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Kennicott Sixth Form Centre is one of the most successful school Sixth Forms in Devon. It is a very special place to learn – both inside and outside the classroom. The stories on these pages really demonstrate the high aspirations and excitement that characterise learning at KEVICC – from Year 7 to Year 13 and beyond.

Our students succeed because we inspire and challenge them. We pride ourselves on offering students the advice, support and guidance that they need to make the most of their talents and abilities and to fulfil their aspirations.

We make no apologies for having very high expectations of our students. We think that they deserve it.

At Kennicott, students join a distinctly adult, yet caring, community. We listen carefully to our students to ensure that we create an environment in which every student can flourish. We set ambitious targets for our students and their progress towards these is overseen by a personal tutor. Relationships between staff and students are excellent, characterised by respect, responsibility and mutual excitement in learning.

# Learning beyond the Classroom



Once again what an amazing week at the Okehampton Year 7 Residential.

*'Okehampton was great, it was a really good experience. My favourite activity was raft building, my team won. I wish I could do it again'*

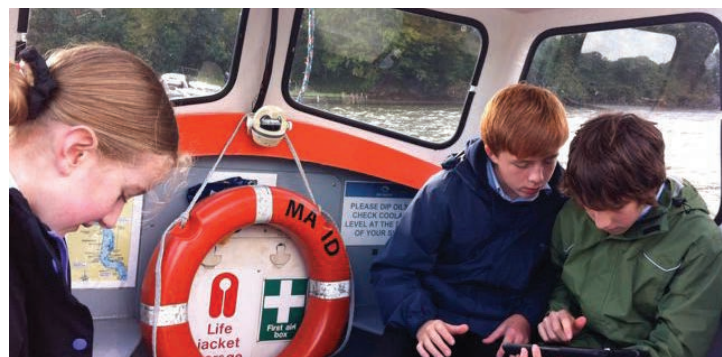
Adam Backhouse

I was really excited this year at the prospect of another residential trip with the year 7s to Oakhampton, especially as I missed out last year. It's such a great opportunity for both staff and students to get to know each other, face and overcome challenges and have a fun-filled adventurous week.



It is so great to see the students in a different environment all pulling together and helping each other and this was once again apparent this year, especially with the gorge scrambling where they were pulling each other up the gorge and encouraging each other in the freezing cold water. Also in the high ropes, which lots of students were initially scared of, yet conquered their fears and went right to the top with their class mates cheering for them. I know, as well, that the cycling for some was a real challenge, yet every single student got on a bike and did it, even those who might not have been very confident on a bike.

I am so impressed with everyone and how they handled themselves on the trip; once again a real success. But enough from me; below are some of the comments from the students and their own experiences.



## Dart Watershed Project

KEVICC students took part in an ambitious education project about the river Dart last week, assisted by Dart Harbour, artist Sarah Gillespie and internationally renowned poet Alice Oswald.

Totnes School KEVICC and the Transition Network organised the "Watershed Day" on October 11 to raise students' awareness of the river Dart and how it links to their lives and influences the world around them. Eleven workshop leaders led more than 210 Year 8 students on the ambitious education day.

Alice Oswald worked with the students on creative writing. Alice is an internationally renowned poet who has just won the Warwick prize for her latest work, and won the TS Eliot Poetry Prize for her epic based on the River Dart.

Tim Wightman, Sophie Killock and Abby Bartlett (Heads of Department at KEVICC) and Isabel Carlisle, Education Co-ordinator for the Transition Network, put together the day. It was based on the Sharpam Estate, which occupies an excellent spot on a bend in the river Dart and gave great access for the school's students to different parts of the river for different exercises and activities.

These activities included art, creative writing, science and

geography, amongst others, and will lead to other work for students at KEVICC and in local primary schools. Students worked to create charcoal on the estate, which they then used for artwork; created a newspaper report of the day and toured the estate's winery and creamery.

Over 190 of the group then walked back along the river to Totnes, recording their journey for later analysis.

Helping them to complete some of these tasks was South Hams Estuaries Officer Nigel Mortimer, who took students to gain samples from the river. To achieve this task Dart Harbour provided its launch to take students out into the river. The Authority hopes some students involved in the day will enter the Dart Harbour Young Champion Awards in 2014, which aims to reward young people who engage with the river Dart in any way. The Award carries cash prizes for the entrants and their school or club.

## Leadership at Leisure



As part of our A-Level studies in BTEC Sport, I took part in an SEN day where I learned how to approach and teach children with many disabilities.

However, I learned that instead of looking at their disability, I should focus on looking at what they were able to do in order to adapt the game in many ways to offer participation to all.

In our group we focused upon the sport of tennis, which started with a few simple warm ups like moving the ball from side to side on the floor whilst standing still, before progressing into hitting over the net. If we found that a warm-up we gave them was too easy for them, then we would slightly increase the difficulty. In order to deliver the activity correctly, we had a professional coach who gave us tips and encouragement in order to do our best. It gave me a really good insight into how these children learned and how some of them interpreted the instructions given in a different way.

Amy Lewis

## Best of the Best

Rebecca Lee, a Year 11 student from King Edward VI Community College, has been awarded first prize in the annual British Nutrition Foundations Drummond Education Award Scheme. The prize has been awarded as the AQA exam board judged Rebecca's standard of Controlled Assessment was the best nationally.

The award is given to the GCSE and A level candidates in each regional examining group with the best coursework/practical investigation results in either Home Economics or Design and Technology: Food. The scheme is open to GCSE and A level candidates who are in full time education and aims to promote and foster an interest in food and nutrition while recognising and rewarding a high level of attainment by students and their teachers.



## Dartmoor Adventure

YEAR 7 students found themselves cast into the darkness of Dartmoor when local author Sandra Greaves came to give them a taste of her new novel.

Sandra has just had her first novel published by Chicken House and shared stories of her writing with the whole of Year 7 before running a ghost story writing workshop with a group of more able students. Sandra said: "I really enjoyed visiting KEVICC The students' questions were brilliant and thoughtful (you clearly have some very good writers there!) And the students in the workshop were terrific, with some interesting beginnings for their stories - I do hope at least some of them go on to finish a ghost story. And I'd be very interested in seeing any finished stories." English teacher Carrie Groves added: "It was a real pleasure having Sandra in to talk with our Year 7 students. They were utterly intrigued by the snatches Sandra read from her novel, *The Skull in the Wood*, and I think we were all surprised by just how much work goes in to writing a novel!"

"It's wonderful for students to have this first hand experience of writers to give them the background to books they may enjoy and to realise that hard work does pay off in the end!"

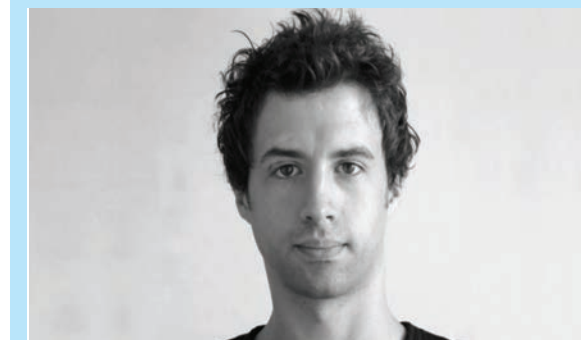
"The creative writing workshop Sandra led was fantastic and really fired the imaginations of the gifted and talented students, and challenged their notions of how to write. The props of skulls and ancient boxes were incredibly inspiring and the students were able to create some very atmospheric ghost stories."

## Where are they now?



Katherine Harris, a Year 13 student, has been awarded the Rotary Club's Young Designer of the Year Prize for Devon. Katherine's work was exhibited at the KEVICC annual Design & Technology Expo and the Science Technology Maths and Engineering 'Big Bang' Event at Exeter University. Her design was for a portable kitchen unit that fixes into the baulk head of horse boxes, allowing the user to prepare and cook their own food, rather than rely upon on-site fast food traders at horse sporting events and competitions. Katherine's success in this county follows in a long line of designers and technologists from KEVICC in this competition, with six of the last seven years winners coming from the College. Katherine is now studying for a nursing degree at Oxford Brookes University.

Katherine Harris is shown receiving the Devon Young technologist award from Derek Meacher of the Totnes Rotary Club.



Master of Architecture and former KEVICC student, John Killock, has won prestigious scholarships and prizes, related to his research interest of cohousing, changing workplace trends and ageing populations. His awards include third prize in the 2012 Student Design Competition "Integrated Communities: A Society for All Ages", which was presented to him at the UN Headquarters in New York City.

John's other awards include winning the RIBA Boyd Auger Scholarship 2011; the international Architecture Revolution 1-4 Competition; the international IAPS 2011 Ontological Design in Future Housing Space competition; the international student competition Designing for Adaptable Futures (DAF) and second place in the international Fantess Global Challenge 2012: Workplace of the Future Competition.

After leaving KEVICC, John spent a year in industry before going on to study Architecture and Planning at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol.



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