

# Organ donation: a conversation with young people



A presentation by The Royal Free Organ Donation Committee

*Let's talk  
about it*

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## Introduction

This report outlines how Year 10 and Year 12 students at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School (QEGS) in Barnet were informed about the change in law on organ donation in England at special assemblies in July 2019. This was a joint initiative by QEGS and the Organ Donation Committee (ODC) of the Royal Free Hospital. We hope that this report will be helpful to other schools in undertaking similar work with their students.

## What we did on 1 July 2019



We had a special assembly for Year 12 students on organ donation. 50 students attended the one hour assembly. The programme was as follows:

**Welcome: Lindsey Southwell, Head of Sixth Form**

**Introduction: Peter Ware, Vice-Chair, Royal Free Hospital ODC**

**Presentation on organ donation: Kirit Modi, kidney transplant recipient and Life Vice-President of the National Kidney Federation (NKF)**

**Short video on the story of a family who donated the organs of their son**

**The role of the Specialist Nurse for organ donation: Alice Workman, Royal Free Hospital**

## QA

A leaflet on the change in law on organ donation was given out produced by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) was given out to all students. A copy of the NHSBT form to register to donate organ was available to all students to take home with a request to discuss it with their family members.

Prior to the assembly, Violet Walker, Headteacher, arranged a briefing for all teachers on the change in law on organ donation.

Following the assembly, a group of fifteen Year 12 students who are hoping to pursue a career related to medicine, took part in a QA with the speakers for about 30 minutes.

## What we did on 3 July 2019

A special assembly for 180 Year 10 students on organ donation was held arranged. The programme was the same as above; with Anna Myatt, Head of PSHCE and Careers, making the introduction and Helen Foley covering the role of the specialist nurse for organ donation. We offered the NHSBT leaflet on the change in law to the students and many took a copy. We did not give out the registration form because we felt that this would not be appropriate for Year 10 students.

## How we planned



The first meeting to discuss the project with Violet Walker, Peter Ware and Kirit Modi took place on 21 March 2019. A follow up meeting to plan the assemblies with Linsey Southwell, Anna Myatt, Peter Ware and Kirit Modi took place on 22 May 2019. Other communication was by e-mail.

## How we evaluated

A survey of what students know about organ donation was undertaken before and after the assemblies. The following six questions were used for the surveys. The outcomes from the 52 Year 12 students are set out below.

***Analysis of the same survey of 50 Y12 students resulted in the following results.***

	<b>Yes (after)</b>	<b>Yes (before)</b>
<b>Q1. I support organ donation</b>	90%	80%
<b>Q2. I have had a discussion with my family and friends about organ donation</b>	32%	48%
<b>Q3. I know about the change in law on organ donation in England</b>	94%	34%
<b>Q4. Family members will not be involved in discussions before decisions about organ donation after death are made, once the change in law is implemented</b>	6%	23%
<b>Q5. Ethnicity is an important factor in matching organ donors and recipients</b>	92%	21%
<b>Q6. Only family members can donate a live kidney for transplantation</b>	13%	12%

**Analysis of the same survey of 100 Y10 students resulted in the following results.**

	<b>Yes (after)</b>	<b>Yes (before)</b>
<b>Q1. I support organ donation</b>	85%	100%
<b>Q2. I have had a discussion with my family and friends about organ donation</b>	48%	19%
<b>Q3. I know about the change in law on organ donation in England</b>	95%	10%
<b>Q4. Family members will not be involved in discussions before decisions about organ donation after death are made, once the change in law is implemented</b>	38%	62%
<b>Q5. Ethnicity is an important factor in matching organ donors and recipients</b>	86%	19%
<b>Q6. Only family members can donate a live kidney for transplantation</b>	19%	10%

The result of both surveys shows that a significant increase in the number of students who know about the change in law after the assemblies. It also shows that there is a significant increase in understanding the importance of ethnicity as an important factor in matching organs. The positive attitude of students to organ donation, in both surveys, was most encouraging.



### **Conclusion**

*This project shows that it is possible to effectively engage with students about organ donation through partnership working by the School and the Organ Donation Committee. It is important to plan together and well ahead of time. Both the School and the ODC are happy to share their experience and support other schools in undertaking similar work. Please contact Anna Myatt, departmental head of PHSCE, Lindsey Southwell, assistant Deputy Head and head of sixth form from the School and David Myers, Chair Royal Free OD or Peter Ware Vice Chair Royal Free ODC.*

*Chair Royal Free OD or Peter Ware Vice Chair Royal Free ODC.*

A joint press release was issued afterwards the link is:

<https://www.royalfree.nhs.uk/news-media/news/students-get-the-lowdown-on-organ-donation/>

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