

The 7th Annual Presentation and Celebration of Achievements

Southwark Black Mentor & Inclusion Project Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) (Leadership, Innovation & Learning Support Division)

Thursday 4 November 2010

PROGRAMME

Theme:
Blink : the speed of change

- 17:45 **Arrival and Networking**
- 18:20 **Welcome and Introductions**
LOT Students & Vallin Miller, Manager, Black Mentor and Inclusion Project
- 18:30 **Opening Remarks**
Christine McInnes, Assistant Director, Southwark Children's Services
- 18:40 **Presentations**
LOT Students
- 19:10 **Parent's feedback**
Jennifer Allen
- 19:15 **Guest Speaker**
Devon Hanson, Head teacher, Walworth Academy
- 19:30 **Guest Speaker**
'Action Jackson', Director, FIXUP Seminars
Get Motivated (Part 2)
- 19:50 **Essay Competition and Awards**
The Worshipful, The Mayor of Southwark, Cllr. Tayo Situ
- 20:00 **Caribbean Cuisine and networking**

What does LOT stand for? LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Brief History:

The Leaders of Tomorrow first commenced in September 1991 at the black MBA conference in New York. Its purpose was and is to bring youths with Leadership qualities together and make them realise their potentials.

The programme first commenced at the Annual Black MBA (Masters in Business Administration) Conference.

Southwark Council decided that there was a need in the British community for this and they started the Southwark Black Mentor Leaders Programme, founded in 2000 and still going strong till date.

The programme is geared at helping, improving and guiding children between the ages of 13 to 16 and we have post 16 support till their 19th birthday within Southwark Borough.

The LOT programme has made a lot of impact in the lives of the children on the programme. It has brought a lot of exposure, travelling, networking, confidence, and much better performance and achievements, gearing them individually to aim higher to become Leaders of Tomorrow creating change in their society.

Over the last 10 years the success rates has been very innovative as we have children making fantastic grades in A' levels, going off to universities, some have done internship programmes with global co-operations like Bentley, some winning scholarships for programmes in Brazil etc.

As we go into the next phase of this programme, we expect more achievements to come from our aspiring leaders of tomorrow.

About Action Jackson:

Action Jackson is now a motivational speaker and a life coach who has worked with a vast range of people, from students, management teams of major corporations to individuals from different walks of life.

Action Jackson has taken himself to a place where he is known as an expert in motivation and personal development, called upon by companies like Morgan Stanley, the NHS, Local Education Authorities, schools and colleges, he has assisted thousands of businesses and people to achieve their goals and live their 'dreams'. His seminars are described as mind blowing, entertaining and life changing.

He combines energy, passion humour and inspiration to give you the ultimate experience in lasting success and equips you with the necessary tools to live your dreams.

Action Jackson is a firm believer that by tapping into your potential, you can **BE MORE, DO MORE and HAVE MORE** in life, he embodies what he has learnt and takes people through the pathway of success that has taken him from working in the pig farms of Africa to travelling up and down the country motivating and empowering people to make things happen and live their dreams.

Mayowa Sofekun

Good evening leaders and guests. My name is Mayowa Sofekun, I am 16 years old, and currently attend Harris Academy Bermondsey. The theme for tonight is Blink: The Speed of Change and I'm going to talk you through some of the changes that have happened in my life since joining LOT.

I am starting my timeline from the trip to New Orleans for last year's conference, as we will be here all night if I present on my time since I joined LOT two years ago. This just goes to show the plethora of opportunities it has given me. Since the conference in 2009, I have quickly learnt to stick my fingers into as many pies as possible and grasp every opportunity that comes my way. One opportunity included dragging Nicola down to the Mexican quarters in Los Angeles for a shopping spree. Unfortunately, it was a spree that never happened as it was a Sunday and all the stores were closed. It was my second time attending the MBA conference and some of my highlights included meeting Magic Johnson. It still amazes me how he turned from basketball star to entrepreneur as well as a philanthropist and motivational speaker.

Blink

Growing up in an ever competitive market, we have to do something different to set ourselves apart from the crowd. We are not only up against people within our own borders in the UK, but against people on a global perspective. The greatest form of competition is competition against one self; which is something we all have to remember, when we doubt our own abilities. If you were here at last year's presentation, you may remember one of the opportunities I had involved me being selected as a Student Commissioner to travel to New York in February 2010. I never thought that I would be chosen to go, but I was, and after going on such an amazing trip, I told myself never to doubt my abilities and to aim high in all of my endeavours.

Blink

But, I did not remember this, when I wrote to Harriet Harman who is the MP for Camberwell and Peckham asking if I could take my work experience in her office at the House of Commons. Yet, again I was shocked when the Deputy Labour Leader had awarded me with the placement. I gained an incredible insight into the world of politics which I have an ever growing interest in.

Blink

Following this placement, I also had an opportunity to work as an intern at the Independent Newspaper Business/Economics desk in August 2010. My highlight was my name being credited in The Independent on Sunday for the research that I did in an article.

Blink

I successfully applied for a £5000 grant in August 2010 from the Youth Opportunity Fund. I used this fund for the residential trip the Leaders of Tomorrow went on. So leaders, I have calculated the charge for each of you is £100. I would like this in the form of cash, no cheques please.

Blink

Being a member of L.O.T has provided me with a life changing opportunity apply to Westminster School. As you may or may not know, Westminster is one of Britain's leading independent schools, with the highest Oxbridge acceptance rate in the world. On Saturday I will be taking an exam that has the potential to change my life. Not only my life, but the lives of my peer leaders, and the leaders who are to follow on behind me, as it will open a door to a brighter Peckham and change all the negative stereotypes, into a much more positive one.

Blink: The Speed of Change

Thank you for listening.

Ruben Allen

How I joined LOT

I joined LOT a couple of months ago, I was told about lot by my mother, and her friend told her about the program. I met my mother the day of LOT and we went to the Bells Garden Centre, then only to our amazement they were not here then we found out that the place had been double booked and for this week only we were at the Damilola Taylor Centre.

When we got to the Damilola Taylor Centre my mother was greeted by Vallin the leader of LOT. Whilst they was talking I was dreading going into the hall because I didn't know what to expect but after 20 minutes with them I felt at home and like I belonged. The reason I joined lot was because I was having a few troubles with my schooling and I felt LOT would be able to help me through the rest of my time at school.

We designed light boxes

We also designed chairs

Our basic idea was to try and think of ways we could make Peckham appealing to visitors in the future.

We also talked about other ideas such as a bright and vibrant welcome to Peckham sign.

In addition we discussed areas in Peckham that need improving such as disposing of litter, lighting in areas, (for example surrey canal where a lot of people feel insecure because of how dark it is). A lot of people feel that there should be cameras placed in certain spots in Peckham.

SAIDA ODUTAYO

National black MBA association

Notes

“I am powerful beyond belief”

“Many are called but few are chosen”

“Keep your eyes on the prize”

Andy Travis

“Invest in yourself”

“Don’t be a statistic be on task”

“40% will go to college”

When you’re a worker (bachelor’s) you don’t know how much you will be getting paid at the end of the month were as when you’re a worker (doctorate) you know your defiantly going to be paid a certain amount.

“Build yourself”
you will find in the work industry you are “stacked, ranked and compared”

Biggest indicator of success:

- People skills – communication
- Learning to just do it

The ability to figure out what to do, when to do it and how to do it

“Know your Goal and strive towards it”

Work through difficult situation

Be a risk taker

Motivate the people around you

Surround yourself with people you can emulate as good role-models

Lead through leadership

- Creative
- Childlike
- Seize opportunity
- Challenge yourself to do better
- Seize the opportunity to work in a different country
- Never fail to learn new things
- “Change is not strange to her”
- Challenge regional, global, economical problems

Presentation

When I first joined LOT I was given the opportunity to become a part of another family. All the member of LOT were welcoming and what really strikes me was the learning environment that had been built, all the students were eager to work together learning new skills. From learning and adding new words to their vocabulary. The environment that had been built enabled me to want more, it's not often you find a youth group that is like LOT because normally what we find is that youth clubs have fun activities like pool tables for student to come and play with, but I can say LOT is one of a kind and the effect it had on me when I entered that room was a warm fuzzy feeling of excitement and eagerness. On my arrive I was immediately put on the spot by uncle Vallin when asked why I wanted to join, some would say they were scared but I can honestly say that is what made me come back the fact that I wasn't treated as the new person but as a part of the family. Alongside this meeting all of those young talented individuals who I could see were determined to brighten their future that when I got the true sense of motivation.

On arriving at LOT I have seen a range of opportunities being handed out but on top of this I have been given a great deal of opportunities. From working with the London bubble theatre to meeting motivational speaker like Action Jackson and even attending a conference in America.

People like Action Jackson don't always see the effect they having on peoples' lives; he is what I call an honest gift to this human generation. He always manages to open our minds to the reality of today. Often we young people lose sight of what is there and the opportunities we have, maybe we sometimes make our own barrier, but people like Vallin and Action Jackson seem to remove the barriers we create, and open us up to this wonderful game of chest challenging but empowering. I personally cannot express in words the transition that I have made through meeting Action Jackson.

I am someone who loves acting because when I am acting I forget about the problem my generation suffer in society and I feel that acting is the zone where I can become myself, so getting involved with the London Bubble theatre was amazing. We were shown a scene that touches one of the social problems today, domestic violence not only is this often a hard topic to focus on but a challenging one to, but I can say the forum theatre that we took part in made

We feel able to understand in depth the challenges behind such a topic. As well as this we were also invited to the launch of the theatre where members of LOT spoke about our involvement.

In addition we were also given a chance to work with Peckham space on a project that involved us looking at change in Peckham and how it would give Peckham a better name. This enabled us to see different parts of Peckham we didn't even know existed as well as a chance to become more connected with the area in terms of what is wrong with it and what needs to be improved, from safety, litter and lighting.

We even had a special opportunity to go on a residential where we all got to know each other and have a fun team building session. It was great working with all the other students and knowing that we could do so much together made it a laugh.

On top of this I and another student were given a chance to attend a youth forum with Mayor Boris Johnson this was a great chance to meet students all over London who could express themselves and their ideas and gun and knife crime. It was a shock to hear different individuals' personal stories and to hear we all shared the same views.

Finally for the year we attended a conference in America where we were spoken to by many individuals trying to get us to seize opportunity allowing us to see the potential deep within us and the importance that we can strive towards anything. Going to Disney was a great chance to hear from the people that worked behind scene and hearing from the women who travelled a 6-8 hours journey to work every day because she loved what she did.

We may never know between us who may be the future president, the next Mayor or even the next Oprah Winfrey but LOT has opened up our minds to give us that drive to be anything we want.

Lindsay and Nicola have also been a great help throwing opportunities at us or even assisting us so that we see our potential. Vallin being an Uncle and Granddad pulling us along the way and what we find is that we become independent in ourselves to begin to believe. Even though he may not know it I will like to thank Uncle Trevor for his hard work because even by being round the back you have helped us to move forward.

JOEL COOPER

I have been a part of lot for almost four years now, and have gone through an incredible journey of learning, breaking through barriers, inspiration and understanding. My time in LOT has undoubtedly been a time well spent since it has exposed me to the many sides of life that I normally would have never gone through, and has help to bring out, build and strengthen a character with in me who is determined to do the best that he can in his life. Once again I was chosen to attend the national black MBA association annual business conference in America, where I got the chance to gather together with other like-minded young leaders and participate in a number of workshops and meetings that allowed us to be taught by incredibly successful entrepreneurs.

As usual, when I was chosen to part take part in the conference I was given the compulsory task of fundraising around four hundreds pounds in order to secure my place. At the start of it all I had to think long and hard about what I wanted to do in order to raise money, until I narrowed it down to the decision that I would bake and sell cakes in order to get moving. So for a couple of weekends I started making chocolate cakes in order to sell them and then moved on to making a Jamaican coconut covered pastry called Gizzada.

After successfully gaining the money and heading to LA, I attended one of the conferences lecture's that was done by Warren Bennis a well renowned leadership guru who had written many books and has had an audience with 4 different presidents. One of my main goals for my final conference was to get a better idea for a future goal or career since I have had trouble finding one ever since I left school, but I was highly inspired by my visits to two colleges UCLA and USC because they had students who were studying Asian languages which I love, and were explaining how college helped them to pursue careers with in it. I have painfully learned that Japan has been having trouble with in the business world, so many of the college students are studying a Chinese language instead.

So now I know I have to move with change and have decided to spend my next two years during college learning as much Japanese as I can, and then moving on to mandarin with in a university that will help me experience that side of the world.

Elina Daitey

Hello ladies and gentlemen. My name is Elina Daitey. When I first heard about the Leaders of Tomorrow program and how it had made my friend, who attended the program before I joined, to re-examine herself, her future and potential, I wanted to join too. Instead when I got there, it wasn't quite what I had expected, it was better. After being a part of L.O.T for almost a year now I have increased my knowledge on so much; L.O.T has expanded my outlook of what the world out there is really all about, and how most of us easily circumvent the comfort of our communities or surroundings and do not open up our minds to breaking down boundaries and exceeding limitations, the important aspects of a leader of tomorrow.

To have been able to meet up with other L.O.T groups from around the states of America was such a huge opportunity that I took up with both hands. The skills that I have learnt from just our small group in London have pushed me into being more confident in everything especially speaking, into believing and understanding just how much potential I have, and the support many young people that live in London take for granted and are ignorant to acknowledge.

This year's Conference Theme was "Blink: The Speed of Change". "Blink" could be said for how fast things were going in the time coming up before the trip. To be able to go to the trip I had to raise £450 on my own, unlike many of the Americans, which I discovered, were sponsored entirely. This called for an opportunity of innovation, imagination and enterprise. I had never attempted to raise such money in a measure of around two months, let alone any more than £100, which I looked at as a big accomplishment, but now, as nothing. My first plan was a joint effort with my friend Renee who had the same task as me ahead of her.

We decided to go around and tell our teachers all about L.O.T and the trip we had to raise money for, there were results but they were not effective considering the time we had on our hands, and our mistake was being sponsored as a pair as many teachers sponsored us little amounts and expected us to then split it between us. We then went off and tried on our own, having already asked most of the teachers and in the process came up with many ideas to raise money individually. However Renee and I still wanted to maintain the joint effort, so we baked many fairy cakes and cookies to sell to our friends at school, staff and neighbors. I also got money from my family, church and primary school. The remaining money was raised through art by drawing portraits and oil painting on canvas for £25 each with full profit since my kind art teacher provided me with the resources.

With economical downfalls in the "credit crunch", especially in America, the numbers of young people who participated had shrunk in comparison to last year, however this did not affect the amount of knowledge and words of wisdom we were being fed. The speakers, all in their individual ways captured my mind and spirit, with their inspiring stories and many skills in which they wished to educate and motivate us with.