

TEKST 3

MS DYNAMITE

Britain's leading female rap star is nominated for six Mobo-awards at the Music Of Black Origin show at the London Arena tonight.

- 1 MS DYNAMITE may be Britain's leading female rap star, but anyone expecting a hardnut 'gangsta girl' is in for a surprise. The 21-year-old makes it clear in her lyrics that she is anti 'gangsta culture', drug dealers and black-on-black violence. As for her style, she likes to keep things low-key, dressing simply and avoiding photo shoots that try to make her look sexy, because she feels this takes the focus away from her music. "I'm not interested in flashy material things. Fast cars and diamonds are not where it is at."
- 2 In fact, Ms Dynamite, whose real name is Niomi Daley, seems more like a social worker than a pop star. So it was appropriate that she invited me to interview her at her former secondary school, Parliament Hill School, in North London. Within minutes, news of her surprise arrival spread through the school like wildfire. It is a compliment that local star Niomi is careful not to take for granted. She says: "I love children and I want to inspire them, I don't think you can underestimate the importance of that."
- 3 Niomi proves her point by patiently signing autographs and chatting to pupils, making sure they understand the importance of good grades. The visit to her school is not just some clever PR stunt to impress a newspaper. She seriously feels the responsibility to give something back to her young fans. She says: "I really want kids to realise how important it is to have an education. I am lucky to be where I am, but I also have exams to fall back on if I need them."
- 4 Niomi has experienced the hard side of life. When she was two, her Jamaican dad, Eyon, left her Scottish mum Heather. And when she was 13, her mum became ill with cancer and Niomi had to care for her young brothers and sisters. Her mother recovered, but Niomi has not forgotten the importance of setting a good example.
- 5 Niomi still lives where she was brought up, although she is finding it hard to fight the demands of success. "It has been crazy lately. I live with my family, but I hardly get to see them." Despite Niomi's new-found fame, she has stayed true to her roots and is proud of the social and cultural mix of her upbringing. "I have been taught to take people as I find them."
- 6 Unfortunately, Niomi can speak about racism from personal experience. "When I was at primary school, people called me names like 'black bitch' and 'black cow'. It was weird because I never even thought about being a different colour from my mum, who is white. As a kid, I didn't see colour, just people. But in a way I am glad I went through that because it made me stronger."
- 7 The music being recorded by many other rap stars is often obsessed with sex, drugs and violence. But although Niomi has worked with the controversial rapper Eminem, such subject matter is not for her. This refreshing approach has not brought down sales. So far more than 150,000 people have bought her album *A little deeper*.
- 8 Niomi says: "If I had a pound for every person that told me I wasn't going to get anywhere, I'd be a millionaire. But all it really did was make me stronger. Every time they said, 'You can't do it,' I was like, 'OK, can you give me the mike now?'"
- 9 Back at Parliament Hill School, the kids are begging to talk to Niomi and they all want to be photographed with her. You don't find many pop stars visiting their old school to help a new generation find its feet. But clearly, Ms Dynamite is not just any pop star.



TOP CLASS ACT ... Niomi back at her old school



The Sun

- 1p ● 3 Why could people be surprised by *Ms Dynamite* according to paragraph 1?
A She does not look and act like a typical rap star.
B She is not really interested in rap music in general.
C She is the most popular rap star at the moment.
D She pays more attention to her image than to her songs.
- 1p ○ 4 → Wat wil Niomi volgens alinea 3 duidelijk maken aan haar fans?
- 1p ○ 5 Niomi noemt in alinea 5 een nadeel van haar succes.
→ Schrijf op welk nadeel dat is.
- 1p ● 6 Which 'refreshing approach' is meant in paragraph 7?
A Making raps about sex, drugs and violence.
B Recording an album with rapper Eminem.
C Selling her album at a lower price.
D Singing about different subjects than most rappers do.
- 1p ○ 7 'If I had a pound for every person that told me I wasn't going to get anywhere, I'd be a millionaire.' (alinea 8)
→ Wat wil Niomi duidelijk maken met deze bewering?