

Introduction

The YPI Maximising Impact Session is a newly established core feature of the YPI Scotland support structure for 2021/22. It is designed to help you to make the most of YPI in your school and support continuous improvement.

We will work with you to explore the best time, fit, attendees and structure for the session depending upon your delivery model and timeline. This may take place virtually or in person and will most likely replace the facilitated YPI Launch, unless your school is new to YPI or has experienced significant staff changes. Your school's bespoke support model will be planned in collaboration with your Regional Facilitator.

Prior to the session, please consider the aims and objectives for YPI participation as listed in your school's Participating School Commitment for 2021/22 and the priority(s) for programme development identified with your Regional Facilitator in your PDS meeting.

Purpose of the Maximising Impact Session

The Maximising Impact Session is delivered as part of The Wood Foundation's commitment to continuous learning and improvement and in line with the GTCS Professional Standards. It is designed to support you to make the most of YPI in your school. It can deliver this through:

- The opportunity to engage in reflection, enquiry, leadership of learning and collaborative practice to support the growth of colleagues and enhancement of the learning opportunities offered through YPI.
- The opportunity for practitioner enquiry, for YPI teams to think critically, questioning their own educational beliefs, assumptions, and practices in the delivery of YPI and associated activities across the learning community to support enriched practice and learning outcomes.

Focus and audience

The focus of the session is wholly flexible and bespoke to your school's context. The focus will be agreed jointly in advance in discussion with your YPI Facilitator and the session can take place at any time during the school year depending on the best place and fit for you, and with the audience deemed most appropriate for the discussion. Some examples of a focus for the Maximising Impact Session could include;

1. Encouraging school-wide buy in to YPI

YPI offers greatest impact across a whole learning community when widely embedded within a school. In recent years, YPI has regularly featured in HMIE reports as a vehicle for evidencing delivery of partnership activity and a wide variety of educational priorities. Our [Strategic Guide](#) supports schools to fully realise the potential of the programme by clearly identifying where it aligns with the priorities that the Scottish curriculum is built upon.

Is the profile of YPI high enough across your school for your colleagues to see the potential of the programme to complement their remits? In order to maximise the impact and embedding of YPI across your school, a whole staff presentation on YPI would allow the exploration of the following points;

- How does YPI align with your skills pipeline and wider educational priorities? This may include IDL opportunities; faculty/school improvement plans; skills profiling/DYW.
- Does YPI align with/complement any existing and new curricular activity? This includes accreditation and award frameworks.
- Where could other staff and teams contribute to the positivity of YPI within your school?

Your YPI Facilitator can provide case study examples of interdisciplinary learning and approaches to support the wider embedding of YPI.

2. Maximising creativity

The development of creativity skills is essential in preparing learners for the future. Publications such as [Forbes magazine](#) and [The Guardian](#) list creativity as an essential soft skill for employees of the future.

Creative learners and thinkers are inquisitive, open-minded, harness imagination, and can solve problems effectively. Students can be supported throughout YPI to develop such skills, and by clearly identifying and defining how YPI is aligned to the [Skills 4.0](#) framework throughout our [teacher delivery resource](#) and [student workbook](#), we aim to enable learners to both understand and articulate their development and how this feeds into their progressive skills journey. YPI is an opportunity for all students to excel in their own way by utilising their creative skills in the process.

Taking the knowledge gained through a year of blended delivery of YPI and wider learning in 2020/21, consider how this has influenced creativity in relation to both your delivery of the YPI programme and the final products produced by students.

- What does a creative and impactful YPI presentation look like to you, and how can this be elevated to gold standard?
- How can we ensure that the final product required for the YPI Showcase caters inclusively for all students?
- How can a variety of creative approaches be modelled and how can students be empowered to utilise their own creative platforms that staff may be less familiar with?
- How can students and teachers apply the digital skills they have learned in the last 18 months to YPI?

This session can be used to consider how creativity can be developed and elevated. This could be via the inclusion of wider school staff, external partners, or use of different resources and approaches. Your YPI Regional Facilitator can share knowledge and examples from across the YPI network to supplement this session and examples can also be found on our [Vimeo](#) page.

3. Powerful partnerships

Powerful partnerships are vital to enhance delivery of the curriculum and complement delivery of the entitlements and expectations laid out in the [Career Education Standard](#). It is important to extend the breadth of partnerships and interlinkages with YPI and wider school activity and priorities as well as the Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) agenda to maximise programme impact.

Are you maximising the benefit of partnerships in your YPI delivery? There is an opportunity to bring in your DYW Employer School Coordinator and staff with DYW responsibility to enhance elements of the programme such as communicating and engaging professionally with an external organisation, presentation skills, and building a business case. YPI also offers an ideal opportunity for young people to engage with third sector organisations, supporting their learning on the world of work and possible career pathways in this sector.

Does your school have its own skills framework? Or do you use [Skills 4.0](#)? Your SDS Advisor could help map YPI to the relevant framework, highlighting skill development, enabling student reflection and potentially identifying new opportunities.

This session will allow you to explore existing and potential partnerships that could contribute to the success and impact of YPI in your school.

4. Extending the impact of YPI

Every year, teachers and students participating in YPI make amazing things happen. We know that YPI creates conditions for transformative learning opportunities for participating students. Our vision for YPI remains one that is focused on lasting impact and change to the young people participating, the schools delivering and the third sector organisations engaging with the programme.

A session focused upon extending the impact of YPI will allow established schools who have been delivering the programme for a number of years to reflect upon the wider benefits of programme delivery, which are generally best realised when considered as part of a wider skills pipeline, and to support you in getting the most from YPI.

- What do you consider to be successful outcomes of YPI based on your school context?
- How are you measuring these and what is the information telling you about possible future areas of focus or development?
- Do you survey your students on their YPI experience?
- How do you support and evaluate professional learning for staff as part of the YPI process?
- How does YPI link to other parts of the curriculum and school life?

Examples of activities that extend the impact of YPI could include;

- charity partnerships which begin within YPI and extend out to wider school relationships
- leadership opportunities for YPI alumni including mentoring participating students
- continued volunteering opportunities for young people following engagement with a charity during YPI
- the exploration of career opportunities in the third sector
- the enhancement of authentic student led learning opportunities school wide

This session will explore the immediate and wider benefits of YPI delivery and how these are measured and communicated to maximise success.

5. Facilitated or extended launch

Throughout the YPI journey, it is important that there is a consistent narrative and comprehensive understanding of the YPI programme across pupils and staff. A facilitated YPI Launch will therefore form the Maximising Impact session for schools new to the programme or those who have experienced significant staffing changes. This will be arranged in consultation with your YPI Facilitator during your Programme Development Session.

To discuss the content, structure, or timing of your Maximising Impact session, please contact your YPI Regional Facilitator in the first instance, or the YPI Central Team on ypi@thewoodfoundation.org.uk.