

#slaycancerwithdragons

Surrey school students organise first ever UK fundraising campaign for the Tyler Robinson Foundation

Having signed up to take part in Giving Nation in 2013, Year 9 students at Glebelands decided they wanted to support a charity that worked with young people just like themselves.

As fans of the band 'Imagine Dragons', students did some further research into the Tyler Robinson Foundation, a US charity set up in association with the band to support paediatric cancer patients.



Expert advice

The group began by contacting Tyler Robinson's brother, who answered their questions and sent merchandise from the Foundation. They then got in touch with the head of PR for the Tyler Robinson Foundation and were allocated a dedicated representative to help with their fundraising. More recently they have been in contact with Imagine Dragons' band manager (and vice president of the Foundation) to share their work.

Fundraising activities

Meanwhile, the group were also hard at work organising the first ever UK-based Tyler Robinson fundraising events and awareness-raising activities, including a school music festival to showcase the talents of their classmates. They sold charity wrist bands donated by the Tyler Robinson Foundation; made and distributed donation boxes to local businesses; set up a stand at a local supermarket to raise awareness; and even convinced their head teacher that 25% of profits made from a school mufti day would be donated to their cause.

The impact

To date students have raised over £820 for the Tyler Robinson Foundation, and more than 800 people from the school and local community are now aware of its work.

'Giving Nation is a brilliant concept which enables students to develop employability skills at the same time as developing independence and empathy. Many of our students have experienced a sense of well-being by contributing towards a charitable cause and a sense of achievement. Great opportunity which I am looking forward to repeating next year.'

Laetitia Rys-Kent, Head of PSHE & Citizenship, Glebelands School

'It was a great experience and it taught me that a couple of hours in your day can make a massive difference. For this reason we are all carrying on with our fundraising and we would like to thank Giving Nation for introducing this experience.'

Year 9 student

What next?

Students are currently in talks with the Foundation in the USA and in France to organise a worldwide event to raise money and awareness of the charity. The international extravaganza is due to take place on the 4th March 2015, marking the 2 year anniversary of Tyler's death.