TIERNAN O'FLAHERTY

#iwill

*Tiernan O'Flaherty, 15 years old
From: Belfast, Northern Ireland*

CHARACTER VIRTUES
I'VE DEVELOPED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL ACTION

Empathy | Confidence | Leadership | Cooperation | Gratitude

#iwill *… pledge to continuing my work to ensure the injustice of today's society is improved upon. Furthermore, I hope to work to improve the relationship between members of the Protestant and Catholic communities in Northern Ireland.*

I first started getting involved in social action in my school, St Mary's CBGS in Belfast as, through subjects such as citizenship, I was shown how unjust the world and society really can be to certain aspects and to certain people within society and I saw this as nothing but unfair. I decided that I need to make sure that I can play a part in society, in order to fight for society as I get older.

I decided to join the school's social justice advocacy group, which was set up in school in order to raise awareness of social injustice and to fulfil our motto "Glórtha ar son Córa" or "A voice for the voiceless". We recently organised a political debate to bring the unionist and nationalist communities together to a safe debating politics environment, often a sore topic. Myself and a few friends also set up the "Eco Club", determined to raise awareness of the need to improve the local environment and community.

Over Christmas, I volunteered at a local group that provides food and toys to the homeless at Christmas time and I hope to go on to repeat next Christmas. I believe that social action has given me the confidence to fight against the injustice that occurs on a day-to-day basis. Before I may have been too afraid to act, however this is not the case anymore.

"Social action has increased my gratitude for the privilege I receive in society and makes me strive to help those that are not so fortunate."

Organisations I've Participated With:
St Mary's CBGS in Belfast, Eco Club, homeless charities