



Mina O'Brien, new EBP Programme Manager with students during EYR 2025.



Rebecca Conroy, CEO and Principal of East Sussex College Group with Tim Sorensen, Eastbourne EBP Programme Manager.

Eastbourne Youth Radio celebrates 25 years on-air

YOUNG people from local schools and colleges, together with more than 40 supporting organisations, took to the airwaves last week on *Eastbourne Youth Radio (EYR)* for the 25th annual broadcast.

By **Peter Lindsey**

This 77-hour extravaganza, broadcast on 87.7fm, was organised by the *Eastbourne Education Business Partnership* in association with *East Sussex College*.

Particular thanks to lead sponsor *VACGEN* and also to *Eastbourne and Lewes Community Safety Partnership* for their additional funding.

EYR alumni

To mark 25 years of broadcasting – this year saw a number of past *EYR* alumni back in the studios recounting their career journeys and achievements in the fields of radio broadcasting, TV, journalism and film – including one *BAFTA*!

Students aged 5-19 from local schools and colleges planned, created and presented an exciting mix of music, live performances, interviews, competitions and features.

The programmes were broadcast from the college studios in Eastbourne supported by their creative media students who also

delivered their own programmes. You can still 'Listen Back' via www.eyr.org.uk and see images from the broadcast.

As well as the individual student shows, *EYR* broadcast the 'Answer Back' panel show kindly hosted by *The Cavendish School* and sponsored by *Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce & EDEAL*. A guest panel of politicians and prominent community figures debated topical issues of the day.

A second panel show, 'Meet the Media', hosted and sponsored by *East Sussex College*, brought together former *EYR* alumni, now working in TV, journalism, radio and film, who shared their career experiences with the student audience.

Fantastic support

A special hospitality tea, supported by *Children With Cancer Fund*, at the college was attended by The Worshipful the Mayor of Eastbourne, Cllr Margaret Bannister, and the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant Tim Cobb to recognise the support that local

businesses, organisations and dignitaries had given to the project this year.

Handing over the reins

The event was also an opportunity to mark the retirement of Tim Sorensen, Programme Manager, who has been at the forefront of all the amazing projects undertaken by the *Eastbourne EBP* for 30 years, and also of Trustee Mel Hobbs, who is also stepping down at the end of this year, and who has too made a significant contribution over 20 years of being on the Board.

Tim Sorensen, *Eastbourne EBP* Programme Manager, said: "EYR would not be possible without the generous support and involvement of our schools, colleges, community organisations and businesses. A massive thank you to them for helping to make *EYR* such a continuing success. Once again, we were treated to a fantastic schedule of programme features and live performances. It was great to see everyone coming away very proud and excited after taking part."

Next year and beyond

Tim adds: "Discussions are already underway for the next annual broadcast from 18th-20th November 2026. In the meantime, *Eastbourne EBP* is counting down to the next employability and skills event, *The BIG Futures Show*, organised in association with *Eastbourne Borough Council* on 28th April next year".



To find out more about *Eastbourne Education Business Partnership* and how you can get involved, please email Mina O'Brien, new EBP Programme Manager at mina.obrien@eastbourneebp.org.uk