



All for One: Tyrese McGowen



Tyrese is a Year 6 pupil at Mereside Primary in Blackpool, who often struggles with his behaviour and engagement within class. Tyrese is reluctant to follow rules and respect authority both in and out of school. As a result, he has displayed signs of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and has become close to being excluded from school. Tyrese finds it difficult to communicate and socialise with peers and regularly involves himself in altercations, some of which are physical.

Tyrese has taken part in FOUR of the Trust's programmes which have all helped him develop in different ways.

'Unstoppable' is a Year 6 PSHE programme that uses Dan Freedman's novel to tackle sensitive, relevant issues faced by young adolescents. The programme was delivered at Mereside for 1 hour a week over a 6-week period. The children read the book to a certain point in order to access the lessons. Despite Tyrese usually being a reluctant reader, he enthusiastically read the book and found that he related to the characters.

In the beginning, Tyrese was reluctant to express his opinion or have any discussions with his peers. However, the class TA, Mrs Robinson, was always present within the lessons and acted as a facilitator for Tyrese to converse with the class.

Over time, Tyrese was more forthcoming with contributing to the discussions and recording in his workbook. It became apparent he had very insightful answers and was able to articulate his opinion well. Within the lesson that discusses appropriate actions for adults towards children, Tyrese was able to recognise that when he had been approached on his estate by a male asking him to look in the back of his van and give him his phone number, that this behaviour was not acceptable.

This information was passed to the safeguarding team and communicated throughout the school. One of the following lessons discusses a 5-step behaviour model and how people react to different situations. Tyrese was able to relate to an example of losing his temper as a reaction when something does not go exactly his way.

He was able to fill out a behaviour model to address his thought process and how that effects his behaviour. Within this lesson, Tyrese was extremely open and honest about his feelings on the subject and how he realised his behaviour needed to change.

As part of the Unstoppable programme, the children complete a before and after quiz to assess their knowledge and understanding of PSHE related topics and Tyrese's score on this quiz went from 50% to 62%, showing an improvement of his understanding.

Once Tyrese, and the school, had built a relationship with the Community Trust, other provisions were then available for Tyrese to access. Through school he was already taking part in curricular and extra-curricular sessions with our Premier League Primary Stars team.

Tyrese also attended our PL Kicks programme, run by the Community Sport team, which engages young people in constructive activities, including a wide variety of sports, coaching, dance, educational and personal development sessions. Tyrese was encouraged to attend these sessions in order to direct his time outside of school, he now attends every Monday and has taken a keen interest in the boxing.

Jamie, one of the Kicks coaches said: "Tyrese attends every session and has a good relationship with the coaches, we can have a conversation about anything. He will participate in any sport we do, but takes a keen interest in boxing, however, I think he mainly attends the youth club and kicks sessions for social reasons, he's a very social person and seems to be liked by many."

In addition to accessing the Kicks programme, Tyrese was then referred to our Online Mentoring programme with the Community Cohesion team. This project is

aimed at 10-16 year olds who are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and/or crime.

Young people can access their online mentoring sessions via their preferred platform which includes XBOX, PlayStation 4 or a video call. All 1:1 sessions take place with our BFCCT Digital Youth Engagement Officer. Tyrese met the criteria to take part in the programme due to being at risk of ASB and exclusion from school as well as his interest in sport and gaming.

Weekly sessions are held with online mentor Seb, which last approximately an hour. Seb said: "Tyrese has had two sessions so far with me. The first session was a session so that me and Tyrese could get to know each other, as well as dropping off the digital equipment that we will be using. Tyrese is an incredibly polite, helpful, and well-mannered individual. He immediately explained that he had done Unstoppable and that he also attends Kicks on a Monday night.

"During the second session, Tyrese worked on his Good Life Pitch. The Good Life Pitch is a football pitch broken down into 8 equal sized parts. Each of these parts are labelled with different aspects of our life e.g. relationships, community, inner peace. Tyrese did this very honestly and thought about each section thoroughly.

"Whilst doing this, we had many positive conversations about what Tyrese does well and what he could improve on. In the upcoming weeks, Tyrese will be working on activities developed by BFCCT on areas of the Good Life Pitch that he may feel need some improvement. Tyrese is doing great work when engaging in the sessions. He now aspires to become a police officer and is demonstrating good skills that would help him in this role."

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