

## **Gosbecks Primary School have a new defibrillator making them a ‘Heart Safe’ school.**

Gosbecks Primary School have purchased a life-saving defibrillator for the school and the wider community. The school held a Skipathon event to raise funds for the purchase with every child and member of staff taking part in what was a fun filled day of exercise. The remainder of the funding was achieved with the support of Elementary Technology (a hardware supplier of interactive boards) who donated 50% towards the cost, Roy Tolley cars of Gosbecks Road, Colchester who donated 25% of the funds and ‘The Hand on Heart Charity’ who supplied the defibrillator and provided the free training for children and staff. Gosbecks School will be working with Colchester First Responders to put the defibrillator in an accessible place for the school and local community.

Head Teacher – David Milligan said, ‘We want our children to have life skills beyond the classroom and also understand the importance of their community. When it came to raising money through the skipathon, the children were amazing and their families extremely generous! The defibrillator is one of those things you hope you never have to use, however for the school and local community to have easy access to one could simply be life saving.’

Lesley Appleton, Fundraising Coordinator of Hand on Heart said “12 young people die from sudden cardiac arrest each week in the UK. Schools are a focal point for communities and having access to a defibrillator not only safeguards pupils but also teachers, staff and the local population as a whole. We are delighted we can make Gosbecks Primary School heart safe with their defibrillator and are pleased to have the continued support from Elementary Technology UK to allow us to do this.”

*Note to editors: Hand on Heart is a small registered charity(No.1145316) which works to:*

- *Raise awareness of Sudden cardiac Arrest inn young people*
- *Place defibrillators in schools and communities*
- *Train young people in life support skills*

Ed Fairfield of Elementary Technology said “As a company who supports schools with the latest teaching technology, it makes perfect sense to help schools bring defibrillators on site while we’re there. It’s been our pleasure to work with Gosbecks – well done on the Skipathon!”



Pic 1



Pic 2

Pic 1- Left to right: Annette Murphy -Network Manager Gosbecks, Ian Wilkinson – Hand on Heart Trainer, Mark Langly – Elementary Technology and pupils who were trained in the use of the defibrillator.

Pic 2 - Left to right: Mark Langly - Elementary Technology, Annette Murphy –Network Manager Gosbecks Primary School, Emma Clamp - Year 5/6 Teacher Gosbecks Primary School and Ian Wilkinson- Hand on Heart Trainer.