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SOLID NEWS is supported by;



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SOLID ISSUES SPECIAL

GUN AND KNIFE CRIME ARTICLE FOR SOLID NEWS

Unfortunately, today we live in a world in which guns and knives are carried and used by children of all ages across England. Long gone are the days when disputes and arguments were settled with fists, this current crop of youth do their fighting by using the bullet that punctures



unlived dreams, and the knife which pierces great ambition and hope. A Recent study completed by BBC News, shows that gun and knife crime has gone up by 14% since 2003, and that was only 4 short years ago.

I believe that young people carry guns and knives to:

- 1) Enhance 'street respect'
- 2) Not come across as weak
- 3) Attract more friends
- 4) Be respected
- 5) Feel secure and safe



I personally feel that the dramatic rise in gun crime since the turn of the new millennium is down to the glamorisation of guns, knives and gang culture being portrayed from America on TV channels like MTV BASE and Hollywood films. This gangster lifestyle is being advertised to children across England in an appealing manner, making children want to live a life just like their idols whom they see on

TV more or less everyday. Hoes and pimps are seen as a sign of strength and respect in America, and this glamorisation in the media is seen by children all across England influencing them share and act out these fantasies also.

As a teenager living in London, I believe the only way how these horrifying, devastating thoughts and actions are going to stop entering children's minds is if the government stops allowing such malicious and immoral criminal scenes from being shown on English TV. Some may call my views controversial, but my powerful beliefs have been strengthened by the shooting of my

cousin at the beginning of August. This enlightened me that children don't know the consequences of such severe actions, and do such awful things without thinking of the repercussions. The shooting of my cousin got me thinking, and it suddenly dawned on me that my cousin wasn't doing anything wrong to harm anyone, in fact he took part in community work to aid others; but yet evil and sinful actions still came knocking at his door. Maybe the good really do die young.

Written by

Eathan Sergeant

Bible Bites

All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.
 Matthew 26:52

WASSUP

The Solid As A Rock GRAPHICS WORKSHOP

By *Shaun Simms*

In the graphics group we have been doing various things such as video recording, taking photographs with a digital camera and downloading the video and photos into a laptop.

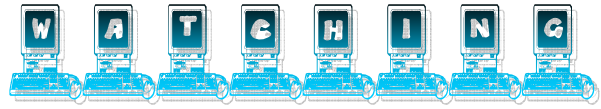
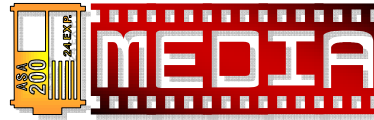


We took turns in videoing the drama and dance groups. We also took pictures or 'stills' when they were not looking so that we could get pictures that were not posed and unrealistic.

The photos and video were downloaded to the laptop using special cables. Then we were shown how to use graphic software to add titles and special effects. Here's an example of my work!



For more details about Solid As A Rock, email saayouth@yahoo.co.uk



My Life with Kylie (...well one day a least!)



Don't you just hate Monday mornings? Well I do and waking up extra early for warm up was not helping my mood, but as the good student I am I went in anyway.

When I arrived at college there was a bit of confusion in the air, mainly because we got a tip off on the previous Friday in dance, we was told to look immaculate, stupidly I didn't take the hint, I thought it was a trick we were so confused we didn't know what to expect and the rumours became ludicrous.

I didn't have to wait long to find out what was actually going on. Jenny (head of dance) passed me in the corridor and told me to follow her; we took the back route to avoid people over hearing. Jenny joked and told me that I had done something bad and it was punishment, as usual I glazed over the past few weeks trying to think of what I had done but before accidentally confessing she *casually* told me that Kylie Minogue was coming to visit the school and me and Troy had to give her the grand tour. My mind stopped for a moment because I could hear the words what she was saying but couldn't quite comprehend. This was a hush-hush event and was top secret, I felt like a secret agent, I was so excited though and just wanted to scream it at the top of my voice but I restrained myself.

Once it had sunk in the first thing I could think about was, "OH MY GOD WHAT AM I WEARING" which kind of proved the vanity of Brit School students, (I should have listened on Friday).

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REPRESENT

Eathan Sergeant's experience of participating on the National Children's Board



During June 2007 I was interviewed to be part of The NCB Children's Youth Board. Three weeks later I received a phone call from the head of the organisation informing me that I had been accepted into the board and that they were very impressive in my interview. I was delighted to be selected into the board, especially after being told that there were approximately around 125 applicants and only a maximum of 25 could be accepted.

We had our first residential meeting in August, this enabled all of the board members to get to know each other and also analyse other people's personal qualities. I thoroughly enjoyed this new experience. In September we had our first Ministerial meeting, here we met MPs to discuss healthy eating issues across all English schools. As the only Black board member, it gave me and a sense of responsibility and happiness that as a black person, I was giving an input into government related issues and giving advice to politicians about how to improve lifestyles for children in England.

It was quite interesting in seeing how each child from a different city of England, had a different explanation when it came to racial division

The last Residential was in Birmingham. Here we discussed School matters and how certain circumstances at School could begin to affect your personal life. Different aspects of school life that we looked at were; overloading of home/coursework, bullying, racial division and bad teaching. It was quite interesting in seeing how each child from a different city of England, had a different explanation when it came to racial division, and some were shocked and amazed when I told them of my school environment and how all religions and races communicated and mixed together and how there was no separation with these matters.

The various aspects of children's lives is what makes the Children Youth Board so interesting, and to have children of different ages varying from 8-17 contributing in group discussions, means that there is a range of descriptions in positive and negative aspects of school life. The NCB Children's Youth Board enables me and other children to express their views and opinions on certain matters in education, healthy eating, religion and race. Every member listens to each others opinions and is not nervous to give their own. The 25 group of children all get along well and the board co-ordinators often take us out after the 1st day of the 2 day residential to reward us for our hard work and valued input. Although my time on

the Board has more or less just begun, I already feel that it has given me very valuable skills such as, giving opinions in a large group, listening to others views and also the important skill of being able to plan a presentation.

My Life with Kylie (continued)

By time she was ready to arrive the word had somehow leaked out, but it was ok because apparently she didn't mind meeting a few people. She finally did arrive in her fancy car and was greeted by a swarm of Brit School students. Me and Troy were *so* excited as we pushed through the crowd to meet her one on one, I felt so privileged to have had this opportunity. From the car we led her down to the foyer, as much as I wanted to scream and shout and take pictures like everyone else, I had to remain professional.

One of the first places we showed Kylie was the dance studio (my home) I was so excited because some dance students were still oblivious to the fact that Kylie was here and couldn't wait to see their faces when I walked in with her. They were in total shock! Kylie asked us if she could see some of our routines, I was told to join in, it was such a cool feeling to know that Kylie Minogue was watching me dance less than 3 feet away from me!

We quickly moved on to show her round the school, she loved every strand so much and was amazed by the talent; she kept saying how she wished she was 16 again and could come to the Brit School.

Daniel Chambers



Bible Bites
1 John 2 : 14 - 15

COMMUNITY NEWS

UnLtd Sport Relief Funding

UnLtd Sport Relief is a funding programme aimed at young people aged 11 to 21 who want to run a community project that uses sport or recreational activities to address a conflict or social problem. The money can be used to pay for project costs and UnLtd offers a package of support for personal and project development including one to one support and access to networking events. For further details see: www.unltd.org.uk/template.

Community cycle grants

Organisations working with communities in London, such as charities, not-for-profit groups and schools, can apply for grants of up to £5,000 to fund cycling projects throughout the capital.

London Community Cycle Grants

The grants are intended to promote, encourage and support cycling across London and are targeted at social groups that are currently under-represented in cycling.

The TfL funded Community Cycling Grants are distributed by the Cycle London Promotion Partnership (CLPP), which consists of TfL, London Cycling Campaign, CTC, Sustrans, LondonCycleSport and the Good Going campaign.

You can really make a difference. Read the LCC's report on the 2006 grants scheme (PDF 1.2MB)

Junior Road Safety



Do you know how to stay street safe when you're out and about? Can you get other people to listen and take notice of important information?

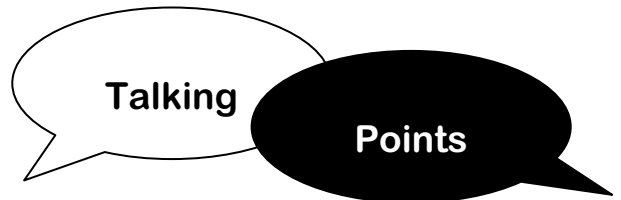
If so, you'd make a great Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO). Get all the information you need about:

- How to become a JRSO
- Involving competitions and other fun activities for your school
- What JRSOs really think of their jobs

So if you want to be a JRSO, already are one, or just want top tips to stay street safe, start surfing.

Why not meet the [Street Safe Squad](#) and download their [cool pictures](#) for your computer screen. Or test your skills in our brand new [interactive game](#). For more information go to:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/projectsandschemes/communityandeducation/2463.aspx>



It's happened again! Yet another wannabe has had their dreams crushed because of skeletons rattling in their murky cupboards. The hope of fame and fortune has been dashed because of a shameful past.

But think of it; How many of us have blameless pasts? Most of us have done things we were not proud of, but should we be punished for our past forever? Before we condemn anyone think on this;

- Has the person been properly punished for their offence/crime?
- Is there evidence of repentance?
- Has the person changed from what they were?
- Are we any better than them?

FAMOUS TALENT SHOW EXITS

Oct 2007: Cece Jghalef was disqualified from X Factor finalist group Hope after a criminal conviction was discovered

June 2007: Richard Bates was withdrawn from Britain's Got Talent after discovery he was on the sex offenders' register

Oct 2002: Peter Smith quit Pop Stars: The Rivals after admitting he was too old to compete - by two months

2001/2: Nadine Coyle was disqualified from the Irish version of Popstars for being two years underage - she later won a place in Girls Aloud

Is there any place for the concept of redemption in modern society? Can we ever let bygones be bygones?

