

# PRESS RELEASE



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## ENGLAND COLLEGES RUGBY STAR'S AFRICAN ODYSSEY

A Yeovil College student, who plays for the England Colleges rugby team, has just returned from a charity fact-finding mission aimed at helping children in Africa.

Krissie Harpur (19) volunteered to join a Martock Christian Fellowship project group who were visiting Kenya. Along with fellow volunteers Rosemary Heath-Coleman and Andy Starmer, she travelled Nanyuki, a market town in central Kenya, North West of Mount Kenya to find out more about support for children in the area.

Krissie spent a week visiting various parts of Nanyuki with her Kenyan host, Jane Prettijohn. Destinations included a hospice, a primary school for children aged 10 and under and a school for children with seen and unseen disabilities.

One of the highlights of the visit for Krissie was a party the volunteers gave for local children. She drew on her skills as an England College's player for some informal games with the pupils using rugby balls donated by the Somerset Rugby Football Union.

Krissie is one of Yeovil College's rising Rugby stars. She started playing the sport when she joined the College, developing her natural gift for the game with the Rugby Academy. She was part of the squad which claimed the silver medal at the British College's Cup competition in May and has been selected to represent England Colleges as a back row forward. She has also played for Ivel Ladies team and is currently at Dorchester RFC.

As well as the rugby balls, Krissie also took a range of other items kindly donated by friends and family of the volunteers, which went down very well with the youngsters who received them.

Krissie, who is studying for a BTEC National Diploma in Sports and Exercise Science, said "*I've always wanted to do voluntary work in Africa and I've always wanted to work with kids. I'm really glad that I didn't pass up this experience. It's really changes my view of the wider world. It's all good hearing about it on the news, but seeing it and hearing it are really different things. I would love to go out there again and feel that we really can make a difference.*"

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### Notes to Editors

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