

28 November 2018



Dear Parent/Carer,

## Parent information - charity letter

As a school, Birchwood recognises the importance of supporting individuals and communities with needs greater than our own and that sometimes the most effective way of providing this support is through donating to charities.

Representatives of the school House System and Student Council have discussed the school's fund raising policy and agreed that, in order to make the most impact, it would be better to continue to focus on a select few charities. As a result, we have selected a charity from each dimension of the community of which Birchwood is a part; the School Community, the Local Community, the National community and the International Community. Each of the charities has a focus on improving the lives of children, something which we, as a school, feel passionately about. All students and staff voted for their preferred charities for this year and the results were as follows:

### Our charities

#### The Firefighters Charity

Their aim is to enhance the health and wellbeing to the whole fire community supporting everyday firefighting heroes.

#### Essex and Herts Air Ambulance

Their aim is to save lives, reduce or prevent disability, or suffering from critical illness and injury, by delivering a first class pre-hospital emergency medical service to the people of Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas.

#### Sparkle Malawi

The Sparkle Foundation is a UK registered charity and international NGO which provides education, nutrition and medical support to communities in Malawi.

With a vision to create brighter sustainable futures for orphans and vulnerable children, the grassroots organisation has an expanding team on the ground in Malawi who work tirelessly to make this a reality.

#### The International Ambassador Programme

The International Ambassador Programme now has 30 school members, students, teachers and support staff. They are tasked with communicating with the partner schools, fundraising and also cultural awareness-raising within Birchwood and the local community. In order to support the programme we need to raise funds to enable the students to travel and gain a fantastic experience, whilst helping others.

#### Fund-raising

Throughout the school year the House Leaders, together with the Head Boy and Head Girl, will be organising a series of fund raising days. All of the money raised from these events will be distributed equally between our chosen charities. A cumulative total will be updated after each event and communicated to the students so that they can keep track of all their contributions.

#### Individual fundraising protocol

Whilst Birchwood will continue to encourage and support individual students who have a personal interest in a particular charity outside of those chosen by the school we have streamlined and clarified our annual charitable donations. Therefore students wishing to raise money for alternative charities should speak directly to Miss A. Dedman about fundraising.

Kind Regards

**Miss A Dedman**

Head of House

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