

March 2019

Colchester County High School for Girls have raised over £6000 for international charity Lepra

This spring, the students at Colchester County High School for Girls have been helping to beat leprosy by fundraising and collecting donations for Lepra. Over 150 students took part in a sponsored Zumba workout as well as other sponsored activities and were able to raise a phenomenal £6101.99 for the international charity.

Leprosy is a curable disease that affects millions of people across the world, but is often misunderstood or ignored, along with those affected by it. Lepra work in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique to find, cure and treat those affected, along with educating their communities to help reduce prejudice and fear around leprosy.

Schools are increasingly encouraging their students to take an interest in the world away from their own town and many of the issues that Lepra work to tackle resonate with children and parents; particularly that the disease can ruin opportunities such as school for children and young people, either through disabilities caused by the disease or prejudice towards it.

One example of this is Neru, an eight year old from India who was ordered to leave her school by a dinner lady on hearing of her diagnosis. Neru missed two years of school as a result and her family suffered further prejudice. With Lepra's help, Neru was cured and her disabilities treated, allowing her to return to school and resume her learning.

Lepra works with schools, community groups and churches to raise awareness about neglected diseases and people marginalised by society. Working with governments, other non-governmental organisations and international agencies, Lepra identifies and bridges gaps in healthcare provision as well as helping people to rebuild their lives.

Mr Hughes (Year 7 Leader) at Colchester County High School for Girls said:

'CCHSG have a long history of fundraising for Lepra. The charity does excellent work at supporting some of the most vulnerable people across the globe and we are very happy to be part of this. Our Year 7 students have made an incredible effort this year raising a record sum for the charity and we commend them for their fundraising efforts and for raising awareness of this worthy cause.'

Phoebe Nicholson, Lepra community fundraiser said:

'The students have been dedicated to raising both funds and awareness for leprosy at the school since 2004. This year the year 7's have taken part in creative fundraising activities and should be incredibly proud of their achievement.'

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Notes for Editors

About Lepra and leprosy

Lepra is a UK-based international specialist charity that has been working to beat leprosy since 1924. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became Patron of Lepra in 1952, shortly after the death of her father King George VI, who had been Lepra's Patron since the charity was founded in 1924.

Leprosy affects over 7 million of the most vulnerable people in the world, causing life-changing disabilities and attracting terrible prejudice and discrimination. **But there is a cure.**

Lepra works to beat leprosy in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique by finding, diagnosing and treating people affected by the disease. By raising awareness, pushing for early detection and supporting people living with disabilities caused by leprosy, Lepra works towards a day when this disease no longer destroys lives.

Last year, the charity reached 301,000 people through diagnosis, treatment and care. It reached a further 1.7 million people through health education and events to raise awareness of leprosy and other neglected diseases.

Find out more about Lepra on its website and social media channels:

Website: www.lepra.org.uk

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LepraUK>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LEPRAUK/>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LEPRAHinA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/LepraUK/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lepra/>