

THE YORKSHIRE ASIAN YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARDS 2020



QED 

TURNING CHALLENGES INTO
OPPORTUNITIES SINCE 1990



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Welcome to the YAYAs

The year 2020 marks an important milestone for QED Foundation. It is now 30 years since we set out to help people of every race and faith to fulfil their potential and we are delighted to have been able to celebrate this anniversary with the YAYA 2020 Awards, in association with York St John University.

The Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers awards (The YAYAs) is the first scheme of its kind set up to recognise the efforts of young people aged 16-30, of South Asian heritage born or living and working in Yorkshire. Its special focus is on those socially-mobile young achievers who have overcome deprivation and disadvantage, or have broken through traditional barriers to progress.

The awards aim to: promote social mobility among young South Asians; identify role models to help inspire others from the relevant communities; encourage young South Asians to seek out and take up further and higher education opportunities

I set up QED in 1990 with the vision of supporting people from ethnic minority backgrounds to play a full role in all areas of public life. From the outset, I decided we should remain a small, enabling charity that would bring about big changes by helping mainstream organisations to break down the barriers facing ethnic minority communities.

Fortunately they have made great progress over the last three decades. They are now represented in all sectors of society and at every level, including the Cabinet. This is mainly due to three things:

Firstly, changes to UK equality legislation have made it more difficult to discriminate against people on the basis of their faith or ethnicity. Secondly, there has been increasing recognition that a diverse population offers social and economic benefits. And, thirdly, a growing number of progressive leaders have campaigned hard for equality and social justice.

But recent events – from the coronavirus pandemic to the killing of George Floyd – have shown that much still

needs to be done to root out the institutional racism that afflicts Western societies.

So our vision remains the same today. We will continue to run a wide range of training and development activities to help us achieve our objectives. These include English language courses, essential to the successful integration of new arrivals and refugees. We will launch new initiatives to help people from ethnic minority backgrounds to follow a wider choice of career paths, find jobs, set up businesses or go on to further or higher education.

For 30 years we have been active nationally and internationally and directly helped 35,000 people to increase their knowledge, confidence and skills so that they can succeed in every area of life. But we will also continue to connect public and private sector leaders to community influencers throughout the country.

Developing a deeper understanding of the UK's many ethnic minority groups helps them to recruit, retain and develop a diverse workforce and customer base.

We have supported around 1,000 managers and policy makers in this way. This work has indirectly enabled us to help many thousands more people from ethnic minority backgrounds to progress their careers in all sectors of the economy.

I would like to thank numerous people who have supported and encouraged QED over the past 30 years, including our trustees, staff, associates, volunteers, funders and community partners – too many to mention by name.

However, I must make a special mention of one colleague. She joined QED in 1992 and has remained shoulder to shoulder with me since then – our deputy chief executive, Adeeba Malik CBE.

Finally, I would like to thank our main sponsor, York St John University, and all the other organisations that have made this event possible.



Dr Mohammed Ali OBE
Founder and CEO
The QED Foundation

Thirty years of QED

QED to solve problems of ethnic groups



A NEW company in Bradford has a simple mission — to improve the economic base of minority ethnic communities.

They plan to do this through a partnership involving private, public and voluntary sectors.

QED — Quest for Education and Development — was set up by chief executive Mohammed Ali, who held a key role with Project Fullemploy when it decided to pull out of Bradford last December.

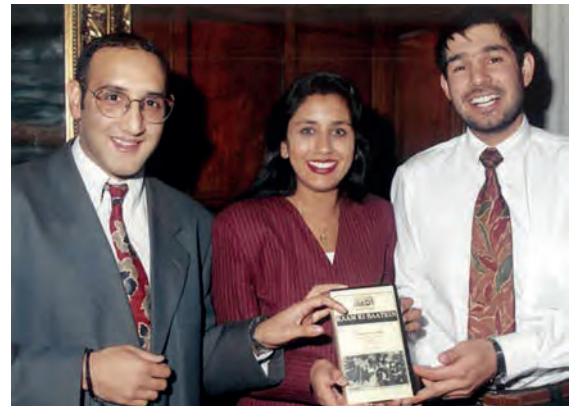
“Setting up a local organisation was not much of a

by DAVID SWALLOW

ing support from people like the Council, the Trade Forum, Bradford Racial Equality Council and the TEC,” he said.



1990-2020



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York St John University

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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: 60% of our students come from backgrounds under represented in UK Higher Education.*

*Higher Education Policy Institute analysis 2018

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Founded in 1841, York St John University has been at the forefront of Higher Education for over 175 years. We are proud of our heritage and proud to contribute to the history of York. Our city centre campus is where modern buildings meet Victorian architecture.

It is a place to follow your passion and start your career. 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, 60 per cent of our students come from backgrounds underrepresented in UK Higher Education.*

We also demonstrate our commitment to equality through our sponsorship of the Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers awards.

We want to recognise the achievements of our young Asian population and inspire them to keep pushing boundaries, breaking down barriers and making a difference in the world.

The YAYA Awards Event 2020 offers an opportunity to celebrate the excellent accomplishments of all of its nominees.

York St John University is proud to be the key sponsor of, and positively associated with, the YAYA Awards.

*Higher Education Policy Institute analysis 2018

The awards event

THE SPEAKERS



THE LORD RICHARD KCB, NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

Michael Bichard worked at senior levels in local government and was chief executive at both Brent and Gloucestershire. He moved into central government working as chief executive of the Benefits Agency and then as permanent secretary at the Department for Education and Employment. Since his retirement from the civil service in 2001, he has held a variety of positions including vice chancellor of the University of the Arts London, chair of the Legal Services Commission, founder director of the Institute for Government, chair of Shakespeare's Globe, chair of the Design Council and has recently retired as chair of the Social Care Institute for Excellence. He also chaired an inquiry into the Soham murders in 2004. Michael is currently chair of Bristol Business School advisory board, non-executive director of The Key (an education support company), and trustee of the River & Rowing Museum. Knighted in 1999, he became a cross-bench member of the Lords in 2010 and was for five years a deputy speaker of the House.

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 V-C (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.



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

Dr Mohammed Ali OBE is Founder and CEO of the QED Foundation. He 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 with Glaxo Pharmaceuticals, Bradford Community Relations Council, Tameside Council, Sheffield City Council and Fullemploy, a London-based ethnic minority social and economic development agency, before setting up QED in 1990. 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 chair of the Poverty Alleviation Scholarships Foundation and the Network of Pakistani Voluntary Organisations (UK). He has won many accolades for his work including an honorary doctorate from the University of Bradford in 1997 and the OBE in 2001.



THE EVENT HOST

NOREEN KHAN, BBC RADIO AND TV PRESENTER AND COMEDIAN

Noreen Khan is an award-winning radio and TV presenter. She currently presents her show on BBC Asian Network on weekdays and listening figures show she regularly has one of the most listened-to Asian radio shows in the UK. Her warm and natural presenting style has made her an instant hit with the audience. Noreen is also a stand-up

comedian and is currently touring her hugely successful 'Ladies of Laughter (LOL) with Noreen Khan Tour.' Noreen is also considered a social media influencer due to her large following and engaging videos and posts. She is an Ambassador for Prince Charles's charity the British Asian Trust and recently was also appointed an Ambassador by the ICC for the Cricket World Cup.





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BRADFORD

Meet the Judges



DR MOHAMMED ALI OBE

Dr Mohammed Ali OBE is Founder and CEO of the QED Foundation. He 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 with Glaxo Pharmaceuticals, Bradford Community Relations Council, Tameside Council, Sheffield City Council and Fullemploy, a London-based ethnic minority social and economic development agency, before setting up QED in 1990. 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 was awarded the OBE in 2001.



ADEEBA MALIK CBE

Adeeba Malik is the Deputy Chief Executive of QED. Born in Bradford to immigrant parents, she has been with the organisation for 28 years. Previously she was a teacher in Hull and Bradford. She has held numerous roles on various boards in Bradford, Yorkshire, and nationally, including Yorkshire Forward, Northern Ballet, British Waterways, Women and Work Commission, National Ethnic Minority Business Forum, National Clinical Assessment Authority, Trust, Sheffield Hallam University, Green Deal Advisory Board and the National Muslim Women's Advisory Board. She is on the board of the Race Disparity Audit Advisory Group at the Cabinet Office, and a Member of the State Honours Committee and Member of Nurture Academies Trust. Adeeba was awarded the MBE in 2004 and the CBE in 2015.



ROBERT HICKEY

As Chief Operating Officer of York St John University, Rob's role spans the leadership of all of the University's Corporate Professional Services including Finance, HR, Estates, IT, Marketing & Communications, Student Recruitment, and Strategy & Projects. He also drives the University's widening participation, business growth and innovation agendas. Rob joined York St John University in 2016 after 5 years in senior roles at Network Rail and 13 years in management consulting for PwC, Deloitte and GVA. He has worked with a range of public and private sector organisations on business strategy and change, and major capital programmes. He holds degrees from Lancaster and Leeds universities and the LSE. He is a Chartered Surveyor and a Member of the Association of Project Management.



ROZINA BREEN

Rozina Breen is Head of North for BBC England. Based in Leeds, she is responsible for bases from Cumbria to South Yorkshire. Previously, she was head of news at BBC Radio 5 Live, running the largest network newsroom outside of London. She spent more than a decade as a journalist with BBC Current Affairs Radio and was a Digital Editor for the BBC World Service. She was managing editor of BBC Radio Leeds for six years. Rozina believes in democratising the newsroom, diversifying the lens of journalism and delivering a people-led News agenda. In her role at 5 Live, Rozina oversaw all News programming, including breaking and rolling news, as well as political and election programming. She chairs the assessments for BBC News' Journalism Trainee Scheme, which aims to bring diverse talent into BBC newsrooms.



PROF UDUAK ARCHIBONG MBE

Uduak Archibong PhD MBE is Professor of Diversity at the University of Bradford, where she directs the Centre for Inclusion and Diversity and provides strategic oversight for equality and diversity across the institution. She is Fellow of the West African College of Nursing and Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing. 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/family access to, and engagement in health and social services. Her research interests have been influenced by years working closely with leaders and senior managers within the healthcare and higher education arenas both in the UK and internationally.



JO QUINTON-TULLOCH

Jo Quinton-Tulloch became the director of the National Science and Media Museum in 2013. Her 23 years in museums started in the Learning Team at the Science Museum. She has delivered world class galleries and exhibitions, including as part of the team that created and launched the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. Jo's focus in Bradford has been to forge new sustainable partnerships which reposition the Museum as a centre of excellence in STEM learning. Jo led a major relaunch of the renamed and rebranded National Science and Media Museum in spring 2017. She has a Biological Sciences degree from East Anglia and a Masters in Science Communication from Imperial College. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts and a Board Member for Bradford UNESCO City of Film.



www.kashmircrownbakeries.com



the shortlist



AYESHA KHAN

At 21 years old, Ayesha Khan has a hugely busy schedule. She is currently studying for a Masters degree at Hallam University while working as an Engagement Assistant at HeppSY.

She is also coaching primary school students in a variety of sports in her spare time. Ayesha has been playing football in Sheffield since the age of five. She is of mixed-race heritage and proudly wears a head scarf.

WINNER



HARLEEN KAUR

Harleen Kaur, aged 21, is of Indian background and a student at Leeds Beckett University. She lives in Bradford and excels at both karate and kickboxing. She won a Gold Medal at the 2015 British Championships and was the first British Asian female to represent Team England.

She won a kickboxing Silver Medal at the World Championships in 2015/16. In her spare time, she volunteers for a charity in India.



SAFIYYAH SYEED

Safiyyah is a 19-year-old Pakistani boxer from Bradford. She wears a hijab while fighting and hopes to compete at the Olympics one day. After overcoming long term illness and an eating disorder, Safiyyah aims to break the stereotypes in her male-dominated sport. She is featured in BBC's We Are Bradford project, explaining that despite being told 'you're a hijab girl, you can't box', she is more determined than ever.

AWARD SPONSOR

The story of Kashmir Crown Bakeries is one of passion, ambition, hard work, strength of relationships and community.

KCB was one of the first Asian bakeries in the UK. From its base in Bradford, West Yorkshire, it has grown into an international brand with a multi-million-pound turnover and is the biggest business of its kind in Western Europe.

Its success is due in large part to the determination and ambition of Mohammed Saleem, a man from a humble background who had "high aspirations." At the age of 20, he arrived in the UK, in 1961, with only £5 in his pocket. Holding on to the dream to have his own business and with an investment of £55, he opened Kashmir Food Store, in Bradford.

His idea was to provide a connection with the homeland for the community in Bradford. For people from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh – mainly from the Indian subcontinent – Asian sweets were difficult to find in the late 1960s, especially for important festivals such as Eid and Diwali.

"Mohammed Saleem had a passion to provide what the people of his culture really wanted," says Asim Saleem, the eldest of Mohammed's six children, who is now the Managing Director of



Kashmir Crown Bakeries.

Kashmir Crown Bakeries now distributes to more than 2,000 independent retailers in the UK and has a licensed distributor in the US.

KCB is based on passion, ambition and hard work but, more than that, its story is about the strength of growing relationships and community. Whether it is the community of customers or the network of suppliers, Kashmir Crown Bakeries has a philosophy of shared values and collaboration that is still its greatest strength.



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ACHIEVEMENT IN HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH or HEALTHCARE



the shortlist



TAMILEE RASANAYAGAM

Tamilee, 22, is currently studying Law at the University of York while working for Resources for Autism. At a young age, she became the main carer for her father who sadly passed away the day before her GCSEs. As a survivor of abuse and mental health issues, Tamilee powered through and received A*-B grades and progressed onto her degree. She is from a Tamil background and lives in York.

WINNER



HALEEMA RAFIQ

Haleema Rafiq, aged 27 from Doncaster is of Pakistani background. She was first in her family to get two degrees in Psychology and has done both paid and voluntary work in the mental health sector. During her studies, Haleema sadly lost her mother and became a carer for her two brothers – one of which has cerebral palsy. Despite this, Haleema finished her degree and continues to work helping ill patients.



SARAH KHAN

At 29, Sarah Khan, from Bradford, is completing her PhD while working as a Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy at Huddersfield University. Of Pakistani heritage, she attended an all-girls Muslim college and graduated with a first-class degree - paving the way for more family members to attend University after her. She headed the 'Rise Up To Cancer' campaign, encouraging Asian women to go for screenings.

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.



**UNIVERSITY
of York**

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'.

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WHERE CINEMA LIVES

 PICTUREVILLE BRADFORD

ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



the shortlist



UMAR HUSSAIN

Umar Hussain is 27 years old, grew up in Leeds and comes from a Pakistani background. After graduating from University, he was lucky enough to secure an internship within the film industry, going on to work on 13 blockbuster films – such as Star Wars, Jurassic Park and Lion King. After six years in the field, Umar now works as a Visual Effects Production Manager at Disney – Industrial Light & Magic.



ISMAIL HUSSAIN

Ismail Hussain is a faith inspired singer with a massive social media following. Despite being only 18, he has already raised thousands of pounds for people in need and performed across the world. Ismail, originally from Bradford, is of Pakistani heritage and is an ambassador of peace and harmony across the globe. He has been singing since he was 5, and now runs workshops to teach young people to sing.



PISHDAAD CHAHARDEHI

Pishdaad Chahardehi is an Iranian-Pakistani film maker who moved to Yorkshire from Germany aged 16. He lives in Bradford, but his work – creating documentaries for charitable organisations – enables him to travel the world. Pishdaad, 23, is currently partnered with the Born in Bradford research project and is producing a film about air pollution and its effects on pregnant women.

AWARD SPONSOR

At the National Science and Media Museum, in the heart of Bradford, we explore the science and culture of image and sound technologies and their impact on our lives.

Our internationally significant collections in the fields of photography, film, television and sound are the foundation for our talented teams to create galleries, exhibitions and events that fuel the imagination and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and artistic creators.

And Pictureville, our recently rebranded cinema which includes the region's biggest IMAX screen, allows us to showcase 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 our fully interactive gallery which explores the scientific principles of light and sound, and recent temporary exhibitions have included City Girls and Above the Noise: 15 Stories from Bradford, both taking a closer look at fascinating aspects of our city through photography and multimedia.

This year we will be exploring sound in two exhibitions – the first, opening in April, explores the technology that makes cultural life sound incredible; from shaping works by international music artists to inspiring the BBC Radiophonic Workshop (which

SCIENCE+
MEDIA
MUSEUM



created the Doctor Who soundtrack among many others). It will be complemented by an interactive family show opening in July, and visitors of all ages can get their hands on unique interactive displays which explore the science and sensations of sound.

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.

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LOCALiQ

ACHIEVEMENT IN THE MEDIA



the shortlist



AROJ AFTAB

Arooj Aftab, 24, is a fashion Influencer and Illustrator from Bradford. Nominated for the Cosmopolitan UK Influencer Awards, she is on a quest for body positivity within the fashion industry. Arooj is an activist on Instagram where she boasts over 50,000 followers and uses her platform to raise awareness of neurofibromatosis, which she lives with. She is of Pakistani heritage and works for an Influencer marketing firm.



ROMANA SHAH

Romana is from a traditional Pakistani family in Sheffield but is now based in London. Raised by her single mother, Romana, aged 27, worked hard to gain a First-Class degree in English Literature, and followed this on with a Masters in PR. She now works at Field House Associates, working with several fast growth technology companies, venture capital firm and corporate innovation arms. She is the only Muslim/Asian employee there.



SABBIYAH PERVEZ

Sabbiyah lives in Bradford and is passionate and committed to telling stories and empowering people. She is 30 years old and has been a community report for BBC Look North for five years, covering a vast range of topics from sex works in Holbeck to Muslin women playing rounders. She is of Pakistani background and is involved in the We Are Bradford project, helping to promote Bradford around the country.

AWARD SPONSOR

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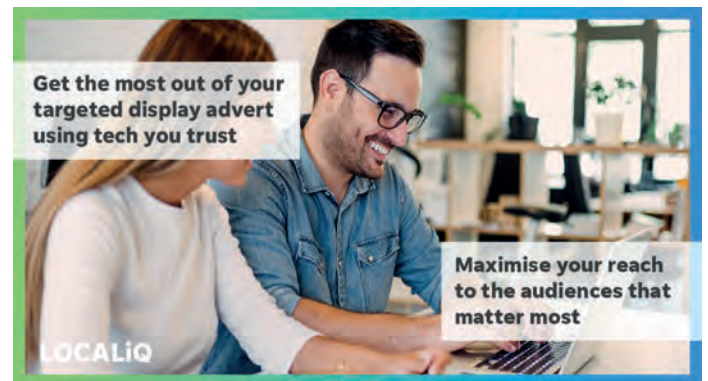


But what truly sets us apart is we know the local marketplace better than most as we have trusted local media brands already in the local area, including the Telegraph & Argus, in Bradford, The Press, in York, the Craven Herald, Ilkley Gazette and Keighley News, that provide an unparalleled route to market. With local offices in both York and Bradford we are local to you too.

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.

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the shortlist



SHAHZAIB AHMED

Shahzaib's story is one of dedication and persistence. He moved to Leeds from Pakistan at 11 years old and spoke very little English. Despite the social economic disadvantage his family experienced, Shahzaib, who is 21, worked hard in school and achieved A* grades across the board in both his GCSEs and A-Levels, allowing him to pursue his studies in medicine. He is now a medical student at the collegiate Cambridge University.

WINNER



HARIS RASHID

Born in Batley, of Pakistani heritage, Haris Rashid became the first south Asian president at Liverpool Hope University's Student Union. His low social economic background hasn't stopped him achieving his Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards, studying law or taking part in the National Citizen Service. Haris, 21, also worked with the late Jo Cox MP and volunteers for the night-line service at his University.



NAVID HUSSAIN

Dr Navid Hussain, 26, was brought up by his single mother in Bradford. He is of Pakistani background and grew up in an area with low education and high unemployment. Navid received the Ford Blue Oval Scholarship, allowing him to achieve a First-Class BEng degree at Bradford University and complete his PhD in Leeds. Since, Dr Hussain has contributed to the advancement of scientific research in Hungary and the US.

AWARD SPONSOR

Trinity provides Secure English Language Tests (SELTs) approved for British Citizenship, Settlement and visa applications across the UK.



SELTs are taken by people who need to demonstrate their English language level for the purpose of obtaining British Citizenship, Settlement or a visa for work or study.

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For Trinity's ISE exams, results/certificates are usually sent within 21 days.

Trinity College London believes that effective communicative



and performance skills are life enhancing, know no bounds and should be within reach of us all. We exist to promote and foster the best possible communicative and performance skills through assessment, content and training which is innovative, personal and authentic.

As proud sponsors of the Achievement in Education category, we look forward to celebrating with everyone at the YAYA awards in April.



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ACHIEVEMENT IN BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT, FINANCE or LAW



the shortlist



HARRIS MOHAMMED

After helping his father run their family convenience store from the age of 13, Harris Mohammed, 26, grew up with ambition to start his own business. Despite not achieving the grades he'd hoped for at school, Harris, who is of Pakistani background, began buying and selling vehicles on eBay and now owns an Italian café in Bradford. He also supports his wife to pursue her education and career.

WINNER



SIMRAN KAUR BHOGAL

Simran, 27, is from a working-class Punjabi Sikh family. Based in Wakefield, she was the first person in her family to attend university, graduating from Leeds Beckett with an LLB Honours. Simran now offers legal advice to low income clients and specialises in immigration, working with those from war torn countries like Iran and Syria. She volunteers at a Sikh temple presenting their cases to the Home Office.



HAIDER ANWAR

Haider Anwar is of Pakistani heritage and based in Leeds. He works as an associate at HSBC bank supporting medium-sized businesses in Yorkshire with their growing ambitions. At just 28, he is currently driving the bank's international trade agenda for Yorkshire businesses. In his spare time, Haider is a trustee for two charities, one of which was set up to help BAME entrepreneurs to build their social impact enterprises.

AWARD SPONSOR

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, we are committed to providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet.



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And recognizing the impact of politics and regulation on businesses across the world today, we have a unique mix of experienced, well-connected, lobbying and political capabilities in the US and Europe, supporting and advising clients globally.



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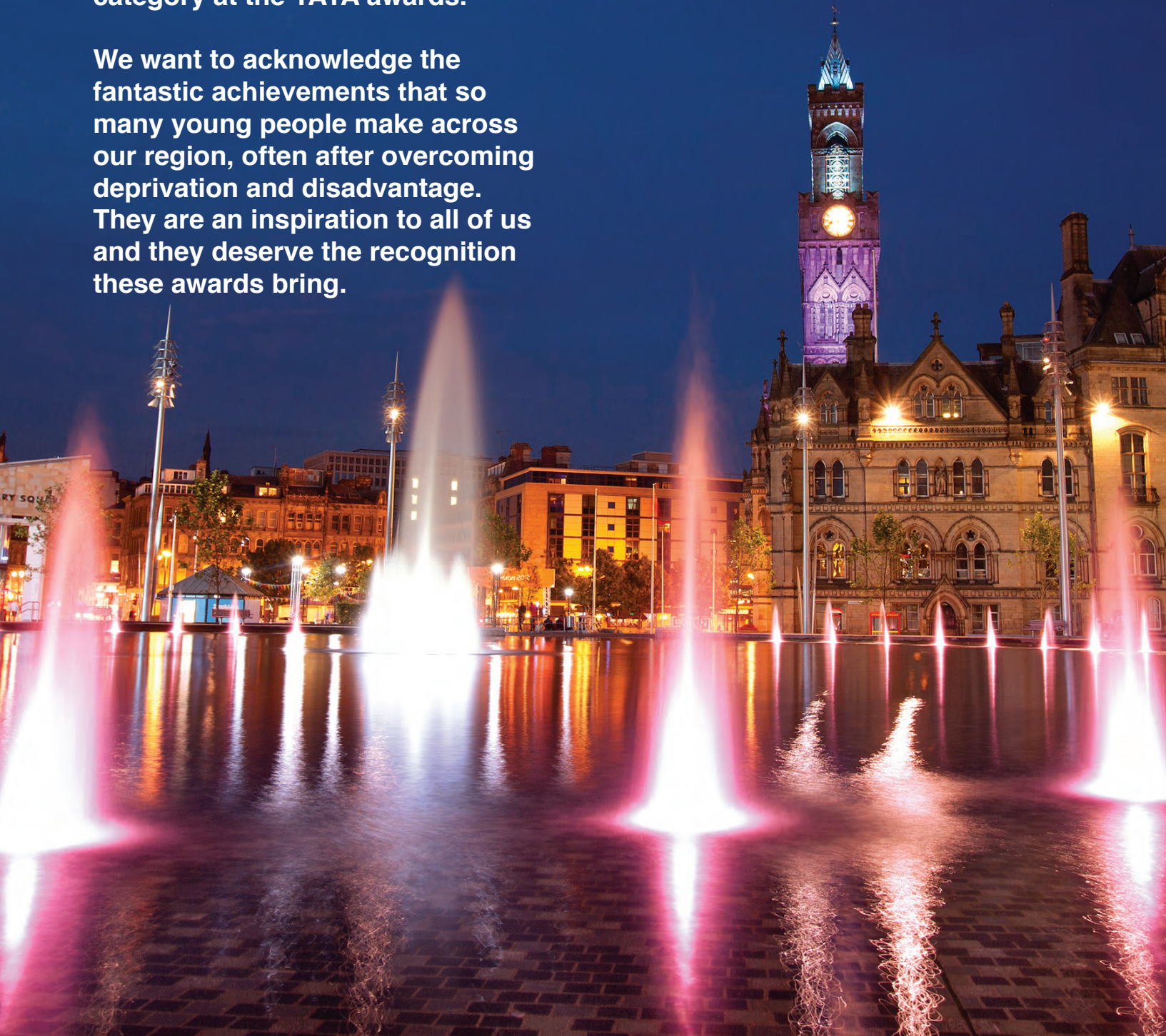
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Bradford is a vibrant, dynamic and diverse district...

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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 Khan, 17, was born in Hong Kong and now lives in Bradford. He attended Carlton Bolling School and was appointed head boy in his final year – playing a pivotal role in the school gaining world class status. After gaining fantastic grades at GCSE, he enrolled at Dixon's Sixth Form to complete his A-Levels. Umair has ambitions to be a dentist and raises money for charity in his spare time.

WINNER



WASJAH MEHDI

Wasjah Mehdi spent her childhood moving between Pakistan and Italy but now lives in Bradford. She experienced bullying from classmates and teachers and, as a result, lost her confidence to speak. Now 17, she is enrolled onto a Level 1 ESOL course as a selective mute and takes part in extra curriculums such as the Shakespeare club. She is making inspirational progress, performing as Shylock in A Merchant of Venice.



SAFOORA UDDIN

Safoora Uddin is of Pakistani heritage and is a carer for her mother while also studying Health and Social Care at Keighley College. Despite struggling with self-confidence, Safoora, 18, has already made her mark in her local area: After expressing her views on Brexit, ITV selected her to be a reporter for them during the election in 2019 to present Keighley's results. She hopes to go to University in Rotterdam.

AWARD SPONSOR

We're 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 an exciting time for education in our district. We're seeing improvements across many areas and we're determined to build on this. We've also seen recent investment in the post-16 sector here with the opening of New College Bradford.

Our Opportunity Area status is also providing funding that enables schools to boost the life chances of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, learn from each other's best practice as well as support greater parental involvement in education.

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 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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www.westyorkshire.police.uk/recruitment



**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**

the shortlist



HUMA MALIK

Bradford-based Huma Malik, 25, is an Engagement Officer for the NHS Leeds CCG. Her role involves improving health services for local communities. Despite long-term health issues which require regular blood transfusions and treatments, Huma keeps herself busy: she volunteers for the NHS Bradford People's Board and runs a social enterprise hosting mental health workshops for young people. She is of Pakistani background.



ALI GUL

Project Officer Ali Gul, 29, moved to the UK in 2001 with no English and grew up in poverty. He became Head Boy in 6th form and, after University, interned for Bradford Council's Environment & Climate Change unit while completing a Masters in Sustainability. He works in the Dept of Health and Wellbeing and is on several boards, from service improvement and Brexit preparedness to biomedical and electronic engineering.



VINAY VERMA

Vinay Verma is a member of the young person's panel for Bradford Council, and volunteers in his local community. As part of the panel, Vinay, 18, facilitated the discussion between young people and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their Bradford visit. He is of Indian heritage and studies Primary Education at University after working as a mentor in primary and secondary schools through Sixth Form.

AWARD PRESENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Police are jointly supporting the Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers Awards.

Mark Burns-Williamson is the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for West Yorkshire.

Accountable for policing and community safety across the county, Mark's vision is to make sure all of our communities are safe and feel safe.

Mark is supported by a team of staff in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), helping him to deliver his vision and to meet the priorities in his Police and Crime Plan.

The Police and Crime Plan sets the outcomes, and priorities that will drive the work of the OPCC, West Yorkshire Police and partnership working over the next 5 years. The heart of the Plan is working together in partnership to make a better West Yorkshire for everyone. To find out more about Mark's work visit his website (link below) or contact the OPCC via email contact@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk or telephone 01924 294000.

West Yorkshire Police serve about 2.2 million people living in one of the five metropolitan districts of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. Policing is delivered from 5 separate police districts, providing most of the day-to-day policing services performed through the county. There are also teams of specialist



police and support staff personnel based at headquarters and at various other locations around the Force. The majority of police officers are engaged in operational duties that contribute towards the community safety for the people of West Yorkshire.

Are you interested in a future career with your local Force? Check out our recruitment website (link below) where you can find out what it's like working with us, what opportunities we have available, how to volunteer and how you can apply to join us.

Apart from police officers, we also advertise other police roles – such as Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Special Constables (who volunteer their time) and general volunteering opportunities too, as well as police staff jobs. Some of our officers have recorded short YouTube videos about their roles, and what the job involves, which can be seen on our website.



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children**
 **Barnardo's**

ACHIEVEMENT IN THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR



the shortlist



SHAMIM ISMAIL MIAH

At just 22, Shamim Ismail Miah is the co-founder of Bangla Square young club; a not-for-profit organisation that provides young people help accessing further education. While at Cockburn School, Shammin was a member of the Youth Parliament for Leeds and in 2019, was part of the young Muslim leadership programme at Oxford University. He is of Bangladeshi background, lives in Leeds and is a board governor at his former school.



AASIM KHAN

Now 28, Aasim Khan, who is of Pakistani heritage, was raised in a deprived area of Sheffield. He has since dedicated his life to helping others and raised over £300,000 for refugee camps. Aasim founded Darnall Football Academy to provide young people with a safe place to socialise. Currently, 500 young people are registered there and competing in leagues. In his spare time, Aasim also writes poetry about Islamophobia.



SHUMMEL UDDIN

Shummel is an advocate for Asian participation in football. He has developed partnerships with Kick it Out and Bradford FC Sporting Equals in the hope to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime within the BD3 area. Shummel, 28, arranges football tournaments to raise money for charity and manages the Bengal Tigers U12 football team. He also develops potential Asian players for Bradford City football club. Shummel is of Bengali heritage.

AWARD SPONSOR

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

Today we continue to keep that promise, supporting around 300,000 children, young people, parents and carers every year, 20% of whom are Black or minority ethnic (BAME), through our 1000+ services. 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 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. We support hundreds of young carers – children who are looking after a sick relative. We support families who are caring for a child with autism and have Urdu as their first language.

In Bradford alone, we deliver nine different services, providing one to one support, advice and help to young people at risk of exploitation, those facing mental health problems and children with special educational needs and disabilities.

We're also there for young people across Yorkshire, supporting them to access employment, education and 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 an increase in serious youth violence. 153 years since we began, our work is more vital than ever.

Our ambitious 10 year Corporate Strategy is focused on achieving better outcomes for more children, through stronger families, safer childhoods and positive futures. With the dedication and expertise of around 8,000 staff, 20,000 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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General Technician (Workshops)
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COMMUNICATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Officer
Intelligence Analyst (Linguist)
Intelligence Analyst
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MEDICAL AND MEDICAL SUPPORT

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Medical Officer (Doctor)
Medical Support Officer (Physio)
Medical Support Officer
Nursing Officer
Registered Nurse (Mental Health)
Registered Nurse (Adult)
Student Nurse (Adult)
Environmental Health Technician
Biomedical Scientist
Pharmacy Technician
Dental Nurse
Radiographer
Operating Dept Practitioner
RAF Medic

PERSONNEL SUPPORT

Personnel Support Officer
Personnel Training Officer
Legal Officer
Chaplain
Musician
Physical Training Instructor
Personnel Support
Media Operations*

LOGISTICS

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Chef
Air & Ground Steward
Driver
RAF Supplier
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FEMALE ACHIEVEMENT IN TRADITIONALLY-MALE WORK AREAS



the shortlist



FRAKHANDA SHAH

Frakhanda Shah, 24, has broken barriers in software engineering, an industry in which women are under-represented. Earlier, she worked as a Software Developer for Sky after graduating with a BEng in Software Engineering. In March 2020, she became a Scrum Master for Provident Financial and now manages multiple development teams. Of Pakistani background, she encourages young BAME women to pursue STEM careers.

WINNER



AMREEN IQBAL

Amreen Iqbal is a Police Constable for West Yorkshire Police. For seven years, she worked as a special constable, and is trained to deal with sexual assaults, rapes and riots on the front line. Amreen, 30, was recently awarded employee of the month for her investigative work. She is one of the very few Asian female police officers in the country. She is of Pakistani background and based in Bradford.



SAMERA SHABIR

Samera Shabir, of Keighley, was elected as the first Asian Student Affairs Officer for her University. She was previously student president, representing 9,000 students to local community leaders and the NUS. The last female elected for the role was 10 years ago and despite this achievement, Samera, 22, had to convince her Bengali family to let her take the role. Now she leads campaigns against harassment and student safety.

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A career in the Royal Air Force is like no other. From the speedy role progression to the unrivalled skills and training you receive; all whilst travelling around the world and making friends for life, it really is No Ordinary Job.



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Once you graduate and begin to wear the famous blue RAF uniform, you will begin Phase 2, or Trade Training, which is the start of your apprenticeship. This is where you learn the theory and skills of your trade. When your training is complete, you



will begin your first posting on a main operating base and begin the practical part of your apprenticeship, learning by hands-on experience and proving your competence as a tradesperson.

From the very moment you start there’s a competitive salary of over £15,000, increasing to just over £20,000 once you finish all of your training. This continues to go up as you progress in rank throughout your career. With subsidised food and accommodation your money will go that extra mile for a new car, clothes or holiday.

We also provide free medical and dental care, six weeks’ paid leave, free gym membership on base - and you could get the opportunity to represent the RAF at sport. There is further training and life-long learning throughout your career and the option to go on adventurous training exercises.

To find out more and start your RAF apprenticeship journey, visit the RAF Recruitment website.



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We are what we do



NatWest

ACHIEVEMENT AS A FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR



the shortlist



SONIA NAJEEB

Sonia Najeeb works in a male dominated environment running her own business in Bradford. The entrepreneur, aged 30, runs an energy brokerage company which specialises in wholesale utility rates for companies of all sizes. She is from a Pakistani background and started her own clothing business before moving into the energy field. She represents how hard work can create opportunities in very different industries.



SANYA REHMAN & ZAHRA MAHMOOD

Sanya and Zahra, both 27, were just two friends at school when they opened a small market stall in 2010. They kept the stall while studying Enterprise at Huddersfield University – a degree backed by Theo Paphitis and at the same time opened their first store. Later this year, the girls will open a boutique showcasing their designer range of modest clothing. Both girls are of Pakistani background and grew up in Bradford/Keighley.



HENNA JAVED

Henna Javed, 27, was inspired by her own bad back to launch a business in osteopathy. She grew up in Huddersfield and studied at Surrey University before launching Yorkshire Osteopathy. Her aim is to help Asian women access the health care and education they need for musculoskeletal problems. Henna is from a family of mill workers with Pakistani heritage and wants to give back to her community through her work.

AWARD SPONSOR

At NatWest we believe it is vital to the successes made by people in our communities which is why we are delighted to sponsor The Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers Awards. We know that there is some fantastic work taking place across the county by young people and the awards are a fantastic way for highlight these achievements and hopefully inspire additional success stories in the year ahead.



NatWest serves customers in England and Wales, supporting them with their personal, private, business banking needs. We help customers at all stages in their lives, from opening student accounts, to buying their first home, setting up a business, and saving for retirement. Alongside a wide range of banking services, we offer businesses specialist sector knowledge in areas such as manufacturing and technology, as well as access to specialist entrepreneurial support.

Need insight into a challenge? Introductions to 'angel' investors? Pitching to large tech companies looking to buy? We're here, to help you from newbie through start-up to successful sale and exit. We believe in a truly collaborative approach

We know that sometimes you're so focused on your business it can be difficult to keep an eye on the broader market factors affecting your success. Our role is to understand these wider issues and share what you need to know to achieve your ambitions. Our local presence throughout the UK means we can meet you face-to-face and provide a bespoke solution that's tailored to you.

We offer a lot more than tailored financial products. Our sector specialists bring strategic input and valuable contacts to help you achieve your business ambitions.

As a bank we are always looking at ways we can improve our support for customers. We launched our Women in Business programme in 2003 and currently have more than 500 accredited Women in Business specialists working across the UK.

We have recently signed the Investing In Women Code which has been backed by the Government following the publication for the Alison Rose Review in to Female Entrepreneurship. The code is a commitment to support female entrepreneurship in the UK by improving women's access to the advice, resources and finance needed to build a business.

Additionally, we have launched a crowdfunding programme in partnership with Crowdfunder aimed specifically at supporting businesses led by women. The programme, dubbed Back Her Business, will allow women to prepare their ideas for new businesses and get them ready for crowdfunding.





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OF THE YEAR
FOR SOCIAL
INCLUSION**

ACHIEVEMENT IN OVERCOMING LIFE OBSTACLES



the shortlist



SONIA HUNJAN

Sonia Hunjan, 22, is a Punjabi Sikh studying an MA in Global Literature and Culture at York University. Her mother suffers multi-standard mental disorders and, at 11, Sonia became her primary carer. Sonia struggled with anorexia and other mental health issues from age 12 and has an incurable eye condition, retinitis pigmentosa. Despite all this, Sonia financially supports herself through retail work and social care while studying.

WINNER



HASSAN HAYAT

Hassan suffers from Alstrom Syndrome, a degenerative disorder of vision and hearing loss, obesity and diabetes. Despite being blind, Hassan, 24, has taken part in sporting challenges such as cycling the UK coast, climbing Snowden, playing blind cricket and wheelchair basketball. Of Pakistani heritage, he is now training for Ben Nevis. He also works with Bradford University to help them engage disabled students.



HANIFA RASHID

Despite living with Fuhrman's Syndrome, Hanifa Rashid, 29, loves life. She works as a Complaints Handler for Lloyds, drives an adapted car and travels by wheelchair. She went to a school for children with mental impairments so had years catching up at secondary school. She graduated from Bradford University with a 2.1 in Criminology. She is of Pakistani heritage and raises money for refugees and homeless causes.

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.



They learn from academic and industry experts who are shaping the future of their sectors in world-class facilities – we've invested millions of pounds in high-tech learning environments, such as our motion capture studio and our new School of Management facilities.

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.



YORKSHIRE ASIAN YOUNG ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR 2020 **WINNER**



Mohammed Ali Hussain

Mohammed Ali Hussain's story is so remarkable and spans so many areas of achievement that the judges decided to place him a category of his own for the YAYAs Young Achiever of the Year Award 2020.

They had originally intended to choose an overall Young Achiever from among the winners of the 12 award categories but unanimously decided that Mohammed, aged 20, stood out from all other entrants in this year's shortlist.

Of Pakistani heritage, Mohammed overcame a very difficult childhood and chaotic home life to become a mentor, support and champion for the voices of children and young people in care. He entered care himself at just 18 months old because of alcohol and domestic abuse issues in his family; he was moved to a number of foster placements, each of which broke down, until he was eventually placed in one family at age 10 for nearly a year.

He was then moved to a children's home where he suffered from bullying – both there and at school

– and struggled to find the peace and space to study before finally discovering the solace he needed in libraries, where he used to go to learn on his own.

At 16, he began to live more independently and moved into a semi-independent household and, by the time he was 17, he was living entirely independently while studying for his exams. He achieved 11 GCSEs and three A-Levels and he is now studying Physics with Astro-Physics at the University of Hull and plans to go on to study for a PhD. He hopes to stay in academia and go on to become a university professor.

Mohammed, who lives in Hull, has been chair of Bradford Children in Care Council (CICC), representing all young people in care and care leavers in Bradford Council.

As chair, he has spearheaded many changes for looked-after and leaving care children from the installation of wi-fi in Bradford's residential homes to campaigns around young people's rights. He has delivered training to all new foster carers in



Bradford, training that has now been incorporated into the instruction that all new foster carers complete before they enter the Bradford fostering service.

He has also delivered training to students and social workers. He has challenged on behalf of Bradford's care population and is now a member of the young people's panel interviewing perspective employees, from directors to residential workers.



We're proud to support the Yorkshire Asian Young Achievers Awards 2020



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QED would like to congratulate all our entrants on their fabulous achievements and thank all our sponsors and supporters for their amazing contribution to these awards

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