



REKINDLE

SPRING UPDATE

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FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK



Dear Rekindle family,

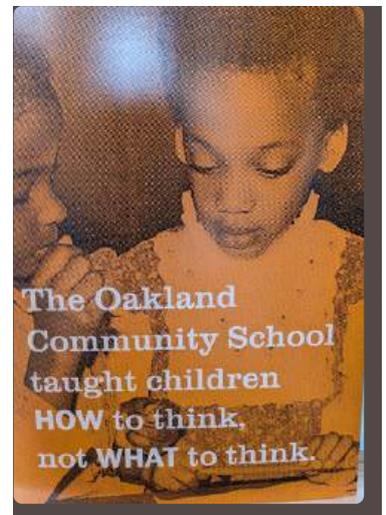
It's been a powerful season of transformation. As we step into new communities, welcome brilliant new team members, and deepen our commitment to soulful education, I've found myself pausing often—reflecting on how far we've come, and how much more we're being called to do.

Rekindle's spirit is rising in bold, beautiful, and grounded ways. From opening our new school in London to scoping for our next space in Dundee, from youth-led research that challenges the status quo to intergenerational work honouring radical Black history—every thread is woven with the same belief: that soulful education, critical thinking, and deep community care can shape a more just and joyful future.

I'm also delighted to share that Sam Pow has joined us as Deputy CEO. With Sam leading on operations, I'm now able to focus more deeply on Rekindle's long-term vision and strategy. She brings lots of experience from her time at Save the Children UK, and we're deeply grateful to SCUK for seconding her to us for the year—a powerful example of values-led partnership in action. Sam already feels like a natural part of our team.

The past few months have been filled with rich learning and deep inspiration. In April, I travelled to The Gambia, where I had the privilege of spending time with educators, creatives, and change-makers whose work reaffirmed the vital importance of storytelling, memory, and education grounded in culture and care.

More recently, I returned from a soul-stirring visit to Oakland, California, where I met members of the Black Panther Party — sharing Rekindle's work and learning from their powerful legacy of education, community care, and resistance. I was delighted to travel with Dr. Dan Silver, an academic from Manchester University who has worked alongside us for years and helped secure funding for an exciting, year-long project examining Rekindle's radical approach to community care. One of the most moving moments was being shown an original Black Panther Community School booklet (pictured). It was incredible and affirming to see how deeply critical thinking was woven into their ethos — a value at Rekindle's core. This visit left me brimming with inspiration for community organising and engagement — so stay tuned. There's more on my visit in this newsletter!



Thank you—truly—for continuing to walk with us. Your belief in Rekindle, in young people, and in the power of soulful learning is what keeps this movement alive.

With love and determination,


Ruth

AT THE HEART: REKINDLE'S WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



REKINDLE LONDON HAS LANDED!



Our new Rekindle School in London is now open, with some very hard work going on behind the scenes to bring this vision to fruition.

Located in an exciting new community space at Oasis@StMartin's Village, Tulse Hill, our new school really brings our values to life – centring culture, critical thinking and care – marking a big step in growing the Rekindle movement. We have recruited three amazing youth workers, Vanessa, Nyaling and Joshua and we are currently accepting nominations for a new cohort of young people aged 11-14 who would benefit from the supportive environment and soulful learning experience that Rekindle can bring.

[Read More](#)

AT THE HEART: REKINDLE'S WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



PASSING THE BATON: REKINDLE MANCHESTER'S NEXT GENERATION OF YOUTH PIONEERS ARE ALMOST HERE!

At Rekindle Manchester, we're on the cusp of welcoming our second generation of Youth Pioneers.

Since launching the call-out just over a month ago, we've been blown away by the level of interest and energy from young people keen to help shape Rekindle's future.

[Read More](#)



EASTER AT REKINDLE MANCHESTER: LAUGHTER, TALENT AND LEBRON THE EGG



Over the Easter holidays, Our Manchester team ran a brilliant holiday club at Rekindle, attended by a lively group of young Rekindlers. Demereece, our Creative Educator, wrote some reflections on a week filled with sunshine, creativity and community.

[Read More](#)

AT THE HEART: RUTH MEETS WITH EMORY DOUGLAS IN OAKLAND



REKINDLE'S FOUNDING INSPIRATION COMES FULL CIRCLE

One of the many highlights of Ruth's recent trip to Oakland, California, was the opportunity to meet with former Black Panther and renowned graphic artist Emory Douglas (pictured bottom left and with Ruth).

This meeting marked a powerful moment of connection and return: the Black Panthers' vision of liberatory education was one of the seeds that inspired Rekindle's founding. From their community survival programmes to the artwork featured on our very first posters, their legacy continues to shape how we imagine schools that centre justice, joy and freedom.



REKINDLING HISTORY, REIMAGINING FUTURES



REKINDLING NELLO JAMES – A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS



We're delighted to share that Rekindle has been awarded funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a powerful new project: Rekindling Nello James.

This intergenerational heritage project will celebrate the radical legacy of Trinidadian writer, CLR James – a pioneering Black social worker, community organiser and educational thinker whose story deserves far greater recognition. Together with young people, we'll explore the systems he sought to challenge, and what liberation and justice look like today.

We're thrilled to welcome Bianca Danielle to the team as our new Project Manager—another exciting milestone for the project. We can't wait to share this journey with you!

As part of our preparations **we're now recruiting a steering group of elders in the Manchester area** to help guide the project. The group will work alongside our young people, shaping the direction of the research, storytelling and public events. If you or someone you know has lived experience, deep community roots, or simply a passion for seeing stories like those of CLR James brought to life – we'd love to hear from you.

[Enquire about joining the steering group](#)

OUR YOUTH-LED RESEARCH IS UNDERWAY - CAN YOU HELP?

Our incredible Researchers, supported by the Rekindle Foundation, are underway with their research – and they want to hear from you!

Our six researchers are inviting current and former students, educators and academics to share experiences, aspirations and ideas that will shape this groundbreaking research. Find out about each researcher's project below:



Melisa's research explores how perceptions of unattainability impact young people's confidence in higher education.

She aims to understand why some students feel university isn't "for them," examine how social background and school environment shape these beliefs, and identify ways to empower students to see higher education as a real option.

[More](#)

Owen's project investigates the power dynamics of language in education.

They explore how accents, tones, and word choices affect whose voices are heard and valued, whether students feel proud of how they speak or pressured to change, and how language can reinforce inequality or foster inclusivity in schools

[More](#)



Mel's research investigates how holistic care practices can be embedded into the UK school system.

Mel explores the role of health & belonging in student wellbeing, how curriculum & discipline impact care in education, the importance of teacher training and conflict management, and community integration and anti-bias approaches in schools.

[More](#)

Finty's research explores how young people experience belonging in education and how it can be strengthened.

She examines how belonging affects confidence and engagement, why rigid systems can leave some students isolated, and how schools can nurture inclusion and connection.

[More](#)





Pal's research explores how intersectionality shapes the educational experiences of young people aged 15–25.

She investigates how understanding intersectionality can empower students, and how educators and young people can work together to build more inclusive learning environments. The aim is to create a more equitable experience of the education system for all YP, regardless of their identity.

[More](#)

Aaron's research explores how well schools listen to and act on student voices.

He examines whether young people feel heard in decision-making, highlights best practices in youth voice facilitation, and looks at how schools can better embed student perspectives into their culture and policies.

[More](#)



YOU'RE INVITED

EDUCATION REIMAGINED: A YOUTH-LED GATHERING

JUL 17 28 June 2025 |  10.30AM-4.30PM |  People's History Museum, Manchester

What happens when young people lead the conversation on the future of education?

What to expect:

-  Presentation of our Youth Researchers year-long projects.
-  Discussion, collaboration, guest speakers.
-  Spoken word and creative expressions.
-  Lunch and community vibes.

Whether you're a student, educator, policymaker, or community member, be part of reimagining an education system for everyone. Spaces are limited.

Interested? [Click here to email Ellie Rose and secure your spot](#)

ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY



SUNDAY SOCIALS - A PAUSE, NOT A GOODBYE



At the end of March, on Mother's Day, we held the final of our **Sunday Socials** – for now. These gatherings, designed to spark joy, connection and conversation for those **aged 60+ in the Hulme community**, have come to a close as funding for the series has run its course.

[Read More](#)

The feedback from attendees of the Sunday Socials has been powerful, reminding us just how needed these warm, welcoming spaces are. While the socials are on pause for now, we're actively exploring ways to bring them back. If you're interested in supporting future events – or know someone who might be – we'd love to hear from you, so please email tariq@rekindleschool.org.

OUR COMMUNITY PANTRY IN HULME IS OPEN

We are thrilled that our new pantry is up and running at Rekindle Manchester.

The pantry is offering families access to essentials in a way that centres dignity and choice. It's a calm, welcoming space created with and for the community.

[Read More](#)





SEE YOU IN GLASGOW

Rekindle will be at this year's Children in Scotland's Annual Conference.

This year's theme, "Making space for voices," speaks directly to our mission. Come find us at the exhibition and hear how we're supporting youth-led change.

[Book your tickets here](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Follow the news and updates from Rekindle School and Rekindle Foundation on social media.

Join the journey as we build soulful education and stronger communities. Click the icons below to find us online – we'd love to have you with us.

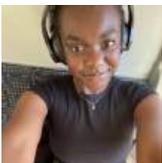


MEET THE GROWING TEAM!



THE REKINDLE FAMILY IS GROWING!

We're excited to welcome a number of new team members who bring fresh energy and commitment to our work at Rekindle as we continue to expand our services. You will no doubt hear from each of them in future updates.



Abigo Mboke,
Community Voice Project Lead,
Rekindle Foundation



Nyaling
Youth Worker London
Rekindle School



Bianca Danielle
Project Manager,
Rekindling Nello James Project



Sam Pow,
Deputy CEO



Charli Perkins,
Dundee Programme
Coordinator, Rekindle School



Sarah Lale,
Comms & Engagement Lead,
Rekindle School



Ellierose McManus,
Comms & Engagement Officer,
Rekindle



Vanessa Boodhoo
Youth Worker London
Rekindle School



Joshua Eyakware
Youth Worker London
Rekindle School

If you would like any more information or want to be involved with the work shared in this update, Sam would be happy to hear from you directly:
sam@rekindleschool.org

REKINDLE

General Enquiries

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Volunteering

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Nominations

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Press

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