

Est.
1841

YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

Alumni Magazine

2023/2024

1841



Contents

Vice Chancellor's introduction	2	The School of Education, Language and Psychology	16
A new venue for York St John Communities Centre	3	The School of Science, Technology and Health	17
Your alumni benefits and upcoming events	4	Our new health simulation suite	18
Alumni events 2023/2024	6	York Business School	19
A Fundraising update	7	Our London campus: from strength to strength	20
Your YSJ Reunion	8	Five Coronations and counting	21
Supporting our students	10	What a year it's been	22
The School of the Arts	12	Crossword	23
The School of Humanities	13	What will your legacy be?	24
Spotlight on success: Martin Roberts	14		

Vice Chancellor's introduction

A very warm welcome to the 2023 edition of our Alumni magazine. It is always a pleasure to write to you, as a valued member of our community, and to have this opportunity to share more about the incredible work of our students and staff.

Inside these pages, you'll find lots of interesting content from exciting developments across our academic schools, and news from our growing London campus, to a nostalgic trip back in time to our historic Ripon campus. This edition is packed full of stories that help keep you connected with York St John University.

This year, our University has continued to illustrate its unwavering commitment to social justice. In March, we opened our Health Simulation Suite which provides specialist training facilities for some of the most vitally needed roles in our society, including nurses and paramedics. Earlier this month, we marked the launch of the York St John Communities Centre, which is enabling access to affordable mental health services for members of the public, as detailed on page 6. Our role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve has never been more important, and I am always inspired by the work of our students and staff to address some of the most crucial challenges facing our society today.

This includes the unforeseen pressures so many have faced as a result of the cost-of-living-crisis, and, in the winter of 2022, I was proud to announce an unprecedented package of support for our students and staff at York St John. Measures included our increased student support fund, frozen rents for all university-managed accommodation, subsidised clubs and societies, lower priced catering on campus, and the YSJ Larder; which is providing free food, toiletries and stationery from our campuses in York and London. This support has ensured that our students can continue to focus on their studies, achieve their learning outcomes, and go on to make meaningful contributions to our society following in the footsteps of our alumni.

On a personal note, I was delighted to meet so many of you at our alumni reunion event in July. Hearing your stories reminded me of the incredible reach and rich history of our community at York St John. I do hope that you will continue to be an active member of our ever-expanding University and look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming alumni events and activities, as detailed on page 6.

Kind regards
Professor Karen Bryan
 Vice Chancellor



A new venue for York St John Communities Centre

Founded in 2016 and based at York St John University, the York St John Communities Centre supports our local community.

This support includes free community groups and drop-in sessions, including a Community Language School, Bereavement Support Group and Breastfeeding Group. The Centre also offer coaching and counselling sessions which are priced on a sliding scale, starting at £12 a session. These heavily discounted sessions are run by mental health professionals and also provide student placement opportunities.

Alongside its community facing work, the Centre undertakes ground-breaking research in a range of areas, including the transition into parenthood, the experience of online therapy and the experiences of Covid-19 impacted grief by people in black Caribbean and black African communities.

Supporting language learning

Opened in September 2022, the Community Language School supports families to pass their language on to younger family members in a fun, structured environment. It also supports language learning for children who only speak English. Run by multilingual volunteers, including current students, the aim of the School is to develop children's language confidence, instil a love of language learning and teach more about heritage cultures where relevant.

Alongside teaching children new languages, the School supports volunteers in their own learning and enhances their professional practise in this area. The School also serves a research purpose, as it allows research into a number of areas, such as language learning and heritage language maintenance.

A new venue

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, work began on a new, specialist space for our Communities Centre. It wasn't the best time to begin work on a new building project that required extensive renovation and modernisation to meet Centre needs! But after a few setbacks caused by pandemic restrictions and lockdowns, work got back on track in 2022, and the new Centre location is due to open in Autumn 2023.

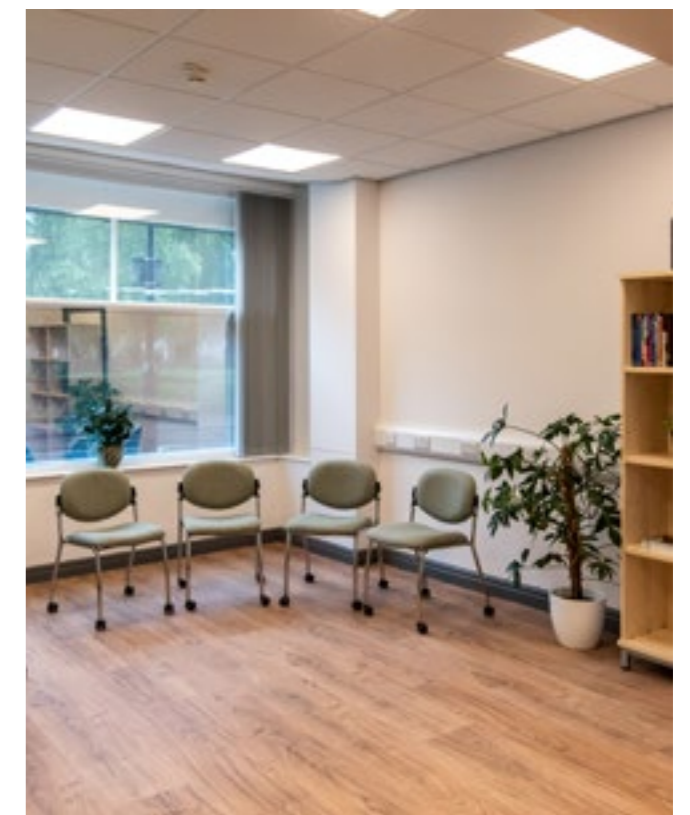
The new space on Clarence Street has been sympathetically renovated, and includes original period features like the original shop front. But the new Clarence Street location also includes modern, flexible space to support the work of the Centre. These spaces have been designed to maximise space, future-proof the Centre and create a dedicated space for a range of activities to take place.

The new Clarence Street Centre includes:

- Dedicated office space for Centre staff
- Counselling rooms for individual and small group sessions
- Meeting spaces for larger community groups
- Space for consultancy rooms
- Outdoor space for service users to enjoy

Thanks to the new dedicated space for Centre activity on Clarence Street, the Centre will continue to develop its community offering and streamline where it holds each activity. The Centre will also have dedicated resource space for students, allowing a wider range of multi-disciplinary projects, work-experience and learning to take place.

You can find out more about the York St John Communities Centre, including about community groups, research and fee-paying services on our website: yorks.ac.uk/working-with-the-community/communities-centre



Your alumni benefits and upcoming events

We are always looking at ways to improve our alumni community package, and in the last year this has included hosting a new bi-annual reunion, starting a new newsletter for our Ripon alumni and highlighting the careers of our alumni in webinars and on Alumination. This year we can't wait to hold some other types of event, continue our fundraising work and of course, continue offering a range of alumni benefits and services.

Showcasing alumni achievements

There are four main ways we showcase the fantastic achievements of our alumni community.

On our blog

In the past year we've featured blogs from professional writers, first time novelists, teachers and many more! Our blog has also included blogs delving into our history, including information about how we've historically marked Coronations.

Alumination

Since Spring 2023, we've been sharing your snapshots on our new Alumination site. Snapshots can be filtered by School to help you find relevant fellow alumni, or viewed as a whole if you're looking for a specific story.

Alumni snapshots

For the last year, we've asked alumni to submit their alumni snapshots. Each snapshot is a chance to share your memories of campus, tell us about your career since leaving us and share your advice for your fellow alumni.

Webinars

This year we released our second webinar series with alumni from a range of industries getting involved. We can't wait to release our third webinar series this autumn.



To read our most recent blog posts, explore Alumination, submit a snapshot or watch a webinar, please see our website:

yorks.ac.uk/alumni/alumni-community

Your alumni benefits

No matter when you graduated or which campus you studied at, you can access our alumni benefits package:

- Discounted room hire at our York campus
- Free library membership
- Access to our Alumni Business Directory
- Lifelong career support, including free appointments with trained career advisors
- 10% off your postgraduate fees on eligible courses, including PGCE courses
- Monthly newsletters with updates, information and more

We also offer an enhanced postgraduate fee discount for recent graduates on eligible courses. This can be as much as 50% off your course fees depending on what you were awarded last time you studied with us.



Find out more about your alumni benefits on our website: yorks.ac.uk/alumni/benefits-and-services

Quarterly campus newsletters

In 2022 we launched our quarterly Ripon alumni newsletter. Written for anyone who studied with us at Ripon College or Ripon campus, it's fantastic to reconnect with our Ripon alumni community in this way. Ripon newsletters are sent in March, June, September and December.

In January 2024, we're launching a quarterly newsletter for our London campus graduates. Including campus updates, information about accessing your alumni benefits and how to attend campus events we can't wait to send out the first one! London newsletters will be sent in January, April, July and October.

If you studied at our Ripon or London campuses, please update your details with us to make sure you receive your quarterly newsletter alongside your monthly newsletters.



You can update your details on our website: yorks.ac.uk/alumni/register-or-update-your-details

Alumni led reunions

If you're planning a reunion, please let us know! Whether you're meeting on campus, going out for lunch or something else, we'd love to know what you get up to. You can also use our step-by-step reunion guide to help plan your day.

The Alumni Office can also support your reunion by:

- Advertising it in our monthly newsletters or in a targeted email to specific groups
- Helping you book a room on campus and organising catering for your event
- Taking you on a historic tour of campus

Ongoing events through the year

- The Chancellor's lecture series begins in October and runs throughout the academic year.
- The Inaugural lecture series begins in October and runs through every academic term.
- There are four Performing House Events a year, two per semester.
- We will be releasing a new webinar every month in the academic year.

Stay in touch

You can stay in touch with us by following us on Facebook, X and Instagram. You can also join our LinkedIn group.



Alumni events 2023/2024

November 2023

We can't wait to celebrate our latest graduates in York Minster! This year, we'll also be hosting a separate graduation celebration at our London campus for our London graduates.

December 2024

On Monday 4 December, why not attend our annual Christmas Carol Concert in York Minster? You'll be able to book your free ticket from mid-November.

If you studied in Ripon, we hope to see some of you in December for a festive get together. Open to any alumni who studied at Ripon College or Ripon campus, please email alumni@yorks.ac.uk for more information.

March 2024

York Literature Festival will once again be taking over York this month. Event and booking information will be in your February and March newsletters.

Cordukes Circle members will be thanked for their continued support with an event in Spring. Find out more about our Cordukes Circle on page 7.

April 2024

In April, we can't wait to meet alumni at our first London campus event. Open to all alumni, keep an eye on your monthly newsletters for more information.

May/June 2024

In early summer, we'll be hosting the Yor-K Korean Festival. Including performances, practical demonstrations and more, booking will open in late Spring and will be included in your monthly newsletters.

June 2024

Join us as the Festival of Ideas takes over York with a range of events. You can also join us at York Pride. Keep an eye on your monthly newsletters for more information about both events.

August 2024

Get your trainers on! We'll be running the York 10k again to raise money for our alumni-funded scholarships. Join our team and support our runners from late Spring onwards.

October 2024

We can't wait to reconnect with alumni at our first North-East alumni event. Keep an eye on your newsletter and inboxes for more information.

How to book on to University events

Hear about upcoming events by following our Events team on social media



YSJEvents



YSJEvents



ysjuevents

You can contact our Events team by emailing events@yorks.ac.uk or calling 01904 876318.

Browse upcoming events and book your tickets on the events webpages:

yorks.ac.uk/events



Please note that the Events team cannot accept payment over the phone and can only answer questions relating to events hosted on campus.

A fundraising update

This year we've asked alumni to support our students in two new ways: attending Your YSJ Reunion and running the York 10k. Thanks to your enthusiastic support of both the reunion and York 10k, we can continue supporting the students who need it most.

This year we also invited more alumni to join our Cordukes Circle and attend the annual Spring Cordukes Circle event.

Cordukes Circle

This March our Vice Chancellor, Professor Karen Bryan OBE, thanked members of our Cordukes Circle for their continued support at the annual Spring Cordukes Circle event. Guests were given an insight into York St John University's future plans, toured our new Health Simulation Suite and heard from current scholarship recipients.

Matthew Taylor, Director of Marketing, Student Recruitment and Admissions, spoke about the importance of our scholarship provision and the impact scholarships have on students. The necessity of a scholarship for recipients was highlighted when they heard from two students, Eve and Richard.

'Unmeasurable' impact

Eve and her husband began their university courses to enhance their job prospects, and provide a 'better future' for their child. However, when the pandemic hit and one of them lost their job, they began to worry about their future.

“ I spoke to somebody at the student funding team who were really helpful and suggested that I apply for the scholarship. Luckily, I was accepted and the difference that it made to our family has just been unmeasurable. We were able to food shop regularly ... buy academic resources, pay for school uniforms, not have to rely on friends and family to help us out when we had bills to pay.”

Thanks to the support of the alumni-funded scholarships, Eve graduated in November 2022. She is now studying for a Doctorate of Counselling Psychology at York St John, something she had never considered doing until she began studying with us. For our Cordukes members, this powerful testimony reiterated the positive impact of their support on the lives of our scholarship recipients.

How can you join our Cordukes Circle?

Our Cordukes Circle brings together individuals who regularly donated for over 5 years or have donated a total greater than £1000. Those who have pledged a gift to the University in their will are also invited to join. In return for their generosity and commitment to the University, members gain access to exclusive events, receive regular updates from the university and a bespoke Cordukes pin.



A group of York St John staff, students and alumni took part in this year's York 10k. All runners raised money for our alumni-funded scholarships to support underrepresented students. The day was a huge success with some members of the team running a 10k for the first time and others smashing their personal bests!

We raised over £1300 for our alumni-funded scholarships thanks to the generosity of our alumni and wider community. For our first mass participation event for many years, we are really proud of what this event achieved in both money and collaboration between staff, students and alumni.

Watch this space for what next year will bring!



Your YSJ Reunion

In last year's magazine, we announced we were holding a reunion and invited our alumni to our York campus. On Saturday 22 July we welcomed over 200 alumni to campus for a day of reminiscing, food and fun!

Dancing in the rain

Although the July sunshine didn't make an appearance, the rain didn't dampen our spirits! The reunion was moved indoors in Temple Hall and attendees enjoyed meeting up with friends and creating new memories. After checking-in and receiving their custom lanyards, attendees received a warm welcome from the Alumni team before settling into deck chairs, listening to the DJ set and posing with our two new photo boards. Created specially for this reunion, the two boards allowed alumni to join the imposing, St John's College hockey team from 1920, or stand with students and staff in the 1898 Ripon College class photo. With alumni attending from the last 60 years of our history, our reunion really was about bringing our alumni together!

After enjoying the atmosphere and BBQ in Temple Hall, attendees had the option to take part in a city-wide treasure hunt and enjoy a special campus tour. We had 90 attendees join us across the two campus tours! Although some alumni visit campus frequently and enjoyed wandering around their old haunts, some attendees were experiencing campus for the first time since they graduated, or even the first time ever if they studied in Ripon or London. Alumni who brought guests who didn't study with us particularly enjoyed showing off their campus, and learning more about York St John's history. The fact our University Archive allowed us to display some archive material that is not usually on show provided a great talking point for everyone. Some of our group were even able to spot themselves in photographs from the archive.

Alumni who braved the rain to complete our treasure hunt had a great time discovering new parts of York, including Dick Turpin's reported grave! But ultimately it was the *Class of 2004* and *F Block* who won after completing the hunt in 2 hours. Congratulations to both teams!



An evening to remember

At six o'clock, our full day and evening attendees gathered for the second half of the reunion. Held in our dining room, diners enjoyed a drinks reception and performance by York-based musician Dom Patrick before their three-course meal began. After a fantastic, but slightly soggy day, many attendees gathered in the dining room extension and enjoyed the music until they were called inside to find their seats.

Between courses attendees heard about our scholarship work from Matthew Taylor, Director of Marketing, Student Recruitment and Admissions. Matthew thanked everyone for their support and introduced the Your YSJ Scholarship. This is a new group scholarship to reflect the current climate, where individuals may not be able to support a full student by themselves. Alumni can join like-minded individuals and support students of their choice through a bespoke scholarship. You can find out more about alumni-

funded scholarships on page 10 and more about this year's fundraising on page 7.

After dessert, we then drew the raffle, which included a range of fantastic prizes donated by local and alumni businesses. Prizes included tickets to York Races, a York Knights Shirt and a family pass to Jorvik. Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket and congratulations to everyone who won a prize! Thanks to our reunion attendees, the raffle raised a fantastic £485 for our scholarship fund.

As the evening meal and raffle drew to a close, the Students' Union was the final stop of the night. Before the event we had asked attendees to submit their song requests and they did not disappoint! From ABBA to ACDC, our reunion playlist truly showed the breadth of our alumni music taste! Some alumni also made their way into town and enjoyed visiting old haunts in York City Centre. Dancing in the rain indeed!

We would like to thank everyone who came to campus and celebrated our alumni community with us. If you were not able to attend this time, we hope to see you at future alumni events. Check out our planned alumni activity on page 6 to find out what we're planning next!



If you're thinking about organising your own reunion, make sure to check out our reunion guide for advice: yorks.ac.uk/media/content-assets/document-directory/documents/York-St-John-Alumni-Reunion-Guide.pdf

Your YSJ Reunion

As part of the reunion, a £10 contribution to our scholarship fund was included in each ticket price. Our raffle and pin badge sales were also in aid of our scholarship fund.

In total, Your YSJ Reunion raised £3400 for our alumni-funded scholarships. That's enough to support an undergraduate student throughout their three year degree! This is an amazing result, and we'd like to thank every reunion attendee for your generosity.



Supporting our students

In the past five years, we've been able to support 49 students thanks to your generous donations to our alumni-funded scholarships. Without you, we would not have been able to help as many students.

The students who apply for an alumni-funded scholarship come from a range of backgrounds, with different circumstances and reasons for applying. In the past five years you have helped support:

- 29 mature students
- 14 parents
- 11 individuals who are estranged from their families
- 14 carers
- 4 care leavers
- 35% of successful applicants fitted into more than one of the above criteria

What they studied

Our scholarship recipients have studied on 33 different degree courses, many of which help individuals from similar backgrounds to our recipients or centre on giving back to the community.

Second Year Children, Young People and Society student.

Having the scholarship there provided me with a safety net of funds so I could continue with a job that provided me career fulfilment, despite it not meeting my financial needs. In my role I support disadvantaged families with young children and I am pleased to be able to give back to a community so close to my heart and own circumstances."

Third Year Product Design student.

I decided I could use the scholarship in a way that benefited others as well. Over the summer break, I have used the money to pay for a Level 5 Teaching English as a Foreign Language course and a Level 3 Award in Education and Training course. This is having a direct impact on Refugees in York as I now teach English on a Wednesday morning in the university café to a mix of people who have found themselves in the care of Refugee Action York."

We still need your help

We are committed to supporting our scholarship recipients for the entirety of their academic journey with us. This means in any academic year, we are supporting new applicants and continuing to support successful recipients. In the 2022/3 academic year, we supported 19 students: nine new scholarship recipients and ten students from previous years.

Over the past 5 years only

22%

of students who applied for the scholarship were successful. We want to support more.

How can you support our students?

For the first time, we have sent everyone a magazine insert which highlights all the ways you can support our alumni-funded scholarships. If you can, please complete the form and return it using the prepaid envelope provided.

You can also set up a standing order to regularly support our students. Please email alumni@yorks.ac.uk and we will send you a hard copy of the form for you to complete.

If each person who receives this magazine donates just 76p each year, we would be able to support nine students year on year for the foreseeable future.

Your YSJ scholarship

In the current climate, we appreciate that individuals may not be able to contribute to a full scholarship by themselves. This is why you can create your own group YSJ scholarship to support students following in your footsteps. E-mail the team on alumni@yorks.ac.uk for more information on how to create Your YSJ scholarship.

“ My support, as an alumni, I hope will address whatever needs are there to help students at a particular moment... that will just help to carry them through whatever they're inspiring to do.”

David Metcalfe

“ I think giving students the chance and the support they need to really make the best of their time here does make a difference and they then go on to make a difference back.”

Professor Dianne Willcocks

Why do you support our students?

Our scholarship recipients are extremely thankful for the support of our donors. It has been fantastic to hear from them and the ways they have utilised the scholarship money.

Second Year Children, Young People and Society student.

“ The funding has helped to provide me and my son a lovely, homely environment that is safe for my son but also helps me to concentrate on my work at university.”



Our alumni-funded scholarships have changed names over the years. From the initial SPARK to the Vice Chancellor's scholarships, our aim to support more students access higher education remains the same. We would love to hear from past scholarship recipients about your experience during university and your career beyond our doors. Please email alumni@yorks.ac.uk your story.

The School of the Arts

At the end of the last academic year, our students and staff were very busy sharing their work with our campus community, industry professionals and York itself. This included final year performances, exhibitions, assessments, installations and various projects. Last year, we were proud to continue supporting our students with real-world practice through collaborations with various partners, including local theatre, the National Trust and Aesthetica.

Performance

Students in performance had really busy spring and summer terms. They staged our first full musical in several years, *Carrie*; brought our independent drama/ theatre project festival to fruition, developed our acting for screen show and excelled in our annual York Theatre Royal takeover. The International Centre for Community Music also continued to grow its partnerships with the University of Macedonia and the Greek Society of Music Education to celebrate community music making in Greece.



You can find out more our York Theatre Royal takeover on our website: yorks.ac.uk/news/2023/takeover-festival



You can learn more about our community music partnerships on our website: yorks.ac.uk/news/2023/community-music-making

Fine Art

At the end of each year, Fine Art hosts several exhibitions showcasing portfolios and creations from Fine Art, Illustration and Photography students. Two York St John University students also won the Eleanor Worthington Art Prize which is open to students from the UK, Ireland and Italy.



You can find out more about our two winners on our website: yorks.ac.uk/news/2022/eleanor-worthington-prize-2022

This year's Fine Art students also worked with the Institute for Social Justice on the Living Lab Project responding to their focus of food equity.

Music Production

This summer we hosted BBC Music Introducing's new radio show 'Balcony Sessions' at our Creative Centre. Students gained real-life experience creating content for a weekly BBC radio broadcast with BBC Radio York, and were encouraged to get involved no matter what stage of their course they were at.



Find out more about these sessions on our website: yorks.ac.uk/news/2023/balcony-sessions

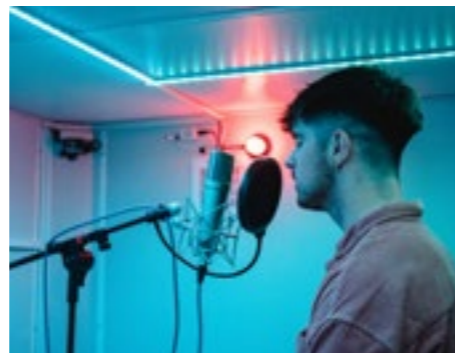
Design

Design has been working to develop more VR/AR experiences, and working closely with Aesthetica on recent installations.



You can find out more about this collaborative work on our website: yorks.ac.uk/news/2023/vr-showcase

Since completing their courses with us, our graduates have gone on to create and work on some inspiring projects. One recent graduate has even secured a role with Disney on an upcoming animation series, a fantastic achievement! We can't wait to see what our most recent graduates get up to as they begin their careers.



The School of Humanities

The School of Humanities has had a busy year! Including the creation of a new postgraduate course, supporting the bi-annual York Shakespeare Festival and continuing to support students with fantastic opportunities, here's three highlights from The School of Humanities.

Environment and Social Justice MA

In September 2023, York St John University welcomed its first Environment and Social Justice MA students. Delivered by a multi-disciplinary team which includes staff from Geography, English Literature, Politics, Theology, and the York Business School, students are introduced to a range of approaches which echo the central concern of our Institute for Social Justice. This allows students to explore how different disciplines individually and collaboratively cultivate a more sustainable future. By working with stakeholders and affected communities, students are also able to explore philosophical and research-based approaches to nature-society interactions.

If you have experience or an interest in this area, we'd love to see you in our classes next autumn! Thanks to our multi-disciplinary approach, we're happy to consider students from a range of subject areas. Read more about the course:



yorks.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/geography/environment-and-social-justice-ma/

A Weekend in Grasmere

In May, Creative Writing postgraduate students attended a writing retreat in Grasmere. Their itinerary was straight from a writer's bucket list and included:

- Exploring Dove Cottage, a museum dedicated to Grasmere's writing legacy
- An archaization workshop which included Dorothy Wordsworth's journal
- The chance to hold priceless first editions, including *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Chloe Hanks, who was on the trip, described the moment they left Grasmere:

Sunday morning dawned shrouded by fog, stealing our last glimpse of the lake. As we pulled away from Grasmere, I tried to capture the moment we left behind us:

My poems are mere whispers drowning in the fog that coats the peaks of each mountain – like elusive ghosts dancing to a melody only I can hear.

Trees sprout from wisps of grey, roots soaking up words from the poets of yesterday: who am I to write of the phantoms along the skyline and the way it makes me want to cry?

How I wish I had the pleasure of an ache in my heart so that I might sob out my soul here, and call it art.

Chloe Hanks, postgraduate Creative Writing student

York International Shakespeare Festival

In April, York St John worked with the York International Shakespeare Festival as a key venue and partner. Our Creative Centre hosted award-winning productions, including a physical theatre production of *Macbeth* and Tim Crouch's one man show, *Truth's a Dog Must to Kennel*. The festival also included workshops, displays and an afternoon exploring Shakespeare (and) Sanctuary. We celebrated how Shakespeare unites us in divisive times with international guests and contributors from Romania, Poland, Croatia and Ukraine.

The sold-out production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by the Kyiv National Academic Molodyy Theatre was a festival highlight. Joyous and life affirming, the audience included Ukrainians currently seeking sanctuary in York. Molodyy also talked about their experience of making theatre in a time of conflict.

Thanks to student volunteers and work placements, we're delighted to have welcomed so many people to the festival. The Pass It On scheme which helped refugees, asylum seekers and those from the Ukrainian community attend events for free was another important part of the festival which we hope to continue moving forward.

With thanks to Dr Ben Garlick, Senior Lecturer (Geography); Chloe Hanks, Creative Writing postgraduate student; Dr Saffron Vickers Walkling, Senior Lecturer (English Literature) and YISF advisor; and Professor Abi Curtis (Creative Writing) for their contributions to this article.

Spotlight on Success: Martin Roberts

In September 1980, Martin Roberts started his Film, History and TV course at The College of Ripon and York St John (CRYSJ). As one of only three places offering this course combination, Martin chose CRYSJ because of our state-of-the-art equipment and small, friendly campus community. In the 40 years since Martin graduated, he's filmed everything from Eurovision coverage to King Charles III's Coronation celebrations! And where did it all begin? Right here at York St John.

A student city

When Martin studied with us, our York campus was almost a mini-city, an "academic quarter in the city centre itself". Martin spent his first and fourth years living on campus, and the rest living in student houses around York, enjoying the student atmosphere available both on and off campus.

Martin remembers his time studying with us as hugely formative. By the time he graduated, Martin was convinced of what he wanted to achieve during his career thanks to the skills he was taught during his course. For Martin, visual storytelling became embedded in his worldview, and Martin learnt how to watch and listen instead of simply looking and listening. Perhaps of equal importance was learning that the basis of successful production is teamwork and healthy, simulating collaboration between colleagues.



Mountains of film

In March 1991, Martin secured his first BBC role, as an archivist. His first project was relocating a large film archive from the decommissioned Lime Grove Studios, a fantastic job for someone who studied History! This archive included all the film packages from a topical news programme that ran from 1970 to 1983. Although each segment was only three minutes long, many of them had been transmitted on the day and then not touched for nearly 20 years!

A BBC career

After four years in the archives, Martin secured his role as a cameraman, and he never looked back! Since then, Martin has travelled around the world with the BBC and filmed coverage of important events, including in 2005 the record-breaking nonstop flight from Hong Kong to London. In the space of two days, Martin literally circled the globe twice! In recent years, Martin has also filmed coverage of nationally important events many of us will be familiar with. For Martin, no two days are the same. When we caught up with him, he'd just completed some filming in Scotland, and was due back in London the next morning to film BBC Breakfast!

In such a long career, Martin has filmed everything from light-hearted community pieces to some of our worst national disasters. On 14 June 2017, Martin was tasked with filming Grenfell Tower. Martin's job was to separate himself from what he was witnessing to do the vital job of bringing awareness to a national tragedy.

“You suddenly realise you're in control of what you record, and how you record it for your audience. It was at York St John I understood how these things can come together and how to speak to your audience.”

Crossing the line from student to professional

Martin secured his first job with Wrexham Community Video in North Wales in 1985. His first job involved producing community films, and teaching local people about filmmaking. The ability to establish a camera position to create a line of continuity for the audience, known as 'crossing the line', was particularly important to teach.

A year later, Martin started working for the University of Liverpool's Television Unit which, rare at the time, had broadcasting capability. This was a big step up in terms of equipment, and the professional standard required, especially as the unit was also home to Liverpool's BBC linked studio! But this experience still wasn't good enough for the BBC, who still required an engineering qualification if you wanted to be considered for an operational role.

“Graham Greene had a phrase: you put your soul on ice. You have to, because you were there, and this is where the job kicks in. In front of you is an appalling atrocity. I'm hearing things that I shouldn't really be hearing in real life, that no one should be hearing or experiencing.

You can hate yourself for it, because you have to distance yourself, because someone has to do this. Your sanity is saved by the sequence in a way because it's not just one shot, it's a sequence of shots. You have to think, well, what's my next shot?”



From half a ton to handheld

Since Martin's student days, broadcasting has changed almost beyond recognition. From half a ton cameras, to mobile phones capable of filming broadcast quality material, some things have changed a lot. The emphasis on filming by mutual consent and the importance of staff wellbeing have also seen massive improvements since the start of Martin's career. When Martin started at the BBC, the idea of staff wellbeing, including offering counselling and protective equipment, was in its infancy.

But not everything has changed so dramatically. When Martin films State Occasions, like the recent Coronation, there are various conditions that must be met for the film to air. But someone in the crowd can livestream with no restrictions. Some things just haven't changed as much as our technology!



Looking ahead

When Martin visited campus in March 2023, he led an insightful workshop for students. But it wasn't just about teaching, it was also about learning from student perspectives. In such a fast-paced industry, Martin is always learning and developing his craft. The chance to chat with students and see campus was a way of both reconnecting to the past, and seeing how the future might unfold.

You can watch Martin's workshop with students as part of our upcoming webinar series.



“I was fired by the passion. I wanted ownership: that's my shot, that's my sound. You need to find motivation. If you've got the fire, keep it kindled.

The School of Science, Technology and Health



At York St John University, we're rightly proud of our achievements. In the past year, the School of Science, Technology and Health has developed new courses with fantastic facilities (page 18), continued to work within our wider community, and become the top provider of a specialist course.

Supporting refugees and asylum seekers

Recently, mass migration has hit record levels due to war, conflict and political persecution.

In the UK, people seeking asylum or refugee status encounter significant barriers to integration, which often results in occupational deprivation. At York St John, occupational therapy staff have developed mutually beneficial relationships with local partners, and a drop-in for asylum seekers and refugees in Stockton-Upon-Tees. These relationships have facilitated:

- Research with a global reach, co-produced by students and staff which has informed UK policy.
- Regular student talks from drop-in service users and an invitation to contribute to the annual OT Society Christmas Talent Show to support cultural understanding and integration.
- 10 students named as authors on peer-reviewed papers.
- The OT Society has led a campaign for clothing, toiletries and household donations for the drop-in. Please email alumni@yorks.ac.uk if you would like to get involved.

Community allotment project

York St John has several allotments at our Haxby Road facility, some of which are now part of our community allotment project. In this project, occupational therapy students work with local refugees to support their community integration, wellbeing and facilitate dignified and meaningful occupation. This year, students will also collaborate with York City of Sanctuary in 'The Backyard Project'. This project involves regenerating and transforming a garden for a recently arrived Ukrainian family.

Both community projects create lasting impact for all involved. For students, they support student understanding of global problems through professional relationships with people from different cultures. The chance to be part of research which could positively impact public policy, and the lives of asylum seekers and refugees is invaluable. Likewise, the chance to bypass media manipulation by engaging and educating students on why they have migrated, and their subsequent occupational needs, is an important way of getting their voices heard.

In 2018, York St John was awarded University of Sanctuary status, in part thanks to this work. Looking ahead, these projects and relationships will continue to develop alongside our Institute for Social Justice.



You can read more about the impact of the community drop-in service in their recent research: emeraldinsight.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1108/IJMHC-07-2018-0042

Data Science

In addition to the great work of Occupational Therapy colleagues, the School has also made great strides in providing one of the first Degree-level apprenticeships for Data Scientists. Last year, York St John made history as the first UK institution to see a cohort of apprentices complete their Data Science Degree Apprenticeship and this was done with a 100% End Point Assessment (EPA) pass rate; a remarkable achievement that reflects the hard work of apprentices, employer-partners and the STH team.

The School has become the country's leading provider of this apprenticeship, delivering over 36% of the country's data scientist apprenticeships and we're proud to partner with several leading employers in the region and across the UK.

The Data Science Degree Apprenticeship is designed and delivered by our experts led by Dr Malak Olamaie to meet the needs of both learners and employers in the digital age and offers a flexible, tailored approach to develop the 21st century skills and knowledge needed to work in this rapidly expanding industry with content ranging from mathematical modelling and computing skills to artificial intelligence.



The School of Education, Language and Psychology

The School of Education, Language and Psychology works across a broad range of subjects and takes part in numerous different projects. From international events to Ofsted inspections, it's been a busy year for our staff and students!

Languages and Linguistics

In November 2022, students and staff took part in the Hachijo Taiko Challenge. The annual 24-hour event aims to link players of Hachijo-style drumming across the globe. Groups joined the event via Zoom from Singapore, the USA, Germany and many regions of Japan! If you would like to learn more about this unique style of community drumming, please contact Mary Murata, Senior Lecturer in Japanese by emailing m.murata@yorks.ac.uk.



You can watch our student and staff livestream contribution on YouTube from 1 hour 15 minutes: youtube.com/watch?v=wAkycmxR52l&t=4835s

Psychology

Last year, students and staff in Psychology collaborated with the Aesthetica Short Film Festival to run a series of public events on the topic of 'memory'. Dr Scott Cole, a cognitive psychologist and an Associate Professor of Psychology at York St John University, wrote a blog for the British Psychological Society (BPS) about this Aesthetica collaboration.



You can learn more about this collaboration on the BPS website: bps.org.uk/psychologist/teaching-psychology-through-film

If you would like to learn more about our research in this important area, please contact Scott: s.cole1@yorks.ac.uk.

Education

“There is something special about York St John trainees. They are diligent, kind, caring and self-reflective.”

If you trained to be a teacher with us, you might recognise yourself in that description from our most recent Ofsted report!



You can read our full Ofsted report on their website: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50184286>

Counselling

The Director of the York St John Communities Centre, Professor Lynne Gabriel, was awarded an OBE for her services to mental health and higher education in the (last of the) Queen's Birthday 2022 Honours list.



We are very proud of Lynne's outstanding contribution, which you can read about on our website: yorks.ac.uk/news/2022/lynne-gabriel-obe/lynne-gabriel-obe.php



If you've been thinking about expanding your knowledge, why not consider our Education MA with your 10% alumni discount? Find out more on our website:



yorks.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/children-young-people-and-education/education-ma/

Our new health simulation suite

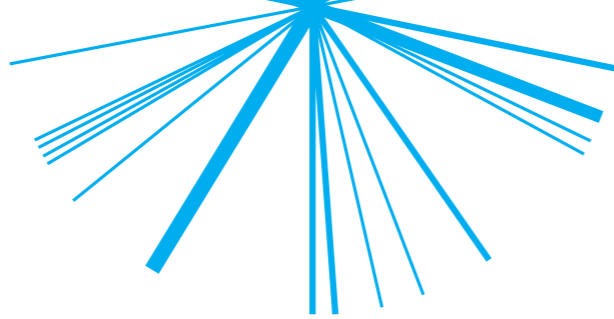
Once home to our swimming pool, if you walk into our Foss building, you'll see a very different type of learning happening. Our new health simulation suite supports over 500 students across our Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Paramedic Science courses. Officially opened by Health Education England's Regional Head of Nursing (North East and Yorkshire), Professor Laura Serrant OBE on Thursday 30 March 2023, our first student groups began using the new spaces to develop their skills in September 2022.

Space for new and old courses

We've proudly been training Occupational Therapists for over 40 years, but when we decided to offer Nursing and Paramedical Science courses, we realised we'd need more specialist space to teach our growing range of allied health courses. This led to the conversion of Foss to create:

- Two hospital simulation wards, each with a sluice and clean room
- Two large clinical skills rooms for paramedic science
- Specialist physiotherapy and occupational therapy skills rooms
- Consultation rooms
- Dedicated lecture and seminar space
- A mock independent living flat for community-based nursing and allied health roles

These spaces provide students with realistic settings to practise and develop their skills. The mock flat is especially useful for creating different scenarios for students and has also been used in multi-disciplinary simulation days.



Simulating real life

In every new room, there are specialist pieces of equipment from hospital, community and everyday settings. In the wards, students work with equipment like stethoscopes, ECG machines and a resus trolley as part of their timetabled learning. The wards are also equipped with realistic manikins which can be programmed to blink, breathe and even move depending on the scenario!

Our clinical rooms include ambulance structures, Realiti 360 paramedic simulation kit bags, synthetic skin for realistic feeling canulations and skinless anatomical manikins. This equipment enables effective simulation of emergency scenarios and develops student's understanding of the human body.

Multi-disciplinary scenarios

In the past year, emergency simulations have been held on campus to give students from a range of disciplines the chance to respond in real time. This has included a simulated car crash, with students from allied health courses, policing and journalism taking part to develop their skills in an emergency scenario. As part of this, the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Yorkshire Ambulance Service also attend to offer industry-standard experience and further their own training.

We can't wait to see how these Allied Health courses develop at York St John University and look forward to welcoming some of our first cohorts from nursing into our alumni community soon!

York Business School

Our York Business School includes a number of diverse courses studied at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. From working within our local community, to considering social justice in video game development and gameplay, York St John University continues to look outward.

A Gaming Masterclass

This year, in partnership with the investigate.games research group based at York St John, we'll be showcasing an exciting array of video games at The Aesthetica Games Lab. Running between 7 and 12 November 2023 at Spark in York, this Lab focuses on social justice issues. Alongside the opportunity for independent creators to have their work played, the Lab will highlight the ways we can write, develop and play video games in a socially just way.

As well as offering masterclasses on these topics, attendees can take part in guided sessions run by investigate.games to explore important social issues within the games themselves. The Lab will also showcase our leading research into gaming, mental health, education and social justice.

To find out more and book your place on a masterclass, visit the Aesthetica Short Film Festival website: asff.co.uk.

Supporting our local community

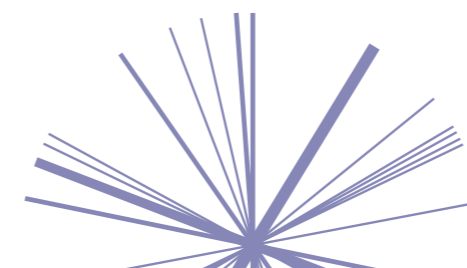
In September 2020, York St John Law Clinic opened to support final year law students develop their professional identities whilst gaining valuable, transferable skills. The clinic also helps students appreciate the benefits of giving back to their community. Students work by interviewing clients, identifying client objectives and undertaking legal research before preparing letters of advice or drafting legal documents.

In 2021, postgraduate LLM Legal Practice students and second year law students joined the clinic. Students also began supporting a project which sees students complete forms and take notes for unrepresented people at family proceedings at local courts.

This year, we provided advice and assistance to 136 members of the public who cannot get help elsewhere.

Nathan Foster, a postgraduate clinic student, said

“The law clinic has been invaluable in allowing me to gain experience of how the law works in practice with real life clients, developing the skills I will need to pursue my career in law.”



An international reputation

Tourism continues to be a key sector for both regional, national and international growth. As well as generating substantial economic benefits, tourism raises important issues of sustainability and well-being that require careful management. Our York St John Visitor Economy and Experience Research Group has an international research reputation thanks to its research on areas including:

- Collaborative strategy development
- Sustainability
- Community engagement in tourism
- Gendered experiences of tourism
- The importance of tourism education

Our interventions contribute to dynamic sector growth and address key issues like sustainability, well-being and social-economic concerns. In fact, Dr Brendan Paddison, Associate Professor and Associate Dean in York Business School, leads this group and also chairs the York Tourism Advisory Board. The Board, which represents over 40 local and regional stakeholders, is currently developing a new tourism strategy for York which focuses five key priorities: sustainable visitor economy, green York, culture, local-hood, and skills and recruitment.

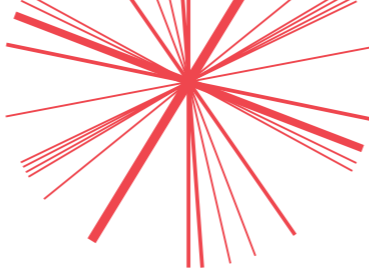
Support your staff with degree apprenticeships

At York St John, we continue to recognise the importance of nurturing talent and staying ahead of the curve in today's dynamic business landscape. In 2016, a new pathway in education emerged, transforming the options available to working people. Degree apprenticeships offer a transformative and innovative approach that combines academic learning with valuable work experience.

Revolutionise your workforce by developing talent, future-proof your business and cultivate new solutions. If you are interested in developing your career or your workforce with a York St John apprenticeship, please see our current degree apprenticeships on our website: yorks.ac.uk/study/degree-apprenticeships



Our London campus: from strength to strength



The London Campus (YSJ London) has recently undergone an incredible transformation and period of sustained growth, showing no signs of slowing down!

By moving our campus from Glasshouse Yards at Barbican, to Republic at East India Docks we have more than doubled our physical space. This has enabled us to recruit more students than ever before, approximately 1700 at YSJ London alone. This expansion included successfully launching three new masters' programmes, with a further three launching in the 2023/4 academic year. We can't wait to welcome students onto the following courses:

- Digital Marketing MSc
- International Project Management MSc
- Global Healthcare Management MSc
- Data Science MSc
- International Entrepreneurship and Innovation MSc
- Public Health MSc

During our first year in our new home, we've invested in the student and staff experience to ensure YSJ London is a thriving and diverse place to study and work. Our Venture Creation Lab (VCL) and placement year opportunities are going from strength to strength, with more students and staff getting involved and producing better outcomes.



Focussing on the student experience

In the past year, we've developed our student experience by investing in new staff roles to better support our students. This has included providing dedicated visa support on campus for international students, and expanding our academic skills development programme. In response to the cost of living crisis, we opened the London Larder to better support our student community. The Larder provides students with free essentials, including non-perishable food and toiletries. We have also partnered with a local social enterprise to provide students a healthy homecooked meal on campus.

Inside the classroom, we've enhanced the student experience by working with local and national businesses to create student placements and projects. This led to the creation of the London Advisory Board to facilitate knowledge exchange between the commercial and education sectors.



More space, more opportunities

Looking ahead, we are once again doubling our floor space by investing in an additional floor at YSJ London. This will nearly double our student numbers to just under 3000 students! Alongside more teaching and communal student space, the new floor will host our London Enterprise Centre too, an incubator space where student-led, alumni-led and commercial businesses can be supported in bringing their entrepreneurial ideas to life. The Centre will facilitate access to a host of resources and events to build the skills, knowledge and networks needed for their businesses to develop.

Students and businesses will also be able to utilise our Virtual Reality headsets as well as our Maker Space facilities to truly immerse themselves in their work and enhance their creative and entrepreneurial experience.

YSJ London has advanced significantly in the space of a year, and we're proud to continue developing our campus and student experience. In the next year, we're excited to launch our new programmes, welcome new students and further develop our business partnerships. If you're interested in studying with us at YSJ London, remember you can still use your alumni discount on our eligible courses.

We are always looking for ways to work with our alumni community, so if you would like to get involved with YSJ London, please email alumni@yorks.ac.uk.

Five Coronations and counting

Since our foundation in 1841, we've marked five Coronations! But only one of these Coronations has been as York St John University, the rest happened so long ago we were still separate colleges. At a time when society was very different, Coronations were a national spectacle that were eagerly celebrated. This year's Coronation marked our first since we reunified, closed our Ripon campus, became York St John University and opened our London campus!

Archival research

To find out how our students marked the Coronations in 1902, 1911, 1937 and 1953 we turned to old editions of college magazines. Edited internally by students or staff members, these magazines were paid for by subscription. When students completed their courses with us, they were invited to join their college alumni association, for a small yearly fee. In fact, one thread which runs through both college magazines is a request for alumni to pay their memberships and update their details! Regarding the request to update details, it seems some things never change.

Both magazines mentioned club activities, their successes in sporting fixtures and yearly student events. But, we were surprised to discover the Coronations were barely mentioned. In fact, the St John's College magazine didn't mention anything Coronation related, despite their national importance.



Red, white and blue

The best insight into what students did to celebrate a Coronation came from the 1911 Ripon College magazine. Students helped decorate their College in red, white and blue, and planned a day of celebrations.

On 22 June 1911, Coronation Day, students attended Ripon Cathedral's celebratory service, hosted their own service of celebration in their 1899 chapel and staged a Coronation concert.

The magazine didn't tell us what music they played, but it did reveal that after their celebrations, they all raised a toast to the King's health. Perhaps surprisingly, this toast was made with lemonade rather than with anything alcoholic.

Afterwards, some students braved the darkness to walk to a nearby vantage point to see local Coronation beacons. Part of a national initiative, towns, villages and cities around the country constructed large bonfires to mark the big day.

Marking our fifth Coronation

At the start of May, we marked the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen consort Camilla. Our Christian Union collaborated with our Global campus to host a fun-filled afternoon tea to celebrate the Coronation on Wednesday 10 May. Our Boat Club also took part in a Coronation Regatta hosted by Durham Amateur Rowing Club and had a fantastic time taking part with other local clubs.



On campus, our flagpole over the original Lord Mayor's Walk entrance flew the Union Jack over the Coronation weekend and students enjoyed their second bank holiday of the month! The Union Jack also made several appearances around the city, including the infamous 'brolly walk' down Coppergate, which included Union Jack and Coronation cypher umbrellas.

How were important events marked when you studied with us?

What a year it's been!

We've held an all-years, all-campus reunion; run together to raise money for our alumni-funded scholarships and continued to offer you webinars, newsletters and chances to attend campus events. We hope that in the past year, you've been able to get involved with some of our activities!



In the 2023/4 academic year, we're excited to hold a graduation celebration at our London campus, host a Christmas event for our Ripon alumni and organise two regional networking events. Your monthly and quarterly newsletters will also continue as normal, and we're looking forward to connecting with our London campus alumni with a new quarterly newsletter from January 2024.

Over the next year, your alumni-funded scholarships will support more students reach their potential. Your continued support, no matter the size or frequency of your donations, is the reason we

can continue to support students in your name. Together, we can help students thrive during their time at university.

We can't wait to share your stories, celebrate your successes and welcome you back to campus over the next year.

Best wishes,

The Alumni Team

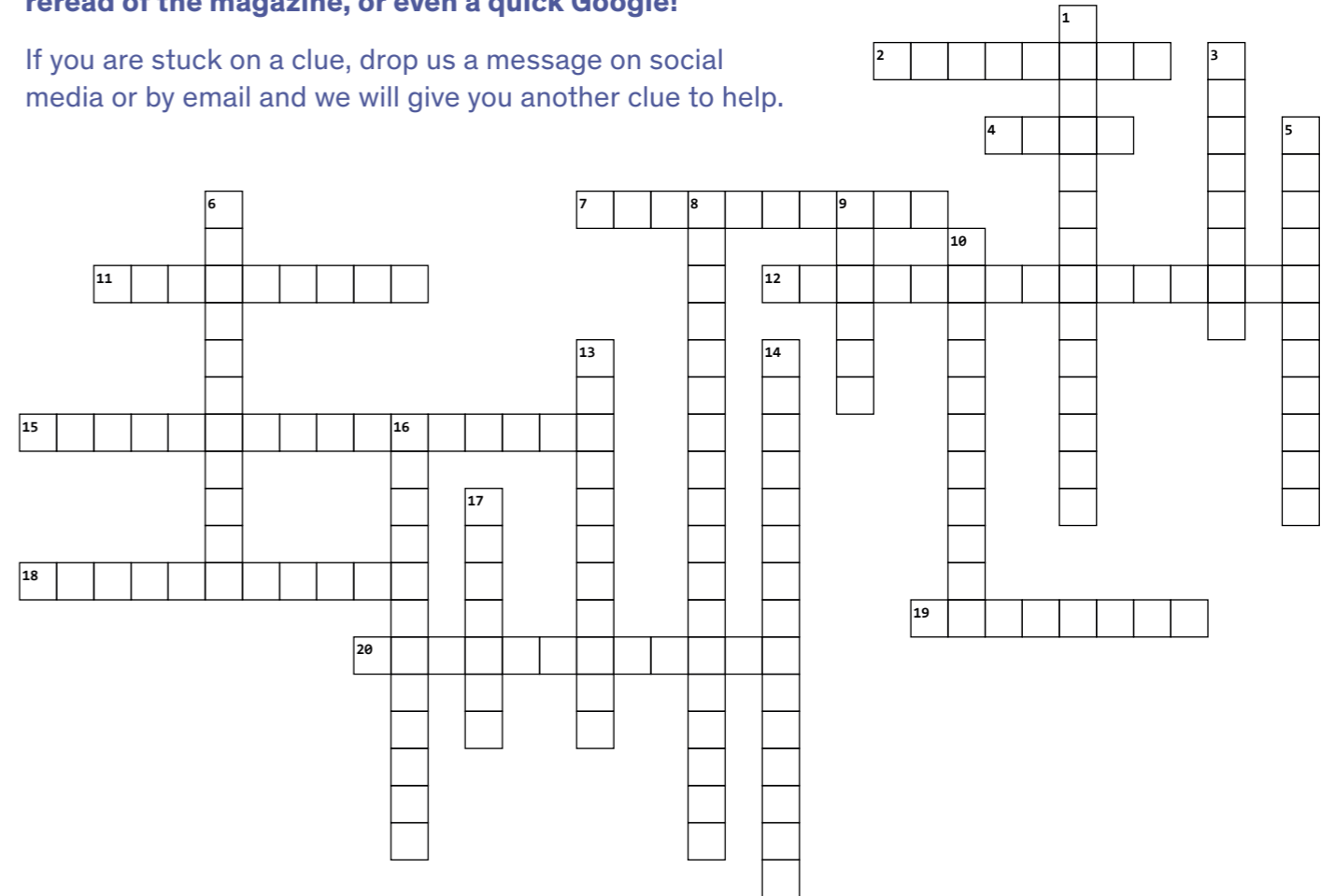
Amy Jess Lucy Susanna Sally



Alumni crossword

It wouldn't be an alumni magazine without a crossword! This year we have included clues from the magazine and some to test your general knowledge about York and Ripon. Some of these clues might require a reread of the magazine, or even a quick Google!

If you are stuck on a clue, drop us a message on social media or by email and we will give you another clue to help.



Across

- 2. What was the name of the Scottish Queen turned patron saint of Ripon College? (8)
- 4. Where did we originally plan to host the Your YSJ Reunion BBQ? (4)
- 7. What will students showcase at The Aesthetica Games Lab this November? (5, 5)
- 11. How often do we send out the Ripon newsletter? (9)
- 12. What did a local social enterprise provide for our London students? (4,6,5)
- 15. Getting to our London campus is very easy, simply jump on the DLR and get off at what station? (4, 5, 7)
- 18. Where can you read completed alumni snapshots? (11)
- 19. In 1911, students and staff in Ripon toasted the King's coronation with what? (8)
- 20. Our London campus is only for what level of course? (12)

Down

- 1. What's our newest building on campus called? (8, 6)
- 3. What day is Ripon's market held? (8)
- 5. York St John is a leading provider of apprenticeships in which field? (4, 7)
- 6. During Your YSJ Reunion one lucky raffle winner won tickets to which scary, local attraction? (4, 7)
- 8. Which roman emperor has a statue outside York Minster? (7, 11)
- 9. Students and staff from Psychology ran a series of public events on which topic? (6)
- 10. Where did students visit during their writing retreat? (4,7)
- 13. Our London campus is close to which well-known business district? (6, 5)
- 14. BBC Introducing hosted what in our Creative Centre? (7, 8)
- 16. Heralded as 'the Stonehenge of the North', what's the name of the henges near Ripon recently gifted to the nation? (12)
- 17. What was the middle name of our first student? (7)

Crossword answers
 Across: 2. Margaret; 4. Quad; 7. Video Games; 11. Quarterly; 12. Home cooked meals; 15. East India Station; Memory; 10. Dove Cottage; 13. Canary Wharf; 14. Balcyny Sessions; 16. Thornborough; 17. Preston.
 Down: 1. Creative Centre; 3. Thursday; 5. Data Science; 6. Emperor Constantine; 9. Alumnation; 13. Lemnade; 20. Postgraduate.



What will your legacy be?

A gift in your will can leave a lasting impact on the University and the students who go here.

“ I applied for this scholarship because I still believe I can achieve something meaningful in my life despite [my] current situation as an asylum seeker...

The finance I was given last year has helped me in so many ways that I can even imagine when it comes to transportation and food, equipment, and essential needs for...commuting to University during each week.”

Current scholarship recipient

Making a will is very personal and we strongly advise that you consult a solicitor before drafting a new will or changing an existing one. Alternatively, if you are local to York, our York St John Law Clinic is on hand to help with any queries you may have.

Leaving a gift in your will to York St John is simple. All you need is our address, charity number and your intention for the legacy.

Our address:

**York St John University
Lord Mayor's Walk
York, YO31 7EX**

Our exempt charity status number:
GB 4498 683

“ Leaving a gift in my will...is for me, really a “no brainer”, especially if the money will be used specifically to support students from backgrounds and contexts traditionally underrepresented at university.”

Legacy pledger and former Head of School of Linguistics and Social Science

If you have already pledged to leave a gift to York St John in your will, please consider contacting us for our legacy pledge form to tell us more about your gift. This will also give us the opportunity to personally thank you for your generosity and invite you to become part of our Cordukes Circle. Alternatively, for a confidential chat about leaving a gift in your will to York St John, please email alumni@yorks.ac.uk.



Est.
1841

**YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY**