

## TEN-YEAR MILESTONE FOR BRAVE YOUNGSTER

23 July 2007

A Brave youngster has been celebrating a huge milestone.

For 10 years have passed since Jack Wheatley (13), of Caistor, had a lifesaving bone marrow transplant.

Jack underwent the procedure at Newcastle General Hospital after being born with inherited condition Hyper IgM, which prevents growth into adult life.



Not only had the condition already claimed the life of his older brother, Ryan, in 1999, but Jack is the first patient to survive after receiving bone marrow from an unrelated donor.

Now he is living life to the full.

He said: "I go 10-pin bowling and sailing at Covenham. I like that."

Jack also boards at a special needs school in Horncastle, coming home every weekend.

His groundbreaking transplant was made possible by the Anthony Nolan Trust after researchers in America and France discovered Jack's condition could be fought with bone marrow treatment.

To this day, neither Jack nor his mother Jeanette know the identity of the donor.

She said: "One day, when the time is right, we will find out - it would be nice for Jack to know who the donor was."