



## York Festival of Ideas and The Northern Agenda forge new media partnership

[York Festival of Ideas](#) and [The Northern Agenda](#) have established a media partnership to examine some of the issues that matter most to people living in the North of England.

The annual Festival, taking place from 31 May to 13 June 2025, will include a series of Festival Focus sessions covering topics of major importance, including the creation of a more equal society, transport connectivity, the security of Europe, and AI and the future of work.

Joan Concannon, Director of York Festival of Ideas, said: "We are delighted to be partnering with *The Northern Agenda*, the must-read daily newsletter for everyone who cares about the North. The media partnership reflects our shared values in engaging audiences on issues of significant importance, and our joint belief in the critical role of trustworthy media communications to drive partnerships, collaborations and public engagement."

[York Festival of Ideas](#), which is led by the University of York, presents over 200 mostly free in-person and online events, attracting a regional and global audience of nearly 60,000. It works in partnership with more than 100 local and national organisations, all of whom share a commitment to public good.

*Northern Agenda* Editor Rob Parsons said: "I'm really excited to be part of this year's York Festival of Ideas which promises to be an absorbing two weeks full of thought-provoking debate and discussion.

"York has established itself as an inspiring city of ideas and innovation and I'm looking forward to being entertained, informed and challenged in some of the sessions covering big issues for the North of England and the wider world."

Free to sign up for, [The Northern Agenda](#) will be providing coverage of Festival Focus events relevant to people living in the North, with Editor Rob Parsons chairing a number of sessions.

Among the Festival Focus sessions are events presented in collaboration with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation examining how we can create a more equal society free from poverty. A panel of experts will look at who actually benefits from economic growth, and how devolved economic powers can help improve key areas such as housing, education, health and social care, energy and transport.

As part of a new partnership with LNER, the Festival programme includes events looking at the transformation of York Railway Station and next generation rail transport, as well as providing an opportunity for attendees to find out more about York Central and the economic and cultural vision for the city's future.

Other Festival Focus sessions delivered in collaboration with the Morrell Centre for Legal and Political Philosophy and the French Embassy in the UK, will investigate some of the challenges around Donald Trump's second presidency, the security of Europe, AI and the future of work, and protecting our oceans.

A key part of this year's programme is a Michael Morpurgo Celebration Day on 3 June. Organised as a tribute to the renowned author's power as a writer, communicator and advocate of the arts, the celebration marks his eighth York Festival of Ideas appearance - and his first as Patron. The centrepiece of the day will be a [live online event](#) for school children, hosted by Katie Razzall, BBC News Culture and Media Editor. Michael will read excerpts from his new book *Cobweb* (HarperCollins) and answer questions about his work and inspiration.

Programme information and booking for the 2025 York Festival of Ideas will go live on the [Festival website](#) (yorkfestivalofideas.com) on Friday 2 May. Booking for the live online Michael Morpurgo schoolchildren's event, [Cobweb](#), is now open.

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