

# Mini Messenger



THIS EDITION BY BIG BROTHER BURNGREAVE



COMIC BY ROBIN MILLET

# REACH UP YOUTH

[WWW.REACHUPYOUTH.CO.UK](http://WWW.REACHUPYOUTH.CO.UK)

YOUTH CHAMPION

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# CHAMPIONING YOUTH IN THE TIME OF COVID19

STORY BY YOUSUF IDRIS

PHOTO BY KARINA LAX

“Without the support of Safiya and the leaders I don't know where I would be today so I am thankful for everything they have done to help me.”

I'm a 16 year old Champion at Big Brother Burngreave. I have been a part of Big Brother for the past 3 years, since I was in year 9.

Ever since I started attending in 2018, I looked up to the older generation as role models, inspiring me to be a better person and sparking my passion for basketball. Without the support of Safiya and the leaders I don't know where I would be today so I am thankful for everything they have done to help me, which made me even more excited to be able to give back, once I became a champion.

“The age of a champion is much closer to a kid.”

The role of a Big Brother champion is very important, kind of a middle man between the leaders and the kids. The age of a champion is a lot closer to a kid, compared to a leader, and this allows individuals who are a bit less confident, to have an approachable role model around their age.

I became a Champion in 2020 and was really looking forward to being able to lead and set a good example through activities and sports, giving me a responsibility. However, it has been very difficult to do so since the start of the pandemic. As a community, we were no longer able to host our weekly sessions. This made it difficult to have an impact. Nonetheless, the champions and leaders came together deciding to do weekly zoom calls to maintain

the same structure through online interaction, and not just deciding to close down in the face of adversity. As the restrictions eased, we managed to set up sporting sessions in smaller bubbles and this worked well.

“I looked up to the older generation.”

In the end, even though it has been a rough start this past year, I cannot wait to be able to properly resume my role as a champion at Big Brother Burngreave and to make a difference to the community by inspiring young peers to find their passion, making changes to their lives for the better.

The **Mini Messenger** needs **youth groups, schools and people aged 5-25** to help create a section made by and for young people. Training and support is available. If you would like to **get involved** please contact **[mail@burngreavemessenger.org](mailto:mail@burngreavemessenger.org)**



# URGENT PLEA TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG



STORY BY A.O.S.

A recent rise in concern about the mental health and well-being of UK citizens has seen focus on the next generation of adults being overlooked. Many young adults in education do not have extracurricular activities or passionate local role models to put them on the right path. Recent surveys indicate that as many as one in five teens suffers from clinical depression.

## MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

I am a 16-year-old who has just left secondary school and experienced first-hand the neglectful attitude school representatives can have towards the out of school lives of children.

Although student mentors have been implemented, some teachers without any psychological training are expected to take responsibility of troubled kids. In my own experience this has led to more issues. E.g., being unable to open up to teachers, feeling alone in school, losing interest in coming to school and becoming distant with friends.

Another issue with the "student mentors" is that they are used to punish children instead of helping them. I have had friends who have been pulled out of a lesson to be scolded for not finishing their homework or lateness, this makes

them reluctant to tell the teachers the reasons because they see them as a threat and not a mentor, ultimately leaving them to suffer in silence. This can leave naïve and vulnerable children open to peer pressure.

**"Lack of focus on children's mental health has become a pandemic that needs to be eradicated."**

## WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

This lack of focus on children's mental health has become a pandemic that needs to be eradicated. This can be achieved through proper funding for mental health facilities in schools. The next generation that will run this country learning how to be mentally positive will encourage them to do monumental things in the future.

Every low-income area in Sheffield needs to be provided with youth clubs where children can feel welcomed regardless of age, colour and personality. Grass-roots community organisations running weekly sessions where the youth play sports as well as regularly being taught about being safe and productive activities by the leaders would have a huge impact.

**"Every low income area in Sheffield needs to be provided with youth clubs where children can feel welcomed"**

If more organisations where kids can congregate were funded, less incidents like stabbings or high depression rates would be seen. I attend my youth club weekly, it has helped me to understand my skills, talent and passion. Not all teachers are disconnected, I have had favourite teachers who took me under their wing and pushed me to focus and to understand I CAN DO THIS.

There should be Diversity & Equality clubs, ambassadors for young people, anti-bullying campaigns all year around, less stereotyping and labelling, more understanding and communication. Kids are more than our attendance score.

## CONCLUSION

This is an issue that I feel strongly about. I see people who used to be my friends following paths that will get them nowhere just because they're influenced to do pointless activities. I would like the government to make it a priority to focus on these children because their parents don't, their schools do not give them a reason to, and some of those friends are a negative influence. This could be a 10-year project that will prove to be beneficial for the whole of the UK.

These are children crying for help, left unanswered and adults are the only ones that can help.



# BRIDGING THE GAP THE IMPORTANCE OF JOB FAIRS

STORY BY SAMI - 16 YEARS OLD

PHOTOS BY KARINA LAX

Although secondary schools give you knowledge about C.V's and work skills, work experience, work placements and applying for positions at school, they only include the tip of the iceberg and miss out the majority of what I need to know, transitioning from my childhood to adulthood.

As a young man from a diverse community, I prefer finding support from familiar organisations and groups who understand my culture. Community job fairs are much more catered for your needs as a person. The connections to meet some owners of local stores could possibly land you an interview and many like to work within the area; being educated on what National Insurance is and why we get taxed at the beginning of our professional adult life. It also gives me and my peers a taste of adulthood and normal working life.

After the first ever Reach Up Youth job fair, I am now confident that I can attend interviews and recognize that there is a level of responsibility for what you are saying in an interview. That's why a few important skills can make a difference in selling your capability for the position you're applying for

## A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD REMEMBER:

- Good posture shows confidence.
- Smiling shows friendliness.
- Punctuality shows discipline.

## PREPARE YOURSELF FOR ANY QUESTION:

- Why do you want to work for us?
- Tell us about you?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- Are there any questions for us?



Volunteering is attractive for any job, the fact that you give your free time to something you care about is rare nowadays, dedicating your personal time is a good sell for any manager.

Finally, my advice is to always try to apply for a job or a position you like and that can enhance your skills because if you work a job you enjoy, you'll be happier and more effective.

**COME WORK WITH US!**

**CLOSING DATE:  
13TH DECEMBER  
2021  
12 NOON**

### POSITIONS OPEN

- P/T finance & Admin officer
- 14hrs (flexible hrs)
- Processing day to day finance responsibility
- a very exciting role working with communities and using your skills to work in a team.
- Enthusiastic personality
- excellent communication
- working in a team
- training will be provided

If you would like to apply please send an email to [reachupyouth@outlook.com](mailto:reachupyouth@outlook.com)

