

## **Behind the Scenes of EYR**

### **We have all tuned in, but do we really know what happens behind the scenes to make Eastbourne Youth Radio such a huge success?**

EYR is a collaborative production, made possible through the hard work, effort and contributions from the Eastbourne Education Business Partnership, local schools, programme sponsors and Sussex Downs College.

Every contributor is vital to ensuring EYR runs smoothly but it is the students at Sussex Downs College who, for 15 consecutive years, have worked tirelessly, twenty-four hours a day, to produce the show.

Jonathan Searle, Curriculum Leader for Media Production, is extremely proud of his students' contribution to EYR; "Over a period of just 11 weeks, Creative Media Production students are in charge of planning and producing the entire broadcast. They go out on location to record for schools and liaise with the station sponsors arranging interviews, creating their idents' (adverts) and jingles. As well as this, the students must write and produce their own documentaries which air on the first day of broadcast. Without the Creative Media production students EYR would not be possible. The seamless production over the 3 days is because of their hard work, dedication and tenacity as passionate students."

Not only does EYR give the students valuable experience, it works towards three units of work. Students are assessed on; Radio Presentation Techniques, Factual programme production for Radio and Speech package production.

Lucy Wood, Creative Media Production student said: "Eastbourne Youth Radio was one of the best experiences of my life. I never thought I'd be confident enough to run radio shows by myself but once I finished my first show, I wanted to do more and more. By the last day I was running shows all day and loved every minute! Even waking up at 4am. This course has persuaded me to try and pursue a career in the media as I can see myself doing nothing else! It really was an amazing experience and something I'll never forget."

For Tim Sorensen, EYR Manager, this is exactly what EYR is all about; "EYR was never about creating hundreds of radio 'presenters' but about enabling students to research, produce and present or perform their own material in association with community partners for a community audience. Through being involved in EYR, the students at Sussex Downs College learn a whole range of skills that they will find helpful in future life."

#### **For all press enquiries, please contact:**

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**About Sussex Downs College:**

Sussex Downs College is the largest provider of further education (FE) in East Sussex. It serves 13,000 students from over 60 schools in the area and offers 400 qualifications. The College is proud to work with local employers to support their training needs and itself employs 900 staff. Students consistently excel, achieving 97% pass rates in both A Level and Vocational programmes.

Mike Hopkins joined as Principal in September 2015 and brings with him a wealth of experience in FE, having been the Principal/CEO of two colleges; Chair of the Principals' Professional Council; Chair of AoC 14-19 Group and a senior civil servant for six years.

**For more information about Sussex Downs College visit:**

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