



Young  
Enterprise

Member of JA Worldwide

COMPANY  
PROGRAMME

TEAM  
PROGRAMME

# INSIGHT

2025/26



## THE COMPANY AND TEAM PROGRAMME MAGAZINE

Providing a real-life learning opportunity  
that introduces young people aged 13-19  
to the realities of the world of work.



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## Welcome

I'm Sarah Porretta. I took on the role of CEO of Young Enterprise in November 2024. One thing that has really struck me in my first year is just how many people I meet in different places – in businesses, schools, in Government (even in the Cabinet!) – who tell me “Oh, I did Young Enterprise” and what they almost always mean is “I did Company Programme”! This just goes to show how important the programme is for us, and of course, for the one million and more alumni who've undertaken it in decades past

Equally, it's so inspiring to meet young people going through Company or Team Programme today, to hear their ideas, the journeys they have been on as individuals, and to imagine where the experience might take them next.

Company and Team Programme give young people the opportunity to exercise their creativity, learn about different careers, develop a range of useful skills and to design and run a real business. Young people have incredible ideas, and both Programmes are all about the opportunity to explore these ideas in a safe and constructive way. And the best thing of all? These skills and experiences are exactly what employers and further and higher education institutions are looking for – they will help young people stand out from the crowd, whatever pathway they choose.

We wouldn't be able to impact the thousands of young people we reach without the dedication of the educators who run our programmes in schools; volunteers who give up their time to mentor our student company teams throughout, and partners who support and enable our programmes. Please accept our huge and heartfelt thanks!



Our latest strategy, **Transforming Futures**, launched in November last year, focuses on reaching young people facing some of the greatest barriers and making our programmes accessible to all. It aims to increase their engagement in education, improve preparedness for the world of work and help increase social mobility.

The focus on engagement is important: our programmes are hands-on and practical, and they suit a range of learning styles, in some cases lighting a spark for students who may be less engaged in formal subjects. We have emerging evidence that our programmes can help with attendance, attainment and attitude to learning – the very things that some schools are struggling with.

With ambitious plans for growth, your support is needed more than ever. So, whether you work in a school or college, a local, regional or national business or you're just someone wanting to volunteer your time, come and join us for the journey. Let the young people across the UK inspire you to get involved.

*Sarah Porretta*

Chief Executive, Young Enterprise

**“Young people have incredible ideas, and both Programmes are all about the opportunity to explore these ideas in a safe and constructive way.”**



COMPANY AND TEAM PROGRAMME:

# APPLIED LEARNING IN ACTION!

At Young Enterprise, we aim to equip young people with the employability skills, knowledge and confidence they need to succeed in the ever-changing world of work.

**Pictured:** A Company Programme student company selling their plant pot painting sets at the 2025 Spitalfields market trade fair.



Through our **Company Programme and Team Programme**, young people set up and run their own student company. Guided by a series of milestones and tasks on our dedicated website, **Company Connect**, they make all major decisions from sourcing start-up capital to choosing director roles, launching a product or service and managing their company finances. Teams are supported by a business volunteer, where possible, and once their product is approved, are covered by £10m product and public liability insurance.

**Company Programme** is designed for students aged 13-19 and is run from 12 weeks up to an academic year. On this programme, we focus on building employability skills such as confidence, resilience and teamwork, financial capability and a workplace understanding. Each student company receives support and guidance from a business volunteer (see page 10).

**Team Programme** is designed for 15-19+ year olds with mild to moderate learning difficulties. On this programme, we focus on supporting the transition from education to independent living and employment, and educators are provided with adaptable resources to suit their students' needs.

Our programmes offer powerful opportunities for young people to develop essential skills through hands-on, practical learning that suits a range of learning styles. For some students, especially those who may not thrive in traditional classroom environments, our approach can open up new ways of learning that feel relevant, engaging and empowering.

We're seeing emerging evidence that participation in our programmes can positively influence attendance, attainment, and students' attitudes towards learning. Both programmes offer a challenging enterprise opportunity that gives students first-hand experience of the world of work. Student companies on our Company and Team Programmes have opportunities to test and showcase their products through in-person trade fairs (see pages 6 & 7) our "pitch to the panel" events, and by setting up a profile on our online marketplace **YE Trading Station**.

Every year we are amazed by the creativity, innovation and quality of the products and services which our student companies have devised to solve everyday challenges, support learning, and promote positivity.

**"Our programmes offer powerful opportunities for young people to develop essential skills through hands-on, practical learning that suits a range of learning styles."**

Throughout this magazine, we're proud to shine a spotlight on the inspiring work of our students, the support they receive from educators and volunteers, and the partners that make this journey possible. Let's take a closer look at Company and Team Programmes 2024-2025.



**Pictured:** A Company Programme student company selling their fitness journals at the 2025 Spitalfields market trade fair.







## Real stories – real impact: Creating opportunities where they are needed most



**Ryan Gardiner**  
Senior Leader  
Howden School

**Ryan Gardiner from Howden School in Yorkshire shares how the programme has impacted their students:**

"Our school is built on a council estate, and the majority of our 690 students are bussed in from rural areas, meaning the students don't really get a lot of exposure to the wider world and experiences others might take for granted. It was obvious from the start that Company programme was a really exciting project. It's exactly the sort of thing you would have wished for yourself when you were at school."

### What Skills Do Students Develop?

Ryan highlights the personal and professional growth he's seen firsthand:

"It helps to make students more independent, but for me, the problem-solving and the need for initiative with this programme stands out the most. You don't understand the enormity of the project until you're doing it. Interpersonal skills are improved massively too, especially with the presenting element of the competition and the customer-facing nature."

**What Advice would you give to schools considering working with Young Enterprise**

"It's a great environment, there's so many things for students to involve themselves with and, as a teacher with no business knowledge, I learned a lot from it too. It's a great experience that we're not able to give students in a classroom, and the opportunity to watch them grow through the process is a real privilege."

"100% schools should go for it".

### Inclusion and building confidence

Ryan reflects on a student with an EHCP (an additional needs plan)

"Becoming the managing director of the company was a huge moment for this young man. You're talking about a student who raised the question back in Year 7 whether they'd be able to function in a mainstream school, and then years on they're presenting to an audience full of people and you have nothing but pride and admiration in those moments".

**"It's a great experience that we're not able to give students in a classroom, and the opportunity to watch them grow through the process is a real privilege."**



### A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

**"It is without a doubt one of the best things I've done in my life. I would absolutely recommend it – in terms of the people I've met and business people I've worked with, creating a business as part of a team, presenting to people."**

**Fyske**, Company  
Programme Alumni



## Long-Term Impact in Action: A Four-Year Partnership – developing employability skills and confidence

**Blessed Trinity RC College has been proudly participating in the Company Programme for the past four years.** Careers Leader **Katie Hart** explains the impact:

"Young Enterprise has become an integral part of our extracurricular programme of activities. Pupils develop a wide range of employability and personal development skills, assisting them in their lives and also their academic studies. They develop strong leadership skills, with most pupils successfully gaining senior prefect roles in Year 11."

**Real Businesses – Real Experiences: Student-Led Teams at Blessed Trinity**  
Over the years, students have launched a variety of innovative businesses through the programme, gaining hands-on experience in teamwork, entrepreneurship and communication.

**"Young Enterprise has become an integral part of our extracurricular programme of activities."**

**Katie Hart**, Careers Leader



**The Blue & Yellow Company**

### Beyond the Programme – putting skills into action

The Company Programme can help open doors for students long after their business journey ends. A great example is Wayes Iftikhar, a participant from Simply Seasonal, who was invited to attend the Labour and Conservative Party Conference in September 2023.

Wayes joined YE's CEO on a panel chaired by former Education Secretary Rt Hon Justine Greening, alongside senior political figures, to discuss the impact of applied learning on youth development, an experience only made available through his participation in Company Programme.



**Simply Seasonal**

**Student Companies Include:**



**Hooked on Engagement**

### A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



**Nature's Pursuit**

**"Taking part has been so beneficial for me and for my friends. This programme has helped us to develop so many important skills like financial responsibility, growing in confidence, and working as part of a team. It's fun, but it also helps us to improve our skills for the future."**

**Maisie Heuer**

Managing Director of Nature's Pursuit









# Bridging education and the workplace: How Young Enterprise and KPMG give students real-world experience.



**Nicola Webb**  
Student Recruitment  
Operations Officer, KPMG



Young Enterprise collaborates with corporate partners to enhance our programmes and provide young people with valuable real-world experiences. These partnerships can offer financial support, employee volunteering opportunities and talent pipeline development, bridging the gap between education and the workplace.

**Meet Nicola Webb, Student Recruitment Operations Officer from one of our established partners KPMG.**

**In a recent interview, Nicola explained how KPMG's values align with those of Young Enterprise.**

"Our values of integrity, excellence, courage, together and for better play key roles in our everyday lives and this is embodied by programmes offered through Young Enterprise. I took part in the Company Programme in 2016, and the lessons I learnt during this experience and the skills that I built, I still use today. Young Enterprise empowers young people to never stop learning, build networks and think boldly, all whilst working as a team and drawing strengths from our differences".

**Are the skills developed through the programme the skills employers look for?**

"Taking part in Company Programme introduced me to the 'world of work'. Having to make strategic decisions, speak to suppliers and customers, and work within a team of people full of different ideas provided me with an introduction to adult life. The experiences I had during my Company Programme journey aided me in interviews when applying for apprenticeships after sixth form. Company Programme provides invaluable 'soft skills' that can

often be overlooked, but the ability to hold conversations with stakeholders, the confidence to present to a group, and being able to adapt and work with various people who have a multitude of ideas are all skills that are key to having a successful career".

**What would Nicola say to a business that is considering supporting Company Programme as part of YE's Inspiring Futures initiative?**

"The next generation are going to be our future leaders, if in any way we can upskill, provide opportunity and support and aid our young people to be the best versions of themselves, that should be a priority for UK businesses no matter their size and by partnering with Young Enterprise and supporting the Company Programme, you are doing just that".

**"Young Enterprise empowers young people to never stop learning, build networks and think boldly, all whilst working as a team and drawing strengths from our differences."**

**Nicola Webb**  
Student Recruitment Operations Officer, KPMG



# Building future skills

The Blue Coat School, Oldham is one of the many schools supported by KPMG. Over 200 young people have taken part in Company Programme over the last 6 years, running their own student business from ideation to sale.

Student companies on the Company Programme participate in sales pitches, attend trade fairs and compete against other local, regional and national teams in showcase events. Here are some of the amazing teams that have taken part...



Hive Minded



Indigrow Mango



Woodworks



**Beyond the programme - next step opportunities**

Taking part provides opportunities beyond the programme. Grace (pictured here), Sales Director of Indigrow Mango, went on to become a valued member of the local volunteer board in Greater Manchester, bringing a much-needed "Youth Voice" to the table.



**Jonathan Lowe, Centre Lead at Blue Coat, said,**

"I have been involved with Young Enterprise teams for the past six years. Every year, I see the students grow in confidence as the competition progresses. It is such a positive and valuable opportunity for the students who take part to develop their skills. They get the chance to work in a team, present their ideas to panels of judges and a lecture hall full of their peers, write a professional business report and have their business strategies scrutinised and questioned by experts. It is hard to imagine an activity which gives students better practical examples for job applications, interviews, and selection processes, preparing them for the competitive professional world of work".

## A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

**"We have overcome many challenges throughout our journey."**

Hive Minded

**"It's been challenging balancing time with our lives, a levels and the business but now we know how to do this it's a very achievable goal for our future success."**

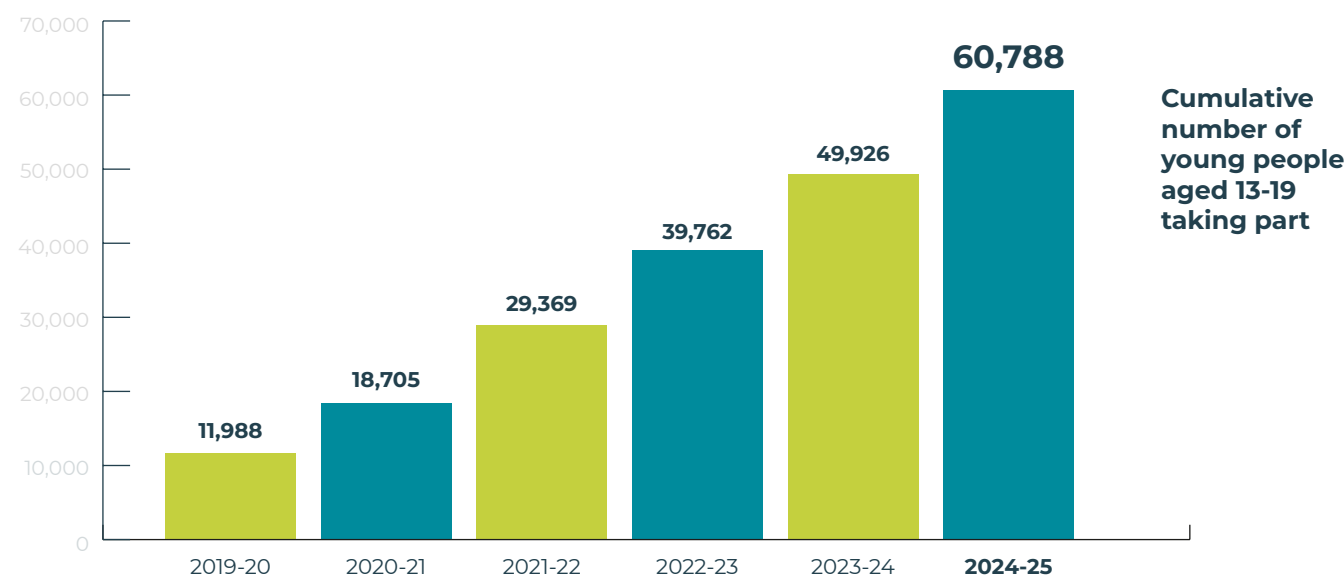
Indigrow Mango

**"We learned the importance of commitment and reliability in a team as well as how to support one another. Whilst it was challenging we have developed stronger teamwork, problem solving and resilience."**

Resinova

# IT'S ALL ABOUT IMPACT!

Since 2019, **1,674** education providers and **60,788** young people have taken part in Company or Team Programme.



## This year's highlights...

### Participation



### Students

Every year, young people take part in a survey before and after taking part in the programme. This helps to understand how students see their skills, opportunities and future career prospects, and to determine if Company Programme has had an impact on these factors

**Last year's survey found that:**



### Educators

This year's educator survey found that **90%** of educators agreed that Company Programme had a positive effect on students' confidence. **79%** of educators agreed that Company Programme had a positive effect on students' engagement in their learning.



of surveyed educators said they would take part in Company Programme again.

### Student and Educator feedback

**93%** of educators reported the programme improved students' understanding of their strengths and areas to develop, and **82%** said students felt more inspired about starting a career that motivates and interests them. Educators also felt that Company Programme impacts on students' confidence. **79%** agreed that students felt more confident about entering the world of work, and 90% of educators reported that the programme had a positive effect on students' confidence.

### Business volunteers

Business volunteers are a vital part of Company Programme, responsible for providing guidance on setting up and running a student company, as well as facilitating experiential learning. This provides valuable context for students to learn from, and volunteers gain transferable skills from supporting young people.



of business volunteers in 2023 said the role helped them to understand others' perspectives.



said volunteering with Company Programme had helped them share personal experiences.



said they would volunteer with Company Programme again.

## INSPIRING FUTURES

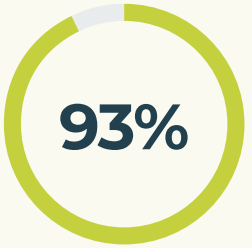
**Our Inspiring Futures (IF) initiative allows us to offer Company Programme for free to some schools in England and Wales, helping young people who face the greatest barriers, to build confidence, resilience and employability through entrepreneurship, mentoring and financial education.**

This year's survey found that **44%** of participants did not have any close friends or family members who own a business or lead an organisation. For these young people, Company Programme allows them to gain an insight into the business world, expanding their view of their future career opportunities.

**Last year's educator survey found that:**



of educators from IF schools agreed that Company Programme had a positive effect on students' confidence.



of educators from IF schools agreed that Company Programme had a positive effect on students' engagement in their learning.

In 2023-24, **49%** of students from Inspiring Futures schools said they felt confident in their abilities to run a business before taking part in Company Programme, compared to an average of **65%** across all students. After taking part in Company Programme, this increased to **70%** for IF school students and **78%** for all students. This indicates that participating in Company Programme has helped to close the gap in confidence between students from more disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.





# In conversation with: Westminster Foundation

**The five-year partnership between Young Enterprise and the Westminster Foundation represents a dynamic collaboration aimed at empowering young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to thrive in today's evolving world.**

Combining the Westminster Foundation's commitment to fostering social impact with Young Enterprise's expertise in enterprise and financial education, this alliance has sought to inspire the next generation. Together we have created opportunities for young people to develop critical thinking, financial literacy and an entrepreneurial spirit, laying the foundations for a brighter future.



**Caroline Da Cunha,**  
Cheshire Grants Manager  
Westminster Foundation

## **What's your role and what is the Westminster Foundation?**

I am the Cheshire Grants Manager for the Westminster Foundation, an independent grant-making trust and registered charity representing the charitable interests of the Duke of Westminster and Grosvenor businesses.

Our focus is on early intervention support. By stepping in before challenges grow, we can break the cycle of intergenerational inequality and help enable a positive future for children and young people.

## **Why does the Westminster Foundation choose to support Young Enterprise?**

We are passionate about supporting young people to develop the skills they need to be career-ready and helping them build life skills to prepare for adulthood. There's a strong alignment with our strategy and what Young Enterprise offers in terms of those employability skills, and financial education.

## **Thinking about Company Programme, what key skills are developed by the programme that employers look for?**

I think they have the chance to develop so many skills but the one that stands out to me would be communication.

Effective communication in presentation skills or pitching ideas externally but also communicating effectively with your colleagues to work well together as a team. I also think working towards a goal, where

## **"Watching that team of young people support one another was truly brilliant."**

you've got a key deadline and need to submit your figures and outcomes as part of the Company Programme, is an important part of it too. Working towards achieving something within a tight timeframe. It's a good motivator and develops time management skills.

## **What would you say to a Trust or Foundation who was considering working with Young Enterprise?**

From the outset, Young Enterprise has been one of the easiest charities I've ever worked with. Their team has been brilliant to collaborate with, responsive, organised, and always a step ahead. Every request is met with timeliness and care, and communication is not just efficient, but genuinely thoughtful. Questions are answered quickly and thoroughly.

What truly sets them apart, though, is their unwavering commitment to excellence. They are a safe pair of hands; you know every event will be executed to the highest standard. It's a partnership built on trust and a shared desire to make a difference.

## **What's the best piece of advice you've given or received?**

Something that really resonated with me is this quote I came across a few years ago, which is "Popcorn is prepared in the same pot, same heat,

same oil, yet the kernels do not pop at the same time". It's a quote that can relate to any age group, although it's often mentioned in a parenting context. Essentially, it is saying that people fulfil their potential at different points in time, and it is important to accept that – useful advice.

An unhelpful habit we can fall into, especially in our younger years, is comparing ourselves to others. It can quietly fuel self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy, often without us even realising it. The truth is, everyone's journey is different. Measuring your progress against someone else's path not only distracts you from your own growth, but can diminish the joy of your own achievements. As the saying goes, "Comparison is the thief of joy". Instead, the focus should be on personal development, on being content with who you are and how far you've come. That's where real confidence is built, recognising your own value and progress.

## **What has been your personal highlight?**

Being part of the judging panel for the Young Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington final. One team of young people explained they had special educational needs, and it was clear during their presentation that they were nervous. They supported one another with quiet gestures, encouraging glances, and discreetly held their colleague's hands. Watching that team was truly inspiring. It was just brilliant.



## **Ellesmere Port High School**

Ellesmere Port High School had great success with their student company Revoscent this year winning a place at the North West Regional final which secured both an award for sustainability and an opportunity to represent the North West at the National finals as a Regional Inspire Award winner

**Joel,** Managing Director reflected:

**"From a Business Studies perspective the whole experience has benefited us, it's been a real world application of what we have learned in school"**





# Embracing the power of neurodiversity – Team Programme style!

Designed for students with mild to moderate learning difficulties, our Team Programme continues to shine as a platform that not only introduces students to the world of work but also celebrates individuality, creativity, and resilience.



**Pictured:** Team programme Winners for 2025 Dis+Vantage from Chesterfield College

This year's Team Programme winners were Dis+Vantage, a dynamic team who produced a standout range of streetwear that promotes the positives of neurodiversity. The team said, "We decided on the name Dis+Vantage because while most people find being neurodivergent a disadvantage, there can be many positives."

Our judges were so impressed with the team's bold designs and clever use of messaging to start conversations and shift people's perceptions. They commented on the clear and confident way that the students presented their plan and explained their financial decisions, making note that "Offering discounts to specific customer groups was a smart and inclusive business decision that showed real awareness of the audience".

For the student company, the impact went beyond profits: "The main thing we are proud of is that we came together as a team, which helped us all develop our independence and overcome our own personal barriers. All of this while promoting something very important to us. The big red plus of our neurodiversity."



The main thing we are proud of is that we came together as a team, which helped us all develop our independence and overcome our own personal barriers. All of this while promoting something very important to us. The big red plus of our neurodiversity.

**Dis+Vantage** - Team Programme Winners



**Pictured:** Thrive and Shine, who won the Inspire Award in the Midlands, pictured here with their products with positive and affirming messages at the UK final.

We can always count on our Team Programme student companies to bring the fun, positivity and energy to our showcases, trade fairs and events. In the words of Nikki Clark, the educator for Thrive & Shine:

"Competitions throughout the year provide structure and motivation, giving students clear goals and a real sense of achievement. Being invited to local Young Enterprise trade fairs alongside Company Programme teams made the experience more inclusive and empowering."

**One of the most rewarding aspects of the Team Programme is witnessing the incredible growth in students' confidence and self-esteem. It's inspiring to see them develop a strong sense of team spirit and shared purpose, while gaining a clearer understanding of the world of work.**

**Nikki Clark**, Team Programme Educator

Team Programme is an opportunity to work collaboratively toward a shared goal, take on responsibilities, and see ideas come to life. This helps lay a strong foundation not just for future employment, but for everyday life.

The achievement of all of our Team Programme student companies goes to show that with the right support and opportunities, every young person can shine.





# CELEBRATING YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The Company Programme of the Year Competition is the most prestigious event in the Young Enterprise calendar, and is kindly supported by Delta Air Lines. Over 1,000 teams across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Gibraltar compete for a spot in the Top 13, often winning area, county and regional titles before claiming their place.

Delta Air Lines, the official supporter of the Company Programme of the Year Awards.



This year, for the first time since the pandemic, we celebrated the achievements of our Top 13 Finalists from across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar in a face-to-face event at Manchester Metropolitan University.

It was a special day all round as joining our finalists, we had the winners of our Journey Award, Team Programme finalists, including an award for individual achievement and seven Inspire Award winners from schools across England and Wales. Inspire is a new Award for 2025, celebrating the success of a team's journey and nominated by our Regional teams, who work closely with all our Company and Team Programme student teams throughout the year.

We are hugely grateful to Manchester Metropolitan University for hosting such a milestone event in our calendar, this was the first of future planned events where university partners will host our awards, the next venue being Cardiff University in June 2026.



**David Taylor**  
Senior academic specialising in entrepreneurship at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)

**“This inspiring event celebrates the creativity, diversity and impact of youth-led ventures, proving that talent and purpose-driven entrepreneurship are thriving across the nation and shaping a bright future.”**



Taking the title of **Company of the Year 2025** was **Team Solasta from Fortrose Academy in Scotland** beating off the competition to take the top slot! Their victory led to a three-day event in Athens (see page 22)

**Pictured:** Students from Solasta, the Company of the Year 2025 winners, who produced a memory journal for young people to fill out with their grandparents, sparking inter-generational conversations.



**Pictured:** Delta In Pursuit of Opportunity Award winners are pictured with Graham Farhall from Delta Air Lines, Food from the Roots, Roundwood Park School.

## **Winners of the Delta In Pursuit of Opportunity Award Food from the Roots, Roundwood Park School.**

One of the core Delta Air Lines values is “Keep on climbing” As our main Supporter for this event, Delta provide special recognition to a team that has demonstrated great resilience, sought out opportunities for their business, forged creative and strategic partnerships to enable them to drive their business forward.







**Winners of the Sustainability and Best Trade Stand Awards:  
Pack a Pren, Olchfa School**

Sustainability improves the quality of our lives, recognises our ecosystem and helps preserve our natural resources for future generations.



**Winners of the Creativity and Best Customer Service Award:  
Collectify, Bayside School, Gibraltar**

Being creative is the key to any successful business and a skill we would all like to make a claim to, but we don't all have what it takes.



**Team Programme Company of the Year Award:  
Dis+vantage, Chesterfield College**

In the same way as Company Programme, this prestigious award celebrates the top-performing company from across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.



**Winners of the Innovation and Technology Award  
and overall Runners Up (2nd place):  
Canopy, St Paul's School**

In an ever-changing world, Technology is a fundamental part of any organisation's DNA.

**“The students had a fantastic day at the National Final and learned a huge amount from the whole experience. It was great to see how much they grew through the process, and we're hopeful it will inspire some of them to pursue future careers in this area.”**



**Winners of Best Promotional Video:  
Recap, Cockermouth School**

Bringing your product or service to life is a sure way to increase sales and market your brand. Innovative ideas brought to life in this way often have a real impact.



**Team programme Individual Achievement Award:  
Nana Ama Pokua Amankwa**



**Third Place:  
Minted Minds, Omagh Academy,  
Northern Ireland**

Their business 'Minted Minds' which aims to teach key money fundamentals to children as they transition from primary to secondary school, wowed judges as they were chosen as overall winners from six student-powered 'companies' in the major award ceremony.

**Inspire Award**

**We were thrilled to introduce a new Award for 2025 the Inspire Award.** The judges commented that the team from Alperton really stood out for their positive attitudes and eagerness to grow. They picked up key skills like communication and teamwork, but what impressed the judges most was their mindset. They were open, proactive, and ready to make the most of every opportunity.

**“Having BSL as her first language Nana successfully navigated what could have been perceived as a barrier and turned it into an invidibly successful opportunity - the definition of an enterprising mindset!”**

Russell Winnard, CEO Drive Forward Foundation.

**TELOS PARTNERS Telos Partnership Essay Writing  
Competition Winners**

Our partner Telos challenges young people to think about their leadership skills and how they applied them to the programme. It's thought-provoking and truly inspiring to read the entries submitted for this annual award.







**Pictured:** Students from Solasta, the Company of the Year 2025 winners, who produced a memory journal for young people to fill out with their grandparents, sparking inter-generational conversations.

# WINNING TEAM TAKE OFF TO ATHENS

**Team Solasta was crowned Company of the Year 2025 in June at Manchester Metropolitan University, pipping 12 competitors to the post.**



**Their victory led to a three-day event in Athens, where the team joined other national champions from over 40 countries at the GEN-E 2025 European Entrepreneurship Festival, Europe's largest Entrepreneurship event, a celebration of entrepreneurship and the achievements of European youth.**

Solasta were joined by Passing Presence, the 2024-25 Start Up Programme winners from Liverpool Hope University. Despite targeting different age groups, they share a unified goal: fostering innovation, resilience, teamwork, and real-world business acumen.

The collaboration between the two teams in Athens highlights the strong synergy between these Young Enterprise programmes and the shared entrepreneurial spirit that unites students across the UK.

Together, they took part in expo activities, networked with fellow entrepreneurs, delivered stage presentations, and immersed themselves in the rich culture of the Greek capital, exploring iconic landmarks like the Acropolis and the original Olympic Stadium.

GEN-E 2025 welcomed student innovators from over 40 countries, showcasing groundbreaking ideas, many driven by social impact, artificial intelligence, and cutting-edge technology aimed at solving real-world problems.

**“This year’s event was a testament to the creativity and determination of young entrepreneurs across the UK and Europe.”**



This year’s event was a testament to the creativity and determination of young entrepreneurs across the UK and Europe. The Young Enterprise Company Programme and Start Up competitions continue to play a crucial role in nurturing the next generation of business leaders, providing them with the skills, confidence, and experience needed to succeed in the competitive world of entrepreneurship.



**Pictured:** Students from Solasta and Passing Presence dressed up to attend the GEN-E 2025 European awards final in Athens.

## About JA Europe

**JA Europe** is the largest and leading organisation in Europe dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed. For over 100 years, **JA Worldwide** has delivered hands-on, experiential learning in entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial health. In the last school year, the JA Europe network provided over 6.6 million learning experiences for youth in online, in-person and blended formats. For two consecutive years, Junior Achievement has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for its global reach, youth economic empowerment delivery at scale, and ability to find unity in diversity.





# Your YE Support Team:

## Meet the People Behind the Programmes

At Young Enterprise, we're passionate about making the Company and Team Programme experience one to remember and behind the scenes is a dedicated group of people working around the clock to make that happen. With 26 years of combined experience, our Programme Support Team truly has your back!

### Introducing Larry and Jenny

Meet Larry Speaight and Jenny Scully, our fantastic Programme Support Team. Their work is all about making life easier for students, educators, business volunteers, and our regional teams. From refreshing content and managing Company Connect updates to responding to feedback, designing promotional materials and planning ahead, the team balances creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork every day.

They keep everything running smoothly and help ensure that everyone delivering the programme has what they need to make it a success.



Larry's Advice:

**"Be selective in your battles; sometimes peace is better than being right."**



Jenny's Advice:

**"Be yourself – don't be afraid to dig deep, find out who you really are, and be kind."**



#### WANT TO CONNECT?

Contact us to find out more about our work in your local region

## Out in the Field: Our Regional Delivery Team

On the ground, our Company and Team Programmes are brought to life by a brilliant team of Educational Partnerships Managers (EPMs), led by six Regional Managers (RMs). These passionate professionals work closely with schools, colleges and universities across the UK to ensure that every young person has an unforgettable experience.



**Ellie Denno – Regional Manager, Southwest**

"There's so much I enjoy about working at YE, especially seeing the real impact our programmes make. I love the variety of the job and working alongside such passionate, dedicated people."

Advice: "Have confidence in what you know and what you don't. People respect honesty far more than blagging. It's OK not to know everything; the key is being open to learning."

**Teresa Fisher – Educational Partnerships Manager, Midlands Team**

"All our programmes can change lives; it's a privilege to be able to provide support in the way we do to students who need it and engage with it."

### FUN FACT

**Teresa is also a trained First Responder who supports her local ambulance service and trains others in CPR.**



**"Every week, I meet someone who remembers doing Company Programme, it's shaped careers, sparked confidence, and created lifelong memories. That's the power of YE!"**

**Teresa Fisher, EPM, Midlands Team**



# Help Young People Build Their Future - **Volunteer with Young Enterprise's Company Programme**

If you're looking for a way to give back, build your own skills, and inspire the next generation, now is the perfect time to get involved with Young Enterprise.

Young Enterprise is looking for enthusiastic and supportive Business Volunteers to guide students aged 13-19 through their Company Programme, which kicked off again in September 2025.

The Company Programme is an incredible opportunity for young people to experience what it's really like to start and run their own business - and they need your real-world insight to make it happen. As a volunteer, you'll mentor a team of students as they come up with an idea, develop a product or service, and take it to market. Along the way, they'll gain vital life and work skills like teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and resilience. But the impact doesn't stop with the students.

Volunteers often say they gain just as much as they give. From building your own leadership and mentoring skills to meeting like-minded professionals and reconnecting with your own early career journey, it's a powerful and rewarding experience. Whether you're new to volunteering or looking for something meaningful to fit alongside work, this is a flexible and hugely fulfilling opportunity.



**Laura**  
Business Volunteer (Kingston and Richmond Area)  
**"As a Young Enterprise business volunteer, I've witnessed transformations that are nothing short of extraordinary - students who began the program uncertain and reserved blossoming into confident problem-solvers and presenters."**



**Stuart Carthy**  
Business Volunteer (Greater Manchester)  
**"Try not to measure your impact through each meeting you have with your student team - Instead, look back at the end of the year on the journey they've been on and how you have helped them navigate this. That's usually where the real reward comes from."**

Company Programme runs weekly during term time, with regional finals in June. Young Enterprise will match you with a local school or college and provide training and support to help you in your role.

If you're passionate about helping young people succeed, or want to develop your own skills while making a real difference, become a Business Volunteer with Young Enterprise.



Register your interest today:  
[www.young-enterprise.org.uk/home/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/](http://www.young-enterprise.org.uk/home/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/)



## ALUMNI

### Beyond Company Programme: **Supporting the next steps**

The end of the Company or Team Programme is just the beginning as we continue to build a young person's skills, confidence and networks.



#### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Up to £2,000 in start-up funding
- Fully funded degree scholarships
- Jobs, apprenticeships and volunteering
- Skills training and personal development
- Mentoring & careers guidance
- Mental health and wellbeing support

#### Alumni Network

The Alumni Network is designed to help young people make their next steps in education, employment or entrepreneurship

#### Amplifying Youth Voice

Young people will be able to have their say by completing the alumni survey and joining our reward and recognition system to take part in focus groups and much more.

#### Reward & Recognition

Our new Reward and Recognition system will ensure that the time, effort and impact of Company Programme alumni are formally acknowledged. This includes digital badges, certificates of achievement, and nomination opportunities for national awards - designed to enhance CVs, LinkedIn profiles, and personal statements. Students can register interest here for Rewards & Recognition:



Register your interest to join the recognition system [here](#).

#### Opportunities to get involved

A range of new volunteer opportunities are being developed exclusively for Company Programme, Team Programme and Start Up alumni. Company Programme alumni - offering meaningful ways to stay connected and contribute to the Programme. From peer mentoring and judging competitions, to speaking at events or supporting recruitment, these roles are designed to fit around study or work commitments while helping alumni build leadership experience, networks, and confidence.

**"Knowing how to communicate with people through body language and speech at the same time is a skill I definitely feel I have developed from taking part."**

Start Up Alumni **Nathan Kabwebwe** and Host of the 2025 Company of the Year Event in Manchester.



**ALUMNI CAN SIGN UP HERE:**





# THE COMPANY & TEAM PROGRAMMES

Providing a real-life learning opportunity that introduces young people aged 13-19 to the realities of the world of work.

## ABOUT US

Young Enterprise is a national financial and enterprise education charity.

We are passionate about developing the financial capabilities and enterprising mindset of the next generation, and believe that increased access to meaningful opportunities, combined with ongoing support, can change young people's futures.

Young Enterprise works directly with young people, teachers, and volunteers, with the support of corporate partners, to build a successful and sustainable future for all young people.

Helping young people realise their potential beyond education and empower a generation to learn, to work and to live.



## GET INVOLVED

If you would like to introduce either our Company or Team Programme in your school or college, or have any questions about the programmes, please email us at: [info@y-e.org.uk](mailto:info@y-e.org.uk)



### FIND OUT MORE

Discover more about Young Enterprise and our work to support young people at [www.young-enterprise.org.uk/programmes](http://www.young-enterprise.org.uk/programmes) or by scanning the QR code.



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