim is to fund projects that support teenage cancer sufferers and their families.

Our big event this year involved us eating chocolate! The Tom Bowdidge Trust donated a tube of smarties to all Tollemache students encouraging them to go away and eat them and then to fill the empty tube with change for charity. This was a hugely successful event resulting in many tubes coming back considerably heavier than when they contained chocolate. This event raised over £270 for our charity.

We then joined forces with Abbas house to run a Random Acts of Kindness stall to coincide with the Theme of the Fortnight. We wanted to encourage students to do something nice for

one another for no specific reason other than to spread kindness and happiness. Students could purchase sweets or small gifts which they could then pass on to their friends hoping that they would in turn 'pay it forward'.

Our house also saw the most number of scary faces this year - a great contribution of money and effort for our chosen charity - well done

2018-2019 Planning

Abbas: Headway

Headway is a charity that works to improve life after a brain injury.

Chamberlain: Friends of TGS

The Friends raise funds for Thomas Gainsborough School to help provide additional opportunities for students.

Houghton: Smile of Arran

The Smile of Arran Trust is a brain tumour charity that was set up in memory of an inspiring teenager Arran Tosh, who lost his life to a brain tumour at 13

Peyton: Help For Heroes

Help for Heroes provide lifelong support to Service Personnel and Military Veterans with injuries, illnesses and wounds sustained while serving in the British Armed Forces.

Tollemache: EACH

East Anglian Children's Hospice support families and care for children and young people with life-threatening conditions across Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk