

# Heartbeat



Monday, October 31

Issue 7

## Students' Amnesty efforts commended by RE Head

Students who tried to prevent the execution of a man Amnesty International claimed was innocent have received praise from the College's Head of RE.

Troy Davis had spent 22 years on Death Row for the murder of security guard, Mark McPhail, in Georgia, USA, in 1989.

Davis lost his battle against execution on September 21 but had maintained his innocence throughout.

He claimed there was no physical evidence linking him to the crime, that seven of the nine non-police witnesses on whose evidence he was convicted had since recanted or contradicted their testimony, that many witnesses stated they were pressured

or coerced by police and that nine individuals had signed affidavits implicating an alternative suspect.

On hearing about Davis' plight, a number of College students backed his campaign. Joe Harrison (10R) set up a Facebook page to encourage people to stop the killing.

Students also sent a petition to the Parole Board of Georgia, while others created a display which is featured in one of the College corridors. The College's Head of RE, Mr Moorhead, praised the students for their efforts. He said: "I was inspired by the way the students tried to stop an injustice. The case of Troy Davis makes you realise how dangerous the death penalty is."



### Finn-tastic



Congratulations to Finn Keeble (7D) who has recently been awarded a Black Belt in Taekwondo. The Year 7 youngster has trained in the Korean martial art for five years and was delighted to be awarded the Black Belt last month.

He said: "I have been doing Taekwondo for five years. To get the Black Belt I had to perform ten moves, which are patterns and nine movements, known as step-sparring.

"I also had to do take-downs and flips as well as show my knowledge of Taekwondo by answering 25 questions.

"I was really happy to have passed and got the Black Belt."

Finn hopes to continue with the martial art and take it up professionally when he is older.

## Year 13 students commissioned

Pictured with Mgr Furnival at the end of their commissioning service are; Matthew Cranny (13A), Emma Haggart (13C), Paul Miller (13C) and Samantha Hoose (13R). They were commissioned during the Mass to serve as Head Boy/Girl and Deputy Head Boy/Girl, along with Finvola Dunphy (13S) and Louise Richards (13E), who were commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers. The theme of the Mass reflected the basic principle that all areas of our school are part of our faith.



# Young Ambassador Hannah gets praise for role at Sheffield Games

Hannah Kent has received special praise from the Youth Sport Trust following her role as a volunteer in the Sainsbury's UK School Games.

The Head of Coaching & Volunteering at the Youth Sports Trust, Suzanne Gough, wrote to the College to praise Hannah (11T) for displaying 'exceptional enthusiasm, energy and maturity' during the five day event held in Sheffield last month.

Hannah, who is one of the College's Young Ambassadors, was part of an inspirational team of young volunteers drawn from Youth Sport Trust Programmes.

At the start of the Games, each volunteer attended a Safeguarding course and completed workshops in disability awareness and customer service.

Hannah then took part in a variety of roles such as leading teams out for the opening ceremony, finding additional volunteers and taking part in team building events.

Hannah, who said one of the highlights of the event was meeting Great Britain volleyball player Nathan French, said the five days were an 'amazing' experience: "I got so much out of it. It was very hard work – some days we were up at 6.30am and would not get to bed until 11.30pm but it was amazing, I really enjoyed it."

The work Hannah put in has since been recognised and praised by the Youth

Sports Trust. Suzanne Gough said: "The team as a whole played a crucial part in delivering an effective and well-run competition.

"Hannah showed exceptional enthusiasm, energy and maturity throughout a rigorous schedule of long and demanding days and was a pleasure to work with."

Ms Gough also had praise for the College and thanked staff for their support, adding: "Please accept our sincere thanks for all the work you have done to support Hannah. She was a superb ambassador for your school and for young people in general and it was a pleasure working with her at such a high profile event."

**Volley good show: Hannah with Great Britain volleyball player Nathan French during the Sainsbury's UK School Games in Sheffield**



## The week ahead with the news in brief

Staff welcomed teachers from the Netherlands to the College this week. Our guests will be with us for two days looking at our Mathematics lessons. There is a meeting in the Chapel at 5.30pm on Tuesday regarding the forthcoming trip to London. On Tuesday and Thursday, there are

Eucharistic Services at 8.20am. Also on Thursday, the Silver Surfers meet at 3.40pm and the Year 11 Consultation Evening starts at 4.30pm on Lower Site. On Saturday, staff will welcome exchange students as part of the Come-nius initiative.