

Y&H LACA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2025

10TH October 2025
Cedar Court Hotel,
Harrogate



The regional committee are pleased to announce that once again we are holding our sixth 'Awards for Excellence' evening. These events are extremely popular as they provide an excellent opportunity to celebrate the fantastic achievements, passion and dedication of our educational catering providers. The LACA Yorkshire and Humberside Committee have always been praised for our fun, informative and relaxed events so, to celebrate the excellent work of our teams across the region, our 'Awards for Excellence' evening is now scheduled with plans being finalised so we can all celebrate together!

This year we are keeping the event at Harrogate, a popular and historical Northern Spa town in the heart of Yorkshire and will be held at the Cedar Court Hotel on 10th October 2025. The evening will include the awards ceremony, refreshments and drinks along with the usual dancing, photo booth and not to mention the singing! We have worked with the hotel and are pleased to offer discounted rooms for this event. If you wanted to extend your stay please ask us for the special offers available.

Alternatively many other affordable hotels and B&B's are available close by.

The industry continues to be driven by the commitment and dedication of its workforce. Maintaining enthusiasm, building on performance and driving greater success are the yearly challenges. Despite huge pressures and testing circumstances, our staff continue to maintain high standards and strive to find innovative, creative, enterprising and budget conscious initiatives, which bring about positive outcomes and solutions for their services, organisations, schools, colleges and academies.

All we require now are your nominations for these prestigious awards and this year we have given you a little more time to gather evidence and prepare your nominations.

Being nominated and selected for a LACA Award by your industry peers, not only bestows a sense of pride and honour on a personal level but it simultaneously raises, to greater heights, the professional reputation of the educational caterer employing Award winners. A LACA Award is an invaluable promotional tool in any organisation or school's marketing toolbox and speaks volumes about its high standards of customer service and care.

Please complete your nomination and send to:- yhlacacommittee@gmail.com

No later than Friday 25th July 2025



Regional LACA Chair—Yorkshire and Humberside



LACA
the school food people

Nominations are now being sought for the following categories: -

Primary Catering Team of the Year

This award aims to give recognition to a Primary School catering team which has made an outstanding contribution to raising the profile of education catering within the school and/or it's local community.

The winning team will have demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm, initiative, commitment and passion for the catering service and is able to prove what extra steps have been taken to engage with the school and the wider community.

The judges will be looking for examples of creativity and collaboration, where all parties come together to share a vision which can be reflected and evidenced in the increased take-up of meals, services and/ or improved customer satisfaction. Highlight what makes this team shine, what makes them stand out or how they have gone above and beyond.

Judges are looking for –

- A minimum of **250 words** up to a maximum of **500 words** (show word count) per submission.
- A **50-word summary** of your nomination must be included.
- All entries may be paper based, scrapbook format or electronic (pdf copies not accepted)
- A Maximum of two pages of supporting evidence including pictures, letters, or newspaper articles.
- **NO Council, business or school logos to be included and no footer or header on documents.**

Secondary Catering Team of the Year

This award aims to give recognition to a Secondary School catering team which has made an outstanding contribution to raising the profile of education catering within the school and/or its' local community.

The winning team will have demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm, initiative, commitment and passion for the catering service and be able to prove what extra steps have been taken to engage the school and the wider community.

The judges will be looking for examples of creativity and collaboration where all parties come together to share a vision which can be reflected and evidenced in the increased take-up of meals, services and/ or improved customer satisfaction. The judges would like to see examples of how the team have either gone above and beyond or show the judges why you think this team should win.

Judges are looking for –

- A minimum of **250 words** up to a maximum of **500 words** (show word count) per submission.
- A **50-word summary** of your nomination must be included.
- All entries may be paper based, scrapbook format or electronic (pdf copies not accepted)
- A Maximum of two pages of supporting evidence including pictures, letters, or newspaper articles.
- **NO Council, business or school logos to be included and no footer or header on documents.**

The 'Janet Sylvester Award'

This award is looking to celebrate those unsung heroes within the educational catering industry. We are encouraging anyone who has shown amazing dedication and gone above and beyond in their role, to send in their nominations for the Janet Sylvester Award.

The recipient of this award will have demonstrated a unique contribution to the school catering industry, whether this individual works within the school, is a supporter of school meals or provides or supplies to the industry.

The consequences or outcomes of this individual's contribution will have demonstrated added value, new initiatives or a unique situation that benefited the school catering service in some way.

This award is about raising the profile of the individual who under normal circumstances would go unrecognised.

Judges are looking for –

- A minimum of **250 words** up to a maximum of **500 words** (show word count) per submission.
- A **50-word summary** of your nomination must be included.
- All entries may be paper based, scrapbook format or electronic (pdf copies not accepted)
- A Maximum of two pages of supporting evidence including pictures, letters, or newspaper articles.
- **NO Council, business or school logos to be included and no footer or header on documents.**

Chef of the Year

This award is to recognise an educational chef who has shown professionalism in food quality and innovation. This can be a frontline member of your catering team to a development chef who has shown the ability to create or abide by compliant nutritionally balanced menus. Highlighting the flair, passion and creativity they have brought to the hotplate while showcasing a promotional or themed event at an in-house or national level. Has this person gone over and above to not only raise school meal numbers but also raise the profile of education catering within your school or company. Have they introduced any new initiatives and developed them which have helped their own team or the wider catering community? Or have they made an outstanding contribution to the local community, or used their knowledge to teach or encourage others?

Judges are looking for –

- Show us why you think this person has the qualities to win.
- Offer examples of new ideas, theme days or innovation.
- Accreditations or recognition received.
- A minimum of **250 words** up to a maximum of **500 words** (show word count) per submission.
- A **50-word summary** of your nomination must be included.
- All entries may be paper based, scrapbook format or electronic (pdf copies not accepted)
- A Maximum of two pages of supporting evidence including pictures, menus, letters, or newspaper articles.
- **NO Council, business or school logos to be included and no footer or header on documents.**

Manager of the Year

This award is looking for a manager at any level who has shown exceptional skill, initiative and commitment to an in-house or outsourced organisation. Have they have implemented a new business strategy which has brought a positive change or improved the service across their area of operations? Or created projects to encourage an increase of meal numbers, improving viability of a contract and business development? How they manage a school catering contract highlighting key performance indicators to ensure stakeholder satisfaction? Have they shown a constant level of professional standards while motivating, retaining and developing staff within their organisation? Has this person gained or maintained any relevant awards or accreditations you feel they should be recognised for?

Judges are looking for –

- Show us why you think this person should win.
- Offer examples of innovation or positive customer satisfaction.
- How an increase in meal numbers or turnover has been achieved.
- A minimum of **250 words** up to a maximum of **500 words** (show word count) per submission.
- A **50-word summary** of your nomination must be included.
- All entries may be paper based, scrapbook format or electronic (pdf copies not accepted)
- A Maximum of two pages of supporting evidence including pictures, letters, or newspaper articles.
- **NO Council, business or school logos to be included and no footer or header on documents.**

Marketing Award

The Marketing award is to showcase a new marketing strategy or innovation which has successfully promoted education catering from an individual, team or organisation. We are looking for details on planning, objectives and outcomes, did it exceed expectations? Has the campaign or innovation raised meal numbers, raised the profile of school meals, have financial benefits or support a whole school approach? Does it involve working with the local community or organisation?

Judges are looking for –

- Tell us your story of how the campaign was created and the reasoning behind it.
- Offer examples of how the results were analysed or positive customer satisfaction.
- How an increase in meal numbers or profile of school meals was achieved.
- A minimum of **250 words** up to a maximum of **500 words** (show word count) per submission.
- A **50-word summary** of your nomination must be included.
- All entries may be paper based, scrapbook format or electronic (pdf copies not accepted)
- A Maximum of two pages of supporting evidence including pictures, menus, letters, or newspaper articles.
- **NO Council, business or school logos to be included and no footer or header on documents.**

Sustainability Award

We are looking for independent schools or local authorities who have taken steps towards becoming more sustainable, encouraging a greener future. Are you reducing your carbon footprint by reducing food miles, looking at food waste and how to educate the greater school community, encouraging a whole school approach or working with the schools eco teams? Do you have various sites which use some of your food waste for composting. When menu planning do you look at seasonality, supply chain and carbon reduction? We want to hear how you are promoting a greener environment with any accreditations or recognition achieved. Let the judges know how you are securing a greener future for all.

Judges are looking for –

- A minimum of **250 words** up to a maximum of **500 words** (show word count) per submission.
- A **50-word summary** of your nomination must be included.
- All entries may be paper based, scrapbook format or electronic (pdf copies not accepted)
- A Maximum of two pages of supporting evidence including pictures, letters, or newspaper articles.
- **NO Council , business or school logos to be included and no footer or header on documents.**

Please remember the deadline is ; **Friday 25th July 2025**

Please send any correspondence and nominations to ; **yhlacacommittee@gmail.com**

May we wish you the best of luck with your nomination and hope to see you at the awards ceremony.

Yorkshire & Humberside LACA Awards Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum £1000 +vat

Sponsorship and presentation of an award.

Includes up to six free places at the awards ceremony (incl. meal, drinks on the table and entertainment)

You will be the main awards sponsors and branding will be included in all paraphernalia, including brand video to be played during the evening if you so wish.

Access to pre-event drinks reception and networking opportunity

Company logo & name printed on trophy.

Logo, company description and contact details in all marketing material leading up to event.

Post event including evaluation of the awards & feedback.

Gold £800 + Vat

Sponsorship and presentation of an award.

Includes up to four free places at the awards ceremony (incl. meal, drinks on the table and entertainment)

Access to pre-event drinks reception and networking opportunity

Company logo & name printed on trophy.

Logo, company description and contact details in all marketing material leading up to event.

Logo on all marketing material during the awards evening; Presentation & Awards Ceremony.

Post event including evaluation of the awards & feedback.

Silver £500+vnt

Payment contributes to all resources required for the awards evening to be a success, such as; Venue, Food, Disco, Reception, Drinks, Decorations, Certificates, Photo Frames & Photographer.

Sponsorship includes **two free places** at the awards ceremony (incl. meal, drinks on the table and entertainment)

Access to pre-event drinks reception and networking opportunity.

Company branding in the awards hall if wanted.

Logo, company description and contact details in all marketing material leading up to event.

Logo on all marketing material during the awards evening; Presentation & Awards Ceremony.

Post event including evaluation of the awards & feedback.

Additional places £60 +vat PP

Bronze £350+vnt

Payment contributes to all resources required for the awards evening to be a success, such as; Venue, Food, Disco, Reception, Drinks, Decorations, Certificates, Photo Frames & Photographer.

Sponsorship includes **one free place** at the awards ceremony (incl. meal, drinks on the table and entertainment)

Access to pre-event drinks reception and networking opportunity

Logo, company description and contact details in all marketing material leading up to event.

Logo on all marketing material during and post event connected to the awards.

Additional places £60 +vat PP

To support our region and finalists; All sponsorship goes towards ensuring all our finalists and 3 other representatives for each finalist are provided with free places for the evening to recognise their commitment, passion and dedication.