

THOMAS MUNNELLY

Name: Thomas Munnelly

Age: 14

Where I Live: West Midlands



“After seeing poverty first-hand, I have realised that happiness isn’t derived from wealth but instead is from within.”

MY SOCIAL ACTION JOURNEY

My social action journey has taken me around the world! The first big project I was involved in was in South Africa, where I asked schools and businesses to donate old sports equipment to some of the poorer schools around the country on Mandela Day.

Since then, I’ve barely stopped! Back at school in the UK, I supported CAFOD, organising tuck shops, cake sales and car washes. In 2013, I raised £300 for Mary’s Meals by organising a fundraising concert with my mum for 120 people. Through my youth group, I’ve helped raise over £7,000 to build a kitchen in Malawi, by organising themed fundraising events, like a University Challenge-style quiz.

Most recently, I was lucky enough to go on Free The Children’s Virgin Atlantic scholarship trip to India as one of the youngest participants. Helping build a school and a goat shed, learning the local language, and meeting other young people in the communities was such an incredible experience that’ll stay with me for life. I jumped at the chance to speak about it at We Day UK in March 2014, in front of 12,000 people at Wembley Arena. Now, I’m on Free The Children’s youth advisory board, where I’m developing my leadership and teamwork skills by working with others who are just as passionate about social action as I am!

KEY CHARACTER QUALITIES AND VIRTUES

Pride | Curiosity

The adults who have most inspired me to get involved in social action are ...

Marc and Craig Kielburger, founders of Free The Children.

MY SOCIAL ACTION PLEDGE

#iwill change young people’s opinion of social action from one that is negative, where they feel that social action isn’t cool, to a positive opinion in which social action is the best thing ever!