



BHASVIC

Dear Parent/ Carer,

In the week of 20 January students will have the opportunity to watch a short presentation by The Hero Project, (an education programme run by charity Anthony Nolan). Anthony Nolan saves and improves the lives of people with blood cancer by matching them with remarkable donors willing to give blood stem cells for potentially life-saving transplants.

The Hero Project works in collaboration with NHS Blood and Transplant to deliver presentations to 16 to 18 year olds about stem cell, blood and organ donation.

The presentation will dispel common myths, explain the importance of donation for sick patients and arm students with the facts about what is involved. This enables them to make an informed decision about becoming a donor in future. After the presentation, students will be able to take home information about blood and organ donation.

Anthony Nolan staff will visit again on 29 January, and host a stall at the Refreshers Fair, where students who wish to join the stem cell donor register can do so.

Registration involves filling in a medical questionnaire, which will be checked by an Anthony Nolan representative. They will ensure the person applying to join the register understands what is involved in donating and is comfortable with the commitment. The applicant then gives a cheek swab.

This swab and the form are returned securely to Anthony Nolan's head office, where they are processed and the applicant is placed on the donor register.

A person who joins the register is only asked to donate if they are found to be a match for someone in need of a transplant. The chance of being a match and being asked to donate in the next five years is around 1 in 750.

If you would like to find out more about Anthony Nolan, or what is involved in donating stem cells, please visit www.anthonynolan.org.

If you have any other questions about the presentation, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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