



NEWSLETTER

News from the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust

Issue 7 June 2008

Education Mentoring Projects



Mentoring in Trinity School

Between January and May 2008, Sam Kalubowila, the Centre's Widening Participation Officer, ran a mentoring project for almost 50 black and ethnic minority Year 11 students from Trinity Church of England High School. The children were matched with 25 current BME undergraduates from the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University. The project aimed to increase the students' motivation to study in the final months and weeks before their GCSE exams to achieve the A-C grades they were capable of and to open their eyes to a university environment.

Weekly/fortnightly meetings ran Wednesday afternoons, allowing the university students to meet their mentees after school in an informal and relaxed environment. As well as face-to-face mentoring, the pupils received guidance on choosing universities, the application process, and some subject specific tuition. Sheridan Lewis, Head of Boys Achievement at Trinity High School said "the pupils have really benefited from having positive role models to learn from, as well as the crucial boost they have got in terms of subject specific and coursework support."

Mentoring in Balderstone High School and Falinge Park High School

Sam has also been supervising a mentoring project with young people from schools in Rochdale. University of Manchester students of Pakistani heritage have been mentoring pupils of similar heritage at Balderstone High School and Falinge Park High School. Pupils have worked with their mentors on a weekly basis within the school but have also been to visit the University's 'Cultural Assets' and engaged in other widening participation activity on-campus. Meetings involved academic and student support. Sam has successfully run this project with Rochdale Aim higher for three years.

Library News

FREE Event
Local Studies
Day Training

On May 20th, 2008 the Resource Centre hosted a FREE training in researching black history. The event was held in conjunction with the Greater Manchester County Records Office and Manchester Archives and Local Studies

Turn to Page 3 to find out more

Housing resources

Our housing section is being incorporated into our main library, which has unearthed lots of interesting material, especially on the local Hulme area.



Meet Bradley Lincoln

Every issue we try and provide our readers with an opportunity to access thoughts and experiences of people who are working in Manchester in race relations as practitioners, historians or community workers. In this issue we'd like to introduce you to Bradley Lincoln, the founder of the Multiple Heritage Project.

ABOUT ME

Hello, my name is Bradley Lincoln and I am the founder of the Multiple Heritage Project, my contribution to the ongoing discussion about mix-d identity...let me tell you where this all began.

My Father is Black Jamaican and my mother is White British. I grew up with conflicting descriptions for who I was and experienced different labels from my heritages. As a child I suffered racial abuse but experienced different support from my parents. My father had told me not to worry about being called racist names because I was not "black"; whilst my mother told me to defend myself by asserting I was "black and proud". Such Instances generated the feeling of a tug of loyalties which later grew into the "mix-d" concept. Later, I came to recognise that monoheritage perspectives, Black or White, were very different to the daily living of my own mix-d identity.

After finding few places that recognised and celebrated the mix-d identity I decided that it was important to give myself permission to create confidence in my identity and pride in being mix-d. Through work nationally and locally I have found it is vital that mix-d young people are heard, listened to and understood.

ABOUT MY WORK

Mix-d people are one of the UK's fastest growing ethnic minority groups. The Multiple Heritage Project explores and, where necessary, tackles issues which are important to this group. Our mix-d concept captures the unique experiences of an ever growing number of individuals in the UK who seek a place where they can discuss issues related to their mix-d backgrounds and to simply affirm a positive self identity; but many such conversations have traditionally met with awkwardness, been ignored or trivialised in public debate. Our work, research and training is a contribution to an on going discussion and a space for people from mix-d backgrounds to have a voice and share a range of different viewpoints.

The project has:

- Practitioner training
- Young people's conferences
- Resource production - DVD, glossaries and fact sheets and upcoming photographic book
- Workshops

Please visit the website to find out more - <http://www.multipleheritage.co.uk/bradley.html>

WORKING WITH THE AHMED IQBAL ULLAH EDUCATION TRUST

With the support of the Education Trust will be hosting a conference for mix-d young people across the UK; and in October, my photographic book celebrating the diversity of the mix-d population of the UK will be launched.

Local Studies Day - Finding black history in Manchester's archives and libraries

On May 20th, 2008 the Resource Centre collaborated with the Greater Manchester County Records Office and Manchester Archives and Local Studies to host a free adult learning day at the Windrush Millennium Centre, Alexandra Road, Moss Side. This proved to be very successful with a lively atmosphere throughout.

The day, which was attended by 41 participants, included presentations from the three centres, showing the black history to be found in their collections and several people commented that, following these talks, they would now visit the centres.

Local historian, Linford Sweeney then took two further sessions. The first was on Jamaican history, which was said to be very informative by attendees and the second highlighted his own research tracing his West Indian ancestors including the DNA analysis he had undergone to further this research. These sessions proved to be very popular and interactive with often heated discussions, as one participant stated:

'Linford Sweeney's presentations were excellent'

Finally, with experts close at hand, some participants chose to use the computers provided to investigate their own family history. The sessions had given them the confidence to begin their searches, as they now had an understanding of where to start and what to do.

Lunch, given free of charge, was also very popular with attendees.

We are delighted with the success of this event and the enthusiasm of those who attended. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with many people stating that they only wished the day had been longer and others asking when the next such day would take place.

'The day has been very, very educational and well planned'.

'Please have more days like this one'

We'll see what we can do.



New E-Journal: Studies in Race and Ethnicity

The centre is in the process of creating a new FREE e-journal, which will hopefully be published by Manchester University Press in the Autumn.

The journal will comprise of academic essays, reports about new research as well as long and short book reviews. It will be of interest to academics, students and researchers but also to practitioners and those who wish to keep abreast of new developments in this subject and up to date with publications.

If you would like to be added to our distribution list or want to find out more about this journal, please contact the Centre.



Your Future, Your Choice

Highlighting the benefits of Higher Education to Greater Manchester's BME Secondary pupils

This year Your Future, Your Choice will be held twice to accommodate demand for places on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th June. The conference features workshops based around future career opportunities, team building, and also looks at ways of identifying and overcoming potential barriers to success.

Staff from the Race Relations Resource Centre, the Education Trust, the University's careers service, and Contact Theatre, as well as current undergraduates will host the day, which is held on University Campus, and each day will see up to 70 BME Y10 pupils from across Greater Manchester.



How to contact us:

The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust are open 9.30am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

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Centre website: www.manchester.ac.uk/racerelations

Trust website: www.racearchive.org.uk

The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust is a registered charity. Its registration number is 1089257.

NEW BOOK OUT SOON!

Mohini and the Monster

Our latest fiction book is **Mohini and the monster**, an Indian folk story retold and illustrated by Marie Conway and Year 2 children from St Thomas Community Primary School.



Come with the children of St Thomas' on a journey into the world of Mohini, a young girl in an Indian village who battles and defeats the monster, Bhasmasura.

