

Rotary Interact Report 2022

It's been a difficult year for Rotary Interact, having bounced between being in Howell's and being online, we are proud of the way we have still been able to conduct events when COVID restrictions allowed. Over the course of our term in office, we have supported many incredible charities which we mention below, and we are delighted to be able to pass on this legacy to the amazing new Interact Presidents Aleezah K and Millie L.

We were quite nervous for our first event of the year, but with the help of last year's Interact Presidents, we put on a Domino's Sale for the mental health charity, Papyrus, which specifically supports young people. This was a really important cause for us and the members of our committee, and we managed to raise a total of £67.47 in support of the important work Papyrus carries out.

After a successful start to our term as presidents, we decided to go a bit more 'out of the box' for our next event, which was 'Doughnuts and Dodgeball in the Dark'. Although quite an 'unexpected' combination, this event turned out to be a hit amongst our peers. The £51 raised from this event went to the British Asian Trust to support South Asian countries that were hit particularly hard by COVID-19. It was a really worthwhile cause to raise money for and a very enjoyable event for all.

Towards the end of the summer term, Howell's planned a 'Disney Day,' full of Disney-themed extravaganza and creative costumes from our favourite Disney movies. This day was organised in memory of Martha P, our classmate, who sadly passed away from cancer 5 years ago. Martha was a girl full of light and fun, and of course loved Disney! As a charity committee we were very keen to use this day to raise money for a cause that helps people like Martha through an incredibly difficult period of their lives, so we decided to organise a bake sale for Latch. This sale raised a whopping £436 for a charity that has a special significance for us.

On the 5th of July, an 'All the Fun of the Fair' event took place in the Head's Garden for Year 12 students to have a relaxing and fun day with friends, both old and new. There was range of fairground games such as 'Tin Can Topple' and a 'Coconut Shy', and two large bouncy castle slides (these were especially popular amongst the teachers!) However, the weather was not on our side, and we had to quickly produce a Plan B and move the party inside. Although some plans had to change, this absolutely was a night to remember. The money raised from the event (£154) was split between the charities 'Islamic Relief' (to support those in Palestine), and Oasis Cardiff which supports refugees and asylum seekers in Wales.

For our first event of the new academic year, we put on a second bake sale to coincide with the annual Macmillan coffee morning. This event was part of a larger school effort supported by our and we are so proud to have raised £165.40.

At Christmas we held a candy cane sale to raise money in support of the UN women's charity 'Draw a Line'. Students were encouraged to order candy canes with personalised messages, and these were distributed at the end of term. This event, together with a College Donuts and Domino's sale raised £161.36. 'Draw a Line' supports women who are suffering from domestic violence worldwide.

Throughout our term in office, our biggest events were the 3 Bs collection of Books for Ty Gwyn Special School, Bras for Against Breast Cancer and Boxes of hygiene products for the hygiene bank. And with the support of everyone in the College our collection scheme was a huge success. Our 3 Bs initiative was an idea we were really excited to pursue as it was an event quite different to the others

which had a fundraising element. Here we wanted to raise awareness for some good causes and give some preloved items a good home!

Lastly, our final event as Interact Presidents was a mini golf stall that we put on to aid the school's efforts in raising money to support those caught up in the conflict in Ukraine. This was a collective effort along with Howell's Senior School Charity Committee and we were so glad to have had the opportunity to contribute to the school's efforts to help those in need.

We have certainly had a busy year as Interact Presidents and have enjoyed every minute of it! But we definitely could not have accomplished all of this without the support of our incredible committee. Each member has contributed in their own way throughout the year, but our Treasurer, Abbie G, really stood out. She has consistently supported us in every event and has been a regular attendee of our meetings, and so, we are delighted to announce that Abbie is this year's winner of the Paul Spencer Award, in recognition of her exceptional commitment and tremendous effort throughout the year.

We would like to finish off our report by saying a huge thank you to our link teachers; Mrs Richards, Mr Smith, and Miss Cockburn, who have been so helpful and supportive during our time as Rotary Interact Presidents. Our accomplishments would not have been possible without them!

Being Rotary Interact Presidents has been an unforgettable experience and has set us up with skills that will benefit us greatly at university and beyond. Rotary Interact has allowed us to support a lot of really incredible charities, and we hope that we can continue our charity work in the years ahead.

Rhianne H & Auvni P

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