

RON
COOKE **HUB**



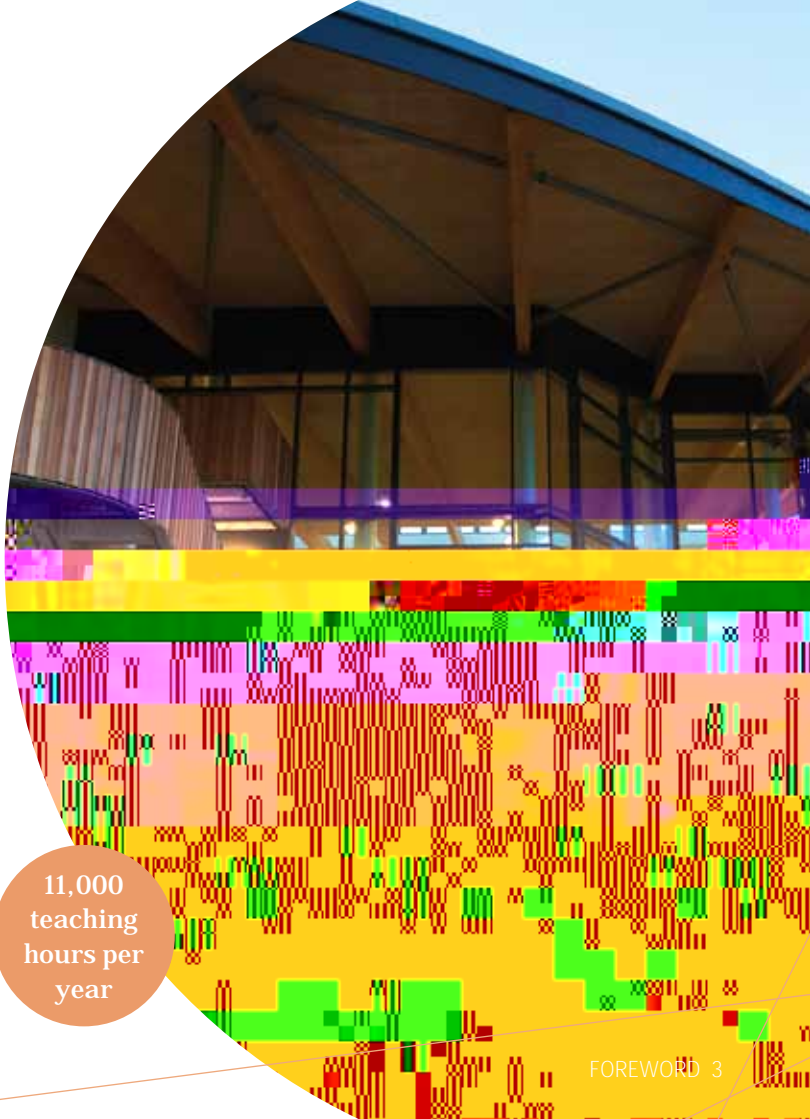
For example, over 70 companies have been represented at careers fairs in the Hub this year and over 30 students have been funded to develop their own business ideas in dedicated office space. During the year, 49 signed up to use the Hub's Student Enterprise Space.

Others have gained useful internships with Springboard businesses. YUSU and other society activities are commonplace in the Atrium and Pods, and with over 11,000 teaching hours per year the building is well used by our students.

Since 2013 marked the University's 50th anniversary, it is hardly surprising that much of it was spent reflecting on the past and what had been achieved since its foundation. These include accolades such as our position in the world university rankings and being invited to join the Russell Group of leading UK universities. However, the Hub is mainly about looking forward to new ways of doing things – if you want to test this, try knocking on a door in the Springboard business incubation corridor!

This publication covers only a small sample of the activities of the Hub. I hope you enjoy reading it but, most of all, I hope that it encourages you to come and see for yourself by attending an event, making a new contact and being part of this exciting facility.

Colin Mellors
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Business & Community)



11,000
teaching
hours per
year

VISION & MISSION

The Ron Cooke Hub provides a social space for academics, businesses and students to collaborate and share ideas. The Hub seeks to nurture and develop partnerships between these three sectors whilst also engaging the wider community. In order to fulfil this vision there will be a vibrant and diverse programme of seminars, workshops, exhibitions, lectures, summer schools and conferences, combined with informal use of creative and social spaces, and open access study areas. This will ultimately result in the generation of new projects, access to new funding streams and stimulation of innovative use of the University's research base. The Hub will also play an important part in contributing to regional economic development.

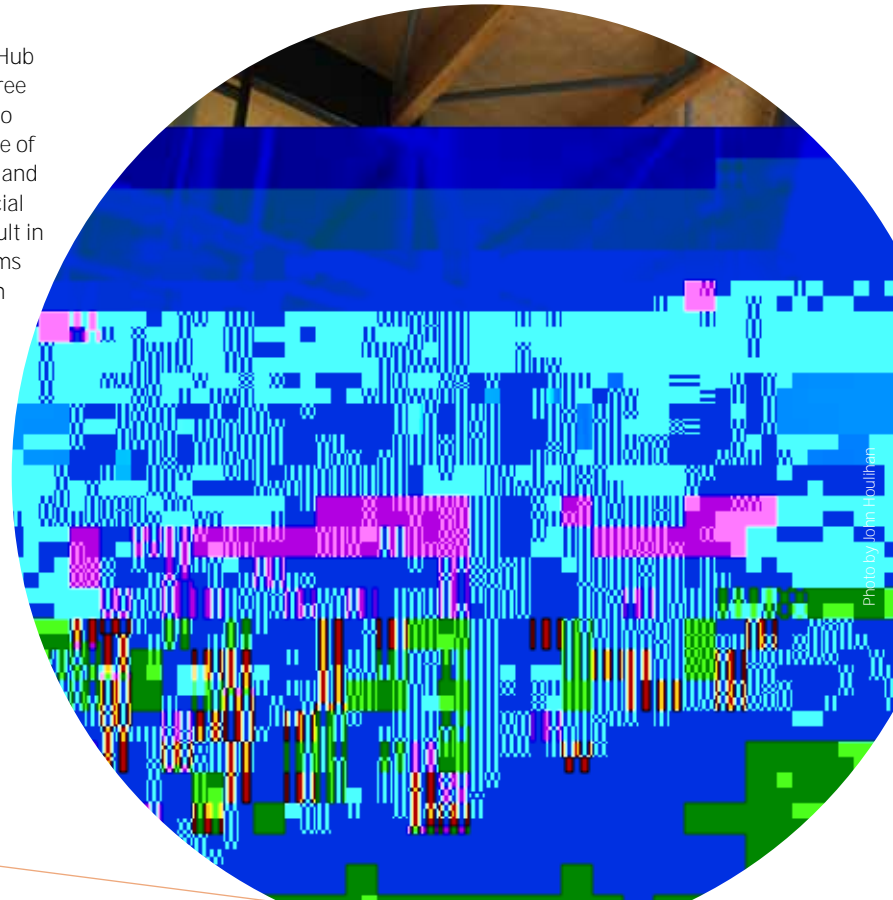


Photo by Joim Houltham

CONTENTS

Overview from the Hub Business Manager 6

Activities and Outputs (by user-group/activity)

Business Engagement 9

EDRF outputs	10
Research Innovation Office	11
SCY	12
Springboard (York Science Park Ltd)	13
Department of Computer Science continuing professional development (CPD)	14
Corporate Training Unit	15
IT Academy	16

Student and Academic Support 17

Student Enterprise and Employability (Careers Office)	18
Teaching and Learning Space	19
College Support	20
- Langwith	20





**BUSINESS
ENGAGEMENT**

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF) OUTPUTS

The Hub was largely funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), a programme to promote regional economic growth, as part of a £19.6 m capital project to encourage knowledge transfer between the University and local businesses.

The Embedded Business Space and Technology Transfer project has created 9,468 m² of new floor space for knowledge transfer use on the Heslington East site and has enabled 61 Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises to receive assistance from the University - each a minimum of 12 hours of support. Assistance has been provided in several forms including facilities use, coaching programmes, student internships, and business incubation.

The outcomes reported from the project so far include 274 new jobs created, 10.5 jobs safeguarded and 6 new businesses created, with many further outputs in the pipeline.

BUSINESS COLLABORATIONS

The Research Innovation Office supports academic departments to increase the volume of their research and knowledge transfer income and commercial exploitation of University-owned intellectual property. The Research Innovation Office team uses the Hub regularly, taking advantage of its unique setting and facilities to enhance the productivity of interactions with business partners.

Senior staff from IBM used the Hub for a “Research review” event, meeting academics from Environment, Economics and Management, Computer Science, Electronics, YCCSA, Physics, Chemistry, Health Sciences, TFTV and History. The day resulted in:

- support for the CAPACITIE Marie Curie bid for 12 PhD studentships. IBM provided in-kind support including hosting of students for 3 months and contributing to training;

- support for an EU framework bid in Wireless Monitoring for Healthcare which led to the Dependable Healthcare Centre for Doctoral Training and a new collaboration area between Computer Science and Electronics, IBM and Joseph Rowntree Foundation;

- follow-up meetings to expand areas of collaboration.

The Research Innovation Office hosted a network meeting for METRC, the N8 Universities knowledge transfer organisation for industry sectors including chemicals, energy and consumer products. Outcomes included new relationships with Israeli Chemical Ltd and a leading UK manufacturer of household products, currently

exploring funded research possibilities with science departments.

The Institute of Family Businesses used the Hub for a meeting and dinner exploring university-business interactions. Departments showcased research projects with regional family-owned enterprises including Flamingoland, Betty’s and Taylors, and Brocklesby.

The York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) used the Hub for their public consultation on their innovation strategy, attracting a large number of businesses and public sector organisations. The University’s Biorenewables Development Centre and Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence are central to the LEP intent to develop an international innovation cluster in biorenewables, industrial biotechnology and agri-technology.

Research Innovation Office staff have been closely involved in York Business Week’s Accelerate Day. This event incorporates training seminars and networking to give local businesses the tools to grow. The Hub has hosted this event for the last 3 years and welcomed over 190 delegates in 2013.

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www.york.ac.uk/staff/research/about-re

SCY (FORMERLY SCIENCE CITY YORK)

SCY is a private tenant of the Hub and a leading provider of high-quality business and innovation services. It has a proud history of making things happen and it was this organisation that secured £19.6m towards the creation of knowledge transfer space across the Heslington East campus, including the Ron Cooke Hub, through the Embedded Space and Technology Transfer project.

Working in partnership with the University of York, SCY's priorities are to support businesses to achieve growth; develop new infrastructure to support the region's growth sectors; and help businesses to make valuable connections with the academic and research base. SCY have a network of over 3,000 key contacts across more than 1,500 businesses, universities and other public bodies and research companies.

In SCY's second full year of residence in the Hub, a total of 9 large-scale business events were held. These events have ranged from interactive workshops and weekend-long Synergy Surgeries to client meetings. SCY has found the co-location alongside businesses and academic departments to lead to many joint projects and events:

2013 saw the successful completion of the third largest ERDF project in the region, which was a partnership between SCY, the University of York and FERA.

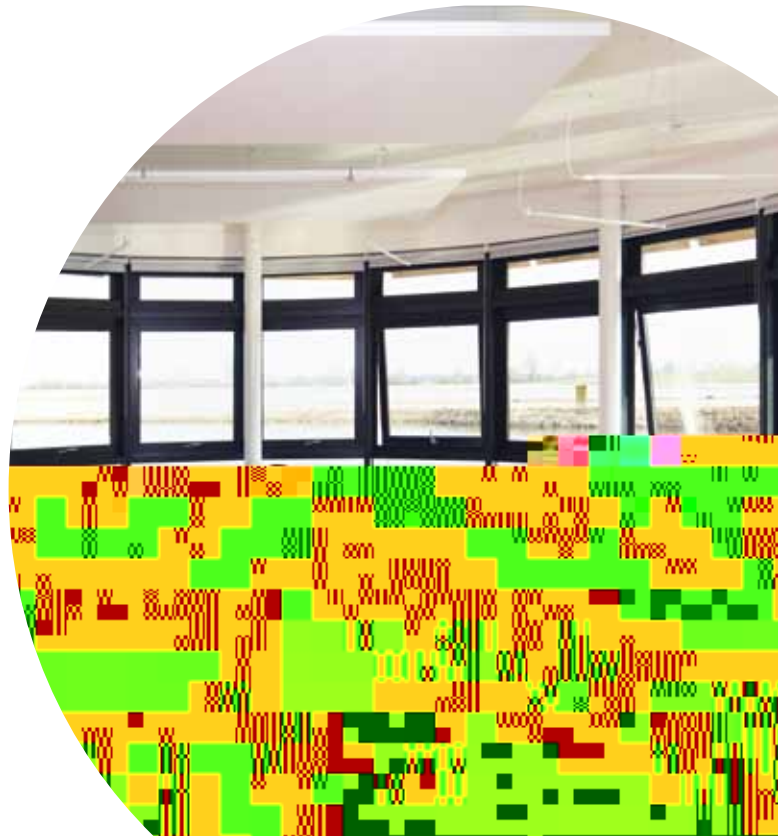
SCY completed the Specialist Business Services programme this year, which has provided high-level support to SMEs in Yorkshire and the Humber. Through this project, to date, SCY assisted in the creation of over 50 new businesses, aided businesses to create 141 new jobs and facilitated a total GVA increase of £5.2m.

www.scy.co.uk

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Springboard is York Science Park's exciting, unique and vibrant space located in the Ron Cooke Hub, specifically designed to cater for the needs of very early-stage businesses and entrepreneurs. Springboard provides a nurturing environment that stimulates creativity, and supports entrepreneurs to transform ideas into lucrative, sustainable businesses.

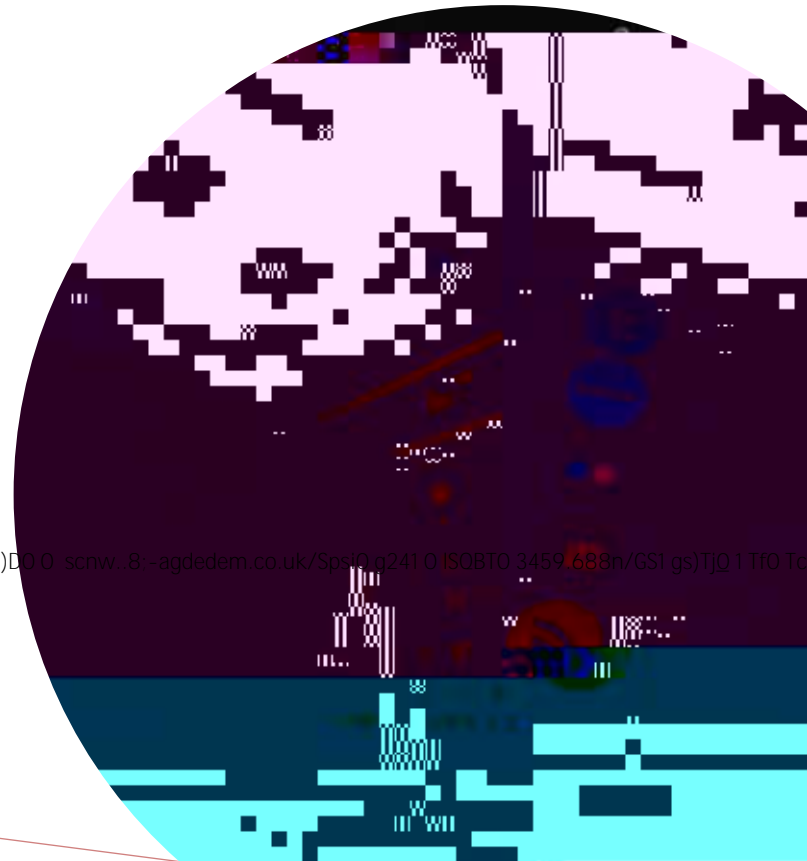
Office accommodation is high quality and low cost, and situated in close proximity to the Departments of Computer Science and



The IT Academy, also part of the University's Corporate Training Unit, has been running for over eight years, and relocated fully into a dedicated training suite with adjacent break-out discussion area on the ground floor of the Hub at the beginning of this year. The Academy provides high-quality ICT training to business as well as University of York staff and students, and offers the opportunity to train for industry-leading qualifications from Microsoft certified trainers under the Microsoft IT Academy program.

The Academy takes advantage of the Hub's Pods and the adjacent 3Sixty for specific training exercises. Course and examinations include: MCSE; MCSA; Microsoft Office Specialist; PRINCE2 and ITILv3, Prometric, Certiport and bespoke courses. This year the Academy delivered courses to 165 learners and held over 40 Microsoft Prometric examinations - up from 137 learners the previous year.

Plans for the coming year are to attract even more businesses to the Academy for both courses and examinations, and an expansion





TEACHING & LEARNING SPACE

The high quality teaching spaces in the Ron Cooke Hub are proving to be very popular with staff and students alike, being ideally situated for associated breakout sessions, and with the Café area easily accessible in the Atrium between lectures and seminars. The most frequently used teaching and study spaces are the Study pods (28%), Lecture Theatre (12%), Lakehouse (7%), and finally, the various seminar rooms (38%). Computer Science, The York Management School, TFTV and Law School are the dominant departments currently scheduled for teaching in the Hub.

The Hub's 24 hour access Study decks have become increasingly well used, regularly at capacity during the day, and Study pods are particularly popular with students for group revision during the examination period. During the year increased student study access was opened up on the Island of Interaction, and un-booked events and meeting rooms are now also promoted as open to ad-hoc use.

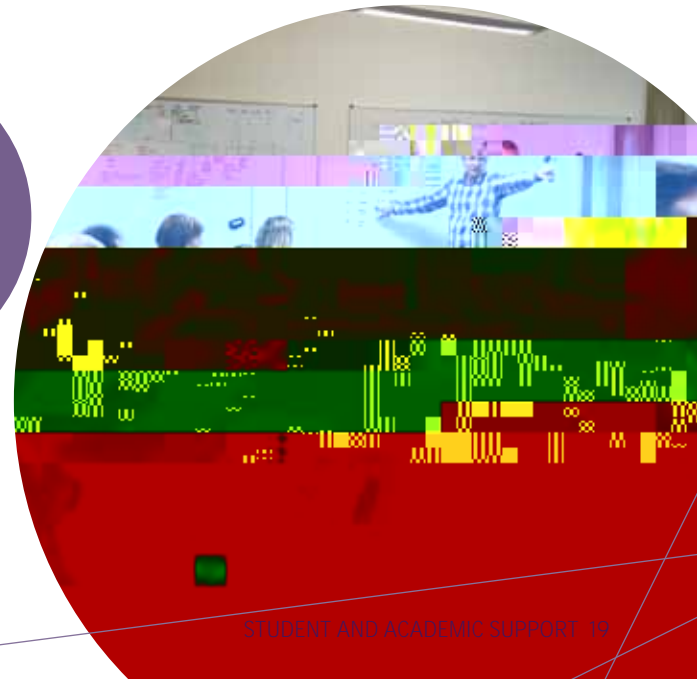
In terms of teaching and associated uses, the total booked hours is due to rise from 11,033 (2012/13) to 12,749 hours booked ahead for 2013/14, or, considered in terms of 'student seats' this will rise from 69,200 in 2012/13 to 91,500 booked ahead for 2013/14. This has the potential to increase further due to spring module selections. These figures imply a one third increase in teaching space utilisation in the Hub, but with around 2 hours of

non-timetabled activities for every 1 hour of booked teaching, this is being achieved largely through increased room-use efficiency rather than eating significantly into the open availability of spaces.

timetabling

www.york.ac.uk/campusservices/timetabling

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COLLEGE SUPPORT LANGWITH

STUDENT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

There were a total of 246 student society events and bookings in the Hub over the past year. The Graduate Students Association (GSA) ran 70 of these events, including regular drop-in support sessions for postgraduates based on Heslington East. The Christian

MATHS SKILLS CENT

YCCSA

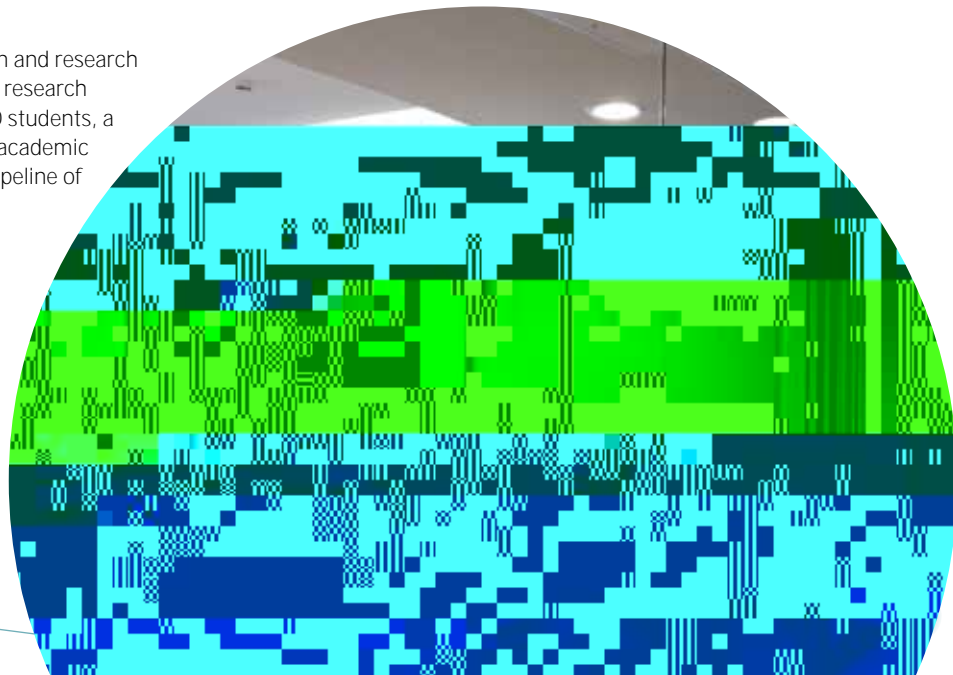
The York Centre for Complex Systems Analysis (YCCSA) is an interdisciplinary research co-operative, whose research focus is “real world complexity requiring interdisciplinary solutions”. YCCSA is a fluid group of around 70 staff and research students which champions a model of bottom-up, inclusive interdisciplinary research by facilitating and nurturing a geographically and intellectually diverse community of researchers, from across the science and social science, and arts departments.

YCCSA members have a strong teaching, publication and research grant record. YCCSA has ~£6.3M of currently active research grants, £3.7M from the CIDCATS project to train PhD students, a further ~£1.4M from grants due to start in the new academic year from diverse funding sources, and a healthy pipeline of proposals accepted, submitted and in preparation.

Throughout 2013, a £12.5 million application has been developed, led by Professor Peter Cowling, to create a Centre for Doctoral Training in Intelligent Games and Game Intelligence (IGGI). The Centre is a collaboration between the University of York, the University of Essex, Goldsmiths College (University of London) and 60 organisations from the world-leading UK games industry and creative sectors. YCCSA helped to form links with those using games and gamification in their

research across the university, which was crucial to the project in demonstrating the level of expertise at York. Confirmation of the success of this application was received in November 2013.

YCCSA has continued its popular Friday “scone seminar” series, bringing together academics for in-depth presentation and discussion of leading-edge interdisciplinary research. This year



speakers were from York, Leeds, Durham, Bradford, Oxford, Southampton, Madrid, Lisbon, California, Canterbury NZ, the British Antarctic Survey, and the national Health & Safety Laboratory.

YCCSA ran its fifth annual summer school this year during which ten exceptional undergraduate students from universities around the world were resident in the Hub for ten weeks, embedded in an active research culture, and engaged in real (albeit small) research projects of their own. Each student had supervisors from two different academic departments, to foster interdisciplinary working. Projects this year included cancer modelling, detecting psychopathy in voice recordings and characterising symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

YCCSA has a programme of interdisciplinary international conferences, highlighting York's interdisciplinary reputation, and exploiting the excellent facilities available in the Ron Cooke Hub. In 2013, YCCSA hosted MMEE2013, the 4th Mathematical Models in Ecology and Evolution conference, showcasing the latest developments of mathematical modelling in evolution and ecology and featuring speakers from universities including Yale, Bristol, Montpellier and York, and from Microsoft Research.



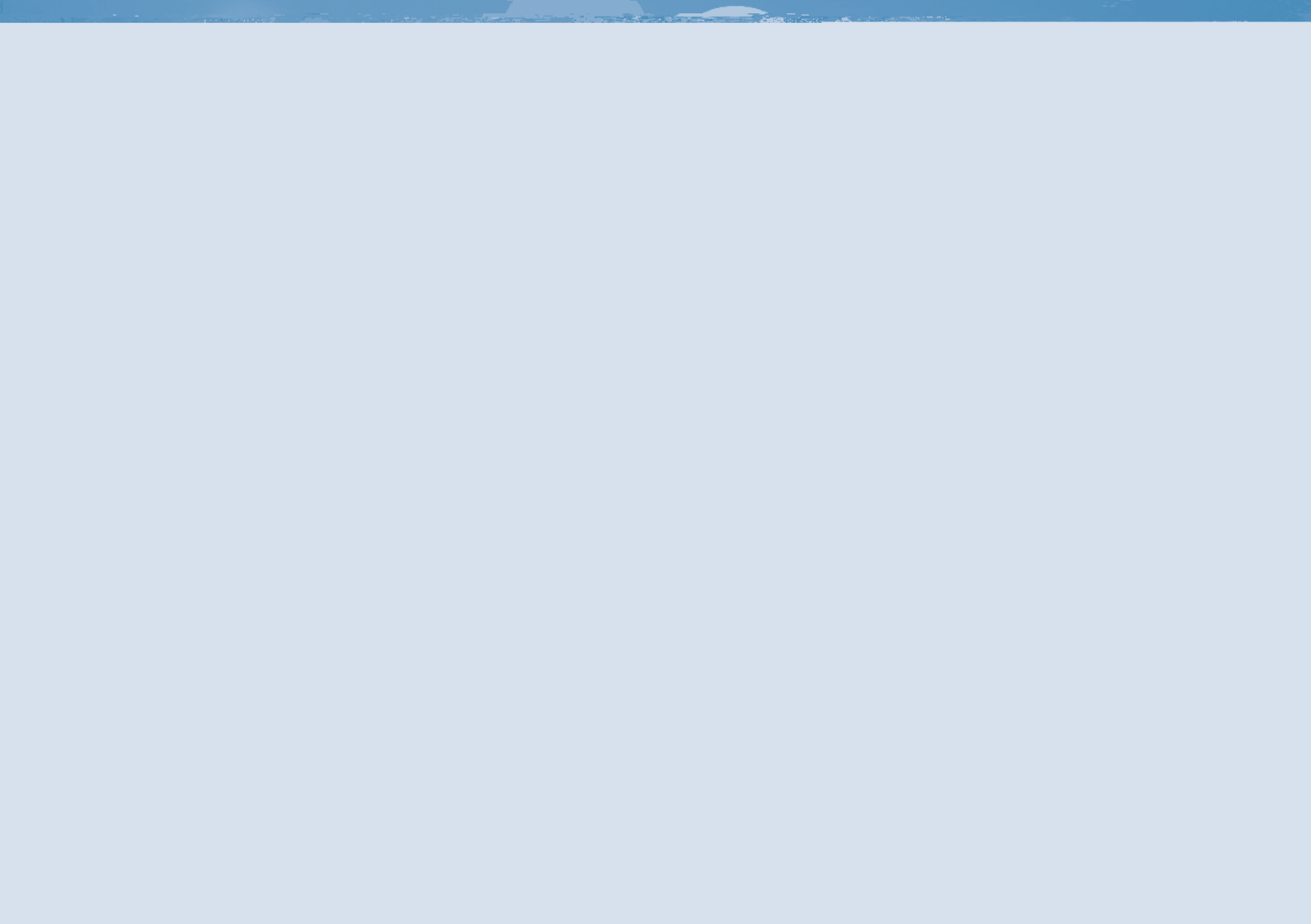
YCCSA has
~£6.3M of currently
active research
grants, from
diverse funding
sources

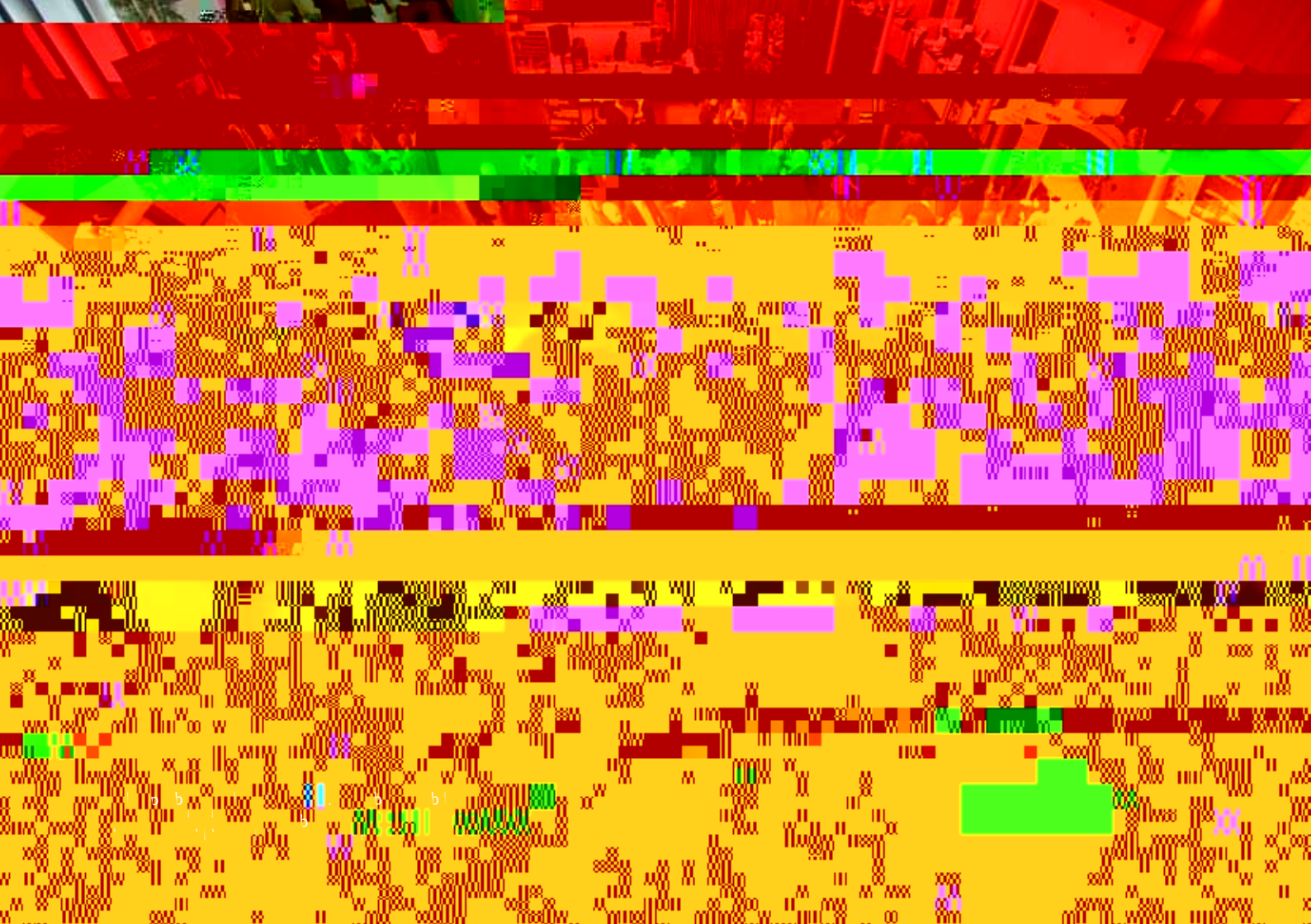
www.york.ac.uk/yccsa

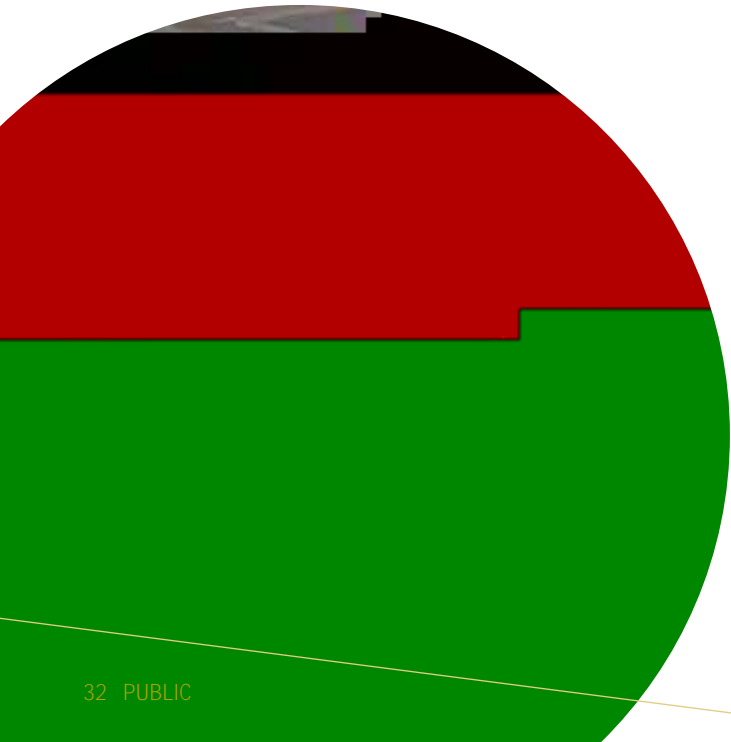
WHITE ROSE ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS

Enterprise systems are the large-scale, distributed, highly complex, and business-critical software systems that extend across and between organisations. As part of the Department of Computer Science, the Enterprise Systems group studies the unique technical and socio-technical challenges involved in the analysis, design, implementation, deployment and management of these types of systems. Cross-cutting themes for the group include the scalability of development techniques, architectures, and systems; agile approaches to design and development; identifying and handling unexpected behaviours; and issues of security, confidentiality and privacy.

In the 2012-13 academic year, the group, has undertaken







A variety of community events were held in the Hub during 2012/13, many organised through the University of York's Widening Participation team, and a number of these events returning after previous visits to take advantage of the large central Atrium space and flexible break-out facilities.

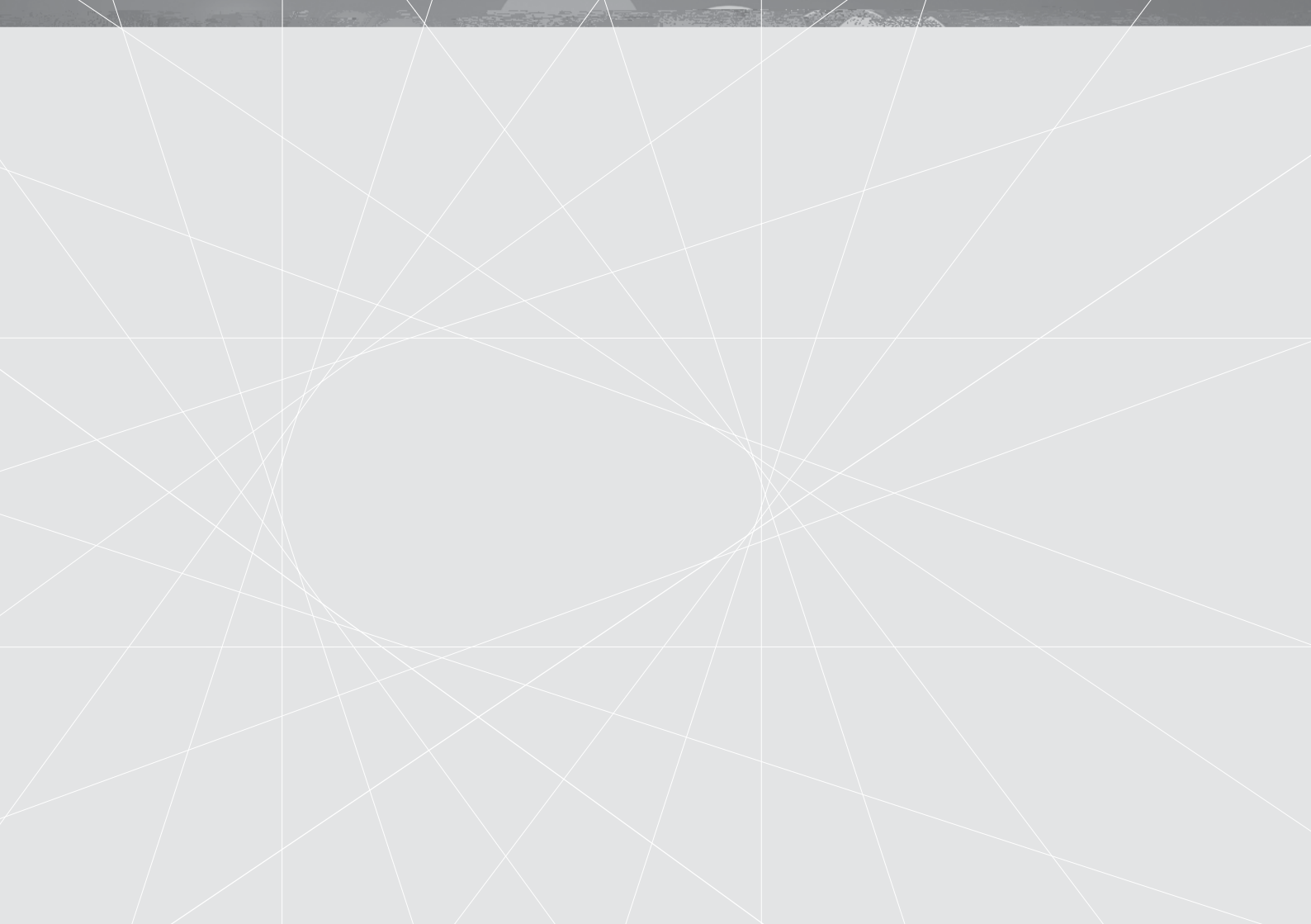
Highlights were; the 'Big Deal' final in June in which 80, Year 9 & 10 students pitched their ideas to 12 invited business figures who acted as 'dragons'. The student-run York Entrepreneurs Society hosted 140 Year 5 pupils from Tadcaster Grammar for an 'Enterprise Day', again with pupils pitching design ideas to a judging audience from the business community. A certificate presentation and celebration evening for students took place as part of the Hemsworth Academy Challenge in May, with 90 Year 11 students attending along with their parents and carers.

The Hub regularly hosts distinguished visitors, with the building itself along with the activities of its occupants making significant impact on its visiting audience. Amongst those visiting during the year were: Princess Anne, business delegations from BT and Siemens, Sir Stuart Rose, Francis Maude MP, John Dodds (Director of BIS), and the Former Korean Prime Minister Dr Han Sung-Soo, to name just a few. Graduation and court dinners are also regularly held in the Hub's Atrium, with invited guests from York City's influencers and funders.





DRAFT



Hub Forum

Chair – Susan Stepney

Hub Business Manager – Grahame Brown

York Conferences – Fiona Barrow

Facilities Manager – Keith Arnold

York Science Park Ltd (YSPL) – Kim Hodgson and Mick Aucker

York Centre for Complex Systems Analysis (YCCSA) – Simon O’Keefe

Computer Science CPD – Dawn Forrester

Corporate Training Unit – Anna Hastie

IT Academy – Andrew Bettany

Careers – Jessica Noon

Enterprise Systems – Richard Paige and Louis Rose

Goodricke College – Jane Clarbour

Langwith College – Jonathan Fanning

Langwith College Officer – Jonathan Exon

Student Representatives – Dean Hickey (Goodricke) and Sam Maguire (Langwith)

Hub Catering – Victoria Robinson

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – Karen Drum

Science City York (SCY) – Becky Appleyard

Campus Estates – Kevin Roberts

Theatre, Film and Television (TFTV) – Carol Dove

Health, Safety and Security – Denis Fowler

USE OF HUB FAC
