



At school they were called knackers and even the teachers were cruel. But look at Albie and Santana now!



Fighting prejudice: Albie, far left, and Santana, left, look set for careers in modelling

a case of, 'No, we're not letting you in tonight folks. Sorry.'

So it feels really good to see my picture in all the newspapers, and have people telling me how great I looked. It's like rubbing their noses in it and it shows them, 'Ha! We are travellers but we can do it too! You can't stop us - no one can.'

I think this is only the start for the traveller community and, please God, this calendar will make people realise that we are just the same as them. I feel very proud: we've started a discussion that needed to be had.

A lot of settled people have misconceptions about travellers. First, you can be a traveller without

living in a caravan. I've lived in a house all my life but my mum and dad travelled and so did my grandparents, so it's part of who I am and part of my heritage.

My parents are at home and they are not working at the moment. We are a very close family and there's a lot of love and support in my house, and I have no plans to move out. Travellers tend to have big families and be very careful about who they go out with.

We also tend to have a high moral standards, and sex before marriage is frowned upon. Your parents must like a boy, otherwise you could not date him - and you certainly couldn't marry someone

your parents did not approve of.

I've been going out with a traveller boy for seven months but my mother and father don't mind. I kept it quiet at first but they know now, so it's OK. I'm going to marry him but I'll take my time - there's no point rushing into it.

TRADITIONALLY, traveller girls get married very young. You wouldn't hear of many settled girls marrying at 17, but it is quite common in our culture. Nearly everyone is married by 30 and travellers have a thing for massive weddings. Parents

want to make their daughter's day special and they go all out to get the most extravagant dress. Each girl really wants to stand out and there's a lot of competition.

When I got the call to do the calendar I was excited but I never thought anything would come from it.

But now that I've been asked to join Compton model agency I'm just over the moon. I just want to work hard and, hopefully, things will work out for me.

I love everything about modelling - the only thing I don't like is getting up so early but I suppose I will get used to that.

I love coming in and seeing all of

the beautiful clothes and it's great to get my hair and make up done. I'm lucky because I can eat everything and not put on weight, which helps if you want to be a model.

I really want to make a career from this opportunity, I know how lucky I am to have this break.

Credits:

Photographer: Jason Clarke
Make up: Daphney Antoine
Styling: Georgina Heffernan
Clothes from a selection at Pamela Scott, Karen Millen and House of Fraser at Dundrum Town Centre.
Shoes from a selection at Dune.