



Young people learning to ski and to be instructors in the sport with Snow-Camp

## From city to slopes

**G**ROWING up in London, I never imagined I would have a career in snow sports," said Hackney teen Jonjoe Boulter. Adding: "Where I'm from, you just don't think it's even an option."

Yet this 19-year-old is currently an internationally qualified ski coach in Switzerland, thanks to a British

**“ I want to be a positive role model to other young people in our community ”**

charity that uses skiing to support inner city teens.

Young people are recommended for Snow-Camp's programme if it is felt they could benefit from an alternative approach to learning.

Jonjoe (left) with coach Warren Smith

None have ever experienced snow sports before, however over the course of a year, they can go from a two-day introduction, to becoming a fully accredited skiing instructor.

Founder Dan Charlish explained: "Our programme requires initiative, individuality and courage. Therein lies both the attraction and the challenge."

The organisation argues that introducing inner

city kids to skiing and snowboarding can have lasting effects on their confidence, giving them vital life skills as well as professional qualifications.

Jonjoe agrees. He now hopes to work at a Swiss ski academy during winter seasons, while continuing to volunteer as a Snow-Camp instructor off-season.

He said: "I want to give something back, and be a positive role model to other young people in our community."

### MORE INFO

For more info, visit [www.snow-camp.org.uk](http://www.snow-camp.org.uk)

## News in brief



### Pirates' film leads the way

YOUNG people from education charity The Hackney Pirates have launched a manifesto on what it takes to be a great leader.

Their short film, 'A Captain's Manifesto', was premiered at the Rio Cinema on 9 March in front of 350 guests, including Deputy Mayor of Hackney, Antoinette Bramble, parents, teachers and volunteers.

The event kicked off with a red carpet entrance into the cinema, and after the film the youngsters took part in a panel discussion.

The Hackney Pirates Director, Catriona Maclay, said: "We are incredibly proud of the Young Pirates and the hard work they have put into writing their speeches.

They have some brilliant leadership advice for all of us." Since starting in 2010, The Hackney Pirates have worked with more than 500 children, aged 9 to twelve, who have been referred by local educational partners, to support their literacy, confidence and perseverance. The film can be seen at [www.captainsmanifesto.hackneypirates.org](http://www.captainsmanifesto.hackneypirates.org)

To get involved with the charity as a school partner or volunteer, e-mail: [crew@hackneypirates.org](mailto:crew@hackneypirates.org); or visit: [www.hackneypirates.org](http://www.hackneypirates.org)

(Below) A Pirate takes to the mic



Guests queue outside the cinema

## Student entrepreneurs share their Big Ideas

HACKNEY students are getting a taste of the start-up world by taking part in a competition to find the next big business idea.

Entrepreneurial students from Hackney Community College and BSix College are hoping to win the 'Big Idea Challenge', a competition to come

up with an innovative business or social enterprise concept. They teamed up with mentors from companies including Microsoft, Nike and Unilever to hone their ideas at a 'Bootcamp' at NatWest's Liverpool Street HQ.

Ideas included Hackney Community College's

'Scrinkey', a device to replace front door locks that can be accessed through a smartphone fingerprint reader; and BSix's 'Emergency Charging Booths' for city stations and wi-fi hotspots.

Trisha Mercado, a BSix College student, said: "Big Idea has proved very useful, especially having a

mentor give us advice and encouragement."

Emmanuel Yetbarek, from Hackney Community College, said: "We've enjoyed practising for the pitches, it's a great way to get everyone involved."

The best ideas will go through to a public vote. For more info, visit: [bigideachallenge.co](http://bigideachallenge.co)



BSix's 'Emergency Charging Booths' team with a mentor