

# Life Without Limits

Autumn 2024

Your  
supporter  
newsletter

**RSBC**

Royal Society for Blind Children

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## Our Youth Forum changes lives and it's all because of you

By supporting RSBC, you're making long term positive change possible for blind and partially sighted young people. Our Youth Forum is a place for them to voice their opinions and make an impact. Find out more in our Q&A with brand-new forum Chair, Zenny.

### **Can you tell us about your new role as chair of the youth forum?**

"The first thing I want to do is broaden my knowledge of what the other forum members can do. I'm so excited for us to make a difference for young people."

### **Has the forum changed you as a person?**

"100%. I'm more confident now. I've learned a lot about working

as a team and getting involved with the board of trustees has been an invaluable experience. I've honestly learned so much I'm just so grateful."

### **What are you most excited about in your new role?**

I have loads of ideas. it would be so cool if we could bring them to life. Our manifesto came out in March and we're going to focus our energy on four issues that we feel are most important. They are transport, education, employment, and mental health. So, watch this space!"

**We can only run our Youth Forum because of you – thank you!**

# Together, we've helped make Eesa's dream come true

**Eesa, who is 18, had always dreamed of playing football at a high level, but didn't know it was even possible. Leber's Congenital Amaurosis (LCA), a rare eye condition, left him almost completely blind since birth. This didn't stop him from dreaming big though. And supporters like you have made his dreams a reality.**

From the moment he was introduced to blind football at school, Eesa was hooked!

With the help from our Access Unlimited project, Eesa has become an England Blind Footballer, as well as playing for club team West Bromwich Albion. He also took part in last summer's World Blind Games.

His story is an inspiring example of how determination, tenacity and support can help a young person overcome challenges. We couldn't carry out the amazing work we do through our Access Unlimited project without you. You make the difference and ensure that



Eesa and other blind children can achieve their dreams.

Thank you.

**“Before I started the programme, I found it difficult to communicate, but now my overall confidence has improved. The social aspect of speaking to people and being around them helped too.”**

# Celebrate Matthew and the incredible achievements of our Dorton students

RSBC Dorton College of Further Education is our life-changing independent specialist college for vision impaired 16–25 year-olds. On 11 July, we celebrated their achievements in an uplifting ceremony at our Life Without Limits Centre.

The event celebrated the college students' hard work and achievements over the past academic year. 18 young people received certificates of achievement in subjects including media studies, politics, group enterprise, cookery, Spanish and life skills.

Student Matthew Saveljev from Bromley received the Scope Eyecare Achievement Award 2024.

He said: **"I was shocked to win this award, but I'm really happy with all I've achieved during the year."**



Attended by over 100 Dorton College friends, family members and supporters, the event included a speech from Amie Fox, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager at Scope Eyecare. RSBC Chair of Trustees, Patrick Plant, read out a letter of congratulations from His Majesty King Charles III.

Josie Grainger-Francova, Education Director and Principal of RSBC Dorton College, said:

**"We could not be prouder of our amazing young people. We see their dedication, tenacity and progress every day."**



Matthew Saveljev

# Thanks for giving blind children the time of their life

In May, thanks to your kindness and generosity, RSBC staff and volunteers took several of our young people on a fun-packed adventure holiday in the Peak District. They took part in rocket building, indoor and outdoor climbing, as well as Bushcraft, and even experienced driving in land karts.



The trip was all about making friends, building confidence and self-esteem and proving anything is possible for blind children.

Here's what they had to say:

**“This is the best residential I’ve been on.”**

**“This was the best week ever, I made new friends and experienced new things!”**

## You turned six weeks of fear into six weeks of hope

Back in the summer, we asked you to help blind children starting secondary school in September, by giving them all the specialist support they need. Your response was absolutely incredible and now, thanks to your impact, our Families First service will be able to provide life-changing support for more blind children transitioning into their new school environment.

**“Thank you for reading my story and helping other children like me thrive this summer”** – Jenson



# A volunteer's journey

**Supporters like you, together with our volunteers, are the lifeblood of RSBC.**

Meet Harriet, a remarkable volunteer whose journey with RSBC began over 12 years ago. It was during her university days that the seed for volunteering was planted. Harriet felt it was the right time and place to offer her time and skills to a cause that resonated with her values.

Thanks to you Harriet is forging strong bonds, celebrating diversity and embracing uniqueness

One of the most rewarding aspects of Harriet's volunteer work has been witnessing the

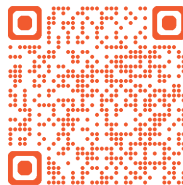
personal growth and achievements of the young people she supports. From cooking sessions to indoor rock climbing, she has seen them confront their fears head-on with bravery and resilience.

Just like you, Harriet is dedicated to helping young people develop essential life skills that will empower them to navigate the world with confidence and independence.

**"It's rewarding to see how a young person with vision impairment overcomes some of the fears of participating in some of the activities and rewarding to see how they then change." – Harriet**

## Join the Journey

If, like Harriet, you want to make a lasting difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted young people, scan the QR code below to sign up and begin your volunteer journey.



# Breaking records at the London Marathon

On Sunday 21st of April, 62 RSBC runners crossed the start line for the 44th London Marathon. Over 55,000 runners took part in the world biggest charity challenge event.

RSBC had an international team from as far away as Australia, India, USA and different parts of Europe. Our team included inspirational Bobby who has guided around the 26 mile route by his good friends Suzi and Gary.

Vision impairment was no barrier for Bobby, he was living his life without limits as he



crossed the finish line and received that coveted medal.

Our magnificent runners were cheered on by our amazing volunteers and staff member at miles 17 and 23.

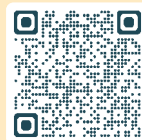
**This was a record-breaking team who raised an incredible £277k to help even more blind and partially sighted children live their lives without limits.**

## An easy way to fundraise

Did you know, RSBC is registered with easyfundraising? This means you can help RSBC while you're shopping online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising

to shop with them – at no extra cost to you! Simply sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE!

**These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rs-bc](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rs-bc) or scan this QR code.**



# Play the RSBC lottery. Win big and change lives!

Play today for a chance to win amazing prizes while supporting blind and vision impaired children! You could be in with a chance of winning the jackpot of £25,000! Each ticket helps fund RSBC's life-changing work.

To find out more and get your ticket scan the QR code or visit [rsbc.org.uk/lottery](https://rsbc.org.uk/lottery)

Win up to  
£25,000



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## Write your Will for free and help blind children long into the future

**We have a simple way for you to make your Will for free with a local solicitor.**

RSBC have partnered with the National Free Wills Network who offer a local Will-writing service all year round. If you decide to take advantage of our free Will offer, there is no obligation to include a gift to RSBC, however, we hope you'll consider leaving a legacy to us.

Leaving a gift in your Will is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact. If it wasn't for gifts in Wills, we simply wouldn't be able to help anywhere near as many blind and partially sighted children as we currently do.

**For more information email [giftsinwills@rsbc.org.uk](mailto:giftsinwills@rsbc.org.uk) or visit [rsbc.org.uk/gift-in-wills](https://rsbc.org.uk/gift-in-wills)**



**Scan the QR code and complete our easy form to register for your free Will now.**



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