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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEEDS-BASED CHARITY LAUNCHES ART PROJECT TO REPRESENT RARE CANCER

Students from Leeds College of Art have been working with people in Yorkshire affected by primary bone cancer to develop a multimedia exhibition that will be displayed at The Tetley Contemporary Arts Gallery on Saturday 7 May at 6.30pm.

The exhibition, which will tell the stories of ten people who have experienced the rare but brutal disease, is a joint project between the Bone Cancer Research Trust and Leeds College of Art. Forty students studying for the BA (Hons) Fashion degree have been working in small groups to explore the everyday impact of primary bone cancer on a particular individual through a creative medium.

The students received a briefing from the Bone Cancer Research Trust and an oncologist before they embarked on their project, and have been working in close collaboration with their assigned individual. Each group has created a short film and piece of art to represent the person they have been working with – from functional objects such as rucksacks and scarves to more conceptual pieces.

Catherine Newman, Head of Events, Promotions and Campaigns at the Bone Cancer Research Trust, said:

“Primary bone cancer is a rare type of cancer that can have a devastating impact. Most members of the public simply don’t know enough about it, and a lack of awareness about this brutal disease leads to a lack of support for those who are affected by it.”

“This innovative project with Leeds College of Art is a new, creative way of telling the stories of people who have experienced primary bone cancer.”

Sam Hudson, Programme Leader for BA (Hons) Fashion at Leeds College of Art, said:

“This project has enabled students to gain a deeper understanding of primary bone cancer in particular and to foster a more thoughtful and considered approach to design and story-telling in general.

“Many of the students have remarked on how inspiring the process has been – they have gained a lot from working closely with people personally affected by the disease.”

The project will be launched at the Bone Cancer Research Trust’s 10th Birthday Conference at The Tetley on Saturday 7 May. For more information, visit www.bcr.org.uk.

Tickets are available via the Bone Cancer Research Trust website or by visiting www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bone-cancer-research-trust-gala-evening-bionic-fashion-event-tickets-22100971601.

Notes to Editors

For media enquiries, press tickets and images please contact Rosie Wilson, Communications and Stewardship Officer, rosie.wilson@bcr.org.uk

The Tetley

The Tetley, Hunslet Road, Leeds LS10 1JQ

www.thetetley.org

About primary bone cancer

Each year in the UK and Ireland around 600 new cases of primary bone cancer are diagnosed and around 300 people die from these cancers.

Primary bone cancer can affect anyone at any age. It has a peak incidence between the ages of 10-24 – the most common types of bone cancer for this age are osteosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma. Chondrosarcoma is the most common form of primary bone cancer in adults and mainly affects middle-aged to elderly people.

The main symptoms are bone pain which may come and go and/or swelling. These symptoms can be mistaken for growing pains or other common musculoskeletal medical conditions such as tendonitis or arthritis.

There has been no improvement in primary bone cancer survival rates for over 25 years and the Bone Cancer Research Trust is fighting to improve early diagnosis and referrals.

About the Bone Cancer Research Trust

The Bone Cancer Research Trust is the leading charity dedicated to fighting primary bone cancer.

The charity's mission is to save lives and improve outcomes for people affected by primary bone cancer through research, information, awareness and support.

www.bcrct.org.uk

About Leeds College of Art

Leeds College of Art Founded in 1846, Leeds College of Art is an innovative institution that has changed the way art qualifications are taught and structured in Britain today. We combine academic and vocational excellence in all our undergraduate programmes. Our focus is to put student's talents to practical use, so their creativity is channelled towards a successful career or postgraduate study.

Our students and staff create a unique community of vibrant, ambitious and deeply creative artists and designers. We are based in Leeds, an internationally acclaimed centre for teaching and learning in addition to being a leading hub for creative and digital industries.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk