



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WINGS OF HOPE CHILDREN'S CHARITY - MARCH 2014

WINGS NEWS

Speed Mentoring: Your Path to Success, 1st March 2014

On Saturday 1st March 2014, over 400 teenagers gathered at the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons in Holborn, London for an afternoon of innovative careers guidance and speed mentoring from over 60 top professionals. The event was targeted at 14-20 year olds who had exclusive access to professionals from over 30 industries including banking, law, medicine, fashion, PR, event management, journalism, sustainability, music production, acting and piloting. With ten-minute slots over a two-hour period, the students were able to gain key insights into a wide variety of industries, as they travelled from sector to sector to begin their journey on the path to success.

The event was opened by Richard Whitehead MBE, the Paralympic Champion and world record holder who won Gold in the 200m T42 event at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Mr Whitehead provided the keynote speech for the day, inspiring participants with his achievements both on and off the track. Mr Whitehead's motivational speech set a suitably high standard for the event, which continued throughout the day as impressively as it began.



All the mentors pose at Royal College of Surgeons

Other notable guests included Lady Juliet McNally and female British Airways pilot, Loraine Hancock. Ms Hancock inspired the crowd with a motivational speech which promoted women pilots and encouraged the female pupils, as well as their male peers, to consider careers in aviation.

Speed Mentoring, which differs from usual careers fairs through its innovative use of interactive guidance, allowed students to receive valuable and honest advice directly from top young professionals. The uptake was huge, with pupils from Queen Anne's School, Reading and Upton Hall, Wirral travelling to London especially for the event. Other schools present on the day included Bethnal Green Academy, Bentley Wood School, Claremont High School Academy, Heathfield School for Girls, Hampstead School and many others.

The feedback from the event was extremely positive, with over 85% of the students rating it 8 or above out of 10.

For more photos & information visit our website: <http://www.thewingsofhope.org/meet-the-mentors/>

Dear Colleagues & Students,

With the New Year, 2014 saw WOHA go from strength to strength. We have been hearing about the incredible fundraising efforts of this year's teams, including a hugely successful Dinner Dance, a sponsored Skydive and two head-shaves.

I was overwhelmed by the tremendous success of our third Speed Mentoring event which saw an impressive line up of mentors including our Senior Mentor, Richard Whitehead and Loraine, a pilot for British Airways. We are extremely proud to put on such events and are incredibly grateful to all the mentors and volunteers who helped to make the afternoon such a success. A special mention must go to Walter Hand of the Royal College of Surgeons who diligently provided support throughout the organisation process.

With WOHA 2013-14 soon coming to an end, we wish to thank all the participants, schools and teachers who have taken part in WOHA this year and supported the Wings of Hope. As the Snapshot Project deadline draws closer, we are looking forward to receiving projects from teams and seeing how creative and innovative their WOHA journeys have been. We are so very grateful for the continued support from the participants, parents, teachers, corporates and professionals. We look forward to receiving your continued support throughout the year.

Best wishes,

Mrs Rajni Sriram, CEO & Co-founder

coming Up...

After months of hard work and impressive fundraising, the time of Snapshots Project submission is nearly upon us! Don't forget to send in your completed projects to the Wings of Hope by **31st March 2014**.

Here's what to do:

- Create your projects (this can be anything from a scrapbook, a blog or a website, to a video diary, a giant poster or a PowerPoint presentation... so get creative!)
- Make sure to include EVERYTHING you've been up to over the past 6 months (events, highs and lows, sponsorship, personal highlights, photos, videos, letters, press releases, total amount raised – the more you get in the better!)
- Send your projects and cheques (payable to 'Wings of Hope') to the following address:

Wings of Hope
12 Iron Bridge Close
Great Central Way
London
NW10 0UF

TIMETABLE

31st March

— Snapshots Projects submission deadline

29th April

— Semi-Finals at the House of Lords

The lucky semi-finalists will be notified shortly after you have submitted your projects

2nd May

— Award Ceremony

A chance for all WOHAAs participants to come together and celebrate your fantastic fundraising efforts from over the year

WOHAA Cambridge Trip

On Tuesday March 11th, the Wings of Hope ran its second visit to Cambridge University. Attended by students from schools including Islamia Girls, Dulwich College and Royal Grammar School, it was a fantastic day of learning about applying to University and all about life at Cambridge.

Once again, Christ's College hosted the trip with Andy Avery, Schools Liaison Officer providing insightful information and a thoroughly interesting tour of both the college and the city. Undergraduate students from Christ's were on hand to answer questions from WOHAAs participants and gave the pupils a tour of a typical student's room as well as their social spots, studying places and the best places to find food within college. The trip was rounded off with a visit to the stunning Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology right in the heart of Cambridge.



Students had a thoroughly enjoyable time, with 80% rating the day either nine or ten out of 10.

Here's what some of the students said about the trip:

'A trip which has opened the doors of opportunity' – Marwa, Islamia Girls School

'An excellent, intellectual day of touring, enrichment and most of all, fun' – George, Dulwich College

Best Teacher Award

Has your teacher been there to support you through the highs and the lows of WOHAAs? Have they helped you out, opened doors, inspired you with their wisdom and given you that much needed boost when the going got tough?

It's not just students who can win prizes here at WOHAAs! If you feel your teacher deserves a huge pat on the back for going that extra mile, why not nominate them for the Best Teacher Award?

Keep your eyes peeled for our online nomination form which will be sent to you by email soon. The winning teacher will be announced at our annual Award Ceremony on Friday 2nd May.



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