

### Issue 2.0 | November 2021 North Of Englands 30 under 30 Trail Blazers







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### Why #NORTH30?

From footballers, to social entrepreneur, to financial moguls and creatives, the North of the England is home to some of the most successful 'up and coming' millennials making an impact and trailblazing in a number of industries; yet attention, funding and opportunities are often focused in London.

With, #NORTH30, we are changing that. Edited by Manchester based news network, The Common Sense Network, North 30 lists 30 trailblazers under 30 challenging the perception that success for young people only comes from moving to the capital. #NORTH30 celebrates the achievements of outliers under the age of 30 who are changing the game in the North of the England.

#NORTH30 is our attempt to challenge the narrative often purported in debates around the North - South divide. Rest assured the difference between the North and South is only geographical, there is plenty success up here.

This list gives us a chance to spotlight some of the most amazing talent you may not have heard of. With #NORTH30 the diversity of talent and excellence can be clearly seen. The north of England is rich with excellence. We hope those featured on this list will have their work celebrated and will be supported by everyone who sees it. Those featured all have two things in common. They are doing work that their industry ought to take notice of and they are all powered by the North of England!

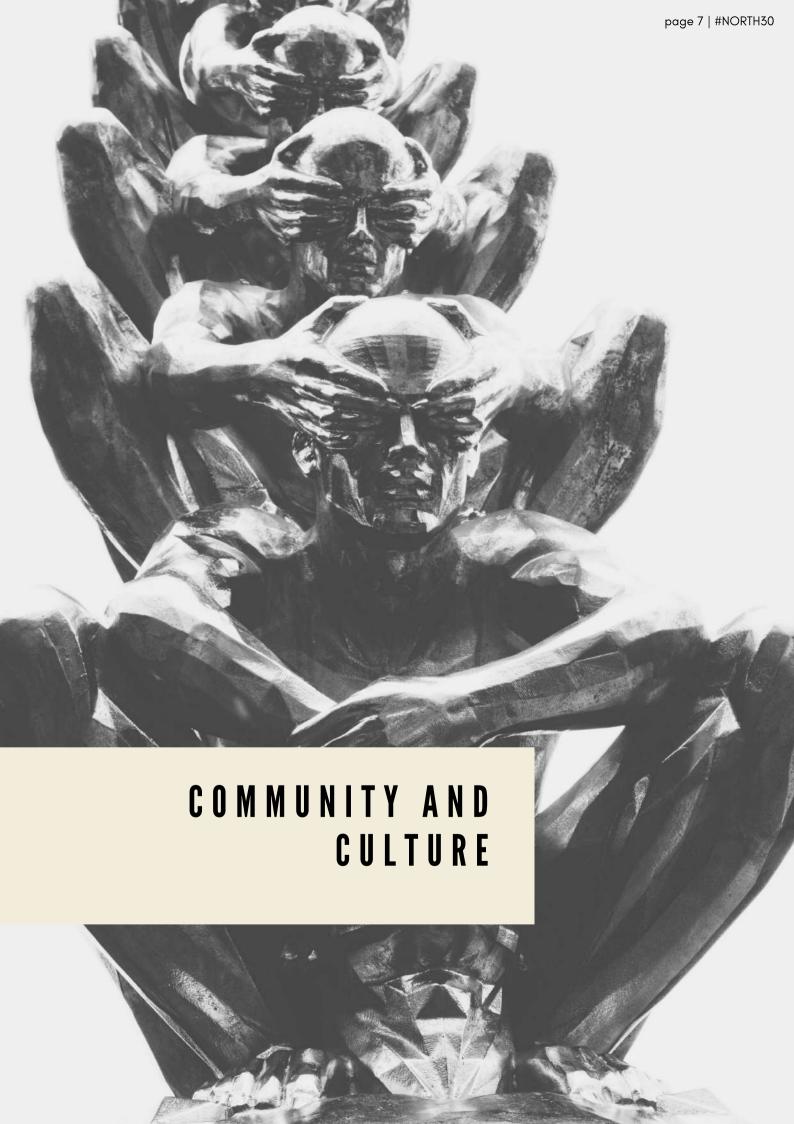
Here's to all the outliers killing the game across multiple industries.

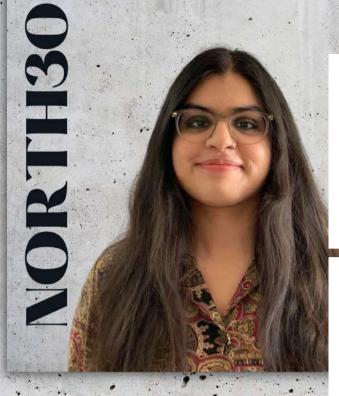




The Common Sense Network is a Manchester-based bipartisan news network dedicated to improving the way millennials consume digital journalism. In an increasingly divided and polarised world, we create online and offline spaces for millennials to engage with differing opinions, thoughts and ideas.

In just three years we have gained national recognition working with the many partners including, The UK Government, British Council, FCO and many more. We crowdfunded over 50k in 50 days allowing us to grow our network to over 20,000 people and counting. Our impact and influence continue to grow everyday as our network of "Sense-ibles" continues to expand.





### 1. SARA KHAN

Sara Khan is Vice President for Liberation and Equality at the National Union of Students, previously Liberation and Access Officer at the University of Manchester Students' Union. She currently leads NUS's Decolonise Education campaign and is a student at UoM, where she founded Decolonise UoM in 2019. Sara is also part of a small startup called Game Assist which aims to discuss issues of liberation, politics, and accessibility within the gaming industry.

Since moving to Manchester six years ago for uni, Sara has felt incredibly at home. The rich tradition of community, political organising, and creativity within the city has been fertile ground for inspiration both within activism and cocreating Game Assist, a project which they are particularly proud of as it combines their love of creativity (and video games!) with their passion for political organising.



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### 2. DANIEL SEBUYANGE

Daniel Sebuyange, known professionally as Blue Saint, is a Liverpool rapper, singer-songwriter, producer, spoken word poet, actor and designer, originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

A part of Writing on the Wall's Liverpool Young Writers at the ages twelve to sixteen, winner of The Poetry Society's SLAMbassadors Award at fourteen, a MOBO BeMOBO Award nominee at the age of fifteen and winner of Merseyrail Soundstation 2014 at the age of twenty, a prize celebrating breaking new talent in the Liverpool music scene. Blue Saint has also gone on to receive various accolades and achievements for his music, community work and activism.



### 3. HOLLY GALLAGHER

Holly Gallagher is a Theatre Maker, Director and Facilitator based in Thornaby, Teesside interested in new work that speaks about the world we live in today and stimulates an audience's imagination.

Holly is an Associate Artist at ARC Stockton. She was a recipient of the Third Angel Mentorship Scheme 2017, JMK Assistant Director Bursary 2018 at Northern Stage, working with Sticky Theatre given a place on the Barnsley Civic CARP scheme '18/19, and working with Samantha Neale a Live Theatre Elevator Bursary 2020.

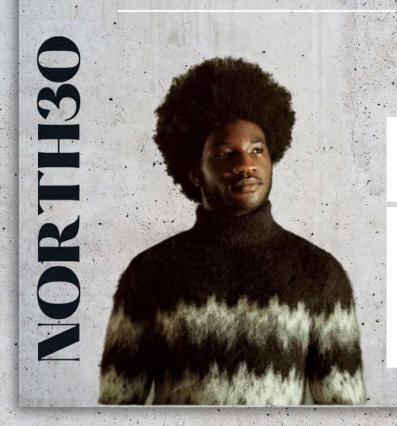
## NORTH30



### 4. OLIVIA LEE

A born and bred Mancunian, Olivia surprised herself and everyone else when she started her career at just 18 years old working on Contact's The Agency programme as Project Assistant. Since then Olivia has been promoted to Project Coordinator and Assistant Facilitator of The Agency.

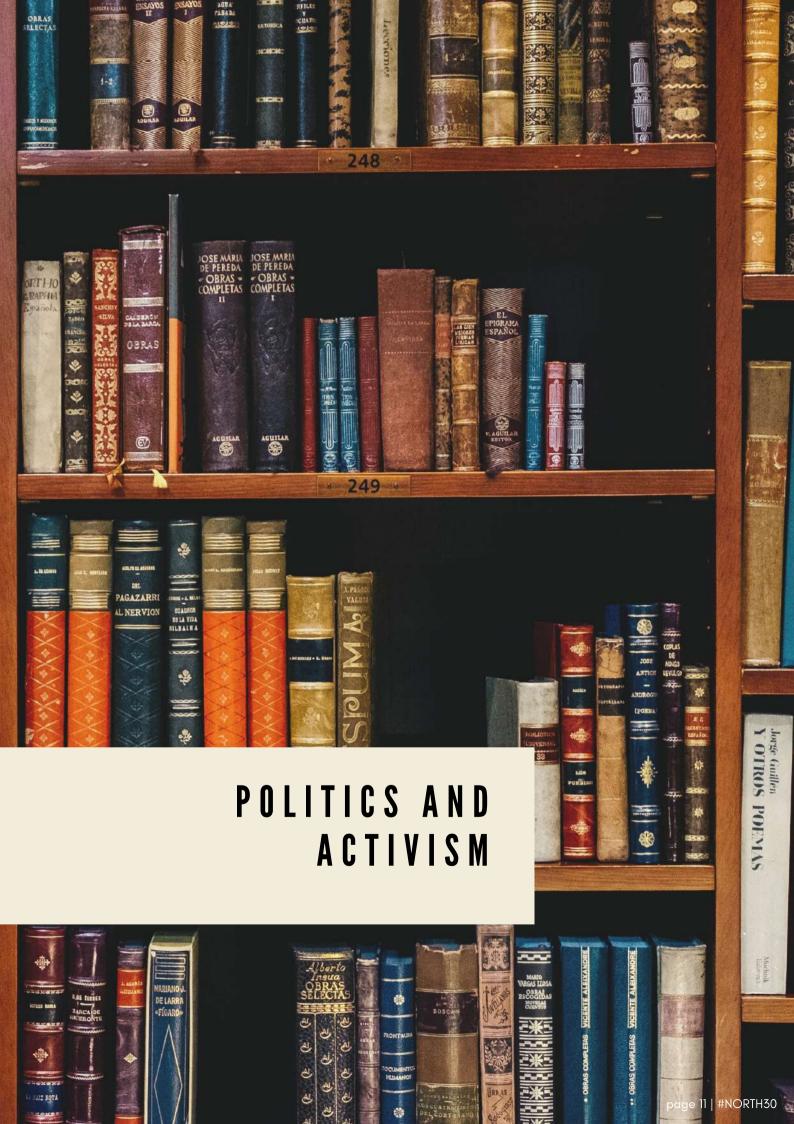
Shortly after, Olivia joined Young Manchester where she was tasked with researching how young people are involved in decision making throughout the city. This research resulted in Olivia and Samuel Remi-Akinwale implementing the Ambassador Programme into the organisation and taking up the role of Project Coordinator to run the programme.

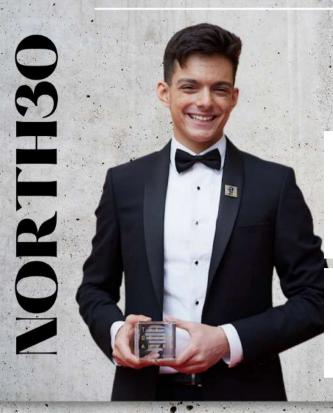


### **5. SAMUEL REMI-AKINWALE**

Politics student at King's College London. The President of KCL STAR society – a society dedicated to supporting the refugee community in the UK.

The co-founder and director of Creation Foundation - a content creation collective dedicated to creating socially impactful content. Samuel also manages its flagship podcast, Crisis Talk. Furthermore, he works for Young Manchester in the partnerships team, delivering funding to youth and play organisations across Manchester.





### 6. DAN LAWES

Co-founder and Chairman of YouthPolitics UK, a national, youth-led and non-profit organisation dedicated to empowering the next generation through democratic engagement. Alongside this, Dan is a member of the Bank of England Youth Forum where he advises the Bank on matters concerning youth affairs.

In 2019, he was one of 20 young leaders from across the world to be awarded the Princess Diana Legacy Award for his services to young people – the highest award a young person can receive from the charity for their humanitarian efforts.



### 7. ROUKAGIA AFAN

Roukagia is passionate about tackling Islamophobia and amplifying the voices of young people and women of ethnic minority backgrounds. She is most well known for her award-winning activism and campaigning with youth leadership organisation, 'RECLAIM', which supports and empowers working-class young people.

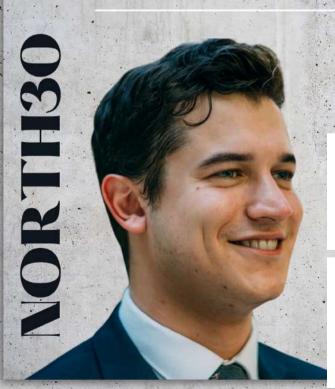
In the near future, Roukagia will be advising employers and world-leaders, especially those in the legal industry, on issues of diversity and discrimination concerning Muslim women across the globe.



### 8. KATIE RENNIE

From Ormskirk, Katie Rennie is an organiser for social action and the founder of a fundraising initiative for environmental justice called Bake For Climate, which coordinates bake sales with proceeds donated straight to NGOs and groups taking direct measures against climate change.

Inspired by mutual aid volunteers in New York and LA, she has also set up a community fridge network in her university town of Oxford. This aims to reduce food waste and insecurity in the area through 24 hour free-food fridges by removing the stigma surrounding food banks and developing partnerships with local restaurants to donate. In her spare time, she also loves to write picture books for children!



### 9. JAMES JENNION

James was born in Warrington and attended the University of Leeds. After finishing his master's, he moved to London to work in Parliament. James founded Out of London, a scheme intended to help get more working class people from regional backgrounds into politics and government.

Through Out of London, James has matched dozens of students with mentors, helping them find roles in the Civil Service, NGOs and places on scholarship programmes. James is also a trustee of The Equality Trust, a charity campaigning for greater social and economic equality in the UK, as well as the 2021 YPFP Human Rights Fellow.



### 10. DAN LAWES

Dominic is a proud young Yorkshireman, currently studying Politics at the University of Liverpool. As the current UK Economy Delegate to the Youth G7 Summit, he is passionate about ensuring young people have access to the very best opportunities, regardless of their background.

Dominic has already gained invaluable experience and has been instrumental in shaping policy changes locally and regionally, including transport and skills offers. Previous roles include serving on the Barnsley Youth Council, Sheffield City Region Youth Combined Authority Previous roles include serving on the Barnsley Youth Council, Sheffield City Region Youth Combined Authority and more.





### 11. ANDREW MORGAN-HARRISON

The 2020 British Indoor and Outdoor 200m Champion, as well as the British Universities Indoor 200m Champion and Record Holder. Andrew also made it on the official long list for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Now coached by Alex O'Gorman, Andrew has kicked on. In May 2021, he earned his first vest to represent Team GB at the European Team Athletics Championships in Poland. Away from the track, Andrew graduated from the University of Hull in 2020, picking up a First Class degree in Sports Rehabilitation.

### VORTH30



### 12. LUCY DAVIS

As an enthusiastic and confident individual, Lucy has always looked to reach and achieve her full potential. Lucy also dedicates her time to being a health and fitness influencer, with over 1 million followers across her social media platforms. Lucy's goal is to empower women to know they are strong and powerful, breaking down the stigma of women lifting weights.

A huge goal of hers is to minimise the misinformation in the fitness industry and help create sustainable, healthy lifestyles for others. Also a co-host of The Not So Fit Couple Podcast which is No.2 in the UK fitness Podcast charts. In addition, Lucy is a Gymshark and MyProtein Athlete, where she works closely with the brands to continue to share my ethos.



### 13. CLAUDIA MIRALLEGRO

Claudia is an international yoga and meditation teacher. Driven by a sense of connection to spirituality, she immersed herself in different rituals, mindfulness training and cathartic practices, unknowingly seeding the foundation for what would later become her very own digital studio: Move with Mirallegro.

She has been voted in The Times top 100 yoga teachers and also starred as an on-screen yoga teacher in ITV's Coronation Street. She believes being from the North has been the ultimate outlet to thrive and that the marriage of support, opportunity, network and encouragement in Manchester is like no other place. Her highest hope is that her students here (and online), leave sessions feeling more alive, more awake, and more connected to themselves and therefore, to the greater world around them.

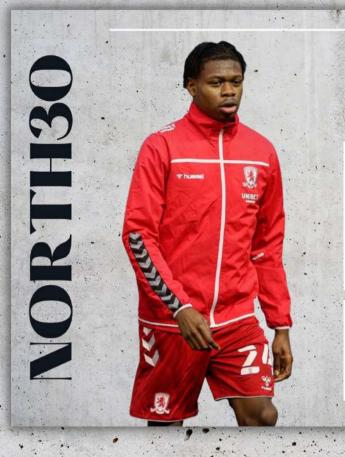
### NORTH30



### 14. BEN HALDON

An enthusiastic and confident individual, Ben has always looked to reach and achieve his full potential. Ben also dedicates her time to being a health and fitness influencer, with over 1 million followers across her social media platforms.

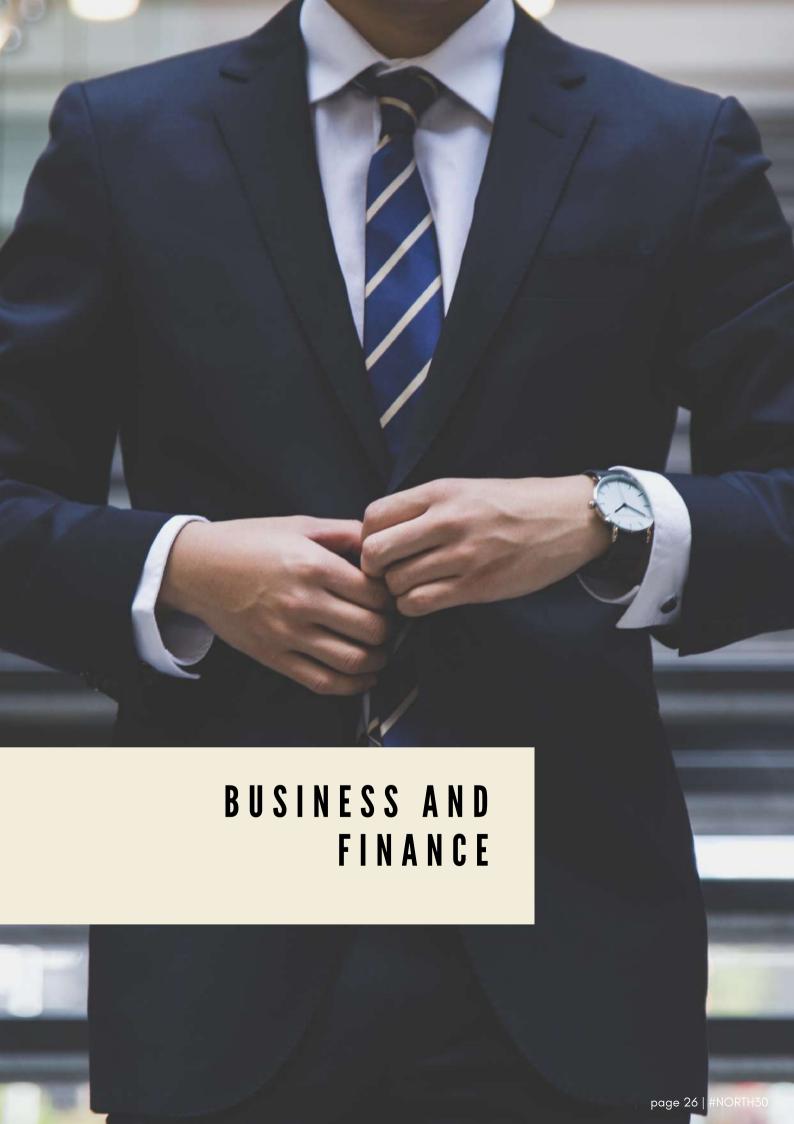
A major goal of Ben's is to minimise the misinformation in the fitness industry and help create sustainable, healthy lifestyles for others. Also a co-host of The Not So Fit Couple Podcast which is No.2 in the UK fitness Podcast charts. Like his partner, Ben is also a Gymshark and MyProtein Athlete, where he works closely with the brands to continue to share his own ethos.



### **15. SAMUEL FOLARIN**

Sam was born in South London, living on the Old Kent Road. After early forages in non-league football, he eventually signed for Middlesbrough FC - with a lot of positive things have happened since then. Sam signed a new long term deal in November 2020, as well as getting a few appearances with the first team. He scored his first professional goal against Brentford in the FA Cup in January 2021.

A winger blessed with pace, Sam admits growing up in the North has been different coming from a big city, but his time so far has been great with a big positive impact in my life, as well as getting opportunities to progress in his career.





### **16. KYM THOMAS**

Kym founded The Living Room Club in 2019, a series of live, genre-themed music events based in Manchester, highlighting the diversity of music in an intimate setting with an audience. I've been inspired by many platforms such as NPR Tiny Desk & Sofa Sounds and felt there was a gap in Manchester she wanted to fill. Whilst studying Music Business at University, Kym had difficulty being hired as an intern and gaining further work experience; she had no choice but to create my own platform.

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Since then I've worked at CAA, an international talent agency and currently I am a streaming manager at Songular, working on high profile music campaigns. I am in the process of making live studio sessions in collaboration with Manchester's Pie Radio station, featuring upcoming and returning artists.

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### 17. DYLAN MCKEE

Along with a co-founder, 2017 saw Dylan set up Nebula Labs, a software house based in Newcastle upon Tyne, specialising in developing mobile apps, web platforms, and tailored digital solutions for start-ups, small enterprises, global companies, and government organisations.

One of Dylan's proudest achievements as CEO was the company being named as New Business of the Year in the 2018 Dynamites Awards. Dylan was born, raised, lived and studied in the North – for him, it was a no brainer to set up his company there. The strong community as well as some of the most exciting start-ups and entrepreneurs in the North, have influenced both his career and Nebula Labs; at the heart of our ethos is the innovative, collaborative and inspirational spirit of the North.



### 18. LIZZY HODCROFT

An entrepreneur with North East start-up successes to her name, Lizzy's path to the life she knows today has not been without its difficulties. Having fought anxiety over her appearance, and then seen a friend attempt suicide, Lizzy did the same, feeling she had failed to live up to others' expectations. Over the next decade, Lizzy found herself in a damaging loop of bulimia, drug addiction and rehabilitation that only ended when she swapped America for the north east of England.

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Starting over again, Lizzy took small steps to rebuild her life before launching a condiment business that gave her renewed confidence and belief. She then became the co-founder and chief executive of Newcastle-based Discova, working in the mental health space and creating tech for good. Now, she is channelling her mental health and wellbeing experiences to help others chart a path to fulfilment with consulting, workshops and her public speaking.



### 19. IBRAHIM ALKURD

At the age of 19, Ibrahim started New Mine from his university dorm room at Cardiff Medical School. His company went on to do \$2 million in sales in its first year and has grown to have international operations for the manufacturing and hosting of computing hardware for blockchain mining.

Spurred on by the success of New Mine, Ibrahim went on to cofound Lavaliere Capital. The fund has over \$15 million in assets under management and was 2020s top performing digital asset hedge fund out of 820 funds in over 80 countries.



### **20. RUTH EDMUNDSON**

Ruth's passion for creativity, storytelling and writing ignited while studying Magazine Journalism at the University of Sunderland, quickly establishing herself as a communications all-rounder. After graduating, she worked as a freelance journalist before joining South Tyneside Council working within the digital team and as a press officer, before moving agency side. In 2019 she was awarded CIPR North East Young Communicator of the Year.

Currently, at McBryde & Co, Ruth collaborates with ambitious professional service, manufacturing, engineering and public sector clients delivering social media content, SEO friendly websites and long-form copy, influencer and media relations. Spurring on McBryde's & Co's growth from one woman, founder Rachel McBryde, to six consultants has been, in her words, "amazing".



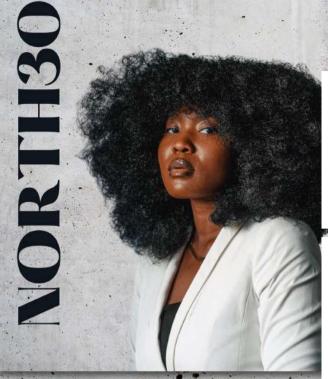
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### 21. REBECCA HEYES

Managing Director of The Inclusive Learning Academy. After finishing my undergraduate degree in teaching, she decided to go self-employed and began working with learners who had Special Educational Needs (SEN). Shortly after, she decided to go back to university to further develop my understanding of SEN.

Whilst doing this, she decided to open up my own company specialising in working with learners with specific learning difficulties including Dyslexia and Dyscalculia. In 2020, Heyes was shortlisted for the Great British Entrepreneur Young Entrepreneur of the year award, which recognises the hard work and dedication of young people within the business industry.





### 22. RHODA OLUWADUBARIN

While studying Psychology at the University of Sheffield. Rhoda's studies made her understand the complexity of behaviour, and how there were multiple factors that affect us as humans. Whilst in university and still on the quest of understanding identity, she decided she would accept each aspect of her dual nationality and not be forced to solely choose one. This birthed her first business idea named TheAfroStylist.

Recently, this has rebranded and split into two businesses: T'dayo and Native Ark. The objective of both businesses is to celebrate multiculturalism and dual nationality through jewellery and ethically made clothing. Apart from this, Rhoda has a photography business that specializes in couple, engagement and wedding pictures. She believes we are all capable of pursuing the different careers we truly enjoy.



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### 23. ELIZABETH LOVEJOY

Over the course of Lizzie Lovejoy's early career, they have been proud to work with Northern creative organisations and peoples. From various educational projects with Changing Relations and Durham Sixth Form Centre (DSFC) to cultural celebrations with Curious Arts and ARC Stockton, Lovejoy has used visual arts and performing arts to share stories of Northern peoples, their histories and heritage.

In the world of illustration, Lovejoy has translated unique experiences of local peoples in image work and shared these important Narratives of the every day in a series of exhibitions at both DSFC and ARC. Spoken word has also taken the spotlight. Exploring Northerness, cultural heritage and the working-class experience, their poetry has gained attention for both its celebratory nature and is critical honesty of the oppressive systems in place.

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### 24. SENAH TUMA

Growing up in the United States, Senah moved to the United Kingdom to study at the University of York. A social-justice motivated curator, The North has been hugely formative in Senah's curatorial path so far; it was here that she directed the only student-run gallery in the United Kingdom, the Norman Rea. Her work has been mainly concerned with advocating for discussions of race and representation.

For Senah, she has been "so inspired" by the opportunities the North offers and its amazing selection of art and institutions, and hopes to continue my work here. In addition, she sees the North as where she became a curator and was able to express myself artistically while advocating for representation for the first time.

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### 25. CHARLOTTE BRECKEN

Charlotte was born in Whitley Bay, where she still lives and has always loved the coast. Showing an interest in art from a young age, she started painting on pebbles and seashells. Charlotte started her small business, Lottivics Art, in 2018 at the age of just 15.

She also made it to the 2019 Young Traders Market National Final which took place in Stratford-Upon-Avon. In 2021, two of her paintings were shortlisted as part of The Royal Academy's Young Artists' Summer Show. One was an oil painting titled 'Heirlooms', which was part of her A Level Art coursework, and the other was a shell painting of the Herd Groyne Lighthouse in South Shields - with the latter exhibited in the Royal Academy Gallery in London.



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### **26. MEGAN PARKIN**

As well as overcoming Anorexia in my teenage years, Megan survived two years of an abusive relationship. She uses her experience to educate about and advocate against abuse of all types, and connect with other survivors through social media. She is particularly passionate about raising awareness for abuse in the entertainment industry, especially where she lives, in Yorkshire. For Megan, knowing that she has provided validation and strength to other survivors through my advocacy is what keeps her going.

Megan's hope is to continue educating people on what we can all be doing to make the world a better place for survivors of abuse, and work for an organisation one day in Yorkshire to provide support for survivors, as resources in the area are few and far between at the moment.

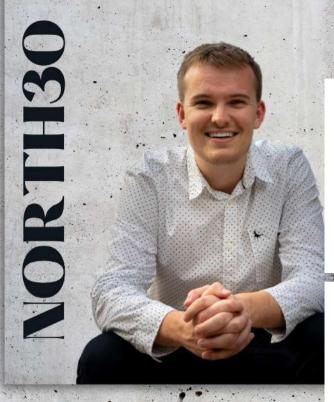




### **27. SIMONE YASMIN**

Simone Yasmin is a Black writer, spoken word artist and vocal soul, born in Leeds. Simone writes about all things people leave unsaid and pulls no punches when it comes to unpacking racism, feminism and other humanitarian issues in her blog 'Ethereal Truth'.

Simone Yasmin hopes her poetry teaches others to be just as unapologetic as she is learning to be. Simone's poetry has been featured in publications such as Unicef's 'Words' By and the BALTIC's 'S.P.A.M. Spreads'. Simone also runs 'Storytellers', an event inviting creatives to an inclusive and safe space, to gain feedback, confidence and trial new ideas. As a result of the pandemic, Simone Yasmin moved this event online and it became 'Lockdown Stories' – a space for creatives to share their talents each month with a global online audience.



### 28. LEWIS ALEXANDER-BAXTER

Everything that Lewis has done - charity work, volunteering, public speaking, or mentorship - has been shaped by the hurdles he has faced in life. In late 2016, after a long battle with depression, he spoke openly about his struggles - sharing my story with others for the very first time. Since then, he has met with many inspiring people, delivering 2 TEDx talks and joining forces with companies in the UK and across the world to craft meaningful conversations surrounding mental health and wellbeing and to champion young people.

Launching Hullo, a national not-for-profit, in March 2020 is one of his proudest achievements. Lewis loves working with the fantastic community of volunteers as their aim - to create a world where everyone has someone to chat to - is realised. I'm proud that Hullo continues to spread positivity and put smiles on peoples' faces through our work.



### 29. ALEX KENNEDY ORTH3

Politics isn't something Alex ever imagined she would enjoy or spend so much of her life pursuing. At 15 though, something changed. After an invitation to a launch of a new youth club, her life has been a whirlwind of meetings and amazing opportunities.

Alex joined Manchester Youth Council and really began to understand the real issues that young people were facing - and that sparked something in her. Since then Alex has joined several other youth organisations and been elected as the Youth MP for Manchester Central. Alex has started mental health campaigns and helped develop a "climate wheel" to help young people learn how to reduce their carbon footprint. Alex has been on an incredible journey - and she has so much more to share.



### **30. SAMAH KHALIL BEM**

Samah is 21 and has recently been Awarded a British Empire Medal for her work empowering young people. She was the youngest recipient in the New Year's honours list 2021. Since being elected to Oldham Youth Council in 2016, she has represented Oldham's young people at countless events, campaigns and advisory boards with decision makers as well as nationally in her role of MYP (Member of Youth Parliament).

She was also the first BME female to be the Youth Mayor of Oldham for the years 2019–2021. In this role, she organised and hosted the First ever Youth Mayor's Ball to celebrate young people and to raise money for homelessness. She is currently studying Biomedical sciences at the University of Sheffield.

www.tcsnetwork.co.uk

