More students than ever are getting involved in volunteering at York, through YUSU, Colleges and Careers. They are giving their time, talent and enthusiasm to make a difference to the city, communities and themselves. The numbers above are simply astounding. Well done to every one of them.

Our student-led projects and structured school, community and curriculum linked programmes continue to engage thousands of students and enable students’ curiosity and creativity to grow: from Robots in Space workshops to a Chinese translation project for the Bar Convent Museum.

Students have also been proactive and dedicated in responding to global and local challenges, with many students supporting refugees in Calais and Lesbos, and coming together to help the city after the Boxing Day floods.

I would like to thank the Shepherd Group for their generous support, which makes it possible for our students to realise their ideas and to continue to raise the aspirations of young people through York Students in Schools (YSIS). It is fantastic to see the impact and commitment of our students and long may it continue.

Professor Matt Matravers, Chair of the Volunteering and Community Committee

Students inspire Day of Peace with help of Nobel Peace Prize winner

A team of students from Derwent College worked with pupils from across York to create a Day of Peace in January including social action around Human Rights, the environment and education. They also attended a conference in Winchester with Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum to share their stories, learn and get ready to expand the project next year.

Recognition for leading student volunteers

Student volunteers were presented with six awards at the Higher York Student Volunteering Awards. YUSU Project Leaders and volunteers from Nightline and Tea and Coffee Club were among the winners for their leadership and dedication, notably Giovanna Berger who led Tea and Coffee Club through its 30th year. Also among the winners was York Community Consulting (YCC), a student run pro-bono consultancy service.

“We were struck by the team’s professionalism and ambition; they have really solved a problem for us”
St Nicks about YCC
Coming up next year

- CommuniTea: the belief that a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat can make all the difference is at the heart of the idea, led by a team of HYMS students to help provide emotional support to older people and provide peer to peer mentoring for first year students from second and third year students.
- College volunteering with Tang Hall Community Centre to transform their basketball court
- Launch of volunteering and employability programmes from Careers and YUSU to help students reach their career goals through volunteering.

About us

The Volunteering and Community Committee include representatives from across Careers, YUSU, Colleges, GSA, chaplaincy and external relations. It shares best practice, identifies and supports areas of community need, and assists students to start, lead and learn from voluntary experience. Find out more at www.york.ac.uk/volunteering.