

MEMBER VISIT

Ascentis

*Ascentis, a registered educational charity and national awarding organisation, continues to redefine adult education across the UK, and increasingly, on the **global stage**. With a mission to create life-changing opportunities through accessible, high-quality qualifications, Ascentis leads with innovation, community focus, and learner-centred design. Best known for their **Access to Higher Education Diplomas**, Ascentis has been operating for **50 years this year**. In recent years, it has continued to enhance and develop their Access to HE diplomas while growing its **ESOL provision** throughout the UK which is now a leading area from the AO side. Ascentis has built strong regional teams to drive ESOL and Access to HE awareness, particularly across **Yorkshire**.*



News & Updates:

Ascentis continues to listen closely to its college partners. Feedback from adult learners has prompted the organisation to develop a new hybrid learning platform for its Access Diplomas, scheduled to launch in September 2025. The platform will blend 50% online delivery with 50% in-college learning, supporting greater flexibility for adult learners.

September 2024 saw the launch of fully online Functional Skills qualifications in English and Maths, complete with digital resources across all levels. For learners preferring traditional formats, paper-based "stepping stones" will remain available.

The Stepping Stones to Functional skills qualifications enhance inclusivity and break down English and Maths into bite-sized, accessible segments for learners. Short online qualifications covering topics like personal finance, sustainability, and mental health and wellbeing are also being redeveloped, ensuring the organisation's digital offer remains responsive and relevant.

Ascentis remains proud of its Yorkshire partnerships and looks forward to deepening regional impact through ongoing ESOL development, digital innovation, and a relentless focus on learner progression.

How Ascentis AO benefits from a YLP membership

We asked **Group CEO, Phil Wilkinson**, for his thoughts on the benefits of a YLP membership. He described the following:

"Ascentis are proud to be a member of the Yorkshire Learning Providers Network. The network helps us collaborate with stakeholders, to create qualifications and resources that enable the next generation of learners to excel. As a listening organisation, it's crucial that we meet with Colleges, Training Providers and Employers to understand sector changes and help better support them and their learners."

YLP work with our members to better understand what they are looking for, and what we can do to further support local FE.