

National Younger Leadership Groups

Leadership Session - Example

Report 3 - March 2022



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK
YOUTH TRUST
Be the change you want to see



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

FOUNDATION FOR
EDUCATIONAL
LEADERSHIP

abyyt.com/NYLG



About the National Younger Leadership Groups

The National Younger Leadership Groups (NYLGs) was formed from a partnership between the Archbishop of York Youth Trust (ABYYT) and the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership (CEFEL) in 2020. The strategic plans of both organisations have priorities focused on young voices, developing student leadership and growing faith in young people. The Church of England's 2020 Vision and Strategy, led by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, has a focus on 'growing younger', which makes regular consultation and engagement with children and young people for the vision of the church.



Session Overviews

NOVEMBER 2021

25th

November 2021

'What church would you like to see?'

This event will focus on building on the 'growing younger' aspect of the Church of England's vision and strategy. For this session, Primary and Secondary pupils will join together in one call.

JANUARY 2022

25th
26th

January 2022

'Learning to Love...' (LOVE)

These events will explore the teachings of Jesus, in particular the greatest commandment to: "Love the Lord your God and to love your neighbour as yourself". We will explore what some of the barriers are to loving God and loving others, with a focus on diversity and inclusion.

MARCH 2022

15th
16th

March 2022

'Be the change...' (EXAMPLE)

These events will explore the teaching of the Beatitudes and what it means to live a radical life that is focussed on 'being the change' you want to see and setting an example for others to follow.

APRIL 2022

27th
28th

April 2022

'Let your light shine...' (ACTION)

These events will explore what it means to be the 'Salt and Light of the earth' (Matt 5:13). The session will encourage the children and young people to explore social justice and identify areas in their own local context where they could put their faith and leadership into action and be 'salt and light' in our world.

JUNE 2022

30th

June 2022

Celebration 'I can do all things...' (DREAM)

These events will aim to review the journey of the last year with the participants and celebrate their growth in leadership, character, and faith. Alongside this, we will focus on the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28.

Session 3

'Be the change you want to see'

The NYLGs follow a pattern using an anagram of the word LEAD, with each session exploring different character virtues that help all of us be better leaders.

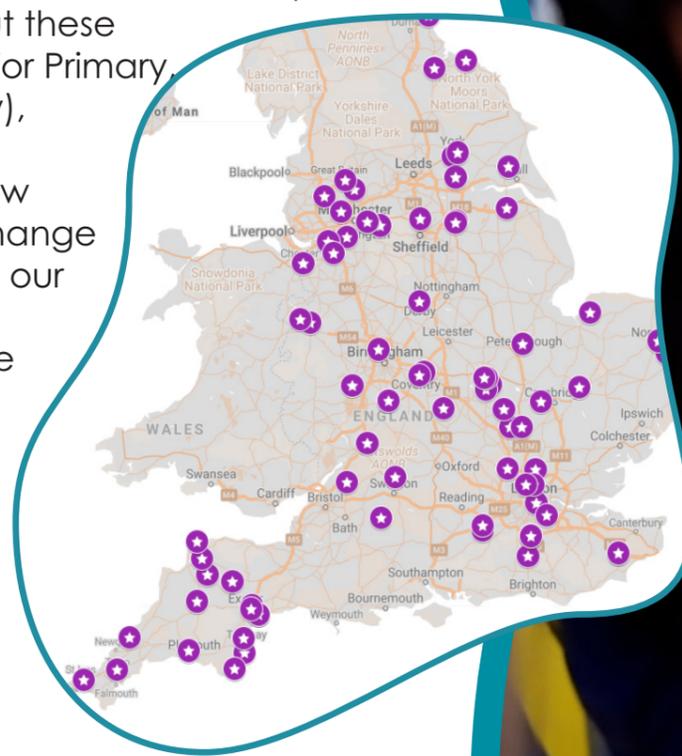
L – Love (loving God, loving others, loving ourselves)

E – Example (using Jesus' teaching on the Beatitudes)

A – Action (how we can be salt and light in the world)

D – Dream (dreaming of a better tomorrow)

We were joined by 35 Primary schools and 10 Secondary schools for the 'example' session. Throughout these two sessions (one for Primary, one for Secondary), we explored the Beatitudes and how we can 'be the change we want to see' in our communities by setting an example through the way we live our lives.



Before the sessions started, we asked the Young Leaders to share anything that they had already been doing in school as a result of their involvement in the NYLGs. Several schools told us that their Young Leaders were now involved in leading worship in school. We were so pleased to hear all their responses. Here's a snapshot of what they shared:

Chorley St. James' CE Primary School

"The Ark have planned and led their own Gen 2:15 club for younger children."



St Paul's Mill Hill

"We are supporting Ukraine by having a blue and yellow mufti day also donating £1 or more."



St Mary's CofE Truro

"Two of us are Play Leaders and Sports Leaders."



Bowdon Church School

"We help lead Growing Faith in our school."



Abdul and Noella St. Peter's CE, Ashton

"We're helping Manchester Diocese to design an Eco Award."



Pinhoe Primary School

"We have created a friendship ambassador group."



Chorley St. James' CE Primary School

"We're welcoming 24 other schools for our 6th children's conference."



St Mark's Bromley

"We have 'inspire' worships where children can get inspired by famous people."



The Beatitudes

Focus 1

Living Upside-Down Lives

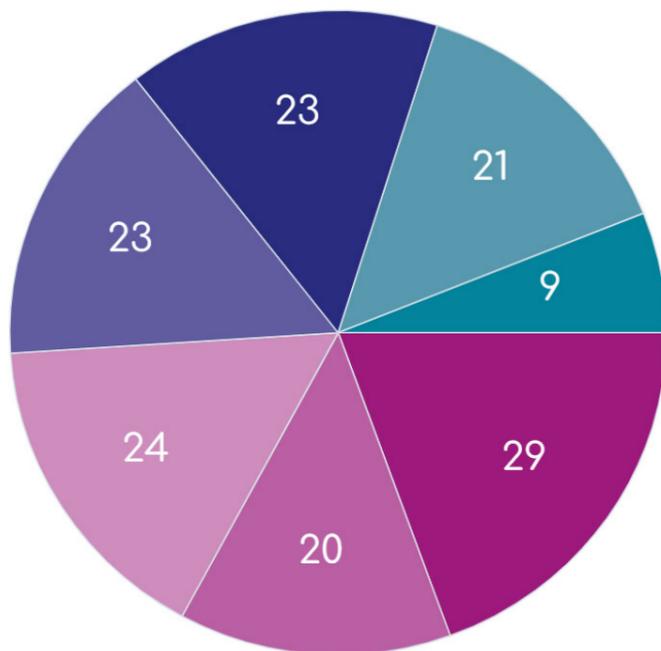
To start our **example** sessions, we looked at the concept of living upside down lives, through the example Jesus gave through His teaching on the Beatitudes.

We watched a video of young people reading out the Beatitudes, and explored what these blessings could mean. They are examples that are radically different to how many of us perceive we 'should' live our lives, and are often not a popular way of living – they provide us with the means to live an upside-down life.

We asked young people what it means to live an upside-down life to them.

Here's a snapshot of how the Young Leaders responded.

- Respect other peoples opinions 29
- Going against the norm 20
- Be honest 24
- Be responsible 23
- Be Kind 23
- Take the first step for someone else 21
- OTHER 9



Spotlight Answers

"To always think of others before yourself."

Bowden Church School

"Be motivating to others."

St Mark's Bromley

"Take risks and step out of your comfort zone."

John Wallis Academy

Focus 2

Who do you know that lives upside-down lives?

The pupils had already started to think of people that they know who are a good example, or live upside-down lives. We asked them to share who they think are great examples, whether they know them personally, whether they are famous, or someone from the past. Here's a snapshot of what they said:

A common answer was **God and Jesus**

"Because he forgave people know matter what happened. He put others before himself. He sacrificed his life for us."

Historical Figures



- **Claudette Colvin**
"She did the same as Rosa Parks."
- **Mary Anning**
"Because she didn't always get credit for her findings, and she fought for it."
- **Stephen Hawking**
"For showing that being disabled doesn't stop you from achieving things."
- **Mary Seacole**
"She helped people in the war and gave up her life."
- **Maya Angelou**
"American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist."
- **Svetlana Alliluyeva**

Celebrity Figures

- **Keanu Reeves**
"He is rich but takes the subway."
- **Megan Rapinoe**
"She refused to meet Donald Trump because of his views."
- **The Queen**
"She coped when her husband died and kept serving others."
- **David Attenborough**
"He give his life's work for climate change."
- **Greta Thunberg**
"She has the courage to speak out."



Other Figures



- **Volodymyr Zelenskyy & the Ukranian People**
"They're trying not to panic, and they are surviving through the war. They are persevering in very hard times."
- **Doodle Boy**
"Overcame his challenges to be himself and inspire others."
- **And many young leaders shared about their parents/ carers, their teachers, friends and even their neighbours who inspired them**

Focus 3

What are the Characteristics of an Upside-Down life?

We loved hearing these stories of fantastic leaders who are examples that inspire our Young Leaders. There were many more examples shared by pupils throughout the sessions.

After hearing about their inspiring leaders, we shared the stories of three other leaders who inspire us by the way they live. These leaders were:

Desmond Doss



Upside Down Stories

WWII army medic and Seventh Day Adventist, Demond was born in 1920 in America. His was a pacifist, but he wanted to serve his country alongside his peers. He did so by becoming an army medic, whilst also refusing to hold a gun – a counter cultural thing to do. Life in the army wasn't easy for him, his peers despised him for his beliefs. But on the battlefield, Desmond was a hero and rescued 75 injured soldiers when his battalion had retreated in fear. On his return to America, he was awarded the Medal of Honour by the President at the time, President Harry Truman.

Naomi Osaka



Naomi Osaka is a professional tennis player. In 2018 she surprised many by beating Serena Williams in the final of the US open. This meant, that at 20, she was ranked #1 female tennis player in the world.

Naomi has spoken out about these pressures and how they have affected her mental health and she is very open about the importance of looking after your mental wellbeing. Naomi said that she has faced "long bouts of depression" since she won that first big tournament in 2018. She has even quite recently withdrawn from the French Open.

Naomi Osaka Continued...



Naomi's Dad said: "Living by example is the best thing we can do for our communities", and this is displayed in Naomi's willingness to put her career on hold for her wellbeing. Outside of tennis she actively protests against racism with the Black Lives Matter movement and has worn face masks which have the names of victims of police violence in America printed on them.

Musharaf Asghar

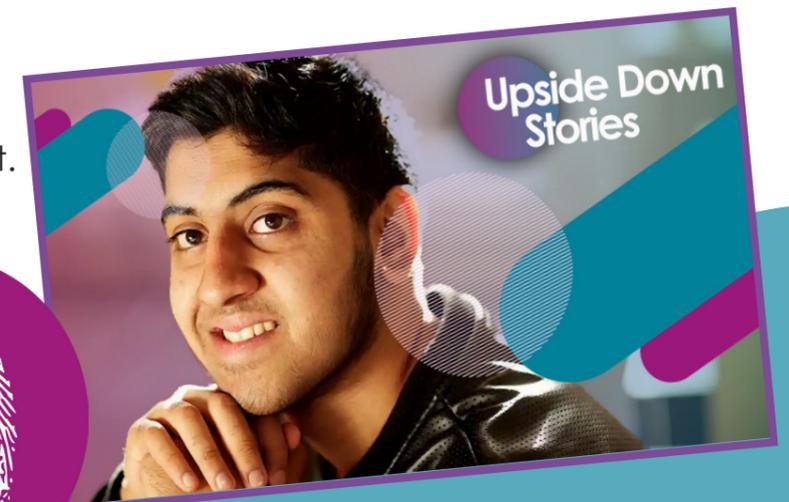


Musharaf became famous overnight when his school appeared on the Channel 4 programme 'Educating Yorkshire'. Musharaf's school was the focus of the show and viewers were introduced to Musharaf, a young man struggling with his peers. He had a severe stammer which made it difficult for him to communicate.

Throughout the programme we saw his English teacher, Mr Burton, support Musharaf through his exams. There was one exam where he had to read out a poem. This was going to be difficult for Musharaf as he found it hard to talk out loud.

His teacher, Mr Burton, helped him to overcome his stammer, and Musharaf ended up speaking at a whole-year assembly at the end of the year.

Musharaf who once really struggled to speak, is now a public speaker and journalist.



Once we had heard about these inspiring people, we asked the pupils to consider what character traits these people displayed, that helped them to live upside-down lives.

Heres what they said:

community
wealth
acceptance
determined
amazing
positive
bubbly
keep
resilient
perseverance
time
self-belief
open
compassion
pride
respectful
determination
confidence
hardworking
resilience
love
overcome
health
self-pride
belief
sacrifice
brave
care
support
mentally
blessed
grit
courage
discipline
humble
hope
courageous
kindness
mental
joy
bravery
trying
awareness
impressive
standing
inspiring
give
strong
giving
overcoming
trust
self-preservation
compassionate
self-awareness
passion
fearless
caring
ambitious
bold
positivity
faith
persevered
values
strength
fears
change
gave
incredible
difference
carrying



As you can see, **courage** was a very popular answer, along with **resilience, acceptance, prayer, ambition, hope, self-belief, forgiveness, love of God, curiousness, passion and boldness.**

St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School an...
Great work from Alfie, Charlie, Mia and Lincoln this afternoon, representing St Bart's and the Diocese of Worcester as National Younger Leaders in a virtual conference with pupils from across the country. @CofEWorchester @SevernAcademies



Focus 4

What Would You Say About These People?

The Young Leaders were then challenged to think about these three leaders – Desmond, Naomi and Musharaf, and to think about what struck them about their stories.

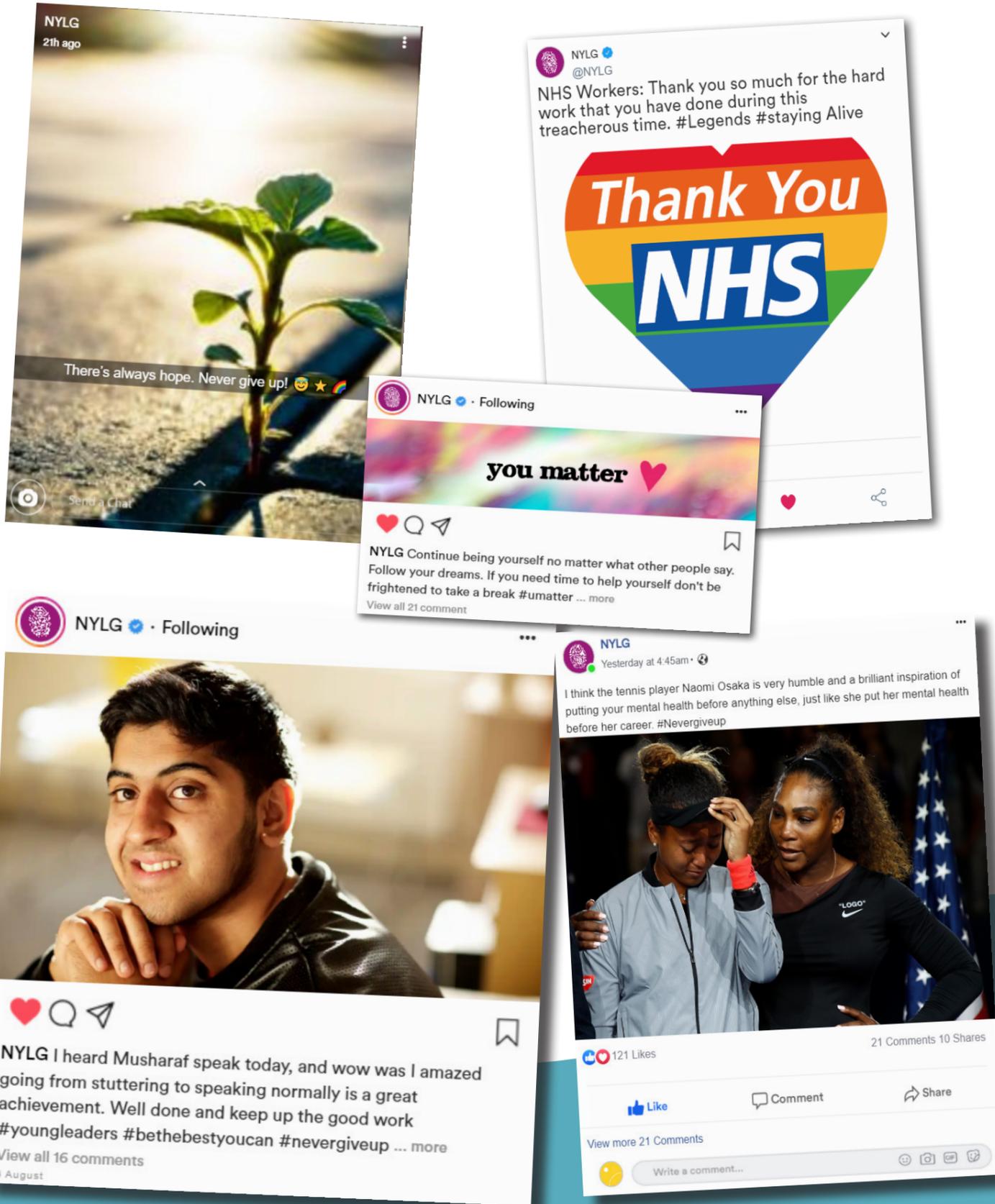
Primary Schools - Awareness Logos

For the Primary pupils, we asked them to create a logo based on one of the inspirational leaders that would represent their stories to be able to share and inspire others.



Secondary Schools - Awareness Post

For the Secondary pupils, we asked them to create a social media post about one of the inspirational leaders, that would share their stories and inspire others about what's possible. Here's a snapshot of some of them:



Focus 5

What is your Beatitude?

To close the sessions, the Young Leaders were tasked with thinking back to the beginning of our session where we explored the Beatitudes. We asked the pupils to reflect back on their personalities two years ago, and to write themselves their very own Beatitude that would have helped them at that age. Here are just some of the fantastic Beatitudes that the Young Leaders wrote to their younger selves:

You are blessed when you realise it's ok to not be ok!

You are blessed when you spend time with God and ask Him for help.

You are blessed when you're grateful and make the most of every God given opportunity.

You are blessed when you realise, you're not a sheep, you're a shepherd, take control!

You are blessed when you look for the colourful sparks in your life. Find something to look forward to.

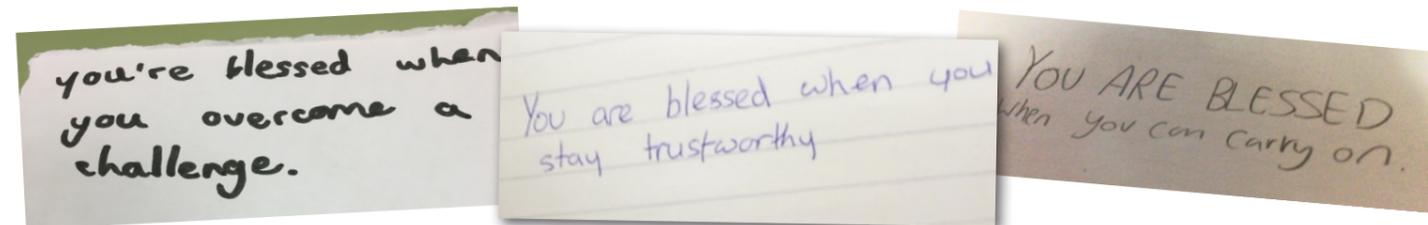
You are blessed when you realise the past doesn't determine your future, change for the better and thrive in the present.

You are blessed when you become a buddy not a bully.

You are blessed when you're not afraid to stand up to what is right.

You are blessed when you are able to forgive, let go and move on.

You are blessed when you think before you speak, rather than speaking before you do think.



These are just a snapshot of the fantastic Beatitudes submitted by our Young Leaders.

We were hugely inspired and encouraged by the Young Leaders' input throughout the session. Their collective insight and wisdom resulted in practical actions that each child and young person was able to take away with them. We look forward to seeing the results of these brilliant actions.

Where we're going next

Over the next few months, the National Younger Leadership Groups will meet a further three times.

APRIL 2022

27th
28th

April

Let your light shine (Action)

JUNE 2022

30th

June

I can do all things (Dream)

For more information on the NYLGs, please contact Andy Wolfe on andy.wolfe@churchofengland.org or the Youth Trust team on comms@abyyt.com

To read the previous reports, please visit abyyt.com/NYLG



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