

### ***Updated bio -***

Jacob is a young, proficient and eager entrepreneur with a notable history of business success behind him. By the tender age of twenty-one, Jacob's prolific portfolio of entrepreneurial antics had won him a string of awards including; the Yorkshire Post's *Young Entrepreneur of the Year* and the Duke of York's *Young Entrepreneur Award*.

He first caught the business bug as a teenager; keen to find his flair in the field he started an underground sweet selling enterprise at his secondary school, which quickly picked up momentum and became a multifaceted operation with its own staff and an impressive turnover. After his school days, Jacob organised local music events, but when a new law shut his venture down, he worked to pay back his debts and looked ahead to where he could next find a worthwhile business concept.

It was whilst carrying out a full time degree in Enterprise Development at the University of Huddersfield that Jacob devised his most lucrative venture, *The Lazy Camper*; a trailblazing concept aimed at festival fans offering up all your camping essentials for a weekend under the stars in one pack. He entered his business in to a host of national competitions, securing investment from Sir Richard Branson through his previous role as the *Virgin Media Pioneers Yorkshire Ambassador*. The innovative Lazy Camper concept was also pitched to *Innocent smoothies* founder Richard Reed on BBC3's *Be Your Own Boss* programme. Such was Jacob's success, that he found the company sponsoring leading UK music and sporting festivals.

When he faced a series of setbacks in his personal and business life due to poor decisions and knee-jerk reactions, Jacob found himself being arrested for possession with intent to supply class A drugs. He was sentenced to 28 months in prison. Jacob pledged to push through this tough experience and re-build. He spent his time in incarceration proactively, helping others to understand that they could be afforded the same opportunities he'd had if they worked hard and believed in themselves. He worked closely with the St. Giles Trust, a charity supporting the resettlement of ex-offenders into society and The Samaritans working night shifts to listen to those in desperate situations who just needed to talk.

Despite all of the unfortunate circumstances that he's faced, Jacob's determination to push past an issue and keep going shines through. He is proof that your typical suited businessman is an extinct concept, and success comes with passion, instinct and sincerity. Keen to continue repaying his debt to society following his release, Jacob has embarked on a new business venture, *Offploy.com*, an agency developed solely to support companies who are looking to hire ex-offenders as part of an ongoing commitment to reducing re-offending within society. He recently secured his first investment and now works on the concept full time between his speaking engagements.

Jacob actively engages audiences with his genuine enthusiasm and eagerness to pass on his knowledge and experience in the world of start-ups, failures entrepreneurship

and motivation. He has given speeches to a wide host of domestic and international audiences, from students, to professionals, charities to corporate organisations. His message transcends business, giving an insight into personal growth, being brutally honest with yourself and finding success in doing what you love.

Here's what people say about Jacob's professional speaking

Jacob Hill came to do a talk at The University of Huddersfield on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 for The Huddersfield Enterprise Society. Jacob talked about his enterprising journey, telling us about the successes and troubles he faced along the way. Our group of young entrepreneurs who have either just started out or are researching ideas loved hearing Jacob's story and learning from him. Seeing his approach to setting up and running his own businesses was of particular interest to our members. It was clear to see that Jacob has an interesting and unique way of sharing his experience and knowledge in a wide range of areas.

Gemma Humphris  
Huddersfield Enterprise Society President

"I've had the pleasure of hearing Jacob speak at a number of events and was impressed by his ability to captivate a variety of audiences. From addressing a crowd of Young Enterprise finalists at the British Film Institute, to galvanizing hundreds of aspiring entrepreneurs at the national Student Enterprise Conference - time and again, his presentation was engaging, motivating and delivered with just the right amount of humour. He is diligent in understanding what is required from him as a speaker and adapts his style accordingly - I wouldn't hesitate to recommend him."

Katrina Hau,  
Programme Manager, NACUE

'Jacob is a captivating speaker, easily relatable and impressively engaging. Recalling difficulties in business he's faced in the past, and taking the audience through how he maintains his motivation and momentum, his honesty is refreshing and he leaves everyone wanting to go out and capture the world.'

Nicole Macedo,  
Journalist for Your Gibraltar TV