

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



MAY 2026

NEWSLETTER



Construction Trade Fair

What a fantastic day at our first-ever Construction Trade Fair at Brunel Construction Centre, Kirklees College!

With the sun shining, the campus was buzzing as students, staff, employers, and trades came together for a brilliant day of hands-on activities, networking, and opportunity-building. From discounted products and giveaways to free food from Smokies BBQ and treats from the Dixons Ice Cream van, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Most importantly, the event created a real platform for students to connect with industry professionals and gain valuable insight into their future careers—truly bringing our commitment to creating opportunities and changing lives to life.

The feedback has been outstanding, and it's clear the day was a huge success. A massive thank you to everyone who contributed—we're already looking forward to the next one!





Our tutor Helen Rutherford has being recognised at the West Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards 2026.

A huge congratulations to Helen on being recognised at the West Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards 2026.

Highly Commended within the Mentor of the Year Category

Helen's passion, dedication and commitment to supporting learners is at the heart of everything we do at Exceed. From building confidence to inspiring the next generation of hair professionals, she continuously goes above and beyond to help learners grow both personally and professionally.

A very well deserved recognition – we're incredibly proud



Northern College



Our new flexible learning offer for health and social care courses

At Northern College, we are proud to provide flexible learning opportunities that make education accessible to adult learners from all backgrounds. Our approach combines online, blended, and residential learning, allowing students to fit study around work, family, and other commitments while still benefiting from personalised support and a strong learning community.

Based at our historic Wentworth Castle campus in South Yorkshire, we specialise in adult education and are committed to helping learners build confidence, gain new qualifications, and progress into employment, further study, or career development. Through dedicated tutor support, inclusive teaching practices, and flexible delivery models, we aim to create opportunities that empower adults to achieve their goals and unlock their potential.

Our flexible learning programmes reflect our belief that education should be accessible, supportive, and transformational for everyone.

[Find out more about these courses here.](#)





We're excited to launch the brand-new Complete Lean Solutions website

We're excited to launch the brand-new Complete Lean Solutions website, showcasing our refreshed approach to Lean apprenticeships, operational excellence, and business transformation support.

The new site highlights our fully funded Lean apprenticeship programmes, specialist consultancy services, and real-world improvement projects delivered across manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, aerospace, and more. Built with a fresh, modern feel, the website reflects our practical, people-focused approach to helping organisations embed continuous improvement and develop long-term capability within their teams.

Visitors can now explore our Level 2 and Level 4 apprenticeship pathways, including our new AI & Automation Practitioner programme, alongside consultancy services such as due diligence, multi-site rollouts, and Lean transformation support. The site also features case studies, measurable client outcomes, and insights into how our Toyota-trained specialists help businesses achieve sustainable operational improvements.

With clearer navigation, updated content, and a stronger focus on real business impact, the new website gives organisations an easier way to discover how Complete Lean Solutions supports workforce development, productivity, and continuous improvement across a range of sectors.

A screenshot of the CLS website homepage. The background is a dark blue image of three people in a factory setting, wearing safety vests and hard hats. The text is white and orange. The main headline reads 'Your people are brilliant. Let's make them even better.' Below this is a paragraph of text: 'We deliver fully-funded Lean apprenticeships for your existing employees. Toyota-trained coaches, real projects, proper results. And dare we say it... it's actually enjoyable.' There are three buttons: 'See Our Programmes' with a right arrow, 'How It Works', and 'Download Brochure' with a download icon. At the bottom, there is a line of text: 'We also offer Specialist Services — Lean Consultancy · Due Diligence · Multi-Site Rollouts'.

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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

Helping businesses invest in their workforce through a range of Degree Apprenticeship

York St John University is helping businesses invest in their workforce through a range of Degree Apprenticeships designed to develop high-level professional and technical skills while benefiting from government funding support. With 95% to 100% of programme costs covered through apprenticeship funding, employers can upskill existing staff or recruit new talent while learners gain degree-level qualifications alongside practical workplace experience.

Applications are now open until 19th June for 2026 cohorts across several programmes, including the Project Management Degree Apprenticeship, the Creative and Digital Design Professional Degree Apprenticeship, and the fully online Data Science Degree Apprenticeship.

One standout offering is the Creative and Digital Design Professional Degree Apprenticeship (Level 6), a 42-month programme based in York with one day of study per week. The apprenticeship enables employers to build in-house expertise across areas such as user experience (UX), user interface (UI), digital media, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and artificial intelligence (AI), while employees work towards a BSc (Hons) qualification.

Through its Workforce Development and Apprenticeship provision, York St John University continues to support organisations in developing future-ready skills, strengthening digital capability, and investing in long-term workforce growth.





ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

Askham Bryan College and University Centre are proud to announce eleven finalists at the North Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards 2026

Askham Bryan College and University Centre are proud to announce that they have eleven finalists, along with their own apprenticeship team, shortlisted at the North Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards 2026. The awards, set to be held at Harrogate on Thursday 11 June 2026, celebrate innovation and excellence across the sectors.

Amongst those nominated also include college staff members Sofia Page, Lecturer in Animal Management and Owen Brignall, Advanced Teaching and Learning Coach as well as Jacob Ward, General Farm Worker.

Ritchie Bywater, Head of Apprenticeships Askham Bryan College said: "As an apprenticeship department, we are incredibly proud to see such a strong representation among this year's North Yorkshire finalists. This achievement reflects the dedication and talent of our apprentices and the commitment of the employers who support them. The passion and hard work of our entire apprenticeship team is evident in every nominee, and we're honoured that this has been recognised with our own nomination for Provider of the Year."

Finalists span across four key categories including:

Intermediate Apprentice

- Andrew Morrow-Coates, The Oaks Golf Club
- Elicia Sanchez-Clark, Elwick Stud
- Jacob Ward, Velcourt / Askham Bryan College
- Jake Fisher, WJ Richardson
- Nick Smith, Leeds Golf Club
- Tom Deighton, Oakdale Golf Club
- Tom McBain, Askham Bryan College and Amey-Sheffield Council

Higher Apprentice

- Sofia Page, Askham Bryan College

Mentor of the Year

- Owen Brignall, Askham Bryan College

Small and Medium Employer of the Year

- Follifoot Riding Centre - Equine Employer

Training Provider/Programme

- Askham Bryan College - Apprenticeship Department



New 'STEM 7' campaign tackles skills shortages in key sector

Leeds City College is championing employability-focused learning through its new STEM 7 campaign, designed to help students thrive in future STEAM careers by developing the behaviours and mindset employers are increasingly looking for alongside technical skills.

Recognising growing concerns that many school leavers possess strong technical abilities but lack essential workplace behaviours, the STEM 7 framework focuses on seven key transferable skills: creative thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, intellectual curiosity, flexibility, and data-driven decision making.

Running from 8-12 June, the campaign will highlight the importance of embedding these employability skills across the curriculum to better prepare students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths, and the Arts. The initiative is being adopted across the wider Luminate Education Group, including Leeds Sixth Form College, Harrogate College, Keighley College, and Pudsey Sixth Form College, ensuring students develop these capabilities both inside and outside the classroom through employer engagement, networking opportunities, and work placements.

By combining technical learning with real-world professional skills, Leeds City College aims to equip students with the confidence, adaptability, and rounded skillset needed to succeed in the evolving STEAM workforce.





Bespoke Training and Emerging Leaders sessions

Skills and Education Group's upcoming events programme continues to provide valuable opportunities for professional development, networking, and collaboration across the further education and skills sector.

The featured events bring together educators, practitioners, and sector leaders to share best practice, discuss current challenges, and explore approaches to improving teaching, learning, and workforce development.

Hosted through Skills and Education Group's professional development platform, the events support continuous improvement across member organisations by encouraging knowledge sharing, sector engagement, and practical learning. As part of the organisation's wider commitment to championing education and skills, the events form an important part of supporting professionals to stay informed, connected, and responsive to evolving sector priorities.

Explore the [bespoke training course](#).

Discover the [Elevate Your Leadership: The Emerging Leaders Programme](#)



FRESH FUTURES

Improving lives, inspiring change

Fresh Futures Charity Golf Tournament: A Fantastic First Event

Fresh Futures has celebrated the success of its inaugural Charity Golf Tournament, marking a strong first event that brought together local businesses, supporters, and partners to raise funds for the organisation's work supporting young people and families.

Held as a networking and fundraising event, the tournament combined friendly competition with opportunities to build connections across the business community. Participants took part in a full day of golf, followed by hospitality and presentations recognising the importance of community support in helping Fresh Futures continue its charitable mission.

The event was described as a fantastic start to what is expected to become a regular feature in the organisation's fundraising calendar, strengthening relationships with supporters while raising awareness and vital funds for its youth-focused services and programmes.





Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

YMCA response to the King's Speech

Denise Hatton, Chief Executive, YMCA England & Wales, said

YMCA England & Wales has welcomed the King's Speech for its focus on improving opportunities for young people, particularly through commitments to social housing, apprenticeships, vocational education, and support into work. Chief Executive Denise Hatton highlighted the importance of addressing housing insecurity, the rising cost of living, and limited opportunities, which continue to affect young people's ability to build stable futures.

The organisation strongly supports plans for increased investment in affordable and social housing, as well as strengthened education and apprenticeship pathways, including support for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

However, YMCA expressed disappointment that there was no direct commitment to youth services or long-term youth work funding, emphasising the importance of early intervention and trusted local services in helping young people thrive. The charity reiterated its willingness to work with government and partners to ensure the proposed measures lead to meaningful, long-term change for young people across England and Wales.





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