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09<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

**SPONSORED EVENT - please support if you can!**

We are thrilled to share our very own Woodlands Meed College teacher, Laura Hastings, is kicking off our FOWM Fundraising for the new academic year by taking on a Half Marathon Challenge this Sunday at a Dorking Vineyard!

Laura has never run a marathon before and has battled on despite injuries and is determined to complete this AMAZING challenge to raise funds for Friends of Woodlands Meed. (She has hinted the glass of wine at the end of the marathon may have something to do with it too!)

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/laura-hastings-1775141697400>

Friends of Woodlands Meed is a small group of VOLUNTEERS, made up of former parents & carers and current parents & carers, staff and a grandparent - we always feel incredibly grateful when someone takes on a sponsored activity or makes a donation to FOWM but reading what Laura wrote on her Just Giving page to why she was taking on this challenge really touched us - she really nailed why we continue to try and raise funds to help our young people Woodlands Meed.

I usually hold back sharing how challenging it is to continue to raise over £12k every year just for these 'little extras' that have become embedded into making sure all the fabulous opportunities continue for our young people - but as Laura says on her JustGiving page 'these aren't little extras for young people with SEND they're essential', so this year I wanted to ask if you can help us too.

[Read about Lauras challenge here](#)

A donation or sponsoring an event is always very welcome, but there are lots of ways you can help that are not financial.

As a Registered Charity (reg no - 306356) you could nominate us as your workplaces chosen charity or your employer could match fund some of our fundraising or provide a raffle or auction prize.

Maybe you could take on a sponsored activity or organise your own fundraising event every £ makes a difference.

One of the easiest things you could do is use Easyfundraising every time you make a purchase and nominate us as your chosen charity to receive a FREE donation every time you shop. This has raised over £4k for us over the years and it costs you nothing - just the click to register (which takes about 30 seconds!).

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fowoodlandsmeed>

We'll be sharing our plans for Friends of Woodlands Meed over the next few weeks so keep an eye out in the weekly news or follow our Facebook page for updates and other ways you might be able to help.

[Follow Friends of Woodlands Meed on Facebook](#)

If you have any ideas of how you might like to get involved please do get in touch with us at [friendsofwoodlandsmeed@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwoodlandsmeed@gmail.com) or [ahull@woodlandsmeed.co.uk](mailto:ahull@woodlandsmeed.co.uk).

Best wishes for a fantastic new term at Woodlands Meed.

Anna & the FOWM Committee

