

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POLICE PRESENT PA PRIZE TO COLLEGE

Avon and Somerset Police Force have presented Yeovil College's Music department with a new PA system as a thank you for their hard work on this year's Battle of the Bands competition.

Yeovil College hosted the annual event for the second time earlier this year. It featured eight bands of 12 to 19 year olds from the local area. The College's Music students volunteered to run the technical side of the event, including providing the PA, lighting, staging and backline.

The new portable practice PA means that the College now has a third practice room equipped to a semi-professional standard.

Final year student Toby Walkley (24) of Yeovil, singer and guitarist for the popular band 'Vaguely Arabian', volunteered at the Battle of the Bands event. He said *"It was nice to see lots of different bands and talented young people from lots of different age groups really giving it their all. It's great being involved in the community and we like to support everything we possibly can. It gets people involved, raises awareness of what we do and helps everyone understand what we're trying to do at College. It's great that the Police have given us this new equipment. It means that we now have a good PA system in every practice room and can go out and do more local gigs."*

Head of Music Simon Squire said *"It was fantastic to work with the Police again on the Battle of the Bands. The students were very enthusiastic about getting involved. We're absolutely delighted that the Police decided to give this equipment to the students and the department in recognition of their hard work. Not only does it mean the students have even better practice facilities at the College, they can also play more live corporate and community gigs, such as the Yeovil Live gigs that recently took place in the centre of Yeovil. Playing live gigs really boosts the students' confidence and gives them opportunities to hone their skills and get the local community involved in music. Not every college can offer these opportunities, so we're very pleased that we can."*

Chief Inspector (Operations) Paul Richards made the presentation. He said *"We are really pleased with the partnership that we've built up over the past two years with Yeovil College. The Police Service looks to engage with young people in the community wherever possible and the Battle of the Bands is a big part of that. It wouldn't be possible without the support of Yeovil College. We hope to continue to build our partnership in the coming years."*

Yeovil College Principal James Hampton said “*We are very pleased that our students are receiving recognition for their hard work for the community. What our Music students have been doing embodies what the College represents. We work together with our community to deliver key, practical skills that can be deployed within the work place and also support community development along the way. We’re lucky that we can deliver all forms of Performing Arts, including music, with such great success. This is due to our enthusiastic students and the fantastic staff who support them.*”

For information on forthcoming Yeovil College Music events, visit www.yeovil.ac.uk.

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Notes to Editors

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