

JONATHAN BUSWELL

Name: Jonathan Buswell

Age: 20

Where I Live: West Midlands

“Judgements prevent us from seeing the good which lies beyond appearance.”



MY SOCIAL ACTION JOURNEY

I'm committed to building social enterprises and to helping those young people often overlooked in mainstream society. That's why I started Garden Gnomes, a social enterprise which is dedicated to keeping gardens beautiful so that people can enjoy what little sun we have in Britain! Our staff are young people who have been given Anti-Social Behavioural Orders and other young people who are excluded from society.

From society's so-called 'bottom', Garden Gnomes has taken me to the top of society – proof, if any were needed, that young offenders

give and donate positively to our community, challenging the negative stereotype. I've met HRH The Prince of Wales and reached the final of the National Entrepreneur competition, when I pitched to HRH The Duke of York and Dragons' Den's Peter Jones! I'm now aiming for an UnLtd higher level award. I've also learnt key skills in public speaking and gained so much confidence in myself and my own ideas that I feel I can succeed in all areas. It's a great feeling, and a fantastic way to live your life.

KEY CHARACTER QUALITIES AND VIRTUES

Justice | Gratitude

The adults who have most inspired me to get involved in social action are ...

The police. I was arrested numerous times when I was younger, and the last time was when I was 15, which is when I decided to turn my life around.

MY SOCIAL ACTION PLEDGE

#iwill encourage 50 young people around the UK and Ireland to start social ventures and projects in their communities by speaking publicly in schools, colleges and universities.