



12 March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

GIVING BACK CAMPAIGN 2019 – NON UNIFORM DAY 22/03/19

This academic year the DJ House System's focus has been one of "Giving back". The school plays a big part in the local community and we wanted to use this influence positively to make an impact.

Over the past six months we have supported Durham Foodbank, Children In Need, Willowburn Hospice, and Changing Lives. Changing Lives is our nominated charity for 2019. We are aiming to extend our support to other local charities in the future.

It was this desire to help people in our local area that started our journey with the homeless shelter. The story below describes the many reasons why.

Two members of staff from Changing Lives came into school last term to talk to students during assembly. Marc spoke to us about the work Changing Lives do and Thomas spoke to us about how Changing Lives had literally "Changed his life". Thomas's story was very emotive, he came from a dysfunctional home and he had spent much time in and out of care before finally sleeping rough for the first time when he was just fourteen years old. Thomas spent over twelve years sleeping rough on the streets of Newcastle. Just over two years ago his home was a cave in Seaham, he owned a t-shirt, a pair of shorts and a pair of trainers. When Changing Lives found Thomas, he weighed only six stones and was incredibly ill. Now, two years later, Thomas is working for Changing Lives, he holds down a job, is saving for his first home and helps others in need because "he knows what it is like". Thomas's story is one of success, not everyone is so lucky, that is why it is so important to support charities such as Changing Lives and the charity will continue to be part of our "giving back" campaign.

This year our "Giving Back Charity Day" is **Friday 22nd March 2019** and to help support these wonderful causes, the school will hold a non-uniform day.

The donation requested for those students participating is **£1.00**. However, it is not a compulsory requirement for students to attend in non-uniform. The usual rules regarding the wearing of jewellery and make-up still apply.

Money raised will go towards local charities including Children's Chemotherapy Ward, University Hospital, Durham and Durham Foodbank and Changing Lives. The message is simple - "by working together, and by giving a little, we can achieve a lot!"

Yours faithfully

L Forbes
Senior Teacher

A J O'Sullivan
Headteacher