

LOT Progress Report

Despite the massive reduction in funding from Southwark Council, Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) continues to transform the lives of young people in London. We are grateful for the support and sponsorship from Southwark Youth Service, Peckham Space, Walworth and Peckham Academy, Kingsdale Foundation School, British Airways, National Black MB, USA and Youth Learning Network.

LOT is now a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and the next stage is to raise a minimum of £5000 so that we can register and receive full Charitable status from the Charity Commission. The young people continue to receive weekly mentoring and after school support in Peckham and we are extremely grateful to the Youth Service for providing meeting rooms.

Successful activity we have had during the last 6 months included:

- Eight students attending the annual life changing Business Education conference held in Atlanta, Georgia (September 2011) **For the 3rd consecutive year British Airways continues to sponsor the group by providing complimentary tickets and active participating in the youth conferences**
- LOT has worked with Peckham Space to mount a very successful music arts exhibition at the Tate Modern entitled Inheritance Track. The idea was for the students to engage parents and other relatives by asking them to hand over, badges, tee shirts, rear concert tickets, reel to reel tapes, cultural/heritage songs and then do research on why the songs have had such an impact on the students. Peckham Space printed 1000 copies on vinyl and they are now collector's item.
- In partnership with YLN, we held an all inspiring youth conference to celebrated and recognise the achievements of young people who gave a presentations on the leadership conference in Atlanta and the educational cultural exchange visit to Ghana-both trips sponsored by BA
- One of our Alumni has a prestigious placement at Lloyds bank and she arranged for some of their bankers to conduct a joint financial literacy workshop for over 30 Sixth Formers from Walworth Academy. The bankers discussed the credit crunch, bailouts, the impact of interest rates on the economy and outlined key skills needed to compete and work in the City.

Other Success Stories

- Over 90% of current LOT students have been awarded places at colleges to pursue A levels, apprenticeships etc. Of course we have had other students who have dropped out of the programme and it very difficult to track their progress but they know that the door is always opened and some do come back for additional support and guidance
- Two of our students who won full scholarships to Westminster and Winchester Independent Schools have settled in well and are making excellent progress

The next stage is now set for us to launch a new look Leaders of Tomorrow, have our own website, Charity number and provide additional in-school support for the most vulnerable children and young people.

This will be a very challenging year for us as the funding squeeze has impacted adversely on our programme of work. With the unstinting support of from parents, volunteers, participating school and key sponsors such as BA and Peckham Space, LOT will survive and go from strength to strength.

On behalf of the young people, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our supporters and sponsors; particularly Peckham Space who contributed £700 so that LOT could open its first bank account. Without British Airway generous sponsorship, none of our young people would have been able to attend inspirational leadership conferences in New Orleans, Los Angeles and Atlanta during the last 3 years.

A profound thank you once more to Mary Barry and Mary Brew from BA's Community Relations Department for believing in our work by investing in the future of Black young people from very tough inner city areas.

As a BA nominee Olympic Torchbearer, I shall carry the Torch with pride in July. It is also recognition of the sterling work we have been doing over the past 10 years and the life changing opportunities given to Black and minority ethnic young people.

Vallin Miller

Founder and Executive Director

Leaders of Tomorrow

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