



## Diary of a young campaigner: Emma Woods, Bedale High School



Emma has been involved with Send My Friend since 2010 when she was in Year 10. This is now her fourth year of campaigning!

Find out what it means to Emma to be part of Send My Friend to School.

### Why I got involved...

I discovered this campaign while browsing on the internet and was immediately drawn to it. Before learning about the campaign and what it stood for, I wasn't aware of how many children are being deprived an education. I was horrified at the statistics.

I'm one of those few people who love being at school, so naturally I want everyone to have at least the chance of experiencing an education. I know that I have so much and so many opportunities and that millions of children don't even have the basics.

I didn't help to promote the campaign in my school for any sort of reward or recognition of my work. I gave up my own time so that I could help every child who doesn't have the opportunities that I have. That was and is my only motive.

### Making a plan!

Once I had planned out a few ideas and read all the information, I took the idea of supporting the campaign to the Global Schools Co-ordinator at school, Mr Fawcett. We made a list of activities we could do:

- a week of assemblies followed by themed lessons which I planned along with ideas from the Send My Friend website,
- a visit by William Hague (I was completely determined to get him to visit our school!)
- a new noticeboard telling everyone about the campaign,
- promotion at the School Summer Fayre so that parents could find out about the campaign and we could ask them for their support.



Mr Fawcett was really enthusiastic about the project, so I took it to the Head teacher, Mr Turner. He was very supportive and helped to turn the plan into action.

Mr Turner informed all the staff who gave their support and he got in contact with William Hague's secretary. But most importantly he helped make the campaign a team effort.

We received backing from the sports department who gave suggestions about creating a giant paper scarf to support 1GOAL – Send My Friend to School. This was the action for the campaign in 2010 to link with the World Cup.

### **Taking action**

Firstly, I created a new notice board for the students.

Next, I led a week of assemblies for every year group with help from Mr Fawcett, Mr Turner, Ed and Sam (both Year 10 students who volunteered to help). Staff gave themed lessons where pupils created sections of the scarf. We wanted as many signatures as possible so we got staff to sign a petition, as well as parents and other members of the community.



**In the classroom: brainstorming questions in preparation for William Hague's visit**

Finally, all the hard work came together at the William Hague visit. On the day a group of Year 9 girls helped to bring together the sections of scarf and all the posters that had been created. A group of Year 7s were chosen to ask questions to the Foreign Secretary.

Some students were chosen to hold the scarf up and represent the school. The scarf was so long it stretched around all four walls of our sports hall!

Other members of staff and students came to the event to support us and also out of genuine interest. The campaign started off as a suggestion that I took into school and escalated into a project that helped to pull the school together as everyone became united under one common goal.

**Send My  
Friend  
to School**



**EVERY CHILD NEEDS A  
TEACHER**



**Emma showed William Hague around so that he could see the whole scarf and meet young campaigners to answer their questions.**

**William Hague MP, the Foreign Secretary told pupils at Bedale High School:**

“This is a great campaign and I’m very proud that the pupils in Bedale have all taken part with such enthusiasm. We will do our very best to extend primary education to every child in the world.”

He also took questions from Year 7 students:

**How many detentions did you get?**

“I don’t think I got any. I managed to escape that.”

**What was your childhood and your school like?**

“I went to a very good school, a comprehensive in Rotherham. It was a larger school than this – we had 1800 pupils in my school. I enjoyed it a lot and I was very happy.”

**How many poor countries have you visited?**

“Well, lots, most recently Pakistan. When I was there I gave a commitment that we would give £250 million to help more children get into school. Many children are out of school - I get to see these things all the time.”

(There are nearly 7 million children out of school in Pakistan – about 1 in 3 children)

**How much pressure do you get from the public on these issues?**

It encourages us – to get lots of pressure – it’s a good thing. We have started with Pakistan where we’re trying to get children into schools in very difficult circumstances.



### What did we achieve?

All of us got an incredible amount out of the experience. At school we tend to work in small teams so this was nothing like any of us had experienced before. It really was the whole school working as a team which was incredibly satisfying to everyone involved.

Living in rural Yorkshire I'm not used to being part of national and global projects, so this was the first time I've been part of a global campaign, and I have loved it. The experience was so good that I'm determined not to stop supporting the campaign until every child has an education.

I believe that other students got a lot out of it, because for many, this was probably the first time that they had thought about global problems that can be solved. The campaign has opened all our eyes.



**William Hague is shown the messages by Bedale High School and the Headteacher, Mr Turner.**