

Flash mob shows solidarity with pupils affected by cancer



IT'S JUST US: The pupils gathered in the main playground for the spectacular display



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A FLASH mob involving more than 160 year seven pupils at Holderness Academy has raised more than £1,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust after being organised in support of three students affected by cancer.

The performance at Holderness Academy was entirely the pupils' idea, deputy head Julia Lovel said, after members of the year seven Student Council began discussing how they could support their classmates.

Their original suggestion was a colour run, but concerns over pupils travelling home on public transport led to the idea of a flash mob instead.

Choreographed by Laura Dykes, the dance to Harry Styles' As It Was took place on the school playground on Thursday, June 25. It also incorporated British Sign Language to make the event even more inclusive.

Laura said: "They all wanted to do something to celebrate the end of year seven and support their student colleagues who have been facing cancer.

"We incorporated British Sign Language so that we could have people dancing or not dancing, sitting, leading or not leading and just becoming part of one big mob."

The event supported three pupils who are undergoing treatment or recovering after treatment - Blake, Aria, and a third who wishes to remain anonymous.

Blake's older brother Oscar, who was found to be a match for a T-cell transplant, said he had missed his brother while he was undergoing treatment and that the experience had also been difficult for him.

The flash mob was the first day Blake had been back in school since his treatment, and Julia said it was like the return of a local celebrity.

Blake said: "It feels good. I haven't seen anyone in a while."

Aria was diagnosed in the first week of

September and finished treatment on December 15. She has since returned to school and is gradually building up her hours while continuing to experience tiredness following chemotherapy.

She said: "I'm just really excited and really happy that people have thought about doing this."

Her mother, Rebecca, said support from family, friends and Aria's football teammates at Preston Girls had helped her through a very difficult time.

Katy Airey, from the Teenage Cancer Trust, said: "We were all shocked and wanted to help in any way we can. Cancer diagnosis in a young person is rare, and it's very sad and shocking. For three pupils in one year group to have the diagnosis, it's beyond belief.

"We have units and specialist nurses and youth coordinators all across the country.

"Teenagers are unique, and they're exploring who they are and gaining their independence.

They need fun, they need laughter, and they need specialist bespoke care and that's what we do.

"It's fantastic. It's raising awareness. It's celebrating being young, and it's just a fun day."

Student Mila Campbell, 11, said: "I think it's going to really help people in England know about cancer.

"It makes me feel good because it means we'll be able to see them at school a lot more, and they're getting a lot of help."

Head teacher Neal Holder said: "No young person should face cancer alone. Our students have come out in support of their peers and I am really proud of them."

Julia said donations had already passed £1,126 and were continuing to rise.

She added: "This could have been something we didn't talk about - but we've gone the opposite way.

We've raised awareness, we've raised money, and we've said this is something we need to talk about. For those three students it's been a tough challenge this year."



CHALLENGING TIME: Holderness Academy pupils Aria and Blake, who have been undergoing cancer treatment

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	WITHERNSEA				HORNSEA			
	am	Height	pm	Height	am	Height	pm	Height
Thu 2	06.44	5.6m	19.20	5.3m	06.41	5.6m	19.17	5.3m
Fri 3	07.18	5.6m	19.55	5.3m	07.15	5.6m	19.52	5.3m
Sat 4	07.53	5.5m	20.35	5.3m	07.50	5.5m	20.32	5.3m
Sun 5	08.32	5.5m	21.18	5.2m	08.29	5.5m	21.15	5.2m
Mon 6	09.16	5.4m	22.06	5.0m	09.13	5.4m	22.03	5.0m
Tues 7	10.05	5.3m	22.58	4.9m	10.02	5.3m	22.55	4.9m
Wed 8	11.01	5.2m	23.58	4.8m	10.58	5.2m	23.55	4.8m

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