

Volume 1 | Issue 01

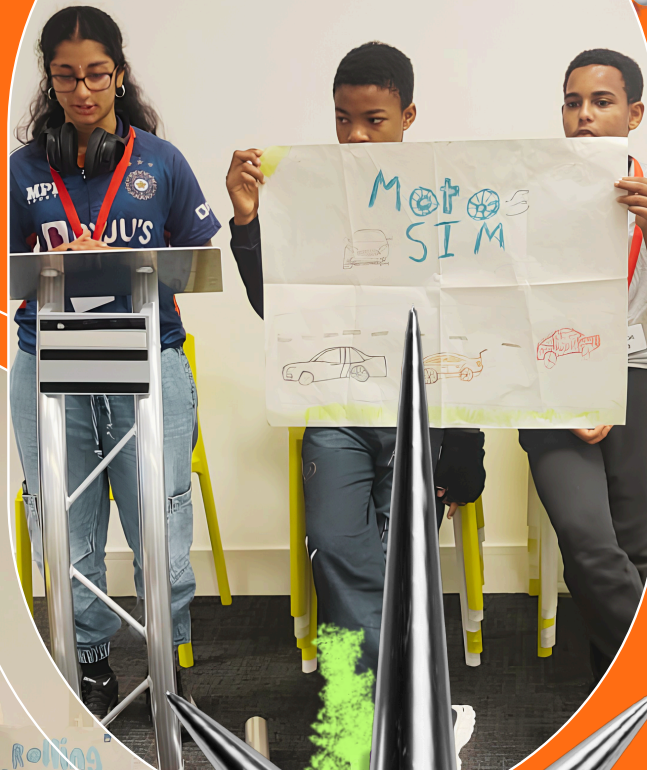
Level Up Your Leadership! Join the next generation of changemakers with our MRANI Leaders 2026 programme.

Be the Leader of 2026



NEXT GEN - 2026

Lock In & Level Up! 
Bold skills, big moves and
world changing ideas.



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31 July 2026 | Free to Join

<https://www.minorityawardsni.org.uk/>



DAY 1

What We Did Today

We officially kicked off the Next Gen Youth Leadership Programme with MRANI and The Mind Tribe UK! Day 1 was all about jumping straight into "Change & Challenge" and "Goal Setting."

To break the ice, we tackled the legendary Human Knot challenge! We had to work together to untangle a giant tangle of hands without letting go. Watching everyone instantly click, communicate clearly, and untangle the chaos as a team was an absolute blast. Everyone brought 100% main character energy to sketch out their big visions for the future!

Day 1 Key Highlights

- **Communication Beats Chaos:** When things get tangled up (literally or in life), talking clearly to your team is the fastest way to solve the puzzle.
- **Set Your Sights High:** Defining your goals early gives you a roadmap for where you want your leadership journey to go.
- **Every Voice Matters:** Bringing your unique background and perspective to the room makes the whole squad stronger.

Highlight of the Day: Untangling the Knot

"Watching our young leaders step up, take charge, and untangle the Human Knot proved right away that when we work together, no challenge is too tricky to solve!" ✨🌟

Key Partners & Facilitators:

MRANI | The Mind Tribe UK | Ulster Bank | Diane Wabo | Susuana Olukemi Olatunji-Komolafe | John Ferris | Katie Matthews-Furphy | Magdalene Ajani

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DAY 2

Program Overview

Day 2 was all about raising our confidence and mastering the art of real communication! We welcomed two awesome new participants to our group of 6- to 18-year-olds, making our team energy even bigger.

We jumped into fun, high-energy role-play activities like Charades, Hot Seat exercises, and open-stage speaking. We practiced taking the mic and sharing our thoughts, while learning how to listen to each other with complete heart and focus.

Day 2 Key Highlights

- Listen with Heart & Soul: Real leadership isn't just about speaking—it's about active listening and truly understanding what your teammates are saying.
- Own the Stage: Stepping into the Hot Seat might feel scary at first, but practice builds unstoppable confidence!
- Welcome New Teammates: When new people join your crew, helping them feel included instantly levels up the whole group's vibe.

Highlight of the Day: The Power of Listening

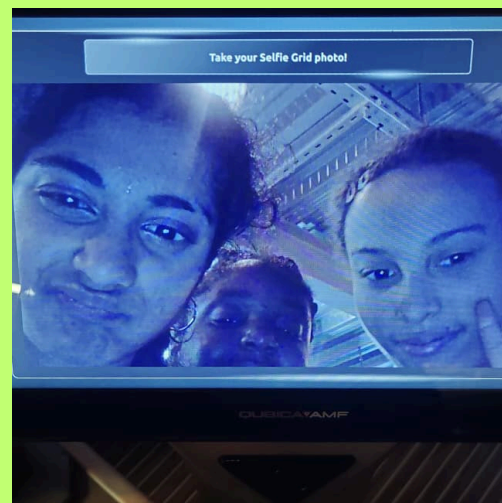
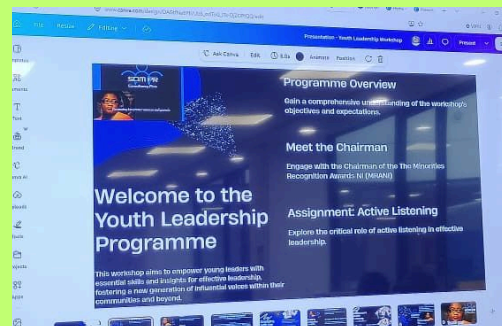
"Watching everyone grow in confidence on the open stage while their peers listened with deep empathy showed us that when people feel heard, their biggest dreams come alive!"

Key Partners & Facilitators:

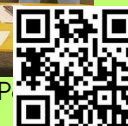
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DAY 3

What We Did

Ever wondered what kind of leader you are? On Day 3, we explored different leadership styles! We learned that every single person brings a unique superpower to the team whether you're the big-idea thinker, the energetic presenter, or the quiet planner behind the scenes.

Day 3 Key Highlights

- There's No One Way to Lead: You don't have to be the loudest person in the room to be a great leader.
- Know Your Strengths: Great teams win when everyone flexes what they're naturally good at.
- Flexibility is Key: A real leader knows when to speak up and when to step back and listen.

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DAY 4

What We Did

We put our teamwork to the ultimate test: building a standing tower using only spaghetti! Shoutout to Juanita, Saisha, Angel, and her sister for showing us what real determination looks like. It took trial, error, and a few structural collapses, but through pure trust and resilience, we built a tower that stood tall!

We also got to meet Azim, a 23-year-old entrepreneur and global dancer, who proved that passion + purpose = magic.

Day 4 Key Highlights

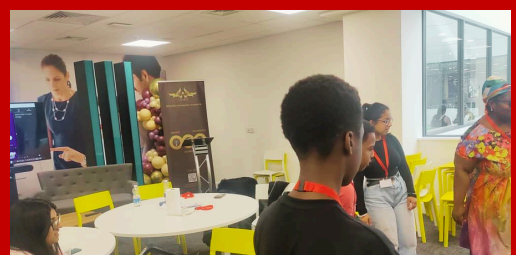
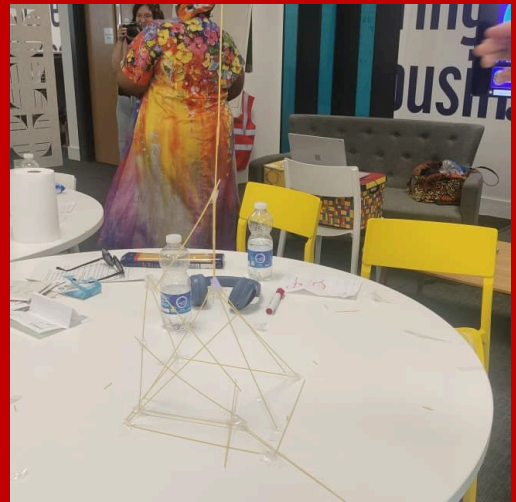
- Fail Forward: When your tower (or plan) falls, you don't give up you rebuild smarter!
- Shared Leadership: You don't need one "boss." When everyone takes ownership, the whole squad wins.
- Trust Your Team: Big goals are impossible alone, but easy when you trust the people next to you.

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DAY 5

What We Did

The energy was pure magic today! We kicked things off with fast paced live speeches and a super fun balloon activity, followed by an awesome Growth Mindset session led by Katie Matthews-Furphy to get our brains warmed up for big ideas. Then came the main event: The Business Pitch Challenge!

Ages 6 to 13 stole the show with their business concepts.

Day 5 Key Highlights

- Adopt a Growth Mindset: Mistakes aren't stops—they're just steps to getting smarter and stronger.
- Step Into Your Role: A great team works best when everyone takes 100% ownership of their unique job.
- Dream Big, Speak Bold: No matter how young you are, your voice and ideas have the power to inspire the whole room!

★ Spotlight of the Day: Aquella (7)

7 year old Aquella stood tall and shared her vision with so much clarity that it stopped the whole room in its tracks. Proof that you are NEVER too young to lead, dream big, and inspire everyone around you!

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DAY 6

What We Did

Today was all about finding the perfect balance between speaking up with power and finding your inner calm.

- ☀️ **Morning Power-Up:** Susuana led a brilliant session on assertive written communication! We took our business ideas from yesterday and polished them up so our written words hit with maximum clarity and impact.
- 🎨 **Afternoon Art Therapy:** Binder Tohani brought total peace to the room through intricate art therapy. In an instant, a room full of hyper-energetic kids went completely quiet, totally focused, and deeply immersed in coloring. It showed us how art can help us wash away stress and recharge our minds.

Day 6 Key Highlights

- **Speak & Write with Power:** Assertive communication isn't about yelling—it's about expressing your ideas clearly and confidently.
- **Art is a Secret Weapon:** When life gets busy or stressful, taking time to draw, color, or create can restore your focus and give you total peace.

★ Mind-Blowing Moment of the Day

"The whole room went 'WHOA!' when we found out Binder started university at just 16 years old! Remember: your age never defines how far or fast you can go." 🚀 ✨

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DAY 7

What We Did

Today we took learning outside the classroom for an ultimate leadership excursion! We headed out to Airtastic to put our teamwork, strategy, and energy to the test.

- 🧩 Morning Strategy (Airtastic Lisburn): We tackled high-stakes Escape Room challenges! We had to keep our cool under pressure, think critically, and communicate fast to crack the codes and escape together.
- 🎮 Afternoon Energy (Airtastic Newtownabbey): We spent the afternoon bouncing, playing, and letting off steam. It was all about building real friendships, laughing together, and celebrating how far we've come as a squad.

Day 7 Key Highlights

- Think Fast, Talk Faster: When you're trapped in an escape room (or facing a tough challenge), clear communication is the only way out!
- Play is Powerful: Real leaders know how to work hard and have fun. Taking time to laugh and decompress keeps your team happy and connected.
- Look Out for Each Other: The best part of the day was seeing older and younger leaders high-fiving, helping each other out, and lifting the whole crew up.

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Highlight of the Day

Seeing participants of all different ages naturally step up to mentor, encourage, and guide one another proved what this program is all about: authentic community and mutual respect! ❤️

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DAY 8

What We Did Today

With the Grand Finale just around the corner on July 31st, Day 8 was all about taking our big ideas and turning them into jaw-dropping pitches!

-  Pitch Practice: Every team stepped up to practice their presentations. We learned how to take big, complex ideas and break them down into short, powerful stories that grab everyone's attention.
-  The Game Plan: We got clear, step-by-step guidance on how to polish our final slides and deliverables so we're 100% ready for graduation day.
-  Squad Peer Reviews: We watched each other's presentations, gave helpful feedback, and cheered each other on. Public speaking under pressure? No sweat—everyone leveled up their confidence!

Day 8 Key Highlights

- Keep It Simple & Powerful: The best pitches aren't the longest ones they're the ones that speak from the heart with maximum clarity.
- Feedback is Your Superpower: Listening to constructive tips from your teammates is how good ideas become legendary ones.
- Stage Presence is Key: Confidence comes from practice! Standing tall, making eye contact, and owning your voice makes the room listen.

Countdown to the Grand Finale

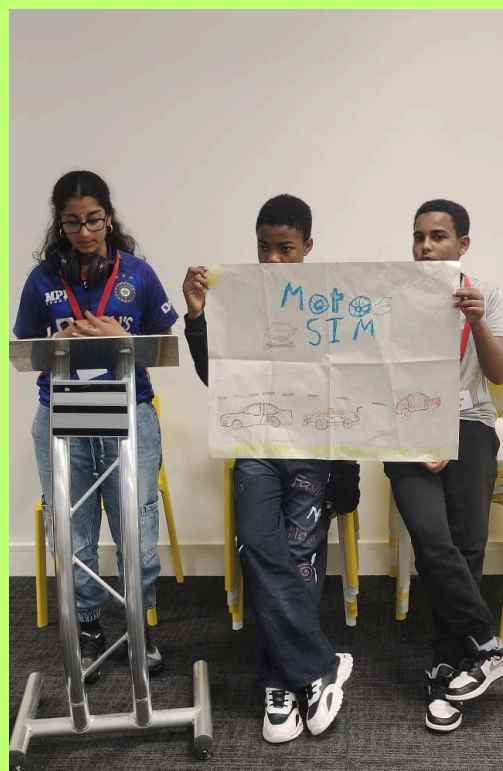
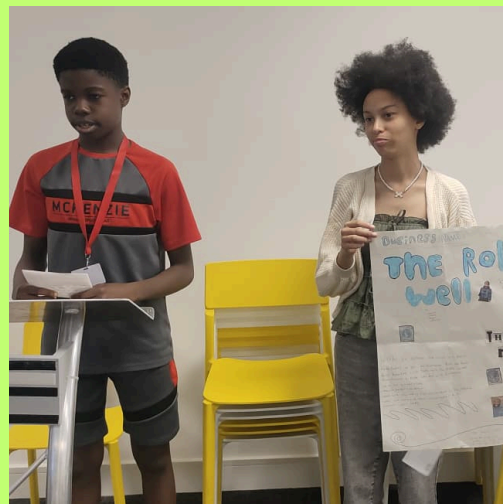
The energy in the room was off the charts! Everyone has worked so hard, and the countdown to graduation day is officially ON. 📈💥

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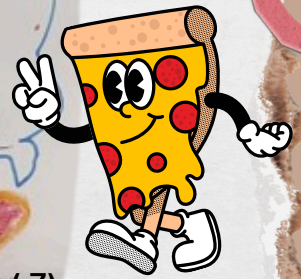


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Feedback

Vibe Check!!

* I had So
* Much fun
* because we
* got pizza



- Aqueelah (7)

I had lots of fun, I think that we all had a lot of fun especially the start of the day when we did the activites in the rooms. I am very proud of my team for getting 1073 points, I think eating in the restaurents was the highlight of the day.

- Keerthi. S



I enjoyed the trip because it was super fun and my overall experience has been really good!!

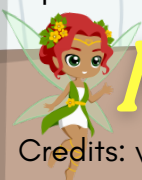
-Juanita

It was sock up the challenge was fun , challenging, exhausting. The pizza was delicious. the bounce house was fun, we played hide and seek and then we went bowling and I got a strike!! and a Spare and I won - **Martin**



My experience from yesterday was the best, I had so much fun with everyone. The place I liked the most was the Ultimate Challenges and the Bouncy Castle. I enjoood the food the chips, pizza and the 'chicken wings'. And I just want to say Thank you to the adults who provided this trip. Thank you so much!!! - **Qureebah**

Showed up to mentor, left with +10k aura ✓
These kids are built different they were lowkey teaching me every day. If they're running the future, we're in the best timeline. W Mirani for letting us cook! 🔥 — **Kevin Dreamer**



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Credits: www.linkedin.com/in/kevindomenicvinodhan