



In the words of...

Rachael Palmer - ex-Stanchester Academy and now a Year 13 prefect at Sexey's Sixth Form - was part of a group of Sixth Form students who really wanted to get involved in the worldwide phenomenon, TED. Sexey's didn't have a TEDx club - so Rachael helped to start one. Here's her account of how TEDxSexey's came about.

"I've always admired the TED series - what better way to learn more about the world in which we live than by hearing from the experts in an accessible, interesting way? So when my friends and I learnt that organisations can get involved, we were keen to be among them.

In order to apply, we had to schedule a proposed programme of talks at Sexey's. We researched experts linked to our curriculum topics that might have a link to school. First up was James Brickell, an old Sexeian who works for the BBC Natural History Unit on Planet Earth 2. We wrote to him, imploring him to come back to school to speak to us - and he said yes!

Buoyed by our success, we also applied to Professor Sophien Kamoun, a scientist who works at the Sainsbury laboratory in Norwich

on plant pathogens linked to the Irish potato famine (which is actually a topic in our A level biology) and evolution/genomics.

Once our talks were in place, we filled out the online application to create TEDxSexeys and had our place confirmed. Our event was held in November 2016 and was a resounding success.

It feels like such a sense of achievement to have seen something worth chasing, and to be given the chance to make it happen - especially knowing that the whole Sixth Form and the community benefit as a result."

Rachael is currently studying Biology, Chemistry, English Literature at A Level, as well as undertaking an EPQ. She has applied to study Medicine at university. She is also a keen member of Sexey's debating club.

