



## The Official Opening

The Think Store is kindly funded by Jack Petchey foundation and Land Securities. It is supported by the 14-19 team, LBN and the UEL.

Situated amongst the busy retail shops in the Stratford Shopping Centre is the 'Think Store' managed by Faisal Bakht. The think store is a study support centre designed especially for young people aged 14-25. Its also available to school and the people of Newham to utilise. Its purpose is to motivate young people to business; this is done by providing experience to the youth of Newham and giving them the opportunity to study real life business by carrying out innovative and the exciting courses the centre offers, such as 3D modelling, starting an enterprise, building e-Portfolios and many more.

"It's a great place for young people to peruse their business plans and future prospects" stated Natalie Douglas the winner of best business plan from Sarah Bonnell School.

It was officially opened on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July by Zuhayb Ahmed (the Young Mayor of Newham). The ceremony started at a restaurant, Caribbean Scene- opposite the Think Store, filled with students from Rockeby and Sarah Bonnell, parents, mentors, Business partners and those who participated towards the success of the Think Store. Awards were presented to schools, pupils and business partners to celebrate their hard work and appreciate their contribution towards the think store. An award was also presented to Dulal Rahman for gifting the Think Store with his design for the logo being inspired by the clouds on his way to Bangladesh! Jo Sadler from the 14-19 team was present at the ceremony and said that she "remembers seeing the plans for the Think Store and now to see it for real is very pleasing."

When asking Zuhayb Ahmed (Newham's Young Mayor) what he felt about the think store, on which he replied "it's a great opportunity for young people to learn and get to set up business" as one of his roles is to promote the interests of the young people of Newham.

In future the store plans to offer a live web hosting space for each team business and provide training on how to manage their websites. The store also plans to develop a group of graduates who will carry on developing their businesses and taking it a step further and helping them achieve their dream.

**The think store is playing a great role in leading the youth of Newham towards success.**

The ceremony ended with a cheerful atmosphere, people examining the Think Store and finally ending with every person congratulating Faisal on his achievements.

**Many Congratulations to Faisal on his outstanding achievement and putting a great deal of effort and hard work into the success of the 'Think Store'**

Drop into the Think Store, at Stratford Shopping Centre (near The Theatre Royal), to find out how you can take advantage of the learning opportunities on offer contact Faisal Bakht for more information.

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