

Donation is a lifesaver for school

By Anna Edwards

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MEMBERS Of staff at Coloma Convent Girls' School are now prepared for emergencies after being trained by a paramedic.

Ken Kennedy of South East Coast Ambulance Service taught the staff what to do when someone stops breathing after the "Ashley Jolly Sudden Adult Death Trust (SADS UK)" donated an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to the school.

An AED is a portable piece of equipment that can save lives by restarting the heart in the event of cardiac arrest.

It is programmed to analyse the heart's electrical activity and will only provide the necessary therapeutic electrical shock to the patient.

The AED uses voice prompts to direct the user through each of the easy steps before administering an electrical shock to the patient through electrodes (sticky pads) placed on the patient's chest.

Although rare, sudden death in children of school age does occur. The chance of surviving sudden cardiac arrest after 10 minutes with no treatment is less than 5 per cent, so every second counts. AEDs are now being widely placed in public places, such as shopping malls, railway stations, leisure centres and other



TRAINING: Ken Kennedy shows a member of Coloma staff how to work the machine

places where a lot of people come together in one area.

Headteacher Maureen Martin said: "We are incredibly grateful to SADS UK and the donor who kindly sponsored the AED at Coloma.

"With the increased amount of community sports and performing arts that take place at Coloma, it also has the potential to be used out of school hours, for community use.

"It will create an increased awareness in addition to providing a potentially lifesaving resource to the community."