



First Give Project 2021

Ysgol Penglais School Aberystwyth

In 2019, the Awards Committee agreed to support a 2 year programme in Ysgol Penglais School Aberystwyth linked with the First Give Initiative in Wales. The Livery contribution was £550, of which £250 would contribute 50% of the administration fee paid by the School involved each year, with an additional £25 to each of the annual winning teams. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the planned programme for 2020 could not be started until Spring 2021. Here is a report from the Co-ordinator at the School after the successful completion of this year's programme.

“After the second lockdown when we returned to Penglais, the Year 8 students started on their First Give initiative. The students were shown the remote assembly and started to get ideas for the charities they would like to support. This generated a lot of good discussion and it was very positive as a form tutor as we got to know more about our students and the things that meant a lot to them. The tutor groups split themselves up into smaller groups to research local charities and social issues in our local community, before presenting their chosen charity to the whole group.

Some had chosen the charity because it had helped them or a member of their family, some had chosen the charity as it was an issue they felt was very important in the community. The charities chosen by the Year 8 tutor groups were: 8TAH Care Society, 8DLL Care Society, 8EIE The Wallich, 8JJB Mind, 8SEV Tenovus, and 8FLB Nibbles. After the charities were chosen, the groups started to work on their social action and presentations. 8 SEV had a 'wear something red' day and sold wrist bands for their charity. The other tutor groups have been working with their charities to create their presentations. 8DLL and 8TAH had an online meeting, 8FLB have been emailing Nibbles and they have had gifts sent in the post, including rabbit's teeth!

The groups prepared their first presentation for feedback from the First Give team and we had all sorts of different presentations from role play to musical instruments! It was great to see the students taking ownership of their work and working independently.

After they received the feedback, the students wrote down the points they needed to improve or consider. Even though it was only one group from each tutor group who were now presenting, it was great to see all the students working together to create the final presentation. The filming took place and the students were keen to take control of this work and use all the points to make the presentations a success. We submitted our final presentations during the final week of school for judging. We watched the remote final together on Teams so the students could see the final video of all the presentations and the winner announced. The winning tutor group was 8SEV and Tenovus who won £1000 for their chosen charity.

The tutor group are still to decide what to do with the extra £25 to the winning team from The WLCow Awards Committee which they will do when they return to school in September. We have all had a fantastic time taking part in the First Give initiative and would like to say a huge thank you to Rhiannon Youssef from First Give for all her advice, organising and encouragement and to Sylvia Robert-Sargeant and the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales for making it possible for our Year 8 students to participate in this initiative and for giving them something very positive to work towards during this difficult time. We are looking forward to next year!”