

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



SEPTEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER



Heart of Yorkshire
Education Group

From Bronze to Silver: Heart of Yorkshire Education Group Excels in National Diversity Accreditation

The Heart of Yorkshire Education Group has been awarded the Investors in Diversity Silver accreditation by the National Centre for Diversity, recognising its commitment to creating a truly inclusive workplace and learning environment.

This achievement follows the Group's earlier Bronze accreditation, which focused on laying the foundations for inclusion by embedding the FREDIE framework - Fairness, Respect, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement - across the organisation.

As part of its journey to Silver, the Group collected anonymous feedback on its implementation of FREDIE through a 360-degree stakeholder survey, staff focus groups and interviews. Based on this, the Group received a traffic light report, an action plan for improvement and national benchmarking data to guide future development.

The award was presented to the Group by Solat Chaundry, Chief Executive of the National Centre for Diversity, at the Group's Annual Staff Conference at Elland Road in Leeds, attended by over 700 staff.





NowSkills Awarded City & Guilds EPA Excellence Plaque

NowSkills are proud to announce that they have been awarded the City & Guilds EPA Excellence Plaque, a prestigious recognition given to training providers who consistently deliver high-quality apprenticeship End-Point Assessments (EPAs). They were one of only 7 Independent Training Providers to receive one!

This award celebrates their commitment to excellence, demonstrated through:

- **Outstanding results:** High pass rates and a significant number of distinctions amongst their apprentices.
- **Team dedication:** From Business Support coordinating the EPA process to Operations ensuring apprentices achieve the best possible outcomes.
- **Apprentice success:** Above all, this recognition highlights the talent, hard work, and ambition of their apprentices, who continue to inspire them every day.

They are incredibly proud of this achievement and remain committed to raising the bar for digital and IT apprenticeships across the North West.





FORGING FUTURES CAMPUS

Forging Futures Received a heartwarming letter

The team at Forging Futures received a letter from a students' Mum who recently attended the Forging Futures Campus. It reflects the difference Forging Futures make to the lives of young people and their families. You can read the letter below:

"I really want to thank you and all of the Forging Futures team for what you do and how you have supported, Xav (and all the other young men) in rebuilding his confidence and preparing him for work. At 16, Xav was making some bad choices in life and then when he had his motorcycle accident, which left him unable to go to college or work for nearly 18 months whilst he recovered, his mental health and belief in himself went rapidly downhill.

When he couldn't return to Building College to restart his joinery course due to his leg still being in a frame, in September 2024, he hit a real low. With limited options provided, we were worried it was going to be another year before he would be able to get going with his education again. The Building College then gave us your details and we are so glad they did. Over the 18 weeks of the Employability Skills course, I started to see 'the old Xav', getting himself up and ready and coming back each day with energy about what he had been doing and learning. Your ongoing support, since he finished the course, has been invaluable too and know it will not be long before he is in full time work.

You and the team showed him how hard work pays off and really inspired him to aspire for more - with this I can't thank you enough.

If you ever need support for the college, please let me know, I'd be really happy to help in any way as it's crucial these sorts of initiatives continue to help our communities with lost young men."





Supported SEND and EHCP internships raise employment prospects from 5% to 80%

Aviva Internships Boost Employment for Young Adults with SEND

A supported internship programme led by York College, Aviva, and DFN Project SEARCH has increased employment outcomes for young adults with learning disabilities or autism from 5% to 80%.

Following the success of the 2024/25 cohort—where 4 out of 5 interns secured paid work—the programme will return in 2025/26. A second initiative will also launch with LNER, supported by the City of York Council.

Open to 16-24-year-olds with SEND and an EHCP, the internships combine real work experience with classroom learning in areas like CV building, budgeting, and workplace skills.

Interns praised the supportive, professional environment at Aviva. The initiative is funded by the Department for Education and aims to provide long-term employment and life skills support.

"The employment rate of 80% is a fantastic outcome," said Joy Kettle, Deputy Principal at York College.

[Read the full story here.](#)





Admin Apprentices Step Up for Children's Hospice with 13km Charity Walk

Inspired by a heartfelt visit to the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice earlier this summer, a dedicated group of Admin Apprentices and staff from National Business College have gone the extra mile, to support the charity's vital work.

The apprentices organised a 13 kilometre sponsored walk along the picturesque Huddersfield Narrow Canal, which took place on September 4th. The walk, which lasted around three hours, began under clear skies but ended with participants braving heavy rain for the final two miles. Despite the weather, spirits remained high as the team pressed on to the finish.

Thanks to the generosity of friends, family, and colleagues, the group has raised an impressive £1,335 for the hospice. The funds will help support children and families who rely on the essential services provided by Forget Me Not.

Gareth Pierce, CEO at The Forget Me Not Trust said - "Wow! That's incredible - thank you so much for your support!"

The apprentices hope their efforts will inspire others to get involved and support local charities making a difference in the community.





Mesma is expanding their team

Mesma is hiring a Marketing Executive to help shape and deliver campaigns that promote its products and services to education and workforce leaders.

This is more than a marketing role – it allows Mesma to

- Champion purpose-led technology
- Create impactful content for real-world change
- Contribute to a small, collaborative team that values innovation and improvement
- Support events, campaigns and stakeholder engagement
- Work flexibly, with opportunities for development and progression

We're excited to see how the lucky candidate will shape digital activity across Mesma.

[Read more here.](#)





NCFE launches new qualifications to support recruitment and create pathways into social care

NCFE, a leading awarding organisation in technical education, has had three new Level 3 social care qualifications approved, creating crucial pathways into one of the UK's most in-demand sectors. The qualifications include:

- A Social Care diploma for 16-19-year-olds
- An Adult Care workplace diploma for learners aged 19+
- A Youth Support Work diploma, developed with the National Youth Agency

These approvals come as part of the Department for Education's final reform cycle for post-16 Technical Occupational Qualifications, addressing the risk of reduced access to training routes in adult social care.

David Rowley, NCFE's Product Manager for Technical Education, highlighted the urgency, noting social care has one of the highest demands for Level 2 and 3 skills. He stated: "We are proud to be the only awarding body with approved technical qualifications in adult care through the reforms."

The new diplomas, available for public funding from August 2026, offer both classroom-based and work-based routes, helping to tackle recruitment challenges and ensure learners of all ages have access to high-quality, relevant training options in the health and care sector.

[Discover more about these qualifications today.](#)





Barnsley College become part of Weston Park Cancer Charity's new 'Together at Every Step' college partnership

Weston Park Cancer Charity Launches 'Together at Every Step' College Partnership To mark Childhood Cancer Awareness Month this September. Uniting seven regional colleges to raise awareness and funds in the fight against cancer.

The partnership includes Barnsley College, The Sheffield College, Harrison College, Doncaster College, and the RNN Group (Rotherham, North Notts, and Dearne Valley Colleges). Together, they'll deliver cancer education workshops, fundraising campaigns, and volunteering opportunities for students and staff.

Workshops will be hosted by the charity's Big Purple Bus, offering expert advice on cancer symptoms and the charity's support services. Colleges will also take part in campaigns like Time for Tea and the Accumulator Challenge, integrating cancer awareness into their curriculums and events such as World Cancer Day.

Inspired by Weston Park's successful football club partnerships, this education-focused alliance aims to drive real change by promoting health, encouraging early detection, and empowering young people to make a difference.

"Together, we can empower young people to play an active role in making a lasting difference," said Nicola Lovell of Barnsley College.

[Find out more here.](#)





Building the future of education with AAQs

The evolving qualifications landscape holds new opportunities for centres, employers and learners.

Training Qualifications UK (TQUK) has been approved for AAQs for first teach from September 2026.

AAQs can be taken as standalone qualifications or alongside A Levels as part of a mixed study programme.

TQUK has been approved for four AAQ Extended Certificates in the following subjects:

- Sport and Exercise Science
- IT and Computing
- Health and Social Care
- Design, Engineer and Construct in the Digital Built Environment

[Read more now.](#)





Construction apprenticeship powerhouse established

EN:Able Futures Joins Moore Networking to Boost Apprenticeship Support in Construction

Award-winning apprenticeship provider EN:Able Futures CIC has officially transferred ownership to Moore Networking, a long-standing social enterprise with a strong track record in delivering skills and apprenticeship programmes across the built environment sector.

The move combines EN:Able Futures' success, having employed nearly 600 apprentices since 2013, with Moore Networking's experience managing the TrAC shared apprenticeship service in the East of England. Together, they aim to expand flexi-job apprenticeships, giving construction and property employers the option to host apprentices for part or full training durations.

The partnership is especially timely, following government calls to tackle the sector's skills shortage, with 35,000 jobs currently unfilled. Backed by strong links to national bodies like the Department for Education and CITB, Moore Networking is well-positioned to drive growth in line with emerging policies on skills and employment.

Lee Parkinson, CEO of Efficiency North (former parent of EN:Able Futures), praised the transition: "We're confident Moore Networking shares our values and commitment to apprenticeships."

Paul Wright, Director of Moore Networking, added: "We look forward to growing the service and continuing to deliver real impact in communities and the construction workforce."

The partnership will also support ongoing collaboration with EN:Procure to deliver social value through the Gen-4 Framework.

[Discover more about this today.](#)





Leeds College of Building secures status as Construction Technical Excellence College

CABE academic partner Leeds College of Building has joined an esteemed list of only 10 other further education institutions in England to achieve Construction Technical Excellence College status for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Leeds College of Building stands as the representative of the Yorkshire & Humber region on this prestigious roster. This designation means the college will receive a share of £100 million in UK government funding as part of its drive to deal with the construction skills shortage.

Upon sharing the news with CABE, the college's Strategic Leadership Team commented: "This achievement marks the start of an exciting new chapter for Leeds College of Building. As a CTEC, we will act as a regional hub, collaborating with fellow CTECs nationally and with other Further Education and Skills providers across the Yorkshire and Humber region. Together, we will help meet the critical demand for skilled workers in construction—equipping the next generation with the knowledge, technical expertise, and real-world experience that employers need.

Over the coming weeks, we will be engaging with key CTEC strategic partners to help shape the next steps. The investment of £100 million across the first wave of CTECs will enable us to expand provision in high-demand areas, supporting the government's ambition to train 40,000 more people by 2029."





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