**TUESDAY 19 APRIL 2016**

**Time is ticking on York station photo competition**

Virgin Trains is encouraging people to take part in a competition to photograph York Station as part of the York Festival of Ideas, which celebrates the city’s history and heritage.

The train operator is asking customers to take a single photograph of the 19th Century station to be in with a chance of winning prizes ranging from First Class tickets to money can’t buy experiences on one of the Virgin Trains’ driver simulators. To enter, budding photographers need simply email their picture by 23:59 on 30 April 2016 to [tick-tock@virgintrainseastcoast.com](mailto:tick-tock@virgintrainseastcoast.com).

Claire Ansley, Virgin Trains General Manager for York station, said: “We already know York is one of the most impressive stations on our network so we hope this competition will see people being creative with their cameras and snapping a shot that shows people’s interpretation of time at York station.”

Joan Concannon, Director of York Festival of Ideas, said: “We are delighted that Virgin Trains is running a photographic competition as part of this year’s York Festival of Ideas. The Festival aims to inspire, educate and entertain by celebrating the amazing power of ideas; this competition will certainly do that.

“We are confident people from across the region will rise to the challenge and produce some fabulous photographs. We look forward to seeing the exhibition of winning entries during the Festival in June.”

To find out more about the festival and competition, join the conversation on Twitter at #ticktockyork, and visit [www.virgintrainseastcoast.com/ticktock](http://www.virgintrainseastcoast.com/ticktock) for full competition terms and conditions

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**About Virgin Trains**

Stagecoach and Virgin are working in partnership to operate the East Coast and West Coast inter-city routes under the Virgin Trains brand. Together, they are on track to revolutionise rail travel across the UK.

The combined network connects some of the nation’s most iconic destinations including Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds, York and London.

Virgin Trains is committed to delivering a high speed, high frequency service, offering shorter journey times, more comfortable travel and excellent customer service. Customers consistently rate Virgin Trains as one of the top long-distance rail franchise operators in the National Rail Passenger Survey (NRPS) commissioned by industry watchdog, Transport Focus.

On the East Coast route, £140m is being invested to create a more personalised travel experience. This includes a major fleet revamp, smarter stations and exciting new routes. From May 2016, there will be 42 additional services (22,000 extra seats) per week between Edinburgh and London. 2018 will see the introduction of completely new Azuma trains being built in the UK by Hitachi.

The West Coast route has a proud record of challenging the status quo - from introducing tilting Pendolino trains, to a pioneering automated delay repay scheme and becoming the first franchised rail operator to offer m-Tickets for all ticket types.

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