



Looking to fundraise? Merlin's Magic Wand Child Ambassador Zachy has done an incredible job of raising some much-needed awareness of us as a charity! His goal? To fundraise £25,000 for Merlin's Magic Wand.


A QUEST FOR A COURAGEOUS KNIGHT

This is a HUGE challenge, but not one to be undeterred by the challenges ahead of him, we sat down with Knight in training Zachy and mum Sarah to understand why he's so dedicated to fundraising at such a young age.

Zachy has been fundraising for us for a couple of years, challenging himself to complete creative and also strenuous physical challenges; all of which were inspired by a young friend of Zachy's. Sarah, Zachy's mum, explains that when Zachy was young, he wanted to visit Warwick Castle with a young friend who was too poorly to go. He and his mum had a very honest conversation about children with disabilities and children who were simply too poorly to attend day trips out, and Zachy was introduced to us and one of the programmes here at Merlin's Magic Wand.

He thought that the idea that children could have the 'Knights from Warwick' or the 'Princesses from the castle' visit schools or hospitals where children spend a lot of time, places where they were safe and comfortable, was brilliant! And it led to him finding out more about us.

Spurred on by his unparalleled love of Warwick castle, the Knights, the falconry, the archery and the princesses, he decided that he wanted as many children as possible to be able to experience Warwick, in any way that they could, and he was going to fundraise and raise awareness to make it happen.



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"It's so important to me because I really want all children to be able to access Merlin attractions, especially Warwick Castle. It upsets me that some children can't have fun days out like me, and I wanted to change that. By fundraising, I know that I'm helping other children and that makes me very happy."

PEDAL POWER FOR A BRAVE, STRONG- WILLED KNIGHT

So we wanted to know, out of all the amazing fundraising challenges that he has done to date, which was his favourite, and which one was he the most proud of? "My favourite has been riding my bike 100 miles from Alton Towers to Warwick Castle and stopping at Birmingham Sea Life on the way. I worked so hard and loved seeing people at the different attractions".

We know that Zachy is aiming his fundraising high, with a goal of £25,000 by the time he is 10 years old, but we wanted to know if there was anything else that he really wanted to achieve? "I really want to be a knight" he told us, which is why we were absolutely thrilled to have been able to welcome Zachy back to Warwick Castle after a 30-mile bike ride from Birmingham to Warwick! With a little surprise, organised by mum Sarah, Warwick superstar Sally and the Knights, Zachy was welcomed to Warwick Castle by all the castles working Knights, by Princess Pearl from Julia Donaldson's incredible work Zog, and team members from the Merlin Attraction. He was given a hero's welcome and was OFFICIALLY knighted in the castle's courtyard by Sir Jay and his knights. It was a beautiful moment of jubilation, as one young boy became a knight, dedicated to fighting for magic for children who need it most. A true quest, for a now official knight. In 2022 Zachy was featured on the BBC and interviewed about his fundraising, and we are so proud to have him fundraising for us! We cannot wait to see what our young knight has planned next! Inspired by Zachy? We think he has the perfect plan for fundraising! He's taken a place he loves, and used his passion for cycling to come up with an adventurous and fun fundraiser that he can do in his own time, supported by family and friends.