



Family plea after shock diagnosis

By John Lawrence

Life turned upside down for former Archer Academy pupil Alex Warwick when he suddenly fell ill while talking to friends. It turned out to be a serious and dangerous brain tumour which typically carries a prognosis of 12-18 months, even with current treatments.



Inspiration to others: Alex, second right, with Archer Academy headteacher Lucy Harrison, third right, and fellow former pupils on his recent visit back to the school

The shock diagnosis came as the 23-year-old was studying medicine at the University of Liverpool.

Now his family and friends in East Finchley and around the country are urgently trying to raise the funds required to send him for cutting-edge treatment in Germany to give the best chance of beating his glioblastoma. It was in May last year when it became clear something was wrong. A friend whom Alex was speaking to over FaceTime noticed problems with his speech.

His condition declined rapidly and his housemates took him to the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

Initially thought to be a stroke, doctors discovered the very rare high-grade tumour and sent him for emergency surgery as his parents Indira and Ian drove up to be by his side. He has since responded well to NHS treatment but his medical team says that therapy to activate his body's own immune defences against the tumour has potentially promising results. The cost for multiple rounds of

treatment, travel to Germany and insurance has been set at £200,000. His family know this is a huge goal to achieve and say they will be grateful for any help they receive.

They say: "Alex is the best of all of us. He is the kindest, funniest son, brother, boyfriend, friend and grandson, who always has time for other people and brings endless joy to all of us. Despite receiving this diagnosis so young and at the beginning of his adult life, he has faced it with his

characteristic strength, humour and optimism. He is halfway through medical school and determined to return to continue his studies in September 2026."

Friends in East Finchley say Alex loved his time at the Archer Academy and is still very close to many of his classmates. He made time to return to the school in January to give advice to prospective medical students following in his footsteps. One of the original cohort of pupils who joined when the academy opened in 2013, Alex went on to be Deputy Head Boy and represented the school in cross country, athletics and contemporary dance at the

Barnet Music Festival. He also did work experience at East Finchley Smiles dentist as a receptionist.

If you can donate even a small amount to help Alex and his family reach their fund-raising goal to send him for treatment, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/alex-warwick-2025> or use the QR code in this article.



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New times: The 603 bus

Bus time changes

The 603 bus service from Muswell Hill to Swiss Cottage through East Finchley now has timings that campaigners say are better suited to students, teachers, school staff and commuters.

The previous 3.30pm departure from Muswell Hill now departs at 4pm and the previous 4.20pm departure from Swiss Cottage now departs at 5pm.

Campaign group 603Watch said: "These changes will allow many more students to use the school bus for their journey home, improving safety and accessibility, particularly during the shorter, darker winter days, when alternative journeys along this route can feel very onerous."

The decision to adjust the schedule, rather than introduce an additional bus, was made by Transport for London following

their own survey. Some parents have said they relied on the previous timings and 603Watch said it would continue its efforts to expand the service.

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