



Pupils raise £34,259.85 for local charities in this year's Dragon's Apprentice Challenge!

The challenge was simple: to turn £100 seed corn money into £1,000 for their matched charity. This challenge not only raised a tremendous amount of money, but placed a firm emphasis on community spirit and pride in Watford's young people.

The evening of 25th April marked the culmination of the 2015 - 2016 W3RT Dragon's Apprentice Challenge, which has brought together bright minds, young and old from across Watford. Teams represented Parmiter's School, Queens' School, West Herts College, Francis Combe Academy, Rickmansworth School and St Joan of Arc School. They paired with local businesses Wenta, the Rotary Club, Think About It Films, Myers Clark, Jury's Inn, The Recruitment Queen and Thrive Homes. These 'Dragons' offered advice and expertise on how best to complete the challenge.

The figures spoke for themselves, with a total of £34,259.85 raised this year. This was almost £10,000 more than last year's challenge, and brings four-year total to an impressive £109,801.22. Teams exceeded expectations, raising an average of £3,806.65.

The passion exuded by students describing the work of their charities was tangible. Team Empire, raising money on behalf of the 'Wheelchair Dance Sport Association UK' – who work to bring opportunities and confidence to those in the disabled community – told how the challenge “truly inspired us to raise money for all good causes.” This was a common sentiment among the teams of students as they presented their achievements and challenges.

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The charities themselves instilled great passion for and knowledge of their cause. As such, the W3RT CVS Award for Most Inspirational Charity Leader recognized the contribution of individual representatives. The accolade was collected by Denise Gillies of Demand, another inspirational charity who seek to design and manufacture for disability, making the day to day lives of disabled members of the community more comfortable and practical.

The other incredible local charities were DRUM, Herts Inclusive Theatre, Home Start Watford, New Hope, The Steve Sinnott Foundation, Watford and District Mencap, and Ascend. These charities help tens of thousands of people a year, ranging from local community to worldwide change, aiding those from all walks of life, abilities and demographics. The hard work of these charities clearly inspired the teams, and made for a true celebration of positive impact in Watford.

The W3RT Dragon's Apprentice Challenge combined a great learning experience and the application of hard work, with exceptional community work. Team Ignite from St. Joan of Arc School described the reaction to their bag packing fundraiser; "We could tell they were happy to be helped by young people." This description encapsulates the scheme as a whole - it inspires and teaches the students of Watford to demonstrate their passion for local community.

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Notes for the Editor

Teams of students (Apprentices) are mentored by a business (Dragon) and given the task of turning £100 into £1,000+ for a local matched charity by organising fundraising events and activities. The Dragon's Apprentice Challenge was launched in 2009 by St Albans CVS and now covers the whole of Hertfordshire with additional hubs in Broxbourne/East Hertfordshire, Dacorum, Welwyn & Hatfield and North Hertfordshire/Stevenage.

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Watford & Three Rivers Trust, previously known as Watford CVS has delivered Dragon's Apprentice Challenge programme since 2012.

In total, almost 1,600 young people across the county have generated around £350,000 for over 190 different charitable organisations to date.

W3RT Dragon's Apprentice Challenge 2015/16 Teams

In total 83 students participated from six schools and colleges in this year's challenge and formed nine teams.

| Team Name | School/College | Business Dragon | Raising Money for |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Cornucopia | Parmiter's | Wenta | DRUM |
| Synergy | Parmiter's | Rotary Club | Demand |
| Empire | Queens' | Hypalocal Media | WDSA |
| Ingenious Geniuses | West Herts College | Rotary Club | Herts Inclusive Theatre |
| Prestige | Francis Combe | Think About It Films | Home-Start Watford |
| Care Diem | Queens' | Myers Clark | New Hope |
| Miracle Makers | West Herts College | Jurys Inn | Steve Sinnott Foundation |
| Thrive | Rickmansworth | CMR Recruitment | Watford & District Mencap |
| Ignite | St Joan of Arc | Thrive Homes | Ascend |

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Winners of Awards

| Award | Winning Team/Individual | Sponsor |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Most Money Raised | Cornucopia | The Graham Rowlandson Foundation |
| Outstanding Individual Performance | Millie Brady of Ingenious Geniuses | The Recruitment Queen Award |
| Resilience and Achievement | Charlotte Day of Team Synergy | Hiller Hopkins |
| Most Inspirational Charity Leader | Denise Gillies of DEMAND | W3RT CVS |
| Most Inspirational Teacher | Keith Reynolds of Queens' School | Watford & Three Rivers Trust |
| Most Inspirational Business Dragon | Actar Dinata of Team Synergy | UD Salon |
| Leadership and Management | Cornucopia | Luna Business Solutions |
| Learning and Teamwork | Cornucopia | McNicholas Construction |
| Innovation and Entrepreneurship | Cornucopia | Freedom Communications |
| Market Engagement | Team Synergy | Think About It Films Award |
| Best Narrative and Presentation | Ingenious Geniuses | Hertfordshire LEP |
| Overall Winning Team | Cornucopia | Volker Fitzpatrick |

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Super Dragon Judging Panel

Bob Jones - Watford & Three Rivers Trust

Chris Luff - Freedom Communications

Pam Parmar - UD Hair & Beauty Salon

Steve McNicholas - McNicholas Construction

Mo Usman - Luna Business Solutions

Guest Speaker

David Clarke, Head of Centre, St Albans Business & Private Banking Centre at Clydesdale Bank. David Clarke was part of the British team which finished fifth in the 5-a-side at the 2008 Summer Paralympics. He was selected as the Stadium torch bearer for the 2012 Summer Paralympics, where he was the first person to receive the torch in the Stadium, and passed it to the final torch bearer. He was a member of the 2012 Summer Paralympic blind-five-a-side Team GB football team. He was guest of honour at the FA Cup final between Manchester City and Wigan Athletic and handed the trophy over to his hometown team Wigan Athletic. He was inducted into the national football hall of fame in September 2013. David received a lifetime achievement award at the FA England football awards in February 2013 and received an honorary doctorate from the University Of Hertfordshire in November 2013.

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Team Cornucopia with David Clarke who was our guest speaker (right).

Prints and high resolution digital versions of all photos taken at the event are available from:
www.blueorangeimages.co.uk Password: RES732vn or on [Dragon's Apprentice Challenge Facebook Fan Page](#).

For more information

Lewis Saville, Information, Publicity and Impact Co-ordinator for Watford & Three Rivers Trust

Email: lewissaville@w3rt.org

Telephone: 01923 216950

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm