



York City x Thirsk School **TALENT HUB**



february newsletter

February has marked an important transition point within the Thirsk Talent Hub programme. Up to half term, students successfully completed our Refereeing Scheme of Work, before moving into a brand-new focus on Performance Analysis after the break.

Across both areas, students have continued to demonstrate excellent maturity, responsibility, and engagement — showing their ability to adapt to different roles within the game and deepen their understanding of football beyond just playing.

refereeing scheme of work

The refereeing unit has been a real success, helping students to:

- understand the Laws of the Game
- develop confidence in decision-making
- communicate clearly under pressure
- show greater respect for officials

Many students took on officiating roles in lessons, lunchtime leagues, and training matches, gaining a genuine appreciation of how challenging — and important — refereeing is.

next: analysis scheme of work

After February half term, we began our Performance Analysis Scheme of Work, where students are learning how to observe, record, and reflect on performance.

Early learning has focused on:

- identifying strengths and areas for improvement
- understanding key performance indicators
- using observation to support player development

This scheme will help students become more reflective players, coaches, and leaders — developing their football IQ alongside practical skills.





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student spotlight

REFEREEING PATHWAY

Already a qualified referee, Gethin has been regularly officiating local grassroots fixtures from U9–U12, gaining valuable real-game experience and confidence.

Gethin has been a standout example of commitment and professionalism within the refereeing pathway this academic year - setting a positive example to the rest of the Talent Hub programme.

His calm approach, clear communication, and strong understanding of the Laws of the Game have impressed players, coaches, and officials alike.

Through consistent effort, Gethin has grown in his ability to reflect on performance, make fair and informed decisions, and show resilience when faced with challenging situations. Looking ahead, Gethin is well placed to continue progressing as a referee and analyst, with clear pathways into officiating, coaching support roles, or further study within football and sport.

Gethin's journey shows how refereeing can be a genuine pathway within football — building leadership, resilience, and decision-making skills. He is a fantastic role model for other students interested in officiating and a credit to the Talent Hub.

**GETHIN
EVANS**
YEAR 9





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student spotlight

**HONESTY
RILEY**

YEAR 10

COACHING PATHWAY

Honesty has shown outstanding leadership and commitment through her involvement in coaching during the February half-term period.

Over the February half-term, Honesty supported the Talent Hub coaching team by helping to deliver sessions for Year 5 and Year 6 trialists, working with younger players in a positive, inclusive, and professional manner.

She demonstrated:

- clear communication and organisation
- confidence leading small groups
- encouragement and support for younger players
- maturity and responsibility beyond her years

Honesty's attitude and willingness to help others reflects exactly what we look for within the Talent Hub. Her contribution played a key role in creating a welcoming, enjoyable experience for trialists and highlighted the impact young leaders can have within the programme.

In the future, Honesty has strong potential to progress into coaching, mentoring, or leadership roles within football, using the skills she has developed to positively impact players both on and off the pitch.





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challenge zone

What would you do in these scenarios?

1. A player makes contact shoulder-to-shoulder — foul or play on?

2. A coach disagrees with a decision — how should a referee respond?

3. A teammate makes a mistake — what's the best response as a leader?

Discuss with a teammate or coach and explain why.

Your Canva profile name won't be shared

Spot the Analyst:

Next time you watch a match (live or on TV), try this:

Identify one player strength

Identify one area for improvement

Suggest one coaching point

That's performance analysis in action!

Your Canva profile name won't be shared

did you know...

- Did you know... referees run an average of 8-10km per match!
- Did you know... that referees can start officiating grassroots football from age 14 in England through The FA pathway?
- Did you know... that refereeing regularly helps young people improve skills valued in school, sport, and future careers?
- Did you know... that performance analysts often watch a match multiple times, focusing on different details each time?
- Did you know... that coaching, refereeing, and analysis are all recognised pathways within football, alongside playing?





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COACHES' CORNER

TIPS of the month

RESILIENCE

Be a positive role model. Inspire others through your attitude, effort, and willingness to lead by example.

RESPECT

Football is for everyone. We respect differences, support each other, and ensure everyone feels welcome, confident, and valued.

PITCH PERSONALITY FRAMEWORK

DETERMINATION

Stay strong in challenging moments. Learn from mistakes, stay focused, and keep pushing forward — resilience is what drives long-term success.

DILAN'S REFLECTIONS talent hub lead coach

"February has highlighted everything the Talent Hub stands for: opportunity, growth, and leadership. The refereeing scheme challenged students to think differently about the game, and the confidence they've gained has been clear to see.

Seeing students progress into coaching and officiating roles, particularly with younger age groups, shows the impact of the programme beyond the classroom. These experiences develop resilience, empathy, and communication skills that will stay with students long-term.

As we move into Performance Analysis, the focus will be on reflection and improvement.



DAN'S REFLECTIONS talent hub coach

"February has been a really pleasing month for the Hub. Completing the refereeing scheme showed just how much responsibility our students can handle, and the maturity shown across the group was excellent.

I've been particularly impressed by how students like Gethin and Honesty have taken their learning beyond sessions and applied it in real environments. That willingness to step up and support others is a huge part of development.

The start of the Performance Analysis scheme has also been exciting. Learning how to observe, reflect, and improve is a key skill at all levels of football, and I'm looking forward to seeing students apply this to their own performances."

