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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE
2020



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INTRODUCING OUR NEW VICE CHANCELLOR

In April 2020, York St John University welcomed a new Vice Chancellor, Professor Karen Bryan, OBE. Professor Bryan joined York St John from the University of Greenwich, where she held the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) since 2017.

Commenting on her appointment, Professor Bryan said: "I am honoured and excited to

be joining York St John University as Vice Chancellor. The University is recognised for its outstanding student experience and for its commitment to regional economic, social and cultural development. I look forward to working with staff and students to continue to develop as a University focussed on academic excellence, community and raising aspirations for all".



INTRODUCTION

IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT FOR OUR ALUMNI TEAM – AS FOR EVERYONE AROUND THE GLOBE – THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

Usually, we love welcoming alumni back for reunions, showing you around your favourite parts of campus, and bringing old friends back together. We were hoping to see many of you at new alumni events in York, and to start taking the YSJ community to you in your local pub. Sadly, it hasn't been possible.

Through all the challenging times, we have been so touched and impressed by the kindness, determination, and bravery of our alumni community. So many of you are working hard

to continue to provide essential services. Others of you are doing your bit to keep everyone safe in different ways, making difficult personal sacrifices.

We have all learned about the importance of our personal connections, and just how fragile these connections can be. Please remember that your Alumni team is here to support you – even if that's just with a chat. Get in touch at alumni@yorks.ac.uk or on 01904 876741. We would be delighted to hear from you.

This year, we hope your memories of your time at YSJ and Ripon have been a source of escape, strength and courage when you have needed it.

Billy Emily Ceria Jess

YSJ REPLAY AND RIPON REWIND:
YOUR MUSICAL THROWBACK

2020 was the year of YSJ Replay and Ripon Rewind! Music has the power to take us back to a specific time and place. Which song takes you back to your student years?

We compiled Spotify playlists to capture the musical histories of York St John University and Ripon College, and they are filled with your music memories! Listen to the playlists of your decade or take a musical journey through time with our Ultimate playlists, featuring one winning song per graduation year. Find us on Spotify: open.spotify.com/user/yorkstjohn

We asked some YSJ staff alumni to get us started:

**Gangnam Style by Psy**

Alice Riley, graduated 2015

"Always playing during Freshers!"

A Thousand Trees by Stereophonics

Rachel Fennel, graduated 2001

"The one that got everyone up and bouncing on a Tuesday night in the downstairs room of the Gallery!"

Voodoo People/Blood Sugar by Pendulum

Alex Deacon, graduated 2011

"This song was the song – last song in the club, the one we all wanted, the one where everyone danced! Although they never played it in Willow! Ah Willow – the worst night club ever, but it was the best!"

Coming soon...

If you could mark all the most important places of your student days on a map, what would it look like?

Keep an eye out for your alumni newsletters and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to find out more! @ysj alumni

**Thrift Shop by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis**

Matt Jones, graduated 2013

"I was living back at Gray's Wharf, and although it was my job to ensure that students weren't playing their music too loudly, I would ALWAYS turn my radio up when this song came on."

The Less I Know The Better by Tame Impala

Scott Halewood, graduated 2018

"This was a song that was always on and always found a way to relax me through uni. It wound up in some great memories."

A HELPING HAND IN THE YSJ COMMUNITY

A lot has changed since spring, when your 2020 alumni magazine was originally going to be hitting your doormats. During this time, we've been inspired by the resilience, generosity and creativity of our alumni and the YSJ community. Music Production Lecturer David Young created 'Covid-19 Visors York' to 3D print visors in large numbers, and several of our Biomedical Science students went from finishing their degrees straight into Covid-19 testing on the front line.

Find out about just some of the ways our alumni have been lending a helping hand.

From Kimonos to Vital NHS Garments

YSJ Fine Art alumna Amber Kotrri and her Darlington-based boutique fashion business, House of Zana, launched a campaign called #Sew2Save. Her aim was to give back to her local community using the skill she and her team know best.

Amber started House of Zana after becoming a frequent traveller to her husband's home country of Albania. As a response to the PPE crisis faced by the NHS, Amber swapped House of Zana's signature kimonos and luxury pyjamas for vital NHS garments.



“After seeing a lot on the news about NHS workers not having the vital garments they needed in hospitals, and after being inspired by other seamstresses who were helping, we decided to do the same.”

The #Sew2Save team got the community involved in their campaign by raising funds for fabric and accessories like buttons and elastic, asking for fabric donations, and inspiring others to sew garments at home. Amber said, “To honour their hard work, the least we can do is make basic yet vital protective garments to keep our NHS staff safe.”

Face Shields for Frontline Workers

After news reports of serious PPE shortages in the UK in the early months of lockdown, YSJ Fine Art alumnus Mark Binks used his skills to provide frontline workers in the NHS with face shields. Mark initially founded #Shields4Manchester as a solo effort from his garage, but it grew larger than he could have anticipated.

Mark adopted an “ingenious” laser-cut open source design from a Nottingham based collective that was effective, cheap and fast to produce. He then approached local GPs and nurses with his prototypes.



“They were moved to tears at the idea of what I could provide out of my home workshop, so I knew I had to do more. I phoned a local plastics firm who were confident they could do it even better with their die-cutting machine!”

Mark then helped to cultivate a grassroots collective of hobbyists and industry specialists that could generate PPE in huge volumes. At first, he produced 300 masks a day by himself in his garage. The #Shields4Manchester initiative and its wider network grew capable of generating over 10,000 face shields per day – at a material cost of 57p per shield.

#Shields4Manchester faced demand from far beyond the original local area, getting requests from all over Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Merseyside. The network has now supplied over 180,000 units. Mark said, “This network has grown through people's kindness. It is willing to do the right thing when it is needed.”

Delivering Smiles – With Cream

We've all turned to different places for a few much needed pick-me-ups during the past few months. 'St Johns Old Boy' Christopher and his partner Pong have been making it their mission to deliver smiles and encouragement to vulnerable and isolated people around York from their base at Parlormade Scone House in Little Shambles, all for free.

Christopher and Pong have met many people, organisations and charities doing amazing and selfless work across York. Christopher described the privilege of providing a service but also the difficulty of realising how many lonely and isolated people live in a small, busy city like York. They found that a simple act of giving can make a big difference.

Many of the people who received a surprise Cream Tea delivery ended up passing on the love to others:

“At one point there was a tidal wave around York for our Cream Teas, Afternoon Teas, Celebration Boxes and 'Virtual Cream Tea Parties'. It has been an amazing privilege to do something. Such a small act can make such big ripples.”

The Alumni team sends our best wishes to everyone in the community. If you have a story to share with us, get in touch at alumni@yorks.ac.uk.



INTRODUCING YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY'S NEW CHANCELLOR: REETA CHAKRABARTI

Reeta Chakrabarti, esteemed journalist and BBC presenter, is York St John University's new Chancellor. She follows in the footsteps of The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, who retired in March after more than 12 years in the role.

Born in London, the first daughter of an Indian Bengali family, she spent part of her youth in India. Back in the UK, she went on to read English and French at Exeter College, Oxford, where she made forays into student journalism. By 1997 she was in front of the camera as the BBC's community affairs correspondent, later serving as a correspondent for education and then politics, covering four General Elections.

In 2018 Reeta was made an Honorary Graduate of York St John University, receiving a Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) for her inspirational work. During her time as a broadcaster she has taken every opportunity to cover issues that matter to her, including the Stephen Lawrence inquest and subsequent public enquiry. Abroad, she has reported on the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean and human trafficking in Albania. Reeta takes her responsibility to give something back very seriously and she has been involved with several charities. She is a patron of London-based arts company Pan Intercultural Arts, which explores cultural diversity and social change.

The Chancellor is the ceremonial head of the University: acting as chief ambassador, presiding over ceremonial functions and conferring degrees at our graduation ceremonies. Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, was installed as the first Chancellor in March 2007, a few months after York St John achieved university status.



“It was always our aspiration that our new Chancellor would be someone whose life and work resonates with the values of our University and who can inspire our next generation of students. Throughout Reeta's life and career, she has shone a light on the stories and issues that shape and change people's lives.”

Former Vice Chancellor, Professor Karen Stanton



“I'm delighted to be taking up the post of Chancellor at York St John. This is a University that represents everything good about education - equality of opportunity and high aspirations for all. I'm honoured to be following in the footsteps of the inspirational Dr John Sentamu and will do my very best to represent the University as well as he has.”

Reeta Chakrabarti, on accepting her appointment



CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION: Celebrating YSJ's teachers

HONOURING TEACHERS

In the summer of 2019, we welcomed back almost 700 teaching alumni from Ripon College and St John's College to award them with the Honorary Degree of Bachelor of Education (honoris causa). Since then, we have sent out over 700 further awards all over the world.

The teaching alumni who are eligible for this award completed a Certificate in Education with us before 1980.* Despite the academic demands of this qualification, these students didn't leave with a degree. Many went on to have long and

rewarding careers in teaching, spreading the institutions' values of promoting social justice and widening participation in education.

The Honorary Degree of Bachelor of Education was awarded to recognise the achievements of those who completed the Certificate in Education. It also celebrates the University's nearly 180-year heritage as an educational institution, and the hundreds of teachers who have gone on to inspire generations of young minds.

CAMPUS CEREMONIES

We held six ceremonies on campus over three days in June. Awardees had the option of wearing full graduation gowns or attending the ceremony in their own style. Old friends were reunited, and some new friendships were formed.

Before each ceremony got underway, our guests had the chance to take photos with family and friends on our beautiful campus. The ceremonies took place in the University Chapel and featured performances from primary school choirs and special guest appearances.

Our enthusiastic host and resident chaplain, Reverend Jane Speck, made sure everyone had their special moment. After the ceremony, alumni and their guests made their way to the Quad for tea, coffee and cake.

Alumni who graduated as early as 1944 came to collect their award. We also welcomed two of the 'Magnificent Seven': the first seven women who were admitted to study at York St John in 1962 alongside the 450 men. Dick Bate, leading Football Association coach and football educator, was awarded a posthumous Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his outstanding contribution to coach education in football.

ALUMNI MEMORIES

The alumni who came to the ceremonies treated us to some of their fondest memories from their student days. Here are some things we learnt.

LOVE

- I met my husband-to-be here at the New Year Dance of 1968 in Temple Hall.
- 59 years ago today we got engaged here, 25/06/1960 - 25/06/2019.
- I met my wife here in 1958.

We've got a pretty good record at matchmaking.

ADVENTURE

- Dowsing the Matron/ Principal in the end of year water fight. PS. She was not amused. (1973)
- Dancing to 'Brown Sugar' in the Wilkie on my 21st. (1971)

Students will always be students.

FRIENDSHIP

- A wonderful chance to make lifelong friendships. (1944)
- Corridor parties, sitting on the floor and sharing a bottle in St Margaret's Hall. (1976)

Those coursemates might just stick around.

*Think you or someone you know might be eligible for the Honorary Degree of Bachelor of Education? Get in touch at alumni@yorks.ac.uk or 01904 876741.

You may be eligible for the Honorary Degree of Bachelor of Education if you completed the Certificate in Education at Ripon or St John's College before 1980 and didn't complete the optional fourth top-up year. If you register your interest in the Honorary Degree of Bachelor of Education, we will be in touch about the result of your application.



IMPACTFUL RESEARCH

AT YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

York St John University now has a dedicated Research Office.

The team are committed to the University's varied and vibrant research community. They provide training, events and conferences for our postgraduate researchers and support our academic staff. As a centralised team, they support an array of research activity, from grant applications to guiding academics through the Research Excellence Framework 2021. The Research Office are keen to ensure that YSJ's research positively impacts the local community while advocating for social justice.

In this issue we focus on sport and health-related research with an insight into the work of the Physical Activity and Cardiovascular Health research group. We also interview Senior Lecturer in Sociology of Sport and Sports Coaching, Graeme Law, to find out more about his latest research into the life of professional footballers. For more information on research at YSJ, visit: yorks.ac.uk/research

The Physical Activity and Cardiovascular Health (PAAtCH) Research Group



We all know that we are supposed to exercise more and sit (or lounge) less. But why is sitting too long bad for us? Researchers at York St John University are looking at the effects of physical activity on cardiovascular health as part of a newly established Physical Activity and Cardiovascular Health (PAAtCH) Research Group within the School of Science, Technology and Health.

Dr Sophie Carter (above left) and Dr Áine Brislane (above right) use novel methods to assess markers of cardiovascular health at the recently built Human Performance Laboratories at the Nestlé Rowntree Park Sports Campus at Haxby Road. This includes using ultrasound to assess the health of major blood vessels in the neck, arms and legs and to assess brain blood flow and how well it is controlled.

Dr Carter has explored the impact prolonged sitting may have for office workers, who spend the majority of their day seated at a desk. Her recent research showed that sitting for long periods has a short-term negative effect on blood flow to the brain. After people sat continuously for four hours, a small reduction in brain blood flow was observed. However, interrupting this prolonged sitting period with short, two-minute walking breaks every 30 minutes prevented this decline. These findings support current Government recommendations to break up periods of inactivity. Dr Carter's future research aims to further examine the impact of sitting on brain blood flow, in particular how sitting-induced declines in brain blood flow may be a risk factor for the development of neurodegenerative diseases such as dementia.

Dr Brislane's research has focussed on how physical activity and fitness can influence cardiovascular outcomes for women, with an emphasis on life events such as pregnancy and the menopause. Her recently published paper in 'Menopause' has shown that blood flow to the brain and the health of major blood vessels in the body are negatively affected by increasing age. The study also showed that the carotid artery (in the neck) and femoral artery (in the leg) are negatively influenced by menopause onset despite a physically active lifestyle. Dr Brislane is continuing this work and is currently investigating how the femoral artery responds to a short bout of cycling exercise. This may help us to understand how artery health can be improved during menopause.

Dr Carter and Dr Brislane have formed collaborations with York Hospital and will work closely with the soon-to-open Mental Health Hospital to develop their research further in populations at risk of developing cardiovascular diseases. This forms part of their Research Group's wider aims of contributing to developing research-informed guidelines for physical activity and sedentary behaviour to reduce cardiovascular disease incidence.

Is the life of a professional footballer really a bed of roses?

Graeme Law, Senior Lecturer in Sociology of Sport and Sports Coaching, was recently invited to the UEFA headquarters in Geneva to discuss his research into monetary pressures in the lives of professional footballers.

After spending 12 years as a professional footballer, playing for Scotland at U19 level and Dundee and York City football clubs, Graeme realised he would never make millions playing football and decided to go to university, studying Physical Education and Sports Coaching at York St John. This course included a sociology of sport module, lighting a spark for Graeme. He completed a master's and PhD in Sport Sociology before accepting a lecturing job at YSJ.

Graeme's research focuses on professional football. His background gives him access to players many researchers would not normally get to see, as footballers are often reluctant to speak openly with people who may not understand their world. Graeme's thesis was on the role of money in the working lives of professional footballers. Graeme told us: "Because players knew I had experienced their world, they were relatively happy to chat as long as they knew it would remain anonymous."

Graeme's research showed how secretive money is amongst professional footballers. "The media will quote figures, but the only people who really know what a player is earning are the player, the agent and the club. Everything else is just hearsay. Players always want to be seen as the highest earner in the changing room because it's a signifier of value. If you reveal you are the lowest paid player, then other players will believe that you are of no value to the club and therefore not important." This creates an environment where all the players are trying to act in a way that proves they are a high earner. "It becomes a game of one-upmanship involving fast cars and designer clothes. This could obviously have a detrimental knock-on effect on the team environment."

Because of this, image becomes very important for footballers. Society has expectations of how a professional footballer should dress and what they should drive. A lot of players Graeme interviewed felt that if they didn't meet that image, people started to question their ability. "One example was a captain of a League One club. He dropped his son off at school and was insulted in front of his son and his son's friends by the teacher because of the club he played for. His response was to buy a brand-new Mercedes to pick his son up with to show that he



did have money and therefore must be a valuable player. This extravagant culture can lead to players getting into financial difficulty, spending more than they can afford."

Graeme was keen to paint the real picture of being a professional footballer, not just the stereotype portrayed by the media. Even at the top level, where players are making a lot of money, life isn't as glamorous as the papers suggest. "The life of a professional footballer can actually be quite uncertain and vulnerable – the longest contracts in the top division are usually only two years and after that you might have to move, uprooting your family and changing children's schools." Loneliness for footballers' partners was a theme that came through strongly in the research due to repeated moves and upheavals.

"Of course, injury could end even a top player's career at any point. With little education or advice offered on monetary matters, a player can be left in real financial and psychological difficulty when their career does end – often at a relatively young age. There are a limited number of jobs as coaches and football pundits and many players have no experience or training in any other field. The transition out of football can be really tough, with players having to find a new identity and lifestyle."

As a Senior Lecturer in Sociology of Sport and Sports Coaching, being able to provide these real-world examples really helps to bring the academic theories to life and enthuse the next generation of researchers. If you are interested in finding out more about sports sociology, have a look at the School of Sport pages on the YSJ website: yorks.ac.uk/schools/sport

THE CORONAVIRUS CLASS OF 2020

Empty streets, restricted movement and a government order to stay home; you'd be forgiven for thinking this was a dystopian novel come to life. Instead, these were the conditions that the Class of 2020 faced whilst completing their degrees and looking ahead to their future. Our alumni usually undertake further study, go travelling, or find job opportunities: Covid-19 has undoubtedly complicated the Class of 2020's plans.

When campus closed and classes moved online, the Class of 2020 finished their degrees in front of webcams and celebrated without family and friends. There were no celebratory pictures of dissertation hand-ins in the Quad, no final society meetings and no end-of-degree parties. Travel restrictions have postponed or cancelled exploratory and celebratory trips abroad, while a narrowing job market has left new alumni struggling to find work and internship opportunities, impacting their future career plans.

However, it's not all doom and gloom for the Class of 2020. Campus may have been closed for teaching, but students found new and creative ways to mark the end of their student journey. Some managed to take socially distanced pictures outside the front entrance to celebrate their dissertations. Webcams helped the Class of 2020 host goodbye parties online, and the power of social media allowed them to share their achievements with loved ones.

The Class of 2020 might not have been able to start their life as alumni as anticipated, but we hope you will join us in welcoming them to the alumni community with open arms. Their degrees came to an end off-campus, but their time as YSJ alumni is just beginning - and this journey is lifelong!

Class of 2020! It's not too late to add your name to our growing digital graduation banner. Send an email to alumni@yorks.ac.uk with a photo of your handwritten signature – we'll do the rest.

Covid 19 has taught everyone the importance of community, something which YSJ alumni are already familiar with. Our Careers team is working hard to source and advertise opportunities for the Class of 2020, can you help them? Whether a short internship, a more permanent role, or industry advice, you could be the key to helping the newest members of the YSJ alumni community overcome the impact of Covid 19. If you can help, please email alumni@yorks.ac.uk.



GRAYS COURT: STEPPING INTO THE PAST

If you have ever taken a little detour off Goodramgate, or walked along a particular stretch of the Walls, you will have experienced something of the cobbled courtyard and beautiful gardens of Grays Court. If you were a student at St John's College, you might have even been lucky enough to study there.

St John's College became linked with Grays Court in 1949 when it housed the Department of History, which was followed by English and Theology. A Grade I listed house, Grays Court has been privately owned since 2005 and now welcomes guests to its award-winning luxury accommodation.

But the building has a much longer history.

ROMAN BEGINNINGS

Grays Court stands on the site of a Roman legionary fortress. Excavators and renovators during the 1800s and 1900s made numerous discoveries, including a tile stamped with the Roman legion Legio VI, two 4th century coins, and a statue of a male figure thought to be one of the Dioscuri from Greek and Roman mythology.

Grays Court was the original Treasurer's House, home to the treasurers of York from the 11th to the 16th century. It has welcomed some big names over the years, including royalty. The first post-Reformation owner was Henry VIII's brother-in-law, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset. He was given the house in 1547 by Henry's son and his nephew, King Edward VI. In the next century, King James I not only dined there, but knighted eight noblemen in the Long Gallery one evening.

The building retains the only private access to York's City Walls because the 300-metre stretch of Wall which bounds Grays Court was donated to the City in 1878 by Edwin Gray, the Lord Mayor of York.



DID YOU KNOW?

Grays Court has a claim on being the oldest continuously occupied house in Britain. There have been numerous reported sightings of ghosts...

OUR ALUMNI HERITAGE

Since we opened in 1841 with just one student, Edward Cordukes, we haven't stopped growing. Though student life is almost unrecognisable from the mid-19th century, we are still committed to our founding values of social justice and widening participation in education.

With so much alumni heritage to look back on, you can read more about our historical journey at yorks.ac.uk/about/our-history. Follow us on social media for our regular throwbacks – a quick dose of our heritage highlights! [@ysjualumni](https://twitter.com/ysjualumni)



A TYPICAL DAY FOR THE FIRST STUDENTS AT ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

5:30am	Rise and shine!
6:00 - 6:45am	First study period, followed by breakfast and prayers
5:00 - 6:30pm	Work in the gardens or a military drill to work up an appetite for supper
7:00 - 9:40pm	More study, then more prayers
10:00pm	Your gas is turned off, so get to bed and wrap up warm!



Ripon College during the Second World War

During the Second World War, students at Ripon dedicated their free time to war work. This included knitting, digging for victory, gaining first aid certificates, and raising money for the local Spitfire Fund.

1960s

Exploring the Heritage Trail

The York St John University Heritage Trail is a self-guided walk that explores some important moments of our history. Even if you are too far from campus to do the walk, you can read the stories behind some of the University's older buildings and objects.

The trail is available to download here:

yorks.ac.uk/media/content-assets/about/documents/YSJU---Heritage-Trail-Web-Final.pdf

Mixing it up

During the 1960s, both Ripon and St John's College went from being single-sex institutions to welcoming both male and female students. However, it wasn't always a smooth transition. In 1971, the Ripon Principal, Miss Gage, wrote in the Association magazine:

"Our status as a mixed college is now taken for granted though many of us find it hard to come to terms with the indisputable fact that men students are neither as quiet nor as tidy as some women students."

John Maw, who was instrumental in developing and curating the extensive collection of York St John memorabilia that now forms our Heritage Trail, sadly died in August last year. As a student, lecturer and volunteer, John was always incredibly passionate about the University. In 2002 John was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by York St John, recognising his outstanding contribution to the University throughout his lifetime. John was made an MBE in 2009 for his services to higher education and to the community of York.

NEW ARTS HUB FOR YORK

CREATIVITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE CORE OF YORK ST JOHN AND ITS FOUNDING COLLEGES.

Our alumni win Baftas, write and produce documentaries, set up dance troupes, produce community drama, make music, commentate sport, and work behind the scenes at Sky Sports, ATP media and major film companies. Former students include award winning actress and writer Julia Davis, singer Bella Hardy, Radio 2 producer-presenter Tim Smith and novelist Jack Linley. Our creative legacy is huge – and we want to ensure it continues that way.

That's why the University is investing in a new centre at the heart of the campus, providing computer science, media production, drama and music students with the facilities they need to flourish. Designed by one of the UK's leading sustainable architects, Tate Harmer, the new building reflects the power of natural environments to enhance learning and

includes lecture halls, specialist studios and labs kitted out with cutting-edge technology. Its 200-seat auditorium and recital space are intended to enhance the local community, providing much needed performance space in the centre of the city.

This year, we have seen how important the creative arts, in many different forms, are for maintaining our mental wellbeing. A major upgrade to the teaching spaces will help our future graduates in computer science, media, television and film, music, and drama to be successful in a competitive industry.

Building work, by newly appointed contractors, Kier, began in February 2020 and the centre is due to open next year.



“Innovative and industry standard teaching spaces for specialist subjects like computer science and media production are vital for our students. The new centre will offer this as well as a great new performance space for the community.”

YSJ Operating CEO, Rob Hickey



“Dream big! Put positive things into the world. Anyone who’s got some energy, take your ideas, make things, get your stuff rolling...”

Eddie Izzard – comedian, actor, linguist, marathon runner and Honorary Graduate of York St John University



ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Indoor courts coming to York St John University

If you did want to play a bit of tennis in York, you might find it difficult to find somewhere to swing your racket in all but the fairest of weather due to the lack of indoor tennis provision in the city.

York St John University is planning to make tennis a year-round sport for the whole community with high quality indoor courts open to students, school groups and the general public. Even better? There will be no need for membership.

The proposed centre will be the only indoor tennis facility for community use of its kind in York.

You cannot be serious

The £1 million project is being jointly funded by York St John University and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), the national governing body for tennis. The plan is to build three indoor courts which will be accessible 14 hours a day, 48 weeks a year.

The three existing outdoor courts will remain a feature for fair weather matches. The indoor courts will expand keen players' options to include evening and winter tennis practice.



“We’re looking forward to welcoming tennis players of all ages and abilities, all year round. Our programmes and partnership with Down the Line Sports will support children from the age of 3 upwards and the winter months will no longer be a barrier to enjoying tennis.”

Lucie Crowley, YSJ Active Sports
Facility and Service Coordinator



Giving everyone the advantage

LTA says, “Our vision is ‘Tennis opened up’, and our mission is to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable.”

The building will be fully accessible for disabled users and the LTA also intends to establish a disability coaching programme at the centre.

Participation in tennis is often limited by financial constraints – costs such as gym fees can make it difficult or impossible for people to engage with the sport. Haxby Road’s new Tennis Centre will help to widen participation, spark inspiration and encourage more people to love tennis.

We could soon be welcoming the next generation of Wimbledon stars to our campus!



CAN YOU HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS?

When St John's College was founded back in 1841 we had one clear purpose: to train the sons and daughters of working people as teachers.

Nearly 180 years later, we don't just train teachers anymore, but we still live up to our founding principle. Nearly 60% of our students come from backgrounds underrepresented in Higher Education. They may have spent some time in care, have a physical or mental disability, or be mature students with other demands on their time.

We are proud of our social mobility work but recognise that many of our students have extra challenges in reaching their dreams. The University can make it easier for students to open the door to higher education, but sometimes other barriers limit their progress.

We introduced the Vice Chancellor's scholarship last year. It offers £1,000 per year to students who are battling exceptional circumstances. Students who are carers like B, or who are perhaps parents or estranged from their families. Students who really need a helping hand.

B travels home several times a week, juggling caring responsibilities with her studies:

"I am a full time carer for a younger family member with a rare neurological condition. Without the Vice Chancellor's scholarship affording my studies would be a lot harder. I'm grateful to the sponsors of the fund as without it, staying at YSJ would be a lot more difficult. The scholarship makes life a lot more bearable."

B, current scholarship recipient.

"The scholarship I received was absolutely essential to me finishing my degree," explains E, who gave birth to her daughter in the middle of her final year. Nine months later she graduated with a first at York Minster. Thanks to the generosity of alumni like you she could afford essential childcare to help her attend her final lectures and research her dissertation. She is now continuing her studies and plans to be a radiographer.

Covid-19 has, unsurprisingly, created extra pressures. The reduction in retail and hospitality roles caused by the pandemic has a direct impact on our students. These are the sectors where students would seek part-time work to supplement their income, and our student support staff report an increase in the numbers expressing concern about their financial position.

Last year we could help only one in six of those who applied and, to develop this support, we need to raise £18,000 per year from our alumni and friends. We would like to ask for your help in transforming more lives.

Will you give just £5 a month to help exceptional students like B and E combine their studies with their caring responsibilities?

If just 10% of you donate, we can guarantee our existing scholarships and help eight times as many students. Instead of changing just a handful of lives, we can change many.



Donate online at yorks.ac.uk/support-us
To donate over the phone please call Billy between 10am and 4pm on 01904 876741.

2020 ALUMNI CROSSWORD

Welcome to our new alumni crossword. With clues ranging from local trivia about York to historical facts about YSJ, there's plenty to make you think. Once you've completed it, let us know how long it took by contacting us on social media, or emailing us at alumni@yorks.ac.uk.

We'd love to know which alumni group is the fastest, so make sure to include your graduation date too. Good luck!



ACROSS

2. Name of the street which has pubs, clothing shops and a Betty's tearoom. (9)
10. Name of the church where real-life 'Gentleman Jack' Anne Lister sealed her union with Ann Walker in 1834. (4,7)
11. Which local gemstone is often found in Roman graves around York? (6,3)
13. Name of the English Heritage site located near Coppergate. (9,5)
15. Surname of the sisters honoured in a plaque on campus for their contribution to women's education. (5)
17. What medieval tradition, resurrected in the 20th century, takes place every four years and documents biblical stories? (4,7,5)
18. Where is Margaret Clitherow's shrine located? (8)
19. Name of the park which contains the Hospitium. (6,7)
21. The York word for a small alleyway. (10)

DOWN

1. What was the original subject taught at St John's College? (7)
2. Royalist propaganda was issued from where during Charles I's stay in York? (2,8,7)
3. Name of the road where the university Sports Campus is located. (5)
4. Which YSJ tradition is 'that they should have life and have it more abundantly' an English translation of? (5)
5. The Phoenix building used to house what type of school? (7)
6. Name of the twice yearly event held in the Students' Union and started by an Archbishop? (7)
7. Name of the group of buildings on Goodramgate dating from 1316. (3,5,3)
8. Name of the building where workmen claimed to see a group of Roman soldiers in 1953. (10,5)
9. Name of the film festival that holds events on campus. (10)
12. What did the Vikings call York? (6)
13. Surname of the first student at St John's College and a building on campus. (8)
14. The Students' Union's values are: inclusive, transformative, challenging, empowering and what? (3)
16. The current Students' Union serves which big brand of coffee? (9)
20. What was New Wing renamed in 2018? (5,4)

ALUMNI BENEFITS

YOUR STUDENT DAYS MAY BE OVER, BUT YOU CAN STILL REAP THE REWARDS OF HAVING STUDIED WITH US.

We can't give you student discounts, but with our new alumni package, we're confident that we'll bring back fond university memories and give you the opportunity to make new ones. Whether an alum of Ripon College or YSJ, Yorkshire has played a part in the lives of all our alumni. From library membership to discounts on luxury food and drink, we're proud to offer a range of exclusive benefits centred around York and Yorkshire based business.

IN-HOUSE BENEFITS:

As an alum you can claim lifelong benefits based at our York campus, regardless of your graduation date.

Need a room? Book a room on campus through our Events team and receive an exclusive 15% discount. Email events@yorks.ac.uk for more information and to make a booking. Similarly, enjoy student prices at our on-site fitness centre and save £120 a year on membership compared to non-alumni.

Did you know if you study a postgraduate degree with us, you're eligible for an automatic 10% fee reduction?*

*Terms and Conditions apply, please see our website for more information: yorks.ac.uk/alumni/scholarships-for-alumni/

You can claim free library membership, alongside our free, lifelong Careers support. From writing a covering letter to helping you develop a business, email careers@yorks.ac.uk for more information on how we can support your career aspirations.

OUR PARTNER BENEFITS

Inspired by York's history, York Gin crafts award-winning gin from its York-based distillery. Taking inspiration from York's Roman past, infamous outlaws and ghosts, York Gin produces internationally recognised gin that's sure to impress.

Similarly, York Cocoa House draws on York's rich confectionary history. Using the finest British ingredients combined with ethically and expertly sourced cocoa, York Cocoa House draws on the Georgians' love of chocolate to produce decadent products for you to try, buy and love.

Built in 1699 and inspired by Hampton Court Palace, Middlethorpe Hall and Spa is the perfect location for a luxurious getaway on the outskirts of York. Set in 20-acre gardens, Middlethorpe Hall is famous for its excellent food, boutique spa and luxurious rooms. As part of our alumni community, you can benefit from an exclusive discount on your stay, including a full Yorkshire breakfast, use of the spa facilities, secure parking and complimentary wifi.**

**This rate is not valid on Fridays and Saturdays, York Race days or bank holidays.

Want to claim these benefits? Enjoy 10% off York Gin, 15% off York Cocoa House products, tours, workshops and in their café; and an exclusive rate at Middlethorpe Hall by emailing alumni@yorks.ac.uk for details on how to claim.



A BRAND NEW PARTNERSHIP

The York St John University Alumni team has agreed with HMCA to offer discounted rates for medical plans, dental plan, hospital cash plans, travel plan, income protection and vehicle breakdown products.

The Hospital & Medical Care Association (HMCA) was established over 40 years ago and has grown to be one of the most successful membership benefit providers in the UK. HMCA membership is also one of the most exclusive as our plans are only available to the members of trade, professional and membership groups.

HMCA's head office, Beech Hall, is located in Knaresborough in North Yorkshire - an ancient Market and Castle town that is recorded in the Domesday Book. We also have offices in London and Dublin. HMCA is rooted in the community. The company and our staff play an active role supporting local community groups and events.

For further information and quotations contact HMCA by telephone on 01423 799949 or visit the exclusive HMCA York St John Alumni Society website here: <https://www.hmca.co.uk/ysjas>

HMCA/S PLC (trading as Hospital and Medical Care Association, HMCA and HMCA Members) which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN:307587). HMCA/S PLC is a company registered in England, company number: 01362094, registered office: Beech Hall, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, HG5 0EA.

Want more information about claiming your alumni benefits, or thinking of offering our alumni community an exciting deal or service? Contact alumni@yorks.ac.uk for more information.

Please note that due to government regulations and covid-19 response measures, access to some of the services listed are subject to change.



YOUR MEMORIES... THEIR FUTURE

York St John and Ripon College were founded to transform lives. Everything we do, from teaching to research to community work, does just that - but with your help we could do so much more.

Leaving even a small gift in your will could transform lives. Whether you want to found a scholarship or prize, help us widen access or fund ground-breaking research, you could help create a brighter future. You could change a life.

If you would like to talk to someone about your plans then please talk to Celia Denton in complete confidence at fundraising@yorksja.ac.uk

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**YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY**

