

Educating Our Black Children Two: Empowering them to Succeed

Saturday 16th June 2007, University of Derby

Conference Evaluation and Feedback

Conference Evaluation

Approximately 150 people attended the conference and 42 people (whom were teachers, parents, students or did not say) returned their evaluation sheet. There was an overall rating of 81% who thought the conference was excellent and 49% thought the venue and conference packs were excellent.

Not everyone saw all the speakers so this is summary of the completed forms.

Speakers	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Unsatisfactory
Trevor Gordon	83%	17%		
Paul Obinna	95%	5%		
Richard Grant	62%	24%	14%	

Comments and reflections on speakers:

- The standard of the day was exceptional. Lunch and venue were excellent! Congratulations to the organisers and participants. More publicity needed next time – duplicate this in other BME areas.
- Trevor Gordon and Paul Obinna could have spoken all day. Very informative and interesting.
- This conference should be held yearly with speakers from the Derby community as well. Both speakers were excellent and very informative.
- Trevor/Paul/Richard need to be seen more, and more positive black male role models seen. We need more conferences that showcase speakers like these men.
- The speakers were excellent! It would be very useful for them to come again.
- Very good quality.
- The speakers were great!
- Felt benefited from Trevor Gordon's message of positive empowerment and aspirations relating to the Black Community. This message found resonance with the audience.
- Richard Grant very inspirational. Paul Obinna and Trevor Gordon were awesome, inspirational and revolutionary. Thought provoking stuff.
- Fantastic! I was overwhelmed with knowledge.
- Very interesting and funny. I really enjoyed Paul Obinna and Richard Grant (comment from a student)
- Wish I could come again (comment from a student)
- Very inspiring. Very knowledgeable. Speechless.
- The speakers should be heard by a much wider audience
- Excellent motivational and driven speakers. The whole event was very inspiring.
- The speakers were clear on their words. One could hear every word that was spoken. The organisation was well planned. The food excellent. Thank you

- Once again, I cannot see how you can better this area! The speakers were awesome and inspirational. Richard's poetry left me with 'Goosebumps' what talent! I will definitely be buying his literature in future.

The following Workshops took place:

Workshop A – **Paul Obinna** – Explores the distracting elements stopping people learning.

Workshop B – **Lorna Cork** – Innovative approaches to raise achievement and finding new ways for schools to work with parents.

Workshop C – **Mel Laking/Lief Benwoir-Jean** Aimhigher – The University Experience

Workshop D – **Bianca Ellis/Jackie Whittaker** – Connexions – Routes into Education

Workshop E – **Trevor Gordon** – Practical ways to create safe places to meet.

Workshop F – **Yvonne Green** – Overview of the school workforce & practical advice on what experience and skills are needed.

Workshop G – **Richard Grant**, Poet (Dreadlocks Alien) – Produce work for the showcase after lunch.

Workshop H – **Ken Barnes** – How teacher perceptions and expectations affect a student's performance.

Workshops:	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Unsatisfactory
Workshop A	90%	10%		
Workshop B	50%	50%		
Workshop C	67%			33%
Workshop D		100%		
Workshop E	50%	50%		
Workshop F				
Workshop G	50%	50%		
Workshop H	45%	45%	10%	

This poem was written by one of the students who attended Richard Grant's workshop.

Black is high, Black is low
 Black is power and goes with the flow
 Black is beauty, Black is sport
 Black is the way how I got taught
 Black is I, Black is you
 So come and join the Black culture too!

Comments / reflections on workshops:

- Make it a two day course, due to only being allowed to attend two workshops. Informative and an 'eye opener'.
- Well executed.
- Excellent and informative
- I have learnt a lot from the workshops, I look forward to next time.
- Dr Lorna Cork needed to be more focused.
- Funny.....competitive
- Very well thought out, good discussions and debated.
- Extremely interesting, expanded my thinking.
- I enjoyed these, lots of ideas and strategies for working with and educating young people. An opportunity to network and support each other.
- Good idea
- Brilliant!
- Very good!
- Workshops were excellent, got you thinking.
- It was good to go into discussions, but I wished I had more information about the speakers, before I chose my workshops – I would have chosen differently.
- Gained so much more knowledge from the speakers who were all excellent, need more conferences like this in Derby.
- Contents useful and relevant particularly Trevor's as it generated a lot of healthy and meaningful discussions.
- I found my first workshop very useful and made me think what I am going to do when I leave school. My second workshop was not so good because of some of the children.
- A day to be remembered, thanks a lot.
- Was again inspirational, but it would have been nice to have had possible strategies to implement in the Classroom.
- Very enjoyable although after a while the comment "See what I'm saying" delivered in a hectoring manner, can jar.
- They were brilliant.
- The speakers – could listen to them all day – a wealth of knowledge to digest. So much more to know. Need super speakers like these to keep on going into our schools and communicating and aiming this at the very young. More! More! More!
- Very informative, educative and inspirational.
- Could be longer over a weekend, I could take in a lot more information. Well done Trevor and Paul.
- The workshops were inspiring and a wonderful opportunity to network and consider what our contributions as a community will be to our children's needs.

Any topics you would like the next conference to address:

- What it's like to be a black female in a particular professions ie teaching, lawyer, business consultant.
- Positive black role models.
- Parenting and young people, drugs.
- I would love Gina Yashere to come back again for next year.

- Parenting? Sex Education? Emotional Intelligence? Understanding non-verbal communication. Media?
- Inter racial discrimination, black girls under-achieving, how to break people's negative thinking around black stereotypes.
- I would like to see more of Trevor and Paul again.
- I would like to see the Director for Children & Young People talking at this Conference about Every Child Matters agenda.
- How the Church could be more pro-active; parenting classes; female role models.
- South Asian pupils – bringing together different diverse communities.
- Slavery and jobs of black adults.
- Young children at home
- Sexual Education
- A session from Andrew Flack, to feedback to us what changes have been made as a result of what we have said in the previous year! ie the IMPACT of the conference on policy and practice.

How did you find out about the conference?

- Word of mouth – relative, work colleague, family member, friend
- Attended last year
- Leaflet – work notice board, local Church, “Open Doors”,
- Aimhigher
- “Fast me Fast”
- Community Group Leader
- ABPO, London
- Lorna Simpson