**Xx/xx/xxxx**

**(insert name of sixth form / college ) STUDENTS SIGN UP TO SAVE LIVES**

Students at (insert name of sixth form / college) have been taking part in a campaign to encourage more young people to become potential lifesavers.

(insert number) students took part in education sessions delivered by blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan at (insert name of sixth form / college) on (insert date).

Anthony Nolan is the charity which saves the lives of people with blood cancer, by matching them with incredible individuals willing to donate stem cells for transplant. The charity works with NHS Blood and Transplant to run The Hero Project education programme, delivering presentations on stem cell, blood and organ donation to 16-18 year olds across the country.

(insert name of sixth form / college) has hosted The Hero Project presentations since (insert date).

Thanks to this support, (insert number) students have been educated about lifesaving donation and (insert number) have registered as potential stem cell donors. If they are found to be a match, they could go on to save the life of a blood cancer patient.

(staff member name, (staff position), (insert sixth form / college name), said: “(insert quote)”

Katie Day, Education Programme Lead at Anthony Nolan, said: “(insert name of sixth form / college) give us fantastic support. Spreading the word with young people, particularly those from a minority ethnic background, is key for the stem cell register.

“This is because patients from minority ethnic backgrounds currently have a lower chance of finding a matching donor, and doctors, given a choice of donors for a patient, are more likely to choose a younger donor as research shows they improve survival rates.

“We’re really grateful to the schools and colleges who give us the opportunity to reach young people and help them unlock their lifesaving potential.”

To find out more about the education programme and stem cell donation, please visit [www.anthonynolan.org/education](http://www.anthonynolan.org/education)

**Ends**

For more information about The Hero Project programme and Anthony Nolan, please contact the Communications team on 020 7424 6645 or email press@anthonynolan.org

**Notes to editors**

**Anthony Nolan key statistics**

* Someone is diagnosed with blood cancer every 20 minutes.
* Around 2,000 people in the UK need a bone marrow (or stem cell) transplant from a stranger each year. This is usually their last chance of survival.
* You have a 25% to 30% chance of having the same tissue type as a sibling.
* 90% of donations take place via [PBSC](http://www.anthonynolan.org/What-you-can-do/save-a-life/What-happens-if-you-are-a-match.aspx) (peripheral blood stem cell collection). This is an outpatient appointment and is similar to donating blood.
* To join the register, you must be aged between 16 and 30, weigh more than 7st 12lbs (50kgs) and be in general good health. For more information about our work or to sign up online, please visit [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org).