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Press release for immediate release

Thanks for Tuning in

Over 50 hours of programming from 26 local schools and youth groups, with over 2,000 participants: this was Eastbourne Youth Radio 2014 (EYR).

Airing from 19th-21st November on 87.7FM and online at eyr.org.uk, EYR was made possible by the support of local businesses that sponsored the shows that aired from Sussex Downs College, Eastbourne.

Global Entrepreneurship Week activities added to EYR's winning formula. Ocklynge School pupils participated in the £5 start-up challenge. £50 was split between ten groups, each tasked with making a profit on their original £5. The students rose to the challenge with a fantastic result. £825.86 was raised in just one month from the start-ups, with one team, the Fruit Juice Co, turning over 48 times to produce £240. Expect to see these kids on The Apprentice in the future! A cheque for the raised funds was donated to St Wilfrid's Hospice at the EYR Hospitality Tea at Sussex Downs College last Thursday 20th November.

Highlights from the three days included the flagship show, Meet the Media, which saw participating school children put the questions to a panel of industry professionals, including BBC South East Today's John Young (johnyoungmedia.co.uk), TalkBack's Holly Hubble, BBC Radio 4's Mark Coles and voiceover talent Rik Scott. Hosted by Sussex Downs College students, the live panel show made for interesting listening, for those in the studio and for those tuning in. Questions varied from light-hearted to the more serious. The young audience interacted enthusiastically with the panel, who were equally as impressed with the pupils' participation.

John Young told all about why his editor steers him away from celebrity articles after an incident with David Essex. Ten-year-old Ocklynge School student, Gabriel, quizzed the panel on funny situations, which saw Holly owning up to mistakes and Rik Scott admitting he's not allowed in Seven Oaks after being chased out by the Mayor one Christmas!

On a serious note, Mark Coles admitted he wouldn't want to be a war reporter anymore and advised that for any budding journalist, the most important thing is Level headedness. "I was shot at in Somalia in the '90s and had friends who died in Croatia," Mark said. "Don't risk life and limb to get a story out 10 minutes before anyone else."

Tim Sorensen, of EYR, says about the success of the project: "A huge thanks goes to Eastbourne Education Business Partnership for helping to bring EYR to the airwaves for the 14th year. Another fantastic schedule of programmes and experiences for our 2,000 plus participants, helped by our media students at Sussex Downs College. It was

great to see some new participants this year and the ever impressive live performances from bands, choirs and soloists.

“EYR truly is a community initiative but on a global stage as we incorporate Global Entrepreneurship Week activities and attract listeners from USA to Latvia as well as across the UK.”

Steve Biglands, of Eastbourne Police, commented: “We are delighted to support EYR and encourage the students to develop and test their skills as well as learning more about the world. It’s fabulous to see how the students grow in confidence through this exercise.”

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