

OCTOBER 2021

WITH INSIGHT EDUCATION

Power List



A CELEBRATION OF OUR ALUMNI

ABOUT OUR POWER LIST



In keeping with this year's Black History Month theme of #Proudtobe, we wanted to use our platform to highlight the wonderful work of members of our alumni.

Split into three categories, their stories of self-determination demonstrate a commitment to giving back to their community, a realisation of the importance of being a beacon to others and a dedication to increasing representation.

We hope that you enjoy reading their inspiring stories.

Best wishes,

With Insight Education Team.

Giving Back to the Community



Manal Hamad

Manal Hamad was nominated by a close friend for her role in founding Manchester Outreach Dentists, a group dedicated to helping dentist applicants secure their places at university. The group has received an award from the University of Manchester for its social impact on widening participation.

Manal has gone to great lengths to support aspiring dentists with their application to dental school.

When she realised that there was not much support for prospective dental students during the application process, she decided to come up with a society called 'Manchester Outreach Dentists' which she now runs with another group of dental students. Manal has gone on to help many individuals with their dentistry applications by delivering detailed webinars, free personal statement checks and more. The society has been so successful that this year it won the **'Making a Difference Award for Social Responsibility 2021'**- Outstanding contribution to widening participation by the University of Manchester.

Best piece of advice Manal has ever been given:

The best piece of advice given to me was 'If you don't try you'll never know' as it reinforces that truly anything is possible. You just need to make the first steps towards it.

Giving Back to the Community



Ayolola Eni-Olotu

Ayolola Eni-Olotu founded Imperial College London's Infectious Diseases Society when she noticed a growing interest and need for public campaigns to educate students. The society plays a vital role in keeping the university community updated on the latest public health advice.

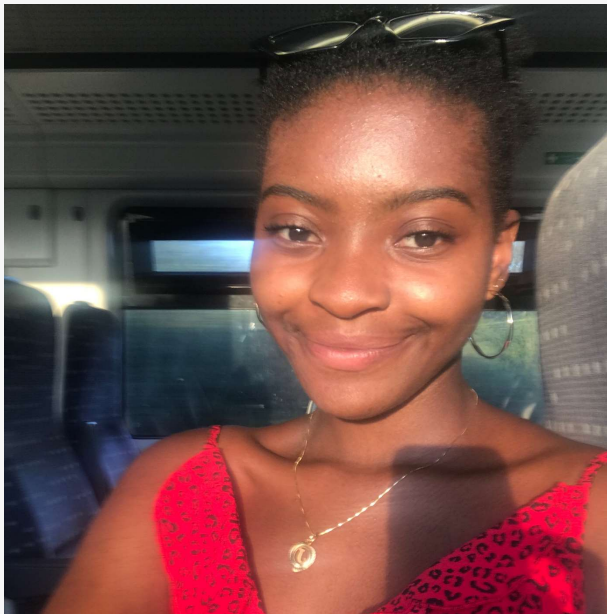
Ayolola founded Imperial College London's Infectious Diseases Society after seeing growing interest in infectious diseases amongst the university's community and recognising a need for public health campaigns that focus on understanding infections and their spread.

From 2019 to June 2021 she led the 10-person committee of the Infectious Diseases Society. This involved clear communication, delegation and innovation. Over this time period, the Society ran timely public health campaigns focusing on important issues such as COVID-19 and sexual health, offered tutorials and produced study materials. They also fundraised for important charities such as the UNICEF Save Generation COVID fund. For their efforts, the Infectious Diseases Society was awarded the **Outstanding Club, Society and Project Award at the 2021** Imperial College Union Student Choice Awards.

Best piece of advice Ayolola has ever been given:

No-one can beat you on your own journey.

Giving Back to the Community



Jada Walker-Mitchell

Along with four others, Jada Walker-Mitchell created a Call to Action aimed at her secondary school to address the racist abuse suffered by black students at the hands of staff members and non-black students which led to direct change at the school.

Jada started the Call to Action programme during her second year at university with a group of former students from her school.

Their open letter received over 1000 signatures in support and they presented a research-backed plan directly to the school governors calling for instrumental curriculum change. The group also focused on educating staff to firstly recognise covert forms of racism and secondly to deal with incidents appropriately.

The school listened. Every pre-A-level subject was audited to include a more detailed study of different black cultures and achievements. Several all-staff trainings led by external education experts were held and the school overhauled the disciplinary process with regards to racism. Cultural food was introduced into the canteen, black music celebrated in recitals and black book clubs for sixth form and staff put in place. Jada's group continues to have regular meetings to track progress.

Best piece of advice Jada has ever been given:

I was told by my university academic mentor that I should never underestimate my own potential, nor the potential of passionate people working hard for a cause they care about.

Giving Back to the Community



Baaba Nkansah-Asamoah

Baaba Nkansah-Asamoah is a member of Black Horse Responders, a community group formed to tackle knife crime and gang violence through creativity and community awareness and cohesion.

Baaba is one of 10 Blackhorse Responders in her local area, a community project commissioned by the Mayor of London to empower youth voice and create awareness of the dangers of knife and gang crime.

As a Blackhorse Responder she has applied creativity to build a stronger community by learning essential design skills, mixing them with activism and applying them in the community. Her role also requires her to meet with a blend of creatives such as Extinction Rebellion, London Design Festival and Resolve Collective.

Still only a sixth form student, Baaba's role entails her giving motivational speeches, including one that she gave at an inaugural event at her local Town Hall.

Best piece of advice Baaba has ever been given:

Don't allow your gift to take you somewhere your character cannot sustain.

Being a positive role model



Ishmael Liwanda

During the summer of 2020, Ishmael organised a survey to find out how black law students at the University of Bristol were feeling in light of George Floyd's murder. He then fed this back to the Law School, leading to progress and change within the department.

Ishmael used the survey findings of the University of Bristol black law students to create an open letter to the faculty calling for change.

He was pivotal in the creation of constitutional amendments so that law societies had to set up a BAME law mentorship programme. Additionally, his campaign led to a new approach whereby black and non-white speakers at events must be consulted first to join panels (before this, over 90% of legal speakers were white).

His actions spurred the Law School to join the Black Solicitors Network and create a forum providing non-white students with a direct link to the Head of school to discuss the racism that they have experienced and changes that must be made. In general, he is an incredibly driven student that is passionate about law, learning and black equity.

Best piece of advice Ishmael has ever been given:

Strive to live an impactful life, not just a successful one. To live an impactful life, is to focus on helping others and leaving the world a slightly better place than you found it. Whether that be lending a helping hand to someone in need, or just smiling at a stranger, this is something I try to implement in my life every day.

Being a positive role model



Chinedu Agwu

Chinedu is a PhD student in Life and Medical Sciences. She goes above and beyond her duties to be a positive role model for black women in STEM, always jumping at the chance to talk on panels and events about her experiences. Her visibility within this field is motivated by inspiring the younger generations.

As a PhD student in the life and medical science field within academia, Chinedu steps out of her comfort zone by engaging in science conferences, public engagements and widening access as well as mentorship.

The result is that she is able to portray a positive narrative for black women in STEM, encourage aspiring science students and empower herself to take up space within her field.

Best piece of advice Chinedu has ever been given:

Not to be afraid to shine and remember the value that you bring to the table. Also "pay it forward" by doing onto others as has been done for you as we have a collective responsibility for success.

Being a positive role model



Chisom Sampson Egedeuzu

Chisom is in the final year of his PhD in Chemistry at the University of Manchester, specialising in sustainable pathways and green routes for disposing of common compounds. On top of his studies Chisom goes above and beyond to inspire the younger generation by dedicating much of his time to mentoring.

At a time when the world is embracing the need to urgently embrace the climate crisis, Chisom's PhD in Chemistry focuses on finding sustainable pathways to provide alternative green routes for the manipulation of organosilicon compounds for a safer environment. His work has a wide variety of applications including in cosmetics and medical equipment.

Chisom is also a mentor on both our Insight2Uni and Foresight programmes.

Best piece of advice Chisom has ever been given:

The best piece of advice I have received in life was from an older mentor who said, "Chisom, if you go for excellence, honesty and integrity, then prosperity will pursue. Do not get involved in double standards."

Being a positive role model



Chris Njoroge

Chris uses his position as President of the University of East Anglia Business Society and his membership of the Student Council to make sure that his community's voice is represented and heard.

Chris is the President of the Business Society at the University of East Anglia (UEA).

Being the leader of the largest academic society at his university, as well as one of the few leaders of colour, is very important to him in terms of representation.

By taking on this role, Chris wants to show others from minority backgrounds what can be achieved when you work hard and are passionate.

His role in the UEA Student Council has also allowed him to play a vital part in creating and promoting events that celebrate black culture across the university.

Best piece of advice Chris has ever been given:

Don't deep life too much and stay in the present.

Pushing the boundaries



Parise Carmichael-Murphy

Parise Carmichael- Murphy has dedicated her academic research and work throughout her PhD to engage black learners at all levels of education. Her work includes the creation of a Grime music and black British Identity resource pack.

Parise is working to challenge the lack of representation of black learners across education at all levels. She feels strongly that the curriculum excludes black learners and, in many cases, fails to engage them in meaningful ways across school, colleges and higher education.

In response, she has created open resources, mostly aimed at young people to explore. For example, her Grime music and Black British Identity pack.

Parise is committed to pushing for structural change. Consequently, her work includes the creation of resources for educators designed in collaboration with two secondary educators who are passionate about decolonising Geography.

Best piece of advice Parise has ever been given:

It is never too late.

Pushing the boundaries



Joshua Winter

Whilst studying for his PhD in Physics, Joshua Winter spends much of his time promoting STEM subjects in communities where engagement is traditionally low with the aim of sparking students' interest in the subject.

Joshua is committed to diversifying representation in STEM and higher education.

Targeting communities and schools that systematically show less engagement with STEM subjects, Joshua actively participates in outreach events, delivering talks on Physics and Black History.

By recognising the incredible scientific achievements of pre-colonial Africa and black scientists of the modern day, Joshua is able to improve the experience of African heritage students as they engage with the subject.

Best piece of advice Joshua has ever been given:

When you learn, you grow.