

STAB VICTIM'S PAL ON REASON FOR HIS DEATH



EXCLUSIVE by SHARON HENDRY

A CLASSMATE of slain schoolboy Jaden Moodie believes his friend's abrupt exclusion from school helped propel him towards his death.

Tanner Reid-Brady pointed to a lack of support for Jaden, who was murdered in a brutal knife attack just weeks after being excluded from Heathcote School in Chingford, East London.

Jaden, 14, was knocked from his moped by a Mercedes carrying five people and repeatedly stabbed on January 8 in the East London borough of Waltham Forest.

Tanner, also 14, said: "All the teachers liked Jaden. There was never a point where he started to turn dark but there was some incident where he allegedly used social media inappropriately – and the next thing we knew he had been excluded from school.

"I don't think there was any support after that and he started hanging out at the mall.

"After school, some of us go to KFC and chill. I last saw him there three weeks before he died. I couldn't believe it when I heard the news on Snapchat.

"Everyone was putting up R.I.P. posts and I thought it was Jaden playing a joke. It still doesn't feel real."

On Friday night a 17-year-



old girl from Harold Hill in East London became the latest to die in a knife attack.

David Jamieson, the police and crime commissioner for the West Midlands, this week linked a spate of knife crime in the region to school exclusions.

He said he had told Home Secretary Sajid Javid many children injured or involved in knife attacks "had been excluded or off-rolled".

Describing a "national emergency", he said: "Those children are on almost an immediate path into crime and into violence."

More than 40 children are expelled from schools in England each day, according to latest figures, with permanent exclusions rising sharply in the past three years.

Other kids are unofficially excluded through "off-rolling", where headteachers move difficult pupils from their register.

Many of those ejected from mainstream education end up roaming the streets or in failing pupil referral units, which can be a recruiting ground for gangs.

Excluded pupils are 200 times more likely to be involved in knife-related offences. More than half the prison population has been expelled from school.

Tanner said: "Jaden didn't deserve to be killed. Yes, he had good and bad friends. We all do. But to be murdered and then condemned?"

"He was killed in the environment he lived in. This is a fight against evil. As a community, we need to take care of one another and take control, because no one in government is helping."

Tanner described Jaden as a "quiet, generous boy, not



CAMPAIGN Sun on Sunday-backed debate at Eastside Young Leaders Academy



TRIBUTE Jaden's classmate Tanner with photo

Exclusion from school put Jaden on a path to tragedy

TRAGIC... Jaden was rammed off moped and stabbed up to seven times

Pictures: OLIVER DIXON



MURDER Cops at scene of attack on Jaden in Leyton, East London, in January

the person in the news". He said: "Perhaps it's easier for society to portray the killing as his fault because the alternative is to accept there is a war we all need to play a part in solving."

Tanner joined mourners including London Mayor Sadiq Khan at St Mary's Church in Walthamstow last month for Jaden's funeral.

It was the first funeral Tanner has attended. He fears it will not be the last. He avoids gangs by attending the Eastside Young Leaders Academy in Newham, East London, run by Ray

Lewis. Tanner said: "We go there at weekends and holidays, learning values such as courage, decisiveness, enthusiasm, initiative and integrity."

"Staff take us to museums and galleries and we visit law firms and engineering sites. We need support, not criticism. More youth clubs would help, and decent after-school clubs for teenagers.

"Everything has been cut. All that is left are shopping malls and the streets."

Each year the academy works with 300-plus boys and girls aged eight to 16 at

risk of educational and social exclusion. Ray says: "The thinking my students have to do to plot their way home each night has become more important than school subjects. It's the difference between life and death."

"Jaden wasn't a particularly bad lad, so why did he get killed? The level of violence against him is significant.

"That kind of rage is worsening. All the children at Eastside know someone who has died. They live with trauma (that is) not conducive to learning or living." On the evening of Jaden's

funeral, Ray called a meeting for people affected by knife crime. Backed by The Sun on Sunday as part of our Beat The Blades campaign, 150 people debated the issue.

Omar Hassan, 14, told attendees: "People talk of absent fathers but the reason black youths are killing each other are poverty, lack of opportunity and the education system. Society thinks black kids are worthless."

● Ayoub Majdouline, 18, from Wembley, North London, has been charged with Jaden's murder. He faces trial in July.

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'Advantage'... Davies

Olympic Sharron in trans ban row

EXCLUSIVE by SARAH RIDLEY

EX-Olympic swimmer Sharron Davies sparked a row by saying transgender women should be banned from competing in female sport.

Sharron, 56, wrote on Twitter: "I have nothing against anyone who wishes 2be transgender."

"However I believe there is a fundamental difference between the binary sex u r born with & the gender u may identify as."

"To protect women's sport those with a male sex advantage should not be able 2compete in women's sport."

An online backlash saw some accuse the BBC pundit of "fuelling hate".

LGBT rights charity Stonewall said: "Sport should be welcoming to everyone."

Troubles in store..

LONG queues, unhelpful staff and trouble finding products are the main gripes at convenience stores, says a survey.

Consumer group Which? found M&S Simply Food was top with a 68 per cent satisfaction rating.

Next came Little Waitrose on 64 per cent, Co-op Food on 55 and Sainsbury's Local on 51.

But Tesco Express scored only 48 per cent and Premier 45, with Best-One, Costcutter and One Stop all on 44.

Bottom in the poll was McColl's on 40 per cent.

RED NOSE
 CATHERINE Tate's character Lauren Cooper moaned at Tony Blair in 2007 – but the PM turned the tables, telling her to look and see if his face was "bovvered".
R/B TICKLER

Lab 'zero hour' rap

A LABOUR council was blasted for advertising a zero hours contract job – despite the party vowing to ban them.

Waltham Forest in East London posted an ad for a casual wetlands centre assistant with a potential salary of £19,000 plus.

Conservative MP Nigel Evans said: "It is rank hypocrisy."

Council deputy leader Clyde Loakes said the role is not a zero hours contract as the worker would have the right to decline offers of work and hold other job roles.