

Press Release – 20.5.22

Haileybury Turnford wins award for young carer support

Hertfordshire school, Haileybury Turnford has been given a Bronze award for their work to make sure students don't miss out on an education because they are young carers.

The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award.

"This is excellent recognition of the work to support our students" said Mr Newman, Principal of Haileybury Turnford

"Receiving support from my school as a young carer has helped me more than I thought. It has made me aware of the support I have in school, and when meeting with other young carers has let me know I am not alone in my experiences and difficulties when trying to support my loved ones, whilst trying to stay on track with school" said one of Haileybury Turnford young carer student.

Young carers are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member who has a physical disability, mental health issue or substance misuse issue. The 2011 Census statistics revealed that there are just over 166,000 young carers in England, but research reveals that this is just the tip of the iceberg. The true figure could be closer to 800,000 young carers in England, equivalent to one in 5 secondary aged school children many of whom are unrecognised and unsupported. Research carried out by Carers Trust and The Children's Society shows that, on average, young carers miss or cut short 48 school days a year and often have lower levels of self-confidence, mental wellbeing and significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, because of their caring role.

To achieve their Bronze Award a school has to demonstrate that it supports young carers in many ways, including homework clubs and drop-in sessions with a member of staff who is responsible for this vulnerable group of pupils. Vital information about how to identify young carers is made available to all school staff, and noticeboards and the school webpage let students and their families know where to go for help.

