

YATE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

WWW.YATEACADEMY.CO.UK

FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY, 2026



 **GREENSHAW**
LEARNING TRUST

A message from our Headteacher, Mr Eddie Rakshi

It has been an incredibly significant week here at Yate Academy, as we begin conducting Sixth Form interviews with our prospective Year 12s. It has been a genuine privilege to hear about their aspirations, but what struck me most was a recurring theme in our conversations. When asked why they wanted to continue their journey at Yate Academy, the number one reason cited by students was our staff. Hearing that our students feel so supported, inspired, and challenged by their teachers is the greatest testament to the community we have built here. It is an honour to lead such a dedicated team and such an exceptional group of students.

But please, don't just take my word for it; see what the students themselves have been saying during their interviews below:

"I want to study law and so I want to continue studying history and English which I really enjoy at GCSE"

"Yate is the only Sixth form I want to go to. I know I'll build good habits for Uni and I love my teachers"

"The teachers are just...well...amazing!"

"My main reason to apply is I love the teachers in the subjects I want to study. I want to train to be a History teacher"

"I am excited for the enrichment programme to build my confidence"

"I enjoy all my lessons; it's too hard to pick one. I am so proud of my Year 11 results"

"Every teacher I have had is so good. I only want to stay here and I think the structure will benefit me."

01/04

Contact us

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A Glimpse into University Life: Year 7 Visit to UWE

On Thursday, a group of our Year 7 students were invited to visit the University of the West of England (UWE). This visit served as a fantastic graduation from the Future Quest programme, which they successfully completed during their Term 2 enrichment lessons.

Upon arrival, our students were greeted by the Future Quest team and a dedicated group of student ambassadors who led a range of engaging activities. Throughout the day, our students explored the realities of higher education through a university life quiz and a session on identifying key character skills. A particular highlight was the campus tour, where they were able to see the Students' Union, halls of residence, and impressive academic spaces like the engineering department and lecture theatres.

The day also offered a creative spark, as students took part in a screen-printing masterclass, with each student producing two of their own limited-edition prints to take home.

Our students were absolutely fabulous and represented Yate Academy with pride. They have returned with a much deeper understanding of higher education and a clearer vision of what their own futures at university could look like.



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New Year, New Me!

Reading Challenge



Read More, Learn More, Be More
16th January – 6th March 2026

Yate Academy is excited to launch our “Read More, Learn More, Be More!” Reading Challenge, a whole-school initiative designed to encourage students to read more, enjoy books, and strengthen their learning across all subjects.

Regular reading has a powerful impact on students’ success. It:

- Improves vocabulary, spelling, and writing, supporting learning in every subject.
- Develops thinking skills, helping students understand ideas and make connections.
- Boosts well-being by reducing stress and improving mood.
- Builds empathy and understanding of different people and experiences.
- Increases confidence for exams, further education, and future careers.

How it works: Students will earn Sparx Reader Points (SRP) for reading. Any points earned above the usual 300 weekly homework target will count towards the challenge. The more they read, the more they earn!

The top three students in each year group will win book vouchers.
Every student who reads at least 15 extra minutes per week will be rewarded with House Points. Even if students don’t win a top prize, they can still earn a huge number of House Points for their house and themselves.

Over the six weeks, students can work towards the following awards:

- Bronze Award – 900 extra SRP → 120 House Points
- Silver Award – 1,200 extra SRP → 180 House Points
- Gold Award – 1,500 extra SRP → 240 House Points
- Platinum Award – 2,000 extra SRP → 300 House Points

Staff Challenge: Our staff will also be taking part! Students can challenge themselves to read more than Miss Sharman, Mr Pottle, Mrs Brett-Reynolds, and Miss Grainger. Staff will be earning House Points too, so it’s all to play for!

Parental Support: It would be wonderful to have parents joining in and supporting our students. You can help by asking your child what they are reading and discussing it with them, encouraging a regular reading routine, and celebrating their effort and progress.

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FREE CONFERENCE

FREE CONFERENCE: Leading SEND & Inclusion in a Mainstream Setting

A unique networking and collaborative learning and development opportunity...



How do we place learner need at the heart of curriculum design and how do you articulate & define learner pathways in your setting?
How do you evidence the often unique learning journeys made by your students?
How do you create a culture of Inquiry to respond to the shift in complexity threshold and rapidly changing needs of learners in your setting?
What approaches can best support improved attendance and engagement for learners, particularly those who are neurodiverse?
What do we mean by Preparing for Adulthood from the earliest years?
What does successful transition look like from school to college then college to adult services / employment?

Join us for a day of networking & collaboration guided by expert input and curated talks around key issues.

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY: Yate Academy
Sundridge Park, Yate, Bristol, BS37 4DX
Full day event. Lunch and refreshments provided.

Speakers include:

Sophie Addison (Exec Head - Special School & Alternative Provision Hub Strategic Lead, Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership), **Amelie Thompson** (Assistant Director of Education - SEND & Special Provision, Greenshaw Learning Trust), **Jim Harvey** (Deputy Headteacher, Blaise High School), **Cheryl Gaughan** (Director SEND & Inclusion, JMAT Schools), **Lando DuPlooy** (Headteacher), **Alex Revens** (Asst Headteacher, Belmont School), **Tamsin Grainger** (Senior Deputy Headteacher, Yate Academy), **Sammy Nutt** (Head of Resource Base, Blaise High School)

Topics / Themes include:

- Doing more with less' - Deploying resources for maximum impact
- Additional resource bases - challenges, ideas and opportunities
- Ambition and Aspiration - Outcomes and success for our most vulnerable learners
- Working with families - Harnessing lived experience to improve our provision
- Inclusion across Bristol & South Gloucestershire the wider region and National Landscape

Full day event including keynote sessions and workshops with lunch and refreshments provided. Roundtable discussions, presentations, workshops, and case studies. Unique opportunity to network with leaders of Inclusion and SEND in mainstream settings and MATs across the country.

For full details and to book:

www.evidenceforlearning.net/sendinmainstream

Coming up at Yate Academy

- Monday 26th - Wednesday 28th January | Y11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exam | Year 9/10 Glos Cricket fixture
- Wednesday 28th January | Eagle Project Y7/8 Rugby | Intermediate UKMT Challenge Y9&10
- Friday 30th January | SEND in Mainstream event
- Monday 2nd February | Athletics finals Year 7 & 8
- Tuesday 3rd February | Y9 FutureQuest - Bristol Campus

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