



YORKSHIRE ASIAN YOUNG ACHIEVERS

AWARDS | 2023



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Welcome to the YAYAs



Dr Mohammed Ali OBE, Founder and CEO of QED Foundation

One of the reasons I set up QED Foundation back in 1990 was to help improve the life chances of disadvantaged people living in ethnic minority communities.

There is so much talent and ability in these communities but sadly it hasn't always had the chance to shine. That's why in 2020, to mark QED's 30th anniversary, I wanted to do something to recognise the achievements of young people from the South Asian community who had overcome adversity in one way or another. I felt if we could put a spotlight on these success stories it would inspire others to bigger and better things.

So, I came up with the Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers awards. The original plan was for this to be a one-off event, but it's gone from strength to strength. The YAYAs are more than just an awards scheme, they're a campaign to inspire more young people to be successful.

We know from the countless reports and studies published in recent years that poverty rates in the UK are worst among black and ethnic minority communities - in the case of Pakistanis, the poverty rate is more than double that of white people. We know, too, that young people of South Asian heritage still suffer from prejudice and fewer opportunities.

One of the problems in the past has been the lack of role models for young Asians when it comes to choosing a career - because you can't be what you can't see.

If people see someone from a similar background who lives down the road doing well, they are more likely to think, 'if they can do it so can I.' That's where I think projects like ours can make a difference. We've had people from all kinds of backgrounds, including Indian, Afghan, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan, taking part - each with their own story of triumph over adversity.

Last year's overall winner was Neil Bharat Patel, a British Indian from Leeds, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. He's faced all kinds of challenges but it didn't prevent him from gaining a first-class honours degree in Computer Science from the University of Bradford and he now works as a software developer.

Huma Malik is another inspirational figure. During the pandemic Huma dedicated much of her time to a variety of volunteering roles including helping to raise awareness of mental health issues among young people, despite the fact she needed to make regular trips to hospital for blood transfusions.

I am in awe of these young men and women and what they have achieved through hard work and determination, often against all the odds. They deserve our recognition and our thanks.

My hope now is that the young people we are shining a light on will go on to become mentors, either in schools or in their local communities, because they are truly inspirational and we can all, young and old, learn a thing or two from them.

Mohammed Ali

About QED



Transforming lives since 1990

This is an outline of the way forward for QED Foundation, a small enabling charity I set up in 1990 aimed at improving the social and economic circumstances of people from ethnic minorities living in the UK.

In 2021 the ethnic minority population reached 11 million, around 18% of the population, and is predicted to rise to 38% of the total British population by 2050.

Since 1990, QED has directly helped around 40,000 people into employment, self-employment, further education and training.

In addition, we have indirectly supported many more through a wide range of programmes, including advising and coaching over 2,000 policy and decision makers from the public, private and third sectors, on how best to engage with, and develop a deeper understanding of, ethnic minorities as employees.

A key objective of QED Foundation has been to facilitate improvements in the socio-economic position of ethnic minority communities.

Our belief, back in 1990, was that there will be no need for QED after ten years because we wanted public and private organisations and businesses to embrace equality, diversity and inclusion as part of their core work.

This has, to some extent, been achieved, thanks to UK government legislation, the leadership within the public and private sectors, and the campaigns and projects of charities and organisations like ours.

The social and economic circumstances of ethnic minority people living in the UK have improved considerably since 1990. Many are now playing leading roles in all walks of mainstream British life including the world of media, sport, business and culture, as well as across the public and voluntary sectors.

In 1990, there were just four MPs from ethnic minority backgrounds. In 2023, that figure stands at 65, including cabinet ministers, the current prime minister and the first minister of Scotland - something that was unthinkable when I set up QED.

However, we cannot be complacent.

There are still significant challenges facing ethnic minority communities these include some sectors failing to reflect the nation's ethnic diversity in their workforce, not enough representation of ethnic minorities in middle and senior level roles, and some minority groups, notably British Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, still lagging well behind others in terms of educational attainment and job opportunities.

About QED



Opening opportunities to all

Our future plans:

QED Foundation, funded through grants, donations and sponsorship, will:

- Continue the core campaigns, started in 1990, aimed at getting people from ethnic minority communities into decision-making roles and under-represented sectors.
- Provide community engagement advice, guidance and support services to the public and private sectors, enabling them to implement their recruitment, retention and progression strategies aimed at creating an ethnically diverse workforce.
- Encourage British ethnic minority diaspora communities to address abject poverty and disadvantage in their countries of origin for the benefits of the UK and developing countries, thus contributing to world peace, prosperity and harmony.

We will establish a new enterprise, and build on over 30 years' experience, to:

- Establish itself as a major ethnic minority-led provider of public services contracts commissioned by local, regional and national government departments, to address a huge shortage of ethnic minority-led SMEs providing mainstream public services.
- Bid for contracts directly, or as a subcontractor, with a focus on education, employment and health sectors.

QED-30 Sponsors

We will seek up to 30 organisations from the private, public and the third sectors to fund QED Foundation's core development activities outlined above.

Mohammed Ali OBE,
Founder & Chief Executive, QED Foundation.

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York St John University

are proud to be a headline partner
and sponsor of the Overall Young
Achiever of the Year Award

We stand for equality, ambition and social justice and we know that education has the power to create a fairer world. We celebrate diversity and take pride in our dedication to providing equal opportunities for students from all backgrounds. Our unique Opportunity and Excellence scheme helps to break down the barriers to attending university. The difference this makes is clear: 74% of our students come from backgrounds under represented in UK Higher Education (July 2023).

yorksja.ac.uk

Our headline partner

and YOUNG ACHIEVER of the YEAR AWARD SPONSOR



Celebrating different lives lived

York St John University is proud to be the headline sponsor of the YAYA Awards, supporting the valuable work of the QED Foundation. By celebrating the remarkable achievements of all nominees, we aim to inspire and empower young Asian people to keep pushing the boundaries of success.

At York St John, we have a rich history of transforming lives through education. A commitment to providing access to education for all has been at the core of our mission since 1841. With official 'Sanctuary' status, we see our role as something bigger than an education provider, and our students thrive in a close-knit community that fosters a strong sense of belonging.

Inclusivity lies at the heart of our university, and we value the social and cultural diversity that everyone brings to our community. We continuously strive to enrich our community by tackling inequalities, promoting fairness and challenging prejudice.

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**YORK
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York St John University is recognised nationally for our work to widen participation in higher education. Our inclusive offer scheme has been endorsed as a sector-leading way of breaking down barriers and making higher education accessible to those who may not feel that university is a possibility for them. This approach has had a remarkable impact; 74% of our students now come from backgrounds that are underrepresented in UK Higher Education.

We know that race inequalities are a problem across the higher education sector, and achieving race equality is central to our social justice mission. That is why York St John University has committed to a five-year action plan to become an anti-racist university. We are one of only 37 institutions to hold a Race Equality Charter (REC) award. In November 2022, we were conferred a REC bronze award by AdvanceHE, recognising the robust plan we have in place to continue to improve equality.

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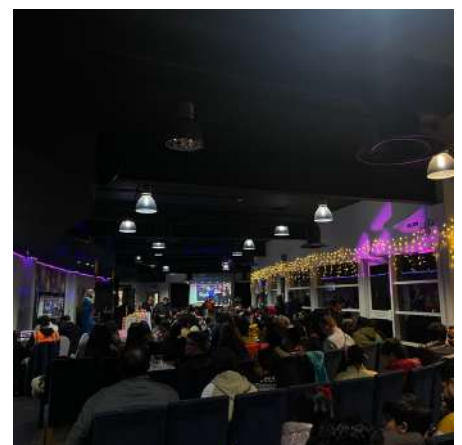
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Last year's overall winner

2022'S OVERALL WINNER

NEIL BHARAT PATEL

Software developer and former Bradford University student Neil Bharat Patel received the 2022 Young Achiever of the Year when he was 29.

Leeds-born Neil, who lives in Leicester, has cerebral palsy. He overcame the challenges he faced through his health issues to gain a First-Class Honours degree in Computer Science from the University of Bradford.

The British Indian was a runner-up in the Overcoming Life Obstacles category sponsored by the University of Bradford, and was chosen as the Overall Young Achiever of the Year.

Neil said his relocation from Leeds to London for his first professional job was a significant life obstacle that he had to overcome - especially without his disability aids.

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, he would often be seen walking around on his tiptoes as a child. To correct this, he had undergone surgery which was successful. Nonetheless, he is now



wheelchair-bound.

Describing the YAYA awards event "like the film awards you see on TV," Neil said that winning such an award felt like a big achievement.

He said: "I have overcome my challenges and I hope others can do

the same and get to where they want to be." Neil added: "I was very surprised to receive the award. I feel very happy and it has made me proud and my family proud. I also think it will inspire others with disabilities to overcome challenges and life obstacles and to achieve more."

YOUR HOST

NOREEN KHAN, BBC RADIO AND TV PRESENTER AND COMEDIAN

Noreen Khan is an award-winning radio and TV presenter. Her warm and natural presenting style make her an instant hit with audiences. Noreen is also a stand-up comedian, with her hugely successful 'Ladies of Laughter (LOL) with Noreen Khan Tour.' She is also a social media

influencer, due to her large following and engaging videos and posts. She is an Ambassador to the British Asian Trust, founded by His Majesty The King (when he was HRH The Prince of Wales), and was also appointed an Ambassador by the ICC for the Cricket World Cup.



YAYA 2022 WINNERS



SPORT

UBAID HUSSAIN
aged 18



**HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH OR
HEALTHCARE**
BENJI CHANDRA
aged 28



**ARTS & CREATIVE
INDUSTRIES**
MARIYAH KAYAT
aged 23



MEDIA

ARIF AHMED
aged 31



EDUCATION

AMINAH AHMED
aged 22



PRIVATE SECTOR

HABIB KARIMI
aged 31



SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

JAWAIRIYA KHAN
aged 20



PUBLIC SECTOR

MEHR AHMAR
aged 23



NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

SAHAR IJAZ
aged 22



YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

YEASIN MOHAMMED
aged 27



OVERCOMING LIFE OBSTACLES

MUHAMMAD WAQAR AHMED
aged 24



YOUNG ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

NEIL BHARAT PATEL
aged 30

Meet the Judges



DR MOHAMMED ALI OBE

Mohammed Ali is Founder and Chief Executive of OED Foundation, a charity that supports the social and economic integration of ethnic minorities.

He has been working in grass root community empowerment for over 40 years in the UK and Europe. A social entrepreneur, he develops new ways of addressing the social and economic challenges facing ethnic minority communities. He has been advising public, private and voluntary sector organisations on ethnic diversity and inclusion since 1990, and was awarded an OBE in 2001.



PROF ADEEBA MALIK CBE DL

Adeeba is Deputy Chief Executive of QED; she has been with the organisation for over 31 years. Previously she was a teacher in Hull and Bradford. She has held ministerial and non-ministerial roles on boards and worked across Whitehall. She is on the Strategic Race Board at the Home Office, is a Member of the State Honours Committee, and board member for Bradford UK City of Culture 2025.

She is a Deputy Lieutenant for West Yorkshire and Honorary Professor at York St John University. Adeeba received an MBE in 2004 and CBE in 2015.



ROBERT HICKEY

Rob has been Chief Operating Officer at York St John University for seven years, and has proudly supported the YAYAs since 2020.

He leads the university's professional services teams, including finance, HR, estates management, IT, marketing & student recruitment, plus oversees activities. Inclusion and diversity of the staff and student body is a core aim. Prior to working in Higher Education, Rob had a five-year stint in senior roles in Network Rail, and was a management consultant for PwC, Deloitte and GVA specialising in regeneration and economic development.



PROF UDUAK ARCHIBONG MBE

Uduak Archibong is Pro Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Diversity at the University of Bradford. She is a Fellow of the West African College of Nursing and the Royal College of Nursing. Her research has provided a unique international definition of positive action for representational and participative diversity. Her research, teaching, and knowledge transfer activities broadly cover the areas of workforce diversity, diversity-competent leadership development, family-centred health care and cross-cultural negotiation of community access to health and social services.



The judges were hugely inspired and impressed by the remarkable individuals who made the 2023 shortlist. They offer a great sense of hope and optimism for the future, despite the challenges faced.

— DR MOHAMMED ALI OBE



JO QUINTON-TULLOCH

Jo became the director of the National Science and Media Museum (NSMM) in 2013. Her 25 years in museums started in the Learning Team at the Science Museum. She has delivered world class galleries and exhibitions, including the launch of the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. Jo's focus in Bradford has been to reposition the museum as a STEM learning centre of excellence. She is a fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts, and a board member for The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres and the National Coal Mining Museum for England (ex officio).

The awards event

THE SPEAKERS



DR MOHAMMED ALI OBE, FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE QED FOUNDATION

Dr Ali has worked in ethnic minority community development for over 35 years in the UK and Europe. He is a social entrepreneur, pioneering and developing new ways of addressing the social and economic challenges facing ethnic minority communities. He worked in roles with Glaxo Pharmaceuticals, Bradford Community Relations Council, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Sheffield City Council and Fullemplay, a London-based ethnic minority social and economic development agency, before setting up the QED Foundation in 1990. QED has directly supported 40,000 people and, indirectly, many more, by training and advising senior managers in the public, private and the third sectors in recruiting, retaining, and developing an ethnically-diverse workforce. He has served on numerous public, private and voluntary sector boards and committees, including for the NHS, Home Office, DWP, IOD, EU, ACEVO, Bradford University and York St John University. He is chairman of the Poverty Alleviation Scholarships Foundation and the Network of Pakistani Voluntary Organisations (UK). He has won many accolades, including an honorary doctorate from the University of Bradford in 1997 and OBE in 2001.

DAVID POTTS CBE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MORRISONS PLC

David joined Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc as Chief Executive in March 2015. David is a vastly experienced retailer who joined Tesco PLC at the age of 16 and worked there for 39 years. He rose to become CEO of its Ireland business, its UK retail stores business and then CEO of Tesco Asia. David was also on the Tesco PLC Board from 1998 until he left in 2011. Prior to his appointment as CEO of Morrisons, David held several advisory positions with a number of private equity and consultancy firms and developed his own retail concept to sell general merchandise. He also worked on two extensive retail projects in the UK. David has two sons, Dan and George, and four grandchildren and is a lifelong Manchester City fan.



DR AMIR KHAN, GP/TV PERSONALITY

Dr Amir Khan is a devoted full-time GP and best-selling author working in inner city Bradford. His charisma and expertise won the hearts of the nation following his original role in GP's Behind Closed Doors (Channel 5). Amir is the resident doctor for ITV's Lorraine & Good Morning Britain and hosts Dr Amir's Sugar Crash (Channel 5) and You Are What You Eat (with Trisha Goddard, Channel 5). The Doctor Will See You Now (Ebury) is Amir's Sunday Times Bestselling book that tells a heart-warming story of the highs and lows of life as a GP. When he's not in the surgery or on our TV screens, Amir spends his time gardening, baking, running, and supporting wildlife conservation.

PROFESSOR KAREN BRYAN OBE, VICE-CHANCELLOR, YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Professor Karen Bryan joined York St John University as Vice Chancellor in April 2020. She was previously Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Greenwich. Prior to that, she was Pro Vice Chancellor for Regional Engagement and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing at Sheffield Hallam University. Professor Bryan qualified as a speech and language therapist from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and also gained her PhD there. Her research interests are in communication difficulties in young offenders and in forensic populations. Also, the impact of communication difficulties on access to healthcare. She is involved in the development of Registered Intermediaries working for the Ministry of Justice, and was previously a member of the Health Professions Council. Professor Bryan is a Visiting Professor in the Department of Neuropsychology at the University of Warsaw, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. She was awarded an OBE for services to higher education in 2018.



JANAN

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YORKSHIRE ASIAN YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARDS

ACHIEVEMENT IN SPORT

the shortlist



TANISHA JAIN

Tanisha is the first Asian woman to be York Sport Union President at the University of York. She believes sports can help mental and physical health, and is driven to make a positive change by making sports inclusive and accessible. Tanisha has increased diversity for the BAME and LGBTQ communities at the university. She's also treasurer for the Last Taboo, which helps victims of sexual violence.



ANIL NAWAZ

Anil has a first in Computer Science and a Master's in Big Data Science & Technology. As a football coach, he has helped create football pitches in Bradford and trained people to become leaders in sport. Anil has been a Manningham Allstars under-10s coach, and Bradford Central under-15s coach. Anil suffers from learning difficulties, including dyslexia, but continues to help many people in the community.



HUSSNAIN CHAUDARY

Hussnain is the only British Asian playing American football at premiership level, in a sport that's not currently a diverse one. Hussnain has played for the Yorkshire Academy Rams, was selected for the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) organisation, which runs the British Universities American Football League, and University Allstars. He was brought up by a single parent. Hussnain is currently studying Psychology.

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JANAN

Brainchild of the Khan brothers, who envisioned a first of its kind authentic South-Asian shopping experience within the UK. Staying true to their roots, the vision was named 'Janan' which means, 'love and life.'

Janan first opened its doors to the public in 2011 with an impressive department store in West Yorkshire and received an overwhelming response from the public. The vision continues to grow, and today Janan Group of companies has a leading worldwide presence, working collaboratively with designers and brands across the globe with a reputation of trust, exceptional quality, and excellent customer service.

Janan is a celebration of style, culture, and family all under one roof. Our heritage is steeped rich in wonderful journeys and stories; with an intention to bridge the gap between continents and generations, and accommodating both traditional and modern approaches.

We believe everyone should feel confident and beautiful in their identity, with style and luxury being accessible and affordable to all. Our customers are part of the Janan family and we want them



to experience a trusted and reliable service. We are dedicated to quality and we want to reflect this in our approach to go above and beyond for our customers, whether it be instore or online.

We value where we come from and where we are going, constantly evaluating ourselves to remain relevant for today and for future generations to come.



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ACHIEVEMENT IN HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH or HEALTHCARE

the shortlist



RHEA NARANG

Rhea is a junior doctor at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust. She volunteered during the pandemic, and currently volunteers for a women's charity which focuses on rehabilitating survivors of domestic abuse. Rhea's mother died in her final year of school, so she had to deal with the trauma and loss she felt. She is passionate about equality, diversity, and inclusion.



NUSAYBAH TUFAIL

Nusaybah works at Bradford Teaching Hospital on the neonatal ward. Nusaybah always wanted to be a nurse, and is the first female in her family to have completed a university degree (in Children's Nursing). She was married at the age of 18, and had a baby at 21. She completed her degree, studying while being a mum.



ZENAB EMAN SABAHAT

Zenab is a PhD researcher at Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust. She is a member of the Yorkshire Consortium for Equity in Doctoral Education. Her research aims to cultivate a sense of inclusion and tackle structural inequalities for non-white British communities. She promotes race equity in health, and talks about her own struggles as a victim of Islamophobia and institutional racism to support others.

AWARD SPONSOR

The University of York is delighted to be supporting the Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers Award for Achievement in Health, Mental Health, and Healthcare. The University of York is the home of enquiring minds, inspiring teachers, pioneering researchers and committed professional services staff, all of whom are determined to make the world a better place. Our founding values of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, anchored by the highest academic standards, are as true today as they were when the University of York opened its doors.



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Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy speaks to the core of our values and we are committed to creating a working, learning, social and living environment that will enable all our staff and students to achieve their potential, whilst they celebrate diverse cultures, knowledge and identities and are encouraged to make a positive contribution to the city, region and beyond.

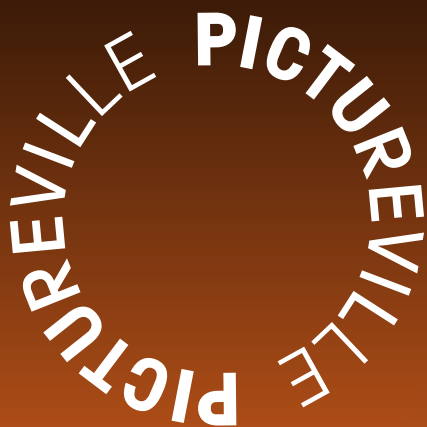
We are committed to providing exceptional learning experiences that stay with our students for the rest of their lives, enabling them to flourish within and beyond their studies. Our well-established widening participation programmes provide an opportunity for learners from across the country, and particularly those from Yorkshire, to gain an insight into university study. We are continuously growing as a university community and offer a range of career development opportunities in research, teaching, professional and support



services as well as inclusive campus facilities, services and networks to support staff and students from diverse backgrounds.

We have a range of activities that engage with the wider community in which we live, work and learn, and pride ourselves on forging local partnerships within York and local counties, working particularly closely with schools, colleges and communities. Our new campaign, York Unlimited, highlights our mission to improve lives, drawing together our global community of staff, students, alumni and the people and businesses of our city. The campaign supports the delivery of projects that enable brilliant minds to break barriers, overcome limitations and think differently to solve the challenges of the world today. With six priority areas, it is important that these include 'enabling every student to shine' and 'transforming mental health.'

This provides a sense as to why the University of York is so delighted to work with the QED Foundation, to support the Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers Award and sponsor the Award for Achievement in Health, Mental Health, and Healthcare.



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 **PICTUREVILLE BRADFORD**

ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

the shortlist



MOHAMMED SAEED

Saeed studies Performing Arts at Bradford College. A member of the Dance United Yorkshire Performance Company, he is a peer mentor. He's overcome cultural barriers to perform at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Saeed was excluded from school and referred to the Pupil Referral Unit. He suffered mental health struggles during lockdown. His passion in dance improved his well-being.



GABY (GABIR) GOHLAR

Gaby's artworks hone on taboo discussions within the South Asian community, sparking conversations around mental health. She has volunteered/raised funds for charities. Head of E-commerce at Buckley London Jewellery, she also has her own business specialising in stationery. Gabby illustrated The Way of the Goddess and her artwork featured in the University of Washington Sikh Student Association 1984 exhibition.



ZARA SEHAR

Zara is a published poet with a creative writing degree from Leeds Beckett University. Her writing is influenced by her experiences as a British South Asian Muslim. Her poetry was published in the anthology Into the Wilds, and she took part in Uni Slam in 2022. She organises poetry events, bringing people from different walks of life together, and engaged in The West Yorkshire Poet Laureate competition.

AWARD SPONSOR

The National Science and Media Museum, in the heart of Bradford, is a place to explore the science and culture of image and sound technologies and their impact on our lives.

With internationally significant collections in the fields of photography, film, television, gaming and sound, the museum's talented team of curators and explainers create galleries, exhibitions and events that fuel the imagination and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and artistic creators. And Pictureville cinema, which includes the region's biggest IMAX screen, showcases the magic of moving images from around the world in Bradford, the first UNESCO City of Film.

A visit to the museum will delight and surprise: Wonderlab is a fully interactive gallery which explores the scientific principles of light and sound, and recent temporary exhibitions have included Top Secret: From Ciphers to Cybersecurity, focusing on the ingenuity of secret communications, and Switched On, a celebration of 100 years of the BBC and 40 years of Channel 4.

The museum is currently temporarily closed until summer 2024 to undergo a £6m once-in-a-generation transformation. Thanks to support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and money raised by National Lottery players, the major Sound and Vision

SCIENCE+ MEDIA MUSEUM



project will create two new galleries, an additional passenger lift and an enhanced foyer space. Pictureville Cinema remains open seven days a week, with an enhanced programme. You can follow the transformation via the museum's website and social media channels.

We are delighted to be supporting the YAYA award for Achievement in Arts and Creative Industries for two key reasons. Firstly, we want to ensure our region's creativity and culture is reflected and celebrated in the work we do - whether it is through exhibitions, making connections between our collection and people's personal stories, or in this case sponsoring an award celebrating excellence. Secondly, we are committed to inspiring, supporting and encouraging young people with opportunities in the cultural sector. It is essential for the future of our creative industries that we nurture the thriving talent that exists in Yorkshire.

A man and a woman are sitting at a desk in a modern office, looking at a laptop. The man is wearing glasses and a denim shirt, and the woman is wearing a white top. They are both smiling and appear to be working together. The background shows a bright, open-plan office with large windows and modern decor.

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LOCALiQ

ACHIEVEMENT IN THE MEDIA

the shortlist



AMANI KHAN

Amani began her career on her local newspaper in Rochdale before becoming an award-winning ITV reporter. She gained a degree in journalism from the University of Central Lancashire and is now Content Editor at ITV Calendar News. She is a board member of the Diversity and Inclusion panel, and led the South Asian Heritage Month coverage at Calendar. Amani seeks to make stories more inclusive.



MAHNOOR AKHLAQ

Mahnoor is currently a multimedia producer at Channel 4 News. A journalism graduate from the University of Leeds and a Royal Television Society Bursary recipient, she was awarded the 2021 Len Tingle memorial placement at BBC Yorkshire, where she spent eight weeks being mentored. She presents and covers stories on homelessness, poverty, and societal issues on Channel 4 News.



KIMIA MODARESSI CHAHARDEHI

Kimia has been at Anarchy Cinema since 2018. She was assistant editor for the Muslim Women in Prison project, and worked for Bradford council to film King Charles. She shot a film for train operator Northern and British Transport Police to raise awareness of unwanted sexual behaviour. She has collaborated with Muslim charity, SKT Welfare, to support orphans in Turkey and Syria using her filmmaking skills.

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Plus, as part of Newsquest Media Group, the UK's leading local publisher, LOCALiQ gives you access to a network of 200+ news brands and publications, both in print and online, an award-winning events division, recruitment platforms and a wide range of multimedia marketing solutions. We know we have something right here for you.

We are also premier partners with the likes of Google, Bing and Facebook, to ensure we have direct access into these marketing platforms and the support to help your business grow.

Generating leads and return on investment on search engines is no easy feat. Put your trust (and investment) in a team who knows



search engines, inside and out. Plus, with Facebook, which is so much more than a social media site, you benefit from our smart technology that works to manage your programs and get you leads more effectively.

Whether you are starting out and need a website, through to a business looking to grow year on year, build a brand or look to generate leads and enquiries, our solutions are best in class and come with your own performance dashboard so you can track how we do too.

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ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION

the shortlist



MOHAMMAD MALIK

From a council estate in Manchester, Mohammad pulled out of university due to caring commitments, but returned to do a PhD in Politics at the University of York. He has organised trips to Calais refugee camps, and helped Afghan refugees integrate in York. He provides mentorship for students who want to enter higher education, and ran a workshop on anti-racism practice at the university.



MALIK FRAZ AHMAD

Malik received a scholarship to Bradford Grammar School. Now at Durham University studying Law, he is an active member of the Law, Bar and Mooting Society. He has served on Durham Union's President's committee, and is Political Editor for the Corporate Law Journal. Malik is Head of the Bradford branch of the Youth Association of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, and is involved in community initiatives.



NURANIYAH MAROOF

Aged 7, after losing her father, Nuraniyah was raised by her mother and helped look after her brother. She turned to comfort eating and was bullied at school due to her weight. She suffered in silence and didn't do well in her GCSEs, but repeated her year and moved on to university, gaining a degree as a theatre practitioner. She is now doing a Masters in Physician Associate Studies.

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Morrisons

ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR /YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

the shortlist



SAFURA SAID

Safura left an abusive marriage whilst three months pregnant. The abuse impacted her mental health, leading to self-harm and panic attacks, but she went on to raise her son and qualified as a Conveyancer. She started a blog on the impact on mental health. Now a Conveyancer at a law firm, she is also a fitness fanatic and involved with the empowering community, 'Muslim Hikers'.



AWAIS HUSSAIN

No one in his family has ever worked in the corporate sector, but Awais is a Management Consultant at the global leader in consulting and advisory services, PwC, where he is also a diversity mentor to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds studying at Leeds University. A social mobility champion, he has given presentations to schools, and worked with an NGO in Italy focusing on international relations and development.



HASNAIN AKHMAT

Hasnain started working in a shisha lounge at 17 when he knew he wanted to open his own business. He started saving, and now runs the Marha Lounge, after converting an abandoned pub. Marha offers non-alcoholic mixology and high-calibre shishas, and has a menu created by a leading London chef. The business provides jobs and is hugely popular amongst the younger demographic.

AWARD SPONSOR

Headquartered in Bradford since 1899, Morrisons is a British food retailer with around 100,000 colleagues in 497 stores serving millions of customers every week.



As a proud Yorkshire business we're delighted to be supporting the YAYAs and specifically the Achievement in Private Sector award.

We recognise the important role the private sector plays in this region, creating jobs and opportunities for young people and think it's important for us to back an award which champions the success of people at the start of their careers.

The finalists have made great achievements in their chosen roles and been dedicated in pursuit of their goals and we wish them all the best.

The skills and dedication of our own colleagues makes Morrisons. Food makers and shopkeepers at heart, we have over 9,000 trained butchers, bakers, fishmongers, cheesemongers and other skilled in-store specialists making more and more food in our stores.

We have our own sites making meat, fruit & veg, fish, bakery and fresh food products - 20 in all - and are unique in preparing and making more than half of the fresh food sold in our stores.

Morrisons is becoming even more competitive by cutting prices



on groceries and continuing to offer great value on good quality products. We tailor the offer of each one of our stores to local tastes and demographics.

We also offer popular services including cafés, pharmacies, dry cleaners and over 300 petrol stations with further services being added all the time.

Bradford is a vibrant, dynamic and diverse district...

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We're proud to be sponsoring the
Achievement in School or College
category at the YAYA awards.

We want to acknowledge the
fantastic achievements that so
many young people make across
our region, often after overcoming
deprivation and disadvantage.
They are an inspiration to all of us
and they deserve the recognition
these awards bring.



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ACHIEVEMENT IN SCHOOL or COLLEGE

the shortlist



UMAIR KHAN

Umair came to the UK from Pakistan aged 11. Born with a serious rare heart condition, at 12 he had a major operation. He could only speak Urdu/Pashto and struggled at school compounded by his health. He successfully gained 10 GCSEs. At sixth form, his father died. Despite this, he is now studying Accounting and Finance in Bradford. He also works at HMRC as an admin officer.



SAFAH AFTAB

Despite having ICF syndrome – a rare genetic disorder of the immune system – Safah completed her GCSEs to go to college. In 2022, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma and had chemotherapy. She has struggled mentally, but completed her exams. Safah's ambition is to study Human Rights' Law. She has volunteered for Citizen Coins and is involved in the 'Take a Breath' campaign highlighting air pollution.



HAMMAD KHAN

Hammad sat his GCSEs in 2022 and received A* grades. Currently studying Biology, Chemistry and Religious Education at Dixons Sixth Form Academy in Bradford, his ambition is to study Medicine. Hammad comes from a family where education is not a priority. He is a Hafiz Quran (has memorised the Quran) and inspires other children to do the same, encouraging them to avoid street life and drugs.

AWARD SPONSOR

We are proud to be sponsoring the Achievement in School or College category at the YAYA awards. They give much deserved recognition to the many incredible young people who attend schools

or college and who are making outstanding efforts every day throughout the year. They are an inspiration to all of us, and these awards go some way to showing our appreciation for these young people and just how much they are valued by their school, college, and communities.



Bradford is a vibrant, dynamic, and diverse district. We have a rich history and a bright future: over half a million people live here and we have roots all over the world. We are a big economy with globally successful businesses. We are the youngest city in the UK, we have a growing population, and we're ambitious for our young people. We want all our young people to be able to add to our skilled and enterprising workforce, sharing in inclusive growth and creating prosperity and opportunity for all. So, the YAYA awards, with their special focus on promoting socially-mobile young achievers who have overcome deprivation and disadvantage, or have broken through traditional barriers to progress, is something that we really support.

This is a challenging time for education in our district. Our children and young people have had to endure huge disruption due to COVID but have shown tremendous determination and resilience to continue their studies throughout the pandemic. We



are determined to do all we can to support them through it. Our Opportunity Area status continues to provide funding that enables schools to boost the life chances of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We want to congratulate everyone who has supported the awards and those who have been nominated. We all need to acknowledge the fantastic work that many young people do, not just those who have been nominated, on their journey to achievement. They are all winners, and the YAYA Awards help us celebrate this.



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ACHIEVEMENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

the shortlist



SADIYA SALIM

Sadiya has worked at Leeds City Council for seven years, mainly for the Child Friendly Leeds Team. She supports children and young people from all walks of life. Sadiya has supported Syrian refugees and provided activities to Afghans housed in local hotels. She has volunteered with the charity Barca, which delivers transformational services to children and families in Leeds, and is interested in mental health services.



SHUAIB HUSSAIN

Shuaib had a challenging adolescence before going to Bradford College. He became an apprentice in the Sensory Needs Services at Bradford Council, where he learnt sign language and helped the visually impaired. He progressed to advisor in Bradford's Independents Hub before becoming a case worker in No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) for Bradford Council, where he supports failed asylum seekers to progress.



MAARIA SHAKOOR

Maaria worked in business support roles, before progressing to Commissioning and Contracts Officer in the Policing and Crime Team in West Yorkshire Combined Authority. She supports a team which commissions services to a multitude of West Yorkshire services, who in turn support over 90,000 victims of crime each year.

AWARD SPONSOR

The Home Office works to build a safe, fair and prosperous UK. We achieve this through our work on counter-terrorism, policing, fire, crime, drugs policy, immigration and passports.



Home Office

Every day, our teams across the UK and beyond deliver outcomes to improve citizens' lives. Our work is challenging, high profile and rewarding. Delivering it is a team effort, and we rely on talented people with a wide range of skills and experience.

To carry out our work effectively and fairly, we are committed to creating diverse and inclusive working environments, fully recognising the benefit it brings to everyone.

We aim to create a welcoming workplace where all our people can bring their whole selves to work and perform at their best. There's no one type of person working at the Home Office. Just like in wider society, everyone here is different. We believe that different backgrounds, perspectives and voices add up to richer, fuller thinking that helps us deliver fairer, better outcomes.

Our work and our relationships are underpinned by our values: being respectful, compassionate, courageous and collaborative.

The Home Office offer fulfilling and rewarding careers in a range of roles, with opportunities to progress and grow, and work in specialised areas. Whether your talents lie in operational delivery, customer service, software engineering or policy making, at the Home Office you'll be able to use your skills to make a real difference to people's lives.



The Home Office has a number of operational areas including Border Force, which is a law enforcement command within the Home Office and is responsible for securing the UK border and operating immigration and customs controls at ports and airports.

In Border Force, roles are diverse and include checking passengers and freight arriving in the UK by air and sea; conducting intelligence-led searches for prohibited, counterfeit or restricted goods; and supporting the wider Home Office agenda through work in high-profile areas such as counter terrorism, tackling organised crime, modern slavery and human trafficking.

This is some of the most important and challenging work in Government and its impact can be felt in communities across the UK.

Join the team today. Find out more about career opportunities at the Home Office, including in Border Force, <http://www.careers.homeoffice.gov.uk>



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ACHIEVEMENT IN THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

the shortlist



SAMIYAA AHMED

Samiyaa has volunteered in refugee hubs, taught English to refugees at Newcastle University and provided guidance. She has volunteered in refugee camps in Calais, Greece, and France. She has completed an internship with an MP, aspiring to work in the Human Rights' sector. She also raised issues on the Rohingya Muslim community crisis, and encourages students from working class and ethnic minority backgrounds to access education.



ADNAN HUSSAIN

A Civil Servant at the Home Office, Adnan helps two groups of people: those with mental health struggles (empowering and helping them to become confident), and widows - helping them with financial support through donations, and supporting them to become self-sufficient. Adnan's drive is to help individuals to have a sense of purpose; he has delivered workshops to help people view life differently.



ROHAN ASHAR

An Activities Officer at the University of York Student's Union, Rohan has helped over 10,000 students to join a volunteering project to encourage them to look beyond academic life. This could mean engaging with schools, the environment, the elderly, or the homeless. Despite his own history battling mental health challenges, Rohan has been part of fundraising efforts raising thousands for charity.

AWARD SPONSOR

Over 150 years ago our founder, Thomas Barnardo, promised to support children in need of help - regardless of their background or circumstances.

Today we continue to keep that promise. Last year we supported over 357,000 children, young people, parents, and carers through 794 services and partnerships. We change children's lives and the system around them, for the better.

That's why we're proud to be supporting the Yorkshire Young Asian Awards again tonight. These awards recognise the efforts of young people who have broken through barriers and gone on to thrive.

Barnardo's runs services across Yorkshire, supporting hundreds of children and young people in the region who are experiencing challenges at home and at school. This includes families who are caring for a child with autism and have Urdu as their first language.

In Bradford we deliver services such as: providing support to families living in poverty, parenting support for children with Autism and Special Educational Needs, Early Years Parenting Support, Emotional well-being support for children and wider family support for families where children are in the care of the local authority.



We're also there for young people across Yorkshire more broadly, teaching key life skills and supporting them to access training, education, and employment - and helping to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour.

Across the UK, children continue to face complex challenges, including a growing crisis in children's mental health, rising numbers going into the care system, and increasing risks online. 157 years since we began, our work is more vital than ever.

We are focused on achieving better outcomes for more children, through stronger families, safer childhoods, and positive futures. With the dedication and expertise of our colleagues, volunteers and our partners in government, business, and philanthropy, we will continue to bring care, love and hope to the children who need us most.



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ACHIEVEMENT IN OVERCOMING LIFE OBSTACLES

the shortlist



ENOSH SIRAJ

Enosh left Pakistan aged 12, seeking asylum. She achieved a Master's in Biomedical science from King's College. Her ambition is a PhD. Despite her academic success, Enosh has had health issues the last 10 years, resulting in three surgeries spending long periods bed bound. She works for the global organisation Reckitt, and volunteers for charity. In 2023, after surgery, she began to walk unaided.



MARIAM HABIB

Mariam is studying Health and Social Care at the University of Huddersfield whilst taking care of her son, who has multiple health conditions and highly dependent on her. She faced an abusive marriage while pregnant with her second child, and experienced financial abuse and declining mental health. She took a year out to raise her children, and a year later, returned to her studies.



MOHAMMED HAMAD

Hamad was born with a rare genetic disability called Fuhrmann syndrome - a type of skeletal dysplasia - which has left him wheelchair bound and which is a constant struggle. Hamad tries to be as independent as can be however, and is a graduate in Accountancy and Finance from the University of Bradford. He currently works for the NHS as a Purchase Ledger Officer.

AWARD SPONSOR

Students at the University of Bradford benefit from - and are part of - teaching and research that harnesses technology for the good of society.



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Our curriculum is designed with input from industry experts and partners, which means our students develop skills that are highly valued by employers - along with plenty of hands-on practical experience. Many of our courses have professional, statutory or regulatory body accreditation or approval, giving graduates the best possible start to their careers.

During their time with us our students can become the very best version of themselves. The University is a place where students can expand their mind and make lifelong friends; where they can grow, learn, experience. Where they can belong, and we support them every step of the way.

The Times and Sunday Times have named the University of Bradford as the UK's University of the Year for Social Inclusion 2020. This prestigious national award recognises Bradford's outstanding impact on social inclusion that ensures all students, irrespective of their background, are supported to achieve their potential and go on to achieve success.

With over 50 years of academic excellence behind us as a



University, we continue to grow our international reputation, course provision, and research impact.

We have always been pioneers in developing new course subjects and modes of teaching, reflecting and anticipating the needs of employers, our students, and of society as a whole; our course provision and research strategy is designed in response to the changing business, social, scientific and environmental landscape.

Today our associations and networks span the globe; from strong links to leading local and national employers, to academic partner institutions, to the World Technology Universities Network, we are an outward facing institution committed to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge for the benefit of global society. We have an alumni community of more than 140,000 graduates in over 175 countries worldwide.

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