

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

The start of term has passed in an immaculately organised maelstrom of activity, if that isn't too paradoxical an image, and we finish our first full week back with busy, happy pupils and lots to report on many fronts.

Discovery Day saw the First Year fully immersed in the activities - literally in some cases, as raft building became an opportunity to test the temperature of the Tees! The pupils bought into the day with 100% commitment, navigating the swamp, building and racing rafts and working together on the hike; a perfect way for them to be exposed to the inclusive and adventurous ethos of the school. It was a pleasure to see so many parents at the BBQ to conclude the day and I am grateful to all of the staff involved in making the event a success. Congratulations to all of our First Year pupils for their excellent efforts.

The Sixth Form ended last Friday with their own BBQ and the annual House Tug of War competition, coordinated by Dr Goodall and Mrs Picknett. You will find a more detailed account over the page, however it was lovely to see so many of the pupils getting stuck in for their House and we wish them well as they start the year.

Last weekend saw pupils involved in a wide range of activities including hockey fixtures, Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and an Outdoor Education Ghyll Scrambling trip. We look ahead to a number of fixtures this weekend and wish all our pupils the best of luck as they take to the field, or the water, in school colours.



Dr Huw Williams

Ghyll Scrambling



On the first weekend of term, 24 pupils jumped, slid, scrambled and swam over rocks and through pools for the Outdoor Education's Watersports trip to Ashgill in the Northern Pennines.

After splitting into two teams, all of the pupils started the adventure under the waterfall of Ashgill Force. A drop backwards into the first pool allowed everyone to get a feel for the cool. They had a moment to enjoy the refreshing water before beginning their first swim around. The teams then descended the ghyll to one of the many jumps. In order to reach the pool, they each had to muster up a big jump. Some of the older pupils tested themselves further, leaping from an even higher ledge.

The teams continued downstream to tackle the next couple of slides before going to inspect the biggest and final jump of the day: the 4 metre pencil jump. After making the leap, we walked back to the minibus for a warm drink and a dry towel.

Well done to all of the pupils who took part and thank you to the Fourth Years in particular for their help on the day. I hope you've had a great taste

of the adventure to be had! The Outdoor Education department runs two Sunday trips a month. Keep an ear out for notes in registers of upcoming trips.

Mr Andy Mathers

SENIOR SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING – FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

Please be aware that the Senior School will finish at **3.45pm** on Friday 13th September. Coaches will depart from The Spital at the normal time of **4.10pm**.

Sixth Form Inter-House Tug O' War

Friday 30th August saw the school year launched in traditional style with the Inter-House Tug O' War. Despite some grey skies, the Piste was still sound underfoot and all was set for some top quality Tug O'Warring. Thanks go to Mr Hardy, Mrs Smith and the Sodexo team from providing the pre-match sustenance, and thanks also to the Estates team for organising everything and laying out the all-important Rope of War.



In the first round, the enthusiastic Aidan team took on the sturdy Bede team. Bede's strength soon overcame their opponents, securing them a two pulls to nil victory. Cuthbert and Oswald appeared more evenly matched, however Oswald soon looked to have the better technique and made short work of out-pulling Cuthbert, again two – nil.

The final between Bede and Oswald pitched the impressive strength of Bede against the superior technique of Oswald. The Rope of War faced immense strain with Oswald and Bede both winning one pull each. As time came for the final pull, Oswald unleashed strength they had perfectly conserved for the deciding moment and emerged worthy winners. Well done, Oswald!

In the battle of the year groups, Upper Sixth were bolstered by some enthusiastic staff support but they were still no match for the massed ranks of Lower Sixth who emerged victorious.

Tug O' Warring was, of course, the real winner. Well done everyone in taking part so enthusiastically. As we know: winning isn't everything but wanting to win is.

Good luck to all of Sixth Form as they settle into the new academic year, and especially to all of those joining the school for the first time. I hope everyone has enjoyed their first few days.

Dr A M Goodall

Words of Wisdom

The Economics Department was delighted to welcome back former pupil Katie Anderson (class of 2018) for an informal Working Lunch. Katie, who is about to enter the second year of her Economics and Management studies at Oxford, came in to offer advice to this year's E & M applicants, answer their questions and pose some tricky conundrums. It was wonderful to hear how much she is enjoying her degree and also how useful the Yarm Apprentice, which she won in 2017, still is for her CV and applications.

Riddle

This week's riddle: How?

Rating: Out of the box

Five add six is eleven, but six add seven is one. How is that possible?

Please send any answers in to 16SinhaP@yarmschool.org, remember to add your tutor group (or initials for teachers) and those with the quickest correct answers (in before this coming Monday) will be announced in the next issue. Good Luck!

By Parul Sinha & Aishani Paul

Maths Olympiad and Kangaroo

Towards the end of the summer term, twelve of our pupils took part in the follow-on rounds of the UKMT Junior Individual Challenge. Harvey Qin, Jack Pritchard, Apsara Naguleswaran, Ammar Soni, Toma Saha, Monisha Ravichandran, Isobel Le Clerc, Kayla Roberts, James Waive, Jennifer Chan and Rushil Partha all sat the more difficult Kangaroo exam, with Harvey best in Year 1 and Ammar the top performer in Year 2. Keya Shah sat the even more demanding Olympiad paper, performing extremely well being awarded a Merit.

From the Prep School, we also had two qualifiers: Ajay Selvan for the Kangaroo and Patrick Winters for the Olympiad. Both did tremendously well to fight through from the Challenge at such an early age, with Patrick covering himself in glory with a merit.

Well done to all.

Mr Pointon

Duke of Edinburgh News

At the end of last term and over the course of the holiday, a number of pupils successfully completed their Bronze DofE Award. Anna Crawford has finished her Expedition and Physical sections, Charlie Johnson has completed his Volunteering and Skills sections, Melissa Richardson finished her Physical section and Patricia Jude and Poppy Stephens have completed their Physical Skills and Volunteering sections. Awards have been approved for all of these students and we are also awaiting final approval of Abhinayaa Amitharaj's award.

Individual sections have been completed by a number of students. The Physical section has been signed off for Adam Jones, whilst Harriet White and Sophie Brining have completed their Volunteering sections. Amelia Large finished her Expedition section and the Skills section has been completed by Adam Jones, Vicky Story and Vignesh Janakiraman.

Well done to all of these students on their hard work.

Careers Advice, Information and Guidance

There are a diverse range of career-related opportunities arising over the course of this term. These are typically communicated to pupils via their school email, as well as notices being placed in the School Newsletter. Many of these events are organised and hosted within School, with some of them also open to pupils from other schools in the area. A small number are external events which some pupils might find to be of value in assisting them shape their future direction.

Mr S Edwards

CAREER CLUSTER EVENT ON 'THE WRITTEN WORD'

Wednesday 9th October: 1630 - 1830

The latest in our 'cluster events', this will explore the diverse range of study and career opportunities for those interested in anything from creative writing and screenwriting through to the world of publishing. A number of guest speakers will be available to share their experience and answer the questions of parents and pupils.

CAREER CLUSTER EVENT ON 'COMPUTER SCIENCE'

Wednesday 6th November: 1630 - 1830

In a world of increasingly technological demands, the event will explore the realm of computer science in the educational, training and employment workplace. This exponentially growing area of industry demands a new generation of employees with the skills to deliver in exciting and diverse professions. A range of experts will be on hand to advise, guide and answer your questions.

Further details for these two cluster events will be published in due course.

PERFORMING ARTS

FREE Filmmaking Course at Northern Stage

Aimed at 16-25 year olds - Tuesday evenings

During the course you will learn all aspects of filmmaking including: acting, directing, writing, producing, camera, sound and editing. The films will explore the North East in the 1980s, taking a close look at the miners' strike and how it affected the region. The films will be premiered at Northern Stage and Alnwick Playhouse.

To book your place contact Ali Ward-Timms awtimms@northernstage.co.uk

NORTHERN STAGE CAREERS DAY

Friday 8th November 1500 - 1800

What is a Theatre Director? How do you train to be a Lighting Designer? How do you advertise a show? Who decides on the aesthetics of a set? Careers Day is an introduction to roles within theatre where you can meet industry professionals and ask questions about their background and what their job entails. To register your interest please email Ali Ward-Timms (awtimms@northernstage.co.uk)

APPRENTICESHIPS

GSK Apprenticeship Recruitment Event

Wednesday 30th October 2019

Science laboratories, manufacturing operations, engineering, business...

GSK would like to invite students to register via Eventbrite to be with them for one of their two hour sessions which will be held during the October half term. The aim of the sessions is to ensure the students have all the information and support in order to make a decision about whether the GlaxoSmithKline apprenticeship is for them, and most importantly tips on how to prepare and stand out during the application process. The apprenticeships cover a range of vocations and levels from advanced to degree and our programme is award winning. The event will be a mix of information, activity, speakers and Q&A in a relaxed inclusive environment.

Who would benefit most from the session: Fourth Year to Upper Sixth

Parents can attend as well - but should also register

<http://bit.ly/GSKtalk>

WORKING LUNCHESES

This year there will also be a continuation of the 'working lunches'. Organised by the Economics and Business Department the talks, open to all interested students, seek to explore a range of careers from the perspectives of former pupils returning to share their experiences and advice. They typically take place in the Dining Hall Meeting Room from 12.40. For more information speak to Miss Rhodes (CER@yarmschool.org)

Ben Dickinson and Taran Sidhu

Friday 13th September 12.40

Studying Business / Finance at Newcastle

Leena Mohammed

Friday 20th September 12.40

How I chose my degree, my experience of my progression through a management degree more specifically International Management at Lancaster University.

James Knox

Friday 4th October 12.40

Ex Yarm school pupil and rugby player working in a diversified agricultural enterprise.

Managing director of Yorkshire Dales Meat Company

Rachel Bradley

Friday 15th November 12.40

Graduate role working for an affordable housing company called Hellens Residential,

Marcus Taylor

Friday 6th December 12.40

Since graduating from University of York (Business degree) in 2016 I have been working for Whitbread across a range of Strategic roles.

Gamasri Dhawan

Tuesday 10th December 12.40

Second Year Economics undergraduate at University of Warwick.

Ben Bradley

Tuesday 10th January 12.40

Working at GSK in Logistics and Production Planning after degree in Business Leadership

Debating Matters: North East Final 2019

After the rest of the school had departed for their summer break, a dedicated team of Yarm Debaters including Ella Newson, Millie McCormack, Phoebe Matthews, Alexandra Scott, Kate Harrison, Prateek Sunkavalli, Isla Thomson and Abhinav Sathyamurthy set off to Durham to take part in the 2019 Debating Matters North East Final. What followed was a fantastic day of debating from Yarm School Debating Society.

Kate and Abhinav bested Isla and Prateek in the opening debate on monuments (though it must be mentioned that Isla and Prateek only found out they would be facing them an hour before), with very strong questioning from Phoebe in the audience.

Next, a well-informed and balanced debate followed on tourism whilst Kate provided some challenging questions from the audience. Ella and Millie battled to bring Barnard Castle back on topic, yet a split decision from the judges resulted in a narrow loss. Phoebe and Alex took no prisoners in their debate against Hermitage Academy on compulsory vaccination, using their excellent knowledge of the topic to hold the other side to account - a convincing win. Once again, Kate's unforgiving questioning from the floor forced the other side to reveal weaknesses in their argument.

As the debates neared the finish, all of our teams had won and lost one debate each; a tough judge's decision meant Yarm was not selected to proceed to the final, despite our standard being right up there with the best teams.

There were some silver linings though: Phoebe received an honourable mention for her tough questions in the first debate, as well as her robust response to questions in her debate with Alex. Kate also walked away with one of the day's top prizes: Best Individual. This is extremely well deserved and a testament to her commitment to each debate, both as a panellist and audience member.

SCHOOL OFFICE & RECEPTION

The School Office and Reception are open between the hours of **8.00am and 5.00pm** on a school week day. To access Reception, visitors need to press the intercom button beside the front door to the Friarage to be buzzed in and to release the door. On entry to the building, please go immediately into Reception for assistance. Please note, for security and safeguarding reasons, unless a prior arrangement has been made to meet a specific member of staff, parents and visitors will not be able to access the Friarage outside of these hours. **Pressing the intercom before 8.00am or after 5.00pm will neither release the door nor gain a response.**

Therefore, parents are respectfully asked to make sure that, if your son/daughter is going to be working in the music school or library until after 5pm, you have made arrangements to collect them from the Gazebo. Pupils are allowed to have a mobile with them in the library (on silent mode), after 4.00pm. Should you need to contact your son/daughter when pre-arranged plans change, you would then be able to do so and they would be able to exit the building to meet you.

Thank you for your understanding.

Studying in Scotland

On Tuesday lunchtime of **17th September** we will welcome representatives from the University of Dundee in Scotland. The talk will focus on applying to and studying in Scotland. Sometimes overlooked by English-based students, Scotland is home to more world class universities per head of population than just about anywhere in the world. It possesses a diverse range of 19 institutions renowned for their:

- quality of education, underpinned by world-class research
- the tremendous breadth of learning on offer, and
- universities' focus on employability

Scottish universities have always been successful at attracting large numbers of European and international students, making for diverse, vibrant and dynamic places to learn and live. If you wish to find out more come along on Tuesday 17th September.

For more details speak to Mr S Edwards or email at se@yarmschool.org

First Aid Provision and Management of Minor Illnesses

If your son/daughter is injured or unwell at school they are to report to the School Office as the first point of contact if they are able to do so. If they are unable to come to the School Office due to the nature of their injury or the severity of their illness, the School Office will be informed and a qualified first aider will be sent to attend. In either case, an assessment will be made by the qualified first aider and the incident will be managed as per first aid/illness procedures. If appropriate and deemed required by the first aider managing the incident, contact to home will be made and/or further medical assistance will be requested.

Should your son/daughter contact you via their mobile regarding illness, please instruct them to report to the School Office. Pupils should not be making calls home regarding illness unless instructed by a First Aider in the School Office.

Greece Sailing Trip

What a way to start the summer holidays! Intrepid watersports enthusiasts for the Greece Sailing Trip departed from Manchester Airport on Sunday 7th of July for a week long adventure in the sun and winds on the island of Lefkada, just north of Kefalonia.

On the Monday morning the trip was split into four activity groups, of which three were complete novices. They each participated in a rota of various activities like windsurfing, paddle boarding (SUPs), kayaking and of course, sailing. Each group had at least one session of sailing each day in double handlers, like Bahias, Laser 2000s and Picos, or in single handlers like Laser Radials. A true highlight was for a half day, small groups of three/four pupils aided the young yacht mistress to crew the yacht, Asterix, sailing across Nikiana Bay to another beach, anchoring up, and enjoying the sun with lots of jumping and diving into the sea from the boat, and some swimming. It was a wonderful taster of what life could be like on a flotilla boat – lucky kids! Olivia certainly gets video of the year award for her contributions!

As the mornings were often calmer, this is when the groups practised their capsizing drills and rigging skills, as well as taking the time to learn a bit of theory. When the winds kicked in later, this was all put to the test! Others paddled on kayaks or SUPs across to a beach bar for ice-creams – well, you've got to keep cool in 35° heat! With perhaps the odd exception of lobster impressions, the kids looked after themselves and others by donning the factor 50 regularly and learnt tricks to keep cool by putting after sun in the fridge and freezing bottles of water overnight.

All the novices gained their adult Level 1 RYA awards, and the more experienced sailors gained their Level 2, with a couple ticking off higher sections of Spinnaker Awards. This year, a few pupils gained video footage as evidence towards their GCSE PE practical component too.

The final day had Yarm School dominate the entries for the Nikiana Beach Club Regatta – Lilian was sole survivor of the Pico class, Eddie gained the sunbather award, Mia and Emily competed in the laser category whilst Captain Pugsley ditched his crew (Su Kassell) overboard then did the perfect rescue in front of the race officials! Of course, we also need to mention that the Double A team (Mr Monk and Mr Guest) won the entire regatta to have their names etched on the 'daggerboard of fame' for eternity!

Overall, we were very well fed with lovely food at the tavern. We even dined under olive trees at a beautiful waterfront restaurant one evening, sampling the local food of souvlaki and pistachio. The views from the hotel in Nikiana resort were absolutely breath-taking at any time of day or night. Evening entertainment included a quiz, local photobomb challenge, haggling with the locals in Lefkada gift shops, and of course, crazy Greek dancing including plate smashing!

I think I speak for everyone who went on the trip when I say it was a great experience, offering amazing memories and lots of fun. Many pupils have expressed a desire to return next year to top up their awards, though novices are always welcome. The Greek Sailing Trip 2020 will be advertised in the autumn term and will be open to pupils in Third to Fifth Year.

Mia Mack and Mrs J Guest



School Absence Reminder

As published in the Parental Handbook, parents must inform reception between **8.00am and 8.30am** if your child is going to be absent because of illness or other unavoidable causes, including medical appointments.

This can be by telephone **01642 786023** (a messaging service is always available) or **via email to admin@yarmschool.org**. Upon return to school your child must hand in a note to their tutor explaining their absence.

If emailing teachers/tutors, please ensure you copy your email to admin@yarmschool.org. Any unaccounted absences will result in the School Office contacting parents after morning registration

USA AND CANADA RUGBY TOUR 2019

30 players from the senior end of the School embarked on what would be a truly amazing 17 day rugby tour of North America, made up of 6 centres and 5 matches.

Our adventure combined unbelievable sight seeing with incredible rugby, bringing the boys closer together through laughter, memories and triumphs.

When the time came for our first match of the tour, the boys were pumped and raring to go. Up against the Maryland Exiles, all 30 of our players had a chance to play and each of them put in an excellent performance to secure a win.

Our second chance to play was at the Cow Pie 7s Tournament. We entered two squads, both of whom dominated the field and earned themselves a place in the Yarm School vs. Yarm School final. The majority of the boys got to play and it turned out to be one of the highlights from the trip.

Our first match in Canada was against the Toronto Buccaneers. They were strong opposition but the boys played incredibly well and came out on top with a win.

The penultimate match was against Oakville Crusaders. Both teams performed brilliantly and it made for a great game. Despite playing incredible rugby, we were defeated. I couldn't help but feel as though we had been robbed of the win, but the boys brushed themselves off and proved themselves to be excellent sportsmen.

We made our way to Ottawa for a game against Bytown Blues. Once again, the boys played well and brought home another win.



Mr C Webb



SAVE THE DATE

YSA GOURMET EVENING

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

Politics Society Autumn 2019

The **Politics Society** calendar of guest speakers begins next week. These take place at lunchtime and all pupils, parents and friends of the school are welcome to attend. For more information email or speak to Mr Edwards:

se@yarmschool.org

WELCOME DRINKS

Friday 30th August, 12.45, Z26

An introduction to the year ahead.

PROF. GEORGIOS ANTONOPOULOS

Friday 6th September, 12:45, FT

- Centre for Crime, Harm Prevention Security.
- School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Law.
- University of Teesside.
- 'The nature of organised crime and illegal markets.'

DR JO METCALF

Friday 13th September, 12.45 FT

- Senior Lecturer in American Studies
- School of Histories, Languages and Cultures
- University of Hull
- 'Guantanamo Diaries and the War on Terror'

JOE GRATTON

Friday 20th September, 12.45, FT

- Office of the Mayor of Tees Valley
- 'Political pathways'

PHILLIPPA LAUREN SCRAFTON

Friday 27th September, 12.45, FT

- Transgender campaigner and activist
- Programmes Officer, Stonewall Scotland
- 'Building a better understanding of transgenderism'

TESFALEM H. YEMANE

Friday 4th October, 12.45 FT

- School of Sociology and Social Policy
- Faculty of Social Science
- University of Leeds
- 'From Refugee to Policy Advisor: Eritrea, Sudan, China, UK'

DR ADRIAAN VAN KLINKEN

Friday 11th October, 12.45 FT

- Associate Professor of Religion and African Studies
- School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science
- Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures
- University of Leeds
- 'The interplay of religion and sexuality in Africa'

Former Pupils



Toby Atkinson learned earlier this summer that he had won a prestigious place to train as an officer at Sandhurst at the Royal Military Academy. Military training is infantry-based so that all officers, no matter what their eventual regiment or corps, will have mastered the core essentials before they go on to more specialised training after Sandhurst. Toby studied Politics, Physics and DT at Yarm School and read Politics and International Relations at Lancaster University.

After graduating this summer with a First-class honours degree from the University of Oxford **Dan Spivey** will be undertaking a law conversion course beginning in September, having already secured a training contract from US law firm Covington & Burling. Dan studied History, Politics and Chemistry at Yarm before reading Modern History at University College, Oxford.



Patrick Tomison studied History, German, Maths and Further Maths at Yarm before going up to Oxford to read Law and German. He secured a First in 2014 before working at the Law Commission and the Court of Appeal in London. He was called to the Bar in 2018, becoming a pupil at Outer Temple Chambers in September of last year. He recently learned that he has now been appointed a tenant at Outer Temple, a phenomenal achievement.

Mr S Edwards

Friarage Lectures

As well as a diverse range of activities, events and speakers happening during the school day, each term Yarm hosts a number of visiting speakers who speak on issues of broad, general interest. Typically, these are scheduled after school in order to facilitate a wider attendance.

All pupils are very much encouraged to consider attending these events, and family members and friends are just as welcome. There are often pupils from neighbouring schools in attendance too, so please do share these events with others. It is felt that the lectures offer an excellent opportunity for pupils to broaden and deepen their interests in a range of topical issues.

The first lecture of the year **'The science behind flood warning and communicating risk'** will take place on **Thursday 19th September from 16.30 in the Friarage Theatre.**

The talk will be given by former pupil Michael Cranston. Michael has unrivalled experience in the development of operational hydrometeorology, flood forecasting and warning capabilities in Scotland. He has also recently worked in Nepal, Saudi Arabia and Spain as the RAB international lead on flood forecasting and early warning. He is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Dundee and won a European Commission Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Award for contributing to the development of a multi-hazard, early warning platform across Europe.

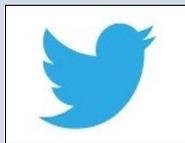
I should imagine that given the local environmental conditions and recent flood challenges in the region, this talk will be of interest to a good many people in the Yarm School community and beyond.

If you would like to attend the lecture, please reply to Mrs Pinkham at el@yarmschool.org

Later in the term we are hoping to offer a lecture delivered by Bradley W. Hart, Professor at California State University, Fresno. Bradley's recent book on which he will talk and answer questions, *'Hitler's American Friends'*, has recently made Time Magazine's '13 books everyone will be talking about' list. Further details will be published in due course.

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MEET SANTA
IN HIS AMAZING GROTTO

EXTENDED
MORE CRAFT STALLS
GLÜHWEIN
BRATWURST

YARM SCHOOL
Christmas
INDOOR MARKET

SATURDAY 23RD
NOVEMBER

TICKETS ON THE DOOR
LOCAL CRAFT STALLS, AMAZING
CHRISTMAS IDEAS PLUS FOOD AND
DRINK OUTLETS

PLUS
CRAFTY CORNER, RUDOLPH RODEO,
CHILDREN'S GAMES
& SANTA'S GROTTO

YARM SCHOOL, THE FRIARAGE, YARM, TS15 9EJ