

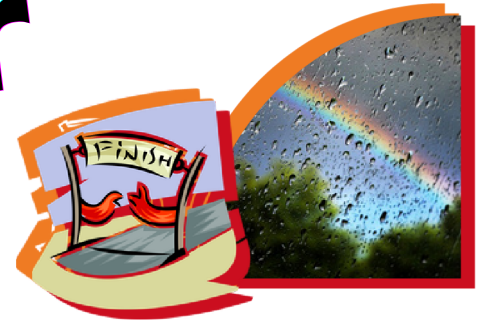
London Marathon 2026



Volunteer Runner Interview

Azhar

SmellTaste



What does crossing the finish line mean to you personally?

It would represent the whole journey and the challenge, while also knowing it's been for a cause that deserves more awareness.

What's has training looked like for you, and what's been the toughest part?

Training has mostly been about building up distance with regular runs and longer weekend runs. The toughest part has definitely been the long runs, mainly trying to find a podcast that can hold my attention for that long!

Have you had any “what am I doing?!” moments?

Trying to balance marathon training with a dissertation and a part-time job has had me questioning my life choices a few times!

What keeps you going on the days you don't feel like running?

Reminding myself that whether I feel like it or not, it has to be done, especially knowing I'm running for a cause bigger than just the run itself.

What's the strangest or funniest thing that's happened on a training run?

I once ran so far that I started in sunshine and ended up in a full-on rainstorm with wind pushing me all over the place.

What are you most looking forward to on race day?

Seeing my friends and family on the course and having their support along the way.

Are you aiming for a time, or just to finish?

My main goal is to finish the race and prove to myself that I can take on something like this and see it through.

What will be going through your head at mile 20?

A combination of questioning my life choices and reminding myself I've come too far to stop now.

What would you say to someone thinking about donating?

Even the smallest donation makes a difference and means a lot as I take on this challenge for a cause that deserves more awareness.

How does it feel knowing your run is helping others?

It makes the whole challenge feel more meaningful, knowing it's not just about the run but also about supporting others.

If you could sum up your marathon journey in one sentence, what would it be?

For me, this journey has been about proving that doubt holds you back more than failure ever could.