

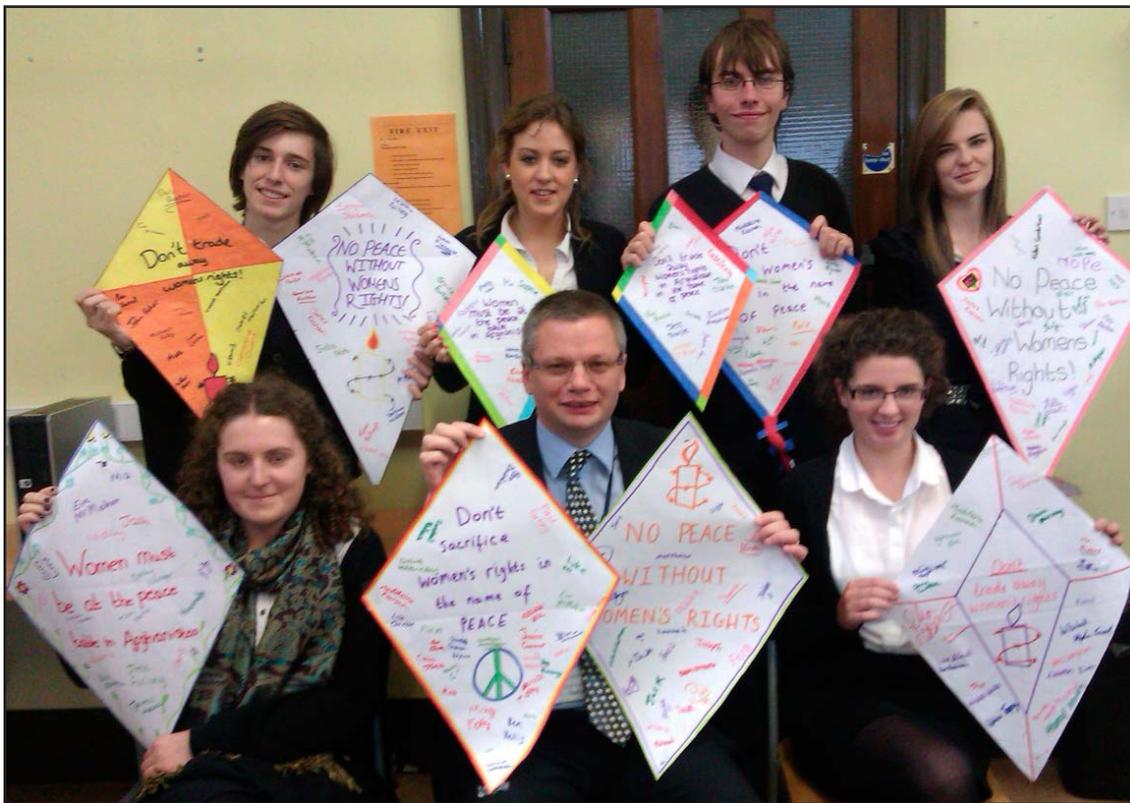
Heartbeat

Monday, December 5

Issue 12



Amnesty year gets off to a flyer with kite campaign



Kite mark: The College's Amnesty group, led by the Head of RE, Mr Moorhead (front row, centre) proudly display their paper kites as part of their campaign supporting equal rights for women in Afghanistan

The College's Amnesty International group has kicked off a new academic year of raising funds and awareness, *write Eve McMahon (13C) and Madeleine Keenan (13R).*

First on the agenda is getting involved in a worldwide campaign to support women's rights in Afghanistan.

After the fall of the Taliban in 2001, women in Afghanistan have been able to gradually claim their basic human rights - including accessing work, school, and voting in local and national elections.

Some have entered politics at great personal risk. However, as the UK engages in

peace negotiations with the Taliban, there is a risk that these rights will be sacrificed. Kite flying is a very popular activity in Afghanistan, but currently women do not even have the right to fly them.

Amnesty International has organised a campaign in which people send hand-made paper kites with messages of solidarity for the women of Afghanistan to Foreign Secretary, William Hague, in London. Prospective students who attended the recent College Open Evening were invited to add their names to these kites to show their support.

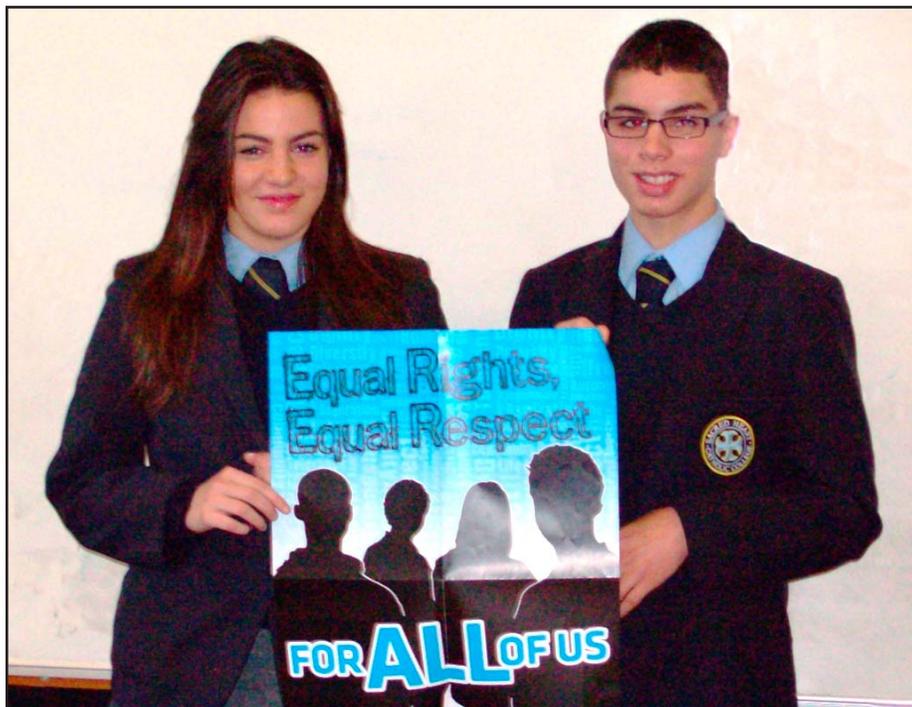
Amnesty member, Finvola Dunphy, (13S)

explained more about the campaign, She said: "We just can't have peace if we overlook the rights of half the population. Women have a right to be heard!"

College Head Girl, Emma Haggart, (13C), echoed Finvola's sentiments by adding: "Getting the children to do something so simple, which has such a huge impact is a great way to introduce them to human rights issues."

Head of RE and Amnesty Leader, Mr Moorhead, said: "I am so proud that our College has been involved in such a significant campaign. All we can do now is hope and pray!"

Lessons on bully busting for school council pair



Two members of the Middle School Council, David Thompson (10S) and Erin Donagh (100), recently attended a conference about bullying. Here is David's account of their visit.

I was fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to recently attend Sefton's annual anti-bullying conference at Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre.

I wasn't entirely sure what to expect, however, I was positively surprised, as the conference was significantly interesting! First, all the speakers introduced themselves and, then, as a group, we moved on to discussing what we thought were the main forms of bullying.

After spending time discussing this, we shared our thoughts. This was quite insightful for me, as I did not realise just how many different forms of bullying there were.

Kate, from Bully Busters, then proceeded to talk to us all about the great work they have in place. For such a small team of people, they are making a phenomenal difference to young people.

Kate also explained in quite some detail to

us all about the legality of the actions of bullying. It was incredibly informative to discover how many different laws are related with bullying.

We then had lunch while sharing some personal experiences with our fellow attendees. This was certainly inspirational for me.

Once everyone's hunger was satisfied, the meeting resumed. In the second half, the focus was set on how local community officers and Merseytravel work together to prevent and combat consistent, unacceptable behaviour in the local area.

In relation to that, and to conclude the meeting, we watched an amazing video which was filmed in Liverpool.

The video addressed and tackled the reality of bullying and the dismal effects it has on people's lives. This left everyone in the room quite disheartened.

I feel the conference has been incredibly beneficial. For me, it was inspirational and changed the way in which I think about things. It offered a wealth of information and ideas that I hope to share with members of the Middle School Council.

It's CSI - College Students Investigate

The Year 13 Psychology students visited Ellesmere Port Civic Hall recently for a 'True Life' Conference, writes Head of Psychology, Mrs Vine. The day started very early but was well worth the visit. The morning involved presentations by three forensic psychologists who talked about many issues surrounding crime.

Students gained an insight into what a forensic psychologist's job involves.

Students had the opportunity to talk first hand with the forensic psychologists about issues covered within their course and gained a valuable insight into real life cases and their experiences of the prison system.

The students particularly enjoyed listening to a number of ex-offenders who talked about how the prison system had affected them and how they have tried to turn their life around for the better.

The day ended with a workshop scenario, in which students were presented with a real life case and had to decide whether they would find the defendant guilty or not.

Students felt the theory they have been looking at in class was brought alive by this trip and are keen to pursue their interests within forensic psychology further.

News in brief

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party takes place from 4.30pm today at Lower Site. There are Eucharistic Services at 8.20pm tomorrow and Thursday. On Friday, we wish our Year 7 students involved in a swimming gala at Crosby the best of luck.