



THANKS, PRINCE OF WALES!



The Prince of Wales celebrated the achievements of talented British Muslims at an awards ceremony.

The Prince was joined by Princess Badiya bint El Hassan of Jordan at the first Mosaic Talent Awards, to mark the contribution made to society by British Muslims. The Prince, who is a practising Anglican, is well-known for encouraging inter-faith dialogue and tolerance between faiths. Addressing in London's Natural History Museum, The Prince said Muslim communities, and the talent therein, had "enriched Britain in every sense." Mosaic, a charity established by The Prince, offers mentoring schemes to raise the aspirations of disaffected young Muslims.

The Prince recollected a recent event that he felt summed up the work his charity is doing. He said: "I was fascinated to hear the views of the Imam of the Leeds Makkah Mosque on how,

through a wide range of initiatives including Mosaic, Britain seeks to integrate rather than isolate its minority communities and offers real freedom of choice and of expression." "I have to say that it is this acceptance - indeed, this welcome - of diversity which makes me rather proud to be British."

And before presenting the Science and Technology award to Imran Hakim, 30, from Bolton, The Prince confessed to the young entrepreneur that he was a fan of the BBC's Dragon's Den, the show that helped bring Mr Hakim his success.

The Bolton-born inventor, was given a Mosaic award for his iTeddy, an interactive teddy bear that earned him the backing of two Dragons and helped secure him a worldwide supply chain. Mr Hakim said: "The Prince is such an inspiration and I couldn't believe it when he said he'd seen me on Dragon's Den and thought my invention was good." "I wasn't thinking quick enough, I should have offered to give him an iTeddy - I missed a trick there." "Dragon's Den has given me everything - I was given £140,000 for a 40 per cent share in my company by Theo and Peter. Knowing what I know now, I'd have given away 90 per cent for the same price... don't let them know that.

"I'm just a kid from Bolton and I've shaken The Prince's hand, that's what it's given me." "I'm proud to be a positive role model for young Muslims. There can be a lot of negative stereotypes in the press, so it's great to have The Prince here tonight talking about something positive." The Prince also met Under Secretary of State for Communities, Sadiq Khan, a Mosaic supporter. Mr Khan said: "I told The Prince that he is a friend of Islam and has been for years." "Muslims in Britain see him as our Prince. He is such a humble man - he asked me if I thought what he was doing would make much of a difference to young Muslims. I told him of course it would." "However, the greatest tribute was paid by Princess Badiya bint El Hassan who said he was a man "who has the wisdom and insight to recognise the challenges of the day, long before those around him".

The Prince ended his speech by urging acceptance of other religious beliefs in our multi-faith society. He said: "As it was put to me rather eloquently last week: 'Since we share a common father in Abraham, we must all be brothers'."

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