

9th January 2026

Dear Youth Leader/Principal/Teacher,

SUBJECT: Youth and Future Talent Awards (YAFTAS)

Tuesday 16th December 2025 marked the official launch of this year's YAFTA, Youth and Future Talent Award, in Down Civic Centre. We have enclosed a copy of the information brochure on the Awards structure and process for your information.

The YAFTAs were created by our Youth Voice programme so they could recognise and acknowledge the huge commitment many young people make quietly to the community around them whether that be in their Youth Club/project, Community Group, School or even family. There are eight nomination categories, as you will see, offering opportunities to nominate groups and individuals.

Please feel free to share this Award Information with other groups and people as we know there are lots of deserving young people out there to whom a little bit of recognition, as demonstrated by someone nominating them, would be a huge boost. Hard copies of the nomination forms are available from Newry Youth Resource Centre and Ballymote Youth Centre. We recommend using the online nomination form which is available by following the link <https://forms.office.com/e/aw1ZwewBBU>

The closing date for entries is 5.00pm on Friday 30th January 2026. All nominees receive an official certificate and the winners and runner-up's are invited to a glittering evening reception and presentation in Killeavy Castle Estate, Newry on Tuesday 3rd March 2026. Please make this the year that you share with us in celebrating the work of these young people. All aspects of this event have been designed and are managed by young people, for young people.

For any enquiries or further information please contact Niamh Mc Namee or Mel Murray, on 028 9082 1465 or via email niamh.mcnamee@eani.org.uk / mel.murray@eani.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

NMD Youth Voice