

Story

KS2, 3 & 4 – Yasir’s story



Twenty-year-old Yasir Yeahia, from Ilford in East London, was a Send My Friend to School Young Ambassador in 2011. During that time, Yasir travelled to Guatemala, met leading politicians, gave a speech at the Houses of Parliament, and became an inspiring role model. He is currently studying for a degree in politics at Queen Mary University in London.



Yasir was a Young Ambassador in 2011 with Navdeep Bual.

Yasir is passionate about education. He sees it as “much more than just exams and qualifications and a way for people to maximise their potential in all areas of life”.

Yasir first heard of Send My Friend to School through his geography teacher: “He wanted to tell me about the Steve Sinnott Award to be a Young Ambassador. He thought I should enter. I was surprised; when I was in school some people thought I had a big mouth, but this teacher knew that I was really passionate about issues and I’d make a good campaigner”.

Yasir’s visit to Guatemala was eye-opening: “We met children working rather than going to school. They were doing tough manual labour, or selling fruit on packed buses. It made me grateful for how things are in the UK and the education I’ve had.

“We found out that the amount of government spending on education is only £1.50 per student per month, and that delivering decent education in such a poor country is a massive challenge.





“I was so inspired by Guatemala that when I came back I was up for everything. We gave a speech at the NUT Conference in front of hundreds of people, and another speech at parliament. We also made films for the Send My Friend campaign and took part in loads of events.”

Being a Young Ambassador gave Yasir confidence in public speaking: “I found that the more speeches I gave, the more I learnt about the subject and the more energy I could put into them.”

When Yasir was younger he wasn't sure what he wanted to be, but being a Young Ambassador made him realise politics was the route he wanted: “It was almost like politics chose me rather than the other way round! My dream would be working in the UN.

“If I were a world leader I'd make sure that the Sustainable Development Goals are enforced. I think this time they should have targets for every couple of years, for example, they should reduce the number of children out of school from 58 million in 2015 to 50 in 2017, and 40 by 2020.”

58 million children are missing out on school – 2015 could change their future. Remind world leaders that they promised ALL children an education by 2015. Speak up for the right to education for every child.

www.sendmyfriend.org

Photos: Jeremy Davison/ActionAid; Mark Chilvers/ActionAid

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