

Student editor Karli Rose in Year 12 writes:



As everyone settles into whichever year they may have come into, I hope you have all had a wonderful summer, yet are still happy to be back.

Year 7s – I bid you welcome! Hopefully the first few weeks haven't been too disorientating for you and I wish you good luck in getting used to KEVICC. Knowing it as well as I do now, it is tricky to imagine what it must be like to discover it for the first time but I'm sure you will enjoy doing so.

If I have one piece of advice for you it is that, during this year, you find a subject, (or a few subjects) which really enthuse you, and about which you simply cannot wait to discover more. If you do this then, after the end of year 7, you will have four, if not six, years to find out everything you should possibly wish to know about these subjects. By the time you leave here, you will be experts, ready to show your passion to the world.

So, I wish everyone a fantastic year, with the hope that you will all have accomplished something great by the end of it. I am extremely envious of all the very lucky biology students (and teachers!) who got to go on the Madagascar trip at the end of the last College year. They tell me it was an excellent trip, incorporating helping with conservation of the indigenous wildlife.

Now, until the next time ...

# KEVICC students assist in conservation in Madagascar home to some of the most spectacular and unique biodiversity on Earth

For two weeks at the end of July we took a group of twelve students on an expedition to Madagascar.

We spent a week in a forest camp at Matsedroy, followed by a marine week on the island of Nose Be. We were there to experience and assist in the conservation work of a team of academics led by Oxford University. The expedition is run in conjunction with Operation Wallacea – a network of academics from European and North American universities, who design and implement biodiversity and conservation management research programmes.

The forest week saw us trekking through the forest in search of birds, lemurs,



snakes, lizards, spiders and chameleons, and we saw plenty of each, getting really close to many, and being able to handle some with expert advice from our local guides.

The students learned so much about these many wonderful endemic species such as the mouse lemurs, leaf tailed geckos, huge chameleons and amazing leaf-nosed snakes. Lemurs, tenrecs and baobabs can only be found here, along with more than 50% of known chameleon species and our students helped to sample and count the populations in aid of the on-going data collection.

The second week was our chance to observe the amazing marine life of Madagascar by snorkelling and diving, monitoring the health of the coral reef. All our students are now PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) qualified, which enabled them to take an active role in the research being carried out into the conservation of the reef. We took part in estimating fish and spiny sea urchin population sizes, as well as measuring coral disease and damage. Swimming with green turtles was a real highlight which none of us will forget.

Alan Hartigan, Science teacher

## What amazing things you can find ...

... when you dig! Year 3 from The Grove came to KEVICC this term with Adrian Gude, their class teacher, and spent the morning conducting a well-planned archaeological dig.

The area was divided into blocks with three children allocated to each one to see what they could find by carefully excavating with appropriate tools. Once anything was discovered it was taken out to be washed; then documented on a map of the site and finally put into the hoard of finds. The class spent time discussing the finds, which they had realised were all from a long ago age, and they decided that they were all examples of life in the Stone Age – which is to be their topic this term.

Adrian said: the children learned what archaeology is and picked up relevant skills, as well as understanding the process. They interrogated objects to find out more about their historical importance, and made connections which enabled them to understand what life in the Stone Age might have been like.

And they had a great deal of fun!



Year 13 student Tommy Hodgkins, already a member of the nationally renowned National Youth Dance Company, has now been successful in winning a prestigious award for Music – the 2016 UK Awards for Young Musicians, in the Indian classical music sector.

This is an incredible achievement, as it was a nationwide audition process with top class Indian musicians on the judging panel. For the audition Tommy played both the sitar and the tabla. The Award will enable Tommy to participate in masterclasses with professional musicians and give him other amazing opportunities, as well as helping to fund and support his continuing musical development.

## KEVICC celebrates 50 years as the town's comprehensive school

There was a grammar school in Totnes at least as early as 1509, run by the vicar William Gyles. His aim was to teach reading and writing, and just enough Latin to enable the boys to take part as choristers.

In 1542, Walter Smythe, a prominent Totnes merchant and past Mayor, bought the buildings of the dissolved priory and granted them to King Henry VIII the very next day. In 1553, less than a week before his death, the boy King Edward VI granted the Foundation Charter of our school. The Charter granted to the Mayor and citizens of the town the buildings for use as a Guildhall, prison and schoolhouse, and the Mayor and Freemen bore a certain amount of financial responsibility, with just 20-30 pupils for almost four centuries.

Devon County Council took control of the school in 1923 and the Education Act of 1944 saw more changes. Then, on 8 September 1966, KEVICC became a comprehensive.

We had hoped to hold an event in the town on Saturday 8 October to celebrate these special 50 years, but this has been CANCELLED as we want to spend more time collecting together archive material, which we can then exhibit in the Spring. If you have anything you could contribute, please contact Polly Morrow at KEVICC.



## Dance classes for 5–13 year olds on termtime Saturday mornings

Our Dance department has launched dance classes in three sessions (according to age and experience) on Saturdays. These creative dance classes offer young dancers the opportunity to use rhythm and movement to express ideas through their bodies, and to develop self-confidence and social skills in a relaxed and fun environment. For more information, please contact Sarah smcinally@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk or leave a message with Reception.

**KING EDWARD VI COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
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