

Running a Sixth Form Blood Donation Trip (Ages 17+)

Organising a Sixth Form trip to a local NHS Blood Donation Centre is a powerful way to nurture students' character, promote active citizenship, and connect school values with the real world. Students aged 17+ are eligible to donate, and with the right support, many will become lifelong donors.

1. Raise Awareness through Assembly

- Use the powerful **@PintForMike** campaign resources (slides, video) to introduce the importance of blood donation.
- Highlight how blood donation saves lives and showcase the emotional, human side of giving.
- Most students will know people who have received blood donations, draw on this connection.
- Following the assembly, gather expressions of interest from students.

2. Book Appointments

- Visit www.blood.co.uk and find your nearest NHS Blood Donation Centre.
- Call NHS Blood and Transplant to arrange a **group booking** – they are usually very supportive of school-led initiatives.

4. Gain Parental Consent

- Send home a letter explaining the trip's purpose and benefits.
- Include a **consent form** to maintain transparency.

5. Prepare Students

- Support students in completing the online **pre-donation health check**, ensure that you are also aware of any relevant medical details.
- Hold a briefing to explain what to expect, the importance of hydration, and post-donation care.

6. Accompany the Trip

- Ensure staff accompany students and remain present throughout and at least 15 minutes after the donation
- Ensure that students are well hydrated, and encourage students to help themselves to the snacks!
- Make it feel like an event: photos (with permission), celebratory language, and visible praise.

7. Follow Up

- Share photos and student reflections in newsletters or assemblies.
- Encourage students to book future donations independently.
- Consider making it an annual tradition in Year 12.

Lampton School's trip to Twickenham Blood Donation Centre, May 2025

"At first, some of us were nervous walking into the Twickenham Blood Donation Centre — the idea of giving blood felt a bit daunting. But the staff immediately put students at ease, we supported each other, and by the end, there was this incredible sense of pride. We walked out knowing we'd done something genuinely life-changing — not just for ourselves, but for someone we'll never even meet."
Mike Bates, Deputy Headteacher



"One pint can save up to three lives – let's inspire students to give back." For support: www.blood.co.uk or contact NHSBT group bookings.