

Unlec

Impact Report
2024

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*Come with us on a
Changemaker Journey...*

Not sure what a 'changemaker' is? [Click here!](#)

2023/24 Highlights

In the 2023/24 academic year we delivered a staggering **285** programmes

We reached **17,000** Young People, an increase of 2000 on last year

This year we have worked with over **250** Schools & Colleges

Deliverable Hours came to a staggering **2,400** across the year

98.7% of students say they enjoy Unloc programmes and events

80% of students told us that they would like to participate in other Unloc programmes.

Introduction



Reflecting on the year we've just had, there is just so much to celebrate. The 2023/24 year has been our most impactful year yet! We:

- Engaged and supported 17,000 young people!
- Won two national Better Society Awards, in partnership with our supporters Verizon.
- Exponentially increased the opportunities available to young people in local communities in Portsmouth and Westminster where we have our Changemaker Studios hubs.
- Awarded £40,000 directly to 30 young people in micro-grants to create change in their communities.
- Launched Unloc+, our digital platform bringing even more opportunities to young people, designed by young people.
- Started our own Unloc Youth Board and Unloc Ambassadors programme, made up of incredible young people from across the country.

In this Impact Report, we bring this to life for you. We start with headline information that showcases our footprint, reach, and depth of impact, followed by a range of case studies and stories that show just some of the people and programmes from the past year.

Despite all the achievements and strides forward, we know there is still so much more to do and so many more young people who need and deserve our support that we currently don't have the means to reach. That is why we've launched a new 3-year plan which you can view by [**clicking here**](#), which paints a future in which Unloc is continually innovating, putting young people's needs first and rapidly growing the number of young people we reach.

Hayden & Ben

Hayden Taylor
Co-Founder & Chief Executive

Ben Dowling
Co-Founder & Deputy
Chief Executive

Introducing the Unloc Youth Board

Putting young people at the heart of decision making

**Not pictured: Tia Graham*



Georgina



Katie



Khamani



Lily-Anne



Maryam



Daisy



Briana



Olivia



Lauran



Daria



Josie



Noodles



Grace



Portia

This year saw Unloc become more youth-led than ever with the launch of our Youth Board & Ambassador Programme. Our Youth Board consists of young people from across the UK who have taken part in a variety of Unloc programmes. They ensure that everything we deliver is truly addressing the needs of young people, and influence us to grow in a direction that has young people at its core. To date, the Youth Board have provided us with advice and feedback on a variety of topics, including organisations we should partner with, work experience programmes we should create, and how we should engage young people in the 2024 General Election & Political Education. The launch of our very own Youth Board has been a pivotal moment in our growth throughout the last 10 years and we look forward to having them in post for the remainder of their term. Chairs of the Unloc Youth Board Lily-Anne Knobel (16) and Olivia Bedi (16) said:

"We wanted to be involved in the Unloc Youth Board as our experiences on different Unloc Programmes have given us confidence and knowledge to push for change and make a difference in our communities, and we want other young people to have the same experiences we have. Being part of the Youth Board has helped us develop both our leadership and teamwork skills which are fundamental life skills for us to have as young people entering the world of work. Being part of the Unloc Youth Board has also enabled us to improve our communication and public speaking skills and empowered us all to understand that our voices and opinions can make a difference. As a youth board we want to increase outreach to young people nationally, and make sure the programmes are youth focused and led to ensure young people can get the most out of all these amazing opportunities."

Our mission and approach

Our mission

We believe every young person can be a changemaker. By developing young people's skills and confidence, we empower them to shape their lives and the world around them.

We work across different settings and collaborate with a range of partners to deliver our mission



Academia

Inspiring and developing the skills of young people through our school, college and university programmes

Business

Collaborating with businesses to connect the next generation of talent to opportunity

Community

Widening access and deepening impact through programmes and Grants outside the classroom

Our core themes

Entrepreneurship

Leadership

Youth Voice

Careers & Employability



What young people say...

Case Study: Georgina

Women in Tech day, Ignite Grant Winner + Vice-Chair of Unloc Youth Board

"From the enterprise challenges I completed with Unloc I've gained a better understanding of how a product is made and this has already helped me, I was shortlisted to the final 12 for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow tech competition!

I've also transformed my leadership skills. I made a lot of mistakes the first time I did it in year 9. I had quite a fixed mindset and didn't appreciate criticism. This led to me not being able to expand my ideas properly. In year 10 I became too accepting of other people's ideas, I would put my own idea last and take advice that I didn't necessarily agree with. Now in year 11, although I know there's still so much more to learn I've found the middle way. I am able to conduct a team but not abuse my role as team leader but also to not belittle myself.

Both tech events I went to allowed me to see the advancements of tech that I'd didn't even know about! I think it's so cool that Burberry is coming out with digital ways of trying fashion!

I've realised that I like working in teams and that I feel most rewarded when I'm managing a team and helping us all to a common goal. Because of this, I felt encouraged to take part in other challenges with other people and further improve my own abilities. I really enjoyed the freedom I had to be creative and the fact that I'd do it in school with people I enjoy being around!

Unloc has help me discover my passion for being a leader! This is where I feel most rewarded and fulfilled so joining the Youth Board was a way to enjoy this and being the Co-Chair also allowed me to use the leadership skills I've learnt.

Coming from a family that migrated to England because of war, I have full empathy for those fleeing from persecution in their own countries. I believe that everyone has the right to want a better life for themselves and their children, to have access to opportunities and be able to explore outside their constraints. Because of this I will become an immigration lawyer so that I can help those experiencing hardship for simply wanting a better life. I have learnt many networking and leadership skills that will help me achieve my goal!"





Case Study: Khamani

Khamani (16) received a Young Changemaker Grant, using the money to boost his business selling educational arts and crafts activity boxes to families so that their children can focus on something away from screens. With the Grant, Khamani created an inclusivity range to offer activities to a more diverse range of young people and their families. Khamani shares his experience:

"Just after finishing my GCSEs and Year 11, I was looking forward to a long summer ahead. What I was most excited about was getting back to my business, which at the time was called KML Craft Boxes. I'd put the business on pause during my exams, but I knew this break was the perfect opportunity to relaunch with new ideas.

One day, I received a message in a WhatsApp group that shares opportunities for young people. The post was about the Unloc Changemaker Grant, offering financial support to young entrepreneurs.

It couldn't have come at a better time, as I was ready to invest in my business and take it to the next level. I applied for the full £1,000 and presented my application in the form of a PowerPoint, explaining my goals and vision.

A few weeks later, I was thrilled to receive an email confirming that my application had been successful. The grant gave me the resources I needed to do a full rebrand, transforming my business from KML Craft Boxes to KJ's Craft Time. I was able to completely revamp the packaging of my craft boxes, giving them a more professional and eye-catching design."

“Unloc didn’t just provide the grant and leave it there, they also assigned me a mentor. Having that ongoing support was invaluable during the grant period. My mentor guided me through the process, offering advice on everything from managing finances to branding strategy. Their input helped me stay on track and make the most out of the grant, and it was great to have someone experienced to turn to whenever I had questions or needed encouragement.

Beyond the rebrand, the grant and mentorship allowed me to pursue an initiative that I’m incredibly proud of - the launch of my Special Educational Needs (SEN) Range.

This range makes arts and crafts more accessible to children with extra needs by providing adaptive tools like easy-grip scissors and non-spill paint pots. It’s something I’d dreamed of doing for a long time, and the Unloc Changemaker Grant helped me turn that vision into reality.

Grants like this are so important for young people because they provide both financial support and guidance. It’s not just about the money - it’s about the belief in young entrepreneurs and the encouragement to pursue our passions.

Without the grant and the mentorship, I wouldn’t have been able to rebrand, expand, or reach the new audiences I’m connecting with today. I’m so grateful for the opportunities the Young Changemaker Grant has provided me, and I’m excited to continue growing my business and making a positive impact on children’s creativity.”





Case Study: Raina

We hear from Raina who was a member of our Cambridgeshire Student Forum in 2020/21.

"I was the action group leader for the group at Hills Road College and I loved my experience. I put myself forward for the role as I knew it would be a chance to test out what I knew about leadership while also trying out a new collaborative approach. The best thing about my experience was being able to facilitate everyone's amazing ideas into practical and achievable outcomes alongside leading reflection and evaluation on the whole process. Because of the various lockdown restrictions, our team was focused on student wellbeing during COVID and we made a series of videos around exercise and cooking in the hopes that it would inspire others to pick up new hobbies.

The highlight of my time at Unloc was delivering a workshop on dealing with failure. I was really excited to share my thoughts on the topic and overall, I feel it helped me expand and improve skills such as public speaking, communication.

I now study Law at the University of York, which I thoroughly enjoy. In doing Unloc student forum alongside my sixth form studies, I became more diligent with my time, organisation and energy which proved to be extremely useful while at uni. After university I hope to travel around Europe and America to experience new cultures and meet new people."

Case Study: Ciara and Alaina

Alaina and Ciara both attended the Unloc Enterprise Academy.

Alaina is involved with the Unloc Fellowship, the I AM: Programme, and has been awarded a Brighterway Youth Grant (Relaxed Minds Campaign). She is also an Unloc Ambassador and has been on the Portsmouth Water Future Customer Panel for 2024. She writes:

"Unloc has definitely provided me with opportunities and my mind has been opened to lots of different things and challenges! Unloc show you what's out there that is different to what colleges and schools offer. Setting up my own crochet business was a huge step. After doing the Unloc E6 Enterprise Course, I was asked to do 5 commissions! I want to be successful in the business world. I really want a career with an organisation and alongside this I would like to build my business."

Ciara explains how Unloc have helped her future career plans:

"The Enterprise Academy gave me so many skills and knowledge to actually start my business! I was supported to apply for the Changemaker Grant and now I have a mentor to help me build my business 'Akorede' which means 'The one who brings gifts' in my native language.

The brand is a sports shapewear clothing brand which specialises in women in sports, trying to empower and encourage women to participate and engage in sport activities, and generally feel good about themselves. I now have a website 'akoredesports' and I have already had some orders and over 4,000 followers on TikTok! I want a successful business, I just want that as my full time job!"



Ciara (left) & Alaina



"I've learnt that I can push myself out of my comfort zone, talking to new people. I also learnt that I'm much more confident than I previously believed myself to be. Talking to new people that I've never met before and being confident about it is something I couldn't have thought myself capable of a few months ago."

"I like how we are all treated like equal people and that due to this, our opinions and thoughts are respected and heard, and then collaborated and built upon"

Fellowship Weekend

"It helped me socialise with more people so it helped my social anxiety quite a lot and taught me more about speaking in front of people and how to be more confident in expressing what I actually want to say."

**Newcastle Colleges Group
Leadership Academy**

"It really helped me to develop my business and figure out exactly what I want to do in life. It has inspired me to actually go somewhere with my craft and help people."

**City of Portsmouth College
Enterprise Course**



"It has provided me an opportunity within my business and I have learnt so much about marketing and being an entrepreneur whilst being here."

**City of Portsmouth College
Enterprise Course**

"The programme was insightful and educative. It's inspiring and builds one for future leadership positions. It helped me identify what I think may be missing."

**Newcastle Colleges Group
Leadership Academy**

"I've learnt that I can push myself out of my comfort zone, talking to new people. I also learnt that I'm much more confident than I previously believed myself to be. Talking to new people that I've never met before and being confident about it is something I couldn't have thought myself capable of a few months ago."

Fellowship Weekend



Youth Voice



Student Forums

Unloc has been championing Student Voice since our very first Student Forum back in 2012. Our forums act to help young people across a particular area identify and create action plans, encourage them to network and collaborate together to facilitate and generate more positive changes to their schools, colleges and institutions, and drive improvements in their communities cities and counties.

In 2023/24, we delivered three of our Student Forums: the Cambridgeshire Student Forum (CSF), the Council of Portsmouth Students (CoPS), and the Primary Council of Portsmouth Students (PCoPS). Each forum is bespoke to the area it takes place in, the institutions involved, and the student representatives from those institutions who wholly shape their Forum for the entire year of involvement.

There is dedicated time within all three Summits for participants to share their thoughts and ideas on Student Voice, including examples of Student Voice where things had changed or altered.



Unloc Ambassador Programme

The Unloc Ambassador Programme has been another key part of developing our young changemakers over the past academic year. We wanted to create a network of young advocates across the UK, a network of young people who have taken part in Unloc programmes, courses and events, and can represent young people and Unloc at various events around the country.

Our Ambassadors have been attending a variety of our sessions and programmes throughout the year, to bring lived experiences to the young people we work with and are flying the flag to advocate for youth voice at events up and down the country.

Our group of 17 young ambassadors continue to fight for youth voice to be heard at decision maker level and promote the benefits of young changemakers in their communities.

Having their involvement and testimony to the power of our programmes and our work has proved to be invaluable, and we love seeing these young changemakers in action, championing the empowerment of young people across the UK and beyond.

Changemaker Moments: Election Special Events

Following on from the Youth Board's input we delivered in person engagement events at the announcement of the 2024 General Election, delivering two Changemaker Moments: Election Special events, bringing young people in Portsmouth & Westminster together with local candidates from the leading political parties and providing young people with a platform for direct engagement, and to have their voice heard, asking candidates about the topics that mattered the most to them.

These events were a huge success, and showed the benefits that government can gain from directly engaging with the next generation. Unloc's Co-Founders Ben and Hayden were also lucky enough to meet the Prime Minister Sir Kier Starmer this year, enjoying a conversation with him about his aims for the government and the country.



Young People met with the candidates for Queen's Park and Maida Vale constituency, including Georgia Gould MP, now Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office. The event was held at our Changemaker Studios: Westminster space in Maida Vale, London.

Case Study: Inspiring Change



I Won't Give Up



In Summer 2024 we supported a group of young people to create, and launch a single and music video to take a stand against youth violence and knife crime. In partnership with Music Fusion and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & the Isle Of Wight, we challenged young changemakers with creating social action projects that make a difference in society, using lived experiences as a foundation, then supported them to make their project a reality.

Young rappers from the South East, Benitez, Kizz, Bagins and Mythical Truth wrote 'I Won't Give Up', a dynamic rap track taking a united stand against knife crime, drugs, gang culture, and youth violence. This was all a part of our Inspiring Change programme, challenging young people to create social action projects which create safer communities and a better society.

Inspiring Change

These projects contribute to preventing people from becoming the victims of crime themselves. The young people involved are on a journey of discovery, exploring youth violence in their community, then being supported to create, design, set-up and run their own social action project to build awareness of the issue amongst their peers and the wider community. Backed by an official music video filmed and edited by Questionable Motives, the track is available now on Spotify and Youtube for everyone to listen to, enjoy, and hear about these young people's real lived experiences.



"I am really pleased to be supporting this fantastic project made by young people for young people. They know it only takes a few seconds for families and communities to be torn apart by knife crime. Young people, particularly young males, are carrying knives because they don't feel safe without one. This track and music video should be shared far and wide because it's vital everyone hears its message."

Donna Jones
The Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight

Festival of Student Governance 2023

Unloc

acc
ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES

In November 2023 Unloc, in collaboration with the Association of Colleges, hosted the 5th Annual Festival of Student Governance at the Association of Colleges National Conference and Exhibition in Birmingham. The event provided an opportunity for Student Governors from across the country to meet together, network and attend a series of workshops at the largest event of its kind in Further Education.



"This two day event was an incredible opportunity to connect with like minded Student Governors from all over the UK, develop skills and gain invaluable knowledge in all things Student Governance. I have learnt a lot from the program and genuinely appreciate the support from the whole team. I can confidently say I see Student Governance in a completely different perspective from which I had done prior to the conference. I underestimated the program before attending."

Qasim, Leeds City College

"Thank you to Unloc for organising the Festival of Student Governance, it provided a fantastic opportunity to learn and connect. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to develop as a Governor as well as create lasting friendships and connections with Governors from across the UK."

Rosie, Henley College

Case Study: Michael

Michael is a Student Governor at St Helens and Knowsley Community College, and attended our 2023 Festival of Student Governance in Birmingham.

"I've been studying various adult courses at St Helens & Knowsley Community Colleges for 5 years. This year I was appointed the role of Student Governor at the age of 56. My first opportunity to represent my college came with the invitation to the Festival of Student Governance which I felt was a privilege for me to attend in this newly appointed role.

In 2013 I was diagnosed with a rare, incurable, neuromuscular, auto immune disease called Myasthenia Gravis (MG), which means severe muscle weakness, and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) which causes severe fatigue and sleep problems. It changed mine and my families life considerably. I'm unable to walk great distances or stand for any period, so I use a powered wheelchair to mobilise. This was my biggest challenge to date, getting a train to Birmingham by myself, attending an evening welcome session, an early 6am start the next day for the Conference, and at the end of it all getting the train back to Liverpool and home without having a myasthenic crisis, which means difficulty in breathing resulting in hospitalisation.

The welcome session on the first night was fast paced and a lot of fun, it put everyone at ease with each other. I would encourage everyone to attend this night if you are able. I can honestly say that the whole event was brilliantly organised and with the help of the organisers and other staff, I had no problems at all. Thanks to the Unloc staff for making me feel like a VIP and making the whole day as relaxing as it could be. I am truly thankful.

I would highly recommend attending this conference because not only did I learn a lot, but I grew in confidence as the day went on. The high-level subject matter sometimes felt a bit overwhelming, especially for me in my first year, but I managed it well in the end. I may have been physically and mentally exhausted by the end of the second day, but I consider this event to be important for your development in this role and I would say that if I can manage it, anyone can!

Neither age nor disability is a barrier to attending the Festival of Student Governance – everyone can achieve something here".



A photograph of a group of young people at a social event, possibly a conference or workshop. In the foreground, a man in a light-colored jacket is interacting with a woman in a dark jacket. They are both smiling and appear to be engaged in a conversation. In the background, several other young people are standing and talking. The image has a warm, orange-toned overlay. The word "Leadership" is written in a white, cursive font on the right side of the image.

Leadership



Case Study: Newham College & Unloc launch The Newham Collective

In 2023 Unloc were asked by Newham College to help reinvigorate Learner Voice across the college and re-launch and re-brand their Student Parliament. A year on, following a full Learner Voice Audit and a series of student workshops, Unloc returned to work with the newly established Newham Collective to deliver their first session of Leadership training.

Josh Sylvan, Student Engagement Officer at Newham College writes:

“Learner Voice at Newham College has seen a drastic improvement since partnering with Unloc in mid-2023. Unloc provided the college with key foundations such as a new structure, an emphasis on leadership and how to engage the learners across our two main sites, which has now grown to a total of three campuses.

Transitioning from our old structure, we needed to ensure all students had an opportunity to express their views of the college and how it could be improved. Unloc’s Learner Voice audit visits to the college opened the floor to many students, with a large number of new faces voicing not only their opinions, but solutions to support their thoughts.”

Josh continues:

"Now with 15 new team members, the team has seen incredible growth which has been seen college wide and resulted in monthly meetings with our vice-principal. The team has displayed strong leadership and out of the box ideas, alongside their consistent work ethic Newham College is now growing as a place to champion Learner's Voice."

The next steps for our Learner Voice are to ensure the Newham Collective establishes themselves across all campuses and the presence of the team is easily recognisable. With plans in place to host introductions at all sites, we are always thinking forwards and thank the team at Unloc for their support in the journey so far."

Case Study: Hills Road Social Action Week

Run annually in collaboration with Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge, Social Action Week encourages students from Year 12 to take part in a social action initiative by fundraising for a charity of their choice. Students spend the first week of June working in teams to raise a minimum of £200 for a cause that they feel passionate about.

From bake sales and sponsored walks, to busking and dog walks, students come up with innovative ideas and activities to raise awareness for various social causes. In 2024, one group of students walked 14 kilometers at night to raise money and awareness for the work done by the Cambridge Rape Crisis Center. Another group called Camping for Disaster, raised £1200 for people affected by the war in Ukraine, by camping outside. They increased the difficulty of their task based on the amount of money they received. For example, when they reached £75, they added extra weight to their bags, and when they reached £1000, they let go of their tent. In total, the teams raised £40,374.38 for local and national charities in the UK!



Hills Road Social Action Week

What the students said about their experience of Social Action Week:

"It was an interesting and unique experience, gaining many skills that I otherwise wouldn't have the chance to get. I enjoyed baking and it felt rewarding. Went out of my comfort zone and worked as a team as well as speaking to members of the public."

"I really enjoyed fundraising for a cause I was really passionate about. I have always wanted to participate in social activism and raising awareness but have never found the time to do so. This week was a great opportunity"

"The significance of how much you can do in just a few days by getting out into the public. As a group we definitely underestimated how much we could raise and we exceeded all our goals, also I found it enjoyable to hear and see how others got on in their teams, and different ways they raised money."

Jo Trump, Principal of Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge said:

*"When I became Principal I was keen to ensure our students were leaving us with enthusiasm for what the world can offer, but also for what **they** can offer the world. With this in mind, we've built a number of impactful student action initiatives over the years. In particular, our Social Action Week is now an important part of the college calendar with all Year 12s heading out into their local communities to volunteer, make a difference, and raise funds for charity, all whilst developing important skills for life. We just needed some more hands on deck, plus creative and digital thinking to make the whole programme come to life.*

Working with Unloc has enabled this event to take place annually for every non-Covid year since 2018, with the Unloc team bringing enormous energy and enthusiasm, as well as using digital technology that would otherwise be beyond what we can easily do in-house. We've also worked together to put our students at the centre of our Net Zero journey, with training and supporting student climate ambassadors who have helped shape our Net Zero plans and inspire and teach their peers, with students leading assemblies and tutorial sessions. Being a changemaker doesn't have to be about making world-changing breakthroughs; it can be as simple as showing leadership in their family, community or group of friends."



Hills Road
Sixth Form College
Cambridge



Leadership Training & Learner Voice Conferences



Unloc has been working with Newcastle Colleges Group (NCG) for the past two years on developing their approach to Learner Voice and ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to engage in becoming a changemaker. Together, we've been on a real journey.

The NCG Leadership Academy has given 30 learners each year the chance to turbo charge their leadership journey with 3 intense days of training including high-level keynote speakers, guest workshop facilitators, and the opportunity for £1,000 to help make their ideas a reality.

The NCG Learner Voice Conferences have provided bespoke chances for more disadvantaged learners to be heard on the topics that really mattered to them. Students are taken through a journey of guided agency whereby they can air views safely whilst also learning more about the issues they care about most including the challenges colleges face when addressing issues, putting systems thinking into action.

Students provided feedback:

"This has provided a nice sense of assurance that these important issues within College are actually being discussed and not just ignored."

"The programme was insightful and educative. It's inspiring and builds one for future leadership positions."

"I made a lot of new friends and how to improve my skills."

SEED 2030

Unloc and One Young World recognise that in order to incubate the next generation of young leaders, and widen access to changemaking, more needs to be done to provide funding and support to those young people with enormous potential but limited social capital. An exceptionally limited funding landscape means that talented young people, especially those from disadvantaged communities, struggle to kick-start their changemaker journey and pursue their passion.

Through the financial commitment from The Ellis Campbell Foundation, support from One Young World, local organisations and a steering group formed of young people, Seed2030 was brought to life to tackle these issues head on. Launched at the One Young World Summit in Belfast, Seed2030 offers 14-25 year olds living in Northern Ireland the opportunity to test, trial and drive forward their idea for a community social action project or start-up business that advances on one of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

After a competitive process, 10 young people in Northern Ireland were awarded the Seed2030 package of a £1000 Micro Grant, a 2 day immersive leadership bootcamp and networking dinner in Belfast, mentorship from the One Young World Community, support programme from Unloc, and a chance to attend the 2024 One Young World Global Summit in Montreal. In its first year, the ventures funded covered a variety of industries and ideas:

- a Podcast debunking the myths and stereotypes of women in Pole Dancing
- a start up supporting young people suffering with mental ill health and/or addiction
- creating a community garden in a local youth club to offer workshops on growing your own fruit and vegetables
- an app using Virtual Reality & exposure therapy to support people with their phobias
- a not-for-profit offering educational workshops around mental health
- a device that indicates whether someone's drink has been spiked
- a vegan, sustainable clothing brand
- a Women in STEM Northern Ireland support group
- a guide to advocating for disabled members of local communities



The Global Community for
Young Leaders



A photograph of three students in a classroom setting. A male student with glasses and a female student wearing a hijab are looking at a tablet held by a third student whose back is to the camera. They are all wearing school uniforms. The image has a color gradient overlay, transitioning from orange on the left to pink on the right. In the background, a whiteboard is partially visible with some text and a large letter 'S'.

Entrepreneurship

Your customer is
user!

Consider in your group

- 1) Who are you
- 2) How will you en
- 3) What resources n

Primary Changemaker Challenge Days



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

The partnership between Unloc and Kensington & Chelsea Council has enabled local primary and secondary schools in the borough to access incredible enterprise opportunities for their students. This event was the first of 6 primary school events taking place in the borough in 2024. Year 6 students from Servite Primary began the session by exploring the impact of climate change on the planet; they then discussed what the Council are doing for their 'Greener, Safer, Fairer' policy to ensure Kensington and Chelsea is a greener community; then they understood what the class are doing to look after their planet and community!

Facilitators were really impressed by the high level of knowledge and sensible approach to discussing big topics - some students had even started their own greenhouse projects! Finally, students took on the challenge of becoming environmental entrepreneurs and came up with their own products with a focus on upcycling materials ready to pitch back at the end of the day. We were met with some fantastic ideas from a lightbulb plant pot, a tyre swing and the winner - cutlery wind chimes.



What the students said:

*"I learned how to start my own business with my friends."
"Presenting to everyone about our company was the best thing."
"I learned how teamwork ends up in success."
"To be confident and if theres a problem solve it."
"I learnt that I can upcycle anything!"*

What the teachers said:

"Thank you for such a fab day. The children really enjoyed it and learnt a lot. They have gone home buzzing about their experience and ideas. We could see their team building skills developing which was a real joy."

Case Study: Enterprise Bootcamp

We've been working with the University of Lincoln Student Enterprise to deliver our Unloc Enterprise 2 Day Bootcamp. This was a bespoke tailored programme based on our Enterprise programme, in which students developed their entrepreneurial knowledge in preparation for the annual Swans Den, a competition which gives students an opportunity to pitch a business idea for the chance to be awarded a grant of up to £5,000. The process allows them to gain employability skills such as commercial awareness, organisation and communication.

The course comprises of both practical skills and knowledge development, covering key skills and learning points associated with starting a business, as well as applying them to their own micro businesses within pairs or on their own. Students prepared an industry-standard pitch, which they then presented and received feedback on. Mentoring support was also provided for students wishing to take their ideas/concepts further following the course. All also gained an employer-backed completion certificate at the end.



"I have really enjoyed my time the past couple of days, meeting other like-minded individuals. Unloc have been great and the content has really been engaging."

Student



"Across the course of two days, Unloc delivered a really valuable and interactive bootcamp. Not only did our students gain the key knowledge and insight necessary when starting up a business, but the environment created allowed them to come out of their shells, engaging with the content and each other!"

"I was thrilled with the amount of valuable conversation that was encouraged between the students. The session allowed for time each day for the students to get up and network with each other, and this really solidified a safe environment where they trusted each other - meaning they opened up and felt comfortable partaking in all aspects of the sessions."

Laurel, Student Enterprise Officer, University of Lincoln

The Young Entrepreneurs Challenge

verizon
business



What an event this year's Young Entrepreneurs Challenge Grand Final was! Year upon year the competition grows in scale and reputation, attracting ever more impressive young people from across Europe. This year's event was held at the stunning V Suite in our partner Verizon's Headquarters in Holborn, London, with leaders from across industry sectors gathering to witness our young hopefuls pitch their business ideas to our panel of judges, including ex Dragon's Den star Piers Linney.

After some amazing and impressive pitches, and much difficult deliberation from the judges, Ethan Waisberg has been revealed as the winner of the 2024 Verizon/Unloc Young Entrepreneurs Challenge. Ethan competed with strong contenders from across Europe to win £10,000 (€12,000), mentorship, a technology support package to help kickstart their business proposal, and a trip to the One Young World 2024 Global Summit, which brings together many of the brightest young leaders from over 190 countries. Ethan won this year's competition with his product AngioGenius. With eye disease screening programs worldwide not performing well enough and millions around the world going blind, Ethan developed an app where anyone can take a photo of their eye at home to help detect and monitor eye disease progression.

The Young Entrepreneurs Challenge, now in its sixth year, tasks young people between the ages of 16 and 25 to devise a tech-led business idea that enriches and benefits the planet. This year's challenge uncovered solutions, including a new bladeless hydro generator, a hybrid sunlight system that utilises advanced optics with a sun-tracking mechanism, and Generative AI technology to improve eye disease screening programmes.

This year's 2024 Young Entrepreneurs Challenge was extra special for Unloc and our partners Verizon Business, as not only did we feature our most impressive finalists yet, we also launched an all new category for young people with the initial sparks of an idea! Concepts and business ideas come in all shapes and sizes, and whilst not every idea that gets submitted may be far enough along in its development to make it through to the final, we received so many high quality applications that we couldn't let that talent pass by without doing something to help such inspiring young people take that first step to success.



With this in mind we created a new Ignite Tier, launched at the Grand Final in London. This new tier saw us selecting 5 lucky finalists to compete for a new Ignite Grant of £1000 / 1,200 € to kick-start their concept and ignite their business idea.

We then opened up the vote online to allow people to vote, each receiving funding to help kick-start their business idea. Votes flooded in and 3 winners were announced! Georgina (16, UK), Martina (25, Italy) and Harry (25, UK). Georgina's idea was for a portable sign language translator, Martina was focussed on reducing plastics in our oceans, and Harry's idea was for a device to generate energy from wave power.

The Young Entrepreneurs Challenge

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[Click here to watch our behind the scenes video!](#)

PAY: The Young Entrepreneurs Challenge Winner
Ten Thousand Pounds

DATE: March

£10,000

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF

verizon✓

Young Changemaker Grants



This year saw us award the most amount of Micro Grant funding to young people in our history, in partnership with a variety of organisations. With our Founders starting Unloc with their own Micro Grant of £300, as an organisation, we feel passionate about giving young people the same opportunity to launch their dream business, complete a community project or pursue a venture that will make a positive impact in their local community.

Over 40 young people have been awarded a Micro Grant of value between £200 and £1000 and have also received mentorship and support from Unloc.

Our Young Changemaker Grants, in partnership with Verizon, have supported many young people in starting their own business or pursuing a community project to tackle a social issue that they feel passionately about.

These ventures varied from developing the potential of cyanoskin paint to reduce pollution, setting up a media company to create representation from marginalised communities through events and support groups, a business providing wellbeing retreats for females and more. Paired with crucial support from Unloc, the Micro Grants have allowed young people to launch their passions and trial and test their ideas.



Careers & Employability



Portsmouth Inspires

53 young people, in Year 11 and 12, from across Portsmouth participated in our 'Portsmouth Inspires' Programme, funded by NCS. This intensive 3-day programme enabled young people to connect with their community, develop skills for life and unlock career pathways they might have never imagined.

Throughout the 3-days the group had the amazing opportunity to experience 'behind the scenes' visits to a range of businesses unique to Portsmouth, such as; Victorious Festival, The Southsea Deli, South Coast Cookery, Nike Unite Portsmouth and BH Live Active.

Alongside the visits the young people also got stuck into various masterclasses to further develop their skills for the future world of work. These included cookery masterclasses, high energy activities, behind the scenes at retail and the festival scene, and using the wide range of facilities at BH Live.

[Click here to watch our behind the scenes video!](#)



The feedback from the young people showed how great it was to gain career insights from real-life experiences!

"The programme had a variety of new experiences that I never thought about doing and has taught me a lot to help me benefit in my future. It also gave me a lot more confidence to talk to strangers."

"It was practical and different and wasn't just sitting down whilst people talk to you and you have to write down what they are saying. It was actually interesting and engaging. It was practical and different and wasn't just sitting down whilst people talk to you and you have to write down what they are saying. It was actually interesting!"

Palo Alto Skills For Success

Our Skills for Success days aim to develop the confidence, aspirations, life skills and employability of young people from disadvantaged communities whilst opening their eyes to the diverse range of careers that exist in the technology sector through a series of inspiring and interactive events. The Skills for Success Day brings together young people with Palo Alto and Verizon employees to share their career paths and develop students' understanding of the cyber industry.

Students were greeted by Andy Moore, Head of EMEA, given an overview of the organisation, and networked with volunteers from both organisations. Volunteers loved talking to the students about their passions and interests whilst exploring their potential within the Cyber Security and Technology sector.

Throughout the day, students were introduced to a variety of careers such as Marketing and Solutions Architects to support their understanding, then took part in masterclasses to understand and explore the future of AI technology and Scamming, Spamming and Phishing. The day ended with students forming their own cybersecurity task force to educate peers at school of the risks, and advise on how to protect themselves.

A truly inspiring day, and a fine example of the work the Unloc Changemaker Alliance can achieve by bringing leading industry figures together.



[Click here to watch our behind the scenes video!](#)



We asked Students

What was the best thing about the event?

"I liked doing the presentation about how we can prevent cyber attacks I feel like we put a lot of hard work into it."

"Everything was amazing, but I liked making the presentation and talking to the staff and volunteers best, they were so nice!"

"I liked how we did the presentation and I engaged more than I usually do because it was fun!"

"It gave us a chance to explore job opportunities in business and inspired us."

What did you learn from the event?

"I really enjoyed learning about cyber security and the risks that could take place, and how you are able to solve these issues. I also enjoyed learning about what the volunteers do as a role and how this place works as an organisation."

"We learnt about scammers/hackers and what they do!"

"There are lots of job opportunities in cyber security and it is a new and changing work sector."

"I learned that there are many different jobs in the cyber security field!"



Young Women in Tech

Through the Unloc Changemaker Alliance we joined with global leaders Burberry and Verizon to deliver the inspirational Young Women in Tech programme, an initiative aimed at developing the confidence, aspirations, life skills and career insights of young women aged 14-19, and opening their eyes to consider careers in the historically male dominated technology sector. Women in Tech events were held in major cities throughout the country, from London to Leeds, and featured inspiring guest speakers, practical exercises, and eye opening lived experiences for the young people to gain valuable insight from.

The students themselves were astounding, dedicated and passionate about learning how technology can improve the retail environment and re-shape the future for generations. We heard from some fantastic speakers in both Burberry and Verizon Business teams who were generous in sharing their journey and provided words of wisdom for the attendees. These events are truly inspiring, breaking down stereotypical barriers and outdated gender stigmas, and giving a unique insight to the sides of industry and careers that people don't often see. They also provide access to sector professionals, and open young people's eyes to the wide variety of careers out there, showing they can achieve whatever they want if they set their mind to it!

[Click here to watch our behind the scenes video!](#)



This is what the students that attended the event said:

"I never knew that jobs in this industry would be appealing to me but now I will look into these jobs as they sound interesting!"

"It has inspired me to work with more people and use my ideas with everyone else's and improve them."

"This programme has made me genuinely consider a career in technology and to be less afraid of tech."

"I gained so much insight, advice and even greater drive to get into the tech industry because it reminded me of how fun it is!"

One of the teaching staff in attendance added:

"Thank you for another great day today! Lots of the girls were asking about future opportunities on our way back so it clearly made an impression! There were also some very animated."

LONDON HUB



Changemaker Moments

Industry professionals from across the country gathered at Verizon's slick London Hub at MidCity Place, Holborn, for a Changemaker Moments event on Manufacturing. Hosted by Unloc, our Unloc Changemaker Alliance Members Verizon Business and Juniper Networks, and The Manufacturer.

The event welcomed delegates from 25 manufacturing leaders, 25 young people, and members from all three organisations. Together they engaged with panellists, explored emerging AI, IoT and robotics, networked, and even enjoyed a speed-mentoring session.

Unloc
CHANGEMAKER
ALLIANCE
events





The Manufacturer's 2024 research revealed that the biggest challenge facing the industry today is Leadership, People, and Skills, with 24% of manufacturing leaders saying this is the most pressing issue. What the research discovered is that culture and skills are at the root of this. Young, tech-native demographics entering the workforce are bringing to light the need for a cultural shift in the industry. And, as an aging industry manufacturing is desperately in need of attracting young people with these digital skills and innovative ideas. The question posed to delegates was 'How do we do this? How do we rebrand the industry while attracting the talent that will help us do just that?'

This opened the way for much debate and sharing of experiences and thoughts on the current state of the industry, as well as where it's headed in the coming future. Where are organisations seeing themselves headed – and how do they intend to get there? The event was buzzing with energy and enthusiasm as business leaders got to hear directly from young people themselves, hear their ideas, their experiences, and where they see themselves posited within the industry. It was also a great opportunity for business leaders to get to know one another, network and see where their organisations and ambitions align in the industry.

Unleash
**CHANGEMAKER
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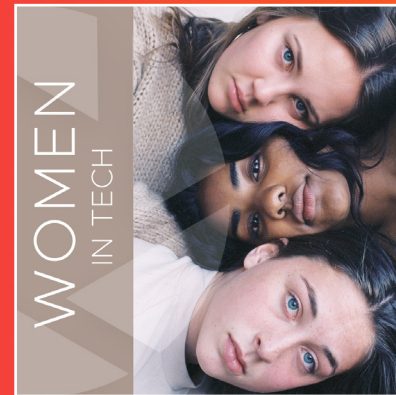




What a year for the Alliance

The Unloc Changemaker Alliance has gone from strength to strength over the past year, welcoming new member Juniper Networks to join our existing Alliance members Verizon Business, Burberry, GRP Solutions, and Palo Alto Networks. Through our combined work to level the playing field for young people from disadvantaged communities, promote equality, and improve the career potential for young people by providing training, skills development, workshops, bootcamps, networking, mentoring and inspiring events - we've been able to expand our reach and broaden our offer. Over the past year we've been able to provide:

- **Skills for Success** programme and events, upskilling young people for better careers
- **Young Changemaker Grants**, providing funding pots to encourage young entrepreneurs
- **Young Women in Tech** events opening young women's minds to careers in the STEM sector
- **I AM:** events promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- **Changemaker Moments** events and workshops
- **The Young Entrepreneurs Challenge**, finding the brightest young talent across Europe





*Does your organisation want
to be a part of creating brighter
futures for young people?*

The Unloc Changemaker Alliance is a collective of forward thinking organisations from around the world, working together to provide skills, training, experiences and opportunities which empower young people, open their eyes to their potential, and prepare them for brighter futures and careers.

If you, or your organisation would like to become involved in our mission then hit the link below - let's make a difference.

[Click here to talk to us about joining the Alliance](#)

Unloc

Let's make a difference