

For Immediate Release



## **Royalty, Political Leaders and Celebrities honour young volunteers nominated for a vinspired national award**

**Celebrating a new generation of volunteers and giving them the recognition they  
deserve**

[www.vinspired.com/nationalawards](http://www.vinspired.com/nationalawards)

Today sees the announcement of the national finalists of the inaugural vinspired national awards. Supported by **Princes William and Harry, Gordon Brown, David Cameron** and a host of famous faces, the vinspired national awards will be celebrating the outstanding contributions young people have made to their community over the last year through all forms of volunteering.

Actors **Joe Thomas** and **Emily Head** from hit youth show **The Inbetweeners** will join the national finalists at the charity Body and Soul for an acting workshop. Celebrating the announcement of the vinspired national awards finalists **Emily Head** said *'The work that these volunteers do for others is unbelievable, they should all be really proud of being nominated for an award. We wanted to join in one of the acting workshops to highlight the fun opportunities that are out there for potential volunteers – it doesn't have to be boring, you can get involved with whatever you're passionate about!'*

Hosted by T4's **Jameela Jamil** and stand-up comedian **James Redmond**, the vinspired national awards will be taking place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at IndigO2 at London's O2 Arena. The winners will be announced at the ceremony where a stellar line-up of UK talent will be performing including 2009's biggest selling UK male artists **Tinchy Stryder** will be joined by 'Sweet About Me' star **Gabriella Cilmi** and Grime artist and Brit School graduate **Bashy**.

**Prince William said:** "I am delighted to support the vinspired National Awards Ceremony, which represents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of young people in neighbourhoods up and down this Country. The winners of the vinspired National Awards highlight the diverse range of volunteering opportunities that are available to young people. The Awards showcase what can be achieved when young people apply their remarkable energies and determination. They also demonstrate the enormously positive contribution 16 to 25 year-olds can make to our society through volunteering. It, therefore, gives me great pleasure to congratulate all the winners for their outstanding achievements, and everyone else who works so hard to make a difference to the lives of others."



### **Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister**

"I am proud to support the vinspired national awards. The young people who have been nominated for these awards are an inspiration, because they are a reminder of the power of all our young people to make a difference, to make the world around a better place to be. In every school, in every neighbourhood, there are young people who are choosing to spend their time doing something good for somebody else – simple acts of kindness that change the world every day. It is time we celebrated all that they do."

### **Rt Hon David Cameron MP, Leader of the Conservative Party**

"I am delighted to send my congratulations to all the young volunteers who have shown such dedication and expertise, and have made such a difference to their communities and their environment as a result. They can be proud of all they have achieved"

### **James Cleverly, the Mayor's Ambassador for Young People**

"v undertake invaluable work encouraging volunteers, and those volunteers play an invaluable role, often unrecognised, in our society. The vinspired National Awards ceremony is a great vehicle to acknowledge the hard work that is being done, both in London and nationally, and it is a pleasure to be able to support the Awards. I am particularly proud that over 100 nominations came from London, and would like to applaud their efforts as well as wishing them and all the other nominees the very best of luck."

The nominations are broken down into 10 categories, rewarding both individuals and projects:

- The **Fresh** Award for the best new volunteer
- The **Eco** Award for the environment
- The **Energy** Award for outstanding contribution
- The **Genius** Award for innovation and creativity
- The **Unite** Award for team activity
- The **Bridge** Award for community cohesion
- The **Shout** Award for campaigning
- The **Legend** Award for Outstanding Leadership
- The **Inspired** Award for the most inspirational volunteer
- The **Transform** Award for exceptional community impact

**Tinchy** said: *"I think the vinspired national awards are a good thing and I am happy to be involved. The work the volunteers are doing to help their community is really positive."*

**Gabriella Cilmi** said *"I am so proud to be part of the vinspired national awards, the work that these young people do for other people is inspirational."*

**Bashy** said: *"vinspired.com is just so innovative and positive – the vinspired national awards are a great way of celebrating young volunteers."*

**Lady Sovereign** said: *"v is a great cause, celebrating young people's achievements that would otherwise go unrecognised. I am very happy to show my support to those who've done something good for the community".*



**Lewis Moody** said: "I have been very fortunate to play for England and to be given the opportunities that have allowed me to achieve what I have in life. I strongly believe in recognising the work of young volunteers the commitment they give to their communities especially within sport as it is these people that help energize young people and motivate them to achieve at a national level. This is why I am supporting the Energy Award at the vinspired national awards on behalf of Red Bull"

The business community also recognize how crucial youth volunteering is. Dragon's Den's **James Caan** said: *"I am thrilled to be part of the vinspired national awards. It's about time we recognise young people for the contribution they make to their communities though volunteering and it is also an opportunity to showcase the experience volunteers can get that may help them move in the right direction when looking for work."*

The Youth Ambassador for the London Mayor's office, **James Cleverly**, has acknowledged the awards as a valuable recognition of the achievements of volunteers over the past 12 months: *"vinspired undertake invaluable work encouraging volunteers, and those volunteers play an invaluable role, often unrecognised, in our society. The vinspired national awards ceremony is a great vehicle to acknowledge the hard work that is being done, both in London and nationally, and it is a pleasure to be able to support the Awards. I am particularly proud that over 100 nominations came from London, and would like to applaud their efforts as well as wishing them and all the other nominees the very best of luck."*

v's Chief Executive, **Terry Ryall**, said: *"At v, we are really excited about our first awards ceremony. Young people deserve to be recognised for the incredible volunteering work that they do and on 26<sup>th</sup> November we will be recognizing these exceptional individuals who have made a big different to their communities "*

To find out more or get involved visit [www.vinspired.com/nationalawards](http://www.vinspired.com/nationalawards)

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For media interviews, more information and images please contact David Slade or Pippa Bruce on 020 7100 7100 / [david.slade@shinecom.com](mailto:david.slade@shinecom.com) or [pippa.bruce@shinecom.com](mailto:pippa.bruce@shinecom.com)

## Notes to Editors

v , The National Youth Volunteer Service aims to inspire a new generation of volunteers (aged 16-25) in England. We do this by funding voluntary organisations all over England to create inspiring, diverse opportunities and by helping to overcome barriers that stop people from taking action to improve lives, communities and the planet. Our aim is to create a culture where volunteering comes naturally – and where the benefits of volunteering are understood and celebrated.

To do this we have two major streams of activity: as a volunteering funder; and as a central point of contact for all 16-25s.



- Working in partnership with over 500 voluntary, community and public sector organisations more than 430,000 young people aged 16-25 years have taken part in volunteering funded by v. And that figure is set to grow to more than a million with 900,000 opportunities already commissioned by v.
- In addition, we have attracted over £40m from the private sector.
- vinspired.com is our consumer facing brand and a place where people can search for local volunteering opportunities and share experiences using online tools including blogging and video. The site is constantly evolving and strives to challenge the traditional perceptions of volunteering through its look, feel, language and usability.
- v has also provided a national framework to deliver a local service, by introducing 107 vinvolved teams (one in each local authority area across England) to act as central hubs within the community for potential volunteers, businesses, charities and other local networks.
- Furthermore, v has already introduced an innovative online awards scheme, which enables young people across England to gain recognition for 50 hours of community action. The v50 Award provides young people with an important opportunity to record the hours spent volunteering, and reflect on the skills they have gained through their placements. On completion of the v50 Award, young volunteers can progress onto the vimpact Award, motivating them to continue making a positive contribution to their community”

v is an independent charity launched in May 2006 as a result of the Russell Commission report, A National Framework for Youth Action and Engagement.

See [vinspired.com](http://vinspired.com) for more information on what we do and how we do it.