

# YOUNG REPORTER

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**Florence Roberts**  
2025 Top Reporter Year 10/11



**Kathryn Tuck**  
2025 Top Reporter Year 12/13

## INFORMATION PACK

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In partnership with  
**NEWSQUEST**  
Media Group

Welcome to The Young Reporter Scheme information pack. This pack will give you an idea of what the scheme is all about and you can read views from teachers, as well as current students.

The Young Reporter Scheme has been running since 2008 and thousands of students in school years 10-13, have taken part.

It is a fantastic way for students to be able to showcase their published work and build up a portfolio over the period of time that they work with us.

No other paper allows young people to have a voice every month, but we believe all young people have a right to speak about what is important to them and what they are passionate about.

It is an amazing opportunity and helps students to hone their writing skills and builds their confidence.

If you have any further questions then please do email us on [info@youngreporter.co.uk](mailto:info@youngreporter.co.uk)



# WELCOME

# HOW DOES IT WORK?



The scheme is open to school years 10 to 13 and runs from September through to April, with students signing up to write 8 articles during the 8 month period. They are given deadlines to work to and categories to write within and all of their articles are published on the Newsquest Media online newspapers.

Once your school is signed up and before your students have been given accounts on our system, they must attend their first mentoring session, which you can read about later in this pack.

After this, they are ready to go

and can write about whatever they are interested in, providing they stay away from anything that could cause offence, or anything with a police presence attached to it.

During the scheme, students are offered various press events, for which they can compete. You can read about these on the next page.

If your students are doing DofE, they can use The Young Reporter Scheme as their skillset. We can sign off Bronze and Silver as standard, but need permission from their assessor to sign off Gold.

At the end of the scheme there is a competition, where students submit their three chosen articles to be judged against other students in their age group.

There is an Awards Ceremony at the end of June, where the winners are then publicly announced for that year.

The two Top Reporters of each year group also go on to become the faces of the scheme for the following year. Whether your students win a prize at the end or not, this scheme is a great addition to UCAS applications or to put on a CV.

# OPPORTUNITIES



Throughout the scheme, students are offered a range of free enrichment opportunities, with the chance to compete for tickets to attend exclusive events.

The programme includes theatre tickets for press nights, where students can watch live performances and subsequently produce written reviews. In addition, a wide variety of events are made accessible to our Young Reporters, alongside opportunities to conduct interviews with both members of the public and high-profile individuals, including celebrities.

All opportunities are available for application throughout the eight-month duration of the scheme.

Over the years, students have attended a diverse range of experiences, including Up at The O2, Immersive Gamebox, Monopoly Lifesized, The London Dungeon, The Roman Baths, The Brighton Zip, Wookey Hole Caves, Backyard Cinema, HMS Belfast, various theatre productions, The Slide at The ArcelorMittal Orbit, and many more.

Participants are also given the opportunity to carry out interviews organised by the Young Reporter team and to attend professional press events.

These experiences are consistently well received by students, as they provide valuable insight into the realities of working as a journalist in a live press environment.

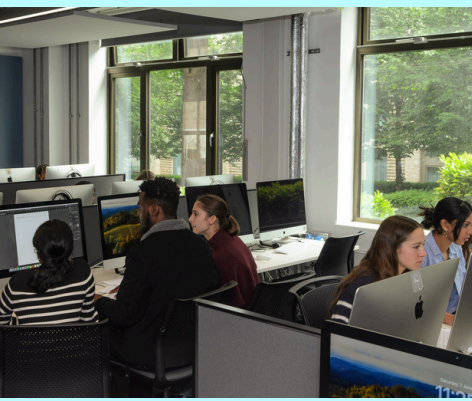
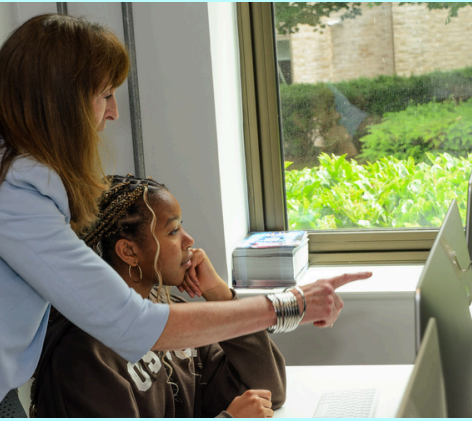


# UNIVERSITY DAY

Students do not find out which categories they have won in, until the Awards Ceremony in June. However, they are contacted before this to let them know they are one of the winners for that year and part of this prize is the opportunity to attend a London university for the day. We run this alongside Roehampton University, who have supported our scheme over the years and is one of the best universities in the country to study journalism.

They arrive early on a Saturday in June and spend the day with university students and lecturers, learning about what is involved during the course and then will create a mock newspaper with their peers.

It is a great experience, especially for those who are keen to pursue a career in journalism, as they will get the chance to ask questions to those currently studying it and the lecturers, most of whom are working journalists..



# STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"Thank you for this incredible experience! I really recommend this to other people as it was fun and it encouraged me to research subjects and events that I'm interested in."

**Wiktorija, The Holy Cross School**

"It has been truly eye-opening to experience life as a journalist and has exposed me to a lot of problems which journalists face daily, such as time constraints and ethical issues."

**Caitlin, St. Michael's Catholic Grammar**

"It's been a blast. If you're thinking about joining the scheme you definitely should, it's such a unique opportunity that I wouldn't trade for the world."

**Aishah, Newstead Wood School**

"I have been able to grow my confidence and style as a writer and have had great fun along the way. Through the scheme I have discovered a passion for journalism and have had so much fun investigating different stories."

**Natascha, St Catherine's School**

"The process of finding interesting topics, contacting people for quotes and publishing articles in an actual newspaper gave me the encouragement to consider a career in journalism."

**Selin, Francis Holland School**

"Extraordinary and an amazing insight into the world of journalism."

**Thomas, Richard Challoner School**



"It's been a great experience to explore my local city, express my thoughts through writing and develop my researching and independent skills online and in print. Highly recommend this opportunity."

**Charlotte, Kingsley Academy**

"The skills I have learnt from this will be so beneficial for me in the future and I am so glad I took part in it, as it has tested both my time management for reaching deadlines, and my insight into worldly affairs."

**Rayna, The Henrietta Barnett School**

"It has been a great opportunity and I have really enjoyed it."

**Michael, Steyning Grammar School**

"It has provided a realistic, deep insight into journalism and media, but it has also taught me punctuality and perseverance that is crucial for all aspects in life."

**Julie, Wimbledon High School**

# TEACHER TESTIMONIALS



“A terrifically challenging and immersive scheme which gives the students a uniquely independent and real-life experience – planning, producing and editing all by themselves. They struggle at times; but they enjoy the struggle and ultimately are thrilled when they complete the scheme and look back at what they have been able to achieve.” **Stuart Bird, Associate Assistant Principal: Community Outreach, Surbiton High School**

Participating students have once again had the opportunity to experience a vast range of activities and acquire new skills that will help them stand out in the future.” **Frances Keaveney, Careers Lead, Rosebery School**

“The Young Reporter Scheme provides a unique opportunity for Reed’s School pupils to develop broad employability skills such as effective writing for a purpose and time management, as well as promoting curiosity and independence.” **Lukas Pytel, Assistant Head, Reed’s School**

“This year, once again, increasing numbers of our pupils have relished the opportunity to develop an online journalism portfolio, researching and writing news and feature stories for a real audience.

“Whether they are pursuing a potential career interest or working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award skills set, the Hampton boys have developed invaluable research and non-fiction writing skills, learned the importance of meeting deadlines, and produced a wide range of pieces about all sorts of events, people and topics.

“The Young Reporter programme is an excellent scheme for teenagers and I thoroughly recommend it to all schools.” **Tessa Bartholomew, English Teacher & Careers, Hampton Court House School**

“As always students have stepped up to the challenge of finding local stories to write about. This experience is so much like being a journalist; finding a story, writing about it and uploading to a real news website within the deadline. Diana is always on hand to answer any question from students or staff and runs the scheme impeccably.” **Jenny Greenland, Careers Leader, Tolworth Girls’ School & Sixth Form**

“Our budding journalists get real-life experiences of what it’s like to work in the industry and they are also exposed to life skills, such as working to a deadline and networking. A fantastic initiative and highly recommended.” **Cat Crouch, Head of Careers, Latymer Upper School**

# MENTORING SESSIONS

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Once the scheme begins in September, we will be offering two main online lectures. One of these is mandatory, as it covers defamation, libel and copyright. The other lecture will offer an introduction to the scheme, how to find stories and how to structure an article.

We will not allow students to start uploading their articles until they have attended the mandatory lecture.

Schools can choose from one of the available dates or can attend multiple sessions if their students cannot all make the same date.

The sessions will be run on Teams and students will be sent an invite to the session they have chosen, so that they can join independently. These are run nationally, so you will be joining with other schools.

## DATES & TIMES:

Dates and times will be released in September.

We run sessions before registration, during lunchtime and after school and will find a time that works best for you and your students.

In September 2022, we launched a new initiative to plant a tree for every school that signed up.

So far, we have captured 28.85 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is the equivalent of one person's average carbon footprint for two years!

It is also the equivalent to:

- Driving 52,248 miles
- Eating 2,271 beef steaks
- Having the heating on full blast for 182 days straight

Every tree is planted through Tree-Nation and your school will be listed on our Virtual Forest. You will also be able to see the information about the tree that has been planted and whereabouts in the world it is.



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**DOING OUR BIT  
FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENT**



# APPRENTICESHIP

Newsquest, the UK's leading local media group, runs an apprenticeship scheme in partnership with the Young Reporter Scheme. This initiative is for students from aged 16 and over who are no longer in full time education. It is a pathway for young people who want to kick start their career and earn the industry standard NCTJ qualification while being employed by Newsquest.

Students can complete a 36-month apprenticeship consisting of the 18-month Level 5 apprenticeship, followed by the two-year Level 7, resulting in a permanent role at the Newsquest title they've been working at. There is also a four-year degree apprenticeship option. Newsquest Media Group cover all the costs..

Any students already in The Young Reporter Scheme in Year 10 can be fast-tracked onto the apprenticeship scheme in Year 11 and students joining the scheme in Year 11 can start straightaway, if this is a career that they wish to consider. All candidates are subject to an interview process and there is no guarantee of acceptance.

All schools in England are invited to participate in the initiative but currently Scotland and Wales schools are not permitted due to the current requirements of the government apprenticeship levy.

As part of our commitment to newsroom diversity we are particularly keen to welcome youngsters from diverse backgrounds such as socio-economic, age, ethnicity and culture, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation and those with disabilities that represent the communities for which we write.

## SUCCESS STORY

nctj  
Awards for Excellence  
in Journalism

L5 apprentice of the year  
**WINNER**

Ezekiel Bertrand

Headline sponsor  
**Reuters**

Category sponsor  
**yahoo!**

### EZEKIEL BERTRAND

#### 2023 Young Reporter

Ezekiel completed The Young Reporter Scheme in 2023 and was one of our prize winners in our annual competition.

He wanted a career in journalism, so applied for our apprenticeship programme and was hired by Newsquest Media Group in the summer after the scheme was over.

In April 2025, Ezekiel was named Level 5 Apprentice of the Year at the NCTJ Awards. An incredible achievement after only starting as an apprentice at just 16 years old!