

# HIGHSTEAD



## THE REVIEW

ACTION  
COURAGE  
OPTIMISM

# ownership spirit disruption

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# 2026 OPTIMISTIC CHAOS?



## 2025: One step back

2025 may have started with promise but quickly proved itself to be another challenging year. In the US, the administration's early moves to impose wide ranging tariffs reshaped global trade dynamics. Businesses across the UK and Europe had to rethink supply chains and felt the ripple effects through higher input costs and increased volatility.

Across Europe, political shifts created pockets of uncertainty, yet most economies held their course. In the UK, the new government struggled to ease the burden on businesses, keeping growth subdued - albeit resilient enough to defy the more pessimistic forecasts of late 2024. But in spite of this, most came through relatively unscathed, if not stronger, and certainly well-equipped to navigate the unexpected.

## 2026: Two steps forward?

So, as we emerge from the aftermath of 2025, can we hope for a better year? One of greater stability and confidence - enough, even, for M&A to return in earnest? If the past is anything to go by - and current events suggest little has changed - stability seems unlikely. And if you are one to follow the Lunar calendar, you might already be expecting the Fire Horse to usher in a year of bold moves and further upheaval.

Yet somehow the mood feels optimistic. Exciting, even. The horse signifies energy and a pace not seen for some years. Courage and passion. But for those steering a business, this energy must be used wisely. Cutting through the optimistic chaos to deliver carefully thought-out strategies, and not losing one's head in the face of rapid change (and we are all well-versed in this by now), will be critical for success. The businesses that can keep a steady hold on the reins while making courageous moves this year will win. And the brands that can be what the customer needs at this time - honest, human and heartfelt - will reap the biggest rewards.

**Wishing all our clients a successful ride in 2026. The Highstead team.**

# Talkin' bout a revolution

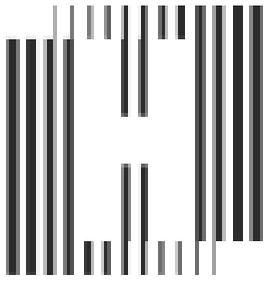
Tracy Chapman, 1988

1966: Red August and the start of the Cultural Revolution in China, widespread Vietnam War protests, London iconised by the Swinging Sixties and Free Love, the formation of the Black Panther party marking a turning point in the Civil Rights movement. A year marked by upheaval, chaos, turmoil. Much of which dragged on for years. But ultimately brought change. Ushered in a new guard. A fresh perspective. Much of it powered by the people. A grassroots call for action.

2026: As we kick off the first Fire Horse year in six decades, what can we therefore expect? It's about what matters, what matters to the people. Taking back power, choices driven by values, being present and being human, ownership of the story - be that political, social or cultural - to curate a world that feels fit for the future. And with unprecedented energy and spirit afoot, we might just find that 2026 is the year of powerful social movements and swift action.

**“ Those that fail to  
learn from history,  
are doomed to repeat it.”**

**Winston Churchill**



# CONSUMER BRANDS

Apparel & Accessories

Active & Outdoor

Health, Beauty & Wellness

Consumer Services & Tech



**truth**  
**agency**  
**boldness**  
**fundamentals**

# CONSUMER BRANDS

## A resurgence for Consumer M&A?

Highstead is a leading adviser to Consumer Brands, building on over a decade-long track record in supporting some of the best known names in the Consumer market in capital-raising and M&A.

After a year of unexpected turmoil for much of the Consumer industry, particularly those with a global footprint, do we dare be optimistic for 2026?

**2025 was a year marked by frustrating steps backwards for many Consumer brands.**

Trump tariffs, DEI and sustainability agendas being forced into a backseat, tax- rather than growth-driven economic policies at home: these could all have dampened the spirits of an industry already reeling from pandemic drama, supply chain crises and unprecedented cost inflation. But fighting spirit prevailed and brands, hardened by years of turmoil, faced the challenges with a shrug and mutterings of “new norm”.

**M&A continued to sit on the back burner** while P&Ls stabilised and supply chains shifted from a less China-centric model. However, for many brands, notably those going the extra mile to deliver (see our last year Review), trading continued to be robust - if not exceptional - building bigger and better businesses with strong cash-generation and little pressure to do deals. Iconic brands, truly unique assets and long-term strategic plays continued to be M&A drivers for growth brands. For everyone else it was slim-pickings.

**What will be driving M&A in 2026? After a difficult few years for Consumer M&A, rumblings on the Street suggest we might be in for a comeback.** While many other industries - often the darlings of the investor community - are facing extraordinary levels of disruption from AI, one thing is certain: consumers will still consume, and while supply chains and routes to markets can be disrupted, the core product - and a need (or desire) for it - can't be replaced. Does this make the Consumer sector a safe haven?

**As ever, anticipating consumer trends and behaviours will be key to making value-accretive M&A decisions.** Generational trends vs. short-term hits and adaptable models vs. pre-AI era winners will be critical factors for compelling M&A, together with a differentiated proposition, strong customer KPIs and plenty of white space for long-term growth.

**\$12tn**

Global purchasing power of Gen-Z by 2030

**↓ 5%**

volume of global Consumer M&A deals in 2025

**↑ 41%**

Year-on-year uplift in 2025 in global Consumer M&A by value, driven by private equity “mega deals”

**7.3 yrs**

Median European PE hold time for Consumer assets as at 2025

# 2026 hot topics

## 1/ RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

Reacting to the 'rise of the robots', 2026 will be about humanity-first. Shared physical experiences (or spaces), ritual gatherings, and a yearning for conscious connection will define a year of, potentially, optimistic chaos. Brands will benefit from a show of human touch as consumers seek truth and authenticity, not Meta-machine branding. And organic discovery and word-of-mouth will be the holy grail in marketing.

## 2/ TODAY VS. TOMORROW (AND LETTING GO OF THE PAST)

2025's biohacking trend may not be for everyone but wellness is still one of the most valuable currencies we have. 2026 is less about data and more about back-to-basics self-care. Somatic yoga, vagus-nerve stimulators and mushroom-based supplements are all having a moment, helping us deal with past trauma, live fully in the moment and keeping 'future us' in rude health at the most fundamental level.

## 3/ "RARE, NOT JUST RICH"

Maximalism is making a comeback, and in a big way. 2026 is the year for bold, courageous choices. Mix'n'match, high-low, old-new combos - uniqueness is the new word in luxury for Generation Z. Expect a strong year for resell platforms, and a plethora of scarcity-value marketing gimmicks.

## 4/ FRICTION-LESS CONSUMERISM

Technological advances can end up leaving you more frazzled, not less. But with AI enabling more complex automation than ever before, can we finally expect a more seamless consumer experience? Bespoke AI shopping agents are coming, and we'd like to see more dashboard apps to give us a personalised single point of view and transaction platform, but in the meantime, in a sea of brand noise, well-executed curator-aggregators will continue to enjoy a boom.

## 5/ TINY JOYS

From 7 second reels to \$10 body mists and glitter freckles, the big winners in moments of uncertainty and economic challenge are the small pleasures. Not to mention being a quick fix for a generation entirely geared to dopamine-driven consumerism. But cute and pocket-sized serve a double purpose as reassuring, unthreatening and nostalgic in a time when consumers most desire steadiness. Does this mean more Hello Kitty and Moomin collabs headed our way?





## Cracking the US

The scale of the opportunity in the US can be very alluring, but how can you ensure success?

It's little wonder that UK Consumer Brands obsess about cracking the US. The total value of the consumer market is 9x that of the UK. But, as anyone who's tried it knows, it's not always that easy. Here are our top 5 tips. [READ MORE HERE](#)



## #MenopausesHot

The limitations women face with the conventional medical system are driving exponential growth in Consumer Health

Women are increasingly turning to self-education and self-prescribed treatments, as evidenced by a menopause wellness market that is now worth £600m in the UK alone. And investors are seeing the opportunity. [READ MORE HERE](#)



## Game of (Status) Thrones

For a struggling luxury sector, what might hold the key to reversing its fortunes?

When barriers to entry are relatively low, imagery is prolific and accessible, and the pace of newness shows no signs of abating, how can the luxury houses keep that air of exclusivity, originality and authentic craftsmanship? [READ MORE HERE](#)

FRIENDS OF HIGHSTEAD

# What's your story in 2026?

60 seconds with Joanne Kerr, a corporate narrative specialist and founder of KERNEL

**At a time when markets are noisy, teams are stretched, and content is increasingly machine-made, the organisations that stand out will be the ones who sound unmistakably like themselves.**

Clarity isn't a luxury anymore. It's the bedrock of growth, alignment and decision-making, especially for businesses navigating expansion, succession, or strategic change. Yet many companies still get tangled in the buzzword-heavy definitions of purpose, vision, mission and positioning.

The problem? People don't need more labels. They need a story they can remember, repeat, and believe in.

Looking ahead, 2026 will reward organisations that are unmistakably clear - about who they are, where they're going, and what they stand for.

So, take a moment to ask yourself: Does your organisation have an aligned story that creates momentum, or is it simply a collection of buzzwords built and added to over time?

**“ IF YOU DON'T TELL YOUR STORY, THE MARKET WILL TELL IT FOR YOU. ”**

## About Kernel

KERNEL helps mid-sized businesses define, articulate and tell their foundational business stories in a way all audiences can understand, engage with and activate.

We believe that when your story is clear, everything flows. Your team pulls in the same direction, customers understand your difference, and decisions become simpler, faster, and more confident.

With strategy, purpose, brand and communications expertise in both the corporate and the consulting world, Kernel works directly with founders to craft purposeful business narratives that build resilience, unlock innovation and drive transformation and change.



**KERNEL**

[www.kernel.co.uk](http://www.kernel.co.uk)

# RATE YOUR NARRATIVE

## FIVE CHALLENGES FROM **KERNEL** TO HELP SHARPEN THE FOUNDATIONS OF YOUR BRAND STORY

### 1/ WHY DO YOU MATTER? (PURPOSE)

This is the heartbeat of your organisation - the reason you exist at all. It talks to the bigger problem you solve in your world. Not a lofty paragraph full of abstractions, but a straightforward answer to a simple question: Why should anyone care? Clear purpose focuses energy. Without it, teams pull in different directions.

### 2/ WHERE ARE YOU GOING? (VISION)

Ambition, vision, destination - whichever term you use, this is your picture of the future. The point isn't poetry; it's precision. People need to see where the organisation is heading so they can decide whether to step forward with you. Vague visions create passive teams. Clear ones create momentum.

### 3/ WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO GET THERE? (STRATEGY)

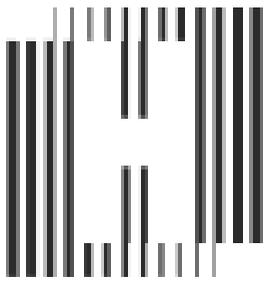
Strategy isn't a tome. It's a set of deliberate choices that guide action. Think of this as your roadmap: what you'll prioritise, what you'll stop doing, and how you'll channel resources into meaningful progress. Without strategy, effort scatters instead of compounding.

### 4/ HOW WILL YOU BEHAVE ALONG THE WAY? (VALUES & BEHAVIOURS)

Values aren't wall art. They shape how decisions get made when no one is watching. In a landscape where culture can fray under pressure, organisations that define - and live - their values build trust, resilience and consistency. They make it easier for people to do the right thing, especially when it's hard.

### 5/ WHO ARE YOU IN YOUR MARKET? (POSITIONING)

Your positioning is the sharp edge of your story - the thing that sets you apart. It's the answer to the question: Why choose you over anyone else? When this is unclear, businesses fade into the beige middle. When it's strong, it becomes the anchor for your brand and your commercial strategy.



# LEISURE & HOSPITALITY

Active Leisure  
Active Apparel & Equipment  
Competitive Socialising  
Casual Dining & QSR

experiences  
connection  
wellness  
joy



# LEISURE & HOSPITALITY

## Resilience in challenging conditions

Highstead has an active advisory practice across the Leisure & Hospitality sectors with a particular focus on experiential leisure, sports and hospitality concepts.

The hospitality sector entered 2025 hoping for a steadier trading landscape, but conditions remained challenging across much of the market.

**External pressures meant the status quo prevailed in 2025.** Rising wage bills, higher input costs and the impact of the Budget continued to put pressure on margins, particularly for casual dining and QSR operators. Many businesses spent the year focused on operational stability rather than rapid expansion and several M&A processes were postponed as operators looked to protect profitability in a demanding environment.

**Leisure continued to show relative strength.** Experiential concepts and physical activity based formats maintained momentum as consumers prioritised experiences that felt worth the spend. Operators with a clear point of difference and strong utilisation rates were able to defend pricing and deliver consistent performance.

**Travel remained a standout performer.** Long-haul and experience-led itineraries saw strong demand, supported by consumers shifting discretionary spend towards exploration and adventure. Brands with distinctive propositions and curated itineraries outperformed across the year.

**M&A activity was selective but far from stagnant.** Dishoom's investment from L Catterton was one of the defining transactions of the year and underscored the value investors continue to place on premium, experience-led hospitality brands. Pizza Pilgrims was acquired by German operator L'Osteria, creating a platform for meaningful expansion across Europe with an established trade partner, whilst Flat Iron was acquired by sector specialist investors McWin and Trispan, highlighting its reputation for disciplined operations, strong site economics and a well-proven model.

**Looking ahead to 2026, we expect continued polarisation in performance.** Scaled platforms with strong economics and customer loyalty remain the most attractive opportunities for investors, while under-capitalised operators may find it harder to keep pace.

# 2026 predictions

## **1/ COMPETITIVE SOCIALISING GETS LESS COMPETITIVE**

With rising costs and tightening unit economics, smaller operators are finding it increasingly challenging to stay competitive. The recent acquisition of Fairgame by Ten Entertainment demonstrates how larger, better capitalised players are seizing the opportunity to consolidate.

## **2/THE PROMISE OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

To date, UAE, Saudi and Qatar demand for premium dining, social experiences and fitness concepts has been flying high and operators with strong brand identity, proven concepts and scalable formats had been prioritising the region over European expansion, supported by experienced franchise partners and well-capitalised local groups. Watch this space.

## **3/ AFFORDABLE INDULGENCE FAVOURS CAFE CULTURE**

Small, high-quality moments of indulgence over full-service restaurant prices will continue to benefit premium café and deli concepts such as Ottolenghi, Gail's and WatchHouse, where elevated ingredients, strong branding and design, and a focus on consumer experience provide a sense of occasion without the price tag.







## An Easier Ride Ahead

Following a tough couple of years, the cycling market is finally in recovery thanks to macro tailwinds

Electric and folding bikes in particular are gaining traction as cities adapt to hybrid working and greener infrastructure. [READ MORE HERE](#)



## Return of Restaurant M&A?

Recent M&A activity is rightly causing a stir in the UK's restaurant space, but is it justified?

L Catterton's stake in Dishoom and L'Osteria acquiring Pizza Pilgrims bring some much-needed positivity to a sector that's spent recent years battling rising costs and squeezed margins.

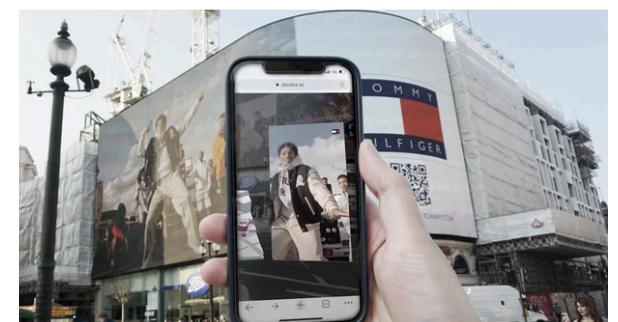
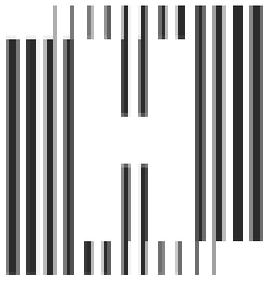
[READ MORE HERE](#)



## A Padel Revolution

Traditional corporate networking gets a make-over courtesy of the rise of accessible sports

Moving away from 'traditional' networking venues such as conferences, wine bars and the golf course, we had a memorable afternoon where no prior skills were required, and having fun was the aim of the game. [READ MORE HERE](#)



# MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

Marketing Services & Technology

Media Services & Technology

Business Media & Information Services

Consumer Media

digital-first  
bitesize content  
discovery  
AI iteration



# MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE CONTENT ECONOMY

Highstead has a leading M&A and growth raise practice in Media & Technology with particular expertise in the advertising, marketing services, entertainment and related technology sectors.

2025 continued to be a challenging year for the broader entertainment industry, with continued pressure on budgets and increasing disruption from technology reshaping how the industry thinks about its future.

### **1/ The market has reset, but consumer demand has not**

Commissioning has pulled back and budgets are tighter, but audiences still want premium storytelling. What has changed is how content gets made, found and funded. The winners are those adapting fastest to a feed-driven world, a creator-led pipeline, and utilising AI across every aspect of the production value chain.

### **2/ Discovery continues to shift schedules to feeds**

What gets watched is more commonly decided by recommendation engines, not by viewers actively searching or following a linear schedule. That shortens the “launch moment” and increases the premium on that IP which can travel and resurface across platforms.

### **3/ The creator economy is no longer a side show**

Creators are becoming part of the production economy, and traditional producers are borrowing creator playbooks. Leading studios are building audience-first formats, testing ideas faster, and using digitally-native distribution (YouTube, social, FAST) as a core route to market.

### **4/ AI is entering the production workflow end-to-end**

AI is increasingly embedded across development, commissioning, production planning, localisation and post-production. The near-term impact is speed and cost efficiency. Longer term, studios that embed AI well will iterate faster and stretch budgets further without sacrificing quality.

### **5/ Vertical drama firmly on the map**

Vertical microdramas – a made-for-mobile format, sub-two-minute episodic formats, have gained traction in the West, with budgets a fraction of traditional production costs. Popularised in China with a market size of \$7bn, companies such as Holywater, DramaBox and MicroCo have received significant backing from prominent Hollywood figures. 2026 will be a key test of whether the format can scale globally.

# M&A environment 2026

Highstead once again teamed up with events producer and media company, C21 Media, to co-host an investor event at Content London. The event also involved a panel discussion on M&A in the industry.

## **SIGNS OF M&A OPTIMISM**

After several years of decline, there are signs of a market recovery driven by stabilising commissioning levels, alleviated near-term cost pressures, and greater clarity on AI's impact.

## **RIGHTS AND IP UNDERPINNING VALUE**

Buyer focus is on who owns the rights, how content can be reused across platforms, and how long a catalogue can keep generating revenue, all factors that are increasingly driving valuation.

## **PLATFORMS WANT SUPPLY SECURITY**

Streamers are thinking harder about locking up premium studio capacity, not just commissioning title by title. A clear and credible slate is now an entry ticket, not just a differentiator, for buyers.

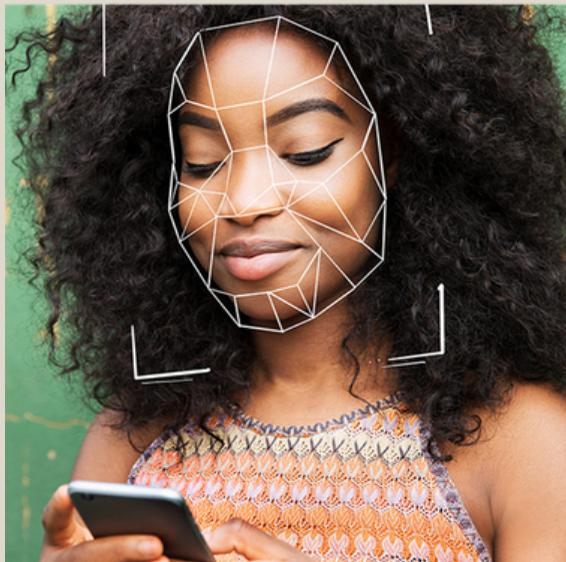
## **THE CREATOR ECONOMY IS RESHAPING TRADITIONAL STRATEGIES**

Creator-led businesses with strong digital distribution are becoming increasingly investible. And, conversely, traditional producers must demonstrate a credible digital strategy to remain relevant to younger, short-form-first audiences.

## **PROTRACTED PROCESSES, STILL**

While there are still buyers and investors for the right companies, those buyers are increasing their levels of diligence as they come under greater pressure from their owners to demonstrate clear strategic and synergistic rationale for acquisitions.





## Compounding Creator Value

A shift in capital flows from traditional outlets to creator-led studios and YouTube-native models is changing the shape of the industry

Amazon's investment in Spotter, Lingotto's in Viewture and Capital D's in Electrify Video Partners all demonstrate growing confidence in the creator economy. [READ MORE HERE](#)



## End of Performance Marketing

Could AI and shopping agents be the death knell for performance marketing?

Performance-heavy media models risk margin pressure - while platforms enabling brand-building could see valuations rise - as the battle for consumer attention navigates AI-led shopping. [READ MORE HERE](#)



## The Rise of Out-Of-Home

Highstead and Progress Partners launch their 2025 report on the Digital Out Of Home Market

Digital Out-Of-Home advertising is an increasingly powerful and sophisticated marketing tool for brands, experiencing rapid growth and surpassing traditional broadcast mediums for reaching audiences. [READ MORE HERE](#)

FRIENDS OF HIGHSTEAD

# The Power of **YOUR** Content

Owned, authentic content has never been more important than in an AI-dominated landscape

**With the Large Language Model (LLM) market projected to grow from \$4.5bn to \$82bn in the decade to 2033, the transformation in the way we work will only continue going in one direction. But while many aspects of AI will undoubtedly serve to help organisations grow and evolve, while keeping overheads low, it will be the companies that know when NOT to use it that will retain a competitive advantage.**

How you present your business online is a fundamental factor in your growth potential, and the best way to maximise that is to generate a strong, consistent owned content strategy. But with evidence that AI-generated prose - thought now to be responsible for more than 50% of new articles online - ranks consistently poorly on publisher sites, it's imperative that you resist the urge to outsource.

Why? Because people buy people. Whatever your business, be it deeply corporate or highly consumer facing, you are always relying on a human to invest in you. From engaging prospects, to catching the eye of investors or appealing to top talent, evoking personality is critical. And nothing says personality-vacuum quicker than getting your messaging, purpose and raison d'être written by a robot.

And in a world where PPC is replaced by LLM marketing, keywords become irrelevant but original content and brand experience, popping up across multiple platforms and sources, is the surest way to play the AI search algorithm.

So now, more than ever before, is the time to invest in a consistent output of original, owned content on a variety of access points, all of which tap into the individual points that make your business great. This way you raise your profile, are discoverable on both AI and keyword search and, crucially, get authentic engagement and enthusiasm from the audiences you want to attract.

**“PEOPLE BUY PEOPLE,  
SO WHILE AI HAS ITS PLACE  
YOUR CONTENT OUTPUT IS NOT IT.”**

## About Flaxley Hill

Flaxley Hill is a full service communications agency that works with businesses to find their voice, become discoverable and raise their profile among the audiences that matter.

FLAXLEY HILL

[www.flaxleyhill.com](http://www.flaxleyhill.com)



# DRIVING CONTENT ROI

## FIVE TIPS FROM **FLAXLEY HILL** TO MAXIMISE THE VALUE OF YOUR OWNED CONTENT

### **CONSIDER YOUR AUDIENCES**

Whether you want to reach investors, business leaders, customers or talent, understand where they are and what you want them to know about you. Curate your (GDPR-compliant) mailing lists, grow your social following and be strategic about the conversations you join.

### **UTILISE EVERY AVENUE**

Your website is an obvious first landing point for every audience but that is only a shop window. Look to add a newsletter, perhaps a blog, some advertorials and a healthy LinkedIn profile. Invest in proprietary research, sponsor - or even host - events and expand your network across every platform.

### **CONSISTENCY IS KEY**

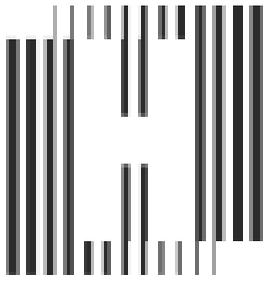
A flurry of outputs then radio silence is counterproductive, but spamming out copy is also off-putting. Regular content on your desired platforms, managed via a calendar, with engaging content that adds value, will fully optimise your investment.

### **KEEP THINGS INTERESTING**

There may be a lot of content out there vying for eyeballs and attention, but staying silent is not an option. So instead, make your contribution stand out. Whether it's written or visual, plan your content like a news story - grab the reader in the opening seconds with either interesting information, emotion or a strong opinion. Make it difficult for them to click away.

### **STAY ON BRAND**

Make every piece of comms connect back to your business offering, whether overtly or subtly. It may take several touchpoints before someone is moved to interact with your brand, so make every output count. Oh, and don't be tempted to have fun at the expense of your reputation - you may find you have a PR disaster on your hands. Keep it clean, to the point and non-political.



# BEHIND THE SCENES

About Highstead  
Going Beyond

# ABOUT HIGHSTEAD

## The future is there to be shaped

We are fresh, curious, and driven. We seek out excellence. We want to come on the journey with you.

For over a decade, Highstead has been advising some of the most compelling brands and businesses across the Consumer, Media and Technology sectors. It is Highstead's privilege to work with passionate founders and visionary investors who are disrupting the present and shaping the future.



**Andrew Jakins**

Managing Partner



**Catherine Crawley-Boevey**

Consumer Partner



**James Hill**

Media & Tech Partner

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# Talent is everywhere so opportunity should be too

10,000 Interns Foundation

## Why racial diversity matters

In an industry which still falls behind in terms of workplace diversity and representation, be that gender, racial or social, the need for rebalance has never been as urgent as it is today.

In the UK, Black employees hold less than 0.5% of investment banking leadership roles, and under 2% of the UK financial services industry jobs as a whole, but represent almost 5% of the UK's working population and 8% of the UK's university population. And yet diversity is routinely proven to enhance problem-solving, innovation and profitability. Racial representation in the workplace is not a matter of "filling a quota." It is a powerful driver of business performance and we should all work harder to address the imbalance.

Research shows that as much as 70% of job seekers of colour deem visible racial diversity in leadership or staff a key factor when considering whether to apply to an organisation, even when qualified for the job. But why? Concerns over a lack of psychological safety against microaggressions, exclusion or tokenism, a perception of bias in hiring and promotions, and fear over cultural fit are big deterrents.

Improving hiring outcomes for Black people requires a sustained, strategic approach focused on equitable hiring, inclusive culture, and career advancement. Suggestions include blind recruitment (white candidates are still almost twice as likely to receive a job offer compared to a comparable Black applicant), establishing mentorship programs to support career progression and promotions, setting measurable diversity goals and holding leadership accountable for progress. Broadening the talent pool is critical in the long-term, and initiatives that actively support bringing Black people into under-represented industries play a crucial role.

But above all it's about demonstrating diversity in as many ways as possible. Visible diversity - supported by meaningful inclusion and retention strategies - communicates a clear message: you belong here.

“I learnt new attributes that I will carry throughout the rest of my career.”

TYREISHA, Highstead summer intern

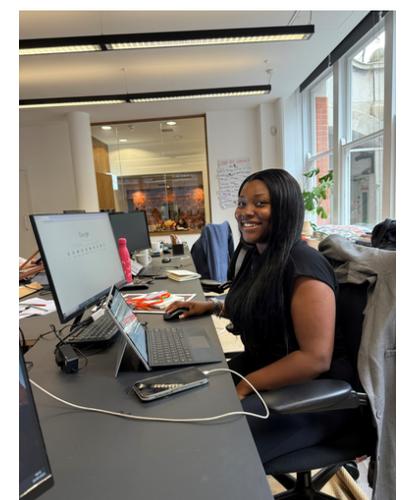
**In 2025, Highstead partnered with the 10,000 Interns Foundation to offer a six week summer internship to Tyreisha, a Finance and Investment Banking undergraduate from the University of Greenwich.**

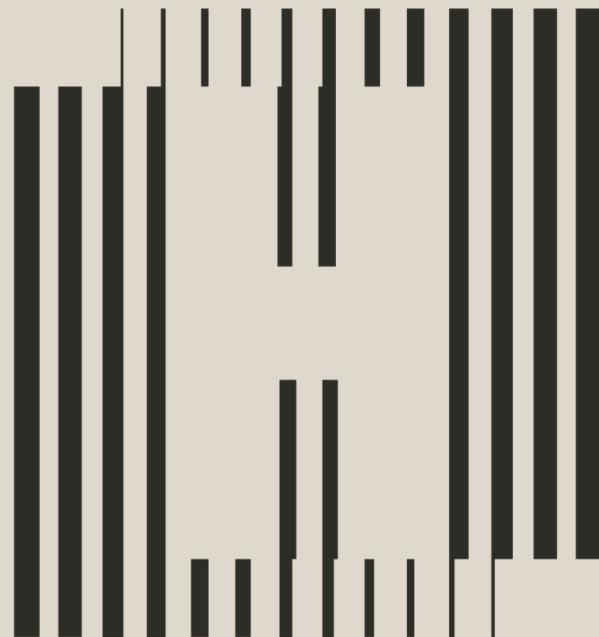
**The Foundation partners with leading organisations to offer paid, high-quality internships for underrepresented young talent across the UK. Through training, mentorship and community, they help thousands launch meaningful careers across 35+ sectors.**

Tyreisha commented that “as a university student, it can be intimidating stepping into the corporate world, but the Highstead team not only made that feeling void but treated me as a worker rather than an intern. I sat in on founder meetings, deal closes and worked on various projects that many interns can only hope of joining in the beginning of their profession.

The team helped every step of the way and supported in all areas whilst I learnt new attributes from every Partner that I will carry throughout the rest of my career.

From the welcoming beginning to the leaving dinner at the end, it has truly been a pleasure to be a summer intern at Highstead.”





**Modern corporate finance**  
for the brands that matter

[www.highsteadpartners.co.uk](http://www.highsteadpartners.co.uk)