

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

Returning to the hustle and bustle of school from a wet and increasingly wintry half term has been a pleasure and it's clear that the pupils returned bursting with energy (though perhaps not at breakfast time on Monday morning?). The half term itself saw a large number of varied and successful trips taking place some of which are detailed within this newsletter. I am very grateful to all of the staff involved in planning and running these trips and offering such exciting opportunities to the pupils.

This week has been busy as ever. I was impressed and delighted with the turnout for our careers cluster event on Wednesday during which a diverse and talented panel of professionals working in computer science explained their own academic and career journeys and took on the excellent questions from audience members considering this exciting field as part of their future career. Over the course of the term, I look forward with relish to our mock General Election which will see pupils engaging in the big issues of the day in hustings, campaigning and debate. Yarm School has a number of former pupils who are actively engaged in local and national politics; I'm sure their experiences at school will have shaped their determination to serve in this way.

On the theme of service, and following their successful inspection just before half term, this weekend sees our CCF playing a central role in the Town's Remembrance Service. I am grateful to them for their contributions. Looking further ahead, the YSA has been hard at work planning and coordinating the forthcoming Christmas Indoor Market. I know that they would welcome offers of support from parents who are able to volunteer in some way on the day or as the event is set up. Thank you to anyone who is able to offer their assistance.

Dr Huw Williams

Community Christmas Concert - Extra Date

Due to the unprecedented demand for tickets for the Community Christmas Concert, we have made the decision to put on an additional performance this year.

The additional concert will take place on **Sunday 8th December at 6pm** in the PAA. Tickets are £5 and are available from the Box Office and online. The new concert time may be of particular interest to those with young families.

We are very lucky to have such musical talent at Yarm School and the Christmas Concert is clearly a high point for many in the build up to Christmas and we are grateful to the staff and performers involved for their willingness to do this.



I hope you can appreciate why we have made this decision and that you will support us in this matter.

David Woodward

Yarm's Remembrance Service

The Yarm School CCF will form part of the Guard of Honour at **this Sunday's** Yarm Act of Remembrance at the Memorial on the **High Street at 10.30am**. Parking is available on the school site, as are free refreshments in the dining hall immediately afterwards.



A Day for Democracy

Just before the half term holidays, six Yarm School Sixth Formers participated in a collaborative think tank of youth from across the Tees Valley region. Hosted by Barnard Castle School and supported by the RSA the day required students to reconsider and reinvigorate democracy, producing a manifesto fit for the twentieth century. This culminated in a 90 second video with students competing in eight mixed teams.

Mindful of the challenges involved in refreshing youth and indeed the nation's appetite for dynamic democracy, the teams were impressively creative in their innovative thinking. The day was punctuated by guest speakers providing insights into topics as diverse as Athenian democracy, the cyclical economy and even a video link from Bolivia where schools have embraced greater levels of participatory democracy. Jack Critchlow of Yarm School was delighted to part of the winning team. The day demonstrated at least at this level that political apathy is not endemic amongst the young.

Those wishing to learn more about the day could read the following blog by an RSA participant.

<https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/rsa-blogs/2019/10/votes-at-16-young-people-reimagine-democracy-in-the-tees-valley>

Mr S Edwards



The History Society

The History Society met this week to discuss recent developments in the Houses of Parliament and the situation with Brexit. The focus of the meeting was on the implication of Brexit on Northern Ireland and a short lecture was given on the History of the troubles in Ireland.

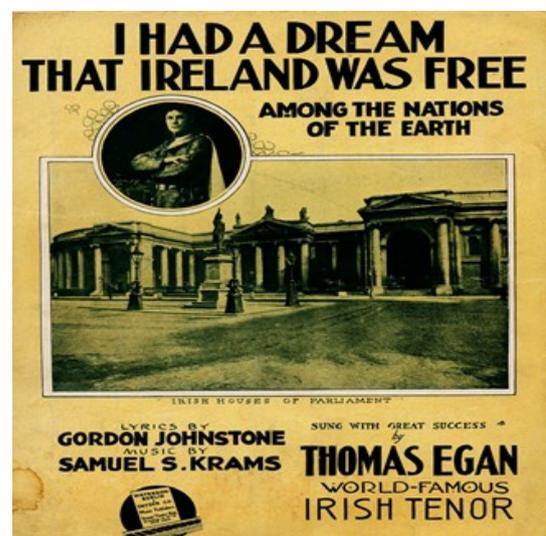
Ireland was partitioned by the British government in 1921, causing the 6 predominantly Protestant counties of Ulster to become the 'north' and the 26 predominantly Catholic counties would become the 'south'. This led to the Irish Civil War and the Anglo-Irish troubles that dominated much of twentieth century British history.

Although the troubles are now over, following the Good Friday agreement in 1998, the recent events surrounding BREXIT and the concerns over the Irish border have perhaps brought up discussions of past events and the divisions in Northern Ireland. Attendees watched a short video summarising the long-term and short-term causes of

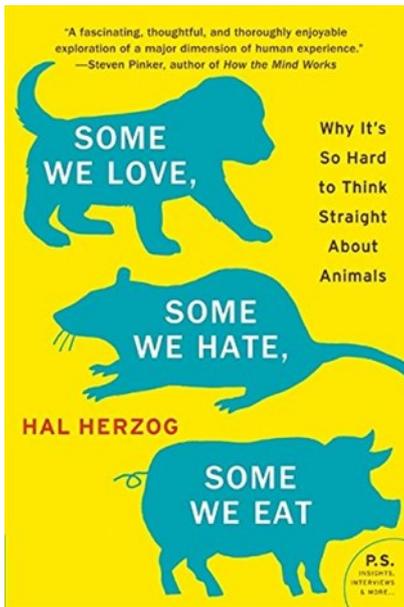
the troubles, as well examining some of the famous murals in west Belfast that stand as a reminder of the conflict.

The History Society meets every Tuesday at 1pm.

Mr A.J. Morrison



Book Review: Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat



Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat by Hal Herzog explores the thought provoking ways we think and act towards animals. I was drawn towards this book due to the ethical side of our relationship between humans and animals which Herzog explores in great detail. Herzog brings in scientific evidence as he has been investigating the complex subject for more than two decades.

He starts off the book by exploring Anthrozoology and why our relationship

matters with animals. This section provided a wide range of facts and viewpoints on how a dolphin can affect the health and mental wellbeing of a child in his chapter 'Do dolphins make good therapists?' and other matters such as 'do children who abuse animals become violent adults?' Herzog gathers evidence from other researchers providing different viewpoints on the subject.

A key chapter in the book is about the human relationship with animals for their products such as meat. Herzog drops the large figure of "Americans eat 72 billion pounds of animal flesh each year...we kill 200 food animals for every animal used in a scientific experiment, 2,000 for each unwanted dog euthanized in an animal shelter" which sheds light on the large effect of animals being slaughtered for meat. The chapter explores many different factors and sides of vegetarianism and animal ethics, relating back to the title 'Some we love, Some we hate, Some we eat'

The chapter which I found the most interesting was 'The Moral Status of Mice' which explores the moral complexities of animal research. Herzog explains his relation to animal testing when he was in his second year of graduate school, working as an assistant in a laboratory of a biochemist. One of his jobs was studying the "the skin chemistry of desert creatures" ranging from crickets to a lizard. With the crickets and arthropods he completed the testing with ease however when it came to the lizard his moral compass posed a problem. Herzog explores other interesting finer details of the subject such as Darwin's views on animal testing when doing animal research and how labels can affect our attitudes towards animals

To conclude, the book was full of interesting facts and figures, questioning and exploring moral factors which affect our views on animals. I would thoroughly recommend this book to anyone who's interested in animal ethics as the book offered many different views on different matters and shed light on other problems which people may not have thought about.

Willow Bracher (Upper Sixth Politics student)

Politics in Istanbul: Where East Meets West

Each year the Politics Department conduct a study trip to a particular destination. This year the chosen location was Istanbul in Turkey. Rendered additionally relevant by recent Turkish military movements into northern Syria, the city and state of Turkey provided a fascinating insight into international relations and statecraft. Istanbul is also an ancient human settlement revealing layers of intriguing history evidenced through its buildings and monuments. The students engaged in a number of meetings during their visit, allowing them to investigate further the nature of the current Turkish state and its international relations in the region and beyond.

One late morning was spent in an intriguing session with the BBC correspondent for Turkey, Selin Girit, covering topics as diverse as the religious-secularism tensions in Turkey, the rhythm of journalistic life during a crisis like the current invasion in Syria, through to personal experiences of death threats and hate campaigns faced by many women journalists.

Students were also welcomed to the Citizens Assembly, a body seeking to foster greater civic participation and political engagement across communities. The group engaged in a dynamic conversation with Co-Chair of the Assembly Emel Kurma.

The group were also hosted by the British Consulate General spending almost two hours with Deputy Consul General Lorraine Fussey. Istanbul was the location of the first British overseas mission and the site has retained a central importance through the centuries. Discussions explored the nature of diplomacy and its operation in contested areas as well as recent challenges facing the region not least as a strategic ally in matters military, commercial and political.

Students also enjoyed the cultural exposure to the riches of the city's landscape in the form of the quietude or city mosques, Byzantine-era mosaic decorated churches and even an experience of a traditional *hammam*.

Mr S Edwards



Redcar Beach Clean

On the Tuesday, 5th November a group of eight eco-representatives from year groups across the school joined Mrs Leary on a beach clean trip at Redcar beach with the Year 1 pupils from the Pre-prep. The afternoon was rather windy but equipped with many layers, mittens and wellington boots we set off to play our part and educate the younger years on the importance of conserving and respecting our environment.



It was a shock to all of us on how much litter we collected, filling two bags at the end of our trip. It was particularly concerning to see how much plastic had been broken down into smaller micro plastics that littered the beach and were tangled among the seaweed. After walking along the beach hand in hand with the younger years and collecting the rubbish with our litter pickers, we retreated out of the wind to enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate.

As a group we collectively had a fun day out and have hopefully influenced the younger pupils in understanding the effects of littering and encouraged them to pursue their own journey in striving towards a cleaner and sustainable world for their future.

Isobel Francis-Jones



Yarm School Announces Mock General Election

With significantly less deliberation, torturous wrangling and divisive acrimony, the Politics Department decided to follow previous tradition and host a school-wide 'mock' general election. Whilst many rested and recuperated over the half term holiday furious WhatsApp messages flew back and forth as parties began to take shape and party leaders emerge.

Over the next few weeks students will engage in a series of hustings seeking to explain their policies to the Yarm School electorate. They will also face the 'heat' of questioning at a Prep School Assembly! All pupils, teaching and support staff will cast their vote on Wednesday 11th December with the result announced from the Dovecote on the morning of the 12th. Might we colour the national picture?

Mr S Edwards





MEET SANTA
IN HIS AMAZING GROTTO



YARM SCHOOL
ORGANISED BY THE YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Christmas

INDOOR MARKET



SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
10AM - 4PM
ADULTS £2, CHILDREN FREE

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

Rugby

U12A v Nottingham High School

Lost 5-40

On the final week of term, we hosted a touring side from Nottingham High School at Green Lane. We had a tough start to the game as Nottingham scored in the second and third minute but we soon got our heads back in the game and tightened our defence.

In the second third, we conceded four tries due to poor defence. However, we did score a good try after some excellent running from Jake Leader. In the final third, we started to get into the game some more but unfortunately the match came to an early close after one of the opposition fell awkwardly on his arm.

After the match, we hosted the Nottingham High School players for a lovely lunch back at school and wished them well for the rest of their tour.

Finley Cook

U15 v Ullswater (NatWest National Vase)

Lost 12-22

On Wednesday the U15s headed over to Penrith Rugby Club and the new RFU funded 3G pitch to play their second round tie against Ullswater. They are always a combative, physical and committed side but our lads were focused and looking to use the space and our pace.

As predicted, the game was a tight affair with very little separating the sides. We got the scoring underway with some good possession and territory in their '22 and following a driving maul, Theo K powered over. They came back with a score to tie the game, but smart handling allowed us to get the ball to Lucas M who delivered a fantastic burst of pace and power to score, securing a great finish. Ullswater came back at us again and two quick scores left the match balanced 12-17 at half time.

The second half was equally as tight as the first. A breakaway score from them were the only points scored. Despite us spending a lot of time deep in their half, securing a high percentage of possession and being on and over their line a couple of times, we just couldn't find the tries needed to bring us back.

It was a competitive match and the boys walked away with positives to take into the rest of the season.

Mr C Webb



Economics: Poetry Competition

The winning poem...

Economics, the study of human behaviour
How we use our resources
Let's hope it's not a failure

We want to solve a problem
The basic economic problem
Our resources may run out
But our wants will never hit a drought

Now let's look at the FoPs
We can't let these be a flop
Land is all the things in nature
Labour's all the people that feature
Capital's the physical stuff in our haul
Enterprise is the brains behind it all

Specialisation can cut down costs
But it can stop you from getting future jobs
Division of labour we call it
Jobs among teams are split

Economics, the study of human behaviour
How we use our resources
Let's hope it's not a failure

Jamie Pender

The runner up...

Supply and Demand
The Invisible Hand

The FOPS are Land and Labour
All this money is doing me a favour

Don't forget about Capital and Enterprise
Opportunity Cost is all about compromise

After all I gain utility
Forever after I will live happily

Do I want to make more of a profit
Stop it ;)

Isabelle Dohring

TOMBOLA DONATIONS NEEDED FOR YSA CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

This year the YSA will be running three tombola stalls - children, adults and a bottle (alcohol, shampoo, etc) tombola and we would welcome any donations! If you are able to make a donation, please could you drop it off at the Senior School Office.

Thank you!

Outdoor Education

Over the second week of half term, four pupils spent three days sampling some of the best mountain bike riding that the local area has to offer. On day one we experienced glorious weather as we admired Roseberry Topping and Captain Cook's monument on the northern edge of the North York Moors, making for a fantastic day of riding. Day two was a day filled with monster climbs and exhilarating descents as we explored Swaledale in the Yorkshire Dales. Our third day of riding took us up to Hamsterley Forest to shred some of their public – and even some of their private – secret trails through the trees.

Toby, Simon, Oliver and Matthew showed boundless energy over the three days and all four improved their skill level on some very technical trails. A number of tumbles were had over the three days but no major damage was done, and everyone was keen to get back on the saddle, ready for the next lung busting ascent or invigorating downhill.

If this sounds like something you'd enjoy and you have some experience riding a bike, why don't you join us for our next off road adventure on Sunday, 17th November? If you're interested, grab a letter from the school office (all skill levels welcome)!

Mr A Mathers

Bronze DofE News

Last half term saw a number of successes within the Bronze DofE section. Early in the term Naomi Parker was presented with her award having finished her final sections and we are currently waiting for final approval for George Swinbank's award after he completed his physical section.

The Expedition section has been completed by Connor Brown, Cavan Harland, Ralph Wall, Angus White and Alex Wild. The Physical section has been completed by Shreya Rajesh Kumar, Ben Francis and Lillian Dufton and the Skills section was completed by Alex Nelson. Yassen El-Sherif, Isabella Stone, Laura Cunningham and Mia Mack have all finished their Volunteering section.

Anna Heward and Michael Bashford both completed multiple sections with Anna finishing her Volunteering (Riding for the Disabled) and Skills (Acting) and Michael finishing Physical (Football), Volunteering (Prep helper) and Skills (Computer building).

Third year pupils are now eligible to enrol on the award and nine have already done so. Any pupils wishing to enrol will need to check their school email accounts for the enrolment form and can attend one of the drop-in-sessions which are held on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes for answers to any questions. Pupils can still contact me directly at other times if necessary.

Mr M Rye

Letters of hope...

Just before we broke up for half term, the Community Action group received a visit from Mrs Clare Wrightson, a volunteer with Darlington Assistance for Refugees. Mrs Wrightson provided us with a fascinating insight into the work the charity undertakes to support refugees and asylum seekers in the Darlington area and explained the ways in which the group might be able to help in the future. She also told us about her imminent trip to Lesbos and her aim to distribute warm clothes and boots to refugees trying to reach mainland Europe. As part of her visit, we wrote short letters of hope for the refugees to encourage them as they continue their journey to safety.

The Community Action Group



Yarm School Music Department presents:

THE SOUND OF SCIENCE (Technology ENGINEERING Mathematics)

Sunday 17th November, 6pm

Adults: $C(x) = FC + V(x) = \text{sum}$ **£5.00**

Concessions: $C(x) = FC + V(x) = \text{sum}$ **£3.00**



Phonautograph.

BC, barrel with opening at C; c, brass tube with membrane and style at b, and movable piece a, by which the position of the nodal points can be regulated: c, handle to turn cylinder (A) covered with lampblacked paper.



Tickets can be purchased from the School box office or at thepaonline.org

YPSSC PRESENTS
AN EVENING FULL OF SURPRISES

Masquerade Ball

TICKETS £50
(INCLUDING A PRIZE BALLOON)
THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM
TICKETS RELEASED 10th JUNE

SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2019
DOORS OPEN AT 19:00 • DRINKS RECEPTION •
GONDOLAS AT MIDNIGHT • DRESS MASQUERADE

RAISING FUNDS FOR BILLY'S ROOM CHARITY

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

This year Oswald House would like to organise another of the highly successful shoebox appeals to help those in need. The charity Convoy Aid Romania is not running its campaign this year so instead Oswald will use the Samaritan's appeal which aims to help disadvantaged children who will have nothing to open on Christmas Day in poorer areas of the world. We would like to send as many shoeboxes as possible to help ensure the children have a great Christmas so it would be amazing if as many families as possible could take part.

Step 1: Find a shoebox you no longer have use for.

Step 2: Fill it full of non-perishables for example soft toys, colouring books, toiletries, socks, sweets, hats, gloves and scarfs. N.B. please do not put in food likely to perish or toy guns/weapons.

Step 3: Wrap the box up like a present.

Step 4: Cellotape £1 to the box to help with postage costs (any other donations to help with Samaritans shipping costs are gratefully received).

Step 5: Have your son/daughter deliver it to H2 (Mr Taylor) no later **than Friday, 15th November.**

Thank you so much in advance for your generosity!

Mr T Taylor