



# December newsletter



## Welcome to the December edition of the YCFC x Thirsk Talent Hub Newsletter!

As we reach the end of a busy and successful term, December has been a chance to reflect on the progress made across the Thirsk Talent Hub. Despite the colder conditions and darker evenings, students have continued to train with excellent attitude, focus, and commitment — demonstrating the professionalism expected within the programme.

From matchday experiences at York City FC to leadership opportunities within school and Hub sessions, this term has provided valuable learning moments that go far beyond football performance alone.

### student spotlight: ht2

As we head into the Christmas break, we want to recognise students who have consistently demonstrated: a commitment to training, a positive attitude and behaviour, leadership and teamwork, and respect for others. These qualities underpin everything we do at the Talent Hub, and we're proud of how students represent themselves, the school, and our partners.

Year 7 - Teddy Miller  
Year 8 - Cameal Hassan  
Year 9 - Seb Harris  
Year 10 - Will Brown

Well done to all four! Your attitude, commitment, and work ethic has been exemplary in the programme!







# A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE from YORK CITY



## A MESSAGE FROM SANTA

From everyone at York City FC, we would like to send our warmest Christmas wishes to all students, families, and staff involved with the Thirsk Talent Hub.

As the year draws to a close, it's been fantastic to see the commitment, enthusiasm, and professionalism shown by the Hub students throughout the season. Whether representing the programme as mascots and ball assistants on first-team matchdays, engaging fully in training sessions, or embracing new learning opportunities within school, you have consistently demonstrated values that reflect extremely positively on both Thirsk School and York City FC.

Football is about more than just what happens on the pitch. It's about teamwork, respect, responsibility, and enjoyment — qualities that have been clear every time we've welcomed you to the LNER Community Stadium. Your positive attitude and willingness to learn have not gone unnoticed, and we're incredibly proud to be part of your football journey.

As Christmas approaches, we hope you take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy special moments with family and friends. A well-earned break is an important part of development, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year — refreshed, motivated, and ready to continue building on the strong foundations you've already put in place.

🎄⚽ Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at York City FC.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE GRINCH

Right... let's get this over with...

I tried to hate it. Honestly, I did.

Cold matchdays? Thought you'd complain. You didn't. Ball duties and mascot duties? Expected chaos. Got professionalism instead. Annoying.

Turning up on time. Working hard. Supporting each other. That was definitely not part of the plan.

I even waited for someone to mess it up... But no — you just kept representing York City properly.

Which, frankly, ruined everything.

So fine. Enjoy Christmas. Eat too much. Open the presents. Forget about football.

I don't care. See you in January.

🎄⚽ Merry Christmas from York City FC.





# coaches' corner



## tips of the month

### honesty

Enjoy what you do, bring positive energy, and support your teammates. Happiness helps everyone perform better.

### happy

Enjoy what you do, bring positive energy, and support your teammates!

### pitch personality framework **proactive**

Take initiative, think ahead, and act before you're asked. Proactive coaches create smoother sessions and stronger learning environments.

## dilan's reflections talent hub lead coach

"December has been a really positive way to end the term and a clear reflection of the culture we're building at the Talent Hub. The growth we've seen through the Principles of Coaching scheme has been outstanding — not just in confidence, but in understanding, communication, and leadership.

The coaching scheme has also helped students see the game from different perspectives. By learning how to design practices, manage space, and communicate effectively, they've developed a deeper appreciation of how football works — both on and off the pitch.

As we look ahead to January, I'm really excited to introduce our new Refereeing scheme of work. This will challenge students in new ways, encouraging them to think quickly, communicate clearly, and develop respect for decision-making. Understanding the game through the eyes of an official will further strengthen their overall football knowledge and leadership skills.

I'd like to thank all the students for their effort, attitude, and commitment this term. They've represented the Hub, the school, and themselves brilliantly. The foundations are firmly in place, and I'm confident the progress we've seen so far is just the beginning."

We look to welcoming all the students back in the new year! We hope all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## dan's reflections talent hub coach

"As we come to the end of the term, December has been a great opportunity to reflect on how far the group has progressed since September. The most pleasing aspect for me has been the consistency of effort shown by the students. Even as the weather has changed and sessions have become more challenging, the attitude and commitment across the Hub have remained extremely high.

The Principles of Coaching scheme has been a real success. Watching students move from being participants to leaders has been impressive. Planning sessions, delivering clear instructions, and giving feedback to peers requires confidence, preparation, and courage — and many of the students have embraced that challenge. These moments help them understand that improvement doesn't just come from doing more, but from thinking more deeply about the game.

I've also been encouraged by the way students have supported one another. Whether leading warm-ups, helping younger pupils during lunchtime leagues, or assisting at school fixtures, they have shown maturity and empathy. These behaviours are just as important as technical ability and are qualities that will serve them well both in football and in life.

We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

