



Young
Enterprise

Member of JA Worldwide

- FINANCIAL CAPABILITY
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- WORK READINESS

YOUNG ENTERPRISE
**COMPANY & TEAM
PROGRAMME INSIGHTS**
2025–26

Building confidence, developing skills and
inspiring futures through enterprise.



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

BUILDING SKILLS. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES. SHAPING FUTURES.

Young Enterprise (YE) is the UK's leading financial and enterprise education charity, helping young people build confidence, manage money, discover entrepreneurship and shape their own future.

Through the **YE Company and Team Programmes**, young people set up and run their own business from **12 weeks up to one academic year**, gaining first-hand enterprise experience.

These programmes also form the foundation of **Inspiring Futures**, Young Enterprise's social mobility initiative, combining practical business experience with mentoring and employer engagement to help young people develop a stronger understanding of the world of work.

Key Skills For The Future

Working in teams to create and manage their own businesses, students build key employability skills including; **communication, teamwork, financial capability, problem-solving, confidence, and resilience.**

By connecting classroom learning with real business challenges, the programmes complement careers education and work-related learning while providing an engaging alternative to traditional work experience.

COMPANY
PROGRAMME

TEAM
PROGRAMME





MEASURING IMPACT

2025-26 AT A GLANCE

During the 2025-26 academic year, Young Enterprise's Company and Team Programmes reached thousands of young people across the UK, **3640 of them from Inspiring Futures schools.**

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS...



536

education providers
across the UK



9,796

young people
took part



652

business volunteers
gave support



836

student companies
were established



Working World Experience, Lasting Impact

Company and Team programme helped raise aspirations, strengthen self-belief, and develop the skills needed to fulfil young peoples potential and provides opportunities to gain experience directly from **volunteers, educators, and business professionals.**

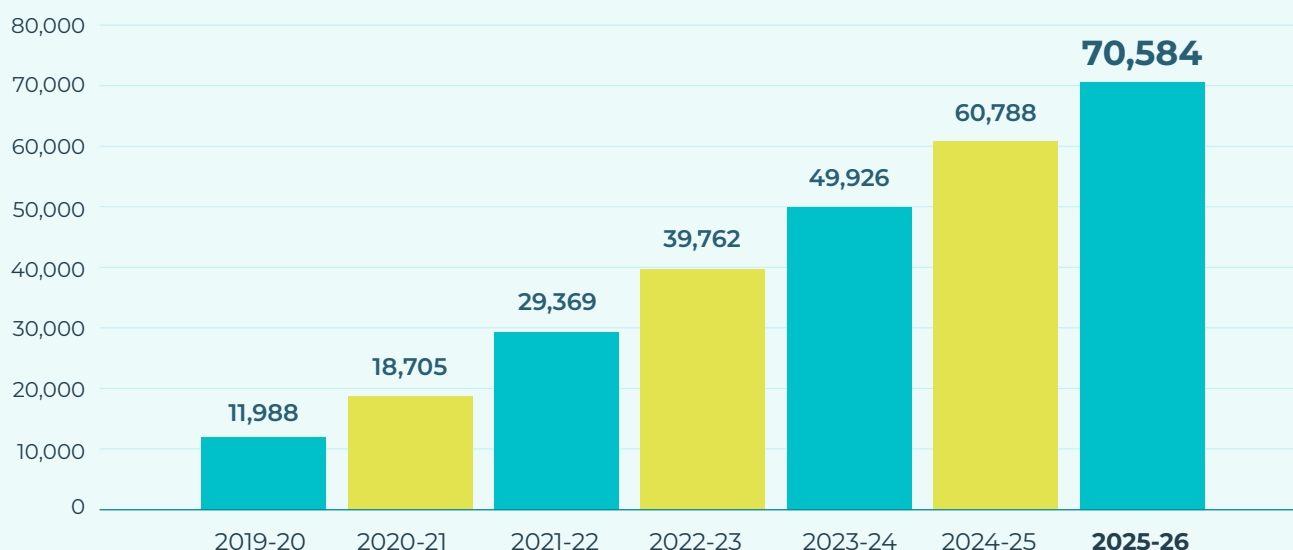
This impact update highlights the **scale of participation, the skills developed by students, and the vital role played by educators and volunteers** in bringing business learning to life and supporting young people on their journey towards future success.



3,640

young people took part who are
facing the greatest barriers to
opportunity.

Cumulative number of young people aged 13-19 taking part



BUILDING CONFIDENCE, SKILLS & ASPIRATIONS

YOUNG PEOPLE

Every year, young people complete a survey before and after taking part in the programme.

This helps us to understand how students see their skills, opportunities and future career prospects, and to determine if Company or Team programme has had a positive impact.



With the right support, belief and opportunity, people can change their path.

Inspiring Futures young person 2025-26

KEY FINDINGS

Last year's survey found that after taking part in Company and Team Programme:

89%

of young people feel inspired about starting a career that motivates and interests them

84%

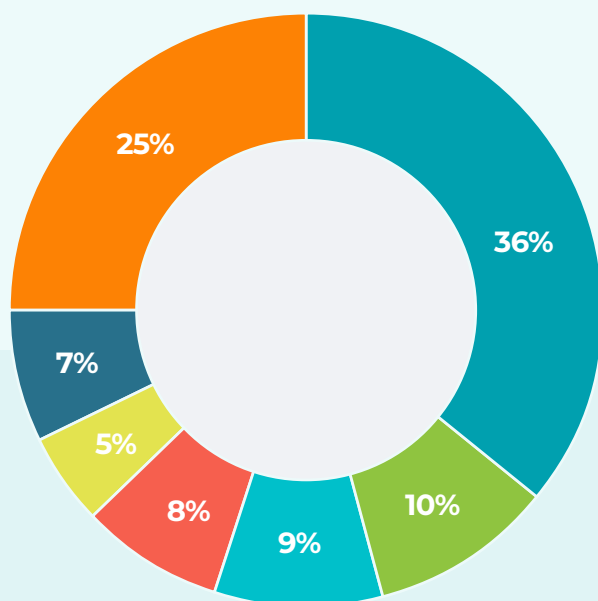
understand their personal strengths and areas they need to develop

84%

see the value of what they learn in lessons, in life

Best thing about taking part in programme

What young people value most about taking part in the programme



Developing Employability Skills	36%
Business Experience	25%
Confidence/Personal Growth	10%
Meeting People/Friendships	9%
Creating/Selling Product	8%
Managing Finances	5%
Other	7%

KEY TAKEAWAY

Developing employability skills (36%) is the strongest aspect, followed by **Business experience** valued by **25%** of young people, and **Confidence/personal growth (10%)**.



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.

Inspiring Futures young person 2025-26



DEVELOPING SKILLS AND SELF-BELIEF

EDUCATORS

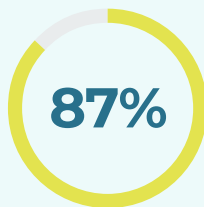
In our 2025-2026 feedback survey, we asked Company and Team programme educators how they felt the programmes had impacted their young people:



gained teamwork and confidence skills



better understood their strengths and areas for development



felt more confident about the world of work



were more resilient when facing setbacks



Almost every student in this YE group grew in confidence, sharing their thoughts in their weekly meeting without being invited to do so.

Company Programme Educator

BRINGING BUSINESS EXPERIENCE TO LIFE

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are central to the success of the Company and Team Programmes.

Through mentoring and guidance, they help students navigate the process of setting up and running a company while bringing learning to life through real-world experience.

Meaningful Employer Encounters

These meaningful employer encounters enrich students' understanding of the workplace and entrepreneurship, while also enabling volunteers to develop valuable leadership, coaching, and communication skills.



652
volunteers



A huge thank you to the 652 volunteers who gave their time to support our Company and Team Programme young people this year, we couldn't do it without them!



The business mentors and volunteers are absolutely fantastic and have formed a lovely relationship with students in the rest of the school. They are part of the community and a much valued member of our department.

Company Programme Educator

ENTERPRISE IN ACTION

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES



ZESTEE: Turning Golf Green through Orange Peel

UK OVERALL COMPANY PROGRAMME WINNERS
GEN-E 2026 FINALISTS



ZESTEE were the UK's overall winning team on Company Programme, earning their place at GEN-E 2026 in Riga after standing out at local, area, regional and national finals.

The team set out to tackle plastic waste in an unlikely corner of the sports world: golf tees. Traditional plastic tees are cheap, widely used and rarely recycled, leaving behind a steady stream of waste on courses around the world. ZESTEE's solution was to create a biodegradable alternative made from recycled orange peels that would otherwise have been discarded.

ZESTEE went on to represent the UK at the GEN-E 2026 finals in Riga, Latvia, competing against top student companies from across Europe. Throughout the competition, they presented their ideas with professionalism, enthusiasm and clarity, making us all incredibly proud.

Their journey reflects a broader trend among our young entrepreneurs who are finding creative solutions for environmental problems, and turning them into viable, scalable businesses.



I'm so proud of everything our team has put into this. Reaching the finals of the UK Young Enterprise Awards is more than we ever expected.

Tilly, ZESTEE Financial Director



ESSENTIAL FIDGETS:

Turning Adversity Into Enterprise

What started as a late entry became one of this year's standout YE success stories. Essential Fidgets is a student-led business formed by five Year 10 boys at Daubeney Academy in Bedford, all from underserved communities and, in their own words, "one poor decision away from permanent exclusion."



The team drew on their own experience of anxiety and disengagement to design discreet fidget tools that help young people, including those with additional learning needs to regulate their emotions. In Daubeney's first year in Company Programme, they won the National Aspire Award, Overall Area Winners, Best Marketing Award and Trade Stand Area Winners, before reaching the National Finals in Cardiff. There, they competed against the top 20 teams from more than 1,000 schools and 10,000 students nationwide.

Beyond the trophies, the real impact has been personal. Once-disengaged students now confidently pitch to judges and professionals, and staff report marked improvements in behaviour and commitment to learning. As the team put it, for the first time, "education started to feel like something we could succeed in."

Education started to feel like something we could succeed in.

Essential Fidgets team member

Leah Lochhead of Admiral, who supported this year's UK Inspire Award, praised the team's resilience in turning adversity into a product that helps others, a reminder of what's possible when young people get the right support, regardless of their starting point. Admiral's backing will also fund another school's place in Company Programme next year.

Outstanding Achievements



Jenny's story: From comfort zone to confidence

The Company and Team Programmes are designed give young people space and opportunity to grow in confidence, resilience and self-belief in a business context. For many students, the most significant progress isn't found in profit made, but in the personal barriers they overcome along the way. This year's Team Programme Outstanding Individual Award winner, Jenny, from Corby Business Academy is a powerful example of this impact.

"Jenny has demonstrated exceptional personal development throughout the Young Enterprise programme, showing significant progress in her willingness to communicate, adapt and problem-solve while consistently pushing herself far beyond her comfort zone. Her growth is most evident in real-world situations. At community sales events, she demonstrated remarkable courage and adaptability, confidently serving

Her growth is most evident in real-world situations.

Nikki, Educator, Corby Business Academy

customers and responding thoughtfully to questions about both the products and the business. Her communication skills have developed significantly, enabling her to share ideas, direct peers, resolve disagreements respectfully and make key decisions, areas she previously found extremely challenging." – Nikki, Educator, Corby Business Academy

By giving young people real ownership of a business, this is exactly what our Company and Team programmes set out to achieve. They create the conditions for young people to develop skills, share ideas, support their peers, resolve disagreements respectfully, and make key decisions under pressure.



- FINANCIAL CAPABILITY
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- WORK READINESS

READY TO BRING ENTERPRISE LEARNING TO YOUR SCHOOL

Head to our website and sign up for **Company or Team Programme** 2026-27 to give your young people the chance to build confidence, develop enterprise skills and experience running a real business.

We can't wait to see what they'll create next!

Our programmes support schools and colleges to work towards the Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Career Guidance and the Careers and Work-related Experiences cross-cutting theme in Wales, helping students connect learning to future careers and opportunities.



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www.young-enterprise.org.uk



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