

What is the Challenge?

The Schools Entrepreneur Challenge is an exciting chance for secondary school pupils to develop their entrepreneurial skills and have some healthy community competition, all for a fantastic cause - raising money for St Raphael's Hospice.

Over 10 weeks, students will compete with other local schools to grow their £50 start-up stake toward a target of around £1,500. The project is **completely free** to join, and we recommend up to six students per team. Schools are welcome to enter multiple teams. Ideally, we'd like to have around ten groups from Sutton and Merton, but we're always happy to welcome more! Students will have the support of leading business and marketing experts, as well as our friendly professional fundraisers at St Raphael's Hospice.

Key dates.

Registration for the 2026 challenge closes on 7 January. In early January, a one-page list of fundraising ideas will be sent to all registered school teams to help them start planning. We will then host an in-person Launch Night for all participating schools. The next Launch Night will take place on Friday, 19 January 2026, with the location to be confirmed.

The project will conclude with an Awards Night, where each school presents their work and results from the 10 week challenge, and a panel of expert judges evaluates their achievements. This date is likely to be in late April or early May, but the date will be dependent on Easter holidays and exam dates. There is also an Awards ceremony for eight different Award categories and each participating student and teacher receive a medal and certificate.

What the students will receive.

Each student signed up will receive a St Raphael's t-shirt and workbook, each group will receive £50 start up stake and mentor. Your students will gain experience in business making decisions, budget control, team spirit and the experience of empowering young people through enterprise while raising vital funds for St Raphael's.

Mentors.

Each group taking part will be assigned a mentor from a local business that will be there to support, encourage and advise the students throughout the project.

Aim of the Challenge.

St Raphael's Hospice is a local charity, we care for 1 in 4 people in Merton and Sutton living with a life-limiting illness and their families. We offer home-based and inpatient care, wellbeing services and bereavement support.

Over 1,000 patients and those close to them benefit from our exceptional free hospice care which costs us nearly £6.5 million to provide every year. However, we only receive around 25% of funding from the NHS. The rest, £4.8 million, we have to raise ourselves. It is only through the generosity of the public and those willing to raise money in ways as such as this, that allows us to continue providing essential, compassionate and expert end of life care for our patients and support service for their loved ones.

We have set a modest target for our first year running this challenge and should we reach our goal of 10 teams reaching their targets, a fantastic £15,000 will be raised. This could provide over 18 days of round the clock specialist nursing care on our ward or 172 one to one counselling sessions for bereaved families.

How to apply.

Your school can submit as many teams as they wish with groups of up to 6 students.

Should you wish to have further information, please contact: samanthabourne@straphaels.org.uk in our Fundraising Team or click on this [link](#) to complete our online registration form. You can also scan the QR code below.



Providing vital hospice care to our community in Merton and Sutton

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