

the **AMOS BURSARY**

Realising the ambitions of young men

END OF YEAR
IMPACT REPORT
2015

Education is not a
guarantee of wealth.
It is a guarantee against
abject poverty.

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Ivan Beckley

2nd year

University College London



Ivan has had an exceptional year. He was in the top ten for the RARE Rising Star Awards outstanding black student in the UK, and in the top five for the Powerful Media 'Future Leaders magazine'.

In 2014, he and a colleague founded Limitless, a programme led entirely by inspiring university students to raise the ambition of students aged 12 to 14 within secondary non-selective schools across London. He spent the Summer in New York at Adjaye Associates and produced a video about his experience.

Ivan said:

Networking is not a natural skill for most people and I was one of those people. But because of the fantastic opportunities the AB has offered me, I have been confident enough to build the network and contacts that has allowed my company Limitless to be where it is today, and where we hope to be in the future. In fact it was at one of my very first networking events with the AB, located at Cass Business School, where we connected with our first business advisor and mentor.

WHAT IS THE AMOS BURSARY?

The Amos Bursary is dedicated to empowering academically able state educated young people of African and Caribbean heritage in London with the objective of enabling them to realise their career ambitions. We work in partnership with volunteers and supporters to deliver programmes and provide opportunities that help our students to achieve successful performance throughout university, and enhance their ability to thrive in a competitive world.

Our vision

Realising the Ambitions of young British men of African and Caribbean descent.

Our values

Be Confident – By building inner belief.

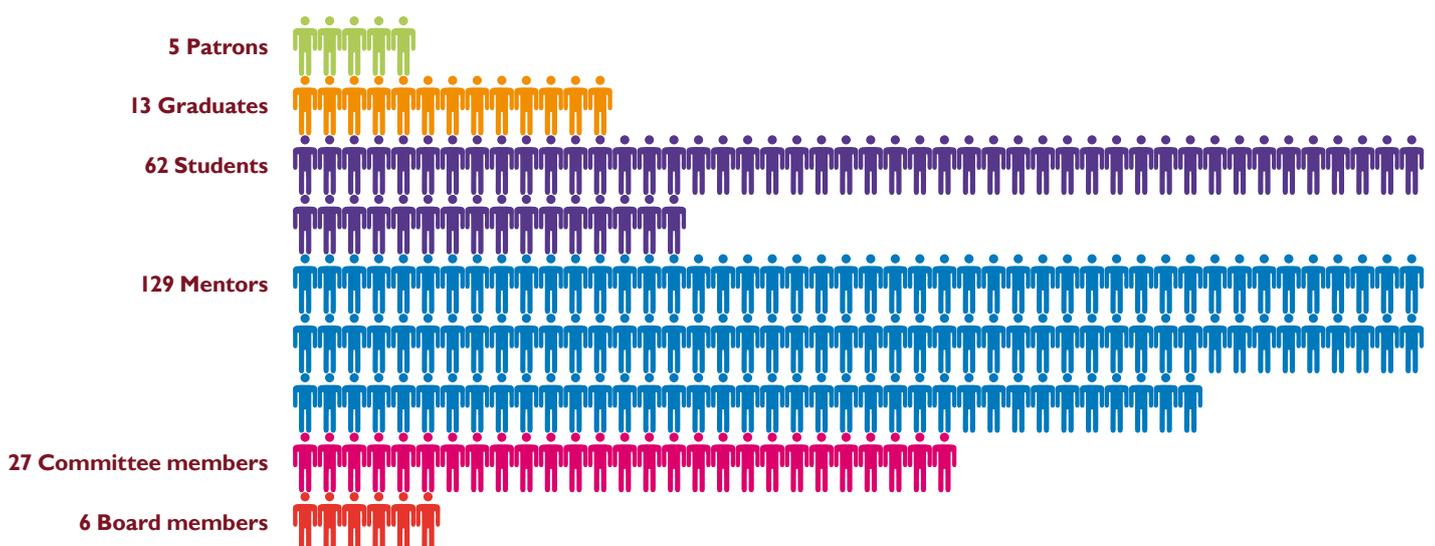
Be Inspired – By surrounding yourself with outstanding people and experiences.

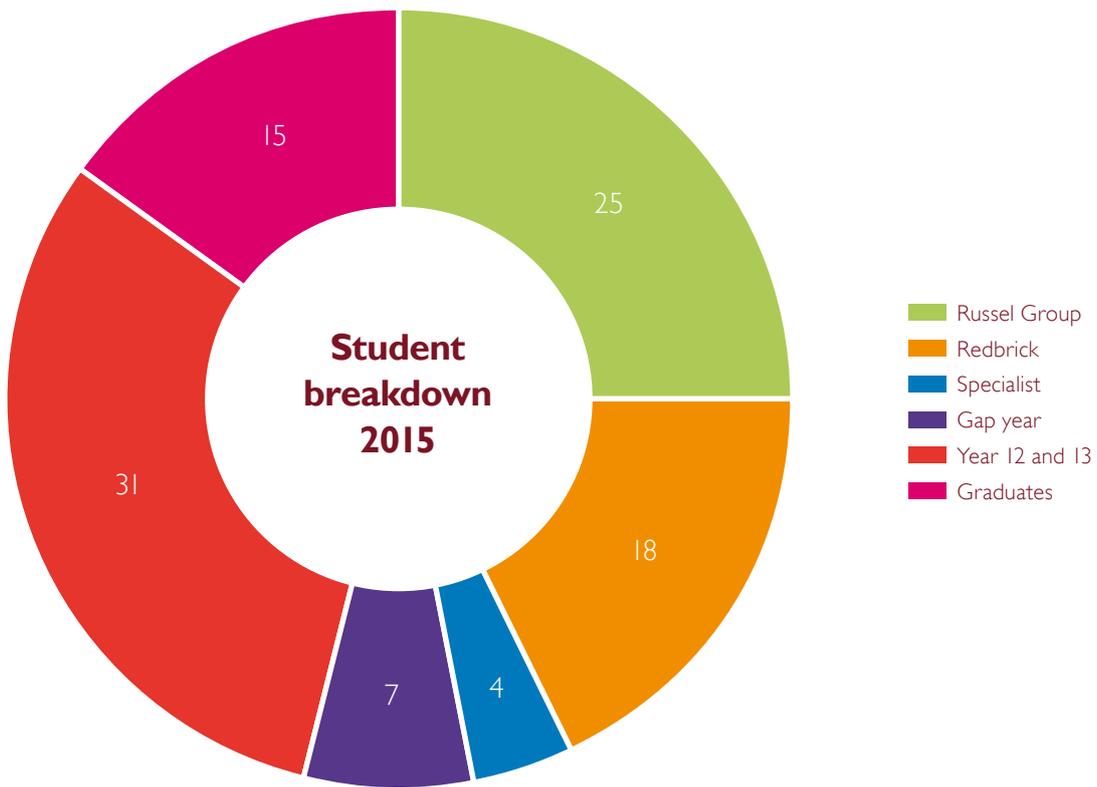
Be Ambitious – By making the impossible possible.

Our Goals

- Ensuring that our group of young men are fully equipped to make informed and appropriate choices for their futures.
- Providing a pool of talented and work-ready young men who reflect the diversity of our future workforce.
- Making sure that businesses know we have this pool of outstanding students they can invest in.
- Giving employers the opportunity to tap into the creative skills and talents of the next generation of employees.

Our people, facts and figures 2015





WELCOME

The Amos Bursary is pleased to share with you our Impact Report for 2014/15, which demonstrates the positive achievements of our students and the impact the charity has made in the last year. Given the lack of racial diversity in UK organisations, the Amos Bursary continues to provide a much sought after resource essential for building a more diverse workforce.

With the help of our supporters, committee members and mentors we have made major strides towards the long term development of emerging talent from the British African and Caribbean community in London.

Our focus in 2015 was to ensure that the Bursary was in a strong position to maintain and provide our students and mentors with high quality services and support. As always, fundraising was a priority to secure the future of the Bursary.

The beginning of 2015 was extremely beneficial for the Bursary. Our patrons set up a fundraising committee led by Heather Kerzner and Gerry De Veaux in order to raise much needed funds and to help us expand our network of contacts with organisations and individuals prepared to support our cause.

As a consequence, we began the year with an extremely successful fundraising and networking event at the House of Lords and ended the year with a net surplus.

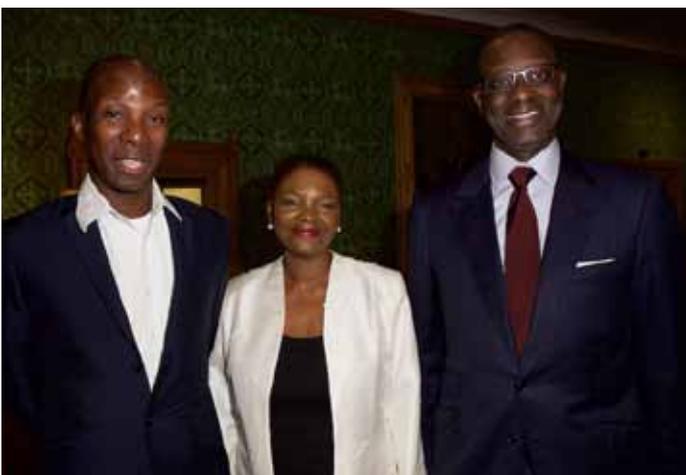
In March the 2015 cohort of students, their parents and mentors met Princess Beatrice of York who made her first visit to the Bursary. We look forward to further visits from her in the future.

In July we held our biennial Dinner and Auction, sponsored by Linklaters. Despite the dinner being held on the day of a total tube and rail strike, we had 98% attendance – a real sign of the strength of our support across all sectors.

The final half of the year was dedicated to reshaping the Bursary and ensuring that it was in a strong position for 2016.

We continue to support our students so to enable them to access careers of their choice by delivering engaging programmes, which anecdotal evidence shows have led to higher levels of aspiration. We are also pleased that our international experience programme is growing from strength to strength, with Belize now added to our list of countries.

Finally in order to ensure that we were able to support the attainment, employability and aspiration of our students, we identified additional resources to support the Learning and Development and Mentoring teams by introducing a wider range of industry and career experts and partner organisations.



Our students have made good use of all the opportunities made available to them with pleasing results and significant impacts on their lives. Over the year we have been able to measure Impact and Achievements using four indicators:

Amos Bursary Impact and Achievement

ACADEMIC INDICATORS	OPPORTUNITY INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Academic success ■ Employment success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Securing internships and work experience ■ Access to social experiences and networking opportunities ■ Developing partnerships and collaborations
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL INDICATORS	SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Student recognition programmes ■ Outstanding L and D programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contribution to social responsibility programmes ■ Successful mentoring partnerships

This report is designed to demonstrate the impact that the Bursary is making on our students and how they have maximised the opportunities made available to them.

We hope that the students' own voices will give you an insight into how the Bursary is making a difference to their lives. Our students, who are talented in many ways and are being prepared to succeed at university, in the world of work and as future leaders at work or in society.



INDICATOR ONE

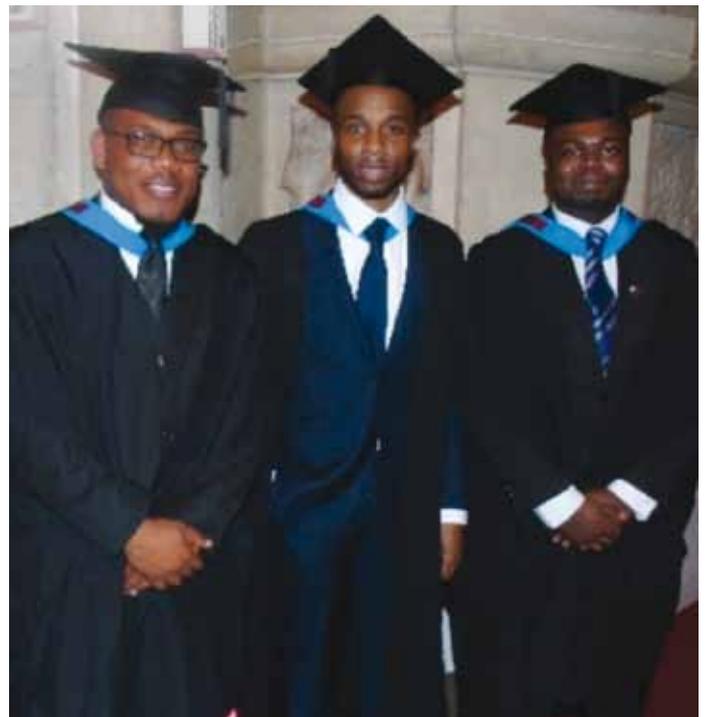
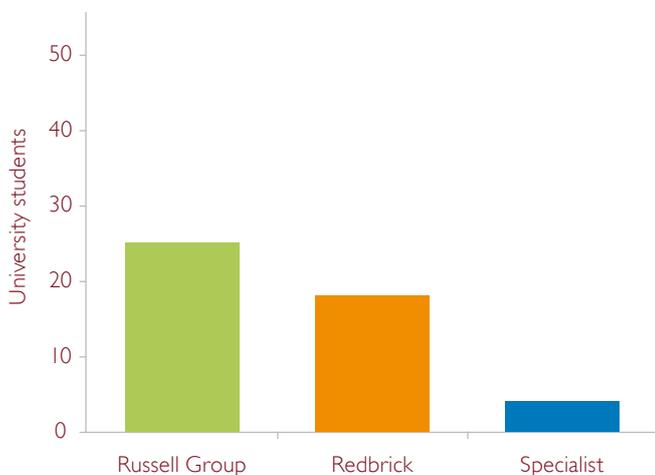
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

We continued to deliver an intensive programme of activities to support our year 12 and 13 students. While also providing tailored programmes for our students who are currently studying for undergraduate degrees, to ensure that they are prepared for the world of work.

In our bid to provide a more inclusive and diverse student population for Universities we continue to maintain student confidence and belief in their abilities. We:

- Prepare our students for University
- Support our students at University
- Give them access to Bursary and scholarship opportunities
- Prepare students for employment

University Cohort 2015



Burphy Zumu, Kenny Imafidon, Paul Egunjobi, Dumebi Dumaka (not in photo)

In 2015 four of our students graduated with three achieving Upper Second Class degrees. All of them are employed, with one having established his own business.

In 2015 seventeen students started university with:

- Eleven securing places at Russell Group Universities, including Imperial College London, UCL, Kings College London, Warwick, York and Southampton.
- Six at Redbrick Universities and other specialist Universities including St Georges, Royal Holloway, Leicester, Kent, Portsmouth and BPP

Personal stories



Academic Success

George Imafidon, 1st Year University College London

George Imafidon has been recognised for his academic performance in his A levels, where he achieved three A's. He was presented with the "Students' Choice Awards" at his College annual awards ceremony in September where he was nominated by the students and teachers for having made the biggest contribution and impact in the College within the last 12 months. He now attends UCL.



Success at University

Isiah Lynn, University College London

This is my first year at university and it has been very intense but I am loving my course. I was voted as President of my Hall out of 10 other candidates, most of whom were 2nd and 3rd year students. I had to campaign, write a manifesto and give a speech in front of the 250+ residents and senior members. So far, this position has taken up around 15 hours a week, but I am excited to see what changes the committee can bring in the year to come. I am involved in the UCL Technology Society, Men's Basketball First Team and the African Caribbean Society. Outside of university I mentor 11 to 14 year-old boys.



Beginning his journey

Kenny Imafidon, Graduate 2015, Entrepreneur and Political Commentator

Kenny is now the co-founder and Managing Director of ClearView Research Ltd and a trustee of the S.W.I.M Foundation (a charity that works with girls and women on domestic violence). Kenny is also a Bite the Ballot ambassador.

During this time at the Bursary, Kenny wrote the Kenny Reports to raise awareness and articulate the challenges young people and disadvantaged communities face. The Reports provided solutions to issues such as voter apathy, crime, housing, youth unemployment and youth engagement in politics. Kenny worked with Amos Bursary students Peter Adefioye, Dumebi Dumaka and Burphy Zumu on The Kenny Report 3 and they continue to work with him on research projects.

He said:

Being part of the Bursary has lifted up my confidence and I am forever grateful for the opportunity.

On the road to success

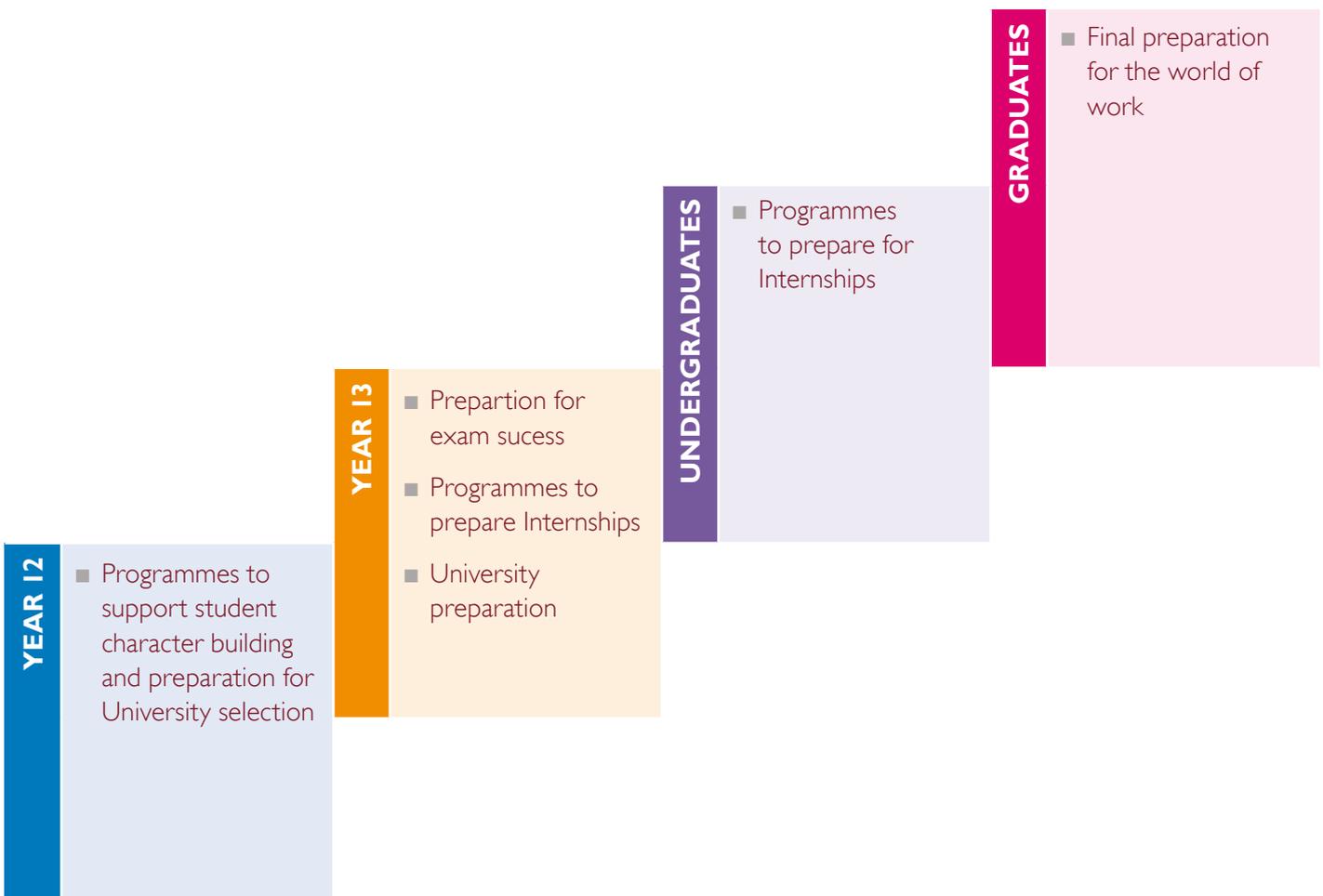
Dumebi Dumaka, Graduate 2015, BPP

Dumebi achieved an Upper Second Class degree at BPP. During his time on the Bursary he has managed to secure internships and also was part of the 2014 New York Programme. In 2016 he takes up his place on the Barclays Graduate Programme.

INDICATOR TWO

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2015 we continued to assist our students to develop into well rounded young people ready for the world of work. The students actively participated in 18 tailored learning and development programmes for personal and professional development and participated in our annual student residential conference hosted by Imperial College. This year, six undergraduates were featured in the Powerful Media publication ‘Future Leaders 2015’.



Lumina Spark, a creative business psychology model, was central to the programme helping students to build their self-belief and give them the confidence to compete effectively. It helped them to improve their performance using the techniques learned to build their confidence and

to become more effective at different stages of their lives. Above all it helped them to understand how they could manage the additional factors that impede their success – racism, adverse peer pressure and poor socio-economic circumstances.

TESTIMONIALS

How Lumina Spark is making a difference



The Portraits have been very useful to me, especially during applications for work placements and school applications.

When my mind goes blank as to what to write for certain sections of applications concerning self-awareness, the portrait highlights areas that I have missed out and promotes ideas that I could include.

I have been able to use different parts of my character that I otherwise would not have considered. I have used my Lumina Spark portrait to prepare for job interviews, presentations and general self-development.

Lumina Spark was instrumental in increasing my self-awareness of skills I possessed and skills I needed to work on. It has allowed me to achieve success in both my personal and professional relationships.

Lumina Spark knows me like my own mother. It has aided me in highlighting the areas that I need to develop and work on. I can identify certain traits that I see as negative and that I need to control.

I'd say Lumina Spark has really made me aware of my behaviour patterns in certain contexts and allowed me to adapt them.

What I learned through Lumina Spark really helped me to manage working with a very outspoken colleague during an assessment centre for an investment bank.

Personal stories

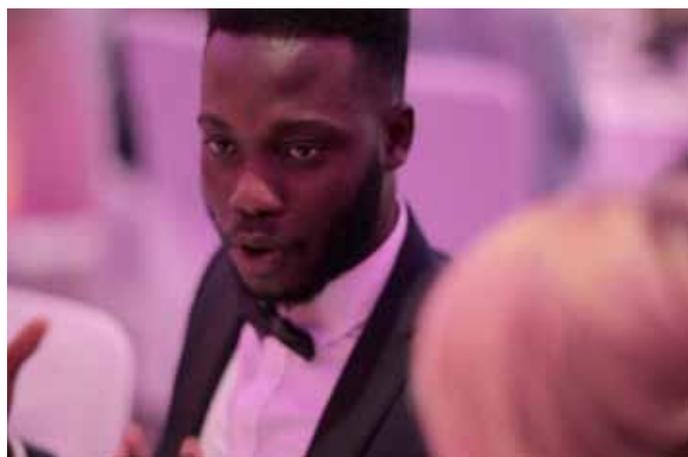


Preparing for Exam Success

Jordan Barrett, Year 12

Stuart Pedley Smith, Head of Learning at Kaplan UK ran a 'Preparation for Exam' workshop. On the first day I learnt how the brain stores information. The second day was tailored towards exam preparation for individual subjects in the sciences and humanities.

From this event I have learnt the importance of keeping revision notes brief, differentiating between non-timed exam questions by topic and completing whole exam papers in timed conditions. I have also learnt that mood impacts your performance during revision.



Stepping out of my comfort zone

Segun Balogun, Leicester University

Segun is currently in Hong Kong on a study abroad programme for a year. He says:

I am really excited and that is largely due to my experience in New York which has opened my eyes to completely stepping out of my comfort zone. Some of the workshops held by the Bursary that have emphasised the importance of having a global mindset have also contributed significantly to me deciding to study in Hong Kong. I express my gratitude for the massive support I have received thus far. I am truly grateful!



KC'I Beckford, Gap Year

I was really lucky to attend a fantastic workshop on interviews and internships. My colleagues and I learned a lot of useful skills that we will each utilise in the future while developing our professional careers. The speakers were truly inspirational people, and we were blessed to have them share their wisdom with us.

INDICATOR THREE

ACCESSING OPPORTUNITIES

Britain's diversity, which has helped the country to be competitive on a global scale, will be sustained by the creation of a broader pool of young, talented professionals available for the job market. The Amos Bursary is working to ensure that organisations have access to young men from the African and Caribbean community with the knowledge and skills required to operate effectively in the workplace.

In 2015:

- 54 students secured placements
- 13 students had international experience in New York, Belize and The Gambia

In order to achieve this, students are exposed to different business, professional, social and cultural environments to aid their search for employment and help them learn about different professional pathways and 'access to opportunity'. The Bursary has developed partnerships with employers and organisations to help narrow the gap between state educated and independent school students. This year we have established strong links with the US Embassy and the UNA (United Nations Association) UK and we continue to make students aware of networking opportunities.



Building Partnerships

- 10 organisations and agencies provide AB student development opportunities



Networking opportunities

- Attend corporate and social events
- Access to inspirational motivational speakers
- Opportunities to network with business leaders



Internships

- Preparation For UK and International internships

Personal stories

Networking with the Martin Luther King Scholars, USA

The Amos Bursary welcomed the Martin Luther King Scholars (MLK scholars) of Ithaca College New York.

Students and mentors exchanged opinions on life and realised they had similar fears! They were both plagued by fears of police brutality, of the educational system condemning them, of other communities not accepting them and that they would spend forever fighting to change any of it. They exchanged fresh ideas for change, ideas that were discussed in small groups before being presented to a panel of accomplished individuals in the form of questions. After an evening of thought-provoking discussion, a unanimous feeling of optimism was expressed. It reminded us that we are not alone.



A thank you letter

Jesse Williams, Lancaster University

Dear Stephen (CEO Cititec)

I just wanted to say a massive thank you for getting me a placement at BSB solicitors. I was well looked after, being taken to courts and police stations rather than the menial work often given to work experience students at law firms.

I learnt a huge amount about what it is actually like to be a criminal solicitor, not only through insightful conversations with Jim and the other lawyers, but also by being able to observe the hours, what it was like to interact with different kinds of clients, and compare the differences between being a solicitor and a barrister which are parts of the job students don't normally get to see, but which indeed can become the most important factors in deciding which type of law, and what kind of lawyer you want to be.

None of this would have been possible without you. Every time I see what you have done for the Amos Bursary, I'm left in awe at how amazing a person you are. And then you move on from just sponsoring and mentoring to provide us with a chill out space, work experience opportunities and continue to put your all into the Bursary. You truly have left a lasting legacy on our lives.

Thank you for all that you have done,



Solomon Rose,

The University of Manchester and **Courtney Mikely**, University of Kent – Internship at Prudential

This summer, Solomon Rose and Courtney Mikely secured placements at Prudential during the summer.

Solomon said:

The internship was a great experience for me. I was able to learn many new technical skills, which will not only enhance aspects of my degree but also elements of a future profession.

Solomon worked as part of Group Actuarial, as well as working on research projects. He had the opportunity to sit in on team meetings as well as team training meetings

Courtney said:

I was the first student they had on an internship programme, which I was honoured to be. I was able to go to a biannual event along with a meeting whilst in my first week there which was a great chance for me to see how a good company works and I was really appreciative of this. I have seen that people have come from different disciplines to get into that environment and I thoroughly enjoyed working with and meeting the people at Prudential.

Joshua Baffour, Year 13

I attended the Lloyds Bank Diversity and Agility Imperative dinner debate in November which was arranged by my professional mentor. It was a great event to both learn from and network with top officials from other UK organisations.

Daniel Beckley,

BPP University – Legal Internship

During the summer of 2015 I was given the opportunity to work at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP from Brokerage City Link who partner with the Amos Bursary. This was an amazing opportunity to be exposed to an International Law firm for a week, as an aspiring lawyer. I was able to gain a range of tips and information regarding Commercial Law applications and the various schemes which the firm offers. Overall, I feel that being selected to take part in this internship, has given me confidence to one day apply for a position at a commercial law firm.

Treasure Oyelade, Gap Year

Wednesday 4th November at Islington Town Hall was the night when I attended the Amos Bursary Ambitions Event – ‘The Changing Face of Business – A World of Opportunities’. There were three guest speakers, Lord Michael Hastings, Global Head of Citizenship and Diversity at KPMG, Claudine Reid, Director at PJ’s Community Services and John Casey, Vice President of News and Programming at CNBC Asia. Though they all had different backgrounds and stories to explain how they achieved their various positions, it was obvious to see that they all had one big thing in common - determination. What I took away from all three speakers was that no matter what age or position you may be in, you must be prepared for continuous learning.

International experiences**The Supreme Court of Belize**

Burphy Zumu and Paul Egunjobi, Graduates BPP

Burphy and Paul completed a month internship at the Supreme Court of Belize under the mentorship of the Honourable Justice Courtney A. Abel. The AB Scholars travelled to the Supreme Court of Belize to meet the Honourable Chief Justice Kenneth Benjamin, who formally welcomed them to Belize. They were hosted by Chief Justice Courtney Abel. Educated in the UK himself.

He said:

It was certainly a pleasure for me having Paul and Burphy. Frankly I learned a lot from both of them. My intention was to provide life-changing stimulus about how things could be different and what it takes to rise to a challenge, at a time when you still have the flexibility to want to, and can change to make a difference in the world.

Burphy said:

As part of our placement we attended court hearings and alternated between the courts of different Justices and sat in and heard criminal cases from homicide to theft. We worked on civil matters relating to a range of issues, from frivolous claims to breaches of constitutional rights. We were exposed to the advocacy style of Belizean advocates. Since we are fresh from completing our law degree at BPP Law School we were both sharp to understand the nature of the cases as well as appreciate the similarities and differences between practice in Belize and England & Wales. We were exposed to life in Belize, visited The Ancient Mayan Sites and attended Carnival and the Belize Independence Day celebrations. Our Belize experience was unforgettable.

The lesson learned – preparation is paramount to success.

New York experience 2015

In August, 10 Bursary students earned the opportunity to work in various institutions in New York over the course of one month, following a competitive process. Below are brief accounts of their experience.



Darrell Adjei, Imperial College London

One Bursary, four years and countless opportunities. My time on the Bursary can be summed up by two words, inspiration and opportunity – the only words that might differentiate my career from those less celebrated within the BAME community. Below I recall just one example.

Thanks to the support of our various supporters we were able to continue the New York experience program and I was one of the lucky ten selected to partake. I interned at Baruch College, a floor below the former deputy editor of the New York Times with whom I discoursed, where I was given the chance to facilitate the work of top researchers while gaining experience in an international work environment.

During the same month, we were hosted by Ernst & Young for a welcome reception, where I had the opportunity to connect with some renowned businessmen and businesswomen. One of those connections was with the Vice President of an Adecco group tech company, who later offered me the opportunity to have a second placement with his firm for a day. I don't believe I would have had the skills needed to build such a rapport with such a distinguished person had it not been for the rigorous development process that the Bursary had put me through.

Jonathan Oloyede, University of York

On arriving in New York, it instantly became very clear that everyone was striving towards something. The streets were filled with people making a living by means of selling bottled water, dancing on the subway, playing as part of a band and even dressing as fictional characters and earning tips. Over time, this attitude began to infect us at our home in NYC. Discussions within the house began to be geared towards how we can make it in life, and on sharing ideas with each other we began to appreciate the sheer amount of talent present within the 10 Amos Bursary students in New York. Experiencing New York made me much more open to working abroad, as I settled in so quickly and felt confident exploring the city. I returned to the UK full of motivation and an attitude to make something out of life. New York will certainly see me again. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life.

Faustino McAlla St Luce, University of Warwick

I was placed in the Centre for Strategic Solutions (CSS) team, in the Metro Centre, New York University, whose aim is to work with educational institutions to try and combat the pervasive forces of cultural bias in curricula and the marginalisation of students from 'traditionally disadvantaged' backgrounds – particularly African and Latino students.

Overall I loved the jovial and inquisitive atmosphere in the office and left with a fresh perspective and knowledge of various aspects of society and history – both of which, alongside the research skills I acquired, have been invaluable in helping me to adjust to the new academic rigours during my first year of university, engage in critical debate and place myself in socio-historical and socio-political contexts. I am certainly a better person for having worked there.

For me, the New York Experience was a perfect summer, working in a perfect job, with the perfect team. The lessons and skills I learnt will help to carry me through university and beyond.

INDICATOR FOUR

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Giving back has been central to Amos Bursary activity in 2015. Every student is encouraged to support charitable activities and are supported in their endeavours.

The Bursary is privileged to have over two hundred volunteers and mentors who are giving back to our young people. Our volunteers and mentors are helping our young people to succeed in higher education and in a range of professions and are committed to changing the lives of young people by investing in those growing up in urban neighbourhoods.

In 2015 we increased the number of volunteers supporting the organisation and sourced 30 high calibre mentors and corporate experts for our students.

Students are encouraged to give back to their schools and at community events. They talk about their journeys the challenges and their successes. In April our students

attended the Reach Society Careers Conference. Five students, Ivan Beckley, Miles Watson, Jessie Willams, Kwarteng Sarfo and Darrell Adjei managed the Amos Bursary stand and participated in a workshop where they spoke to younger students about their experiences and challenges facing students. This was one of the best attended sessions with standing room only.

Warsame Ismael, Jesse Williams and Ryan Clarke attended The Teach First Futures launch event, held at the London School of Economics (LSE). They hosted a stall sharing with younger students their experiences volunteering/ working/ abroad.

STUDENT AND MENTOR ENGAGEMENT	CHARITY BASED SUPPORT	PERSONAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITES
		
<p>Making a difference by transferring knowledge and experience to their peers and younger students on speaking platforms at conferences, in schools and Career Fairs.</p>	<p>Currently there are 13 graduates who have returned to the Bursary and are now volunteering in a range of capacities as mentors and student advisors.</p>	<p>Students establishing or supporting community based organisations focused on developing young people</p>

Personal stories



Daniel Agard, University of Essex

I ran the Virgin London Marathon to raise funds for The Amos Bursary. Whilst listening to a presentation one day given by a keen supporter of the Bursary; he being a well-established and successful professional, I heard him say, 'Be sure that you do not pull up the ladder behind you'. Strangely it had never occurred to me that anyone who had against all odds achieved what society considers 'success', would pull up the ladder behind them or even want to do so. I am running to help ensure others are able to enjoy the same opportunity I have had, and ensure that I do not pull up the ladder.



Teaching in the Gambia

James Frater, Kings College London

I spent three months assisting with the PROLIFICA project. PROLIFICA stands for the Prevention of Liver Fibrosis and Cancer in Africa. The aim is to show that, with effective screening, treatment and prevention of Hepatitis B, the incidence of liver cancer will decrease accordingly.

Aside from this, I visited various different orphanages in The Gambia helping to broaden my cultural awareness. I was able

to interact with the children in the community and decided that I wanted and needed to teach basic English and Math to children whom, otherwise, would not get any form of education. Also with the help of staff from Imperial College London, some locals and another student, we were able to make a donation to an under resourced orphanage in a rural part of The Gambia and also to a local school.

I was, and still am, very humbled that I was given the opportunity to learn and experience all these things.

Because of my mentors

Casseem Campbell, Year 13

One of the main reasons I have had such an amazing year is because of my mentors. The Amos Bursary didn't just give me random mentors but ones that had a good understanding, practically and theoretically, of my desired field; economics. This opened up a lot of opportunities for me and the highlight was my summer. I managed to get a paid internship at CTN and two weeks' work experience at Barclays headquarters due to my professional mentor. The experiences taught me a lot about the working world and gave me a good understanding of the career paths I don't want to go into. This is very important for me because one of my goals is to go into an occupation that I enjoy.

The Amos Bursary has supported me and opened doors for me. That is all I needed and I have taken advantage of these opportunities and developed as an individual because of that. Finally, being allocated a mentor that has experience in your desired field is something that I would recommend for any young person, it really allows you to gain in ways money can never buy.

Marvin Olivier-Mfumum, University of Southampton

I just wanted to thank my mentor Jasmine for enabling me to become part of such an extensive network as Streetgames.

Since coming into contact with them I've been actively involved in volunteering and representing the charity by sharing my experiences. I've even managed to get my younger sister Chantal involved with Streetgames and together we volunteered as marshalls at Ride London and participated at the Longridge Residential Streetgames. My role was that of a Young and I tell everybody I meet about my positive experiences and about the number of young people I've been able to influence, including my younger sister. Due to Streetgames, I've explored the UK like never before, I went to the Lake District, Wales and even visited Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre where top athletes train and receive medical treatment!"



Emmanuel Opoku campaigns for change – Imperial College London

Emmanuel is an active campaigner with Kids Law for a change in the law regarding legal migrants and their access to student finance. Due to the Immigration Laws, Emmanuel Opoku was unable to accept his place at Imperial College in 2013 although he had been in the UK since primary school. For two years he deferred, his place. He has now managed to find a scholarship that will assist him to pay the £26,500 pa in tuition fees and is now raising much needed funds to cover living expenses for the duration of his course.

He continues his fight for others and has set up a webpage to raise much needed funds crowdfunding campaign (<http://spsr.me/IN3NCrU>)



Tom Shropshire
Corporate Partner, Linklaters London

Working with the Amos Bursary has been rewarding. We look forward to keeping that relationship moving forward.

Thank you to our sponsors who continue to support us in many ways. Linklaters, Cititec and Prudential hosted many of our Development days and provided a range of opportunities to our students. We would like to welcome our most recent Sponsor Helios investment

AB students were also hosted by our partner organisations, Powerful Media, The Brokerage Citylink, Rare Recruitment and Teach First.

Many of our students had the opportunity to visit the offices of top UK and international companies including the Miles Partnership, Deloitte, EY and Helios Investment.

2015 has been an outstanding year for the Bursary students and we look forward to even more success in 2016.

SPONSORS

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London**

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Case study Alumni



Lequan Johnson, Graduate, Mentor and Committee Member

Lequan, a 2012 Amos Bursary graduate, is an account executive at The Red Consultancy, an international public relations (PR) agency. After studying Biomedical Sciences and graduating from Royal Holloway University of London, he spent 6-months in The Gambia helping out on the Prevention of Liver Fibrosis & Cancer in Africa (PROLIFICA) project.

On returning to the UK, he decided that he wanted to make a career change away from the laboratory. With coaching and mentoring from the Amos Bursary he applied and was successful. He became a Taylor Bennett Foundation apprentice, which prepares graduates for working in PR in the UK to help address the lack of diversity in the PR sector in this country. Lequan has now been in PR for almost two years.

For the past year Lequan has sat on the youth board for the Mayor's Fund for London, a charity that targets child poverty by finding and funding the most effective projects in London and partnering with them to maximise impact. This year, he featured in their Penny for London advertising campaign featuring on billboards across London. Penny for London is a revolutionary charitable scheme that aims to transform the prospects of disadvantaged young Londoners.

Lequan was a panellist alongside Karen Blackett OBE, Vanessa Kingori, James Walker and Sheekha Rajani at the 2015 Your Future Your Ambition (YFYA) hosted annually at The Emirates stadium. He was also a judge for the 2015 Editorial Intelligence (ei) Comment Awards with his specialist category being Science Commentator of the Year.

Lequan has now joined the Amos Bursary Recruitment and Mentoring Committee.

CASE STUDY

Mentoring success



Professional Mentor and Corporate Sponsor,
Stephen Grant, CEO Cititec

The Amos Bursary has been sponsored by Cititec since 2013. They have provided support to the Bursary in a number of ways. Offering their premises for small group student development – I-I interview preparation, mini workshops and I-I coaching.

Stephen Grant, CEO Cititec has been an outstanding mentor and supporter during this time. He demonstrated the level of his commitment when in 2014 he ran the London Marathon for the Bursary.

He has engaged with the Bursary on all levels and is an active sponsor who has become a friend to many of the students providing advice, guidance, social and networking opportunities to broaden their horizons and experiences.

He has:

- Arranged shadowing opportunities and Internships to a range of organisations including Cititec, Excelian Technology Consultancy and BSB Solicitors.
- Helped students raise their money for the New York Experience.
- Arranged for 10 students to attend COCO Dinner: An Evening with Mo Farrah.
- Given students the opportunity to attend the theatre and Dinners to practice networking and social skills.
- Enabled students to attend Ascot and go to the Emirates Stadium to watch Arsenal football matches.

His support is legendary



"There's nothing to be found playing safe - in activities
for a bit braver than the one you are capable of." - Simon Sinek

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