

## *'I salute these young men: our future'*

Kick It Out's Troy Townsend visits Axial Crocus



Earlier this year, StreetGames caught up with the Axial Crocus project, a member of the Croydon Sport4Good Network, and the recipients of a recent round of investment. Since StreetGames' last visit – [detailed here](#) – the group had launched an all-new programme: 'YouFit', which works to encourage young people to take part in weekly fitness activities, alongside regular visits from local role models.

StreetGames knows that sport can often form the building blocks needed for greater personal development, with opportunities such as his one serving to not only engage but also to inspire the young people in attendance, as they seek guidance from people that they themselves can relate to.

Speaking of which, the project's most recent visitor was none other than Troy Townsend, Head of Development for the 'Kick It Out' campaign to tackle racism in football - who was kind enough to share some of his thoughts on the day, and on the young people involved. It sounds like the participants weren't the only ones receiving inspiration!



Here's what Troy had to say:

***"[Following the session] I left emotionally drained. Why? Because, I kept it real. They understood the journey, I have to be honest, I felt a connection and I was right. I stuttered, I stumbled, I paused, my eyes became glazed but as I looked out. They knew, they felt it - my story became similar to their own.***

***I left with my heart filled, as another group of young people had inspired me to be me. A youth club - a space for young people to work, to talk, to experience, to bond, to be young, to laugh, to joke, to express, to value, to give thanks, to develop, to appreciate, to be inspired, I salute these young men: our future."***

Programme leader, Thomas Scannell also shared his thoughts on the project, stating:

***"We want these young people to succeed in life so we bring in people that they can relate to. These community role models discuss the up and downs in their lives and what was needed for them to become who they are today. Thanks to StreetGames UK and Keith Sykes for helping us launch this project, these kids are the future."***

StreetGames would like to thank Mr. Townsend for taking to time to come and talk to participants at the session, and for sharing his thoughts on the day!