

It's a busy time of year at KEVICC!

Not only is it when many students are taking exams, but there are also many other things going on, both in the College and out on trips / working with primary schools / collaborating with community groups. It's an exciting place to be for students and staff.

Les Misérables – following the resounding success of our production in February, students were asked to perform in a St George's Day Charity Candlelit Concert in Dittisham Church.

Not knowing quite what to expect, just nine of the cast (Talisker Little, Chris Purcell, Hannah Souch, James Turner, Joe Eaton, Elin Eaton, Phoebe Whiley, Bibiana Lewis and Luke Harrison-Darby) gave up their Saturday afternoon and evening to accompany Jo Crook and Lorna Souch in the minibus on what turned out to be a 'Mighty Fine Adventure'.

Arriving at the church in Dittisham, they were greeted by organiser of the event, Tom Leeman, and introduced to the guest singer, who had himself given up his time to sing at the concert. Nigel Richards, Award Winning Actor and currently Head of Acting Through Song at ArtsED in London, was initially rehearsing his own songs for the evening, but he soon took the students under his wing. What followed can only be described as a Master Class in Singing and Performance. Nigel guided Hannah, Tal, Chris and James through the solos they would sing, and the group as a whole in their final song, accompanying them on the piano. Having played Enjolras for two years himself in the West End, he was very familiar with all the songs, and agreed to accompany them for their performances in the evening as well.

We found out later that he had also played the lead in Phantom of the Opera in the West End.



The students were then fed and watered, and thoroughly spoilt by the staff, in The Red Lion, before donning their costumes for the evening concert.

Nigel was so taken with the students' talent and professionalism that he offered to come to school and do a workshop with them next time he was in Devon.

Hannah said: *It was a totally unexpected and inspiring opportunity to work with someone who has been part of the show live in London!*

Lorna Souch

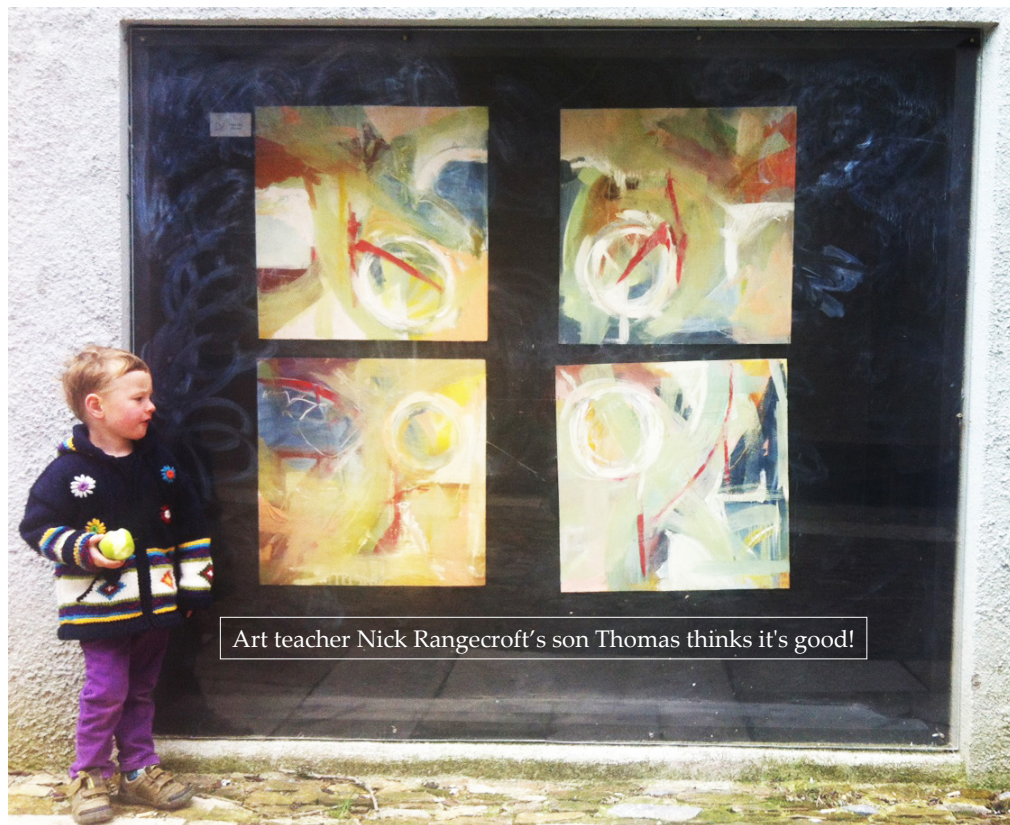


The two schools also sent students to Plymouth University for a day where they had a mini lecture in opportunities in Leisure and Tourism – some of which would involve travel all over the world – and a geology lesson where they took an active role as media reporters in reporting and being involved in major emergency evacuations. This was followed by an afternoon at the Plymouth College of Art where they spent time expressing their 'creative side' and very much enjoyed the session.

Nicola Ambrose, Careers Department

Value Theatre Company thoroughly enjoyed their visit to KEVICC, organised by the Careers Department, recently to put on a workshop for selected year 8 students. South Dartmoor and KEVICC have been working together on a programme of opportunities entitled Future Choices for these students, and the actors staging this workshop said they were the best group they'd had at working collaboratively.

The students were challenged to think what the future would hold if they failed to get any qualifications through not putting in enough effort – would they be able to apply for interesting jobs? Almost certainly not.



Art teacher Nick Rangecroft's son Thomas thinks it's good!

This artwork, currently on show at the 'Shady Garden' in the town is a painting by Talya Zaki, a star KEVICC student, who obtained top marks at GCSE and A-Level Art, and is now just about to complete her Foundation Degree course at the College.

'Shady Garden' is a public quiet space along Totnes High Street next to the Thrive café. We have, for some time, been using it as a showcase / pop-up exhibition space to show off some of our talented students' work. Previous exhibitors include Molly Allen, Dylan Friese-Greene and Isaac Moss.

We plan to change the work on display termly.

Tim Wightman, Art Department

Compiled by our Press Team. Our student editor, Martha Harris-Davey, is now concentrating on her final year exams - we are very grateful for her editorials, and will appoint a new editor soon.

Dance students performed at our annual, and hugely popular, annual Dance Show SPRUNG in April, having spent many months preparing work for the show, which also all contributes towards exams and assessments. Year 12 student Tommy Hodgkins is now in his second year with the Sadlers Wells' National Youth Dance Company. Tommy was one of over 500 applicants for his first year, and was accepted a year early (one of only 30) aged only 15, with 16 being the usual entry age. In the first regional round, he was unanimously selected by the panel to be put forward for the national audition. Now in its fourth year, NYDC brings together a group of dancers aged 15-19 from across England, with a striking variety of backgrounds. What matters isn't exam certificates or years at the barre; it's investing themselves fully in the experience at hand.

Tommy says of NYDC: *It has been one of the most life-changing experiences of my life and, of SPRUNG: Watching the other dancers*



on stage from all year groups helps me to appreciate the journey I've been on, and the progress that I've made. For the audience, it's a window into the World of Dance at KEVICC.

Also performing at SPRUNG was former student Anders Duckworth, who studied Dance at *The Place*, London Contemporary Dance, after years of dazzling us at KEVICC with his talents in art and design, as well as in dance. They described him as one of their students who 'is the future of dance'. Other talented alumni Charlotte Barnes, Matthew Cleary, Nadjeschda Schaefer, Martin Shead and Lewis Wilkins all made the evening extra special by dancing as an Alumni Company, in tribute to dance teacher Susie Reeves-Sharp, leaving after sixteen years teaching dance at the College.

Sarah McNally, Dance Department



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