

## **Riding the airwaves with Eastbourne Youth Radio**

**Are you the next Fearne Cotton? Do you fancy choosing tracks for Zane Lowe? Reckon you could out-wit Chris Moyles? Bet you didn't know they all started in local radio – just as you could too!**

Youth schemes such as Eastbourne Youth Radio (EYR) are available around the South East to give you the chance to experience what broadcasting is really like. The glamour, the rock 'n' roll and the hard work that holds it all together.

EYR has been broadcasting from Sussex Downs College for six years. The operational side is largely run by the second year BTEC media studies students. But last year over 2000 young people contribute to 50 hours of live broadcasting.

Tim Sorensen from Sussex Careers, Education Business Partnership (EBP) is EYR manager. "EYR gives young people a voice on the radio. It's amazingly professional and gets better and better every year."

For some students it is a stepping stone to bigger and better things. Take Chris Bailey for example. He was in Year 11 when some he got involved in EYR. He loved it so much he went on to do a BTEC in Media Studies. Now, aged 21, he presents the Breakfast Show at Bright FM.

"Eastbourne Youth Radio was one of the most exciting experiences I've ever had in radio," Chris said. "I would never have had the confidence to go into a career in the media without the experience EYR has given me. I have since worked on hospital radio, Arrow FM and Sovereign Radio before securing the breakfast show at Bright FM, as well as freelance production work for the national chart show 'HIT 40 UK'. EYR was a fantastic starting point."

Chris Novis is a one of the students getting involved again this time. "There are so many different aspects to working in radio. At last year's EYR I hosted a late-night radio show. Although presenting was good fun, it was also really nerve-wracking and I decided that a career behind the scenes was much more for me. So, this year I will be working on two of EYR's biggest shows - but behind the scenes. I will be on the sound desk, fading shows in and out, putting callers through live on air and taking cues direct from the presenters. It's a big step and a lot of responsibility but I quite fancy working in sound production so it's perfect work experience.

For more information visit [www.eyr.org.uk](http://www.eyr.org.uk)