



Press Release – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010

### **School song set to be a chartbuster**

A song recorded by staff and pupils at a Yorkshire school in memory of 14 year old Ellie Othick-Bowmaker, who died of a brain tumour in February, is set to become a potential chartbuster. A YouTube video accompanying the song has already had more than 20,000 views.

Ellie, who was a pupil at Scalby School in Scarborough, had been diagnosed when she was 11 with a brain tumour in 2007. Over the next three years she was determined to live life to the full. In spite of her brain tumour she inspired those around her and helped raise funds for others in similar situations.

With family and friends' help she raised £25,000 for charity. Over £5,000 of this came through sales of Butterfly's Wings, a CD she recorded with her songwriter uncle, which she devoted to Ali's Dream ([www.alisdream.org.uk](http://www.alisdream.org.uk)) a Harrow-based children's brain tumour research charity.

Ellie's brave fight against her brain tumour so inspired staff and pupils they have just recorded Over the Rainbow/Wonderful World which is being released today (Monday 5th July) as a fund-raiser for Ali's dream.

Jonathan Morgan, the school's head of performing arts, who produced the song and the video, said:

'I have just been blown away by the response to the song. Through YouTube it's receiving views and hits right across the globe. We think it stands a great chance of getting into the national charts.'

'We had a lot of fun doing the video and it was great to see students and staff coming together to make it. The main reason behind recording the song though was to raise funds for Ellie's Fund and Ali's dream and awareness of brain tumours.'

Ellie's mother, Heather Othick, who founded Ellie's Fund says:

'Every time I hear the song it sends shivers down my spine. The fact that the school wanted to do it to raise brain tumour awareness has left me lost for words. It's the most under-funded of all the cancer charities and hopefully this will change that.'

Ali's Dream hopes that if around 4,000 people buy the track which is available from the Itunes store and [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) at a cost of 79p it could reach the Top 40. With 52p from every sale going direct to the charity the school's recording could potentially raise a substantial amount for Ali's Dream which is dedicated to furthering childhood brain tumour research.

Julie Phelan founder of Ali's Dream said:

'Ellie should be an inspiration to us all. When she won a Young Achievers' Award in 2008, she took the whole class with her on a prize weekend to an outdoor pursuits centre.

'Earlier this year she won a Local Hero, Child of Achievement Award and at the same event, the Ultimate Local Hero Award, to become the winners' winner.

'Following her diagnosis of a brain tumour Ellie's courage and determination was truly inspirational. In just three short years, she raised more for charity than many people could dream of.

'It would be a lovely tribute to her if 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow/Wonderful World' were to make the charts and even the Top 10 and increase awareness of brain tumours.'

More details of Ellie and Ellie's fund can be found on [www.elliesfund.com](http://www.elliesfund.com) and the school's video can be seen on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQ5eZj5Pec>

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**NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

Ellie's Fund operates under the umbrella of Ali's Dream  
[www.alisdreram.org.uk](http://www.alisdreram.org.uk)

Ali's Dream is a founder member of Brain Tumour Research

**Brain Tumour Research** comprises the following 16 member charities who have united together: Ali's Dream, Andrea's Gift, Anna's Hope, Astro Fund, Brain and Spine Foundation, Braintrust, Brain Tumour Action, Brain Tumour Research Campaign, Brainwaves, Charlie's Challenge, Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre, Ellie Savage Memorial Trust, Hammer Out, Levi's Star, The Diana Ford Trust and Thorne Mason Trust.

In 2009 these charities jointly raised over £1.5 million with funds raised being allocated to provide support and research at existing UK centres, like the University of Portsmouth, where brain tumour research is already being carried out.

## Statistics

- Brain tumours are now the leading cause of childhood cancer death in the UK
- The number of children dying from a brain tumour in 2007 was 33% higher than in 2001
- Child deaths from leukaemia were 39% lower than in 2001
- More children and people under the age of 40 die from a brain tumour in the UK than any other form of cancer
- 65% more women die from a brain tumour than from cervical cancer
- There is reportedly a 2% annual increase in the incidence of brain tumours, but some experts have seen the number of cases of brain tumours double over the past year
- Brain tumour research is seriously under-funded and has not received the same attention as other cancers. Brain tumours receive less than 1% of the national spend on cancer research in the UK
- Very little is known about the causes and treatment of brain tumours and without more funding for research, experts will be no closer to understanding the rise in incidence and mortality
- In 2006-7 UK Government funds dedicated to brain tumour research through the Medical Research Council amounted to just £970,000; total MRC expenditure was £89.5 million. Thanks to the extraordinary work of Leukaemia Research and other charities, higher profile cancers generate more than 20 times the funding than brain tumour charities