

## Southborough Student's artwork chosen by Cecily's Fund charity for its fund-raising Christmas Card this year



Above: Thomas Galloway with his winning artwork

Over one million children are orphaned in Zambia - more than 600,000 of them by HIV/AIDS. For orphans and vulnerable children, education can provide a route out of poverty: but for many, the cost of school fees is a very real barrier that prevents them from reaching their potential and having a better future.

For over 20 years, Cecily's Fund has helped children to access school, and persevere through education, to give them a better future in adulthood. They also help communities become self-reliant and able to provide for the next generation.

Southborough High School is incredibly proud to have a long-standing association with Cecily's Fund, raising thousands of pounds over the years for such a worthwhile cause.

Earlier this year, Cecily's Fund launched a competition for students up and down the country to design and create a festive picture to be used for the charity's Christmas card this year. The charity raises a great deal of money through the sale of their Christmas cards, so the opportunity was a challenging yet rewarding one.

Head of Art Mr Morgan decided that every Key Stage 3 student (Years 7, 8 and 9) would enter the competition and each boy set to work on their individual artwork designs. The deadline date for submission was June and a short while afterwards the school was thrilled to hear that the charity had short-listed the work of not one but three of our students, namely Thomas Galloway (8DMO), Andrew Banham (10CPA) and Toby Carr (8IBO).



Toby Carr with his special design

The charity sent the three short-listed designs back to school and asked that a camera-ready 'finished' version of each could be finalised by the chosen students. Much to Southborough's absolute delight, the charity chose the 'Flame Tree Robin' design of Thomas Galloway for their Christmas card this season, adding that they were so impressed by the other two, they would use them in future years.

The Griffin Reporter caught up with Thomas to ask him how he felt about winning the competition. Thomas explained that art was one of his favourite subjects – along with English – and that he hoped one day to have a career that utilised his artistic skills. He told the Reporter that both his parents were Graphic Designers, with mum creating artwork for, among other things, high profile book covers. Dad, on the other hand, used his creativity through designing websites for a wide range of companies. Thomas commented: "I think it must be in the blood! I really enjoyed the project and was so happy to hear that Cecily's Fund chose my design for their Christmas card this year. It's a great feeling to think that my design will help the charity raise thousands of pounds through the sale of its Christmas cards this year."

Southborough High School has a limited supply of the cards – a pack of six cards costs £3 – which you can purchase via the school office. However, you'd like to support this hugely worthwhile charity, you can purchase packs of the **Flame Tree Robin Christmas Cards** from their website - <https://www.cecilyfund.org/pages/28-shop>