

Martha Harris-Davey

Martha is in year 13 and is our student editor. You can also read her editorials in our KEVICC termly Courier magazine.



So, 2016 has finally rolled around; the Christmas spirit has died down and the days are slowly getting longer. January is an appropriate time for reflection on the year we're leaving behind, and for looking forward at the one ahead. For me, 2015 began on a beach in India with my older brother; watching the fireworks along the coastline; listening to the unusual Indian music being played on the beach with our feet in the waves of the Arabian sea... An idyllic start to the year that will be hard to beat!

But it's amazing to see how my life has changed since - the new experiences I've had and what I've learned. Furthermore, it's strange to think who I'll be this time next year - how will the events of this coming year affect who I am? 2016 will be an exciting and daunting time for the current year 13, as we complete our A Levels and leave compulsory education in June; then head for university, travels, jobs etc. and begin completely new chapters in our lives, as well as becoming fully independent. There really are so many options and brilliant opportunities on the horizon, and I have recently realised just how lucky we are to have these experiences waiting ahead of us, with nothing to hold us back. While we're young, we're free to do whatever we like, and that is a valuable thing in itself. Roman Payne captures this perfectly in his book *The Wanderess*: "She was free in her wildness. She was a wanderess, a drop of free water. She belonged to no man and to no city." Happy New Year!

Produced by the Press Team

Mary Lidstone Trust



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The second tranche of students supported by the Mary Lidstone Trust have now all started their degree studies, helped by receiving the first instalment of their grant award towards the cost. The Trust is delighted to be able to support the following new students this year: Herbie Barnett, studying a BSc honours degree in Computer Games Design and Programming at Staffordshire University / Georgia Borne, studying a BA honours degree in Acting at Plymouth University and the Theatre Royal, Plymouth / Fiona Hollingsworth, studying a BA in History at Goldsmiths, University of London / Katie Phillips, studying a BA in English at the University of Exeter / Kirsty Race, studying a BA honours degree in Textile Design at the University of Falmouth / Tonia Studley, studying a Criminology and Law degree at the University of Cumbria. The new round of applications remains open.

Santa comes to KEVICC .. and KEVICC goes to Town!



Students who will be performing in the KEVICC production of *Les Misérables* delighted their audience at the first December Late Night Shopping evening with their rendition of songs from the show. They're hoping to have capacity audiences for each of their six performances in early February - we hope to see you there!

Totnes Caring, with KEVICC year 10s, put on their annual party for local Senior Citizens at KEVICC in December. Around 60 year 10s volunteered to help with the party, and 100 guests, volunteers and Totnes Caring staff enjoyed music and dance entertainment; tea and cakes - and a visit from Father Christmas, who seems to have found helpers from a different tradition to help him distribute gifts! Bob Alford, Chief Operating Officer of Totnes Caring, said: 'It was a really superb afternoon.' Mayor Jacqi Hodgson added: 'It was a wonderful afternoon for all who came.'



Tilly Coulton Y12

Opportunities in Music

Parents and friends enjoyed a Winter Concert in late November, with very talented students performing in the orchestra; a rock band; a percussion ensemble; an African drumming ensemble, and as singers and instrumental soloists. The students loved the performance too.

GCSE and A level Music students were thrilled to be invited to a Seminar in St. Mary's Church, arranged by the highly prestigious International Musicians Seminar charitable organisation. Steven Isserlis, Artistic Director of IMS, has said: 'IMS is an important part of my life and, I believe, an important part of the lives of most people who attend the seminars.'

IMS string chamber musicians discussed the structure of music and of playing as a quartet; then performed extracts from the concert that students attended following their privileged opportunity to listen to these very talented players, including the



double bass player, aged only 19! The performers also answered students' questions after the concert. Afterwards, students said: *It felt like a more personal concert for all of us because of the fact that we heard them all speak beforehand, so it helped us to listen out for certain parts in the music. It was so nice to see how they had a real passion for music and really wanted to engage us.* During the second Curriculum Enrichment Day last term, these same students had another exceptional opportunity with a workshop given by renowned composer, music animator and musician Elfyn Jones. Professionals such as Elfyn working with students is always valued.



Madagascar expedition



Sixth Form Environmental Studies, Biology and Geography students have been seriously fundraising for a second KEVICC expedition to Madagascar next Summer. A Quiz & Pasty night in December made a profit of about £500 towards the trip and, with kind donations from the Royal Seven Stars, the Cott Inn, the Sea Trout, Neal's Yard, Parkers Arms, Groove Records, Roly's Fudge, the King William, Paignton Zoo, the Dartmouth Railway and others, the raffle was a great success!!

Be Not Afraid of Greatness



We found it a really useful experience to be in such a professional venue, interacting with such a large audience. Jo Crook, Head of Performing Arts said: They demonstrated absolute drive and commitment in order to take part. They have been truly fantastic and are all a real credit to our school. With a total death count of 14 our half hour version averages at approximately 1 death every 2 minutes! The Festival is the UK's largest youth drama festival, working with over 1,000 schools and 150 professional theatres. They provide all the tools, support and guidance necessary to enable schools to take students aged 8-18 on a wonderful journey by performing their own Shakespeare productions in front of a paying audience.

Total Death Count 14 ...

Drama students recently studied and rehearsed Shakespeare's lesser known play *Titus Andronicus* as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. They performed at the Princess Theatre in Torquay with three other local schools. Sixth Form student Talisker Little

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