

Dear Sponsor,

Firstly, in light of the current health context due to COVID-19, we hope that you and your family are safe and well.

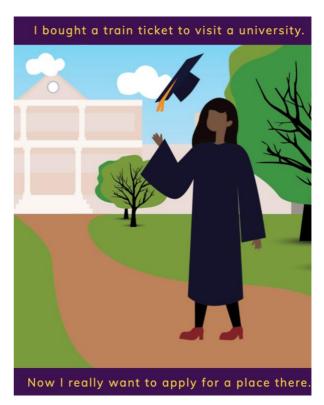
This unprecedented situation is undoubtedly one of the most difficult periods that schools in the UK have had to face in a long while. We stand behind all the teachers, school staff, pupils and parents who have had to adapt accordingly and continue education as best as possible in line with the governmental guidelines. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support to Sponsorstars, which is so important and appreciated now more than ever.

We have been actively seeking to help out our schools and the most vulnerable in this period of hardship. We have reached out to the schools to hear from them and find out if and how we could be of best support. Read on to find out what Sponsorstars has been up to since the beginning of the year, and the extra measures that we have taken to help out the schools during this time. You can also hear from the schools and students directly on how they have benefited from your sponsorship.

We thank you for your continued backing and wish you a happy and healthy summer ahead wherever you may be.

The Sponsorstars team







The Latest News...



We have provided two schools with a washer-dryer which will help the pupils in the Sponsorstars scheme have their school uniforms regularly washed. Whilst the appliances are understandably not being used at the moment, it was perfect timing to have them installed before lockdown began, and therefore ready to be used as soon as schools are able to re-open.



When the U.K. went into lockdown at the end of March due to Covid-19, some schools have been providing food parcels to help support underprivileged pupils and families in their cohort through their own budget, whilst free school meals were translated to weekly food vouchers. Sponsorstars has contributed £150 to one such school in London, to help support while the system was initially encountering some delays.



In terms of our regular scheme, we have asked the schools to carry over any unspent budget to the next academic year for pupils from Y7 to Y12. In light of these particular circumstances, we have asked our schools to provide the Y13 students with vouchers at the value of their unspent budget, to help with their ongoing educational needs as they won't be returning in September.



We have received some great news from one of our schools that we wanted to share with you. One of their pupils in the Sponsorstars scheme, currently in Y13, has received an offer to study medicine at Kings College. Such a fantastic achievement!

Hear from the schools...

"One of our students who is going on a gap year is hoping to go into the film and media industry. He has used the money to help purchase a Nikon camera to start shooting his own theatre and drama productions. I know that he and his friends have already given this a go because they sent it to the head of drama! In addition, the students were incredibly grateful for the packs that were sent at the very start of the academic year and this provided a really nice way to welcome them to the programme."

"Prior to lockdown we had been enjoying time with the Sponsorstars students in our Library, helping them look on-line to spend their money. I am looking forward to meeting the students again when they return to school and being able to order the resources they have chosen. During lockdown it has been lovely to be able to chat to the 3 Sponsorstars students who attended during the school closures and get some feedback. They have greatly appreciated the hat, gloves & stationery and the money they have been allocated."



And the students, some of whom explain how they have been coping with lockdown...

"I am working in school and I am enjoying being out of the house with my friends. During Covid-19 lockdown I have been listening to music but I am now looking forward to getting back to normal school."

"I am very happy I got the Sponsorstars bursary because it helped me financially as I often don't like to ask my parents for money. I was able to buy books that I wanted to read which will help me educationally. I was also able to get myself stationery that I always wanted but couldn't afford, so I am happy to have received the help"

"I have been working in school during Covid-19. I'm working on my music videos and uploading them onto YouTube. I am coping well with Covid-19 lockdown. Looking forward to moving to College in September 2020."

"Thank you for my hat and gloves and my stationery. These will help me as I move further in my education in September 2020."

It's fantastic to hear directly from the students and hear what a difference your sponsorship money is making. We'd like to take this opportunity again to thank you again for your ongoing support for the charity, and more importantly, the students whose futures you are helping to shape.

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