

Heartbeat



Monday, June 6

Issue 31

Year 7s are real lifesavers



Our Year 7 students got all Health & Safety conscious recently as they practised their life-saving skills.

Ten youngsters completed an intensive HeartStart course, which ran for a number of weeks during April and May, as part of their after-school Science Club.

Among the many skills they learned were, CPR, dealing with cuts, choking, heart attacks, unconscious patients that need to be put into the recovery position and other possible everyday scenarios.

Overseeing the students' progress was Science Club co-ordinator, Miss Niescier. She said: "This course is in affiliation with the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and I went on a course to be able to teach it.

"All the pupils did really well and now have certificates to prove they are qualified after doing a gruelling practical exam consisting of possible real-life scenarios."

The students who took part were; Rosalyn Murtagh (7E), Susie Seddon-Cowell (7C),

Sophie Edmunds (7E), Bethany Lythgoe (7H), Rachael Owen-Setty (7R), Katie Mooney (7T), Emily Shields (7T), Sarah Cunningham (7E), Sarah Fraser (7T) and Alexandra Rochford (7T).



Former pupil to be Ordained Deacon

Joe Kendall, who attended the College between 1991 and 1999, is to be Ordained Deacon at Ushaw College on Saturday, June 11.

Following his Ordination, Joe, and the other newly Ordained Deacons, will lead Evening Prayer for Pentecost at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King at 3.30pm.

Joe's parents, Sue and Paul, would like to extend an invitation to any staff who taught Joe, along with their families and pupils, to join them at 3.30pm for Evening Prayer at the Cathedral.

Following his time at the College, Joe went on to gain a place at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he read Law.

A fond farewell



With the exam season well and truly underway, the Year 11 students bid farewell to formal lessons on May 13. Following the traditional shirt signing, the students posed for a farewell photograph. When their examinations finish on June 23, Year 11 students can look forward to their Summer Ball at Aintree Racecourse on Friday, 1 July.

Letters of support aid prisoner's fight for justice

Letters of support and Christmas cards sent by College students to a Ukrainian prisoner who Amnesty International believe is innocent, are being used to teach fellow inmates English.

Aleksandr Rafalsky was detained in Ukraine's capital Kyiv in 2001 of crimes he says he did not commit.

Amnesty International also claim Aleksandr was denied access to a lawyer for 15 days after his arrest and was not allowed to contact his family.

In 2004, the Ukrainian was sentenced to life imprisonment and Amnesty International members are concerned for his welfare, claiming his trial was not a fair one and allegations of brutality against the captive are being ignored.

In December, Head of RE, Mr Moorhead, and Sixth Form students involved with Amnesty International, sent Christmas cards and letters of support to Aleksandr.

The Ukrainian was so overwhelmed by the gesture, he wrote to Mr Moorhead personally, thanking him for his support. Aleksandr wrote: "Dear David, thank you so



much for your letters. It was incredibly wonderful and touching to be given moral support from people who I've never met in person.

"First of all, I would like to thank you for your kindness and understanding of my situation.

"My family has put all their efforts for ten years to prove my innocence. At the moment, we have collected all facts proving evidence of my innocence in the crimes I have been jailed for. Unfortunately, review of my case trial is a very time consuming process.

"Your cordial words and the support you have shown to me make me believe in my future. I cannot say enough good things about your attitude to myself and appreciate your support very much."

The latest update regarding Aleksandr on the Amnesty International website reports that the letters of support he has received are being put to good use, as he is using

them to teach fellow prisoners English.

The Amnesty website states: "We recently learned that the letters from Amnesty International members to Aleksandr Rafalsky are being used in the prison during English lessons. This is of great help for the prisoners who are trying to learn English with a lack of texts, and has also increased Aleksandr's prestige within the prison enormously. Thank you so much to everyone who has written to Aleksandr – your actions are truly having an impact."

On hearing of the news, Mr Moorhead was delighted. He said: "This is very uplifting. It makes you realise that the gift of hope is so important today."

Anyone wanting to send Aleksandr a message of support is asked to do so via the Amnesty International website www.amnesty.org.uk

The week in brief

GCSE and AS/A2 examinations continue at Upper Site this week. Timetables for all examinations can be found on the College website.