



Leaders of Tomorrow

**Presentation
Evening**

5 April 2014



Students' Success

LOT is very proud of the achievements of the current students and our Alumni. Some of our Alumni have achieved top grades at A Levels and are now pursuing degrees at a number of prestigious universities. Two students recently received scholarships whereby their tuition fees were paid. Two have also obtained Masters degrees from Warwick University.

For the 5th consecutive year, British Airways through its Community Investment programmes sponsored 17 young people to attend the 2012 and 2013 in Indianapolis and Houston Business Education conferences. Young people had the opportunity to meet and interact with over 140 fellow young leaders from 39 US LOT Chapters and successful Black professionals and entrepreneurs. Over the years, the conferences gave young people exposure to the business world, access to prominent Black achievers such as Colin Powell, John Legend and Magic Johnson. Life changing seminars included the following: Power up your profitability, courageous leaderships, language and culture, building self-esteem and public speaking for visibility. We look forward to the September 2014 conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Without the generous sponsorship and training from British Airways and in particular, the yeoman support from Mary Barry, Mary Brew, Sarah Webb and the rest of the Community Investment team, we would not have had the

success we enjoyed today. LOT students have benefited immensely from the international exposure to business and the wider world of work. Thank you so much BACC team. We would also like to thank Mrs Cooper from the Gallery of African Arts, Raleigh Chiwuta, Emily Druiff, Director of Peckham Platform, Miss Powell Principal at Walworth Academy, Southwark Youth Service, the National Lottery, Young Vic, Autograph guest speakers, parents, LOT volunteers and well wishers for their time and donations in helping to sustain LOT's work with young people.

Vallin Miller
LOT's Executive Director



Alumni Reports

Monsuru Alasi (MSc)

Warwick University, Analyst Accentura

My membership of the Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) programme has been an invaluable experience. It has been one of the most crucial influences in my life that has helped to shape me personally, academically and professionally. The Leaders of Tomorrow programme developed my confidence and engaged me intellectually through topical debates, presentation and networking workshops. I was also able to expand my cultural horizons through numerous residential trips and visits to the theatre, as well as sessions on further education and career prospects. All of which have had an immeasurable impact and moulded me into the person I am today.

Attending the National Black MBA conference in New Orleans in 2009 motivated me to work hard in order to achieve my goals and strive to progress in all aspects of my life, be they academic or personal. The conference exposed me to exemplary motivational keynote speakers. It also gave me the opportunity to network internationally, as well as build on my business skills and become an ambassador for the United Kingdom.

These experiences helped me through my time at university, where I graduated from the University of Warwick with a BA degree in Politics and International Studies.

Furthermore, I expanded on the business skills initially developed by attending the NBMBA conference by completing my Masters in MSc Management at Warwick Business School. I am delighted to report that I have just started my graduate role as an Analyst at Accenture Consulting Group. All this, in no small part was down to LOT mentors and the generosity of British Airways, whose support for LOT has made me eternally grateful because they have allowed me to continue to progress



A special thank you to Mary Barry and Mary Brew from BA's Community Investment programme. Thanks for believing in us. I do hope that we have not let you down and I will continue to be a role model for other young Black people from Peckham.

Mayowa Sofekun

King's College, London - Undergraduate

I am currently enrolled as a Desmond Tutu scholar at King's College, London studying English Language and Literature. This is a million miles away from what I would have imagined I would be doing at 19, since first walking through the double doors of a resident's community hall in Peckham all those years ago. Surrounded by a backdrop of council estates and the noise of police sirens was the pioneering Leaders of Tomorrow programme, which

has helped to shape me into the well-rounded individual I am today.

I was fortunate enough to have been selected to attend the National Black MBA Business Education conferences in New Orleans and Los Angeles (2009-2010). It is an experience that would not have been possible without BA's sponsorship. The insights gained on these trip pushed me to strive for more as I was inspired by a 13-year-old



boy who had started a very successful business. In 2010 I came back even more determined to bring about changes in my community after learning from Magic Johnson. I was selected a Student Commissioner and travelled to New York in February 2012 to gather information that would enhance the teaching and learning curriculum at Harris Bermondsey.

After instituting changes across the whole Federation of Harris Academies; I told myself never again to doubt my abilities but to aim high in all of my endeavours.

In wanting to do more to better myself as well as my community, I applied to the Sixth Form College at Westminster Independent School.

Despite the intensive interviews and examinations, I had the support of LOT behind me and won a full scholarship where I gained two A*'s and two A's at A-Level. I was so proud to represent the good in an area that is

constantly painted negatively in the media I cannot begin to fathom all that LOT has done for me and the opportunities and successes I have achieved as a result of those first international experiences and exposure I had at the NBMBA conferences. Thank you Vallin and Lindsay.

Without the sponsorship of British Airways and support from the Community Investment team, I would not have had the international exposure and opportunities that have come my way. Special thanks to Mary Barry and Mary Brew for their sterling support to LOT students over the years.

Michael Williams (MSc)

Warwick University
LOT Director and Entrepreneur



My time with LOT has been filled with copious learning and achievements.

Having started at the age of fourteen when I was preparing for GCSE's, I was very narrow minded and ignorant to the plethora of opportunities that existed beyond my local community. However, with a soulful mantra to broaden our horizons and to confound

stereotypes and not conform to them, LOT has strongly supported me on my journey as a young leader.

The mentors have always guided and supported me through challenging experiences such as helping to prepare for my college and job interviews as well as helping me to become financially literate.

One particular highlight of the programme was the National Black MBA Business Education conference held in the United States, that I

attended in 2007 and 2009. These conferences inspired me through a series of business seminars and lectures to set up a limited company with my father. Simultaneously, I was also inspired and encouraged to pursue further studies. I graduated in 2013 with a Masters degree in Business Management from Warwick University. I keep telling other Black boys from my former secondary school (Kingsdale Foundation) that they too can also achieve if they have a passion for learning and are given the right support and exposure.

Another highlight of my time with LOT has been my trips to the National Theatre. Prior to the programme the world of theatre was unknown to me. However my love for theatre has grown since then and I am now able to see larger productions such as Les Miserables and Stomp- all of which I thoroughly enjoyed.

As LOT Alumni, my goal now is to focus on the younger students and assist them in their development as part of my giving back to the community from the programme that helped in my development. British Airways Community and Conversation programme has been at the forefront in helping the young students and fellow Alumni achieve their goals. Thank you Mary Barry and Mary Brew for helping to change so many young people's lives from humble backgrounds.

Saida Odutayo

University of Birmingham - Undergraduate



I was a member of LOT for 3 years and had the opportunity to attend the US Business Education conference twice. With BA's sponsorship which enable me to attend, I believe has contributed tremendously in my development. We thank the members from the Community Investment department for believing in us; especially Mary Brew and Mary Barry who have been unwavering in their support for young people like me from less privileged background.

When I first joined LOT I was an average student happy with achieving B's and C's. The 1st conference I attended in Los Angeles in 2009 taught me to strive for more rather than limit myself in what I can achieve. As a result I left secondary school having achieved 8A*'s 1A 5B's and 3C's at GCSE. At A level, I achieved AAB. I was later accepted at Agnes Scott; an all women university in Atlanta Georgia but the long distance was something I struggled with. So at present, I'm studying Psychology at the University of Birmingham on a Southwark scholarship, where my tuition fees are fully covered.

From the LOT students...

Houston, Texas Business Ed 2013 Report

Nadia Moses - Walworth Academy



Last year, I was very fortunate to attend both the annual conferences in Indianapolis, Indiana and Houston, Texas. It was a great experience and I learnt a lot in 1 week. These are some of my highlights of Texas and why this was

such a successful business trip.

For me, the main highlight was having many successful people coming to speak to us about their lives and how they became successful. They also taught us never to give up and reach for what we believe in. Some of my favourite points taught during the week were: 'whatever you told yourself you can't do, you can', 'when discussing things with people, stay calm and remain respectful and honest'.

One of the speakers told us to 'confront life as if you're about to have a major exam.' This taught me that I should always be confident, be ready and never run away from problems. We were taught to believe in yourself and whatever you do, reach for the top of the stars, not the mountains'. It taught me how to solve problems. Another big highlight for me was the group work. This was something new because we didn't have to do this last year. Every young leader from various Chapters was put into groups of 5/6 and we had to work with them throughout the week. We were all assigned a task to do which was to create an app or something to do with technology that would help the local residents or anyone. In my group, we had come up with various ideas, but the main one we decided to do was (in order to save energy & money) that we would create a floorboard, that every time someone steps on a tile (for example in a supermarket) the lights would come on.

Everyone was assigned the task that we had to answer different questions, some were maths, some were English etc. Once we had answered

the questions, we proceeded to complete the next task. We were then required to present our ideas for the finals and although we did not win, I felt our team did well. We also had the privilege to visit universities and were told that you should have 2 or 3 things that you have done well and explained why you want to go to university.

Apart from these highlights, we also had many fun activities such as going to an amusement park, going to the cinema, having dinner at the aquarium, learning line & ballroom dancing and even having after conference parties.

If it wasn't for Vallin, Lindsay, Kara, Mrs Cooper (owner of the Gallery of African Arts) Mary Brew, Mary Barry and Sara from British Airways, I doubt this trip would have been successful or possible for us this year. So I thank all of them dearly for making this year's conference a great experience for me.



**Indianapolis 2012 Business
Education Conference**

Samuel Ajayi
Kingsdale Foundation School

My name is Samuel Ajayi and I am one of the members of LOT (Leaders of Tomorrow Programme). I have recently turned 15 years old and have been attending the Leaders of Tomorrow program for approximately two years. Already it has thoroughly helped me in many ways such as,

improving my vocabulary which six months ago was not very good. It has also brought new opportunities and most importantly a reason to work hard at school.

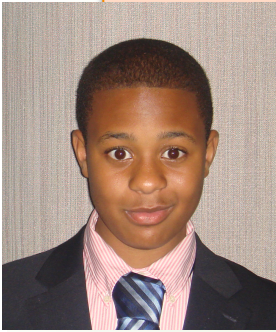
When I heard about the trip to America I was ecstatic and jumped at the chance of such an amazing opportunity. I was also quite nervous as I have never travelled to another country without my mum or dad.

When I arrived at the business education conference I was amazed at the plethora of opportunities that were out there for a young Black boy to aspire to. I learnt about managing money; how to make money; how to play golf; how young people with such hard lives and no opportunities but through hard work, had become successful lawyers, doctors and business people. That showed me that I really should not waste opportunities given to me or take them for granted.

The most inspiring part of the trip for me was the visit to Indianapolis University. They showed us the different facilities, subjects I could study and societies they had. I had never even thought about university although my parents kept talking about it, but to actually be in one was an entirely different experience. The trip has been a life changing experience and although Vallin and Lindsay kept saying it would be – it really has changed the way I view my life.

All of these opportunities would not have been possible without BA sponsoring us for the flights to and from America. We must also thank Mrs Cooper from the Gallery of African Arts for her generous donation. I am also extremely grateful and appreciative for what Vallin and Lindsay have done for me. I would really like to say a big thank you on behalf of all of the members of LOT that have been able to benefit from these life changing experience.

David da Silva
Winchester
College



Dear Uncle Vallin and Lindsay

I am writing this letter to thank you once again for your kindness, support and involvement in my entrance into Winchester College. Truly this great opportunity wouldn't have become possible without your involvement and of course LOT. Also I would like to thank you for allowing me to go to the Atlanta 2011 conference. Without a doubt I picked up many valuable skills from there and experiences that I will remember forever. All this would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of British Airways. Special thank to Mary Barry and Mary Brew who believed in us. I have benefited from this investment and have won a full boarding scholarship to Winchester College.

I am also thanking you dearly for the motivation, inspiration and discipline you instilled in me throughout my time at LOT and yes, although you were both tough on me most of the time, I am thanking you for it because indeed hard work pays off.

So to sum up this letter I want to thank you once again for your great help and involvement.

Omari Obeng Patterson – Kingsdale Foundation School

The Indianapolis conference has guided me and showed me it's not always about money but to also enjoying the job, whereas before, money was my mindset. I also need to be more focused when doing serious things. I have now recognized I am developing to be leader and I can no longer act immature but must be business like. I have to strive to be a role model to everyone and not just to those who are younger than me.

Networking: We participated in a networking workshop at the conference and important people spoke to us about how essential it was to having networking skills. I think networking is so important because speaking to people about anything you will always find out something. This will add to your knowledge because you will know something they don't know and they will know something you don't know so you will always learn.



It is also so important because you get contacts that can help you financially, physically and mentally in life and especially in the business industry. The networking workshop was amazing because it gave us a chance to speak to successful professionals about their jobs and this was even better because we were from London. It meant we learnt a bit about America and how they could also learn more about London.

Public Speaking The public speaking workshop was one of my favourite workshops because it was an amazing chance to understand more about public speaking and the essential day to day life skills that everyone should have. This is a life skill because people judge you on how you come across, which includes the way you speaking, which is a main part of body language. No matter if you are in a small group or a big group you have to be able to project your voice properly.

I learnt about the basic skills of talking with a large group of people and a couple students and I had to actually speak in front of everyone at one of the workshops attended by approximately 100 people. Sporty King, the amazing speaker taught us about public speaking and said no matter the type of audience, don't lose confidence and never look down because it stops you from projecting your voice.

Thank you again BA and your hard working staff. Especially Mary Barry, Mary Brew and your colleagues in Chicago. You are our heroes and thank you for supporting us when we were stranded at Chicago airport and putting us up in amazing accommodation for the night.

Labake Raifu - Walworth Academy Houston 2013 Business Education Conference

I have been a member of LOT London for 9 months and I feel like I have gained so much knowledge during this time. At LOT, we are privileged enough to be given opportunity to have many educational activities such as visiting the Tate modern, watching theatre productions at the Young Vic to having an interview and presentation training workshop at British Airways headquarters.

On the 9th of September 2013, I was privileged enough to attend the Leaders of Tomorrow Success Boot Camp Conference in Houston, Texas, and it was the most unforgettable trip I have ever been on. I felt I have learnt so much from the trip and I have come back a more educated and ultimately a better person.

network with different people and show our creativity. My group pitched our idea to a judge and got through to the stage where we had to pitch our idea to a completely new set of judges and also in front of all our peers. I found this task quite challenging because I have never done anything of the sort. However, I remembered the words of one of our guest speakers Sporty King who said that whenever you are addressing a crowd of people and your mind goes blank, take a break. Although my group didn't with the

overall prize, I was proud of us and myself for going out of my comfort zone.

One of the hardest part of the whole trip was waking up at 5:30am and then doing 30 minutes of exercise at 6:00am.



On the first day it was easy to do because I wasn't too tired, but after the second time, my body was aching and I was extremely tired from all the work we had done on the previous day. Also there were no opt-outs and we all had to be ready to be start by 6:00am. If we were one minute

late we would have to do 10 minutes extra exercise. Even though this was hard to do, I realised I was more attentive after doing the exercise and I felt I took in more information. I now try to do exercise as often as possible.

I would just like to thank British Airways profusely for allowing us seize this fantastic opportunity and for their continuous support of LOT throughout the years. Without them, the whole trip wouldn't have been possible. So again, thank you to everybody at British Airways; especially Mary Brew, Mary Barry and Sarah Webb. Big thank you as well to Mrs Cooper for the generous donation which was used to reduce the cost of the conference for all of us.

Houston 2013 Business Education Conference Walworth Academy

My name is **Deji Ijishakin**. I am 14 years old and I attend Walworth Academy (Year 10). I am currently



in my second year as a member of the wonderful and inspirational

programme that is "LOT". The Leaders of Tomorrow programme has taught me the value of opportunities and also to put them in action. For example, regular visits to the National and Young Vic

theatres, exclusive access to the Tate Modern and work experience at top firms such as: Sports Inspired and Peckham Platform. Vallin told us that opportunities are like snowflakes, they touch your hands then they are gone. In addition, these unbridled opportunities contribute to the widening of my cultural horizon. Another thing that LOT has taught me is the power of language with a weekly vocabulary slot so that we are better able to articulate our thoughts. Lindsay has told us that all of these factors helped us confound and not conform to stereotypes and will ultimately assist us

on our journey as young leaders. I was privileged enough to attend the 2013 LOT Business Education Leadership conference in Houston, Texas. It was a remarkable experience from a business perspective and definitely an eye opener. I believe I speak for all my fellow leaders when I say we went there expecting to listen to a few 'motivational' speeches, but we got way more than what we bargained for. Firstly, the preparation procedure was very meticulous. We had to undergo tasks that professional entrepreneur would have to take in modern day corporate world. Tasks include: Creating a resume, personalising a business card and developing a business proposal.

This trip definitely made me look at networking differently. It highlighted the importance of getting out there in the business world; meeting new people that you can polish your knowledge with and creating acquaintances with people in positions of authority that can help you rise even higher. For example, networking skills include: Personal Networks = Family and friends that can motivate you. Operation Networks = People who can push you forward in the business rankings. Strategic Networks = People that are more knowledgeable than you.

I had one memorable seminar at the conference that captured Bold and Courageous Leadership. For me Bonnie St. John's speech was immensely effective because it profoundly touched on experiences that you would not hear about. Attributes such as persistence and suffering were touched on in-depth. She was taken to hospital because of a disability at the age of five. Later on in life she had to have a prosthetic leg and she was an only child so she faced all of these tribulations alone. Then at 16 years old she worked out her destiny. That was to ski and represent America at the Paralympics. Just imagine how long suffering and persistent she was having experienced pain for so long. I'm absolutely positive that an example like that made everyone in the room say to themselves; I am young I have decades ahead of me and if I try my best in all circumstances, then success will certainly follow!

I have benefitted immensely from this amazing trip and cannot wait to put the skills learnt to good use. I would like to thank British Airways; especially Mary Barry and Mary Brew for providing the complimentary tickets for the group. I must also thank Sarah Webb for the training given on presentation and interview techniques prior to the conference. It helped to build our confidence and take constructive feedback. Thanks as well to Mrs Cooper from the Gallery of African Arts for her unexpected largesse, which helped to pay for accommodation and registration. For without their support, sponsorship and conviction in the Leaders of Tomorrow, it would not have even been possible for us to get across the Atlantic Ocean.

LOT Presentation Evening

"Empowering young people with unbridled opportunities"

Theme: Courageous Leadership:

PROGRAMME

LOT 10th Presentation and Celebration of Achievements

Time PM	Item	Presenters
5:30-5:35	Welcome and Introduction	Micheal Williams and Mayowa Sofekun-LOT Alumni
5:35-5:45	LOT Programme of Activities	Lindsay Johns-LOT Volunteer mentor Vallin Miller- LOT Executive Director
5:45-6:25	Young Leaders' Presentation	LOT students
6:25-6:35	Testimonies	Parents of LOT Students
6:35-6:45	Guest Speaker 1	Mary Barry-BA's Community Investments Manager
6:45-7:00	Guest Speaker 2	Action Jackson-Director of FIXUP Seminars
7:00-7:30	Networking and refreshments	
7:30	Close	



W: www.lotlondon.org.uk E: info@lotlondon.org.uk T: 07875216428