



YOUNG
REPORTER
AWARDS
2014

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BEST REPORTER

Adam Pearson on facing disfigurement discrimination

How do you want to raise awareness about disfigured people?

You can do it on the human side, the idea of 'we're just like one of you'; which is accurate portrayal in the media as well as campaigning with charities, like Changing Faces and the Katie Piper foundation, to promote a good image of disfigurement. You can teach people about it, making decent documentaries that don't enter the two categories I mentioned earlier, of sensationalism or sorrow, but more of a fly on the wall, like The Undateables. There's some research done by Changing Faces that says that 9/10 people will have some kind of negativity against someone with disfigurement, be it mildly implicit or outright prejudice. The lower we can get that number, the better it will be...

Blackout – Does a TV drama predict the future?

On Tuesday, 10th of September, at 9pm, you may have been making yourself a cup of tea, or doing some work. You may have been watching some TV. If you were, you may have been one of 1.5 million people tuning in to watch Blackout on Channel 4.

Blackout is a one-off, drama-documentary/thriller which asked the question: "What would happen if Britain today faced an unexpected blackout?" It answered this with four different, fictional storylines caused by a cyber-threat...

Having a stammer gave me a voice

Benie Kumanda, a Year 11 student and prefect at Norbury Manor Business & Enterprise College, has inspired many, because despite her stammer, she is passionate about being a voice for the youth in Croydon. Benie was elected as MYP with Jesus Ghafavokhi...

Bridge to Croydon's bright future!

On Thursday, 5th December, the first big step in the Connected Croydon Programme was revealed! The new East Croydon footbridge was opened by the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Yvette Hopley.

The footbridge provides a quicker and more direct pedestrian pathway to the town centre from East Croydon Station.

To celebrate, Croydon Council closed Lansdowne Road in the town centre and opened a market filled with stalls held by local traders from 4pm to 10pm. The stalls sold everything from hand-made jewellery to aromatic resins to foods from around the globe...



Liberty MARTIN

Year 10,
Norbury Manor Business
and Enterprise College

Black History Month – A missed opportunity

According to the official UK Black History Month website, its aims are to promote knowledge on black history and black culture, provide positive information of black contribution to society and to heighten the confidence and awareness of black people to their cultural heritage.

However, Black History Month does not necessarily meet these aims – instead of having a well-rounded appreciation of black history we are often reminded of the achievements of well-known black figures, such as Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks.

These people, who have helped change the course of history by campaigning for civil rights in America, are already on our school curricula, so by highlighting them further we are neglecting other equally important figures.

Many school activities for Black History Month begin strongly at the start of the month and fizzle out by the middle...

Croydon Sellebrity kick off!

It's not every day that you have celebrities playing at your local football club, so of course many Croydon locals didn't miss the chance to go to the Sellebrity Soccer match at Crystal Palace Football Club, Selhurst Park.

'Sellebrity Soccer', which was launched in 2012, is an event where celebrities come together to play football matches for charity. Ticket sales and sponsorship money all go toward charity funds...



EXTRA MILE

“ I'm so glad that I've participated in this scheme and I would definitely do it next year. It was great that I could be independent by finding and researching my own stories, and found a new love for interviewing. Being in the scheme has cemented my desire to become a journalist. ”



Liberty **MARTIN**

Year 10,
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GCSEs? No problem. I've beaten cancer

309,500 people will hear the words, 'You have cancer', this year in the United Kingdom.

It is estimated that 1 in 3 of us will be diagnosed with the disease at some point during our lives. We have all seen the advertisements and campaigns, and it is almost guaranteed that you will know someone who has been affected by cancer.

I myself knew about the worrying statistics associated with the 'Big C', but I never thought that I would be diagnosed so early in my life. At the age of thirteen, I was told I had a twenty by fifteen centimetre cancerous tumour in my abdomen.

The news came as a sudden shock to friends, family, and to myself. My medical history was rather boring, since I have no allergies, all my vaccinations were up to date, and I didn't suffer any diseases like asthma or eczema. Immediately I was sent on a rollercoaster ride of chemotherapy, medical appointments and stints in hospital.

You can imagine all the things I went through and lost before having the operation that removed my tumour. But, unexpectedly, I also gained many things whilst being sick.

My bond with my family and friends strengthened, as through every struggle I went through they supported me and kept me smiling.

After losing my hair I discovered I look great with short hairstyles, and since recovering from my illness I've kept my locks short and sweet.

I have found a new appreciation and respect for the staff in the NHS, especially all the nurses who had me

laughing, making all my blood tests and whatnot that little less painful.

The most important thing I gained was the knowledge that, although life puts you through all sorts of predicaments, it is what you do in those situations that counts.

I could not control my cancer or what it did to me, but I could control how I dealt with the situation, and that is why I am a stronger at the end of it. And, in all honesty, it was hard, but I had friends, family, teachers, nurses, doctors and many more people helping me.

Now, I have been cancer-free for eleven months, but I still use my encounter with the disease to motivate me.

When I started school in September I decided that Year 10 was going to be mine, and since have joined the Young Reporter scheme, enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and participated in Arrival Education's Success for Life scheme.

In March, I competed in Jack Petchey's Speak Out! Challenge, and used my story as the focus of my speech, and won the Croydon regional round!

So, when I look back on the past year, I am not glad I had cancer, or even upset, but instead I am grateful that I had the experience.

Through the scars and pain I have learnt an abundance of life lessons that I will definitely put to use in the future. I now know my strength and have a newfound confidence (GCSEs? No problem!).

And, above all, I know that you need to give life everything you've got, because you never know what is around the next corner.