

Jo Berry gives students a lesson in forgiveness

How would you react if a family member or loved one was killed by terrorists?

That is the question our Sixth Form students were asked during their recent National Open College Network (NOCN) studies.

While the subject matter is currently very topical, this was the scenario faced by guest speaker, Jo Berry, in October 1984, when the IRA blew up the Brighton Hotel.

Jo's father, Anthony, was killed in the blast at the hotel, where the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, was staying.

Whilst it would have been easy for Jo and her family to seek revenge and fight hatred with hatred, the grieving daughter's response amazed many.

Understand

Jo said: "I loved my father and wanted to understand why The IRA had done this. "I met the man responsible, Patrick McGee, and, together, we formed the charity, Building Bridges.

"I wanted to keep my father's memory alive by promoting peace and understanding. Adding more hate to the situation would have destroyed me as well."

Her message inspired staff and students alike over the two days Jo spoke.

Caitlin Pih (13D) said: "Jo was a delight to meet and I thoroughly enjoyed learning about her experience with terrorism and how she overcame her battle. "Her journey to forgiveness was inspiring and it was refreshing to hear someone use peace and forgiveness rather than revenge in order to receive closure for the death of a loved one.

"Her views on how to react when you

Students enjoy New York jaunt



Twenty three lucky students recently enjoyed a trip of a lifetime to New York. The Art and Drama trip to the city known as the Big Apple included a drama workshop presented by a Broadway actor, a cruise around Manhattan Island, a visit to the Twin Towers Memorial Plaza, tours of two of New York's best known art museums, Broadway theatre show School of Rock and a trip to the top of the Empire State Building. Read more about the trip in next week's Heartbeat.

have been affected by terrorism made me look at current events with a different perspective. Jo was very accepting of all types of people and she repeatedly stated that she believed young people are capable of changing the future, rather than destroying it, which is not a common conception of the youth of today amongst the older generation.

"The fact Jo had faith in all of us gave me motivation to make a change in the world, no matter how small that may be." Caitlin's views were echoed by Alex Taylor (13H), who added: "When Jo Berry visited our school to talk about her experiences, she obviously had a lot of mental strength to be able to talk to strangers about it.

"Jo talked about how she went to the prison and saw the man who killed he fa-

ther. I admire her for talking to him and forgiving him.

"I felt very privileged to be able to hear what Jo had to say and learn about her experiences."

Overseeing the event was Head of RE, Mr Moorhead, and he was proud of the students' mature attitude to what is a difficult subject matter.

He said: "Jo Berry is an inspiration to so many people because of her rejection of hate and her promotion of peace and understanding.

"The students were highly motivated in the workshops and delivered some amazing speeches on issues close to their hearts.

"They identified problems in our society that need solving.

"Their optimism was so refreshing."

Clean sweep

Congratulations to our netball teams who have enjoyed a fantastic start to the new season.

Most notably, in their recent set of fixtures against their Maricourt counterparts, they recorded five very impressive victories. The results were;
Y7 Sacred Heart 23, Maricourt 0
Y7B Sacred Heart 9, Maricourt 0
Y8 Sacred Heart 18, Maricourt 1
Y9 Sacred Heart 5, Maricourt 4
Y10 Sacred Heart 11, Maricourt 5
PE's Ms Baker said: "Wow. Amazing. They are such a great group of girls. Well done to all of them."



Runners rock up with two cheques for city charities

Two charities in Liverpool have received more than £1,000 each following a fundraising run by staff and students.

Charlotte Hopkins from the Whitechapel Centre charity collected a cheque for £1025 after PE's Mr O'Malley and a number of Sixth Form students ran the Liverpool Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon in May. RE' Mrs Laybourne said: "Charlotte came in and gave a talk about what her organisation does to help the homeless in Liverpool. Charlotte also gave out certificates endorsing the students' efforts."

Sisters from the Sisters of Mercy Charity in Seel Street, who help feed the homeless, received a cheque for the same amount, with the money also raised from the Half Marathon.

The Sisters gave an assembly to the Sixth Form, thanking them for their generosity. Mr O'Malley said: "Our pupils were incredible with their fundraising efforts. Matthew Richardson (13E) and Kieran Vis (13S) both raised more than £220 each.

"We really do belong in an extremely generous and caring community."



News in brief

Welcome back. Year 11 Information Evening takes place on Wednesday from 6pm in St Edward Hall.