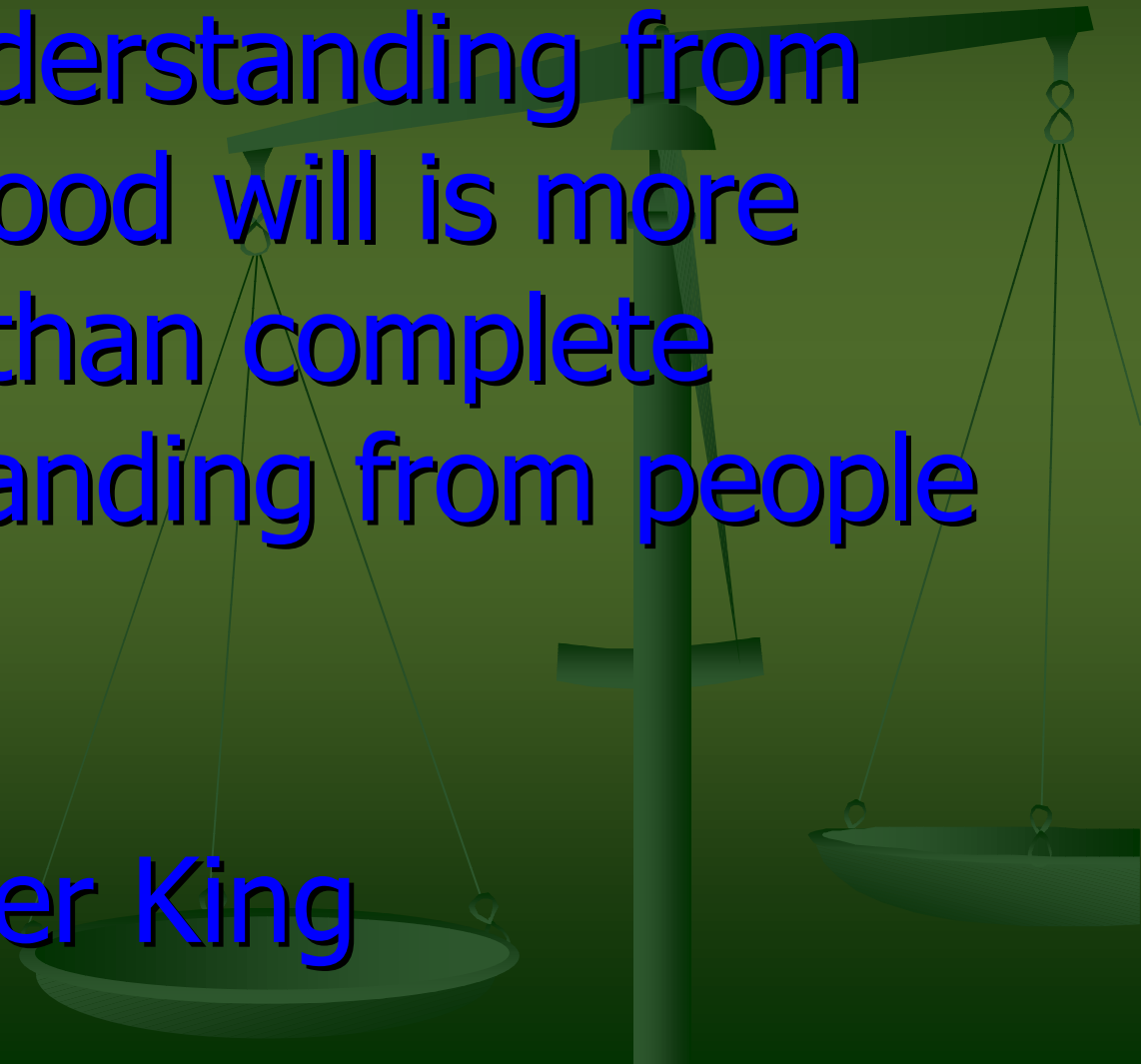


A Working Class Ex-Offender's Experience of Working with Youths: A Different Perspective?

Open Book in a Nutshell

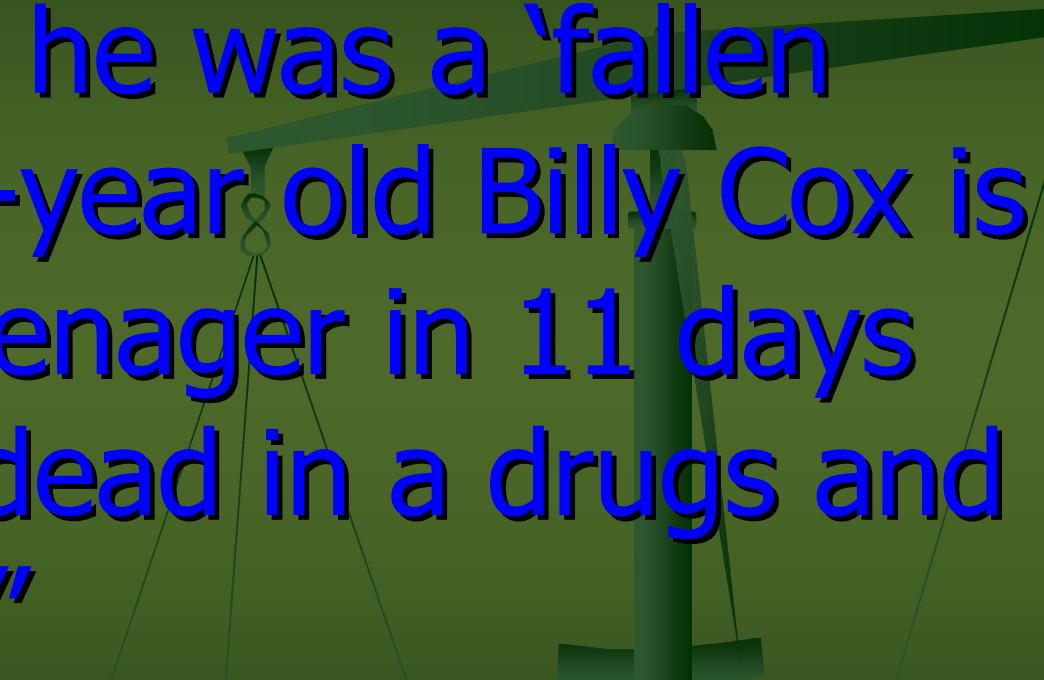
‘Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than complete misunderstanding from people of ill will.’

Martin Luther King



Daily Mail Newspaper 16/02/07

“To his gang he was a ‘fallen soldier’: 15-year old Billy Cox is the third teenager in 11 days to be shot dead in a drugs and guns war...”



Some of the Open Book Team



Some of the Subjects Studied by Open Book Students

- Psychology
- History
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Theatre Studies
- Politics
- Criminology
- Modern Languages
- Fine Art
- Media Studies



Joe Baden (camel coat) runs the "Open Book" programme at Goldsmith's College in New Cross, south east London which helps working class and disadvantaged people get into higher education. Photographed in a street near the college with student Anthony Hall.

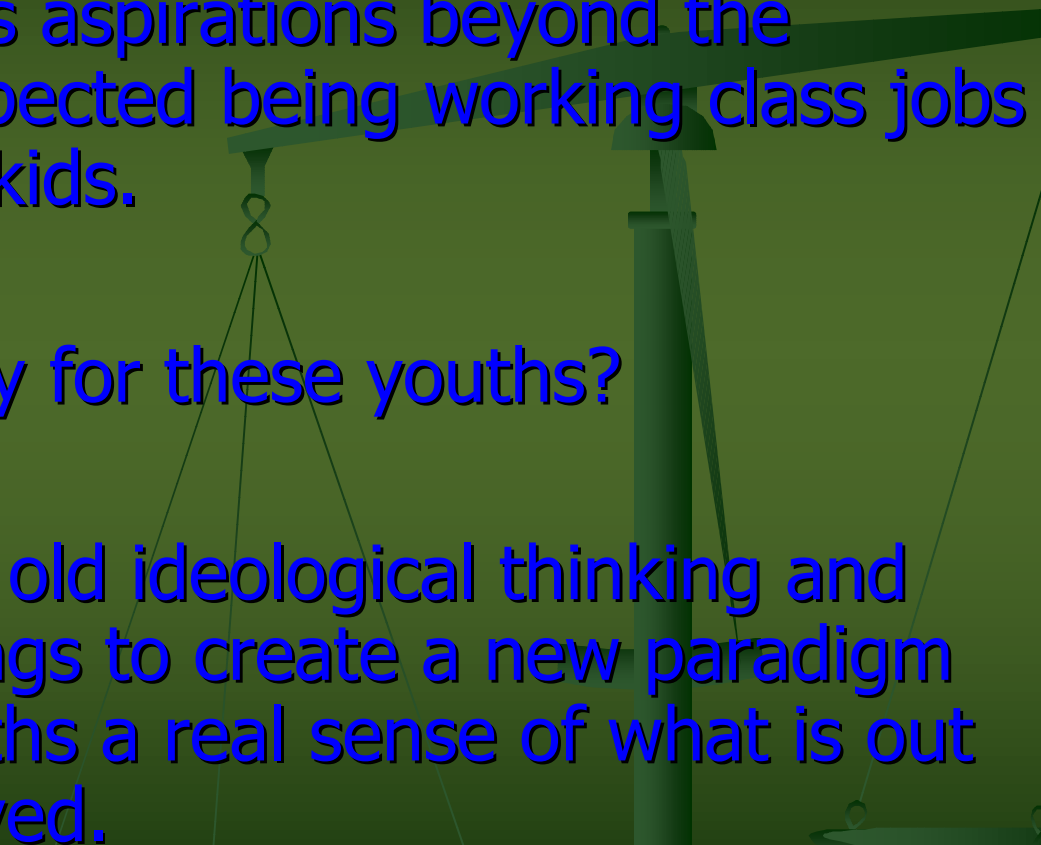


Oxford University

- BA Bricklaying
- BA Personal Assistant
- MA Painting and Decorating
- PhD Boxing

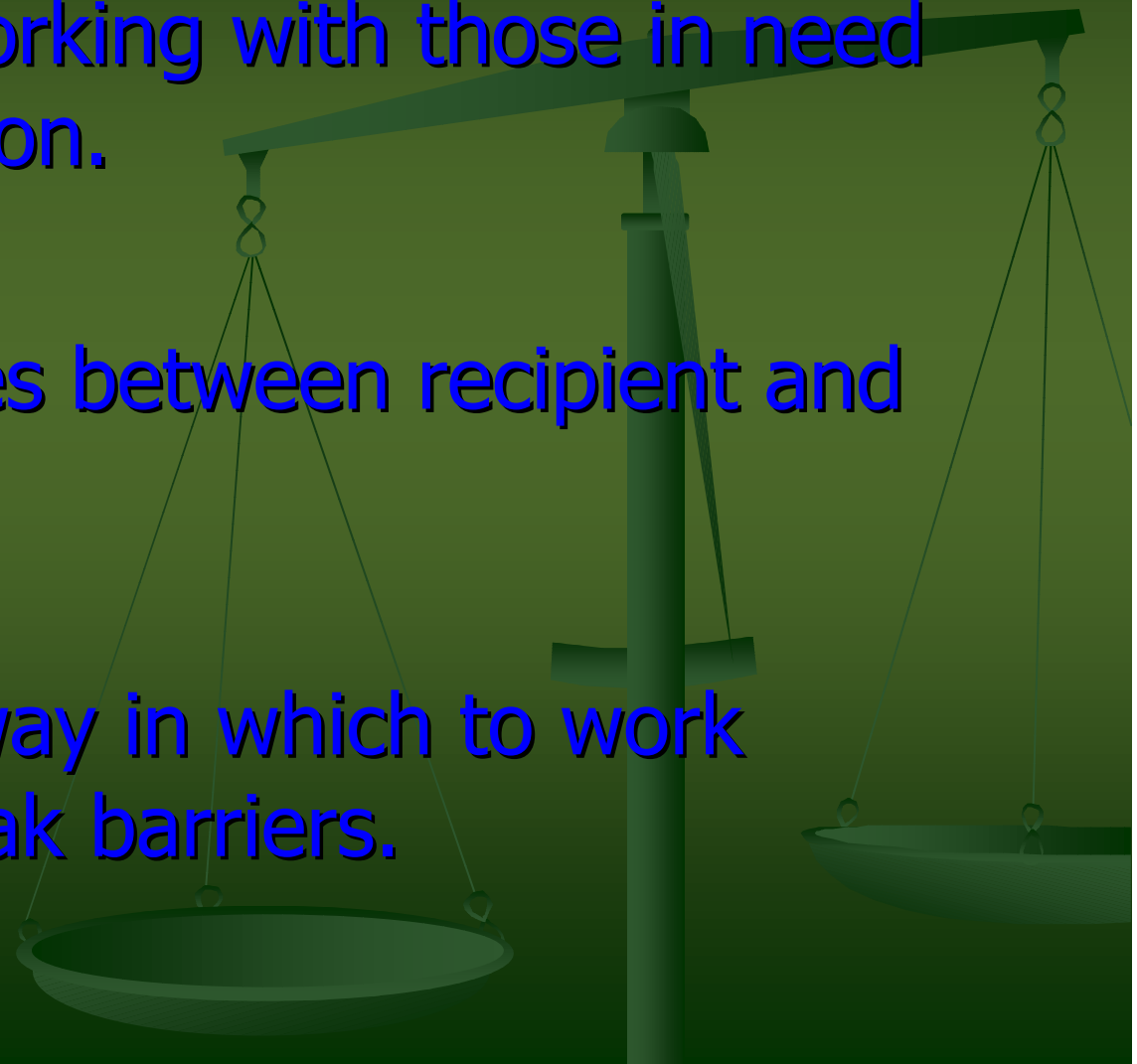


Raising Aspirations

- Raising the youths aspirations beyond the expected. The expected being working class jobs for working class kids.
 - Why not university for these youths?
 - Time to leave the old ideological thinking and paternalistic feelings to create a new paradigm to give these youths a real sense of what is out there to be achieved.
- 

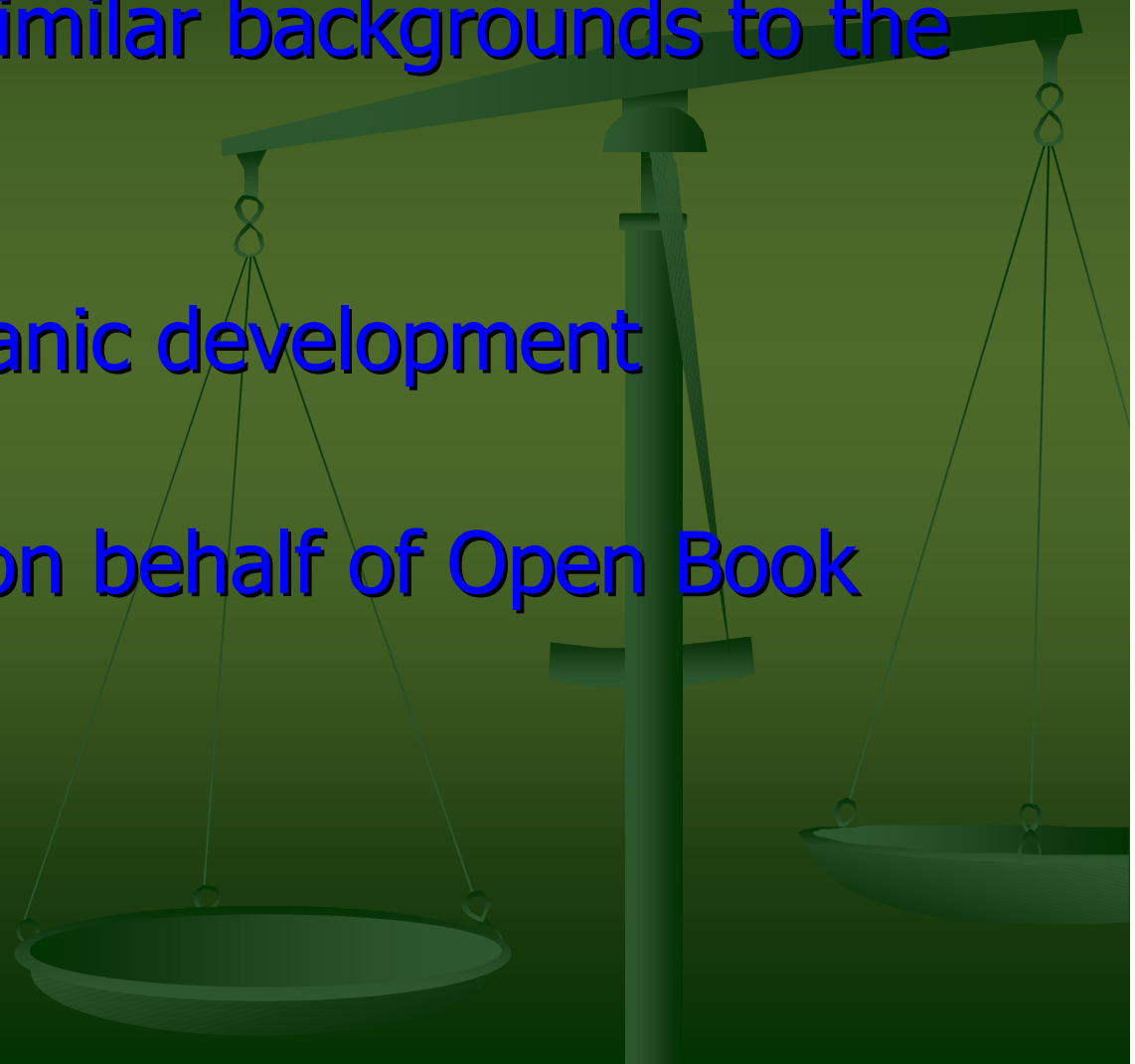
A Rounded Approach

- Ex-offenders working with those in need of a new direction.
- Blurring the lines between recipient and provider.
- A new honest way in which to work together to break barriers.



Staff/Student Interaction

- Staff are from similar backgrounds to the students
- Grassroots, organic development
- Students work on behalf of Open Book
- 'Virtuous Circle'



Comments From Students

Samson Adeyemi 15 yrs old:

"I had already started to dream about going to university but what Open Book have done has encouraged and inspired me greatly to believe I will one day go. Meeting Open Book Students has shown me that with determination and motivation anybody can get to university. If they can do it I know now that I can too. Open Book has helped so many of my fellow students to start to feel that maybe university could be for them too". It is a great thing and I know that young people will look back in years to come and see how much help and hope Open Book has given them".

Kenneth Hendricks 18

" Open Book is really great. It has helped me think that university is for me. It helped me find out so many things about what you can study at university and that is not just for book worms. Stuff like drama, Film studies, Media, Anthropology, Crime. I never knew you could do so many things! The visit to Goldsmiths was great and made me feel like I could be part of it one day. It was cool to see it from the inside and not just a big building. Open Book is cool and helps people so much."

Open Book Project Lewisham Intervention Nov-Dec 2006 Evaluation Form (13 students)

- Most students rated their enjoyment: Very Much (6/13)
- Found the activities to be: Very helpful (8/13).

(I am happy to email any information requested including the full report on the activities).

Continued

- The most enjoyed activity was the visit to Goldsmith Collage – University of London (4/13)
- Drama 1/13 (in the report this was the most enjoyed session).
- On scale on 1-10 (ten being the most positive) on how many of the students would go to university, most the students picked 10 (9/13) lowest picked on the scale was 4 (1/13).

Janice Larkin

Aspire Project Officer

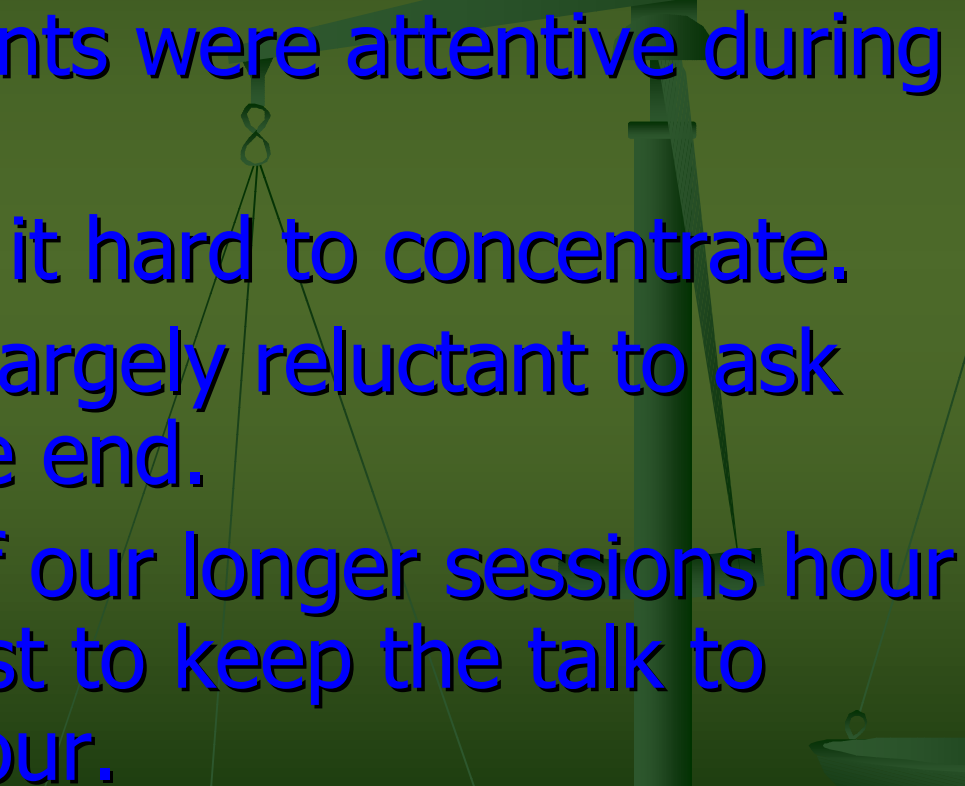
University of Greenwich

I was on a visit we made to a *PRU in Eltham, the students, mainly 15 – 16 year old boys, listened politely, but without engagement, to myself and the student ambassadors but as soon as the Open Book students began to speak about their past lives and about the reality and consequences of crime the session was brought to life. The attitude, concentration and body language of the PRU students changed immediately and they asked intelligent and perceptive questions, not only about prison but also about life as a student.

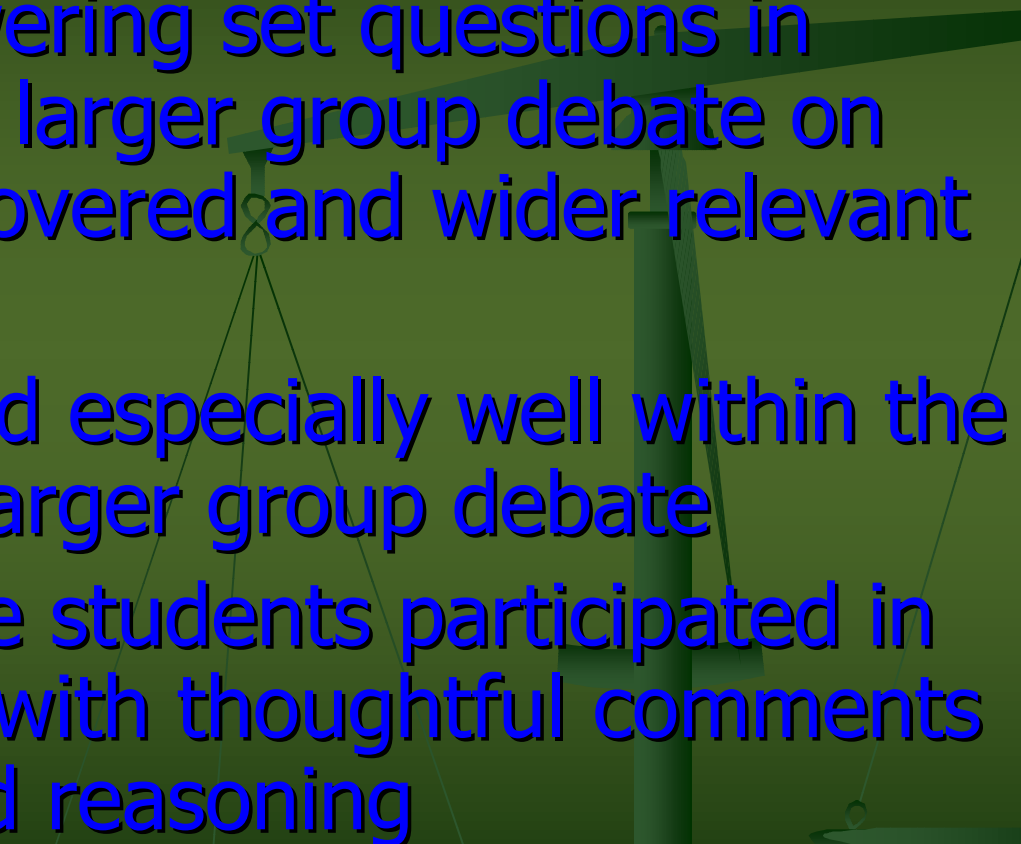
What Open Book students can offer: is the reality of their experiences; their honesty, a quality very necessary to overcoming their own difficulties; empathy and above all humanity.

*Pupils referral units (for kids kicked out of mainstream schools)

Lewisham Collage Evaluation: Introductory Talk

- Generally students were attentive during the talk.
 - Students found it hard to concentrate.
 - Students were largely reluctant to ask questions at the end.
 - This was one of our longer sessions hour and a half – best to keep the talk to 30min- to an hour.
- 

Themes Covered Crime and Criminology

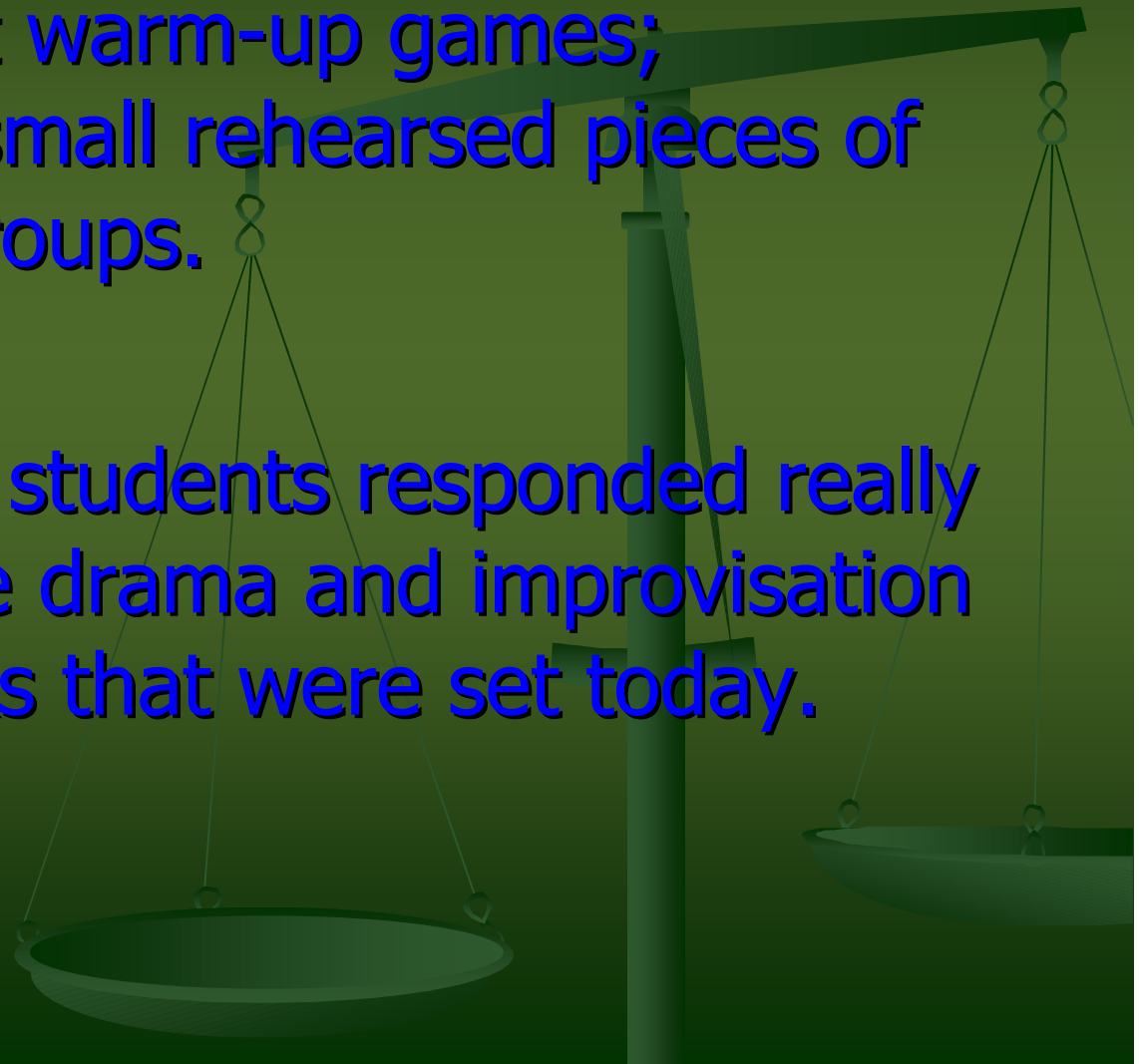
- Activates: Answering set questions in small groups; a larger group debate on the questions covered and wider relevant themes.
 - Students worked especially well within the context of the larger group debate
 - Almost all of the students participated in the discussion, with thoughtful comments and use of good reasoning
- 

Racism

- Activates: Video (*Routes of Racism* Roger Hewwitt); debate about racism; students were asked to write a plan of what they would include in a video about racism
- Due to the potentially delicate of the topic this week, the debate became very heated
- At the end of the session, students generally calmed down slightly and got on with the written work

Drama Workshops

- **Activates:** Short warm-up games; improvisation; small rehearsed pieces of drama within groups.
- The majority of students responded really well to all of the drama and improvisation games and tasks that were set today.



A Point Worth Repeating!

Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than complete misunderstanding from people of ill will.'

Martin Luther King

