PROOF OF CONCEPT · FEBRUARY – OCTOBER 2026

We believed in them. They made us believe bigger.

The pilot that made Empowered Voices

the UK's largest independently youth-led prize fund for school students.











Moments from the pilot. Main image: students and mentors at our launch, Harris City Academy Crystal Palace, 6 February 2026.

£4,284
awarded across two competitions

Hundreds
of competition entries

110,000+
campaign views across platforms

6
schools engaged in our proof of concept

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS

We went back to the classrooms that *made us*

To our friends,

Going back to the classrooms that shaped us brought years of feeling to the surface. We remembered the hopes we carried, the uncertainty of finding our way, and what it meant when someone took us seriously. To return with something to give felt like coming full circle.

We began Empowered Voices with a conviction: young people have extraordinary things within them, and their ambitions deserve to be heard and backed. This pilot brought that belief to life. The openness, imagination and energy we encountered left us exhilarated. We had been right to trust the potential we saw, and to believe others would join us in backing it.

For us, it was profoundly cathartic. Encouraging a new generation reconnected us with the hopes of our own younger selves. We could offer something we had once needed. That experience renewed our sense of purpose.

What moves us most is how many people have made this their own. Students, mentors, teachers and supporters have brought their ideas, generosity and determination. A promise between a few of us has become a movement we are building together. Watching people care so deeply, and help shape its future, has been our greatest joy.

To Andrew Headley and The Generational Foundation: thank you for giving our belief in young people the means to become real. The generosity you have shown runs quietly through every page of this story: in the doors opened, the voices heard, and the courage to begin. With your support, hope became something others could hold.

We finish this pilot full of gratitude, certain of our purpose and alive with possibility. To every student, mentor, teacher and supporter who has made this beginning their own: thank you. The next chapter is ours to build, together.

Jordan, Blerton & Tia

CO-FOUNDERS, EMPOWERED VOICES



Our Stories, Shaping Yours

INSIDE THIS REPORT

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ABOUT US

Empowered Voices was founded by three Harris alumni. We bring role models, resources and real opportunity to young people in under-served schools, through school events, mentoring and ambitious competitions.

THE YEAR IN BRIEF

Our first chapter, *in seven signals*

February to October 2026. A proof of concept shaped by young people, school partners and the opportunities they asked us to create.

01 **A wider pilot than planned.**

We intended to engage three schools. We engaged six during the proof-of-concept phase.

6
schools engaged

02 **A platform young people chose.**

Competitions were not in our original plan. Hundreds of entries made them central to EV.

Hundreds
of competition entries

03 **Belief with tangible backing.**

£4,284 was awarded in prizes across the All Souls and Innovation Challenges.

£4,284
across two competitions

04 **A campaign beyond our own channels.**

The total includes posts across platforms and the team's personal LinkedIn posts about EV.

110,000+
campaign views

05 **An audience in schools and online.**

Approximate attendances across school events, an online session and prize-givings.

3,000+
estimated attendances

06 **Relationships for the next chapter.**

We have signed LOIs with major state school networks, with further agreements progressing.

60+
schools canvassed

07 **Early steps that matter.**

Thomas bought equipment; Zahra began her research; Leonard received an introduction to support his invention.

Next steps
reported student progress

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

How belief becomes *practical backing*

Our model connects being heard with an opportunity to act. The pilot offers early examples of this pathway; it does not yet establish long-term impact.

01

THE NEED

Ambition needs resources.

Young people need opportunities to test ideas, encouragement from people they trust, and practical support for the next step.

02

THE ROUTE IN

School visits and online outreach.

Visits build relationships and introduce the challenges. Online campaigns open the same opportunities to young people beyond the schools we reach.

03

THE SUPPORT

Competitions, awards and connections.

Young people put their ideas forward. EV offers recognition, direct awards, feedback and introductions that can help them develop those ideas.

04

EARLY EVIDENCE

Student-led next steps.

Thomas used his prize for equipment. Zahra began research with EV support. Leonard received an introduction through our network as he explores commercialisation.

05

THE AMBITION

More young people able to act.

Build a national competition fund that helps young people pursue education, creative work and enterprise, with school visits as a route into the platform.

Student examples are qualitative follow-up, not a representative outcome measure. Role-model research informs the approach; it does not evaluate EV. Definitions and references: page 26.

ACCOUNTABILITY

What we set out to do, *and what happened*

Our proof-of-concept phase ran from February to October 2026. We intended to engage three schools. We engaged six, and discovered a direction we had not anticipated.

PROOF OF CONCEPT · FEBRUARY TO OCTOBER 2026

3	schools we planned to engage	6	schools we actually engaged

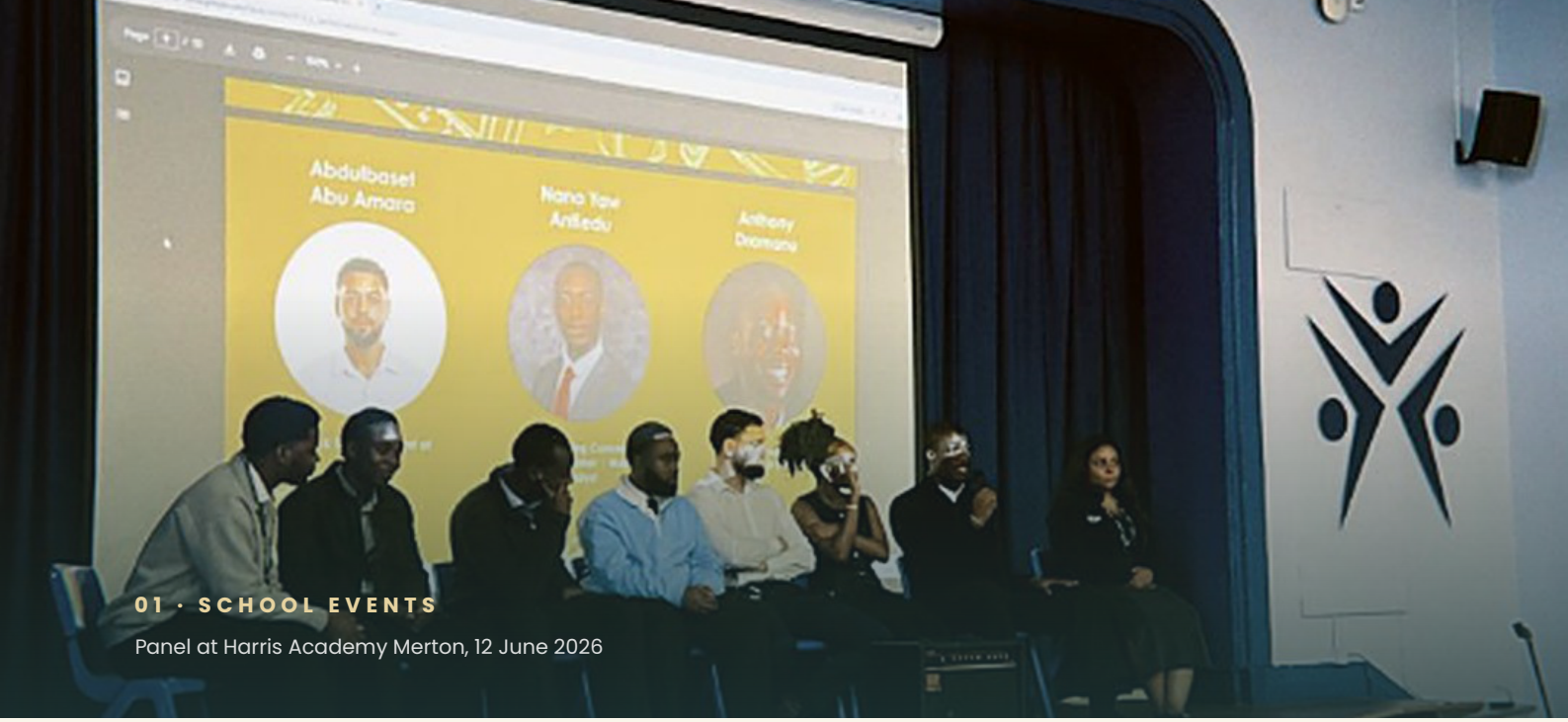
WHAT WE PLANNED	WHAT HAPPENED
Workshop and seminar pilots	**ACHIEVED** Two full-day school events, nine mentor-led workshops with 162 places, and an online careers session across five Harris schools.
An ongoing mentor network	**IN PROGRESS** Workshop students are introduced to their mentor by email after each event. A formal network is planned for 2026/27.
School and partner relationships	**IN PROGRESS** LOIs signed with some of the UK's largest state school networks; outreach to 60+ schools, with further LOIs signed or progressing.
Support behind the pilot	**ACHIEVED** Andrew Headley and The Generational Foundation helped bring the pilot to life, supporting opportunities for young people.

Next phase: grow the competition fund and connect school visits to participation in our challenges.

THE CORNERSTONE WE HAD NOT PLANNED

We had not intended to launch competitions, but they became the cornerstone of the Empowered Voices platform: a place for young people to put forward their ideas, be heard, and receive direct awards that showed their ambitions were worth backing.

The online model also opened a new route: one session reached an estimated 2,500 students.



01 · SCHOOL EVENTS

Panel at Harris Academy Merton, 12 June 2026

Two days, c.400 students *more demand than seats*

We ran two full-day events, at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace on 6 February and Harris Academy Merton on 12 June. Both were free to the school, with lunch for every student and mentor in the workshops.

~400
students in the room across two events

4
keynote speakers

9
mentor-led workshops, 162 places

£0
cost to either school, lunch included

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ayoola Oluwanusin
Ex-Google, ex-Bloomberg, Prometheus X fellow and startup founder

Jordan Clarke
Head of Generative AI, Morgan Stanley

Jordan Unokesan
Multi-award-winning Cambridge graduate, Prometheus X and Emergent Ventures fellow, CEO of an AI anti-corruption startup

Nathaniel Massiah
World champion powerlifter, fitness influencer, MyProtein and YoungLA ambassador

ON OUR PANELS

Doctors and medical students · startup founders · data scientists · consultants · influencers · spoken word artists · public speakers · creatives · Oxbridge and Russell Group graduates. Our panellists span fields students rarely encounter together. Many once sat in the same classrooms.

01 · SCHOOL EVENTS

The workshops were the heart of the day

Small-group workshops organised by field, led by mentors with relevant experience.

STUDENTS PER WORKSHOP STRAND

Corporate · 2 sessions	60
Healthcare · 2	30
Creative · 2	30
Entrepreneurship, leadership & sport	17
Entrepreneurship	15
Academic	10
Total · 9 workshops	**162**

+40

DEMAND BEAT OUR PLAN ON DAY ONE

At Crystal Palace we planned for eight students per workshop. Interest was so far beyond that, we added 40 places across the workshops rather than turn anyone away. Our limit was capacity, not appetite.



Workshop at Harris Academy Merton

THE ENGAGEMENT PRIZE FUND

Our mentors helped create an engagement prize fund, recognising students' ideas and contributions across the workshops. Their generosity turned encouragement into practical backing.

Thomas won an award for pitching his shoe-cleaning business and used it to buy equipment for the business.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTERWARDS

After each event, workshop students are introduced by email to their workshop lead, so conversations about applications, mentoring and advice carry on. These introductions help turn a single event into an ongoing source of support.

> *"Such an inspiration for our students. They were absolutely buzzing about your journeys and more importantly, their own. We would love to host you again."*

JANEEN GATTY
Head of Sixth Form,
Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

> *"It's about time someone did something like this."*

DAN BROWN
Head of Careers, Harris Academy Merton



Alumni panel at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

02 · COMPETITIONS

Hundreds of entries, *a world of possibility*

Our competitions invite young people to take their ideas seriously. What began as an unplanned part of the pilot became the cornerstone of the Empowered Voices platform.

Hundreds

of competition entries

£4,284

awarded across two competitions

WHY IT MATTERS

An award recognises the work a young person has already done and can help them take the next step. Feedback, fellowship and introductions can extend that support beyond the competition itself.

THE ALL SOULS CHALLENGE

Ideas worth exploring

An essay challenge built around demanding, open questions. Entries explored topics including AI in healthcare, imperialism and free will.

Prize-givings in Leeds and Southampton recognised students with awards including prize money, vouchers and a MacBook Neo.

Meet Jo and Zahra on page 9.

THE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Ideas worth building

A challenge to build something that addresses a real problem. Entries included a virtual-reality glove, apps supporting people with autoimmune conditions, and creative tools.

Leonard Chung won first place. He now wants to develop his innovation into a commercial product.

Meet Leonard on page 11.

YOUNG PEOPLE BACKING YOUNG PEOPLE

The UK's largest independently youth-led prize fund for school students

Independently led and controlled by under-25s. Definition: page 26.

03 · STUDENT JOURNEYS

Behind every number, *a young person*

ALL SOULS CHALLENGE · FIRST PLACE

Jo



Jo with her certificate, trophy and MacBook prize.

Jo studies Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry, sails competitively for Team GB, and hopes to study Law at Oxbridge.

Her winning essay explored erbium-doped fibre amplifiers. Inspired by her mother, a physicist, and conversations with friends, she brought her curiosity to a demanding question.

We travelled to Southampton to present her with a MacBook Neo and welcome her into the EV Fellowship.

> *"I am so grateful for your generosity and have been exploring the new mac and found it very (very) cool."*

ALL SOULS CHALLENGE · THIRD PLACE

Zahra



Jordan presenting Zahra with her prize and certificate.

Zahra came to the UK as a refugee from Iran in 2014, speaking no English. Writing in her second language, she placed third with an essay on AI in healthcare.

Becoming an EV Fellow inspired her to pursue medicine. She then came back to us with the ambition to pitch her own research: a step from being recognised to asking for backing for an idea.

Her research is now underway with support from EV. What began as recognition became practical backing for the next step in her ambition.

> *"No patient will be made invisible by the systems built to serve them."*

FROM ZAHRA'S THIRD-PLACE ESSAY

The EV Fellowship provides a route from recognition to further support as young people pursue their ambitions.

HONOURABLE MENTION · ENTREPRENEUR

Thomas

Thomas, from Harris City Academy Crystal Palace, already runs a shoe-cleaning business with its own online following. In our entrepreneurship workshop he pitched it to mentors, won an award and used it for equipment. He is now developing his own custom products, and has asked us to mentor him.

> *"Presenting in front of others pushed me outside my comfort zone and showed how confidence grows when young people are given the right support and platform."*
>
> **THOMAS**

ST MARK'S · THE EV GRANT

A young musician

A student rapper from St Mark's has built an audience of more than 103,000 followers across TikTok and Instagram, with 1.5 million likes on TikTok. Meeting him showed us that some young people don't need to be convinced to chase an ambition; they need backing to do it.

His ambition helped inspire the EV Grant: direct support for talented young people pursuing their dreams and taking the next step.

BARTON PEVERIL · HONOURABLE MENTION

Amal

Amal earned an honourable mention for her essay on imperialism, written for our competition. Her college wrote to tell us how proud they were and presented her certificate.

> *"I am really excited that my essay on imperialism was seen as interesting and was given recognition, as this was my first opportunity to write a thought-provoking essay."*
>
> **AMAL**

ALL SOULS CHALLENGE · ENTRANT

Salma

Salma received detailed written feedback on her essay. She told us it helped her see the central tension in her argument, and that the competition had shown her a new passion.

> *"Through this competition I have realised how much I enjoy philosophy and exploring different perspectives."*
>
> **SALMA**

STUDENT STORIES, SHARED WIDELY

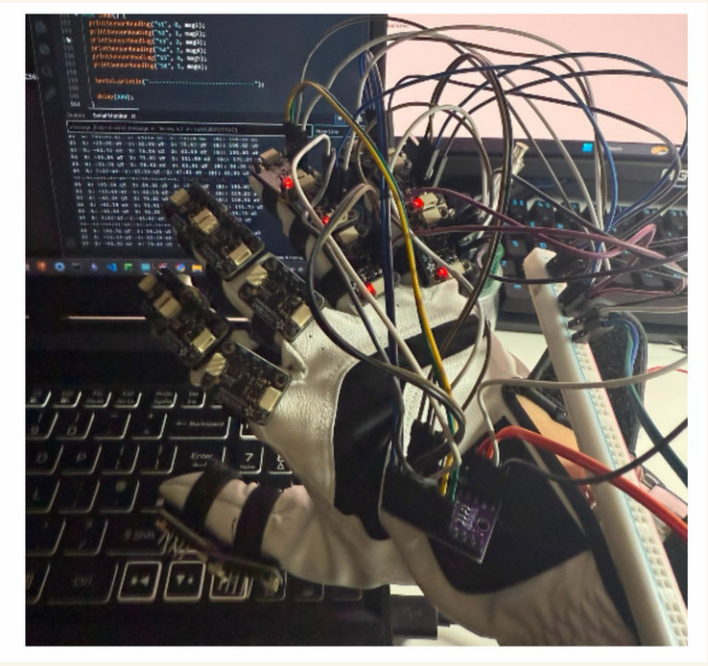
Our post about Jo was EV's most viral post. Sharing her achievement helps other young people discover EV and see the kinds of ideas our competitions celebrate.

03 · STUDENT JOURNEYS

From making things *to taking the next step*

INNOVATION CHALLENGE · FIRST PLACE

Leonard Chung



Leonard's winning Innovation Challenge project.

A LIFELONG MAKER

At thirteen, Leonard was creating digital art late into the night. At fourteen, he built a cryptocurrency mining rig. At fifteen, he designed and constructed a radio-controlled plane.

For him, building has always been a way to communicate. Competitions offer a chance to develop an idea and bring it into the real world.

HIS AMBITION

Leonard wants to develop his innovation into a commercial product, turning a competition-winning idea into something people can use.

EV'S CONTRIBUTION

EV made an introduction through its network to help Leonard explore the next steps in commercialising his innovation and finding early-stage support.

"I hope to inspire those around me to do the same, and hopefully in the future I will make a greater positive impact on the world."

LEONARD CHUNG · IN HIS OWN WORDS

A voice reaching *millions*

INAUGURAL COMMUNITY AWARD

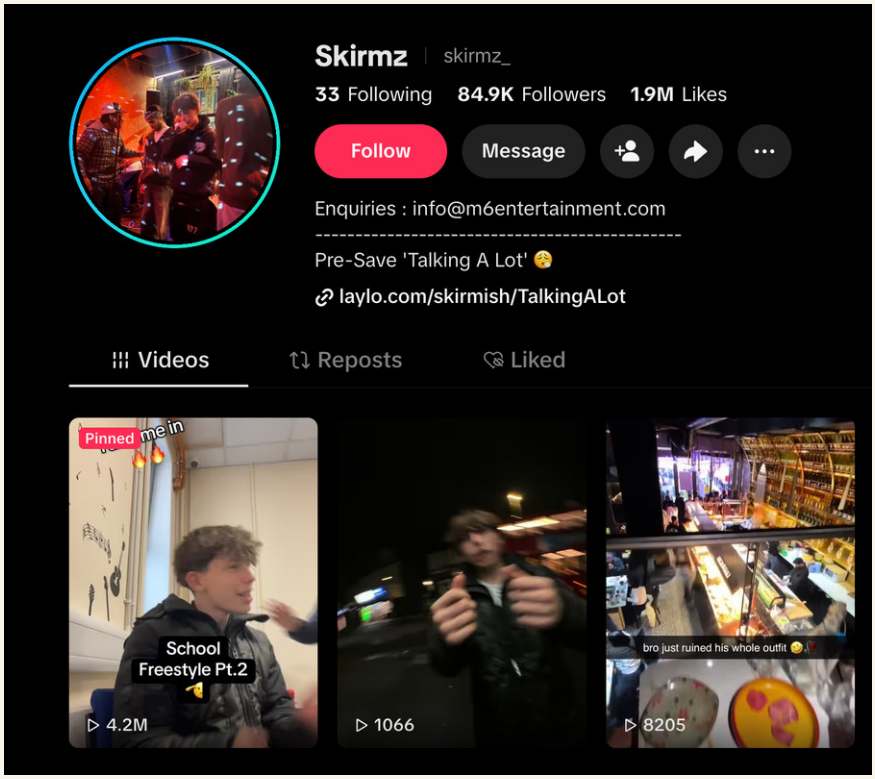
Liam

Skirmz / Skirmish

6M

views across all platforms

Reported milestone for his own content



Liam's TikTok page, where he performs as Skirmz.

Celebrating a creative voice

Liam, known online as Skirmz or Skirmish, received Empowered Voices' inaugural Community Award. Since then, his content has gone on to attract six million views across all platforms.

His story brings another kind of ambition into focus: a young performer developing his voice and sharing it with an audience far beyond his immediate community. We are proud to celebrate his progress, and the creativity and determination behind it.

"I felt heard as a young individual with parents who aren't that well off... It made me believe that there is something worth working hard for."

GIFT · Year 12, Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

The line Gift says will stay with them came from keynote speaker Jordan Clarke, Head of Generative AI at Morgan Stanley: *"Get comfortable with being uncomfortable."*

> *"Empowered Voices coming over on Friday was quite simply inspiring... I was heavily encouraged after hearing Jordan Clarke relay his life story and his decisions that led him to his current role."*
>
> **ANAYA** · Year 12, Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

> *"It really motivated me and showed me that there can still be a way to get up high in life if you stay focused and keep grinding."*
>
> **STUDENT** · Harris Academy Merton, by direct message

> *"The creative media breakout session gave students space to turn ideas into expression; proving that confidence grows when guidance meets opportunity."*
>
> **SHARON** · Workshop participant, Crystal Palace

> *"Truly a wonder to have him and all the other mentors speak at our school. Really boosted my motivation."*
>
> **STUDENT** · on Instagram



Sixth formers listening to our alumni panel, Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

04 · IN THEIR WORDS

SCHOOL LEADERS

> *This was, without a doubt, one of the most inspirational events I have been a part of in the last decade of teaching... an impact we have been feeling at Harris City Academy Crystal Palace all week, and they will feel forever."*

REBECCA BOND (HITCHINGS)
Faculty Director of Sixth Form & Assistant Principal, Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

> *Your presentation was engaging and informative, and it was clear that it was very well received by those in attendance."*

MEL
Careers adviser, Harris Federation online careers event

> *Thank you so much for the amazing work you have done with her and informing us of her achievement."*

SIXTH FORM TEAM
Barton Peveril Sixth Form College

> *It's about time someone did something like this."*

DAN BROWN
Head of Careers, Harris Academy Merton

MENTORS

> *I genuinely found the workshops to be the highlight of the day... we were able to open their minds to new possibilities and remind them that their unique gifts and talents have real value."*

ANTHONY DRAMANU · Mentor, Harris Academy Merton

> *It was an inspiring day spent with over 50 Year 12 students, sharing my journey as an incoming medical doctor, award-winning poet, spoken word artist, and digital creator."*

DR ADEMOLA OYEJOBI-MABADEJE · Healthcare workshop lead

> *If you had told me a few years ago that I'd be back at Harris Academy Merton, not as a student but helping to deliver a Creative STEM Workshop, I honestly wouldn't have believed you."*

PHILIP WILBERFORCE · Graduate Fire Engineer and Merton alumnus

> *They are doing incredible work in empowering young people and creating real, lasting impact in the community."*

EZEKIEL JOHNSON · Mentor, Harris Academy Merton

MENTOR REFLECTION

> The energy in those breakout rooms was incredible. Thank you for creating this platform and for trusting me to share my story. It's a privilege to contribute to a movement that's opening doors for brilliant young people who deserve every opportunity. The students asked such thoughtful questions, and I left feeling inspired by them.
> This is just the beginning indeed!"

AYOOLA OLUWANUSIN
Mentor, Harris City Academy Crystal Palace

05 · REACH BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Opportunity, shared *far beyond the classroom*

School sessions and digital outreach play different roles. One brings us into direct contact with students. The other helps young people discover the competitions wherever they are.

COMPETITION CAMPAIGN

110,000+

views across all platforms

Includes personal LinkedIn posts about EV. Views are not unique people.

ESTIMATED ATTENDANCES

Two school events Crystal Palace and Merton	**c.400**
One online session Across five Harris schools	**c.2,500**
Two prize-givings Roundhay and Barton Peveril	**c.150**

3,000+ estimated attendances. Totals may include the same student more than once.

SCHOOL NETWORKS

On 18 March, a 45-minute presentation and 15-minute Q&A reached an estimated 2,500 students across five Harris schools. The format suggests a way to introduce more students to EV.

PERSONAL AND EV CHANNELS

The campaign combined EV's own channels with the team's personal posts, including LinkedIn. Sharing opportunities through trusted networks helped introduce the competitions beyond our existing audience.

PARTNERS SHARING EV

The Brilliant Club shared our competitions in its newsletters, and EV featured in IntoUniversity's newsletter. Youth Beyond Borders offered to feature the competitions. Our founders joined the Harris Futures podcast to share EV's story.

Headline figures are reported by EV. Supporting campaign analytics and further detail are available on request.

COMPETITION STREAMS & JUDGING

Our competitions

Thought. Innovation. Art.

Our pilot competitions were open to sixth-form students. Future competitions will be open to secondary and sixth-form students, with an Arts Challenge planned for the full 2026 to 2027 academic year.

01 Oxford All Souls Competition

DELIVERED IN PILOT

EV's essay competition, built around a non-academic question. It seeks to surface spirit and quality of thought, giving young people space to show how they think beyond academic attainment.

02 Innovation Competition

DELIVERED IN PILOT

A challenge to build something that addresses a real problem. Entries included a virtual-reality glove, apps and creative tools: original ideas backed by reasoning, research or demonstration.

03 Arts Challenge

PLANNED FOR 2026/27

A third stream planned for the full academic year, creating space for artistic talent, imagination and self-expression alongside independent thought and practical innovation.

HOW WINNERS ARE SELECTED

Entries are assessed using a rubric built around two criteria: originality and the extent of substantiation.

Originality

How original is the idea or argument being put forward?

Substantiation

To what extent is it supported by evidence, reasoning or demonstration?

BACK A COMPETITION STREAM

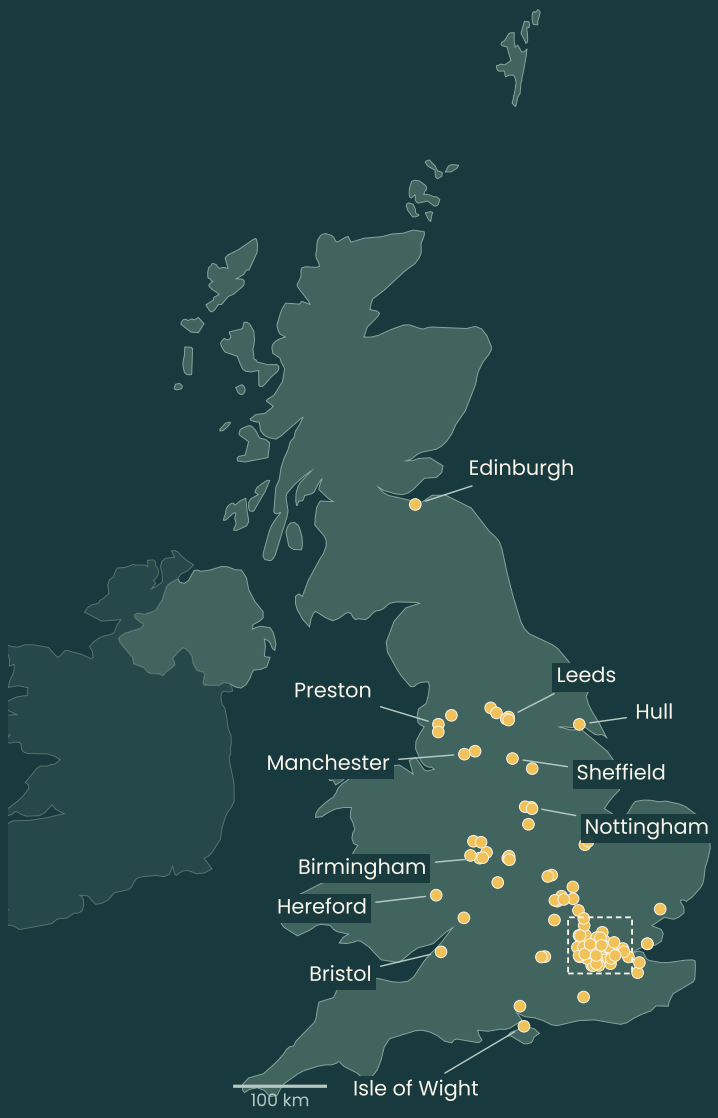
Partners can help fund independent thought, practical innovation or artistic expression.

To find out more, get in contact here: info@empoweredvoices.org.uk

APPLICANT GEOGRAPHY

Our reach

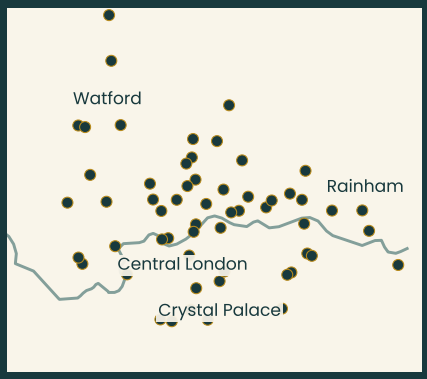
We heard from young people far beyond the schools we visited. These are the schools and colleges named in a selection of competition applications.



FROM EDINBURGH
TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Schools and colleges named by applicants across England and Scotland, with a strong cluster in and around London.

LONDON & SURROUNDING AREA



Same locations, enlarged for clarity.

BEYOND THE UK

UWC Maastricht
Maastricht, Netherlands

READING THE MAP

Each node marks a school or campus, not an applicant count. Duplicate names are merged. The London inset repeats locations; these are not necessarily EV partner schools.

BASIS & SOURCES

EV-supplied names; DfE GIAS (OGL v3.0) and official campus addresses. Three ambiguous names are omitted. Approximate locations; boundaries and rivers: Natural Earth. Details available on request.

06 · BACKING YOUNG PEOPLE

Backing young people, *with more than words*

An award can turn recognition into a practical next step. Our pilot combined competition prizes with feedback, fellowship and connections to help young people pursue their ambitions.

COMPETITION AWARDS TO STUDENTS

£4,284

Awarded across the All Souls and Innovation Challenges, recognising students' ideas and giving their ambitions tangible backing.

HOW RECOGNITION BECAME OPPORTUNITY

Recognition	Competition awards celebrated originality, independent thought and the quality of young people's ideas.
Practical support	Prizes and further support helped young people access equipment, begin research and pursue their next step.
Connections	Feedback, fellowship, mentoring and introductions extended support beyond the competition itself.

School participation was free, and young people were invited to bring their questions, ideas and ambition.

07 · WHAT WE LEARNED

The conviction *we take forward*

The clearest lesson of the pilot was how much it matters to put resources behind young people. Being heard is powerful. Having someone believe in you, and show it through a direct award, makes that belief tangible.

FUND THE UNDERFUNDED

Build the fund.

We believe the most impactful next step is to grow a fund that backs more young people across the country through competitions, giving their ambitions practical support.

01 **Grow the competition fund**

Increase the resources available for direct awards, so more young people can develop ideas with financial backing.

02 **Connect visits to competitions**

Make school visits a route into the platform: meet students, build trust and help them discover a challenge worth entering.

03 **Sustain ambitious online outreach**

Keep marketing the competitions with the same energy, reaching young people beyond the schools we can visit.

The competition platform is at the heart of our next chapter. A growing fund, school relationships and sustained online outreach form one connected approach to backing young people.

The demand *ahead*

Schools asked us for careers days, speakers and full-day programmes. This demand extended beyond the scope of our pilot and is helping shape the next chapter of Empowered Voices.

60+

schools canvassed through our outreach

We have signed Letters of Intent with some of the UK's largest state school networks.

The 60+ figure describes schools approached, not signed agreements. Letters of Intent are non-binding. Delivery will depend on agreed programme plans and resources.

WHAT SCHOOLS ARE ASKING FOR

People they can relate to

Speakers and alumni who make unfamiliar pathways feel possible.

Space to explore

Workshops, careers conversations and opportunities to ask questions.

A route into the next step

School visits that help students discover and enter EV competitions.

09 · WHAT'S NEXT

Build the fund.
Back the next idea.

OUR NEXT CHAPTER · 2026/27

The UK's largest independently youth-led prize fund for school students.

We want more young people to be heard, recognised and supported as they put their ideas into the world.

Independently led and controlled by under-25s. Definition: page 26.

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP US BUILD

01 **A larger competition fund**

More resources to recognise ideas and give young people practical backing.

02 **School visits that open the door**

Visits and partnerships that connect students with the competitions.

03 **Ambitious online outreach**

Sustained campaigns that help young people discover EV beyond our school visits.

04 **Support for the next step**

Feedback, mentoring and introductions to help young people develop their ideas.

Help back the next idea.

Fund an award or discuss a partnership.

info@empoweredvoices.org.uk

GET INVOLVED · THE NEXT CHAPTER

Make room
for more possibility

Every conversation, shared opportunity and hour of experience can help a young person take their next step. There are many ways to become part of Empowered Voices.

01 **For mentors**

Bring your experience, share your story and help young people explore the paths ahead of them.

02 **For schools**

Connect your students with role models, workshops and competitions that encourage them to put their ideas forward.

03 **For partners**

Help create opportunities through a competition, a school event or professional development for our mentor community.

04 **For young people**

Explore our competition streams and bring your questions, independent thought, creativity and ambition.

Start a conversation.

info@empoweredvoices.org.uk

NEXT CHAPTER · MENTOR DEVELOPMENT

Backing our mentors
as they back young people

The people who give their time to EV deserve opportunities to grow, too. We are building professional development into what it means to be part of our mentor community.



The official Spellbound relaunch, which Empowered Voices was invited to attend.

OUR FIRST MAJOR
MENTOR-DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

Spellbound

Spellbound is a public speaking programme built on a simple belief: everyone has a story worth telling. Across three sessions, it gives participants the tools, space and supportive community they need to find their voice and use it with confidence.

PRACTICE, AT YOUR OWN PACE

Participants can practise, make mistakes and grow in a supportive group. Personal disclosure is optional: the final speech can be on any topic they choose.

FIRST EV COHORT

2 November 2026

Three sessions. A shared beginning.

HEAVILY OVERSUBSCRIBED

Demand for the first cohort far exceeded the places available, showing how much our mentors value the chance to grow.

Partnership update: October 2026. The cohort begins after the pilot reporting period. Oversubscription reported by EV. Programme details: spellbound-me.com.

10

The team that *made it possible*

Empowered Voices is built by people who believe young people's ambitions deserve to be heard and backed.

THE EXECUTIVE TEAM



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Blerton Gerguri

Director of Growth & Partnerships

Tia Da Silva-Hunt

Director of Operations

Jordan Unokesan

President

A SHARED COMMITMENT

To hear young people, believe in their ideas and turn that belief into opportunities they can take hold of.

One team, shared purpose



GROUP PHOTOGRAPH · LEFT TO RIGHT

Blerton Gerguri	Director of Growth & Partnerships
Denise Candengue-Vidal	Director of Communications
Jordan Unokesan	President
Tia Da Silva-Hunt	Director of Operations
Gordon Armah	Director of Programs



ALSO PART OF OUR TEAM

Candice Boatin

Communications Coordinator

Candice is pictured separately here and is not in the group photograph above.

HOW WE COUNTED

Our figures and our claims

This report covers February to October 2026. Headline results are supplied by EV. Further information about our programmes and impact is available on request.

FIGURE / EVIDENCE	BASIS AND SCOPE
6 schools engaged	Schools engaged during the proof of concept, against an original plan of three.
3,000+ attendances	Estimated attendances across in-person events, the online session and prize-givings. People may attend more than once; this is not a unique-person count.
162 workshop places	Recorded places across nine mentor-led workshops. The additional places described on page 7 are not added again.
Hundreds of entries	Combined entries across the two competitions. An entry count is distinct from a count of unique applicants.
£4,284 in prizes	Total prize value awarded across the All Souls and Innovation Challenges, as confirmed by EV. Individual examples elsewhere are not added to this total.
110,000+ campaign views	Combined campaign views across platforms, including the team's personal LinkedIn posts about EV. Views are not unique people.
60+ schools canvassed	Schools approached through outreach. LOIs with major state school networks are signed or progressing. LOIs are non-binding and do not represent completed delivery.
Student stories	Selected experiences and follow-up reported by students and EV. These illustrate individual progress rather than a measured effect across all participants.
6M views for Liam	Views of Liam's own content across platforms. This figure is separate from EV's competition campaign total.

DEFINITION & VERIFICATION

The UK's largest independently youth-led prize fund for school students: verified by the EV team as at 20 October 2026. "Independently youth-led" means final organisational and award-making control rests with people under 25; EV's three founders are all 23. "School students" means students enrolled at a school or sixth-form institution. "Largest" refers to total prize value awarded over a comparable period.

Research context: Kearney & Levine (2020), Role Models, Mentors, and Media Influences, The Future of Children, 30(1), 83-106. DOI: 10.1353/foc.2020.0006. This research informs EV's approach; it is not an evaluation of EV's outcomes.

Thank *you*

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Harris City Academy Crystal Palace · Harris Academy Merton · the Harris Federation · Roundhay School · Barton Peveril Sixth Form College · St Mark's · CTK Emmanuel Sixth Form · Ark Globe Academy · The Brilliant Club · Youth Beyond Borders

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