

BETHNAL GREEN ACADEMY SIXTH FORM THE REALITIES OF LIFE BROUGHT TO LIFE

It was all about the money, money, money at Bethnal Green Academy's Sixth Form Centre on Wednesday 20 March. Our Year 13 students took part in a lively Barclays Life Skills event that was run in conjunction with Efe Ezekiel, Founder and Youth Mentor of UShine IShine.

The workshop was devised to inspire young people to get the skills they need for a better future and the session focused on personal finance with the main aim of preparing our students for the reality of university life and managing their own money sensibly.

Efe Ezekiel, who runs her own business and has experience in media production ran the workshop with Katherine, Richard and Claudia from the Barclays team. She was engaging, enthusiastic and inspiring and the students thrived on the experience and the knowledge they received that would help secure their future after leaving school. The workshop allowed students to understand how student finance works, the details of setting up a bank account and the best tools to manage their loan and their money throughout their time at university.

Students left the workshop buzzing; they felt inspired and motivated to take on the challenges of university life with a newly found knowledge of personal finance and ignited aspirations to realise and fulfil their dreams.

Karen McEwan, Director of Sixth Form commented: *"The session was the perfect mix of practical information alongside huge doses of inspiration that allowed our students to look at themselves and think about what they really wanted to do. We would like to thank everyone involved, particularly our presenters and Claudia Gwinnutt a member of our Local Advisory Board who made this event possible through her contacts at Barclays."*

"Bethnal Green Academy is such a great school and the Sixth Form students were phenomenal and a joy to work with - they all have such bright futures."

Efe Ezekiel, Founder & Youth Mentor, UShine IShine

"Efe really inspired me and I want to make sure I succeed now. I have always wanted to manage my own clothing line but have been scared to do anything about it, but she made me feel like I can make my dreams come true if I put my mind to it. She made me realise that hard work always pays off."

Fayeza Uddin, Year 13 student

"The workshop was empowering, I felt blessed and I left with the mindset that I could do anything. Efe was very captivating and inspirational."

Dylan Geraldo, Year 13 student

"Efe inspired us so much, and made us realise that we need to grab every opportunity we get to pursue our dreams. She woke me up to realise that my life is happening now, at this given moment. I never thought that saying 'hello' could be that powerful."

Lawrencia B-Nutakor, Year 13 student

"Efe was energetic and uplifting. She made me think about many aspects of my life - especially the choices I make right now. I came to realise that my life is happening now, and that I need to grasp every opportunity I get."

Davison Madzwanya, Year 13 student

Additional information visit can be found by visiting the following websites:

UShine IShine: www.ushineishine.com

Barclays Life Skills programme: www.barclayslifeskills.com