

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are planning to hold an out of uniform day on **THURSDAY 20TH DECEMBER** in aid of 'The Brain Tumour Charity Ben Sambrook Fund'. Please read Ben's Mum's statement below.

"You're probably thinking 'not another out of uniform day', but please, if you do nothing else just spare me a few minutes of your time and read on.

During the summer my 13 year old son Ben, a pupil at Aldridge School, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour five years ago whilst attending Cooper and Jordan, unexpectedly relapsed. He underwent brain surgery for the third time and is once again undergoing intensive chemotherapy for this life threatening disease. For almost half of his life now Ben has been battling brain cancer, robbed of the normal childhood that most other children take for granted, yet he never complains.

When Ben was first diagnosed aged only 7, I discovered that there was no cure for Ben's type of tumour and the only reason for this was lack of funding. Thinking this was unacceptable, but also fearing that Ben's tumour would return and that if it ever did we needed further treatment options, I started fundraising. I have raised £90,000 to date for brain tumour research and this money has funded three research projects. However, despite my best efforts, five years on there is still no cure and no further viable options. Ben himself, still just a child was told by the surgeon that he couldn't cure him and anything he did would just give him 'a bit more time'. Harsh for anyone to hear, but when you are only 13 and should be simply enjoying being a teenager and the independence that brings, it's devastating. Yet he stayed composed. His courage, positive outlook and determination are inspirational and I am a very proud Mum. Heartbroken, but very, very proud.

The shocking fact is that brain tumours kill more children and adults under 40 than **ANY** other cancer. Funding for further research is the only way to change this, that's where you can help. Aldridge School have kindly agreed to hold an out of uniform day on **THURSDAY 20TH DECEMBER**. As it is so close to Christmas they have suggested a Christmas theme and are encouraging pupils to dress in red and white or a Christmas style*. I hope that you will be able to support this out of uniform day with a £1 donation. If you feel you would like to donate more then this will be gratefully received.

We never imagined something like this would ever happen to us, but it can affect anyone at any age. There is no known cause so you can't prevent it and there is no cure. We don't want sympathy, but your generosity in supporting such a worthwhile cause would be much appreciated. Thank you".

Sharon Sambrook

Mrs. K Jones
Ben's Form Tutor

Mr. C Vanes
Head of Daniels House

*Students should wear sensible clothing which reflects the usual Health and Safety rules especially in respect of jewellery. Face paints, hair colouring etc will **not** be allowed.

Your future starts here