



TRANSFORMING STUDENTS' LIVES

| 2012 TO
2013 |

YORK ST JOHN
STUDENTS' UNION
IMPACT
REPORT

OUR VISION
THEME A:
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

OUR VISION:

Broadening your mind. Making new friends. Advancing your career. Experiencing a different culture.

University can transform your life. So whatever you want to do with your time at York St John, we'll make sure you achieve it.

“It has been a varied and productive year for York St John Students’ Union. We began the year with the excellent result of being placed in the top Students’ Unions in the country, receiving 75% on Question 23 of the National Student Survey. More really positive news came towards the end of the year when it was announced that York St John is one of the best institutions in the country for Student Experience. We look forward to working together with students and university colleagues to continue to provide a top quality experience for our students.”

Full Time Officer Team 2012/13, Adam McSkimming, Dan Ridsdale, Kevin Jones.

In the last year, the Students’ Union has:

- **Supported a more effective, democratic Programme Representative system.** This year we delivered online Programme Rep elections, with over 110 representatives in place in the first semester, providing representation to students on programmes across all faculties.
- **Provided a successful representative training conference.** The Programme Rep Conference gave key information and skills to newly elected representatives, with sessions including Student Services, Careers, and Active Listening training.



- **Reviewed timetable publishing.** We worked with the Timetable Review Group to ensure timetables are published further in advance, which will help students to better plan for childcare, travel, and work arrangements.
- **Celebrated exceptional work of academic staff.** We introduced Celebrating Teaching Awards into the Annual Staff Awards, working with University Human Resources. The new category of awards was made up of award nomination submissions from students to celebrate the work academic staff do to help students.



FUN

THEME A: ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
VALUE 1: FUN 

There is more to student life than lectures. Taking part in clubs and societies and volunteering help you develop skills. The Students’ Union also provides you with the chance to make new friends and have a good time. This year we have:

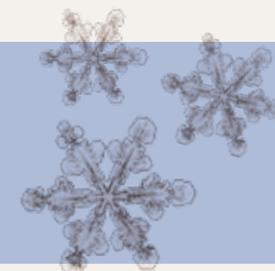


1477 MEMBERS OF CLUBS AND SOCIETIES
A NEW RECORD HIGH, WHICH MEANS MORE STUDENTS ARE INVOLVED THAN EVER BEFORE.

OVER 1000 PEOPLE AT THE END OF YEAR EVENT CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AT YORK ST JOHN.

HELD A WINTER MELTDOWN AT THE END OF THE FIRST TERM. **OVER 500** STUDENTS

ENJOYED AN EVENING OF GOOD VALUE FESTIVE FUN.

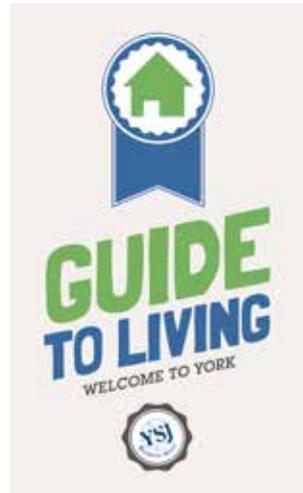


HOSTED NORTH YORKSHIRE VARSITY VERSUS TEESIDE UNIVERSITY FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND WON BY A **COMFORTABLE MARGIN, 21 – 8!**

STREAMLINED THE SPORTS AND SOCIETIES FORMATION PROCEDURE, REMOVING BARRIERS TO STUDENTS WANTING TO SET UP NEW GROUPS.
WE HAVE **HAD 15** NEW GROUPS ESTABLISHED THIS ACADEMIC YEAR.



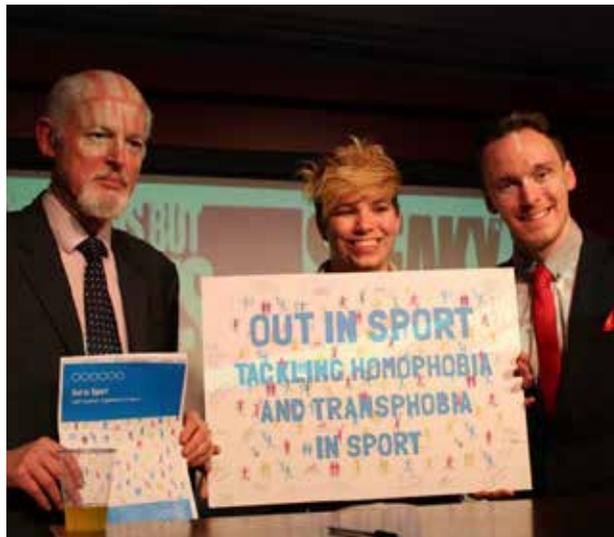
**THEME B:
INCLUDING
EVERYONE**



In the last year, the Students' Union has:

- **Signed a pledge supporting the campaign to tackle homophobia and transphobia in sport.** The Out in Sport pledge ensures our sports clubs are inclusive and welcoming to LGBT+ students. All sports club captains and the full time officer team signed the pledge at a dedicated celebration event, marking the start of more great work in this area.
- **Implemented a more effective democratic structure.** The first academic year of the new democratic structure being in place has seen a stark increase in students being directly involved with our democratic processes. Senate has passed a total of 22 student-led policies this year, continuing to put our members at the heart of the organisation and the work we do.

- **Guide to Living in York distributed to International students.** We have worked with YSJ International to create the content for this pre-arrival publication. Students will receive either a digital or physical guide before departing for the UK, to ease concerns and make the introduction to studying in York as pleasant as possible.
- **Promoted the opportunities for involvement in the Students' Union through YSJ Connect.** The Students' Union provides many opportunities for students to take part in University life, from community volunteering to working for us, to taking on a campaigning role. We have worked with the Careers & Employability team to promote these opportunities to encourage more students to get involved in campus life and engage with the Students' Union.



INCLUSIVE

**THEME B: INCLUDING EVERYONE
VALUE 2: INCLUSIVE **

Whoever you are, wherever you come from and whichever course you're studying at York St John, the Students' Union is here for you. We are always looking for new ways to engage more students in what we do; this year we are particularly proud of:

1158 STUDENTS VOTING
WITH ALL ROLES FILLED.



THAT'S 19% OF THE STUDENT POPULATION,

ONLINE VOTING INTRODUCED SO STUDENTS CAN VOTE 24/7 WITHOUT HAVING TO BE ON CAMPUS

SPARK FUNDRAISING EVENTS, COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS SUCH AS DIWALI, SRI LANKAN & CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION WEEK.

SUPPORTED YORK GAY PRIDE WITH THE EXECUTIVE TEAM ATTENDING THE MARCH AND HELPING TO RUN A STALL WITH UNIVERSITY HUMAN RESOURCES.



THEME C: CAREER DEVELOPMENT

“I started work for the Students’ Union in February of my first year. I found it to be a very friendly place to work with many opportunities to strengthen your CV thus improving your employability after university. Working alongside the staff within the Students’ Union has led to my development in working with others and certainly made me a more confident person.”

Charlie Freeman, 1st Year, Sports Science And Injury Management.

We know that you would like to get a great job when you graduate and we do lots to try to help you achieve that. In the last year, the Students’ Union has:

- **Helping to increase the employability of York St John students.** The President has been working with all faculties and the Phoenix Centre to plan increased work and a more strategic focus on employability development in the coming year.
- **Provided placement opportunities for students.** We offered and provided four placement opportunities as part of their programmes of study. Staff supported the students throughout their placement to ensure the best experience. We are thankful for the insight and work the students helped us with during their placement with us.

- **The Students’ Union is a good place to work.** Student staff now work across departments and are trained before starting their roles as to the basic skills required for each area. In the 2013 Staff Satisfaction Survey, 96% of Students’ Union staff said that they were proud to tell people they work for the organisation. This is 15 points up on the Third Sector benchmark median.
- **Awarded three SPARK Students’ Union Opportunity Scholarships.** To assist students in gaining valuable experience and skills increasing their employability, working with the Alumni Development team, we awarded three £1500 scholarships. The beneficiaries will work on various projects and subsequently enhance their future employability.



THEME C: CAREER DEVELOPMENT

VALUE 3: IN TOUCH AND LISTENING



As your Students’ Union, we can only do a good job if we know what you want. Every year, we ask all our members how we can improve their time at university. This year we have done that through:

750 OVER 750 COMMENTS RECEIVED AND RESPONDED TO THROUGH OUR TELL US WHAT YOU THINK SCHEME.



120+ STUDENTS ATTENDED 32 FACULTY FORUMS ACROSS THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

MATURE STUDENT FORUMS IN SEMESTER ONE HELPED US IMPROVE THE EXPERIENCE OF THESE STUDENTS.



THEME D: SUPPORT SERVICES

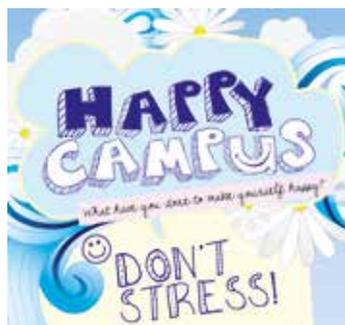
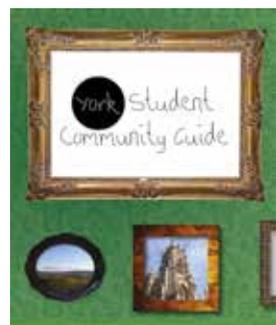
“We are so glad to be in partnership with York St John Students’ Union, the offer fantastic facilities and provide outstanding opportunities for their students”.

Stephen Taylor, Account Manager, Endsleigh Insurance Services Limited.

In the last year, the Students’ Union has:

- **Run a Safety of Students publicity campaign.** We used interesting and creative mediums to communicate the campaign messages to students, with the emphasis on safety of belongings and personal safety. We are working with the Safer York Partnership to further reduce crime for students. We also piloted a new Pay Safe ‘n’ Stay Safe taxi scheme, which ensures students can get home safely on a night.
- **Reviewed and reformed the academic appeals process to better support students.** We developed support material and dedicated staff time to assist students in appeal situations. Following a review of the appeals process in partnership with Registry, the process is to be made more straightforward as well as the implementation of a case work manager.
- **Programme Rep training conference includes advice & guidance section.** The training included a session on advice & guidance from Student Services so that Programme Reps can better handle enquiries from students, and are better positioned to signpost them to further support and guidance.
- **Helped make a more Happy Campus** There are higher levels of stress-related illness towards the end of the academic year around examination and assignment hand-ins, our Happy Campus campaign aims to help students through this. We delivered a month long programme of activities and provided advice on positive mental health, working with Students

Services and Human Resources. Activities included a picnic, craft afternoon, and fun inflatables.



THEME D: SUPPORT SERVICES

VALUE 5 : WORKING TOGETHER



CONTINUALLY IMPROVING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE, PLACING YORK ST JOHN

TRAINING WITH RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

79% NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY COMPLETION RATE

WORKED WITH HIGHER YORK AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS TO LAUNCH THE JOINT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY IN SEPTEMBER.

THEME E: BEST VALUE

In the last year, the Students' Union has:

"We think that as a Students' Union it is really important that we pay attention to environmental issues and do what we can to make our campus environmentally friendly and to raise awareness of these issues. We are proud of what we have achieved this year and look forward to accomplishing even more next year!"

Becky Ford, Joint Ethics & Environment Officer

In the last year, the Students' Union has:

- **Awarded Gold Green Impact accreditation for the second consecutive year.** The award highlights our commitment to positive changes in environmental practice. We have worked hard in different areas this year to become more environmentally friendly in our operations. We are increasingly involving more students in more activities to advance the work we do. York St John moved up 36 places in People and Planet's Green League 2013.
- **Student Interviewer Scheme introduced.** We have worked with the university to include students on interview panels for the recruitment of all senior members of staff and front line lecturing staff. This means greater transparency as students have input into the staff that will be working with them.

- **End of Year event celebration at good value for students.** We conducted significant research in order to overhaul the historical model for the Summer Ball event; leading to a best value model that seeks to deliver expectations in line with the cost.
- **Reduced the organisation's waste disposal costs by 25%.** By reviewing and streamlining our previous process, we were able to reduce the cost of waste disposal by 25%, allowing for the budget to be spent in other, beneficial areas.



VALUE FOR MONEY

We help you make the most of your money at university. This means good quality, affordable commercial outlets. It also means making sure you feel that your time at York St John has been well spent.

FOR ANOTHER YEAR, A RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS HAVE BOUGHT AN NUS EXTRA CARD THIS YEAR, GIVING ACCESS TO EXCLUSIVE STUDENT SAVINGS ACROSS THE WORLD!



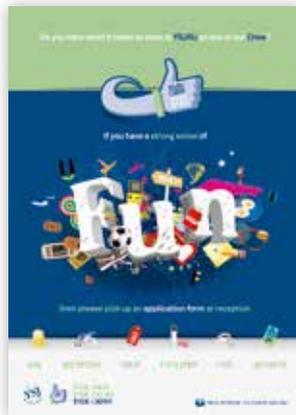
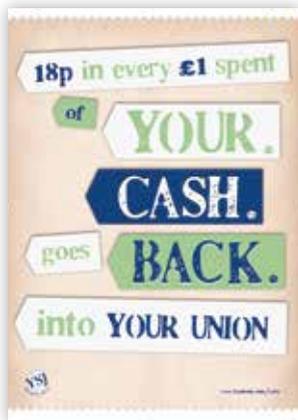
NEXT YEAR ALL FIRST YEAR STUDENTS LIVING IN STUDENT ACCOMMODATION WILL CONTINUE TO GET A CARD COMPLIMENTARY FROM THE UNIVERSITY.

25 PLUS
PROMOTIONAL OFFERS IN THE SHOP EVERY MONTH INCLUDING 2-4-1 PROMOTIONS

SABBATICALS ENSURED UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION COSTS DID NOT RAISE AS MUCH, AS A RESULT OF RESEARCH WITH STUDENTS.



SPORTS & SOCIETIES COACHING FUND – SECURED OVER £18K WORTH OF NORTH YORKSHIRE SPORTVATE FUNDING FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING.



Green Impact
Gold 2012-13



THANKS FOR READING.
STAY IN TOUCH.

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