

# THE AWARDS 2020

## Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

<b>Institution name</b>	Aimée Little, <i>University of York</i>
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Experiential outdoor learning at the York Experimental Archaeology Research Centre: engaging students, forging stakeholder partnerships
<b>Nominee/key personnel</b>	Dr Aimée Little
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/centres-facilities/year-centre/">https://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/centres-facilities/year-centre/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>I founded the YEAR Centre, an outdoor experimental archaeology teaching/research space at the University of York.</p> <p>I developed undergraduate and postgraduate modules and co-designed an MSc/MA programme enabling students to engage in experiential learning: bridging theory and practice.</p> <p>Rather than simply tell students how an artefact was made and used, I encourage them to experience this themselves, often while sitting around a campfire. This informal outdoor learning environment has broken down social barriers and increased student engagement.</p> <p>The pedagogy of “green spaces”, now recognised for positively promoting mental health, was the subject of an article I published in the university’s teaching journal (2019). My teaching is research-led, with innovative assessment methods (writing a journal-style article; producing documentaries) empowering students to become active researchers themselves.</p> <p>Assessments have genuine value beyond the university: providing key resources for heritage stakeholders whilst strengthening student CVs in a competitive job market.</p>