

Rachel Williams
Williams.r@whiteroseacademies.org
whiteroseacademies.org

PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

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LEEDS STUDENTS WALK TOGETHER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A LIFETIME SUPPLY OF WATER

Secondary school students take part in International walk raising money for charity.

Students from the **White Rose Academies Trust's** family of secondary schools, **Leeds City Academy**, **Leeds East Academy** and **Leeds West Academy**, joined together to walk 5km around **Woodhouse Moor Park** on **Friday 27th April 2018**.

As part of the International sponsored walk, called **WE Walk for Water**, the students carried large bottles of water to help promote the need for sanitary water in countries such as Africa. The 27 students selected to take part in the event are all members of the **Trust Student Leadership Group** or are taking part in **The Diana Award Mentoring** programme.

Recently, the same group of students participated in a celebratory event called WE Day in London. The event is run by the **WE Movement** charity (a movement that aims to bring young people together and gives them the tools to change the world). WE Day is a celebration of young people making a difference in their local and global communities and this year it was hosted by motivational speakers and inspirational performers, such as Alexandra Burke, The Vamps and Princesses Eugene and Beatrice, who teamed together to promote unity on the Wembley Arena stage.

At **WE Day**, the Leeds students were informed about **WE Walk for Water** and all felt inspired to take part. The students were all asked to raise £15 each (minimum) because for every £15 raised, one person is empowered with a lifetime of clean water.

The students set off from Leeds City Academy and completed the walk in one hour. Students commented on how lucky they felt to have access to clean running water and felt it was important to raise awareness for those who are less fortunate.

Kailem in Year 9 at **Leeds East Academy** said: "We are doing the walk to raise money for those who aren't as fortunate as us. Doing this walk makes me feel very privileged to have running water where I live. I feel very lucky."

Also in Year 9, both **Hannah and Ahlam** from **Leeds City Academy** said: "We hope that we can inspire other students to take action and raise money for charity. We now know what it's like it to be in someone else's shoes.

We feel this a really good challenge and a great opportunity to raise a minimum of £15 each to provide a lifetime supply of water for someone."

Mrs Foy added: "The funds raised by the students will provide hand pumps and rain catchment systems giving families the chance to raise healthy children, run sustainable farms and send their children to school." **ENDS**

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

White Rose Academies Trust is a local trust dedicated to raising the ambitions and aspirations of young people. It is currently comprised of three academies which occupy sites in the centre, east and west of the city. The Trust is sponsored by **Leeds City College**, one of the largest further education providers in the country which encompasses **Leeds College of Music** within its organisation.

The White Rose Academies Trust is the only truly local Leeds partnership of schools that share the same ethos and that have pathways into Further Education through a special relationship with Leeds City College. The Trust shares a mission with the college to ensure that all students attending the academies have very well-developed employability skills. All WRAT Academies also work in conjunction with local businesses in formal relationships which commit employers to supporting young people to understand and prepare for the demands of the world of work.

The Executive Principal of White Rose Academies Trust is **Andrew Whitaker**. Andrew joined White Rose Academies Trust as Executive Principal on 1 September 2016, with a personal determination that all White Rose Academies will become outstanding providers of education to the communities that they serve.

In 2018, Andrew, was awarded a prestigious **Churchill Fellowship**. Andrew's previous work includes leading the transformation of **Todmorden High School**. For more details visit: <https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/editions/pdfs/TPR2016-EducationSecondary-North.pdf>

For more information, images and contact Yvonne Hare at hare.y@whiteroseacademies.org, 0113 229 5454.