

Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust

December 2025

YORKSHIRE
Endeavour
academy trust

Ethical | Nurturing | Brave

Autumn Newsletter 2025



A message from the Chair of Trust Board, Mathew Brown



Looking Back with Pride as We End Our First Term

As we come to the end of the first term, it feels the right time to reflect not only on the busy start we've had, but also on the successes of the last academic year. It has been another year full of growth, achievement and community spirit across Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust, and we are incredibly proud of everything our children, staff and families have contributed to.

Our six schools continue to shine as individual communities with their own unique character. One of the things that has stood out most to me over the past year is just how special each school is, and how deeply rooted they are in the communities they serve. When I first became Chair of the Trust Board, I don't think I fully understood just how integral our schools are to local families – places of learning, yes, but also hubs within their communities.

A real highlight has been the ongoing success of the YEAT English Hub. Its outreach continues to expand, supporting even more schools beyond our Trust and having a tangible impact on reading outcomes, confidence and future life chances for children. This is something we are very proud of.

My heartfelt thanks go to our wonderful staff who work tirelessly every day. Their dedication, passion and care create the warm, inspiring environments our children benefit from so greatly. It is always a joy to come together at our annual conference to celebrate their work and remind ourselves of the difference they make.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support. We look forward to the year ahead with excitement and optimism.

As we move toward the festive season and a well-earned break, I wish every one of you a peaceful, joyful and restful holiday. Here's to another year of learning and success ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Mat

A message from our CEO, Christina Zanelli



As we reach the end of the first term, and look back over the last academic year, it's clear that it has been another incredibly busy and rewarding period for Team YEAT. Our schools, staff and pupils have continued to shine, and we are proud of all that has been achieved across our family of schools.

This year we supported two local schools through Ofsted visits, alongside three inspections of our own. We were thrilled that Castleton and Glaisdale retained their Outstanding judgements, while Oakridge – our newest school – was recognised as a strong Good, reflecting the commitment and hard work of everyone involved. A huge well done to staff, families and, of course, the children for all they have done to make this possible. With other schools expecting inspection in the coming year, we feel confident and optimistic about what's ahead.

Lealholm continues to lead the way as our English Hub and remains a Little Wandle Champion School, working with hundreds of schools nationally. West Cliff pupils have been enjoying their outdoor learning and beach adventures, while Airy Hill is now very close to securing its Rights Respecting Gold Award.

As a Trust, we continue to explore new partnerships, strengthening our offer to further and broaden opportunities for our children. Our English Hub continues to grow too, now supporting primary and secondary schools, thanks to the brilliant work of Hannah Spencer and the English Hub team.

It has been a year full of progress, achievement and exciting opportunities – and there is so much more to look forward to in 2026!

As we head into the festive season, I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our staff, governors, families and pupils for their continued dedication and support. We wish you all a joyful Christmas break and a happy, healthy New Year. Here's to another year of ambition, growth and success across YEAT!

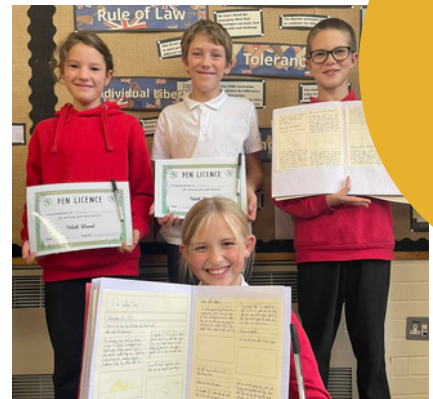
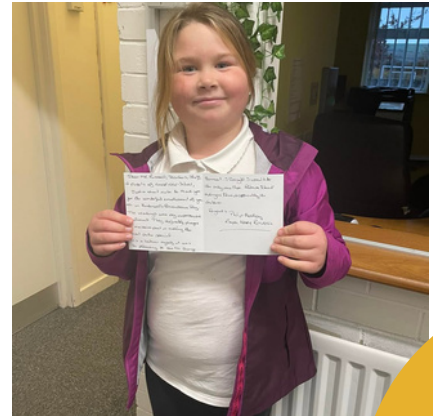
Christina



@Yendeavour

News From Oakridge

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A Term of Voice, Rights & Community Spirit at Oakridge

Oracy at Oakridge has absolutely flourished this term, with children embracing the process and celebrating their developing speaking skills. Pupils have been using Talk Tactics and the Listening Ladder in Whole-Class Reading lessons, leading to in-depth, thoughtful discussions and debates. Children are taking great pride in their oracy development and have put their reading fluency to excellent use when reading speeches and poems at the war memorial on Remembrance Day. Most of all, they are eagerly looking forward to delivering their Christmas play lines with real gusto!

Following in the footsteps of our friends at Airy Hill, our Steering Group has been working hard on our Rights Respecting School charters. These outline children's rights, responsibilities and what adults will do as duty-bearers at different points throughout the school day. Assemblies have focused on a range of rights enjoyed by our pupils, and children are developing a growing awareness of where and why some children around the world may not be able to access these rights.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate and thank our incredible PTFA, who have once again surpassed themselves this term. Fundraising events such as Halloween Bingo and the magnificent Christmas Fayre were huge successes. The fayre truly demonstrated the strength of our school community, with the hall packed from start to finish and raising over £1,500. This money will be put to excellent use in enhancing provision for our pupils, including funding the upcoming trip to watch Jack and the Beanstalk at the Whitby Pavilion.

News From Airy Hill

Our Rights Respecting School



Rights Respecting and Rooted in Trust Values

Airy Hill Primary School continues to shine as a proud UNICEF Rights Respecting School, placing children's rights at the centre of its ethos and daily practice. This term has shown how the Trust values of being Ethical, Nurturing and Brave are lived out across school life.

Celebrating Learning and Community.

This autumn has been full of vibrant learning. Pupils enjoyed outdoor work with the school's resident chickens, reinforcing Article 31 – the right to play and leisure – while building responsibility and care for living things. These experiences show our commitment to environments where children thrive academically and personally.

Events that Bring Us Together

November brought the popular Christmas Shopping Fair with handmade crafts, music from the Airy Hill choir and festive cheer. Pupils also visited local care homes and sang at the museum, demonstrating Article 15 – the right to meet and join groups, strengthening community links. Airy Hill pupils and staff proudly joined the Remembrance Sunday parade, paying tribute to those who served. This thoughtful act reflects Article 38 – the right to protection in times of conflict – and shows our Ethical and Brave values in action.

Academic Success

We are proud of our strong outcomes from last year and see them as a foundation to build on. At the end of Key Stage 2: 90% of children achieved the expected standard in writing and maths, with 85% of children in reading, giving a combined score of 85% This reflects Article 28 – the right to education – and demonstrates how our nurturing approach leads to excellent results.

News From Glaisdale



Our Moors School



Proud Moments and New Adventures This Autumn!

This autumn term has been a wonderfully busy and enriching time for everyone at Glaisdale. Our children have embraced a wide range of learning experiences, community projects and outdoor adventures that have helped them grow both in and beyond the classroom.

One of our proudest achievements has been gaining the Bronze Rights Committed Award, recognising our ongoing dedication to creating a school where every child's rights are valued and celebrated. Our Ambassadors have shown enthusiasm in their roles and represented our school perfectly during their visit to Whitby Foodbank, where they personally delivered our Harvest donations.

Another whole school highlight has been the start of our 'A Year in the Life of a Farm' project. This term's autumn/winter visit gave our children the opportunity to see how the changing seasons impact the farm, deepening their understanding of food, nature and rural life.

Outdoor adventure has also been high on the agenda. A standout day for many was our exciting trip to East Barnby. The older children showed teamwork and resilience skills while sailing, braving the water and wind with confidence. Meanwhile, the younger children immersed themselves in a day of beck scrambling and climbing, experiencing the thrill of outdoor exploration. It has been a term full of learning, achievement and unforgettable experiences. We look forward to more exciting opportunities as the year continues.

News From Lealholm

Our River & Farm School



Fossils Found, Funds Raised and Fun Had by All!

What an exciting start to the year here at Lealholm, where pupil numbers have been steadily increasing with another bumper Reception intake!

Mr Clarke, our new Fern Class teacher, truly embodies our Trust principles, ensuring that our youngest pupils are nurtured while being brave learners through an exhilarating range of outdoor activities. It is already clear that our Reception pupils have developed a love of reading, especially when they discover books about tractors!

Heather Class showed their adventurous spirit with an East Barnby-led fossil-hunting and rock-pool-exploring day at Runswick Bay. They discovered an incredible range of fossils and sea creatures, highlighting the rich wildlife of our North Yorkshire coast.

The whole school worked some fundraising magic with the support of our wonderful Friends of Lealholm School (FoLS), raising an amazing £1,100 to enhance school life. Heather Class set off on a walk of epic proportions up and around Oakley Walls, enjoying breathtaking views. Fern Class enjoyed a peaceful river walk — and muddy puddles were enjoyed by all!

The whole school also had a brilliant afternoon at Wilkes Cattle Farm. This term's focus for our Farm Enhancement Programme has been cows, and the children arrived with thoughtful questions, developing their knowledge through first-hand experiences.

News From Castleton



Our Forest School



Harvest, Coastguards & Cricket Sixes!

From forest schools to sporting events – and even a guest performance by the jBM Saxophon Quartet from Germany – it has been one busy term! We have lots to celebrate, including achieving our Rights Respecting School Bronze Award, White Rose Maths Champion status, and being recognised as the number one rated primary school in Whitby, Scarborough and surrounding areas based on outcomes and Ofsted results.

We enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Festival at St. Michael and St. George, full of gratitude and thanks. Afterwards, our Rights Respecting Ambassadors travelled to Whitby to deliver donations to Whitby Food Bank, helping stock shelves, date goods and pack orders – living out our oath of improving our local community.

Library van visits have been a firm favourite, supporting our love of reading oath. We also supported HELLO YELLOW to raise awareness of children's mental health, reminding everyone to talk, seek help and know they are never alone.

A highlight for Oak Class was meeting the Whitby Coastguard team for water safety sessions – including creating rip tides indoors and practising real rescue scenarios in the River Esk!

In true Castleton spirit, we competed in a wide range of sporting events with fantastic sportsmanship and resilience. We also welcomed Owen back for the 'Chance to Shine' cricket programme – a record number of sixes were hit! Year 2, 5 and 6 pupils also completed Play Leader training, building leadership and communication skills to lead playground activities for friends.

News From West Cliff

Our Beach School



A Busy, Bright and Brilliant Start to the Year!

We have had a busy but productive start to the school year, filled with enthusiasm and plenty of learning opportunities. We have had a range of focuses – some new, some familiar, all supporting pupils to grow in confidence and curiosity.

We have been pleased to re-establish our Rights Respecting Steering Group, made up of pupils and staff, who have guided us to make improvements across the school. This has included more active learning, further enrichment experiences and increased opportunities to get involved in our local community. Their ideas and discussions are already making a real difference to school life.

Children have been delighted to take their learning outside the classroom, whether that is at sports events, visits to art galleries or to our outdoor classroom – the beach! These experiences have sparked creative thinking, teamwork and plenty of smiles. We have loved welcoming the community to support these activities and share learning with us.

We were delighted to be presented with our new football kit, funded and donated by the local group Lads, Dads and Grandads. We were also supported wonderfully by families during charity events and themed days, ranging from Children in Need to reading afternoons to Roald Dahl Day. It was fantastic to see everyone come together, making these events memorable, meaningful and fun for all.

News From English Hub



Continuing Our Commitment to Excellence in English

Hub Highlights This Term

What a vibrant and inspiring term it's been for the English Hub! Our work continues to grow and evolve, with exciting developments across our offer. We've expanded our CPD programme to include fluency support to schools and begun piloting work with secondary settings, opening up fresh opportunities for learning, collaboration and impact.

We're thrilled to share that our hub has made above-expected national progress this year. This achievement is a true reflection of the dedication of our partner schools and the incredible commitment of our specialists. We couldn't be prouder.

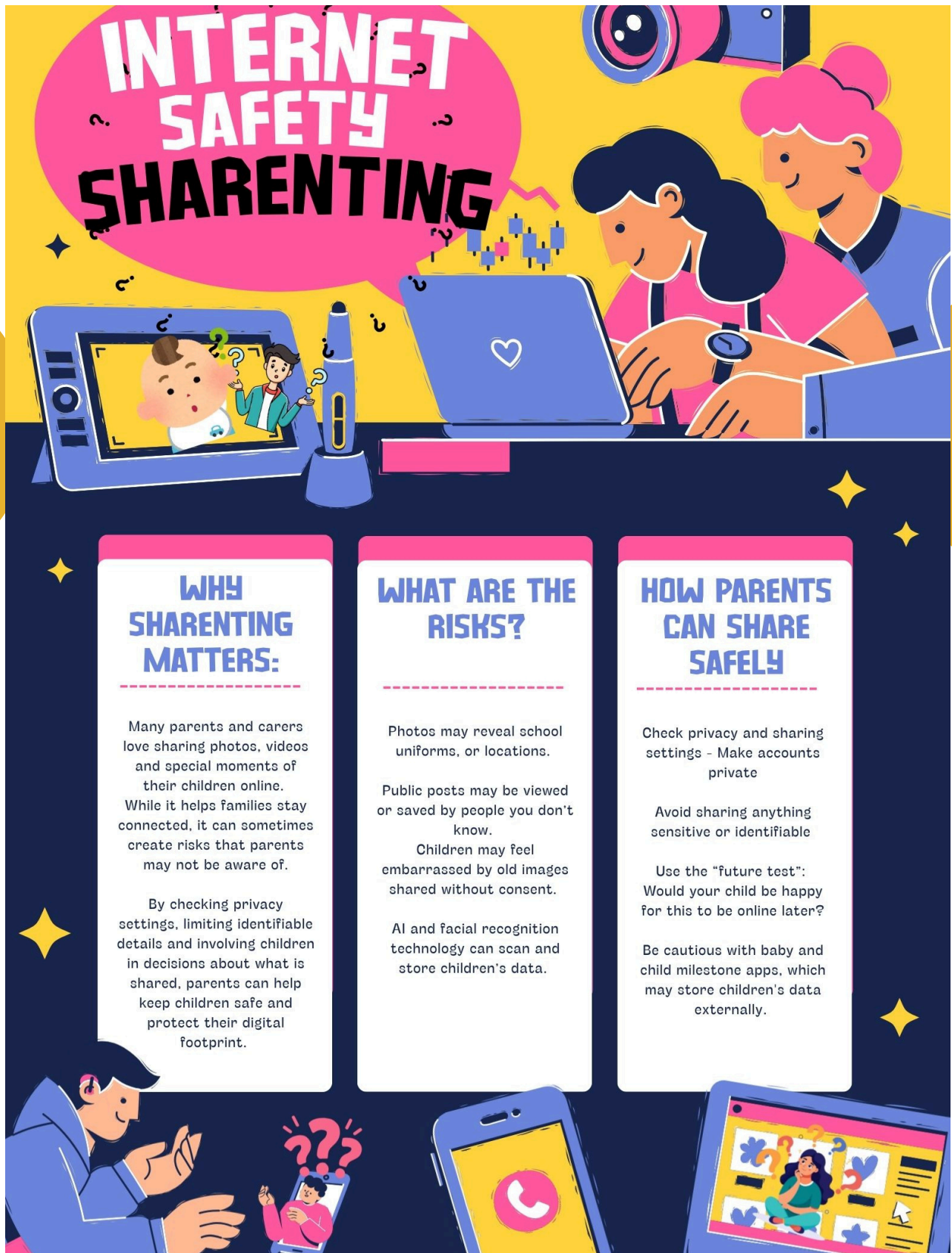
Looking back on last academic year, the scale of activity across our region has been fantastic. Together, we:

- Audited 65 schools
- Delivered high-quality professional development to 177 professionals
- Provided 217 days of in-school support

A highlight has been welcoming two new specialists to the team: Andrea Taylor, an EYFS expert, and Vicky Porter, from Castleton and within the YEAT family. Both have slotted seamlessly into the hub, bringing energy, expertise and a real passion for school improvement. We can't wait to be part of their English Hub journey.

Thank you to every school and specialist involved. Your enthusiasm and commitment continue to drive the hub forward. We're excited for all that's still to come!

Online Safety



INTERNET SAFETY SHARENTING

WHY SHARENTING MATTERS:

Many parents and carers love sharing photos, videos and special moments of their children online. While it helps families stay connected, it can sometimes create risks that parents may not be aware of.

By checking privacy settings, limiting identifiable details and involving children in decisions about what is shared, parents can help keep children safe and protect their digital footprint.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Photos may reveal school uniforms, or locations.

Public posts may be viewed or saved by people you don't know.

Children may feel embarrassed by old images shared without consent.

AI and facial recognition technology can scan and store children's data.

HOW PARENTS CAN SHARE SAFELY

Check privacy and sharing settings - Make accounts private

Avoid sharing anything sensitive or identifiable

Use the "future test": Would your child be happy for this to be online later?

Be cautious with baby and child milestone apps, which may store children's data externally.

Governance



COULD YOU SUPPORT ONE OF OUR ACADEMY SCHOOLS BY BECOMING A GOVERNOR?

WHAT DO GOVERNORS DO?

Governors, support the Trustees to set the aims and objectives for the school or group of schools, ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. They set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives, monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making, and act as a source of challenge and support to the headteacher.

They must be prepared to adopt the Nolan principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. Be committed to their role and young people. They need to be able to work collaboratively, with inquiring thought processes and able to be creative and innovative in problem solving.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

On average the time commitment is five to eight hours per month. This includes meetings, background reading and school visits. Governance is a voluntary role and therefore it is not paid.

WHO CAN BE A GOVERNOR?

Anyone aged 18 or over can apply to be a governor and you do not need to be a parent. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute.

For more information email: companysecretary@yeat.co.uk or speak to the headteacher at your school

SUPPORT, INSPIRE, CHANGE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

BECOME A
TRUSTEE
OR **SCHOOL**
GOVERNOR



Did you know?

Governors are volunteers who work with our schools' senior leaders to set the culture, values and budgets. Through monitoring and supportive challenge, they make a real and noticeable difference to our children, their families and the broader community.

You do not need an in depth knowledge of the education sector, just the time and desire to contribute positively. Your skills and work place knowledge have the potential to change lives.

Trustees make decisions on the strategic direction of the Trust, set strategic goals and targets for each of the schools, and assess the progress being made towards those targets. It's challenging work, but extremely rewarding!

JOIN US...

MORE INFORMATION?

Email : Companysecretary@yeat.co.uk or call Sharon Markham 07977 519444.

We would love to hear from you.

WWW.YEAT.CO.UK