

Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust

March 2026

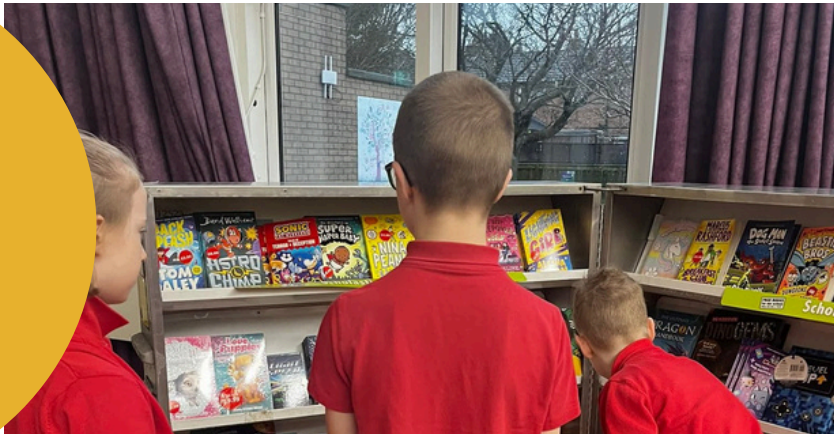
YORKSHIRE Endeavour academy trust

Ethical | Nurturing | Brave

Spring Newsletter 2026



A message from the Chair of Trust Board, Mathew Brown



As we come to the end of the Spring term, I want to take a moment to celebrate what makes the Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust such a special family of schools. At the heart of everything we do is our shared ethos of being Ethical, Nurturing and Brave—and this term, I have seen those values lived out in the most inspiring ways across all our communities.

Our commitment to being ethical has shone especially brightly through our schools' Rights Respecting work. Staff and pupils are embracing children's rights with real thoughtfulness, weaving them into everyday routines and relationships. This means every child is listened to, respected and given the confidence to use their voice. It's a powerful approach—one that is helping our pupils grow not only as learners, but as ethical and compassionate young citizens who understand their rights, their responsibilities and their place in the world.

We have also seen our high standards recognised beyond the Trust. A particular highlight this term was the letter from the Secretary of State for Education congratulating Airy Hill for being one of the top-performing schools nationally for disadvantaged pupils. This achievement reflects the dedication of staff, the ambition of pupils and the unwavering support of families. It is a wonderful reminder of what can be achieved when a school community works together with purpose and belief.

Across the Trust, each school brings its own warmth, creativity and character to our shared mission—whether through outdoor learning, musical performances, reading culture, global links or community engagement. These differences enrich us and make our Trust stronger.

As we look ahead to the Summer term, I want to thank our staff, families and pupils for everything they bring to our community. Together, we will continue helping every child grow into someone who is ethical, nurturing and brave in all they do.

Mat

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YORKSHIRE Endeavour academy trust Ethical | Nurturing | Brave

A message from our CEO, Christina Zanelli.

What an exciting spring term! We have had everything from World Book Day to visiting MPs and accolades, as usual our fabulous YEAT family have embraced all of the events with their enthusiasm and caring nature,

Thank you to our wonderful families for supporting our schools.

Christina



It has been another busy and inspiring period across our schools. Pupils have proudly represented their communities at the Eskdale Festival, welcomed visits from local MPs, and received letters of congratulations from the Department for Education recognising their achievements. Our schools have also fostered a love of reading through well-supported book fairs, bringing families and communities together.

We are especially proud of Airy Hill Primary School, which has achieved UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School status – a significant milestone that reflects a deep commitment to children's rights and inclusive values. Across the Trust, pupils continue to benefit from our unique local environment, with learning brought to life through our moors, river and beach schools, providing rich, memorable experiences that extend well beyond the classroom.

News From Oakridge

● ● ● Our Garden School ● ● ●



Celebrating Courage, Kindness and Curiosity at Oakridge

This Spring term at Oakridge has been a shining example of what happens when an ethical, nurturing and brave school community comes together with a shared purpose. Our developing reading culture has been strengthened not just by staff and children, but by the generosity of our wider community. A committed group of children stayed after school—supported by dedicated staff—to redecorate and refresh our library, taking brave creative decisions and showing real pride in shaping a space that belongs to everyone. Every shelf, cushion and decoration was kindly donated by families and friends, with even the paint funded through one parent's inspiring fundraising efforts. This generosity reflects the caring values that define Oakridge.

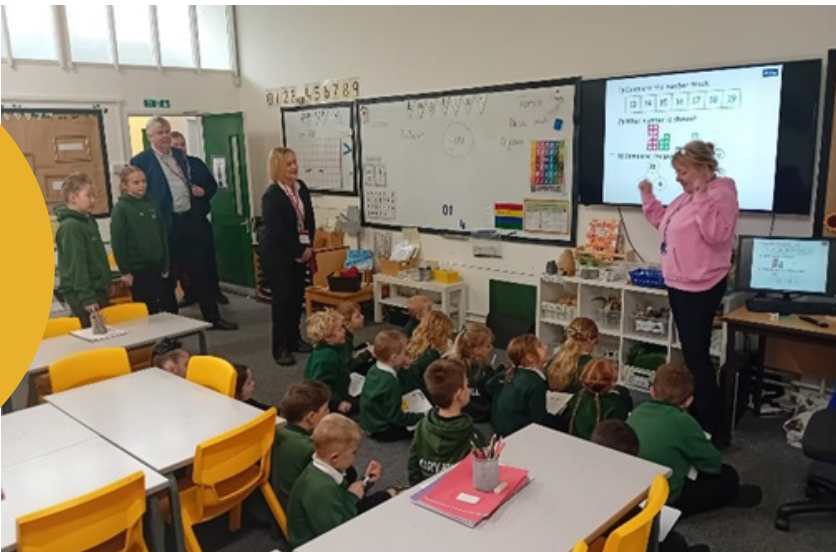
Our Scholastic Book Fair was another wonderful success. Throughout the week, children immersed themselves in stories, explored new authors and shared recommendations. The Books for Breakfast event proved especially popular, offering a warm, nurturing start to the day as families enjoyed books together. Thanks to everyone's support, we also raised around £250 to spend on new books for classrooms and the library.

Outdoors, our children have continued to live Oakridge's values with enthusiasm. Our Garden Ambassadors have been preparing beds for planting and creating thoughtful labels so we can ethically track what we grow. National Potato Planting Day gave every child the chance to be brave, get hands-on with nature and plant their own potato.

Playtimes have been equally joyful, with children building dens, digging trenches and exploring our wild spaces—nurturing curiosity, teamwork and a love of the natural world.

News From Airy Hill

Our Rights Respecting School



Rights Respecting Gold School

This term at Airy Hill Primary School has been marked by significant achievements, meaningful learning experiences and a strong commitment to children's rights and wellbeing. A major highlight was receiving a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, recognising Airy Hill as one of the top-performing schools nationally for disadvantaged pupils. This honour reflects the ambition, dedication and collective effort of pupils, staff and families. We were also pleased to welcome our local MP, who visited to see the excellent work taking place across the school.

Another proud moment was securing UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School status. During the assessment, pupils spoke confidently about key rights—including Article 12 (the right to be listened to), Article 14 (the right to your own beliefs), Article 29 (the right to be the best you can be) and Article 31 (the right to relax and play). UNICEF's request to use Airy Hill as a showcase school highlights how deeply these principles are embedded in our daily practice.

Our rights-based ethos has been evident throughout the term. A visit to the mosque gave pupils a meaningful opportunity to learn about faith, respect and community, bringing Article 14 to life. Pupils represented the school with maturity and curiosity.

Airy Hill children have also made a positive impact locally. The school choir received a Mayoral Award for their contribution to community events, and several pupils were named Whitby Speak Out winners, demonstrating confidence, clarity and the importance of pupil voice.

We look forward to the Summer Term and the many opportunities ahead to continue living out our Rights Respecting ethos.

News From Glaisdale



Our Moors School



A Term of Reading, Adventure and Cultural Discovery

We have been fulfilling several of our school oaths this term, at Glaisdale. We have paid particular attention to 'Developing a Love of Reading', 'Having Regular Outdoor Experiences' and 'Being Prepared to Live in Multi-Cultural Britain'.

At Glaisdale, we love reading! This term, this has been aided by continuing with our new reading awards system which celebrates children who regularly read at school and home. It has also been supported by a new library van service which visits our village on a monthly basis – children have enjoyed having access to an even broader range of books, including some of the newest titles. And, of course, it would not be spring term without World Book Day! Children adorned themselves in their favourite book-related costumes for a fun-packed, book-filled day, celebrating their favourite authors.

We have made the most of the improving weather by taking to the outdoors. We have spent time in our Moors School classroom, working on our orienteering study unit. We have also taken part in the RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch', collecting useful information which can be used to support the protection of bird species in our rural area.

Finally, we 'virtually' ventured outside our village to Zambia! We have a longstanding relationship with Linda Community, located near Lusaka, Zambia, where we have developed a penpal system with children who attend this school which is largely supported by the Zambezi Sunrise Trust. Children got to speak to their penpal virtually, learning all about each other's schools and cultures.

News From Lealholm

Our River & Farm School



Oracy, Music and River School Adventures

Spring term has been a vibrant celebration of oracy, with children speaking, singing and performing confidently to wider audiences than ever before. Alongside our talented individual musicians who took part in the Eskdale Festival, this year brought exciting new developments. Our newly formed choir, led with warmth and expertise by Mrs Richards, delivered a beautiful performance of Land of the Silver Birch. For the first time in the school's history, the whole school came together to perform a compilation of seven songs—an impressive achievement that reflected our supportive community and the children's collective courage.

A standout moment was the Year 5 and 6 performance of their own composition, the Lealholm Canon, created through ethical collaboration and shared musical creativity. The choir will also perform at the Saturday evening gala concert, offering another opportunity to share their voices with the wider community.

We are proudly entering the Poetry by Heart competition for the first time, with children preparing class and individual poems for the regional event in Scarborough in April. This experience is helping them develop expressive skills and confidence when presenting to new audiences.

Our River School curriculum has continued to flourish, nurturing curiosity, exploration and ethical engagement with the natural world. Using our new River School space, generously provided on a parent's land, children have enjoyed meaningful outdoor learning. Heather Class embraced a challenging Beck Scrambling adventure with East Barnby instructors, showing remarkable resilience, while Fern Class learned vital water-safety skills through a Yorkshire Water Education Team assembly.

News From Castleton

Our Forest School



Inspiring Stories, Strong Voices and Shared Success

Another fantastic term at Castleton School has seen our children continue to be brave, resilient and the best they can be, living out our trust values and school oaths every day.

Our global links have continued to flourish as we strengthened friendships with our pen pals in Zambia. The children exchanged letters and took part in an engaging Zoom call with pupils from the Zambezi Sunrise Trust, sharing questions and learning about each other's culture. We also welcomed Joe Fishburn into school for a thought-provoking morning. His story of overcoming adversity inspired rich conversations about resilience and how our pupils can apply these lessons to challenges in their own lives.

Leadership remains a key focus at Castleton. This term, pupils enjoyed another exciting leadership day with Ms Twamley, where they learned the skills of a new sport—curling. Our sports leaders showed great confidence as they led the school through enriching and competitive activities, developing leadership qualities they can use during playtimes. Our Rights Respecting School Ambassadors have also been busy ensuring all voices are heard, creating classroom and playground charters to help children 'be the best they can be' while contributing to a respectful, kind school community.

Finally, in partnership with our friends from Glaisdale Primary School, pupils took part in the Straws Cup Football Tournament—a true demonstration of bravery and resilience. We are incredibly proud of the children who progressed to the finals of the Barclays Shield, which will take place at Whitby Town Football Club.

News From West Cliff

Our Beach School



A Busy, Bright and Brilliant Start to the Year!

We have had a very busy spring term at West Cliff! Alongside our usual lessons, we have made great use of our surroundings to create memorable learning experiences for our pupils.

Closer to home, we launched a new biking club for younger children, supported by staff who attended local training and secured a set of free balance bikes. We hope to expand this further by offering a club for Key Stage 2 children, potentially making use of the nearby pump track.

As a beach school, we continue to use our coastline as an outdoor classroom. Despite the colder weather, Year 3 explored the beach to find different types of rocks as part of their science investigations.

We have also enjoyed several visits this term. Year 1 visited Preston Park Museum as part of their history unit and took part in the 'All Aboard' exhibition, becoming mini train experts by building engines, dressing as railway workers and even shovelling coal!

Year 5 travelled furthest with their week-long residential at Peat Rigg Outdoor Centre. They experienced a wide range of adventurous and team-building activities, including abseiling, ziplining, conquering the Jacob's Ladder, caving, canoeing and much more—boosting their confidence in many ways.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the summer term. Year 6 has been busy fundraising for their upcoming visit to London. They recently organised a Valentine's disco and will soon run additional events, including a large raffle supported by donations from local businesses.

News From West Cliff

Our Beach School



Inspirational Gladiator!

All four of our village schools came together at Oakridge at the start of March for a truly memorable visit from Joe Fishburn, the winner of Gladiators. It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to meet someone who not only inspires through achievement, but through character.

Joe spoke to the children with genuine honesty and warmth about overcoming adversity, building resilience and never giving up. His message strongly reflected our Trust values of being nurturing, ethical and brave. He shared personal experiences in a way that was both relatable and motivating, leaving a lasting impression on everyone in the room. Of course, there was also a moment the children – and staff – will never forget: his effortless backflip, which left the hall in complete awe and excitement.

Taking inspiration from Joe's visit, the children quickly put his advice into action. Later that day, they took part in a cross-country run along the back lane in Hinderwell. Despite the muddy conditions, there were determined faces, encouraging voices and a real sense of teamwork throughout. It was wonderful to see pupils supporting one another and pushing themselves to keep going.

In a special highlight, Joe joined the run himself, cheering the children on and running alongside them. It was a powerful moment that brought his words to life and showed our pupils exactly what resilience, positivity and determination look like in practice.

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!

ATTENDANCE Matters!

Equates to number of school days off each year



MINUTES Matter!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Every school day counts **BUT** every minute is equally important!

ATTENDANCE Matters!

A Letter from the Secretary of State for Education to Airy Hill School

Dear Sam,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Airy Hill Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education

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