

In October 2022, York Bridge Club set up a Youth Academy for students up to the age of 25 so that they could learn to play the game with like-minded players. The sessions not only offer the opportunity to play and improve mathematical and team work skills, but also to make new friends from other schools. The Academy aims to teach a new skill each session to enable and encourage players to play competitive bridge either in National Schools' competitions or in local clubs. The Academy meets every fortnight on Sundays from 2pm – 4pm at York Bridge Club.

We currently have students ranging in age from 6–16.



Teaching is based on live play and problem solving with help handouts available on the table for students to refer to if they need help.

Students also follow the **EBED Junior Award Scheme**.



Highlights of the year

Nora Penn Award

The Nora Penn Award became the responsibility of the Academy in 2022. The award is judged on results from the hands played at each session of the Academy. Points were awarded for good declarer play, defence and behaviour. The award for 2024 was won by Gregory (pictured below). Levente was a very worthy runner up.



EBED Awards

This year the following students received EBED Junior Awards:

Jasmine	Gold
Gregory	Silver
Levente	Silver
Bertie	Bronze
Bethany	Bronze
Josie	Bronze
Rudie	Bronze
Sephie	Minibridge
Josh	Minibridge

The awards were presented at the club's AGM on Wednesday 19th June 2024 to the students who could attend. The picture below features Josh, Gregory and Jasmine after the presentation.



Arrangements are in hand to present the remaining students with their awards at a later date.

Teams match

A team from the Academy played a match against a team from York Bridge Club as part of their EBED Bronze Award. The team from the Academy, comprising of Bertie, Bethany, Josie and Rudie are featured below with the opposing team.



Integration into Club sessions

Levente, Bertie and Bethany have attended club sessions this year and even earned Masterpoints! We look forward to welcoming more of our students into future sessions while the Academy takes its summer break in August.

The Academy in the Community

On Wednesday 3rd April two of our tutors held an introduction to minibridge session lasting 2 hours at Acomb Library. Despite problems with the library booking system, 4 students turned up to sample bridge and to their parents' surprise stayed for the whole lesson. Josh, one of the four attendees, has now joined the Academy. We look forward to welcoming other newcomers to the Academy soon.



Our next visit to Acomb Library is scheduled on Friday 23rd August.