

Gruelling challenge to help little Ayla get vital surgery



Laura Eckersley and Dylan Ditchfield who took part in the graphic design briefs set by businesses.

Students hit the mark in graphic design tasks

GRAPHIC designers studying at Priestley College have been accepting challenges set by a variety of fascinating 'clients'.

The students have been set live briefs by organisations as diverse as a publishing company, an international photographic magazine and a leadership movement founded in the Netherlands.

"These kinds of opportunities are invaluable for students to learn how the industry works," said tutor Paul McConnell.

"As well as allowing them to put their designs skills to the test it also teaches them about working with clients, the importance of deadlines and communication."

Among the challenges was one by Stockton Heath-based Gatehouse Books – a specialist publisher of reading books and teaching resources for develop-

ing literacy in young people and adults. Students were commissioned to illustrate a new series of books covering a range of topics from the Second World War to catching a fish.

Former Penketh High pupil Laura Eckersley was among those paid for their time and talent.

"The client would send us a short story with some inspiration photos and we would have to illustrate three images that would be used in the book," she said.

A different task was set by the editor of Imagemaker, Mike McNamee, who asked students to design pages for his magazine.

Their work – much of it influenced by the experiences of the past year – was published in the March edition and seen in more than 70 countries.

A GROUP of friends are in training to take on the Three Peaks Challenge plus a Triathlon to raise money for little Ayla Grace Stokes from Grappenhall who needs vital treatment in the form of spinal surgery.

The Triathlon involves tackling all terrains as the trio cycle, trek and kayak in just one day in the heart of Snowdonia.

Ayla is just three years old and despite being diagnosed with cerebral palsy which affects all her limbs, she is the happiest little girl, who does her best to deal with daily life and tasks no matter how hard it can be.

Ayla's condition means she has to wear splints daily but she always has a smile and loves to play with her brothers and sister.

Spasms

There is no cure for cerebral palsy but early intervention and therapies can help along with SDR (Selective dorsal rhizotomy) surgery. This is done on the lower spinal cord to reduce spasticity in the legs. Certain abnormal nerve fibers are cut in order to relax the muscles, which reduces painful spasms.

The team doing the Three Peaks Challenge are: Andy Wilkes, Gary Woods, Daz Lloyd, Sarah Hardy, John

Carl Palmer, Anna Stokes with Ayla and Gary Woods. Picture by John Hopkins



Hunt and Nick Ross and the team doing the Triathlon are: Carl Palmer, Gary Woods, Tony Walsh, Jim Goodier, Dan Foden, Darrell Graham, Al Cassin, Dan Roberts, Hayley Graham, Paula Nogeroul, Adam Roberts, Andrew Nash and Stewart Edwards.

The challenge will take place on Saturday, August 21 and the team will be set-

ting off from The Hatton Arms pub in Hatton, at 5am and aiming to be back at around 6pm. The group are aiming to raise £30,000. This is on top of the existing 'go fund me' amount that's already running via social media WhatsApp.

They have been busy securing corporate sponsorship and firms which have so far pledged money in-

clude Lomax Design and Construct; Warrington Borough Council, Ram Safety Solutions; 3D Set; Con Tec Solutions; Integrated Packaging Services; MD Tool Hire; CMC Tiling; The Mason Lodge; Travelodge; Urban Building Projects; Urban Homes; Johnson's Hairdressing; 101 Wine Bar; BMSI; Foden Estates and Beers Timber.

● Those wishing to donate can go to: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/aylagrace?utm_term=Xp6kBP2b

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