



## **\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

### **Young Broadcasters Interview Youngest Ocean Rower**

Polegate School will once again join Eastbourne Youth Radio, organised by Eastbourne EBP and Sussex Downs College, on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. The theme for Polegate's one-hour slot, sponsored by PJ Products, at 1.00pm on 87.7FM and [www.eyr.org.uk](http://www.eyr.org.uk), is 'Pirate Radio'.

4 men, 3,500 miles and just a wooden rowing boat was the inspiration for pupils to interview Matt Hellier who made history when he became the first team of four to row from Australia to Mauritius. Not content with breaking this record they became the youngest ever crew to row across any ocean, with Matt being the youngest. Between them they have 30 years rowing experience. They succeeded in raising thousands of pounds for the Stroke Association.

They braved 50 ft waves, physical exhaustion and mental fatigue to win the race. It took them 68 days, 19 hours and 40 minutes to complete the race in their 29 ft long boat. They left Australia together with 9 other international crews. There have only been four successful crossings prior to this race, which proves how difficult this adventure was.

Claire Martin-O'Donoghue, Deputy Headteacher, was delighted when Matt agreed to be interviewed by Polegate school children for their programme. "He has shown dedication and commitment in order to complete the challenge and this makes him a fantastic role model. We hope our pupils will see that persistence pays off and that meeting Matt will be inspirational for them as they consider how much can be achieved at such a young age through hard work and dedication", said Claire.

Arrangements for the ninth year of broadcasting are progressing with schools and colleges working hard on their individual programmes. Speaking on behalf of EYR, Tim Sorensen, said, "this is always an exciting time as we start to learn snippets of what to expect on-air. We have also just signed our 26<sup>th</sup> sponsor which is fantastic news and are pleased to welcome The Observatory Science Centre, Visick Cars, Prontaprint, Caffyns, Stonecross Nurseries, Chartwells, OBC The Accountants, Charles Stanley Stockbrokers and St Wilfrid's Hospice."

EYR is still seeking sponsors for St.John's Meads and Oakwood primary schools and several college slots. A special 3-page EYR feature, including programme listings and sponsor adverts will appear in the Herald on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

To find out more about how you, your community organisation or company can get involved or support EYR please contact Tim Sorensen on 07890 388624 or email [tim@sorenlearningsolutions.co.uk](mailto:tim@sorenlearningsolutions.co.uk) for details.

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**Notes:**

- Eastbourne Education Business Partnership started life in 1985 and continues as an independent organisation providing work-related learning support to schools and colleges in Eastbourne and Hailsham supported by Eastbourne & District Chamber of Commerce and Eastbourne Borough Council. Activities include EYR, Engineering Club, In-Bloom, Young Chef and Youth Newspaper
- Eastbourne EBP is a member of Institute Of Education Business Excellence.
- Eastbourne Youth Radio was launched in November 2001 as part of the SRB 6 funded initiative to engage young people in community issues. EYR has created a national benchmark with similar projects delivered in Norwich, Carlisle, Warrington and Kendle. Using the medium of radio has created significant opportunities for thousands of students to create, produce and deliver their material to a wide local audience – and more recently, worldwide via the internet. Further information may be viewed on the website [www.eyr.org.uk](http://www.eyr.org.uk)
- Each programme carries a sponsorship package involving a combination of radio (87.7FM), newspaper (Eastbourne Herald) and web ([www.eyr.org.uk](http://www.eyr.org.uk)) advertising plus the opportunity to be interviewed on-air. Sponsorship ranges from £175.00/hr up to £350.00/h
- For further information please contact Tim Sorensen at Soren Learning Solutions Ltd on 07890 388624 or [tim@sorenlearningsolutions.co.uk](mailto:tim@sorenlearningsolutions.co.uk)