SCHOOLS Entrepreneur CHALLENGE

Introduction to the challenge

Join us and be part of something bigger

Make a difference by inspiring young people, share your skills and support your local hospice

What is the Challenge?

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

Over the Spring term, students will compete with other local schools to turn £50 start up stake into £1,500 or more. The project is free to join, and we advise up to 8 students per team to take part. Students will have the support of leading business and marketing experts, as well as our friendly professional fundraisers at St Raphael's Hospice.

Due to the popularity of our first year, each school can only enter a maximum of two teams with groups of up to 8 students from across the school cohort.

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 £7 million to provide every year. However, we only receive around 25% of funding from the NHS. The rest, £5 million, we have to raise ourselves. It is only through the generosity of the public and those willing to raise money in way as such as this, that allows us to continue 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.

Key dates

Registration for the 2027 challenge closes on 16th December 2026. A flyer with fundraising ideas will be sent to all registered school teams in December to encourage them to start thinking of what they might do, before hosting an in-person Launch Night inviting all schools to attend. Our Launch Night for 2027 is on Monday 11th January at the Cryer Arts Centre.

The project ends with an Awards Night, where each school presents to each other and a panel of judges what they have done in the Spring Term to fundraise. This date is likely to be in late April, but the date will be dependent on Easter holidays and exam dates. There are Awards for five different categories and each participating student and teacher receive a medal and certificate.

What the students will receive

Each group will receive a workbook, notepad and £50 start up stake and will have access to our fundraising team. 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.

Additional materials such as bunting, collection pots and stickers are available on request.

Further Information

An information sheet with a few basic rules is attached. These rules have been designed to be flexible to allow students to take advantage of their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit whilst keeping things legal and safe. Of course they must also stick to their schools guidelines and rules, which we understand will take priority.

How to apply

Due to the popularity of our first year, each school can only enter a maximum of two teams with groups of up to 8 students from across the school cohort.

Should you wish to have further information, please contact us: fundraising@straphaels.org.uk or scan the QR code below.