

## *My summer trip: to volunteer with Sparkle Malawi*

Hello, I would first of all like to say thank you very much, I can't tell you how delighted I am to have been chosen for the Old Wymondhamians Travel Award!

My name is Dorrie Hartley and I joined Wymondham College at the start of year 12, and I take Law, History and English Literature for A Level. I will be starting my law degree in September I am hoping at Cardiff University and I want to go into the legal profession. I am on this year's Principals Council and I am charity events coordinator. I have a passion for charity and volunteer work and have for a long time. I volunteered with my local scout group for two years and I also have also been a member of Amnesty International for three years. This summer I will be going to volunteer for a month in Malawi with the amazing charity Sparkle Malawi.



Sparkle Malawi is a volunteer led charity that by focusing on sustainability, nutrition, education and medical support, hopes to better the lives of those living in six rural villages on the outskirts of Zomba. They focus on the care of vulnerable children and orphans with a day care centre, and the charities CEO being the legal guardian for nearly 30 children. The charity also provides care and support for women with HIV. Indirectly they are supporting over 7500 people through community projects.

The charity relies on the generosity of others to function and we as a college have been raising as much money as possible to help this. Sarah came to visit us at Wymondham year and I was personally struck by the selflessness of the charity, as Sarah Brooke aged 18 decided to set up the charity and devote her life improving the life of others. I knew it was something I wanted to get involved with. I later got in contact with Sarah and explained how I wanted to help. I brought it up at our first Principal's Council meeting and Mr Taylor made it his charity of the year and we also decided to embark on whole school



fundraising, in the hope to support a child or children through their whole secondary school experience, so that we could impact our passion for academics in a place where it is desperately needed. So far we have held several events, including a student led musical showcase which raised £300 and bucket collections which have raised £500. We also have a just giving page which has

raised £882 882 so far. Just before the Easter holidays we also held a whole school March to Malawi, where we walked, ran, skipped, and cartwheeled the 7,385 it is between Wymondham College and Malawi in one day. We are still collecting money for that but just one student managed to raise £260, so we are hoping it will be massively successful!





On my trip I will be spending the week days at the Sparkle Malawi School in a small village called Sogoja. The children are taught English, math, life skills and have a physical education lesson with a porridge break in between. I could be doing anything from teaching skills, playing games, village, dancing, singing, helping with paperwork, planting a vegetable garden, painting or gathering data on children's weight and current environment. I will be doing a variety of different jobs and definitely will not get bored or be stuck for choice! I have a passion for

academics and so to have an input in that would be a real honour. Also in running activities for the children I will have an opportunity to bring my own passions into such as drama and art and engage with the children in that. I would also help with meal times, and would be working in the nursery. I think part of the experience will getting to know the children, to leave a positive impact and to create lifelong memories. The weekend will give me opportunities to see different parts of Malawi from visiting nature parks and wildlife reserves such as Liwonde National Park where there boat or jeep safaris to experiencing the local culture in the market in Zomba. Other highlights of Malawi are climbing the Zomba Plateau and visiting Lake Malawi.

To volunteer I had to raise £1000 for the charity which has been done through what we have raised as a college, as I was the main organizer in all the events. I also have got to fund my flights, accommodation, insurance, visa, and spending money which is going to cost just under £1500. Along with money I have personally raised and the Travel Award I have the sufficient funds to go, I am so incredibly grateful for this! This experience will I imagine be a life changing one that will teach me great lessons in organization, independence and a wider understanding of the problems in the world. I am very much honored to have the opportunity just to have some impact, even if a small one in bettering the lives of others.

Our Just Giving page is titled raising money for March to Malawi but all money is going to the charity and we will be presenting Sarah with a cheque when she comes to be our speaker at Speech day this year, the page can be found at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wymondhamcollege>

Thank you