

## Muscular Dystrophy Campaign's Case Study

Earlier this year, Virgin Atlantic's Change for Children Appeal raised over **£90,000** for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign's children's specialist equipment project.

**Duchenne muscular dystrophy** is a devastating muscle-wasting disease that affects mainly boys. The first symptoms develop when the boys are between one and three years old as they struggle to walk. They are usually unable to run or jump like their peers and often struggle to climb the stairs. Between the ages of 8 and 11 boys become unable to walk and by their late teens or twenties the condition can lead to death as their heart and respiratory muscles fail.

Here are some examples of how the funding has helped those children with life-limiting conditions like Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy:

### **1. Oliver & Jamie Baskaran from Leatherhead:**

14-year old Jamie and 16-year old Oliver both have Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a devastating life-limiting condition.

They have both received a grant for over £5,000 to buy two specialist computers. Diagnosed at eight years, both the boys will be able to use computers, with laser keyboards, to keep in touch with friends and family members, complete their homework and play video games like other boys their own age.

#### **Receiving the equipment, the boys said:**

'This equipment will make such a positive difference to us in our day-to-day lives. We will now be able to enjoy some of the games and activities online with other children. That is something we were not able to do before.'

'Most importantly, now we will be able to do homework and play at different times with our friends. We will no longer have to always do the same things because of these special computers that both the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign and Virgin Atlantic have provided.'

### **2. Mubin Miah:**

The grants awarded include Mubin Miah from Hounslow who has muscular dystrophy. Five-year old Mubin has received a grant for £910 to buy a specialist computer and printer. Diagnosed at an early age, Mubin will be able to use the computer with a laser keyboard to complete his homework, keep in touch with his friends and family members and play video games like other boys his own age.

### **3. Sagar Mehta:**

16-year-old Sagar Mehta from Harrow, who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, has received a grant for £3,000 to buy an electric powered wheelchair. The new equipment will increase his mobility and enable him to be involved in a number of activities, such as going on holidays, excursions with school or visiting friends in their homes – things up until now he has not been able to do due to his big and bulky manual wheelchair.

### **4. Weslie Gray:**

9-year-old Weslie Gray from Stevenage, a child with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, has received a grant for over £4,400 to buy a powered wheelchair. Since losing the ability to walk two years ago Weslie has been dependent on others to help him get

around. The grant for the wheelchair will give him freedom and enable him to control his movements without relying on his parents completely.

#### **5. Romario James:**

14-year-old Romario James from London also has Duchenne muscular dystrophy and has received a grant for £2,528 to buy a mobile hoist. Romario uses a wheelchair to get around and a stairlift to get up and down the stairs at his home. He is dependent on his mother to help him get in and out of the stairlift. The new equipment will make this task much easier and less tiring for him and his mother.