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THE WOKINGHAM TIMES

UNRIVALLED COVERAGE OF THE BOROUGH, INCORPORATING CROWTHORNE, WOODLEY AND TWYFORD NEWS

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By LAURA MILLER

THREE years of research into a rare brain tumour which took the life of a schoolboy has begun, thanks to a charity set up in his memory.

Sarah and Simon Young, from Wooshill, launched the Ollie Young Foundation in memory of their son, who died in February 2012 just one day before his sixth birthday.

Supporters helped the charity reach its £100,000 target in September and now £90,000 has been used to fund Emily Pinkstone's PhD in paediatric brain tumour research, with a focus a glioblastoma multiforme, from which Ollie suffered.

His mum Sarah said: "What an emotional roller coaster.

"This very same week Emily has started, two years ago we were sitting in the doctors wondering what could possibly be up with our poorly little boy... a very bittersweet moment.

"This is what we set out to do and I believe Emily with all her heart will succeed in trying her absolute best to put us on the right path to achieving

Ollie's name lives on

Foundation funds brain tumour research

something amazing, something that will hopefully change another family's life forever and one that I so wished could have been us two years ago."

Miss Pinkstone, who grew up in Woodley, graduated from University College London with an MSc in Clinical Neurology and is now based at the Brain Tumour Research flagship laboratory at Portsmouth University, where she will be specifically conducting research into abnormal cellular metabolism in paediatric glioblastoma.

She said: "I cannot say how excited I am to be starting this amazing research and it is an honour to do it in Ollie's name.

"I am looking forward to working

with the foundation and would like to thank them for their dedication and support so far."

The primary aim of the Ollie Young Foundation has been to fund paediatric brain tumour research as brain tumour research receives around 0.7 per cent of national cancer funding split across 120 known types of brain tumour.

Mr Young said: "I'd like to thank all the Ollie Young Foundation committee members for all their hard work to achieve this fantastic milestone, and all of our wonderful supporters too.

"It is really exciting for us to have Emily starting the research and I can't wait to meet her and thank her in person."

He added: "I hope we can support the research for many more years in the future."

The £100,000 has been raised thanks to donations from clubs, businesses and from people living in and around Wokingham who have been moved to organise cake stalls, pub nights, quizzes, sponsored exercise sessions and much more for the foundation.

In October the foundation awarded children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent £3,000 to refurbish one of the family bathrooms at CLIC Court in Oxford, one of its self-catering residences for families.

To support the Ollie Young Foundation visit www.olliyoungfoundation.org.



People in Wokingham donated funds to help create a charity in Ollie Young's memory.