

Congratulations to the nominees!

BTWSC Brent Youth Spotlight (BYS) highlighted deserving young people because we believe it is important to celebrate them when they're on the right track, and not only focus on them when they take a wrong turn.

As Sarah Teather MP says, "It is unfortunate that many young people are too often stereotyped as having no consideration for those around them. Projects like these help breakdown that stereotype."

I share Marc Wadsworth's view expressed at the BYS ceremony (see back page) that it is important to give encouragement to every young person that is achieving.

The BYS prizes included Gabrielle's new single 'Ten Years Time', and Martin Luther King biography. The lyrics of Gabrielle's single are apt: 'Do you have a vision? Do you have a goal?' Where do you see yourself in ten years time?

Without a vision, we have little purpose or focus, and we can easily drift. It is helpful to have a dream, and work towards it with self-belief, determination and perseverance.

We profiled Henri Appiah because BTWSC is about raising aspirations and promoting social inclusion. A large number of role models appear to be in the entertainment or sports field, and we thought it was important to highlight an entrepreneur young people could relate to. At 16, he dreamt of succeeding in the restaurant business. Today, he has come full circle. He owns three franchises including the first restaurant he worked at.

The thousand mile journey begins with one step. I want to encourage us all, no matter how old we are, to think of where we want to be in ten years time, and press on towards that goal.

Martin Luther King had a dream, worked towards it and left a legacy.

Let's keep doing our best wherever we find ourselves. Let's live in such a way that others are touched by our lives, and are better off because we lived.

Ms Serwah
BTWSC co-ordinator

BYS nominees Kader Osman, Sendj Outara, and Jovan Stanley, his brother Jereen and mum Beverly Burke, Bobo Bah, Nialy Diallo and Ronnie Twurnasi were amongst those who participated in a question and answer session at Tavistock Hall with Brent East MP Sarah Teather on Friday 13th August.

They found out more about the work of a member of parliament. Some of the questions centred around leisure provision for the youth, closure of youth clubs, and anti-social behaviour orders. "I prefer to deal with anti-social issues by using individual contracts," said Teather, explaining Lib-Dem policy. "We work with the family and the young person concerned. But it's not always young people."

One of the ways open to opposition MPs to effect change is by campaigning, she said. She gave example of Nathan, a 14 year old constituent that has "been kicked off using Gladstone Park for skateboarding. Teather's office has printed petitions, which Nathan and his young friends will use to canvass for signatures from local residents to convince the Council to build a skate-board park.



"What I can do is to try and persuade the Council to act. Sometimes we succeed, and sometimes we don't," continued the MP. "But I tend to do that by partly involving people."

Ten Years Time

Written by Gabrielle & Jonathan Shorten. Published by Gabsongs/ Universal Music. Recorded by Gabrielle (Go Beat Records)



Do you have a vision? Do you have a goal?
I'm watching you shrugging your shoulders,
telling me you just don't know!
Do you get emotional? Is there something
that you're passionate about?
I can tell that you're still searching, still trying
to work it all out...
It takes time... take your time!
Umm... You will know when it feels right

Where you gonna be in ten years time?
Will you be happy with the way you've been living
your life?
Will you be alright?
When you're looking back to all the years gone by
Will there be something that you'll say that you
shoulda done right... In you your life?

What would you fight for? For what do you stand?
How will you go about it? Do you have a master plan?
What are your demons? How much for your soul?
Have you found religion... and gone down that road?
I guess we all need something to believe...
Times haven't changed... that's how it's gotta be!

Usher's Confessions Part III

East London's Newham College recently introduced its flexible 'personal interest and lifestyle' Get On Track* course with Usher, who was then sitting at No. 1 with 'Bum' in the charts, as its founding graduate. Here are some of his 'confessions':

On downloading I think if the music industry had embraced it earlier, it probably wouldn't have got out of hand. Those unofficial websites make it kind of hard to monitor where the music's going. I think the best way to control it is to offer more - clip notes, credits, some visuals, etc. (Usher's 2001 album '8701' had to be re-done after tracks were leaked on the internet ahead

of release).

On finishing college: I've had thoughts of going back to college. (Usher was presented with the first Get On Track diploma).



*Get On track allows learners to choose units and learn at their own pace. They can also continue after a break. It's not only classroom-based. Visits and practical experience are an integral part of the course delivery.