



SOUTHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

Southborough in the Community



Working hard and gaining the very best qualifications you can is, of course, extremely important here at Southborough. But as far as we are concerned, education isn't *just* about passing exams. Rather, it's about developing well-rounded, kind, young men who are fully-equipped – academically, socially and emotionally - to contribute positively to society.

We want our students to respect and think of others less fortunate - and learn the importance of 'giving back'. And when has there been a better time to do this than in the last eighteen months, when people across the world have struggled with illness, loss and isolation?

Indeed, we pride ourselves as being a school dedicated to promoting fundamental British values, namely democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. And doing right by others.



Keeping Calm and Carrying On

Each year, staff and students of Southborough High School reach out and support a wide range of charities, many of which have, over the years, become close to our hearts.

Students of every age are encouraged to get involved at some level, whether it's helping to donate foodstuffs to the homeless, running cake and hot chocolate sales for a particular cause or walking/running for charity.

Of course, the last eighteen months have been a challenging time for everyone, especially for the most vulnerable in the community. Fund raising events up and down the country were cancelled and the elderly and clinically vulnerable became virtual prisoners in their own homes.

Whilst there were certain activities that were out of bounds because of Lockdown/pandemic restrictions, there were plenty of other events that we WERE able to take part in. Taking the 'Keep Calm and Carry On' principle to heart, we pulled together and made the difference for many.

Take a look at some of our charity events from the last eighteen months. Despite the Lockdown/pandemic period, you'll see that we were none-the-less busy doing our best to do right by others.



November 2020 Raising awareness and understanding amongst our students of both prostate and testicular cancer was something we felt was especially important. Assemblies and tutorials were conducted around the school and students had the opportunity to learn more about both cancer and mental health in men. They were able to ask lots of questions and become more knowledgeable, understanding and sympathetic towards about such sensitive –and often not talked about – topics. Knowledge is, indeed, power. A number of Southborough staff and Sixth Formers were sponsored to grow the most striking of moustaches—and collectively **we raised over £2,000 for Movember. Great work!**





On Remembrance Day, we raised hundreds of pounds for the British Legion. Students wore their poppies with pride!



Southborough Christmas Food Appeal for the Homeless 2020



Our Christmas Campaign



Students, parents/carers and staff all pulled together in the run up to Christmas **to raise hundreds of pounds for a variety of charities including Alexandra Rose Charity, Princess Alice Hospice, The Fircroft Trust and Cecily's Fund**, generously donating on parent pay. Sixth Formers ran a special sponsored silence to raise extra funds and **table loads of foodstuffs were donated by everyone at the school for the local foodbank**, which distributed the groceries to families who needed it the most in time for Christmas.



SIXTH FORM ANNUAL RAG WEEK



Each Spring, before we break up for the Easter holidays, our Sixth Form students lead on a whole school event known as RAG (Raising and Giving) Week. A range of fun activities take place during morning and lunch breaks and after school, all to raise as much money as possible for a worthwhile charity. Whilst there were a number of events that we simply couldn't run this year because of the pandemic restrictions, Sixth Form students were still able to come up with creative ways to get the whole school community engaged. You'll see from the photos that fun was definitely had by all and staff, students and parent/carers **raised an incredible £3,000 for Cruse Bereavement Care**, a wonderful charity that provides support to those who have lost a loved one.



Fancy Dress Fun Run and Tug O War



Staff vs Sixth Form Charity Football Match



Charity Raffle





Daily Cake and Hot Chocolate Sales and a Year 7 Charity Quiz





London 10K Charity Run for Cecily's Fund



Parents/carers, students and staff got behind Headteacher Mr Smith and other Southborough members who took part in the London 10K run to raise money for Cecily's Fund, a charity that helps educate Zambian children orphaned by AIDS. **Over £2,000 was raised for this worthwhile charity**, one that the school has supported for over ten years now.





A close working partnership with The Grace Dear Trust



Southborough High School has worked closely alongside The Grace Dear Trust – a mental health charity - for a number of years now. This remarkable charity was set up a few years ago by her family after Grace Dear, a young woman in the prime of her life, tragically took her own life. Grace, normally the life and soul of the party, had been struggling with her mental health but hadn't been able to talk to anyone about it. Her passing left her family utterly distraught but since their loss they have done everything in their power to promote the message 'It's OK not to be OK' and spread the word amongst students in Kingston schools and the wider local community.

We have raised funds for this amazing charity in the past but in recent years, the charity has given back to our school ten-fold, funding a number of wonderful initiatives including inspirational murals around the school, a top of the range bike for our ACE scheme, benches to relax and chat on and, just recently, a wonderful outdoor gym for our boys to use. Earlier in September the Mayor of Kingston came to officially open the outdoor gym. Our boys simply love it and we are extremely grateful to the charity for both their generosity and their tireless work in breaking down the stigma of mental health issues, including depression and anxiety. Our boys are so lucky to have their support!



"It's ok not to be ok"

