



# november newsletter



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

As we have moved into the winter months, the enthusiasm and effort from all our students have remained outstanding. From matchday experiences at York City FC to starting our brand-new scheme of work, the group continues to show maturity, professionalism, and a real hunger to improve both on and off the pitch.

Our school teams have also begun exciting cup runs across multiple year groups, with players showing great determination and togetherness in every fixture. We look forward to seeing how far each team can go as the competitions progress.

We have started our work around the principles of coaching — where students have demonstrated their ability to plan and deliver sessions, as well as providing 1-to-1 feedback across training sessions and matches.

### student spotlight

Each month, we celebrate some of our shining stars! This section highlights a student/s who has gone above and beyond. This month's students have demonstrated an excellent attitude towards their own coaching practices and delivering 1 to 1 feedback.

Year 7 - Reuben Bissett

Year 8 - Zac Williams

Year 9 - Henry Dodd

Year 10 - Will Brown

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

### upcoming events

Here's what's coming up for the Hub in the next few weeks:

Students will be tasked to plan and deliver complete sessions to the YCFC Talent Hub over the next weeks.

Thirsk School & Sixth Form Christmas Party on the 19<sup>th</sup> December.

& FINALLY...

## CHRISTMAS DAY !!!



### scheme of work principles of coaching

This month, we've introduced our new focus: Principles of Coaching.

In this scheme, students are exploring what makes an effective coach — understanding the key qualities such as communication, organisation, planning, and leadership.

Through practical and classroom-based sessions, players are learning how to:

- Plan and deliver simple coaching activities
- Communicate clearly with individuals and groups
- Give constructive feedback and encouragement
- Reflect on their own coaching style and delivery

The aim is to help each student build confidence, develop leadership skills, and understand that great players also make great role models and communicators.

The engagement so far has been fantastic, with students taking ownership of their sessions and demonstrating excellent teamwork and creativity.





# principles of coaching



The launch of our Principles of Coaching scheme has been one of the most exciting steps forward for the Talent Hub this term. Students have not only begun to understand the foundations of effective coaching, but they have actively applied these principles across a range of real environments — from lunchtime leagues to Talent Hub sessions and even at school home fixtures. This scheme has challenged students to adopt a coach's mindset: planning activities, managing groups, making decisions under pressure, and supporting others with clarity and confidence. Their progress has been outstanding.

Students are learning how to project their voice, use assertive but positive body language, and deliver instructions clearly. Many have grown in confidence already — understanding that effective coaching is as much about tone, timing, and clarity as it is about content.

Through planning & delivering their own practices, students have developed important skills: setting up sessions efficiently; running safe and engaging activities; managing transitions between practices; keeping players active and on-task. These experiences have helped them appreciate the level of preparation required behind every successful training session.

Students have practised giving 1-to-1 feedback, identifying small performance details and offering specific advice to help teammates improve. They are becoming more confident in noticing body shape, movement, positioning, and decision-making — and communicating this constructively.

Students have put their coaching skills into practice across the school:

- Lunchtime Leagues: Officiating games, managing teams, and supporting younger players — developing leadership and problem-solving.
- Talent Hub Sessions: Leading warm-ups and small practices for their year group, building confidence and clear communication.
- Home Fixtures: Assisting staff with warm-ups, substitutions, and organisation, gaining valuable insight into real matchday coaching.

These experiences have helped students understand what effective coaching looks like in fast-paced, practical environments.







# the magic of the school cup



VOL. 3, NO.3



YCFC X THIRSK TALENT HUB



NOVEMBER 2025

## THIRSK PLACE IN SIGHT!

### OUR YEAR GROUPS CONTINUE THEIR IMPRESSIVE CUP RUNS WITH EYES FIRMLY ON THE NEXT ROUND!

This half-term has been full of exciting football fixtures for Thirsk School, with our teams representing the school brilliantly across all year groups. The players have shown determination, teamwork, and a real pride in wearing the school badge. There has been some exciting games in various cups - as well as some year groups putting together some serious cup runs!

### YEAR 9 & YEAR 11 BOYS, & YEAR 10 GIRLS AWAIT QUARTER FINAL FIXTURES IN THE AREA AND COUNTY CUP!

On the back of furthest cup run in the school last year - the Year 11 boys will be hopeful they can do one better this season... but they are joined by a strong Year 9 & 10's Girls team, led by Wynter Seymour, who have their chance to book their place in the Semi-Final next Wednesday! Finger crossed everyone!

### YEAR 7 BOYS & YEAR 8 GIRLS STORM INTO THE SEMI-FINAL STAGES!

After a thrilling visit to Easingwold inspired by Teddy Miller and Co, the Year 7 Boys booked their place in the Semi Finals of the County Cup (4-4 - 13-14 on Penalties). Either Fulford or Boroughbridge line in the way between them and a Grand Final!

Meanwhile, the Year 7 & 8 Girls team brushed past Northallerton thanks to goals from Isobel Fullen and Elsie Hindmarch! A test will come in the next match against Stokesley - a Semi-Final - but with only 1 game to win before reeaching a final... the hopes are high!





# match day experiences



## York City 4-0 Gateshead

Our Year 7 and Year 8 students had the incredible opportunity to walk out with the York City first team as matchday mascots, before taking up their positions around the pitch for ball duties.



## York City 4-1 Rochdale

The following week, our Year 8 and Year 9 groups took their turn at Ball Duties during York City's clash with Rochdale. Despite the cold weather, the team stayed switched on from start to finish — a great example of responsibility and commitment.

For many, these experiences continue to build confidence and inspire ambition. Representing the Hub on matchday is a privilege, and the players have embraced that role brilliantly.

We'd like to thank York City FC for once again welcoming our students to the LNER Community Stadium and giving them experiences that will stay with them for a long time.

## did you know...

The combined attendance across both of the National League games was 11,595!



# coaches' corner



## tips of the month

### honesty

Be truthful with yourself and others. Honest reflection helps you grow, improve, and become a better teammate.

### happy

Enjoy what you do, smile often, and bring positive energy to every session.

### 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

"This month has been one of real progress for our players, especially with the launch of our new Scheme of Work: Principles of Coaching. It's been fantastic to see how engaged and enthusiastic the students have been about exploring what it means to be an effective coach.

The focus of this scheme is to help our players understand the key principles that underpin great coaching — communication, organisation, leadership, and reflection. By stepping into the role of a coach, students are learning to think differently: not just about how to perform a skill, but how to teach, guide, and motivate others to perform it too.

One of the most rewarding parts of this unit has been watching students lead their own sessions. From setting up practices and explaining instructions, to giving feedback and adapting activities, the group has shown fantastic initiative. Many have surprised themselves with how confident they can be when they prepare, plan, and take ownership.

What's been clear is how well this links back to their own development as players. Coaching forces you to analyse detail — body shape, decision-making, timing, and technique — and that awareness is now showing in their own performances.

We've also spoken about the softer skills of coaching: patience, empathy, and communication. These are qualities that not only make better coaches, but also better people.



## dan's reflections talent hub coach

"It's been another brilliant month for everyone at the Thirsk Talent Hub. Watching our players step into leadership roles during the new Principles of Coaching scheme has been really rewarding. It's one thing to take part in a session — but it's another to plan, deliver, and communicate effectively to others.

A lot of our students have really embraced the challenge, showing confidence, teamwork, and adaptability. It's been fantastic to see how they've started to think like coaches — using their voices, demonstrating ideas, and ref. These are skills that transfer far beyond football: they build character, confidence, and communication.

Our recent York City matchday experiences also showed the group's maturity and sense of responsibility. Being mascots and ball assistants in front of large crowds takes focus and composure, and the players handled it superbly. They represented Thirsk School and the Talent Hub with pride and professionalism — qualities that make a huge difference in the long term.

Heading into December, my message to all students is simple: keep setting high standards. Every session is a chance to improve, not just technically, but mentally. Support your teammates, communicate clearly, and enjoy the process — because your development is happening every single day."

