



YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

# Development *Update* III



**Going for Gold** Our plans to redevelop Yarm School – and build an even more exciting future



## Your chance to really get involved

The last few months have seen significant progress on the School's redevelopment project.

The Preparatory School Hall and the all-weather astroturf pitch, netball courts, cricket nets and adventure trail are now complete, with the riverside development at the Senior School well underway.

The Demolition Derby was a significant occasion which marked

the start of the new development at the Senior School and was a great way to finish the school year on a high. It was fantastic to see Jack Flannery enjoy demolishing his school!

The summer also saw the launch of our Going for Gold appeal at two successful school events. Thank you to all the school community who came along in

support. With more exciting events planned this year, I hope you will join in with the fun and help to raise funds for Going for Gold! Everything raised will go directly into enhancing the redevelopment project further.

*David M. Dunn*

David M Dunn  
Headmaster

# Going for Gold to help turn vision into reality



An artist's impression of the proposed east elevation of the new auditorium, on the riverside

Towards the end of last term the Going for Gold Appeal was officially launched at two highly successful events – the Going for Gold Ball and Summer Gala Concert.

### So what is the Going for Gold Appeal?

The total cost for the entire redevelopment project will be in the region of £20m. This will be funded by school reserves and a bank loan. We firmly believe that now is the time for significant investment in our facilities and infrastructure. It is, however, a major undertaking. As with any large project, even a domestic house move, there are always additional areas of expenditure beyond the budget which would provide the finishing touches. Our appeal is called 'Going for Gold' because we are seeking to achieve the gold standard of finish with all of our redevelopment.



For example, we have built a wonderful new fitness suite and are hoping to raise money for state-of-the-art new equipment to give the pupils the best possible facility. In the new Auditorium we would like an organ for assemblies, concerts and teaching and in the new classrooms state-of-the-art ICT equipment. In the Prep School, we are hoping to buy new instruments, additional staging and

technical equipment to support all the music and drama which will be happening in the excellent new hall, as well as new adventure equipment and external seating for all play areas from Nursery upwards. And, if we can raise enough funds, we could even contemplate moving forward to other developments on our wish list, such as a new sports pavilion or a music technology suite.

### How can you help?

In the spirit of the founding parents who created Yarm School in the late 1970's, we are hoping that the school community will get involved in the appeal with fundraising, donating and sponsorship. We will be organising special events over the next couple of years and will need parent volunteers to assist with organising. For example, could you help us organise a sportsman's dinner or could you donate a

prize to the auction of promises? You could suggest a way in which we can get sponsorship, either for an event or a facility. You can even sponsor a seat in the new auditorium.

The 'Going for Gold' appeal group comprises a number of volunteer parents and staff from the School. If you can help in any way please e-mail Lynsey Hannah, Marketing Manager, [ljh@yarmschool.org](mailto:ljh@yarmschool.org)

We hope that all members of the Yarm School community will be excited about the forthcoming developments and will join in with the Appeal. All of our children are going to benefit hugely from these fantastic new facilities.

■ If you are interested in making a donation to the appeal, the Headmaster would be pleased to meet with you or alternatively please fill out the form on the redevelopment section of the website, [www.yarmschool.org](http://www.yarmschool.org)



# New School Hall is ‘superb’

In the Summer Term former Yarm Grammar School pupil, Mr John Bainbridge, officially opened the wonderful new School Hall at the Preparatory School.

The impressive new facility will host performing arts productions and music events. Mrs Gillian Taylor, Head at Yarm Preparatory School said, “The new Hall is a superb addition to the School’s facilities and the children are already enjoying using it.

“The school is moving forward with exciting redevelopment plans but we are very keen to maintain strong links with the history of the

Grammar School and the former pupils.”

Mr Bainbridge, who organises the reunions for former Yarm Grammar School pupils, said: “I am delighted to officially open the new School Hall. A lot has changed since I attended school here and the facilities are fantastic. I only wish they had been like this when I was here at school.”

Last term, more than 150 former pupils of Yarm Grammar School travelled from around the country to meet at the Prep School, the site where the Grammar School was formerly based, for a reunion.



John Bainbridge and pupils at the official opening

## What we like about it . . .

“...the new under-floor heating because when we are sitting down we stay warm”

– Alexander Maddison

“...the school sign in the glass” – Lucy Flannery

“...the automatic doors, because people with pushchairs and wheelchairs can now easily get in to see our plays and concerts” – Clare Hirst



Year 6 production of Olivia in the School Hall



# All-weather surface is ready for some action!

During the summer holidays the Prep School playing fields were converted into a range of fantastic new, all-weather sports pitches and an adventure trail.

The new all-weather playing surface

is a great resource for both summer and winter sports.

Adjacent to it there are two new netball courts and three all-weather cricket nets.

Around the perimeter of the new

pitch we are creating a woodland adventure trail which will be an excellent new learning facility for younger children.

Everyone is really excited about this wonderful boost to our facilities!

## Gates improve school security

Last term attractive new security gates were installed to the entrance of the Prep School.

The new gates will be electronically controlled from the School Office, with a linked intercom for visitors to call. This will offer pupils and staff much greater security during the working day when the gates will normally be left in the closed position.



# Process marks new era for Yarm School

Miller Construction were appointed as principal contractors for the exciting next phase of the Senior School redevelopment. This is the main part of the redevelopment project and, with work well underway, we expect the project to be completed by autumn 2011.

This phase will provide the

School with some stunning new facilities, including a 750 seat auditorium, a separate galleried 120 capacity teaching theatre, a dance studio and music performance suite, all accessed through an atrium with catering facilities leading outside to decking enjoying wonderful river views.

There will be new departments

for English and Modern Languages, enabling other departments to move into existing accommodation and for the School to remove the old wooden teaching accommodation. There will be a specialist teaching facility for Sports Studies and brand-new changing rooms for girls and boys.

Jeremy Barnett, Operations

Manager, Miller Construction, explains: "We are delighted to be undertaking this project for Yarm School and it was fantastic to see all the pupils view the beginning of the process which marks a new era for the school through the addition of wonderful new facilities that will benefit the learners at Yarm for many years to come."

## Creative use of the history in our midst



The Dovecot had been in a very poor state of repair for many years prior to the School locating to the site. Work started over the summer to preserve the building, which is a requirement of our planning consent.

The Dovecot is thought to date from the late Tudor period and is one of the town's oldest buildings. It is octagonal in form, brick-built, with sandstone dressings and a pitched hipped pantiled roof – an unusual design and construction compared to other dovecots.

The Dovecot therefore represents the strongest link that Yarm has with its history as a

monastic settlement. It is one of the few free-standing dovecots of any significance in the North Yorkshire/Cleveland area.

The Yarm Dovecot adds much to the understanding of the size, design and use of this building type.

The School's plan is to preserve the building as a ruin, using the best possible match of stone and oak.

It will be central to the new landscaped school grounds next to the performing arts riverside development.

The Dovecot will be used as an open air performance venue.



Mr Dunn and pupils look over plans for the Dovecot



# Jack's dream command: let the demolition of school begin!

To mark the start of the major phase of redevelopment, Jack Flannery fulfilled every schoolboy's dream – by demolishing his school!

The old mathematics classrooms, dining hall, kitchen, first aid room and reception all needed to be demolished to make way for the stunning new riverside development.

The winner of the Demolition Derby lottery, Jack Flannery and two runners-up, Freya Gittens and Thomas Dearlove, met the newly appointed contractors, Miller, for a special lunch and received their own named visibility jacket, hat

and steel toe capped boots.

Jack took up his special place on a podium and counted down, instructing the demolition to begin.

"I really enjoyed starting the demolition," he said. "It was great to see the buildings being torn down."

When Jack was teased that he knocked down the wrong building, he calmly replied: "Oh dear we will just have to rebuild it."

Many of you will have seen Jack at work as he was filmed by BBC Newsround and Look North, as well as photographed by journalists from all the local papers.



Crunch time: "It was great to see the buildings being torn down," said Jack

# Improvements to the Friarage building

Over the summer holidays our Estates Team and Miller Construction were busy at work making improvements to the Friarage building as part of the redevelopment project.

A new first aid room has been added adjacent to the School Office, providing quick access for our School Nurse and our first-aid trained receptionist, Mrs Glasby. The room has been purpose-built with an external door out of the Friarage for emergency access and a private toilet.

The works have also provided the opportunity to upgrade the antiquated heating system to a more efficient and much smaller boiler. Also during the summer, the corridor outside the reprographics department has been widened to ensure no bottlenecks during class changes, with a beautiful new entrance to the rear of the Friarage.

The staircase and corridor in Modern Languages were refurbished to the high standard

of the new Maths Department and new changing rooms, toilets and showers were provided for girls.

Along with the major projects mentioned above the team has been decorating and fitting new lights and carpets in the Early School, painting the exterior of the Early School and Tate building, creating a new classroom adjacent to the uniform shop, adding to our locker provision, painting several classrooms, and much more!



## Watch progress online

A time lapse camera was installed in the Art Department to capture the redevelopment work on the riverside development. The images are captured on a daily basis and are uploaded to the School's website every week as a video.

Do click onto our website ([www.yarmschool.org](http://www.yarmschool.org))

to keep up to date with progress!

The camera will provide photographic documentation of the build and provides a great opportunity for friends of the school to have a look at the progress.

The camera was kindly sponsored by our fantastic design team.



*Going for Gold supported by the pupils and fundraising committee for the Yarm School Australia Rugby Tour 2011*

# Auction of Promises

Donations/Promises needed for this exciting event which will take place next term

All promises and donations gratefully received, both large and small. For example, you could donate items such as sporting memorabilia, hampers, or offer babysitting services – anything of value! Please contact Janice Kibirige via email at [janice.kibirige@nhs.net](mailto:janice.kibirige@nhs.net) or Lynsey Hannah [LJH@yarmschool.org](mailto:LJH@yarmschool.org)



# YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

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