



“Being at the club makes me feel like **SOMEBODY CARES**”

- Ebony Horse Club attendee

On a small plot of land, in the shadow of council estates, off Coldharbour Lane and not five minutes from Brixton’s famous market, sits Britain’s most unusual riding school. A far cry from rolling countryside and middle class affluence, this community riding centre is for kids living in the surrounding estates. Most of these kids have come from low income households and disadvantaged backgrounds, have special educational needs, low aspirations and few opportunities.

Inner-city youth clubs usually focus on activities like football or street dance, but why should riding be an elite and inaccessible sport? As Ros Spearing, founder and Director of Ebony Horse Club says: ‘A horse doesn’t care if you are excluded or overweight, or from a poor family. As long as you treat a horse with respect, it will respect you back.’

Ebony has discovered that simply learning to be around horses can have an amazing effect on the kids. ‘You have to be a friend to your horse’ say the instructors. If you treat a horse with aggression, or attitude, it will react badly to you. If you learn to calm your behaviour and communicate gently, you’ll get better results, and this new way of behaving seeps into other parts of their life, improving their relationships with others.