



*The Cardinal Hume Centre values all its volunteers, appreciating the vast wealth of skills, knowledge and experience that they bring to our charity. In return, our volunteers regularly tell us that working with us really helps them to develop personally and professionally, whatever stage they are at in life.*

A-level student, James, joined the Cardinal Hume Centre fundraising team back in 2016,

as part of a partnership between the Cardinal Hume Centre and the nearby Westminster School. He had always been interested working for a charity, attracted to the idea of giving something back to the community.

James settled swiftly into his volunteer role, providing useful administrative support for our busy fundraising staff every Tuesday afternoon during the school term. "James is an incredibly capable young man, and has been such an asset to us," explains Stephen, our Community Fundraising Officer, who supervised James. "He has an excellent attitude to work – he's punctual, eager to help and a real team player. Whatever we asked of him, he'd do it – and he do it really, really well."

As a result, James soon found himself helping to update the fundraising database, designing materials for community events, reviewing sections of our website, and attending meetings to give his views on specific issues. Such was his dedication, James also attended out-of-hours events to support the Centre, and even hosted his own 'dress-down' day at school, raising an impressive £1000 for us. "Our experience with James just goes to show that young volunteers can contribute effectively and be as mature as the rest of us," remarks Stephen.

James says that his time at the Centre has made a lasting impression on him. "I've learned a huge amount about office life – an invaluable skill coming from school life which can be very different," he explains. "The highlight for me has to be the bond formed with the team I was placed in. I initially thought I'd just be 'yet another volunteer' and that I'd be viewed differently by the Centre's full-time staff but that couldn't have been further from the case. The team warmly welcomed me from day one and, despite only being there once a week, I always felt valued. The most powerful thing I've learnt from volunteering here is that it doesn't matter exactly what you're doing, it's all about contributing to the overall mission of the charity."

Having recently completed his 'A' levels, James will soon be preparing to head off to university. We are extremely grateful for all he has done to support us and have no doubt at all that he will go on to achieve great things.

To find out more about volunteering at the Cardinal Hume Centre please go to <https://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk/help-us/volunteering/>