

# KEVICC students in year 10 are discussing their futures as they approach year 11 – the year in which they take their GCSEs and consider their next steps

Many 15-16 year olds at KEVICC, and across the UK, are currently facing their mock exams and GCSEs. This is the beginning of all of their futures. However, many have no idea what their next steps will be, or how they will make those important choices. The various paths that they could choose from are no longer clear – there are many alternatives to think about.

After GCSEs students could go to Sixth Form to do their A-levels, or do a vocational training course; either of these could lead to multiple futures. One of those potential futures is going to university. However, this brings a lot of students concern about cost and how quickly it is rising – this also affects which universities they apply for – it could be a good one or a bad one. The university ranking therefore also affects their opportunities in the future.

Travelling is another option – this would broaden their experiences and they would learn things they never could in a classroom, but even this brings worry to some, because it is taking them away from their education options and career paths. Students may feel it will adversely affect them 'getting on the ladder' and 'progressing' – meaning that there is less room for them at the top. Also, hearing about the shortages in the jobs market can be frightening: for example, 9% of females ages 18-24 are currently unemployed. There are many other worries on students' minds

about the future. They hear about the cost of living and how hard their parents worked to get where they are now, and the challenges they are faced with. In addition to this, there is the political upheaval globally and in the UK, and teenagers are getting increasingly interested and involved in the politics that will shape their futures. Additionally, whilst trying to manage the everyday challenges of being a teenager, many are already working to build their experiences and to add to their CVs and, at the same time as this, they are preparing for exams. Universities don't just focus on grades; they look for extra-curricular activities such as DoFe and Ten Tors. These activities are starting to feel essential. Adding to this, students are now facing the new, harder GCSE - whilst having to do all these extra activities. There are various paths ahead for the students other than just preparing, doing, or finishing their exams – all of which will lead to potentially different futures. Here in Totnes, despite huge cuts in educational funding, we are lucky to have KEVICC, where the staff work hard to support their students and offer extraordinary opportunities (such as a recent visit to Oxford University, as well as taking part in a range of community projects) which open everyone's horizons and maximises the potential of choice in each individual student's future.

Jasmine Leete year 10



**KPAC Musical Cabaret evening**

Students of all ages delighted their audience when they put on an evening show to say farewell to KPAC founder, drama teacher and Head of Performing Arts Jo Crook. It was also wonderful to have several Alumni, former students, taking part.

It's been a number of years since we last put on such a show and, to be honest, students and staff didn't really know how popular or successful this would be. However, the audience left thoroughly entertained and impressed. Cabarets have returned to the KEVICC calendar!



**Exam Numbers...**

444 public examinations (GCSE, A-Level, Btec etc...) took place at KEVICC this summer, spread over 29 days.

4963 completed scripts were packed and sent to 7 different exam boards (more properly known as awarding bodies).

37 different rooms were used for exams.

25 support staff took time out from their normal roles at various points to invigilate and provide other exam support.

10 additional invigilators were employed – and commended Year 11 on their excellent behaviour and attitude during their exams.

**A-Level results 17.8.17 and GCSEs 24.8.17**

## Total Eclipse of the Sūn

After their controversial coverage of the Hillsborough disaster of 1989, in which 96 football fans died, the Sun newspaper has been widely boycotted by fans of Liverpool Football Club. Two campaign groups - Total Eclipse of the Sūn and Shun the Sūn – have been set up to urge newsagents and supermarkets not to stock the paper.

Kelvin MacKenzie, editor at the time of Hillsborough, has further antagonised the city with his comments on Everton midfielder Ross Barkley, whom he labelled as a 'gorilla' and said that people earning similar amounts of money in Liverpool were 'drug dealers'. Barkley has a Nigerian grandfather, which the Sun supposedly knew about, having published an article featuring the information a few years ago. This caused uproar, with police investigating whether it constituted a 'racial hate crime' and Everton then followed Liverpool in banning the Sun journalists 'from all areas of its operation'.

The bans have divided opinion, with some questioning if they affect the freedom of the press, and could lead to people being able to ban newspapers whenever they are slightly offended by what they have to say. That could lead to the press not being able to inform their readership of any corruption, or bad dealings. However, others may argue that the offensive remarks made by tabloids, such as the Sun, overstep the mark, and need to be brought into line. Should restrictions be placed on what the press can say, and even their impartiality?

The now infamous headline from just before the 2017 General Election, urging Sun readers not to 'chuck Britain on the Corbin' and 'vote Conservative' is thought to have had less influence than before, as far fewer people read newspapers. These days, it is far easier to get your news from social media, with ideas that you believe in often the only ones you see online. Surely by publishing articles like MacKenzie's, the Sun are losing yet more readers, put off by the backlash? But this could also be seen as a twisted publicity stunt, as attracting controversy gets more people to read the paper – looking for what stupid things they have to say.

The recent rise of what has been described as 'false news' means that most newspapers are printing articles based on untrue information, meaning that people find it difficult to know what to trust any more, and are likely to move towards views that they feel comfortable with. It is clear that newspapers are falling out of fashion as they move online, so could these Sun articles be seen as a last ditch attempt to attract publicity and, more importantly, readers?

Sadly, I think so.

Huw Edwards year 10

## KEVICC BOOMBOX FEST 2017



OUTDOOR MUSIC EVENT  
KEVICC ARIEL CENTRE

BRING A BLANKET AND ENJOY  
SOME MUSIC ON THE GRASS

SOFT DRINKS BAR  
SNACKS  
GOOD TIMES

13th JULY  
7PM - 9PM  
TICKETS - £5. £3 CONC.  
UNDER 10's - FREE

players, they have been a joy to have here, some for the full seven years; some joining for Sixth Form from other schools. They are going on to do amazing things: Royal College of Music; and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, both in London / Jazz course in Leeds College of Music (after some time travelling) / Costume Design in Plymouth College of Art and two of the students staying nearby for a while, so the Music Department is hoping they'll be in to lend a hand!

If you would like to respond to any student article, please contact Assistant Principal Ben Cotton at KEVICC via Reception.



**Music concerts**

The end of the summer term is always busy in the Music Department. Currently, year 10 BTec music students are putting together plans for an end of year outdoor event – with good weather they hope!

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy what promises to be a great evening - please contact Reception if you'd like to buy a ticket in advance.

Last month we said goodbye to an amazing group of Year 13 A-level music students when they left after finishing their A-levels. All very talented