

Merlin's Hair-raising charity challenge



A schoolboy from East Molesey, Surrey, has been growing his hair for the last two and a half years in an effort to raise money for Momentum Children's Charity.

Eleven-year-old Merlin Collins-Sibthorp who attends St Lawrence CofE Primary School in East Molesey, grew his hair to 11.5 inches long, before having his golden locks chopped off last week.

Merlin was inspired to take on the challenge, after reading a book about a boy who grew his hair to make wigs for children with cancer. He asked for sponsorship to grow his hair and has raised an impressive £2,325 for Momentum, with donations still coming in. Merlin has donated his hair to the Little Princess Trust charity so it can be made into a wig for a child or young person who has lost their hair through cancer treatment or another condition.

Merlin Collins-Sibthorp said: "Momentum is a local charity that helps lots of families with cancer and other serious illnesses. At times when I was growing my hair it would get in my eyes, but when it was annoying me, I would always remember the children who do not have any hair because they are so ill. I hope the money raised from growing my hair (and now having had it all cut off) will be able to help lots of children and their families."

Bianca Effemey, Founder and CEO of Momentum Children's Charity said: "A great big thank you and well done to Merlin! What an inspirational young boy, who has shown real commitment to his challenge over the last two and a half years. We rely heavily on fundraising from people like Merlin to be able to continue delivering our services and every penny raised really does make an enormous difference to families affected by cancer and other life-challenging conditions."

Momentum Children's Charity is based in East Molesey. The charity partners with local hospitals to offer personally tailored support to families through our family support workers, both in hospital and at home.

There is still time to sponsor Merlin: [Merlin Collins Sibthorp is fundraising for Momentum \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/merlincollinsibthorp)

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To find out more about the work of Momentum Children's Charity, please visit www.momentumcharity.org

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Notes to Editors:

Momentum Children's Charity supports families across London, Surrey and Sussex whose children are facing cancer or a life-challenging condition. We partner with local hospitals to offer personally tailored support to the entire family through our family support workers, both in hospital and at home. Our services include counselling, creative therapies, special experiences and respite breaks. We also improve the environment for children treated in hospital with our children's ward refurbishments, transforming bare, clinical areas into bright, child-friendly spaces. The charity receives no government funding and is reliant entirely on voluntary support.

www.momentumcharity.org Registered charity number: 1195373

For more information about Momentum and future press opportunities, please contact:

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