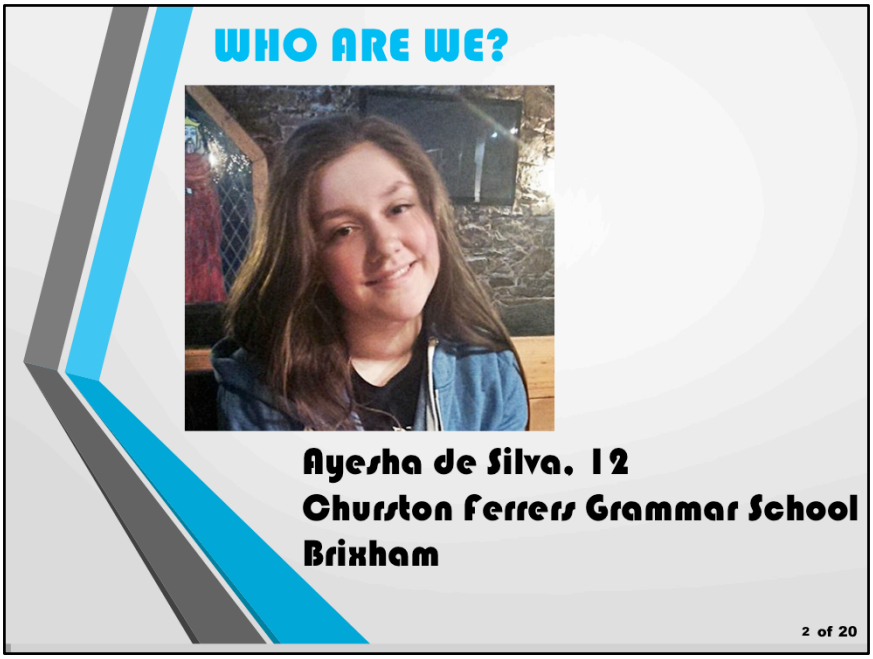
AS - Play Torbay is a small charity which promotes the importance of Play in children's development and provides free Play opportunities for children and young people in Torbay.

ES - Play Torbay is very keen to connect children and young people with Arts and Culture – it is also the lead organisation for Torbay Youth Cultural Partnership.



AS - Hello, I am Ayesha and I am 12. I go to Churston Ferrers Grammar School. I am in Year 8 and want to become a Biologist and do Drama. I went through a lot in my life already: I am an only child and cared for my single mother battling cancer. I was by choice a loner most of the time and didn't know how to socialise.

ES - Hello, I am Emily, I am 16 and in Year 11 at Tower House School. I want to become an actress. I had a very difficult childhood and given lots of medical and social labels. It was hard to settle in mainstream school but was lucky to gain a bursary for Tower House where I have been for 4 years now.

AS - I met Play Torbay when I was 5 at one of their Creative Play Journeys. I soon met Millie, a Playworker who had a major impact in my life.

ES - I met Play Torbay 3 years ago when they were delivering a Play Day at my local Play Park. I didn't feel "different" and felt I'd like to support other young people in the same situation as me.

ES – We do LOTS at Play Torbay: I am a trained Torbay Junior Play Ranger and I help support Play Days and Bay Play Ranger sessions across Torbay. I love meeting new people, being in the middle of the community and making them happy with the free activities we provide. This is me, face-painting at a Bay Play Ranger session.

AS – I am also a trained Torbay Junior Play Ranger. 2 years ago, we (and 28 other Junior Play Rangers) have taken part in a Volunteers in Play course which is endorsed by Skills Active and received certificates from the University of Gloucestershire. This is me DJ'ing at a Play Day.

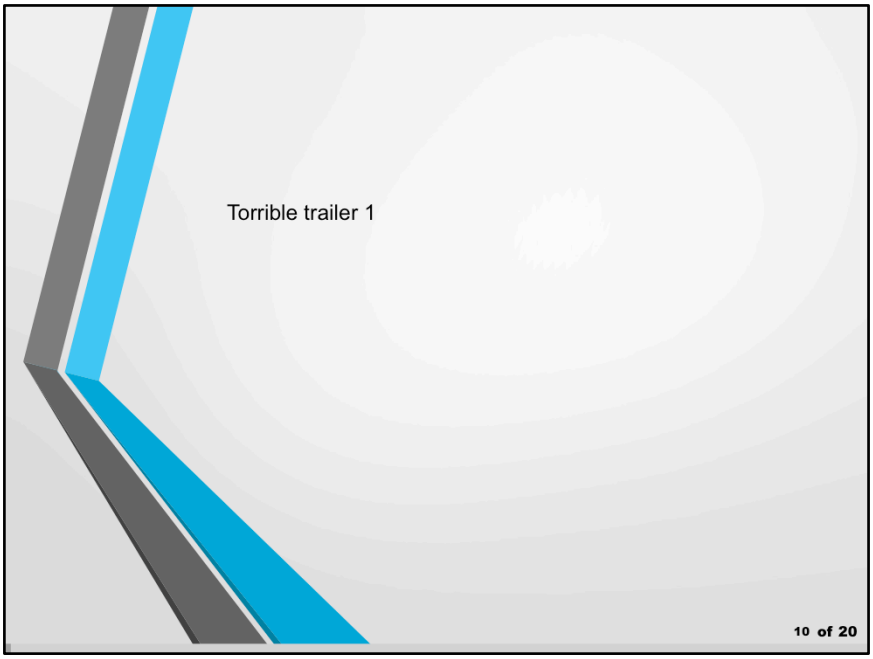
ES – We are both part of Play Torbay's FUNk group: Film Us Now Crew. We meet every other Friday and have great fun with it!

AS – We have lots of projects like Giant Puppets, Art, Digital Animation and lately a Funky Food film.

ES – It took me ages to get that chocolate off my face!

ES – We also do lots of fun Quests: this is Torre Abbey's History Quest, which happened during the Summer. I shared the lead role of Time Traveller with Ayesha and led audiences of nearly 500 people. It connected children, families, schools, organisations and even Councillors with the History of the Abbey and was a huge success.

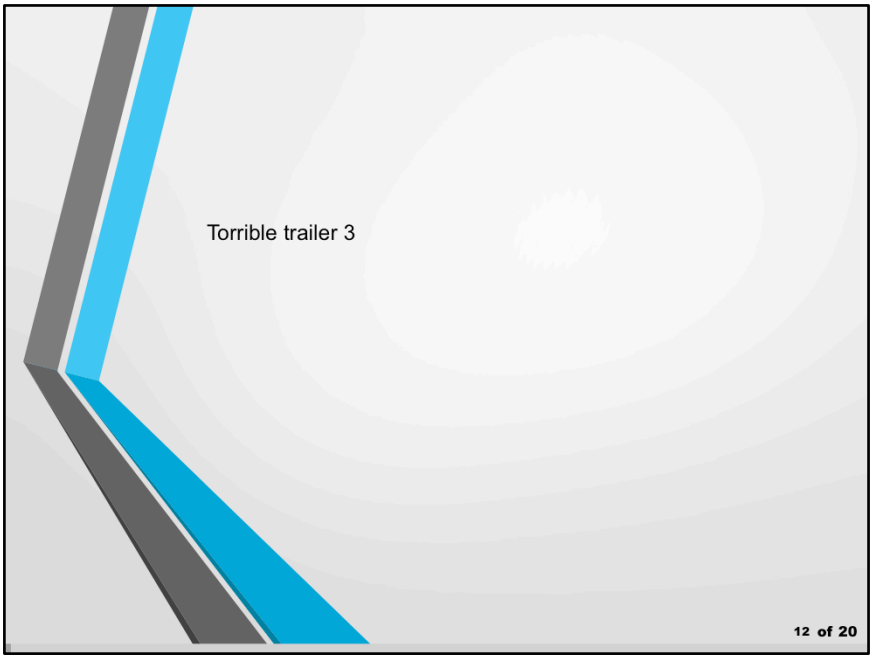
AS – The feedback was tremendously good: we featured in the Herald Express twice and people are still talking about it. To think that I was confident enough to do it is amazing. And so many children and young people learnt so much in such a creative way!



AS – This is the short promo Trailer I made for the Torre Abbey Quest

[NOTE TO ORGANISERS: PLEASE INSERT VIDEO HERE - https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzIsx5gdzeHfdmFLcFVvaDdSdG8/view?usp=sharing }]

Torrible trailer 2
11 of 20


Torrible trailer 3
12 of 20

ES - We have both gained Bronze Arts Awards from Trinity College. The final certificate was presented to us by Gordon Oliver, the mayor of Torbay and by Nicole Amil, the Culture Executive. It was a really proud moment for me to achieve this and experience so many different art forms in such a fun way with Play Torbay!

AS – I loved doing my Arts Award too: to be involved in the Arts, to socialise, to connect with so many people in the world of Arts and Culture and working on it together with other young people was amazing. We are both now doing our Silver Arts Awards and we are really excited about this!

ES – This has made me take up a Drama GCSE. I know I am confident and at my happiest in front of an audience, acting. I have acquired so many skills so far, I have been in touch and involved in so may different art forms that I know I want to learn even more: making people happy and bringing communities together is the best thing ever!

AS – Being involved with Play Torbay meant huge opportunities I wish many more young people could experience. I never thought I could become 100 million times more confident than I was before, it was like having a Drama-Growth-Spurt! I have now auditioned twice at school and got a part in The Wizard of Oz and will be the White Queen in Alice in Wonderland too. Me! Simply unreal!

ES – I want to become a role mode for all young people out there: as a result of all my experiences, I have been made Deputy Head-Girl at school. Yes, me, the “problem child”! I want to pass this on to them: you can do whatever you set your heart on, you can be happy and make the community around you happy too!

AS – Last month we applied for a paid job as Junior Playworkers and we both got it. I discovered a knack of working with children because I feel the empathy. I can maybe help make a difference in their lives: I want to be the “Millie” for another child.

ES – I want to help improve the lives of other young people with a difficult past like mine; they can have a happy life: even if they get to being settled and happy through different paths, we are all in this life together, we can make it through any obstacles together.

AS – As well as other academic GCSEs, I want to get a Playwork qualification, Paediatric First Aid and Drama GCSE.

ES – I want to get an A* Drama GCSE, a diploma in Performing Arts and a Playwork/ Youth Work Diploma

TOGETHER – AND WE WANT TO BE THE 1ST IN TORBAY TO ACHIEVE OUR GOLD ARTS AWARD! **high five each other**