

Odd socks, bracelets and a ski challenge for Gresham's pupils supporting WDS

Wednesday | 11 April 2018

[View all articles](#)
[View this story](#)
[Book an interview](#)

The Gresham's community has been raising awareness of Down Syndrome with renewed vigour, wearing #LotsOfSocks as part of Down Syndrome International's global campaign, and doing much more besides, including raising an estimated £3,000 for the charity.



Wednesday 21 March was World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) and the Gresham's community raised awareness of Down Syndrome with renewed vigour, joining people around the world in wearing #LotsOfSocks as part of Down Syndrome International's global campaign, and doing much more besides, including raising an estimated £3,000 for the charity.

Dr Eva Edwards, mother of Year 4 pupil Lucas who has Down Syndrome, decided in the autumn (when Lucas turned 10) to do something slightly different to celebrate Lucas and raise awareness of Down Syndrome. Having decided to make and sell bracelets to some friends, Dr Edwards came across Year 10 pupil Iris C, selling bracelets that she had been making for a few years at the school's Christmas Fair. Iris and her mother Clara met with Dr Edwards to discuss the design of a new range of bracelets, each one unique, yet unified by a common element – a small tag featuring on one side the numbers 47 and 48, to highlight the number of chromosomes that people with and without Down Syndrome have. The words 'I am' would feature on the other side.

Dr Edwards explained: "Lucas answers many questions with the simple words 'I am' (as he thinks that this, along with 'I can' and 'yes of course', covers most situations well enough) and says 'I am who I am and just love being me'. To us, these words really sum up our celebration of Lucas' positive outlook on life, and so we ran #IamLucas? campaigns and the bracelets with the words 'I am' are about encouraging everyone to take their unique place in the world, to accept everyone's differences, to always look for the very best in themselves and others, and to all that is especially special, unique and above brightly."

Pupils were invited over a series of consecutive Saturdays during 'hobby time' to meet Dr Edwards and Lucas and, with the support of Iris, Clara, and Diana – Lucas' eldest sister and Year 10 pupil at Gresham's – to make the bracelets. With an overwhelming 60 pupils aged 14 to 18 keen to participate on each occasion, 800 unique bracelets were made. 600 bracelets have already sold, to pupils at the school and their families, the Edwards' friends and family, local members of the community who have seen the bracelets on sale in Holt, and as far afield as Brazil, New Zealand and the United States, as well as a number of European countries, and approximately £3,000 has been raised for Down Syndrome International.

Dr Edwards said: "We wanted to do even more to celebrate all of Lucas' achievements to date. When he was born we didn't know what to expect but, as he is half Swedish, he has been skiing since he was two and, for the past few years, has been taught by Anouk, a wonderful instructor at the Ecole du Ski Français. With the support of Anouk and ESK, which closed a run in the Three Valleys resort for the occasion, Lucas took on a personal ski challenge on Wednesday 21 March, with slalom, off-piste and speed skiing. Lucas and all of the 2017 team wore odd socks as gloves to raise awareness on the slopes too, and the bracelets are on sale in the resort. One of the highlights of the day was, quite coincidentally, when Lucas saw five Dutch adult skiers, who also have Down Syndrome. Lucas doesn't often see other people who have Down Syndrome and he quite happily recognised something about them and said 'Mama, they are like me!'



[View all articles](#)
[View this story](#)
[Book an interview](#)

Behind the story
This story is from Gresham's. Find out more about the school in the Attain Directory.

[Gresham's](#)

More stories
Read more news stories from Gresham's.

STANIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Reading with children for the biological sciences

WELCOME VISITORS

That our education and our facilities are outstanding is a given but here are three things you may not know about us:

- Our fees include residential trips, day trips and lunches
- We offer more teaching days than other independent schools
- Fifty percent of our pupils in July 2017, were offered places at local grammar schools in addition to selective independent schools

Open Morning Saturday 2nd February 10.00am to 12 noon or call us to book a visit: 01223 352000 or visit [www.stanisprep.co.uk](#)

[Stanis Preparatory School](#)
[Stanis Prep](#)

Related stories
Read more news stories from Gresham's.

Senior Yearbook at King's
17y teens up hundreds of poems for good causes
10 April 2018

Classical singer Ryan
performs at Grace Dieu Manor School
10 April 2018

Woodstock Prep 12th
Welcoming Most Pupils For Sports Week
11 March 2018

Attain website
April 2018

<https://attain.news/community/odd-socks-bracelets-and-a-ski-challenge-for-gresham-s-pupils-supporting-wdsd>