



**SUPPORTING
THE RIDING
A DREAM ACADEMY**

SUPPORTING THE RIDING A DREAM ACADEMY

At the Riding A Dream Academy we are passionate about providing opportunities for young people aged 13-16 from diverse ethnic communities, disadvantaged backgrounds and urban equestrian centres to get into British horse racing. Since 2021, 77% of all our students have come from diverse ethnic communities, a figure which is unmatched in the racing industry, and many of our alumni are now working full time at racing yards.

With your help we will continue to support young people from under-represented communities to flourish within racing, helping to make the sport more diverse and inclusive and broadening its appeal to a wider audience.

Reasons to support the Riding A Dream Academy

- You'll be able to positively impact a young person's life by providing them with unique, life-changing opportunities to get into our amazing sport.
- Supporting young people through the Academy is a tangible way of contributing to your organisation's diversity and inclusion commitments.
- People from diverse ethnic communities are massively underrepresented in equestrian sports – the Academy is changing this within racing with 77% of our students coming from these communities.
- The Academy has created a proven pathway for young people from diverse communities to get into racing – 64% of our Scholarship students have either gone onto the Foundation Course or work experience within racing.
- We're seeing increased demand – in 2022/23 we worked with 281% more young people than in the previous year.



"The Riding A Dream Academy has opened so many doors for me and allowed me to pursue this dream, which was almost impossible for someone like me from inner city London with no horsey background. This experience has been priceless. Nothing will ever top it, it has been life-changing. It has made me realise that there are people in this industry that do want you to succeed and care about you. I would 10,000% recommend it to anyone, I would love for people to experience what I have.

"I would love to be a flat jockey and be involved in changing the stereotypes around racing, bring in more diversity and help influence the next generation of Riding A Dream Academy students. My dream is to be the first female Champion Flat Jockey– but I think Hollie Doyle might beat me to it! I can't wait to be more involved in the sport and see where my journey takes me. Riding A Dream has been a life changing, unforgettable experience which I cherish in my heart forever."



Sienna, former Academy Scholarship student has now completed the Foundation Course and will begin her career in a racing yard this winter

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

BRONZE OPTION

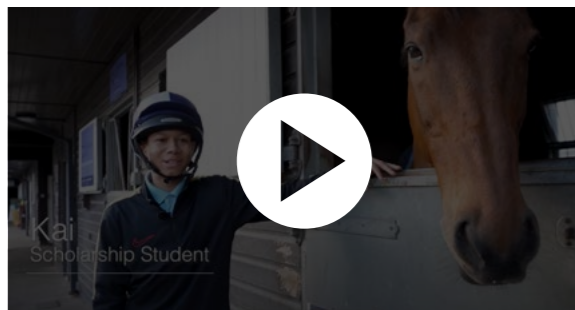
TASTER DAYS

Each year we support 250 young people to ride and look after a pony for the first time through our Taster Days. During the days ten students aged 13-16 ride a pony, have a coaching session on a simulator to perfect their jockey pose and take part in a horse handling session. Students also tour all of the facilities at the British Racing School and find out about the different careers and other exciting opportunities within racing, including the Foundation Course.



To give ten young people from diverse ethnic communities and disadvantaged backgrounds the chance to take part in a Taster Day, ride for the first time and get hands on experience of working with horses within British racing:

£1,000



Watch the Taster Day video here.

SILVER OPTION

THE RESIDENTIAL WEEKS

The Residential weeks are a fully immersive introduction to British racing, held at the British Racing School and open to non-riders and those with some riding experience. Students learn about horse handling and stablework and receive expert coaching on horses and training simulators each day. The students also have the chance to take part in further sessions such as media training and go on trips to the races, local stud, veterinary surgeons and the Newmarket gallops. The Residential Weeks are a brilliant way for young people to really find out what racing is about, work with racehorses for the first time and find out about the different careers for them in the sport.



To sponsor eight students on one of our Residential Weeks:

£8,000



TASTER DAY FEEDBACK

"I AM MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN CAREERS TO DO WITH HORSERACING AND I THINK I HAVE GAINED A LOT OF NEW INFORMATION AND GOOD EXPERIENCE."

"I LOVED IT SO MUCH THAT I WISH I COULD DO IT AGAIN. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING US, TODAY WAS REALLY FUN AND I CAN'T WAIT TIL I COME HERE AGAIN AND HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME WITH ALL OF YOU GUYS."

"AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE I WON'T FORGET. IT WAS REALLY FUN AND EXCITING TO LEARN ABOUT ALL THE HORSES AND LEARNING HOW TO RIDE THE SIMULATOR."



UWITONZE'S STORY

Uwitonze learned to ride at the Urban Equestrian Academy in Leicester and first attended one of our Residential Weeks where she impressed with her hard work and commitment. Despite not having lots of experience, she won a place on our Scholarship programme, successfully graduating in July 2023. She has since gone onto the Foundation Course at the British Racing School where she was elected Head Student of the school and will head into a racing yard to work full time at the end of 2023.

Uwitonze said, "The Riding A Dream Academy helped me to improve my confidence, not only with horses but with people. I am forever grateful for the lessons, opportunities and ongoing support the Academy has given me. The Scholarship really made me realise my passionate aspiration to be a jockey which led me to fulfilling the Foundation Course at the British Racing School. I have ridden many different horses and can't wait to start my first job in a dual purpose racing yard."

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

GOLD OPTION SCHOLARSHIP

Our Scholarship is our most intensive programme for young people with outstanding potential to pursue a career in racing and runs over the course of a year. It begins with a week's intensive course at the British Racing School and is then followed by 10 monthly weekend sessions at the school. During the programme students learn to ride and look after racehorses; develop their yard-based skills in preparation for going into the workplace and receive a comprehensive overview of the full breadth of opportunities within the sport. Throughout the course students are guided by our highly talented team and receive additional support in the way of personal development plans; fitness sessions and opportunities to explore more of British racing, including work experience and pony racing.



To sponsor a Scholarship student on the year's course, including all their specialist tuition, accommodation, kit and travel costs:

£12,000

64%

To date 64% of our Scholarship students have either gone onto complete the Foundation Course and are now working in the industry or have undertaken work experience at a yard, veterinary hospital or other racing organisation.

100%

In 2022/23 100% of the students agreed that their riding had improved over the course of the Scholarship.

100%

100% of students said that the Scholarship had positively impacted their knowledge of careers in racing; knowledge of British horse racing and a number of technical skills



KAI'S STORY

Before the Riding A Dream Academy, Kai, 15, had never ridden before or worked with horses. He attended a Taster day at the British Racing School with his South London school and then went onto one of our Residential Weeks, before winning a prestigious place on this year's Scholarship programme. Despite no background with horses, Kai has shown incredible natural ability and talent and has rapidly improved.

Kai said, "A year ago was the first time I had the opportunity to become a horse rider. At first I was introduced to riding with my school. I fell in love with the sport and ever since the first time sitting in a saddle it's been amazing. As time progressed I also became better. I applied to do the Residential Week at the British Racing School. I was then able to walk and trot on a pony. I am proud of myself for how far I have come. I am now able to ride racehorses. At first it was nerve-racking because a racehorse is more keen and powerful, but I am grateful for my instructors helping me and also grateful to the Riding A Dream Academy for supporting for extra lessons. I can now canter in a string on a racehorse. My ambition is to be a famous jockey and to do my family proud. I aspire to be like Frankie Dettori one day. I have met loads of new people, people I wouldn't normally see in south London. It is great to see a new side to things in the world. I am thankful for all my instructors and most thankful for the Khadijah Mellah scholarship I have been awarded."



If you've been inspired by the difference
that the Riding A Dream Academy
is making and would like to make a
contribution, please get in contact with:

Naomi Lawson, Director,
Riding A Dream Academy

naomi@ridingadreamacademy.com
07795 221320

www.ridingadreamacademy.com

✕ @Riding_A_Dream

📷 @ridingadreamacademy

📺 @ridingadreamacademy