# Parent/carer letter template

We recommend that you inform parents and carers that we will be delivering a session that will cover stem cell, blood, and organ donation.

The letter below can be amended, to reassure parents that the subject will be delivered appropriately, and not as a means of pressuring students to join the Anthony Nolan stem cell register, or the NHS blood or organ donor registers.

It also includes links to the Anthony Nolan website and NHS Blood and Transplant website, where parents can find out more about the three types of donations.

Please contact [education@anthonynolan.org](mailto:education@anthonynolan.org) if you have any questions.

Dear Parent/Carer,

To support our students learn about ways that they can be potential lifesavers, a presentation will be delivered by a volunteer from Anthony Nolan on (enter date), as part of The Hero Project- an education programme run by the blood cancer charity.

Who are Anthony Nolan?

Anthony Nolan is the charity which saves the lives of people with blood cancer and blood disorders, by matching them with incredible individuals willing to donate stem cells for transplant. In collaboration with NHS Blood and Transplant, Anthony Nolan runs The Hero Project education programme, teaching 16-18-year-olds about stem cell, blood, and organ donation.

What information will the presentation include?

The presentation will introduce the concept of altruistic donation, highlight why donation matters, what is involved in donating, and how people sign up as potential donors. There will also be time for students to ask questions about what they’ve heard. Our students will be encouraged to reflect on the presentation and discuss with their family and peers.

Joining the donor registers

After the presentation, students will have the opportunity to join the stem cell register, if they wish to do so, at a donor recruitment event on (enter date)\*, which will also be facilitated by volunteers from Anthony Nolan.

The process of joining the register involves the completion of a short online form, followed by three cheek swabs. Swab kits will then be safely returned to Anthony Nolan’s labs, where individuals will be added to the stem cell register.

Your sincerely,

\*If there is no donor recruitment event planned, students will be directed to the Anthony Nolan website to sign up as a potential donor (if they wish to do so). When someone joins the Anthony Nolan stem cell register online, they complete a simple form and are sent a cheek swab kit in the post. Registration is not complete until the swab kit is used and returned to Anthony Nolan.

If you would like to find out more about Anthony Nolan and The Hero Project, please visit

anthonynolan.org/education.

**Please amend this letter to best suit your chosen delivery:**

* **Self-delivery Hero Project presentation**- Led by a teacher/tutor
* **Anthony Nolan Hero Project presentation**- led by an Anthony Nolan volunteer