

Life as I know it

Kym Marsh

Kym, 32, shot to fame with the pop band Hear'Say but is now better known as barmaid Michelle Connor in Coronation Street. She lives in Manchester with Hollyoaks actor Jamie Lomas and her children David, 13 and Emily, 11.

She is expecting a baby this summer Words by Tricia Welch

If I could change anything about myself I'd... be less insecure. A lot of people are surprised when I say this because I seem confident, but underneath I'm full of self doubt, especially when it comes to my looks. I worry about it most at red-carpet events when every girl wants to look her best.

The most romantic thing anyone has ever done for me is... while I was having my make-up done for a charity event, Jamie popped his head round the door and told me there was something in the changing room for me. Just before I went on stage I went to see what it was, and saw he'd bought me a Rolex watch to wish me luck. Not only was I bowled over, but my pre-performance nerves completely vanished.

Not a lot of people know this but I'm very good at... impressions. I do Bart Simpson, George from Rainbow and Cilla Black – basically anyone who has a silly voice.

To wake myself up I... make myself a cup of tea with a nice big spoonful of sugar in it.

Last thing at night I always... go into my kids' room, kiss them both goodnight and tell them I love them, even if they're fast sleep.

When I have time to myself I... do nothing. It's such a rare event that I make the most of it.

When I'm feeling down I... have a long think in the bath, then ring my mum or my big sister Tracy for a chat. They usually make me feel so much better. Tracy and I have always been exceptionally close, and she's got a sixth sense about me so quite often she's rung me first.

My best friends are... David and Emily, my children. I had them when I was very young and now they are my best mates. I had David when I was 18 and Emily when I was 21 – they're 13 and 11 now and we have such a laugh together.

My "happy place" is... Cyprus. A friend has a hotel out there, and the kids and I have been a lot over the years. We always have a wonderful time, the weather is perfect and it's a really safe place for them to go off and do their own thing. It's the one place I can truly relax.

The worst thing you could say to me is... that I'm a bad parent. Being a good mother is the most important thing in my life. I've done my best over the years but when you have them at such a young age, there's a lot to learn very quickly.

The best thing my parents taught me is... never give up. I'm in a very fickle industry – one minute you're hot and the next you're not. I've taken a lot of knocks along the way, but it's never put me off, thanks to the constant support I've had from my mum and dad.

If I can I always try to avoid... chocolate. I'm such a chocoholic, it's ridiculous. I don't keep anything chocolatey at home because it's just too tempting.

It's not good for my image but I like... Columbo. It's my favourite TV series ever. But I like all those old American cop shows – they make me want to curl up on a sofa and watch them for hours.

The song I can never get out of my head is... The Promise by Girls Aloud. My daughter loves it too.

I drive... an Audi S3. My boyfriend suggested it when I was thinking about changing my car and now I realise why – he wanted to drive it! It's sleek and sporty but comfortable, too.

I know I'm having a bad hair day when... it goes bendy on one side. I always ask my hairdresser to cut it slightly shorter on the other side to balance it out, so it doesn't look so bad when it misbehaves.

My greatest weakness is... my dog Charlie. He's a six-year-old Chihuahua and getting a little bit tubby around the middle because I find it difficult to say 'no' when he trots to his cupboard, then looks up at me as if to say, 'Can I have another treat?'

If I could pass any law I'd... make bullying a criminal offence. From the school playground to racism, I hate it in all its forms, which is why I support the charity Beatbullying. I was bullied really badly at school and my life was made miserable because of it.

When I was a child I wanted to be... an entertainer. From the age of four I'd pick up ornaments from the mantelpiece and pretend they were microphones. I inherited it from my dad, who used to be in a band.

If I could be anybody else I'd be... no one else – I'm very happy being me. I love my family, my friends and my work. Before I got my break with Hear'Say I hadn't had an easy time of it, and I know how lucky I've been.

The best day of my life was... the birth of my children. There's nothing else that could top that – it's the most surreal experience but the best.

My favourite place in Britain is... Manchester. I lived down south, in St Albans, for five years and it was a beautiful place but it never felt like home.

On my last holiday I... went to Sorrento with my children and my mum and dad. We had a great time – the weather was perfect, the food was amazing and the people so friendly. I'd like to go back there with Jamie.

The last film I saw was... The Dark Knight starring Heath Ledger as the Joker. He was such an amazing talent and a great loss.

My favourite restaurant is... San Carlo, the best Italian restaurant in Manchester. Everyone goes there and it has a brilliant atmosphere.

The shop I can't walk past without buying something is... anywhere that sells make-up. Even though my make-up bag is bursting with the stuff, I still buy more.

The most expensive thing I ever bought was... a pair of Gina shoes that I splashed out on for The National TV Awards last year.

I wore a killer dress made for me by Philip Armstrong and I needed some beautiful shoes to go with it. I'm not sure if anyone even saw them because the dress was so long, but they still made me feel very special.

I always laugh at... Lee Evans. He's my favourite comedian; I only have to look at his face and I start laughing.

My last meal would be... my mum's Sunday dinner with all the trimmings – she makes the best roast ever. 🍴

“I wouldn't want to be anyone else – I'm happy being me. I love my family, my friends and my work. Before I got my break I hadn't had an easy time of it, and I know how lucky I've been”