



ALVIN OWUSU-FORDWUO

AGE: 20 years old FROM: England

TOP FIVE CHARACTER VALUES: CONFIDENCE | COMMUNITY AWARENESS | RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE & DETERMINATION | HOPE / OPTIMISM | COMMUNICATION

"I feel I have sometimes been underestimated overlooked because of my age. However, I believe youth social action will lead to actual change, not just incremental progress, because we are changing our own narratives."

Growing up in Hackney, London – on ‘murder mile’ to be specific – I have seen first hand the effects of a low income and coming from a BME background can have on your life chances and I wanted to have a positive impact to change this.

Aged 19 I started working with Debate Mate as a lead mentor, and have so far taught more than two hundred students who are at high risk of being expelled from school the art of debating, so they can communicate effectively, professionally and authentically.

Last summer I worked as an assistant programme leader helping young people to push their boundaries through activities that enabled them to discover and understand themselves on a deeper level.

I have founded my own social enterprise, The Advantage Group, and this helps young people from diverse backgrounds to raise their attainment and employability

through a number of initiatives such as a peer mentoring scheme, student enterprise challenges and workshops around mental health, employability and skills. We have so far worked with more than five hundred young people.

I feel that I have sometimes been underestimated or overlooked because of my age. However, I believe youth social action will lead to actual change, not just incremental progress, because we are changing our own narratives.

Taking part in social action has given me a purpose! I am currently at university and I struggled a lot until I realised why I want to do well. I want to be the role model to young people that I never had. I am proud that through my work I am helping young people across London.

