

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



APRIL 2026

NEWSLETTER



Heart of Yorkshire
Education Group

Give Construction A Try (GCAT) event at Castleford College

The Heart of Yorkshire Education Group has been ranked first in Yorkshire & the Humber for 16-18 student achievement among General FE Colleges, and fifth nationally, according to the latest Department for Education figures.

The Group also placed fourth regionally for apprenticeship achievement, highlighting strong performance across both academic and skills provision.

Made up of Castleford, Selby and Wakefield Colleges, the Group delivered outstanding results, including up to 99% A Level pass rates and 100% pass rates in T Levels at some campuses.

These results reflect the high quality of teaching, support and student outcomes, with many learners progressing into employment or higher education, including leading universities.





Adult services charity appoints apprenticeship provider

National charity Change Grow Live has partnered with training provider Realise to develop new team leaders through Health and Social Care apprenticeships.

Initially supporting 200 learners, the programme aims to create clear progression routes while helping staff grow professionally and personally. The partnership was chosen for its tailored approach, aligning closely with the charity's mission and workforce needs.

Realise says the collaboration will strengthen career pathways, support workforce development, and help attract and retain talent across Change Grow Live's 5,000+ employees and 150 services.





Join Training Qualifications UK's upcoming year-end webinar!

With 31 July right around the corner, Training Qualifications UK (TQUK), is hosting a year-end webinar to ensure training providers have anything they need to help apprentices complete their EPAs without delay.

The webinar will cover:

- Gateway submission dates.
- Tips for gateway success.
- Registering apprentices in Proficient.
- Year-End Toolkit.
- Q&A

Don't miss out by registering now. > <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/1a9b64b1-474a-4e0c-b6b6-22f02042298c@f64a153a-b6c8-468b-ad22-91afa098480f>

A promotional graphic for a webinar. It has a dark blue background with a faint grid pattern. At the top left, the text "Your Year-End Support: From Registration to EPA" is written in white. Below this, the word "Webinar" is written in yellow. In the top right corner, the TQUK logo is displayed. Two circular headshots of men are shown in the center. Below each headshot is the man's name and title in white text. At the bottom, the date and time "Wednesday 6 May | 12:00pm-12:30pm" are written in white.

Your Year-End Support:
From Registration to EPA

Webinar


Mike Warner
Delivery and Product Manager


Bradley Dawson
Assessment Operations Manager

Wednesday 6 May | 12:00pm-12:30pm



Train'd Up is an official sponsor at the **Enginuity Skills Awards 2026**

We're proud to share that Train'd Up is an official sponsor at the **Enginuity Skills Awards 2026**

We'll be sponsoring the Advanced Level Apprentice of the Year Award, celebrating the rising stars shaping the future of engineering and industry. And there's more... **Earlybird tickets** are now LIVE! Available until Friday 8 May 2026 at 11:59 PM - don't miss out.

Join us on Wednesday 1 July 2026 for what promises to be an incredible evening of recognition, inspiration and celebration. We can't wait to see you there!

Enginuity
SKILLS AWARDS
'26

in partnership with
 Babcock

Category partner:


Proud to be partner of:
**Advanced Level
Apprentice of
the Year**

Tickets now on sale

enginuity.org/skills-awards #EnginuitySkillsAwards2026



LSP are finalists at the Apprenticeship Guide Awards

We're proud to share that we have been shortlisted for Best Apprenticeship in Construction at this year's Apprenticeship Guide Awards!

This recognition highlights the strength of our approach to developing job-ready talent. Through close collaboration with our employers, high-quality training delivery and dedicated learner support, our apprentices are equipped to make a meaningful impact in the workplace from day one.

This achievement would not be possible without the incredible employers we work alongside, whose commitment to nurturing talent and investing in future skills continues to drive the success of our programmes. We would also like to thank our learners, whose dedication, hard work and ambition bring these programmes to life and make outcomes like this possible. We're also delighted to celebrate Kirsty, our Operations Director, who has been shortlisted for the Leadership in Apprenticeships Award. This category recognises individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership in the management and development of apprenticeship programmes, and Kirsty's nomination reflects the significant contribution she continues to make each day at LSP.

We look forward to the upcoming awards ceremony on the 30th of April and are keeping our fingers crossed for a successful evening.





York College achieves Living Wage accreditation to set benchmark for fair pay in education

York College has been awarded Living Wage accreditation, marking a significant step in its commitment to fairness, equality and social responsibility.

Accredited by the Living Wage Foundation, the college now guarantees that all staff are paid a wage that reflects the real cost of living, helping to reduce financial pressure and support overall wellbeing.

The accreditation reinforces York College's dedication to creating a positive and inclusive working environment, where staff feel valued and supported. In turn, this investment in its workforce helps strengthen the student experience, enabling staff to deliver high-quality teaching and support.

The achievement also positions York College as a responsible employer and a leading example within the education sector.



FRESH FUTURES

Improving lives, inspiring change

Our very first Post-16 parents open day

We were proud to welcome our Brian Jackson College parents and carers for a morning of College Post-16 Open-16 Day, and it was wonderful to see so many families attending and engaging with the day. This is the first time we invited parents for the day since we opened the new Post-16 provision, and will be the first of many more

This was the first time we have invited parents to attend an Open Day since the launch of our new Post-16 provision, and we are pleased to say it will be the first of many more. The event provided an opportunity for parents to explore our facilities, meet staff, and learn more about the provision, support, and pathways available to our students. Visitors were able to ask questions, take part in tours, and gain a clearer insight into how we support young people throughout their learning journey.

We were particularly encouraged by the positive conversations and feedback shared during the day, highlighting the value of opening our doors and strengthening connections with families. The strong turnout also reflected the interest in our programmes and the importance of working closely with parents and carers.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the day a success. We look forward to continuing these conversations and welcoming families to future events!





Leeds Trinity University

Working-class women in academia given voice in new study

Leeds Trinity University has launched a new study to raise awareness of the challenges faced by working-class women in academia and to support greater equality across the sector.

With working-class individuals making up just 8-23% of the UK academic population – and women even less represented – the research explores how class, gender and socio-economic background shape career progression. Led by Dr Amanda Nuttall, the study highlights issues such as pressure to succeed, underrepresentation and imposter syndrome, which can be particularly pronounced in academic environments.

Drawing on first-hand experiences, the project aims to give working-class women a platform to share their stories and help inform more inclusive, evidence-based approaches to tackling inequality in higher education.

The study launched alongside a short film featuring Jo Hopton, whose journey into academia reflects the experiences of many working-class women, with the aim of encouraging more open conversations and inspiring others to share their own paths.



DN COLLEGES GROUP

DN Colleges Group Supports 94 Entries for WorldSkills UK & SkillsBuild Competitions

Students across DN Colleges Group are stepping forward to compete in the WorldSkills UK and SkillsBuild 2026 competitions, showcasing excellence in vocational and technical education.

This year, the Group is supporting 94 applications, including 88 entries across areas such as renewable energy, health and social care, digital, construction and creative industries, alongside six SkillsBuild entries in bricklaying and plastering.

Designed around industry standards, the competitions help learners build both technical and employability skills – from problem-solving to teamwork – while boosting confidence and career prospects.

As part of the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence, DN Colleges Group continues to champion competition-based learning, preparing students for real-world careers and a competitive job market, while wishing all entrants the best of luck.





From gap year to award-winning finance apprentice: Ahmed Ali's journey with Lloyds Banking Group

Ahmed Ali's journey into finance shows there's more than one path to success. After sixth form, he chose a gap year over university and joined Lloyds Banking Group as a Customer Advisor – an experience that led him to pursue an apprenticeship instead.

Now an award-winning finance apprentice, Ahmed combines professional study with hands-on experience, gaining exposure to areas like corporate treasury, data projects and senior stakeholder collaboration. Alongside his role, he has also taken on leadership opportunities, mentoring students and chairing the organisation's Next Generation Talent network.

His achievements were recently recognised when he was named Accounting and Finance Apprentice of the Year at the Multicultural Apprenticeship Awards.

Balancing work and study with Kaplan, Ahmed has developed both technical expertise and key skills such as communication, critical thinking and resilience. His advice to others considering apprenticeships: stay curious, believe in your potential and embrace the opportunities the pathway offers.





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