



YLT Spotlight

Excellence in Every Journey.



Welcome

As we reach the end of another school year, it feels like a fitting moment to pause, reflect and say thank you.

This year has been particularly significant for Yorkshire Learning Trust. It has been the first full year of our new Trust, bringing together schools, colleagues, pupils, governors, trustees and communities under a shared vision. Whilst there is still much to do, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together.

Across our schools, we have seen wonderful examples of learning, creativity, service and achievement. From scientific enquiry and environmental projects to sporting success, performances, community events and everyday acts of kindness, our children and young people continue to remind us why our work matters. Equally, I want to thank our staff, whose commitment, expertise and care make such a difference every single day.

At Yorkshire Learning Trust, we believe that every child should feel that they belong, that they matter and that they can aspire to a bright future.

Those beliefs sit at the heart of our values of Aspiration, Inclusion, Collaboration and Integrity. They shape not only what we do, but how we do it.

As we look ahead to September, we do so with genuine excitement. We will continue to strengthen collaboration across our schools, further develop opportunities for staff and pupils, and build on the foundations established during our first year together. One particular highlight will be our inaugural Yorkshire Learning Trust Student Leadership Conference in the autumn, bringing together young leaders from across our schools to share ideas, influence Trust priorities and help shape the future of YLT.

For now, however, I hope that pupils, families and colleagues can enjoy a well-earned summer break. Thank you for the part you have played in our journey so far. We are proud of what we have achieved together, and even more excited about what we can achieve in the years ahead.

Have a wonderful summer.

Ian Yapp

Chief Executive Officer



A Year of Growth: Reflecting on Our First Year Together



As we wrap up the 2025–26 academic year, I've been reflecting on what has been a historic time for us.

It's been just 38 weeks since the SYMAT and STAR Trusts joined forces to become the Yorkshire Learning Trust, and I think the progress we've made in that short time is nothing short of amazing. Through it all, our focus has stayed – and will continue to stay – firmly on the students.

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone: our schools, local governing committees, staff, Trustees, Members and volunteers. You are the engine behind the Trust's success. To our parents, thank you for everything you do to get pupils to school ready to learn and for helping us live out our values every day:



Aspiration

Setting high expectations so our staff and students can truly shine.



Inclusion

Creating a welcoming space where every child feels they belong and can overcome any barrier.



Collaboration

Sharing our wins and tackling challenges together as one team.



Integrity

Being open, honest, and responsible in everything we do.

Our pupils are the measure of our success as an organisation. We welcome those who have joined us and look forward to receiving those who will. For those leaving us – and those who have just completed their GCSEs and A levels, we wish you everything you need for the next stage of your journey.

We also have Trustees, Staff, and Local Governing Committee Members leaving at the end of this term. Claire Thornton-Eckford, my predecessor as chair, has been involved with the Trust from the start; she's kindly agreed to chair a Local Governing Body, but I'd like to thank her for all that she has contributed to our Trust as a Trustee. Equally, we have chairs of LGBs stepping down – Lesley Dolben, Carole Middleton, Anna Pearce and Jodi Atkinson – we thank you and your colleagues who are leaving us, and those members of staff who are parting, for your committed service.

Alongside that, we are delighted to welcome Jon-Paul Craig and Steve Woodhouse to the Trust as new Headteachers, and Becca Cameron on her appointment to Monk Fryston and Saxton.

We have faced some incredibly sad events and challenges this year. Those, and those involved, are not, and will not be forgotten. Through these times, our community's strength and resilience have been incredible.

My personal goal for our Trust is simple: I want to make sure we broaden every pupil's horizons and give them the support they need to achieve challenges.

Thank you all for driving this forward—it makes such a difference because you make a difference. Have a wonderful, refreshing and safe summer.

Nick Sheppard

Chair of the Trust Board
Yorkshire Learning Trust

Helping every child feel they *belong*

At Yorkshire Learning Trust, our vision is
Excellence in Every Journey.

Central to that vision is a simple but powerful belief: every child should feel that they belong, that they are valued, and that they matter.

We know that children thrive when they feel safe, supported and connected to the people around them. When they know they are recognised, listened to and encouraged, they are more confident, more engaged in their learning and better able to achieve their potential.

For us, belonging means ensuring every child feels welcomed and included within their school community. Mattering goes one step further – it means helping children understand that their ideas, contributions and achievements make a difference.

Across our schools, this is reflected in the relationships we build, the support we provide and the opportunities we create for children to develop their confidence, share their voices and celebrate their individuality.

We also recognise the important role that families play in helping children feel a sense of belonging. By working closely with parents and carers, we can create strong partnerships that support children both in and beyond the classroom.

As Yorkshire Learning Trust continues to grow, we remain committed to creating inclusive school communities where every child feels seen, valued and inspired to succeed. Because when children know they belong and that they matter, they are empowered to flourish in every aspect of school life.



Building a more *sustainable future* together



We believe that helping children understand and care for the world around them is an important part of their education.

That's why we have launched our Environmental Sustainability Strategy, which sets out how our schools will work together to create more sustainable, resilient and nature-rich places to learn. The strategy will help guide the development of Climate Action Plans across all our schools, ensuring that sustainability becomes part of everyday school life.

But this is about much more than buildings and resources. It is about empowering young people to make informed choices, understand environmental challenges and feel confident that they can make a positive difference in their communities.

Through learning opportunities, eco-projects, pupil leadership roles and environmental initiatives, children across Yorkshire Learning Trust will have the chance to develop a deeper connection with nature, explore sustainability issues and build skills that will support them in the future.

A key part of this work will be ensuring that pupil voice is at the heart of our approach. Each year, students from across the Trust will come together at a Climate Action Conference to share ideas, celebrate projects and help shape the future of sustainability within our schools.

By working together as schools, families and communities, we can help ensure that every young person is equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to contribute to a more sustainable future.

To read our full Sustainability Strategy, head to:



Environmental Sustainability —
Yorkshire Learning Trust



Supporting children as they start their school journey

Starting Reception is an exciting milestone for children and families alike. At Yorkshire Learning Trust, we know that this transition is about much more than a child's first day at school – it's about helping every child feel confident, happy and ready to learn.

That's why our schools have worked closely with families throughout the transition process, providing opportunities for children to become familiar with their new environment, meet school staff and begin building positive relationships before September.

To further support families, we have developed a Reception Transition Booklet packed with practical advice and simple activities that can help children prepare for this important next step.

The guide focuses on building confidence and independence through everyday routines, including:

- Practising putting on coats and shoes independently.
- Encouraging children to use the toilet and wash their hands without support.
- Talking about feelings and helping children understand and express emotions.
- Sharing stories together and discussing characters and events.
- Following simple instructions and completing small tasks independently.
- Establishing healthy routines, including regular bedtimes and good oral hygiene.

The booklet also highlights the importance of play, curiosity and communication, reminding families that every child develops at their own pace and that small, consistent steps can make a big difference.

As a Trust, we are passionate about ensuring every child feels supported as they begin their educational journey. By working in partnership with parents and carers, we can help children arrive at school feeling excited, confident and ready to thrive.

We look forward to welcoming our newest Reception pupils into Yorkshire Learning Trust schools this September and supporting them as they begin their own journey of learning and discovery.



Reception Transition Booklet

The Great Science Share: Celebrating curiosity and discovery

More than 200 pupils from schools across the Trust came together in June to take part in The Great Science Share, a national initiative that encourages young people to explore the exciting role science plays in our world.

Children from Year 1 to Year 6 enjoyed a day of hands-on activities and presentations, all based around this year's theme: Ask, Investigate, Share. The event gave pupils the chance to showcase their own learning, discover new ideas and develop their confidence as young scientists.

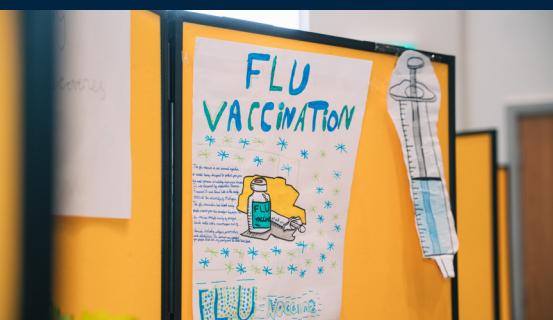
From exploring the human body to taking part in practical experiments, there was no shortage of enthusiasm throughout the day. Pupils particularly enjoyed visiting interactive stalls and sharing their scientific discoveries with others.

Some of our favourite comments included:

*"I liked looking around the stalls
and enjoyed finding my pulse."*

"We got to make blood!"

*"Everyone was very friendly
and I loved learning about
science."*



As well as being great fun, the event encouraged children to think critically, ask questions and see how science and STEM subjects can open doors to future opportunities.

Vicky Walsh, Yorkshire Learning Trust's Ogden Trust Partnership Lead, reflected on the day:

"I was so impressed by the variety and quality of the science being presented, and the confidence with which the children spoke about their learning. Seeing their excitement as they arrived and explored the event was fantastic."

The event also provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils from schools across Yorkshire Learning Trust to meet, learn from one another and celebrate their shared love of science.

A huge thank you to The Ogden Trust and The Education Exchange for helping to make the day such a success. Following another fantastic event, we're already looking forward to The Great Science Share in 2027.



Introducing Yorkshire Kitchens



We're excited to introduce **Yorkshire Kitchens**, the new name for school meals across Yorkshire Learning Trust schools.

Yorkshire Kitchens brings together our shared commitment to providing fresh, nutritious meals that help children and young people thrive throughout the school day. Using locally sourced ingredients and working with trusted Yorkshire suppliers, including local bakers and butchers, the focus is on serving high-quality food that pupils enjoy.

What makes Yorkshire Kitchens particularly special is that the name and logo were created with the help of our pupils. Through a Trust-wide competition, pupils shared their ideas and designs, with elements from the winning entries coming together to create the new Yorkshire Kitchens identity. The result is a brand that reflects creativity, community spirit and our Yorkshire roots.

Yorkshire Kitchens is built around five key commitments:

- Fresh, nutritious meals made with quality, locally sourced ingredients.
- Partnerships with trusted local suppliers to ensure freshness and consistency.
- Menus designed to support healthy growth, wellbeing, focus and learning.
- Great value and quality across all Yorkshire Learning Trust schools.
- Ongoing pupil feedback to help shape menus and meal choices.

We look forward to sharing more about Yorkshire Kitchens, including menu highlights and special themed food days, throughout the year.



Exploring future pathways across *Yorkshire Learning Trust*

Preparing young people for life beyond Sixth Form is an important part of our work across Yorkshire Learning Trust. This term, Year 12 students from Fulford School, Tadcaster Grammar School and Sherburn High School came together for a Trust-wide Careers Day designed to help them explore the wide range of opportunities available after Post-16 education.

Hosted at Fulford School, the event brought together students from across our Sixth Forms, providing not only valuable careers guidance but also an opportunity to build connections with peers from other Trust schools.

Throughout the morning, students attended a series of career-focused sessions led by

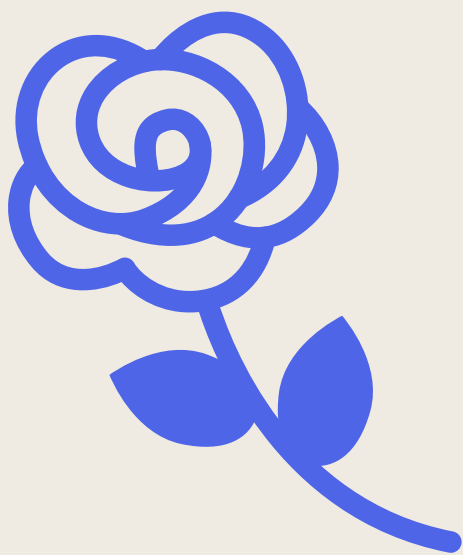
professionals from a wide range of sectors, including finance, engineering, healthcare, law, journalism, technology, education, environmental science, the civil service and the creative industries. Speakers shared insights into their career journeys, the skills and qualifications required for different professions, and the opportunities available in today's employment landscape.

Students also took part in specialist workshops exploring university pathways, apprenticeships and applications to highly competitive courses and institutions. These sessions encouraged students to begin thinking about their next steps and provided practical advice to help them make informed decisions about their futures.

The event reflects our commitment to broadening horizons, raising aspirations and ensuring that every young person has access to high-quality careers education and guidance. By bringing students together and connecting them with professionals from a diverse range of backgrounds, we aim to help them develop the confidence, knowledge and ambition to pursue their chosen pathways.

Feedback from students and staff was extremely positive, with colleagues highlighting the value of working collaboratively across our Trust to provide enriched opportunities for young people. We look forward to building on this success and creating further opportunities for students to explore their future aspirations together.





***Moments
to Celebrate***



Kellington pupils making a difference in their community



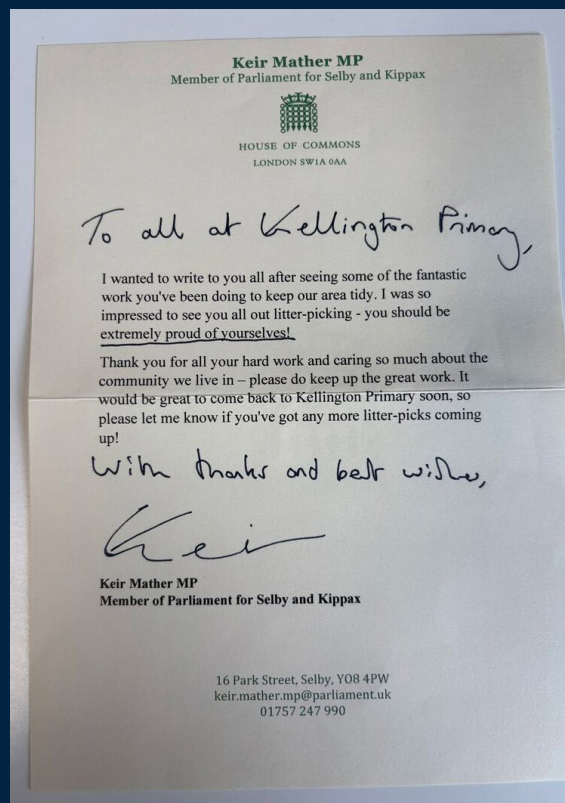
Pupils at Kellington Primary School have been demonstrating our values of collaboration and integrity by helping to care for their local community.

As part of a litter-picking initiative, children worked together to keep the local area clean and welcoming, showing pride in the place they live and a commitment to making a positive difference for others.

Their efforts did not go unnoticed. The pupils recently received a letter of thanks from local MP Keir Mather, recognising their contribution to the community and the positive example they have set.

Activities such as these help children understand the importance of uniting, taking responsibility and being active members of their community – values that will support them throughout their educational journey and beyond.

Well done to everyone involved for helping to make Kellington a cleaner and greener place.



Eco warriors supporting a sustainable future

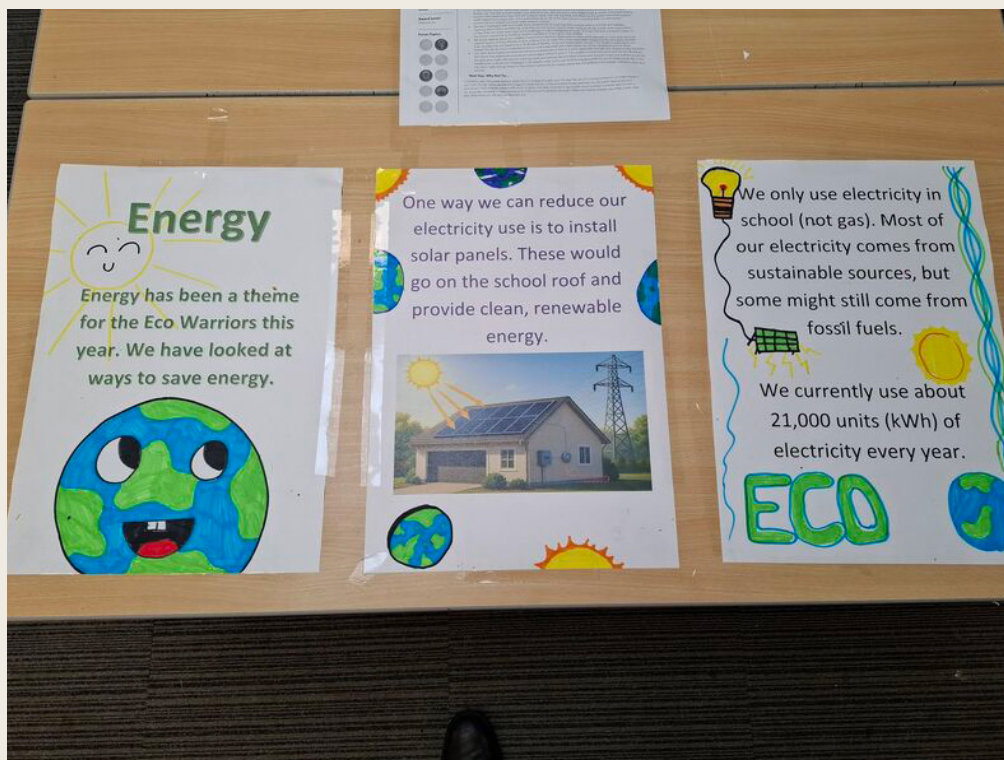


Pupils at Saxton CE Primary School have been putting their commitment to sustainability into action through a successful Eco Warriors cake sale.

Thanks to the generous support of families, staff and the wider school community, the event raised funds that will contribute towards a future solar project at the school. The initiative is helping pupils play an active role in creating a more sustainable future while learning about the positive impact small actions can have on the environment.

The project is a wonderful example of Yorkshire Learning Trust's values of aspiration and collaboration, with pupils working together to turn their ideas into meaningful action for the benefit of both their school and the wider community.

We are incredibly proud of the Eco Warriors for showing such enthusiasm, leadership and commitment to environmental responsibility. Their efforts demonstrate how young people can make a real difference and inspire positive change.



New outdoor learning space opens at Riverside School, Tadcaster



Pupils at Riverside School, Tadcaster, are already enjoying a fantastic new pedal-powered outdoor learning space, creating exciting opportunities for learning, play and exploration beyond the classroom.

The project was made possible thanks to a £20,000 grant from the National Grid Electricity Transmission Community Grant Programme, alongside the incredible support of Friends of Riverside. Their generosity and commitment have helped bring this innovative space to life for current and future pupils.

The new area is a wonderful example of collaboration in action, with organisations, volunteers and the school community working together to create an environment where children can learn, be active and develop their curiosity.

We look forward to seeing pupils make the most of this exciting new facility as they explore new ideas, build confidence and enjoy learning in a different way.



Celebrating growth and resilience on Thrive Day



Recently, South Milford Primary School came together to celebrate Thrive Day 2026, a special day dedicated to wellbeing, resilience and personal growth.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a range of collaborative activities with their classmates and buddies, exploring the importance of teamwork, confidence and a positive mindset. Children were encouraged to embrace new challenges, support one another and recognise that mistakes are an important part of learning and growing.

The day was filled with positivity, kindness and enthusiasm, providing pupils with valuable opportunities to strengthen relationships, build self-belief and celebrate their achievements.

A huge thank you to the school's dedicated Thrive practitioners for creating such a meaningful experience, and to all the pupils who embraced the day with energy, curiosity and a willingness to learn from one another.



County Cup *Champions!*



A huge congratulations to Fulford School's Under-13 football team, who have been crowned County Cup Champions following an outstanding season.

Their achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication and teamwork shown by every player throughout the competition. Successes like this not only showcase sporting talent but also the resilience, commitment and collaboration that help young people thrive both on and off the pitch.

Well done to the team and everyone who supported them on their journey to becoming County Cup Champions.



Ofsted Achievements



Positive Ofsted feedback for Riverside School, Tadcaster

Riverside School, Tadcaster, recently welcomed Ofsted inspectors, who recognised many of the strengths that make the school such a positive place for children to learn and grow.

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Inspectors highlighted the school's strong sense of community, noting that *"pupils are happy at Riverside School"* and that they *"appreciate the support and care that they receive."* They also recognised the positive relationships across the school, reporting that *"pupils experience a sense of belonging at the school"* and that parents *"feel that they are part of the school community."*

The report praised pupils' behaviour and attitudes to learning, describing the school environment as calm and highlighting how pupils demonstrate *"manners and kindness"* towards one another. Inspectors also recognised the broad curriculum, the quality of teaching and the school's commitment to inclusion, noting that staff quickly identify barriers to learning and work closely with families to provide the right support for children.

Particular praise was given to the school's early years provision, where children benefit from

"warm and supportive relationships" and a learning environment that helps them develop confidence and independence from the very start of their school journey.

The report also identified areas for further development, including continuing to strengthen outcomes in writing for some pupils and refining aspects of leadership and governance. School leaders and Yorkshire Learning Trust are already focused on these priorities as part of their ongoing commitment to providing the very best education and support for every child.

We are proud that the report reflects Riverside's caring culture, strong community spirit and the dedication of its staff, pupils and families.

To read the full report, head to:



Riverside School, Tadcaster -
Inspection Report - Ofsted

Could you help *shape the future* of our schools?



Yorkshire Learning Trust is looking for enthusiastic and committed volunteers to join our Local Governing Committees.

Our governors play an important role in supporting and challenging school leaders, helping to ensure every child receives the best possible education. By bringing together people with different skills, experiences and perspectives, governors help schools continue to grow and thrive.

You don't need to have a background in education to become a governor. We welcome applications from people from all walks of life who are passionate about making a positive difference for children and young people.

Why become a governor?

- Make a difference – Help shape the strategic direction of a school and contribute to positive outcomes for pupils.
- Use your skills and experience – Whether your background is in business, finance, HR, healthcare, the public sector or elsewhere, your expertise can make a valuable contribution.
- Develop personally and professionally – Gain experience in leadership, governance, strategic planning and decision-making.
- Support your local community – Play a rewarding role in helping local schools succeed.

What is the commitment?

Local Governing Committees typically meet once each half term, with occasional school visits throughout the year. Full induction training and ongoing support are provided, helping you feel confident in your role from the outset.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Rachel Greenhalgh, Head of Governance, at r.greenhalgh@ylt.org.uk for an informal conversation, or visit **Yorkshire Learning Trust's Governor Information and Vacancies page** to view current opportunities and apply.



Yorkshire Learning Trust's **Governor Information and Vacancies**

Working together: Open communication between home and school

At Yorkshire Learning Trust, we believe children achieve their best when schools and families work together in partnership.

We know that parents and carers want the very best for their children, and there may be times when you have a question, concern or something you would like to discuss with your child's school. In most cases, the best place to start is with the member of staff closest to the situation, such as your child's class teacher or form tutor.

Experience tells us that early conversations are often the most effective way to resolve questions, share information and agree on the best way forward. Whether you are seeking reassurance, clarification or support, our staff are committed to listening and working with you constructively.

When getting in touch, it can be helpful to briefly explain your concern and the outcome you are hoping for. Clear and concise communication often helps schools understand issues quickly and respond more effectively.

We are proud of the strong relationships we have with our families across Yorkshire Learning Trust and remain committed to ensuring that communication is open, respectful and focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

Further information about raising concerns and each school's formal procedures can be found on individual school websites.



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