



# Newsletter

No: 1218

[www.yarmschool.org](http://www.yarmschool.org)

30th August 2019

## A new academic year; 2019-20

It's my great pleasure to offer a very warm welcome to all our pupils and their families after the summer break. I hope the holidays were restorative and enjoyable for all and that the return to school fills our pupils with excitement and anticipation. For those of us new to the school, this week has been a whirlwind of a start and I can speak from personal experience when describing the warmth of the welcome we've received. I would like to thank colleagues, Governors, pupils and parents for their kind messages of welcome to me. My family and I are thrilled to be here and as I said in the opening assembly on Thursday – conscious of the talent, passion and ability of our pupils and staff – it fills me with pride that I have the privilege to lead this wonderful community; I hope to serve it well.

It has been delightful for us all to meet those pupils new to the school this term and to sense the optimism and enthusiasm they bring, although I reassured them – reminding them that I am in the same boat – that some nerves at this point are normal! All pupils have been encouraged to take advantage of the huge range of activities on offer and were reminded that the more they put in, the greater their personal growth and enjoyment will be. For the First Year, this Saturday's Discovery Day offers a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, teamwork and embryonic friendships (that may last a lifetime) and to get a sense of the breadth of what's on offer here at Yarm School. Along with many colleagues, I look forward to watching their efforts and then to meeting parents at the BBQ at the end of the day; let's hope the sun shines!

### **Welcome!**

As well as welcoming our new pupils, the start of the school year sees the beginning of their Yarm School careers for a number of new staff. We welcome the following to the School and hope that they, too, quickly settle into our community:

#### Senior School Teaching and Support Staff

Mr Liam Gilbert	Head of English
Mr Liam Shanahan	Physical Education
Mr Luke Tucker	Chemistry
Mr Ryan Bewick	Rowing Coach
Miss Beth Edmondson	Graduate Assistant for PE/Games
Miss Beth Henderson	Part-time Marketing Executive
Mr Liam Pereira	Senior Cleaning Supervisor
Miss Paige Scott	Box Office/Administration Apprentice

### **Results**

It was a great pleasure to meet a number of families at the GCSE results day towards the end of August and to share in the excitement and drama of the day. It was wonderful to hear so many stories of effort and endeavour leading to personal success, whether that was a haul of grade 9s or significant improvements on predictions that reflected a pupil's perseverance. The week before, on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, we celebrated with last year's Upper Sixth as they received their excellent results. It is a pleasure to summarise both sets of results for you below.

In the first year when all A Level results have been awarded using the more rigorous, linear exam, Yarm School's results were again superb and, in fact, the best in Teesside and County Durham.



Our A\* is above our five year average at 23% and once again particularly strong when compared to other, similar schools. The combined A\*/A rate of 55% is not only above our 5 year average, but also more than double the national average of 26% and figures for the North East of 23%. Over three quarters of all A level grades – 76% – were awarded at grade B or better, whilst one third of pupils attained a clean sweep of A\* or A\*/A grades.

Six students secured their Oxbridge places, their courses ranging from Chemistry to Architecture and at least 14 individuals gained prestigious medical/dentistry places. Over half of the cohort took the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in addition to their A-Levels, with an exceptional two thirds of these students achieving A\* or A grades.

### YARM SCHOOL A LEVEL EXAMINATION 2019

A-LEVEL RESULTS 2019	Yarm School %	North East %	National Average %
Percentage of A* grades	23	7	8
Percentage of A* - A grades	55	23	26
Percentage of A* - B grades	76	50	52

At GCSE, too, in the first year when all subjects, with the exception of the Further Mathematics qualification, were awarded using the 9-1 system, results were very impressive. 64% of all exams sat achieved grades 9-7 a figure significantly higher than the national figure of 20.8%.

22.6% of all grades were awarded the highest possible grade of 9 compared to the national average of 4.5%. Seventeen pupils attained the extraordinary achievement of ten or more results at grades 9/8, 12 of whom secured a fantastic eight or more results at grade 9. These superb results will place these pupils among the very top performers nationally.

One quarter of the year group sat the demanding Further Mathematics qualification, 76% of whom achieved either an A\* or the highest grade, A\* distinction, which is only available in Further Mathematics.

### YARM SCHOOL GCSE EXAMINATION 2019

GCSE RESULTS 2019	Yarm School %	National Average %
Percentage of Grade 9s	22.6	4.5
Percentage of Grades 9-8	43.5	11.2
Percentage of Grades 9-7	64.1	20.6
Percentage of Grades 9-5	90.4	60.6
Percentage of Grades 9-4	95.8	67.0

We warmly congratulate all our pupils on their examination results and wish them well for their next steps, whether at one of the myriad exciting destinations for last year's Upper Sixth or in their Sixth Form studies. I am conscious that exam results alone do not tell the story of those two year groups' achievements; far from it. I know, from reading the School Magazine, talking to colleagues and from my visits during the course of last year that their achievements are varied and enormously impressive. I greatly look forward to watching all of our pupils participate, succeed and enjoy themselves in plays, concerts, fixtures and exhibitions, whilst serving the community, engaging in green issues, developing business ideas and more.



## A busy summer

Over the summer, as ever, many pupils and staff were engaged in various activities and trips and I would like to thank everyone who was involved, particularly those colleagues who organised the trips and accompanied the pupils over the holidays. Thank you and congratulations to the pupils for representing the school with such distinction; it is a pleasure to hear that they conducted themselves so well whilst acting as ambassadors for the school. More detailed reports of these activities will appear in forthcoming editions of the Newsletter.

Closer to home, the school has been incredibly busy with a complex programme of planned maintenance taking place alongside some improvements and upgrades to the estate. We have continued our pattern of modernising one laboratory each summer; this time it was the turn of S8 which returns with a full teaching wall, among other improvements. Also we have continued to install the highly efficient LED lighting in numerous locations across the Senior School (over 100 have been replaced over this summer). The Senior School kitchen has undergone extensive refurbishment along with the Tate Building Greenhouse and Biology technicians' Prep Room. All 786 pupil locker doors have been removed, stripped and re-varnished! Numerous areas such as classrooms and pupil circulation areas have been re-decorated.

My thanks go to Alan Hodgson and his team for coordinating the whole process so smoothly (and without delays), and for the quality of the work done.

Parents will have seen the news that the School submitted plans to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council detailing developments for the Preparatory School and the creation of a dedicated car park and drop-off area to improve pedestrian safety and to alleviate some of the congestion on the Senior School site and on The Spital. This has understandably received local press interest and the plans will remain open for consultation until 4<sup>th</sup> November, after which we hope to receive permission for this project to begin.

An unexpected appointment this week saw us hosting the judges of this year's 'Great British High Street Awards' in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium as part of their day in Yarm to explore the High Street; no doubt you are all avidly voting for Yarm online! I was proud to outline the role the School plays within our local community; this is something I look forward to understanding and exploring further.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming days, weeks and months as I experience the annual cycle of events for the first time; it is a real pleasure to be here.

Dr Huw Williams  
Headmaster

### Bistro

Parents are welcome to come and enjoy the bistro between the hours of 8am-10.30am and 3pm-5pm. Hot drink prices start at just £1.20.

We offer a range of different hot and cold drinks, and have a variety of food items including sweet treats like cookies, pastries, muffins and more!

Take advantage of our special offer: regular coffees to take away between 8am and 9am are only £1.20! Monday to Friday.



### Uniform Shop Opening Hours

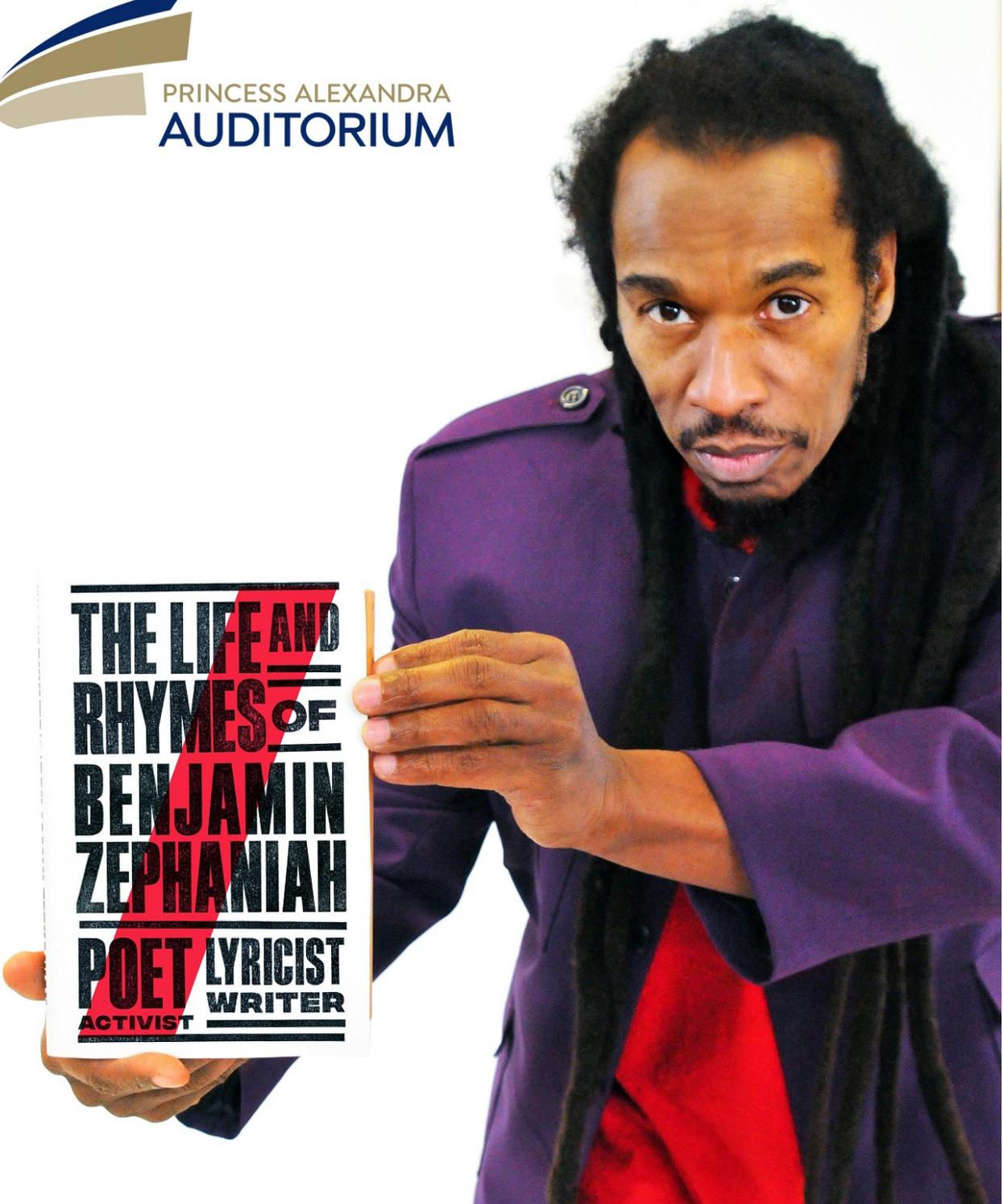
Monday—Thursday: 1pm—5pm  
CLOSED FRIDAY

### Keep up to date on Twitter!

Follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with all school and sports news.

@yarmschool	@yarmgirlsgames
@yarmboysgames	@PAAuditorium
@YarmSeniorMusic	@YarmChemistry
@yarmoutdoored	@paayarm
@yarmartdep	@yarmschooldt

Follow us on Instagram!



**SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM**

Adults £18, Children £15, Concessions £15

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