

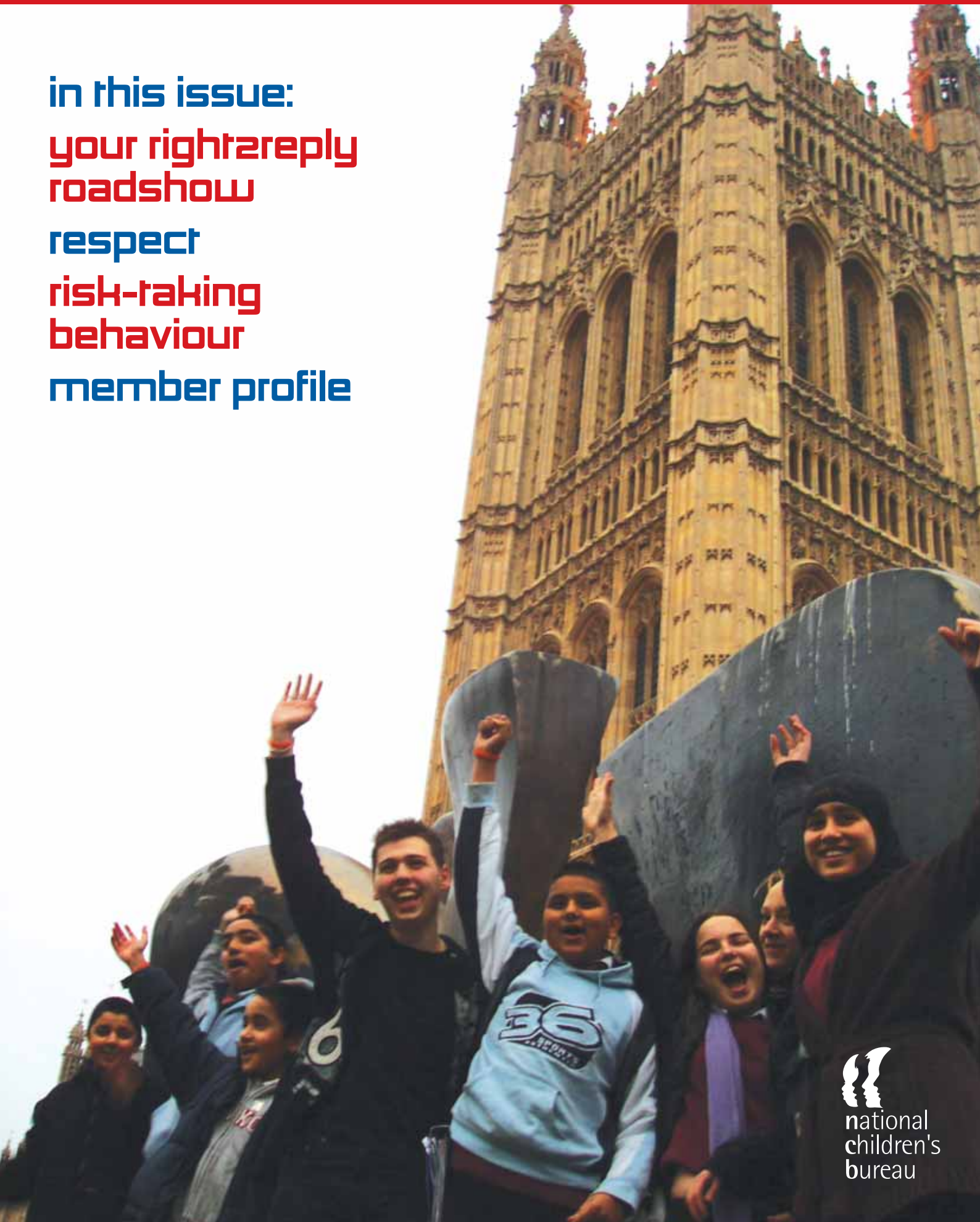
in this issue:

**your right2reply
roadshow**

respect

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member profile



don't miss your chance to speak out on issues that interest,
annoy or puzzle you on the ever-expanding your shout!

the ncb **voice**



help ncb continue its work in just two simple ways

Here are two easy ways for you to help raise funds for NCB. They are things you can do yourself, or encourage your friends and even your school to do. The more people who get involved the better.

Recycle for NCB

Did you know that 13,000 tonnes of unnecessary rubbish is created each year by people throwing away items such as old mobile phones and inkjet cartridges? If you are passionate about the environment and want to help make positive changes to the lives of all children and young people, please consider recycling for NCB.

Participation is completely free and for all items recycled on our behalf we will receive between £1 and £5. Visit www.recyclingappeal.com or contact NCB Fundraising on 020 7843 6320 to get involved.

Click for NCB

Put children and young people first with every click. By making www.clicknow.org.uk/NCB your homepage you can search the web while raising vital funds for NCB's work with children and young people, at no cost to you.

If you have any fundraising ideas let us know at fundraising@ncb.org.uk – we'd love to hear from you.



Hi there!

Welcome to your summer edition of *Loudspeaker*. This is my first attempt at editing and it has been great fun collecting Young NCB members' stories and choosing pictures to go with them. At the time of writing this, Young NCB had to say goodbye to Lucy Morris (sniff sniff) but we're pleased to welcome the new Young NCB coordinator David Curtis. David is already busy learning the ropes and has got loads of fantastic ideas to help make Young NCB even better. Turn to page 6 to see what he had to say when I put him in the interview hot seat.

This issue of *Loudspeaker* is a mixed bag of Young NCB members' recent activities and includes a report on the YOUR Right2Reply Roadshow that Young NCB ran in partnership with UNICEF and the Children's Rights Alliance for England. Check out pages 4 & 5 to get all the gossip on the day and see if you can spot yourself in any of the pictures.

Young NCB member Rakhee found out what it feels like to vote when she visited a polling station during the local elections. Go to page 3 to find out how she got on.

On page 7 you'll find out what happened when some Young NCBers rocked up to a meeting at the Houses of Parliament to share their views on respect, anti-social behaviour and children's rights.

If you fancy seeing yourself on the pages of *Loudspeaker* then please get in touch. There's always something exciting going on for you to get your teeth into, so what are you waiting for? Give us a call or drop us an email to find out what opportunities there are and how you can get involved.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and that you all have a lovely long hot summer!

Adriana Byrne
Participation Officer, Young NCB

Young NCB is the free membership network for all children and young people run by NCB.

As a member of Young NCB, you have the chance to speak out on the issues you feel most strongly about such as safety, sex and relationships, schools and education, bullying, drugs and the media.

At Young NCB your views really count and will be heard by other children and young people, professionals and policy-makers.

For more information and a free joining pack visit www.youngncb.org.uk, email: info@youngncb.org.uk or call 020 7843 6099/67.



to find out more about the work of ESSA log onto www.studentvoice.co.uk or email them at info@studentvoice.co.uk



the education bill

Earlier this year the government unveiled the Education and Inspections Bill. This bill outlines the ways in which the government wants to change schools and the ways they are inspected in this country.

There were many new ideas on how to improve school standards. These ranged from student selection and changing schools' structure, to altering food and introducing measures to control behaviour.

Many of the plans are good and will have massive benefits for students, staff, parents and schools. However, there are some negative aspects. One of the biggest problems is the lack of allowance for student participation in the bill and lack of recognition of the student voice. There is only one mention of this and it is linked specifically with plans for tackling poor behaviour.

Unsurprisingly, there are many people who are unhappy with this and they have started calling for action. ESSA (English Secondary Students Association), a representative body that promote students' views, are at the forefront of this campaign.

As part of this campaigning process I was asked to speak on behalf of ESSA at a national NUT conference, examining the bill and the faults with it. My speech outlined the problems in the areas of student voice, junk food and behaviour.

Student voice is a massive issue, especially as the bill includes many plans for parents to have a say in schools, but doesn't mention the students. It was expected that there would be plans for improved student voice, with the use of student councils, but this never materialised.

The issue with junk food revolves around a clause in the bill that could result in the ban of junk food in schools. This is something that ESSA, and most other children's charities, disagree with. We believe it should be about education and freedom of choice, encouraging young people to make their own decisions rather than allowing government to control our thoughts and actions.

The final issue raised was that of the behaviour policy. ESSA has seen no evidence that young people were consulted in the creation of this. Our worry is that this could result in a draconian, old-fashioned way of punishing behaviour. We believe that if the government had taken the time to consult misbehaving students, and found out the reasons behind their behaviour, it might have been possible to create a policy that tackles the cause and not just the symptom.

The conference was a great success and many of the attendees were very happy to see a young person's point of view being expressed, especially as only Sarah Tether (the Lib Dem spokesperson on education) and myself raised the issue of student voice. Most of the feedback I received was from people who agreed with what I had been saying and who were very supportive of young people voicing their opinions.

I hope the conference has encouraged MPs to think about these issues and to address them. But if they still don't (which is very possible) then there is plenty more to be done. You can help by getting in contact with your local MP and the government, tell them what the problems are and what you want them to do about it. Write a letter, send an email or pop into a surgery and tell them your views on education and what should be happening with it. Help get the message across so that MPs will finally realise just how important these issues are.

Hamish McCallum (15)

rakhee haria's election experience

On 4 May 2006 my school (St Ann's CoE Primary School) was closed for the day so it could be used as a local election polling station. My dad, my seven-year-old brother Parit, and I went to my school to see what a polling station was.

Not everyone needs to go to a polling station to vote. Some people can vote on a piece of paper called a postal ballot. You can vote for up to three candidates, then you put it in the envelope provided and post it. This is called postal voting.

Some people vote on a different piece of paper called a ballot paper. To vote this way you need to go to the polling station nearest to you, pick up a ballot paper, go into a ballot booth and make sure you vote for up to three candidates. Then you put the ballot paper straight into the ballot box.

The polling station opened at 7am and closed at 10pm. A person at the polling station told me that at 10pm all of the ballot boxes would be taken to the town hall in Tottenham and all of the votes would be sorted into the correct groups and counted up. The next morning I turned on the television to watch the news – it was announced that the Labour Party had won the elections for Haringey, Tottenham.

This year the elections were not the general elections, they were the local elections.

I think I learned a lot about the elections. It will be really good when I'm 18 because then I can actually vote.

Rakhee Haria (10)





children and young people across england get their right2reply

On Saturday 22 April 2006 droves of empowered young people and youth professionals from all corners of the nation flocked to the NCVO Centre in London. They were there to express their views at the final leg of the Right2Reply roadshow, which has proven to be hugely successful throughout the country.

The event was co-organised by Young NCB, the Children's Rights Alliance for England and UNICEF UK. Through the use of creative workshops it aimed to inform young people about their right to be heard and listened to, as stated by international law.

Young people from many youth organisations took part in a thrilling breakdance workshop led by the entertaining Pick-a-Crew. The workshop taught the basics of hip-hop, street and breakdancing. The session went down a treat with everyone, with

one young person saying, 'It was a nice change and really fun'.

Circus skills was an equally popular workshop enjoyed by young people on the day. We learnt basic skills such as plate spinning and juggling, which proved to be very challenging and could keep you busy for hours on end. 'I think circus skills was fun and you learnt new stuff with new equipment', was just one of the thoughts to be expressed by a young person during the workshop.

Overall the event seemed a great success. The workshops inspired and livened-up all those participating and everyone got along and had a lot to contribute. The day ended on a high with many pleasing comments from the young people such as 'I loved it' and 'great workshops'. It was great that such a positive atmosphere surrounded everyone during the course of the day.

By Shola Shobowale (16) & Sox Ghosal (13)





review of question and answer session with al aynsley green

At the London Right2Reply talk shop everyone was looking forward to the last section on the day's itinerary – a question and answer session with the Children's Commissioner, Al Aynsley Green. This was our chance to get our points across and have our questions answered on the subject of children's rights.

We wanted to know how Al Aynsley Green was using his position to develop understanding about children's rights and why children's rights can sometimes be ignored or not completely understood.

Al Aynsley Green emphasised the importance of listening to children across the country and getting reliable opinions from a young person's perspective.

Al Aynsley Green, along with the majority of people at Right2Reply, was annoyed and frustrated at how children's rights can be ignored and children discriminated against. People across the country need to realise that too much attention is focused on the negative behaviour of young people and that we need to acknowledge the positive too.

He encouraged young people to stand up for their rights and be recognised for their positive actions.

Rose Graves (16) and Alice Graves (17)





interview with new young ncb coordinator david curtis

What is your background?

I come from a children's social care background, where I largely focused on looked after children and care leavers. Working in this sector has given me a real passion for improving services for this group. In each of the jobs I've had the agency's ethos has basically been the same – to improve services and outcomes for children and young people.

Why did you want to be the Young NCB coordinator?

I want to help develop Young NCB and its position both internally and externally. With the knowledge and experience I have, and the help of people who already do great work for NCB, we can achieve this. Plus it's a brilliant opportunity to work with children and young people from all areas.

How do you see Young NCB's future?

I want us to have a major influence and impact on all relevant children and young people's developments and initiatives – both at a local and national level. In addition I see it becoming a great support network for young people and one that they can be actively involved in. I want young people to be at the heart of our work.



risky business

Over recent years NCB has worked with children and young people on a number of projects addressing health and well-being. These have covered topic areas such as sexual health, alcohol and other drug use, food, nutrition and exercise. As always those we spoke to answered our questions with enthusiasm and interest and as they did so it became clear that there were some common themes that kept on coming up, whatever issue or topic we were discussing.

The most frequent issue was the importance of helping children and young people learn about how to identify and manage risks, as well as understand why people take risks, and how negative outcomes associated with some risk-taking can be avoided. Importantly children and young people told us that sometimes taking risks was a really important part of their learning and personal development.

As a direct result of the issues that children and young people were raising, we decided to submit a proposal to the Big Lottery Fund to carry out a project that addressed these issues and helped practitioners develop new and creative ways of working with young people on risk and risk-taking. With the help of some Young NCB members, who answered some questions over the telephone about particular aspects of the project idea, we prepared a proposal that is currently being considered by the Big Lottery Fund.

If successful, it is hoped that Young NCB Members will be involved in training, advising and supporting the project as it is piloted across England. Watch this space and keep your fingers crossed!

For further information contact Simon Blake, sblake@ncb.org.uk 020 7843 1160

so what exactly is risk-taking behaviour?

Risk-taking behaviour is voluntarily taking part in an activity that may result in something bad happening. Examples of risk-taking behaviour are gambling, rock climbing and drug taking and risk is often measured by how likely it is that something bad will happen as the result of the action. So, for example, the result could be losing money, causing an injury or even death.

Some experts think that there are three types of people when it comes to taking risks:

- 1) Risk avoiders – who avoid activities due to the risks involved.
- 2) Risk reducers – who take part in high-risk activities even if they know the risks that are involved.
- 3) Risk optimisers – who take part in high-risk activities partly because of the risks involved.

(taken from www.risk-taking.co.uk)



all party parliamentary group on children's rights

On 24 April 2006, Nisha and I attended a meeting at the House of Lords regarding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We were called upon to represent the National Children's Bureau and be 'the voice of the youth'.

We had one afternoon to plan our presentation. With the help of Janine Shaw, the head of the participation unit, we began by evaluating the convention itself and selecting five or six articles to discuss. Among others we chose Article 2 (the right to be protected against discrimination) and Article 12 (the right for every child to give an opinion, be listened to and taken seriously by adults).

We realised that many of the conventions held flaws, or outlined rights that could not necessarily be achieved for every child. We felt it was necessary to make those at the meeting aware of this. We also noted that Article 42 (the right to know your rights) was clearly not being put into practice, especially considering that we knew nothing about the convention before the meeting. Therefore our own rights were being violated.

With only two dry runs, Nisha and I both felt the pressure but knew that we had to stay calm and confident to

make sure we were heard. The meeting itself seemed to be a great success for NCB, who we were extremely proud to represent in front of a board of MPs, peers and observers who held an interest in children's rights. At first we were extremely anxious and nervous but the depth of concentration from all those present in the room made us feel welcome and we grew more confident about articulating our ideas on an issue we were increasingly passionate about.

They asked us incisive questions, showing that they had clearly listened to what we had to say and consistently responded in an informed and courteous manner. To be spoken to by such great political achievers on equal standing was almost unbelievable, it was definitely an unforgettable experience and one we won't stop talking about for a while to come!

I know that for both of us the experience has solidified our desire to be part of the political world and make a positive change. Putting us in contact with luminaries such as Christine Smart, the children's rights director of CAF/CASS, was amazing and it is definitely an experience we'd like to repeat again. Thank you NCB for allowing us to represent you.

By Lotis Bautista (17)

appgc respect

The day started with an early trek to London, but it was worth it. When I got to the NCB offices, Joe was leading a discussion on what we thought anti-social behavior was. Lots of people thought it was, 'children and young people who were bored and didn't have anything else to do'.

It was announced that we would be speaking in the Houses of Parliament and so we each had to choose a topic to speak on. I chose to talk about rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is about giving people who have done things wrong, or who have been out of the community for a very long time, another chance and helping them to make friends. They should be helped to make a positive contribution to the community either through charity work or by the job they do.

Speaking in the Houses of Parliament was scary but the people really listened to you. Everyone had a really good day and if you ever get a chance to speak out, do it! It is well worth it.

David Harris (17)



member news

your shout!

are the UK school games a good way to unearth future Olympic talent?

In September this year, Glasgow will host the UK School Games in the hope that it will encourage children and young people to aim to compete in the 2012 Olympics that will be held in London. Do you think this will help breed future athletic superstars?

I think it's great that people are taking notice of everybody's talents. The bad side is that it could cause a lot of competitiveness.
Natasha, 14, Manchester

The games are a fantastic opportunity to invest in sport and I am confident that with the School Games and the extra investment we will reach our target of coming fourth in the medal tables.
Rajay, 17, Coventry

I think it's a good idea because it will prepare children for the Olympics and keep them fit.
Hamza, 11, Westcliffe on Sea

It is an excellent idea as it proves that the government is starting to invest in athletics at grassroots level and shows they are determined to make sure that we compete at the highest level in 2012.
Shola, 17, London

To have your shout log on to www.youngncb.org.uk and click on Your Shout

member profile...



Anne Moore is 17 and lives in Chippenham. She found time in her very hectic schedule to give us the lowdown on architecture, classic novels and ice cream.

How did you find out about Young NCB?

I am involved with the Wiltshire Assembly of Youth, a representative body of 20-25 young people. One of the leaders there mentioned NCB and it seemed interesting so I had a look at the website.

What projects have you been involved in so far?

I have mostly been involved in the Big Ideas project, where we are helping to design a new children's charity centre in London. It's great because I am interested in doing architecture at university and at the last meeting we met with one of the project architects.

What do you get up to in your spare time?

I do a lot of volunteer work such as helping at my local youth café on a Friday night and working on the editorial board of a magazine called *DB8*. I also have a Saturday job as a till assistant. Apart from that I play the violin and piano and I enjoy spending time with my friends.

Who do you most admire/look up to in your life?

I've never been someone who idolises famous people. It's probably to do with the fact that I don't really know who half of the famous people are – I don't have a TV. I really respect some of the youth workers who I know though, because they do a fantastic job working with people my age.

What's your favourite food?

I really like Italian food. Last year I went to Italy for the first time and the huge selection of ice cream in the gelaterias was amazing! As for the pizza's ...

What's your favourite book?

I don't think I could choose one. I'm a bookworm and I read several at the same time! Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* are really good classics. Terry Pratchett, William Nicholson and Malorie Blackman are also great authors.

If you could be famous for the day who would you be and why?

Probably some kind of film director. It would be great fun to be involved in something like that – particularly making the models for animation and listening to all the different voices that actors put on, but I wouldn't be good at acting myself.

What are your plans for the future?

I mentioned before that I want to do architecture at university. After that I want to go into the profession and work on some really exciting projects that will really have a positive impact on the local community. I also want to travel, to see different places and meet new people.

What are the main things that stop young people from being heard?

Most people would say that there are negative, stereotypical perceptions of young people, especially from old people, the police and the law. Although this takes place I think the most important thing is for young people to realise the potential power they have and the way they can influence decisions. Young people's views will not be heard unless they actively voice them themselves. There is no point complaining about something unless you are prepared to work to change it – something that takes a lot of time and patience.

Anything you would like to tell the world?

To anyone taking exams soon – have a great summer break afterwards!