

# **YMCA Mattishall Youth Club – Headline Annual Report**

**April 2025 – April 2026**

Over the past year, YMCA Mattishall Youth Club has continued to provide a safe, welcoming, and youth-led space for young people in the parish. Both Junior and Senior sessions have offered consistent opportunities for social connection, creativity, and positive engagement, shaped by the interests and voices of the young people who attend.

### **Attendance and Engagement**

- Junior Youth Club
  - 574 total attendances across the year
  - 40+ individual young people engaged
  - Strong weekly attendance and a clear sense of belonging
- Senior Youth Club
  - 353 total attendances
  - 35+ individual young people engaged
  - Continued use of the club as a trusted and supportive space

### **Highlights From the Past Year**

One particularly engaging session focused on stop-frame animation, where young people worked collaboratively to plan, design, and film their own animations. This activity encouraged creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, and sustained engagement, and was very well received by both Junior and Senior members.

In November 2025, a young person from the Junior Youth Club was highly commended at the YMCA Norfolk Young People Awards. This achievement was a significant confidence boost for the young person, who proudly shared their certificate with the group, supported by their family. It was a positive moment for the individual and highlighted the wider impact of the Youth Club.

### **Challenges and How They Were Addressed**

The main challenge during this period was reduced attendance at the Senior Youth Club, particularly during the winter months. In response, we have refreshed the programme and strengthened our commitment to youth-led planning, ensuring sessions remain relevant, engaging, and shaped by young people's interests. This

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approach aims to rebuild attendance and encourage more consistent engagement moving forward.

### **Plans for the Coming Year**

Looking ahead, the Youth Club will continue to prioritise a youth-led approach, ensuring young people's ideas directly shape future sessions. Planned developments include:

- Increased outdoor activities during warmer months, including use of the nearby play park and outdoor games
- A continued balance of indoor sessions, such as arts and crafts, baking, Lego, den building, stop-frame animation, and social gaming
- Ongoing use of existing equipment, including the Nintendo Switch and PlayStation 5, with consideration of additional creative or outdoor equipment based on young people's feedback
- Exploration of themed sessions, wellbeing activities, and short projects suggested by young people

### **To increase awareness and attendance, we will also:**

- Carry out local flyer drops
- Visit schools and deliver assemblies
- Strengthen links with schools and community partners

### **Summary**

Overall, YMCA Mattishall Youth Club continues to provide a positive, inclusive environment where young people feel safe, supported, and listened to. The focus for the coming year is on strengthening attendance, expanding opportunities, and maintaining a vibrant, youth-led space where young people can thrive.