

NAME:

FORM:

Heartbeat



Monday, October 21



Issue 7

Sixth Form students get 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.

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.

Jo said: "I loved my father and wanted to understand why The IRA had done this.

Responsible

"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.

Katie Kerrigan (13E) said: "The day with Jo Berry was a day of reflection and taught me many valuable lessons.

"For one, I have learned how important it is to try and understand other people's stories and how difficult their lives may be to believe violence is the answer.

"I thank Jo for teaching me this lesson and opening my eyes on what I can do to help me listen to others and empathise."



Anna Saunders (13C) echoed those thoughts, adding: "The day helped me to look outside of my own life and how to realise there are bigger things going on in the world that I should put my time into.

"The majority of my day-to-day struggles are meaningless and I need to extend my energy to issues that matter and try to help and make the world a better place."

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."

News in brief

There is a Year 7 Welcome Mass at 1.45pm tomorrow in the Lower Site Hall. Year 13 Consultation Evening takes place from 4.30pm on Wednesday in the Sixth Form Centre.

On Thursday, Year 12 and 13 Drama students visit the RSC in Stratford-Upon-Avon and there is a 6th Form Taster Day at Upper Site. College breaks up for half term on Thursday. Students return on Monday, November 4. Enjoy.

Rising star Louis hopes to be table tennis top dog



Picture courtesy of Michael Loveder Photography

Congratulations to Louis Cheung-Turner who has been selected to take part in the England Hopes Table Tennis training camp next week.

His latest call up comes on the back of an amazing year, which saw Louis (7A) receive a Highly Commended award at this year's Sefton Sports Awards for Junior Personality of the Year in recognition of his achievements to date.

That award follows on from last year, when Louis was awarded a POOBI 'Rising Stars' bursary, when in Year 6 at Great Crosby. An award given in recognition of his talents as a rising star in the junior table tennis world. Louis started playing table tennis at his after-school club when he was just 8-years-old and competed in his first full table tennis season in 2017/18, going on to become National Champion for U10 Boys in June last year.

It was a proud moment for Louis, who was thrilled at winning Gold. He said: "It was a lot of pressure on me because everyone was expecting me to win it because I was No 1.

"The last point, when I won, felt amazing. I was thrilled to have the trophy.

When I was standing on the podium, that felt amazing too."

He was also England No.1 for U10 Boys from March 2018 and then U11 Boys up until March 2019.

Louis competed in his first International Open Table Tennis Tournament in February last year in Budapest, aged 9, and again in the same tournament last February, where he reached the last 16 from 56 players, representing 24 countries.

Gold

In August 2018, Louis was selected for the England Hopes Squad and in April this year was chosen to represent England at the British Primary Schools' Home International Championships in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, where he was in the Gold winning England team.

Most recently, in April, Louis competed in the English Schools' Individual Championships in Wolverhampton, reaching the quarter-finals.

Louis' father, Ken, who has worked for Royal Mail Mossley Hill Sorting Office in Liverpool for 20 years, can play table tennis, but admits he 'can't compete' with Louis now!

Speaking about her son's success, proud mum Mel said: "The POOBI grant has helped enormously towards covering expenses for training camps, tournament costs, travel and accommodation, which comes with competing in many tournaments nationwide and internationally.

"Louis is also sponsored by the table tennis equipment and clothing supplier, Thornton's Table Tennis and Stiga, a leading brand name in the sport, which helps considerably towards the cost of table tennis equipment and clothing which can be expensive."

"It is important for Louis' development he continues to train at the highest level with the England/GB coaches, his coaches at his club and to continue representing his country in an international arena where possible. International experience at a young age is invaluable for athletes in any sport."

But the final word must go to Louis who, when asked what his ambitions are, was in no doubt. He added: "My ultimate dream and ambition would be to represent Great Britain at the Olympics one day."