

# Newsletter



No: 1229 [www.yarmschool.org](http://www.yarmschool.org) | 29th November 2019

## Headmaster's Welcome

The Christmas Fair last weekend was a wonderful event on so many levels. Quality shopping and a Santa's Grotto to rival any, with a train to deliver excited children to the exceptionally helpful elves. Great food and other refreshments, and various entertainment and activities to keep us all busy. It was fantastically organised and well run, and the most remarkable and impressive thing for me was the fact that this is organised, managed and run by volunteers from our community. I am hugely grateful to the YSA committee, other YSA volunteers and many staff who helped run the day, and to the Estates Team for their hard work before and after the event, and also for managing the traffic and parking! The pupils who helped were magnificent: the willingness of our pupils to contribute to events such as this, which benefit our wider community as well as our school community, is something to really treasure. Thank you.

Having watched the Sixth Form perform two weeks ago, I was thrilled to watch the Fifth Year as they wowed their audience with a spellbinding performance of Dylan Thomas' Under Milk Wood. The creative ambition of our pupils is fizzing wildly around the place at the moment, with rehearsals for Miss Saigon getting serious and Christmas performances being honed and polished. Sporting successes reported within (12 results reported: 9 won, 1 drawn) are capped off by some serious golfing success too - read on to find out more!

Dr Huw Williams

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## Tickets for Miss Saigon on sale next week



This year's school musical is the incredible Miss Saigon! The show will be running from Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th February 2020. **Tickets go on sale to the school community on Monday 2nd December** and to the public on Tuesday 10th December.

It's already promising to be an extremely popular show so we encourage you to buy your tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment and reserve the best seats in the house! **Tickets will only be available to purchase online from Tuesday 10th December.** To get yours before this date, please visit the Box Office which is open Monday to Friday 8.30am till 4.30pm.

We hope to see you there!

## The Woman in Black

On Tuesday 19th November, pupils from First, Second and Fourth Year went to watch a performance of 'The Woman in Black' at Darlington Hippodrome. We were accompanied by Mrs Dugdale and Mrs Mason.

The trip inspired and informed us about the art of telling ghost stories—the current topic for Second Year this term. The performance was terrifying and intriguing and we all had a great time.

To begin with, we were shocked by the fact that there were only three cast members; all of them, however, were excellent actors! The thrilling plot was told as rehearsals for a play and the dialogue between the characters was realistic and well-thought out.

Based in the 1800s, The Woman in Black tells the story of Mr Kipps, who witnesses terrible sightings of the Woman in Black. Traumatized by his past, Kipps seeks help so he can finally find relief and tell someone his story.

At times, the most frightening parts almost made us jump out of our skins! Every time the Woman in Black appeared on stage, we felt a chill down our spines. The show, however, still kept an element of comedy.

Overall, the performance was one of the best we've seen. The highlight of the show was the magnificent ending; it was completely unexpected! It was one of the best, most memorable parts of the year so far. We can't wait to see what else Mrs Dugdale has in store for us!

Nora Sahoo and Cecily Deering

## Working Lunch: Meat-ing Demand

The Economics and Business Department hosted another Former Pupil for a very successful Working Lunch. This time James Knox (class of 2003) returned to talk about his life post Yarm. James had studied Business at both GCSE and A-level.

James started his talk by recalling his lessons in the huts and learning CER's verb "to CAAE" (the way to remember to include content, application, analysis and evaluation in answers). He then talked about his business degree from Lancaster and his choice to move into the family business and rise through the ranks from Factory Manager to MD.

James's honesty, discussing the challenges and rewards of working in a small business setting and the future plans of the business, was much appreciated by the students. They were keen to discover more, particularly about the external opportunities and threats to the business.

Many thanks to James for sharing his valuable time with us, and we look forward to hearing from him again in the future.

Miss C E Rhodes

## Book Review: The Killing School - Brandon Webb



The Killing School provides an in-depth view into the experiences both in training and combat of three snipers; Jason Delgado, Nicholas Irving and Rob Furlong.

The author Brandon Webb, a veteran SEAL, becomes a Staff Sergeant of the US Naval Special Warfare Scout/ Sniper School. This experience allows him to talk about the art of being a Special Operations Sniper from almost every dimension; he references the fitness requirements and training programmes, as well as the need to study and understand barometric pressure. Further, Webb shows exactly how the training plays out in real combat roles through a range of different conflicts.

For me, this book served as a thorough insight into the US sniper programme, with the personal accounts and reflections of these experiences giving the book an authentic feel to it.

This book fascinated me, particularly due to the fact that this area is a potential future career for me. Although it should be noted by those with an avid interest that the American and British programmes do differ in a few significant ways, such as the variability of weapons and techniques used in the courses. I would strongly recommend this book to anyone wanting to pursue a career in the forces or just for those more generally interested in exciting personal accounts of conflict and training around the world.

Will Thompson (U6 Politics student)

## Darlington Rotary Club Young Musician of the Year 2019

Congratulations to four talented Yarm School musicians who won their classes in this year's Musician of the Year Competition, all performing beautifully: Stella Dooris (oboe), Tilly Gilraine (harp), Naila Krishnamoorthy (harp) and Sophia Lin (piano).

Mrs K Staggs



## The History Society



This week the History Society was very privileged to receive a talk from Cecily Deering (CO2 MCR) on the six wives of Henry VIII. Attendees discussed that little is known about Henry's later wives; as most studies focus on Henry's divorce of his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, which led to the Reformation in England. Historians also have a fascination with Henry's second wife, Anne Boleyn, the first ever commoner to become Queen of England.

Cecily mentioned that perhaps Henry had bad luck when it came to marriage, but in truth it was his desire for a male heir to the Tudor dynasty that was the driving force behind most of his marriage decisions.

Cecily explained that Henry would divorce two wives, and behead two – Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard – for adultery and treason and that he probably would have remained married to his third wife, Jane Seymour, who gave him his son and heir, but she died in childbirth. Cecily also provided an in-depth insight into the life of Catherine Howard, who married Henry when she was aged 16 and Henry, 49.

One of the main features of the presentation was Cecily's knowledge of the personalities of Henry's wives, including knowledge of Catherine Parr's fascination with dogs!

Attendees concluded that the study of the Tudor period continues to fascinate historians, due to the chaotic nature of Henry's court, the end of the Catholic Church in England and the exploration of America in the Elizabethan years.

The History Society meets every Tuesday at 1pm.

Mr A.J.Morrison

## Yarm School Mock General Election



As we enter the heart of the campaign season candidates are well known to the student body. There have been a couple of lunchtime hustings since the last report. Candidates faced a raft of pointed questions on the topic of 'Education and Welfare', as well as a robust session last Thursday on 'Housing and the Environment'. On this occasion, topics as diverse as HS2, the future of the car industry, regional economies and public transport were scrutinised.

All of the parties had appeared to embrace green policies, with the Conservatives arguing that green capitalism would find new opportunities for the future. The Yorkshire Party were suspicious of these promises and felt only localism would be meaningful. The Lib Dems spoke eloquently of their investment pledges as well as the need for an integrated transport policy.

Labour accepted that the Greens had led the way in this area of thinking but felt that their party has been sufficiently 'greened' to be trusted on the environment. The Brexit Party resolutely argued that progress could be best made outside of Europe and that Britain could address environmentalism and lead by example.

In Junior Assembly all parties made their pitch for the school vote and answered on three key questions: *What is special about your party and its policies? What do you respect or admire in one or more of the other parties? Who do you see as your core voters at Yarm School?*

The campaigns continue!

Mr S Edwards

## 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 available 24 hours a day)** or via email to **[admin@yarmschool.org](mailto: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](mailto:admin@yarmschool.org).** Any unaccounted absences will result in the School Office contacting parents after morning registration.

## Sport Scoreboard

### RUGBY

U14A v Crossley Heath & Queen Ethelburgas	Won 2-0
U12A v Crossley Heath & Queen Ethelburgas	Lost 5-10

### HOCKEY

Boys' U12A v Redhouse School	Won 6-0
Boys' U12B v Redhouse School	Drew 4-4
Boys' U14B v Egglecliffe School	Won 8-0
Boys' U13A v Hall Cross Academy	Won 10-2
Boys' U13B v Hall Cross Academy	Won 8-1
Boys' U18A North East Indoor Regional Cup	Won

### NETBALL

U16A v Newcastle High School (SNS Cup)	Lost 29-52
U13B v Teesside High School	Won 16-12
U12B v Wakefield (SNS Cup)	Won 26-19
U12B v Teesside High School	Won 7-2

## Rugby

### U12A v Crossley Heath, Saturday, 23rd November (Lost 5-10)

Last Saturday, Yarm U12A rugby team travelled to Queen Ethelburga's School to play Crossley Heath, a school from Halifax. With heavy rain clearing, we appreciated the facilities at Queen Ethelburga's and the opportunity to play on a 4G pitch.

In the first half, Yarm dominated with good passing and running into space. Following a great passage of play across the pitch with quick passing and clever decisions, Will McPartland finished off this great team effort with a race to the line and a try. Towards the end of the first half, Yarm were rucking well, holding off Crossley Heath and recovering the ball at the breakdown. However, just before half-time a Crossley Heath player used strength and determination to reach the line and got the ball down near the corner flag before Yarm managed to tackle him into touch. At half-time the score was equal at 5-5.

In the second half, the teams were more evenly matched with less end-to-end play. Yarm kept putting pressure on the Crossley Heath team but they only gave a few breaks and played well as a team. Yarm tried to create spaces and look for gaps, including one great kick and chase, but the opposition's defensive line remained strong. A few handling errors crept in causing us to lose the ball, despite a fantastic catch from Harry Carter.

Yarm pressed well in defence and stayed strong as Crossley Heath trapped us onto their own line and forced us to push them back in a sustained period of attack. Crossley Heath

started to move the ball and create chances, eventually scoring a second try. The game finished with Crossley Heath securing a 10-5 win.

After the match, we enjoyed the excellent hospitality of a full English breakfast.

Man of the match was awarded to Harry Carter.

Nick Clements

### U14A v Crossley Heath & Queen Ethelburgas, Saturday, 23rd November (Won 2-0)

Due to inclement weather the U14 team had not played for a couple of weeks. Therefore Yarm played in a triangular fixture against Queen Ethelburga and Crossley Heath Grammar School.

In the first game against QE, Yarm won 24-12. The boys started at a frenetic pace with Junior Newton scoring a try. The try of the day soon followed; Junior identified the space and produced a cross field kick for Fergal Deane to score. Other tries in the game were by Jacob Rutter and a special mention to Max Jones for scoring his first Yarm try.

The second game was a much tougher contest vs Crossley Heath. However, the Yarm boys were not undeterred and produced an excellent defensive display. Junior scored the only try of the game. The forwards camped on their own try line for the last few minutes, held off scrum after scrum and with a knock on, Roman Andrews booted the ball off to secure a 5-0 win.

There were some outstanding performances throughout the day, however Matthew McCullagh put on a particularly exceptional performance in both games.

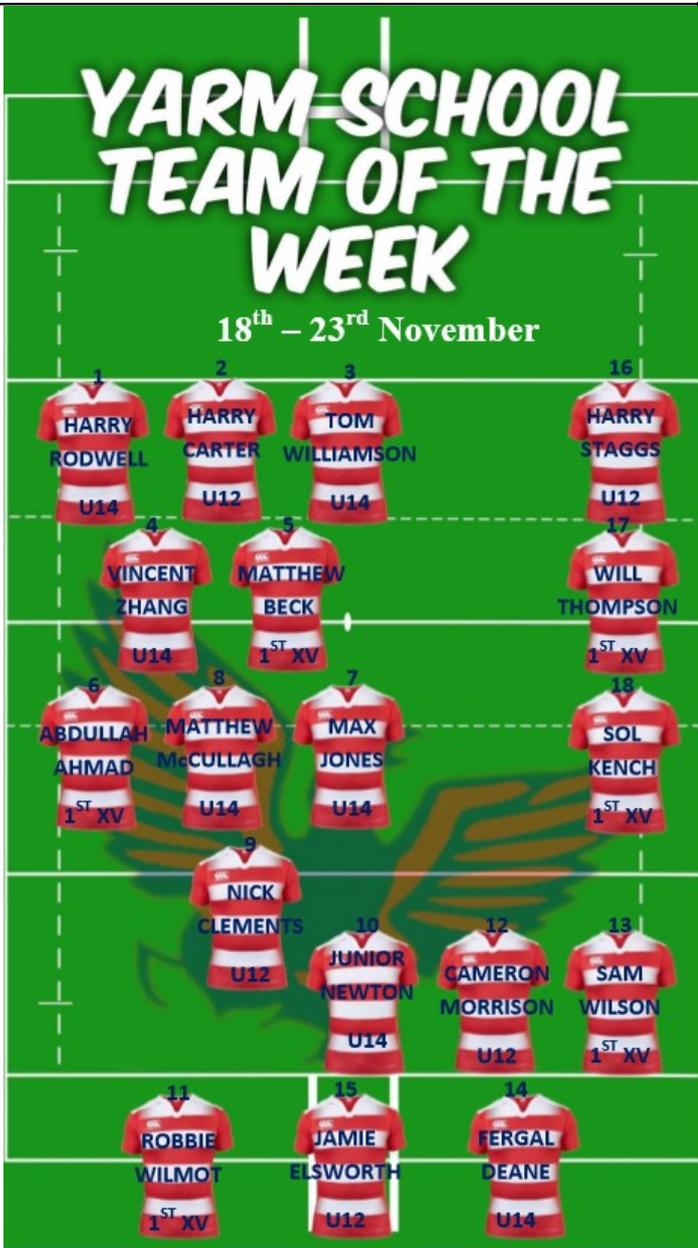
## Netball

### U12A v Wakefield (SNS Cup), Tuesday, 26th November (Won 26-19)

The girls warmed up well and came out strong against a tall Wakefield side. They took the lead in the first quarter and managed to maintain this throughout the game due to great defence and some excellent shooting. Every player played their part in this win and the girls should be very proud of their achievement. This now takes us into the fourth round as one of the last four schools in the whole of the North of England. Well played girls.

POM (s): Poppy Faulkner and Lola Vasiliou





## YARM SCHOOL TEAM OF THE WEEK

18<sup>th</sup> November – 23<sup>rd</sup> November



## Golf success

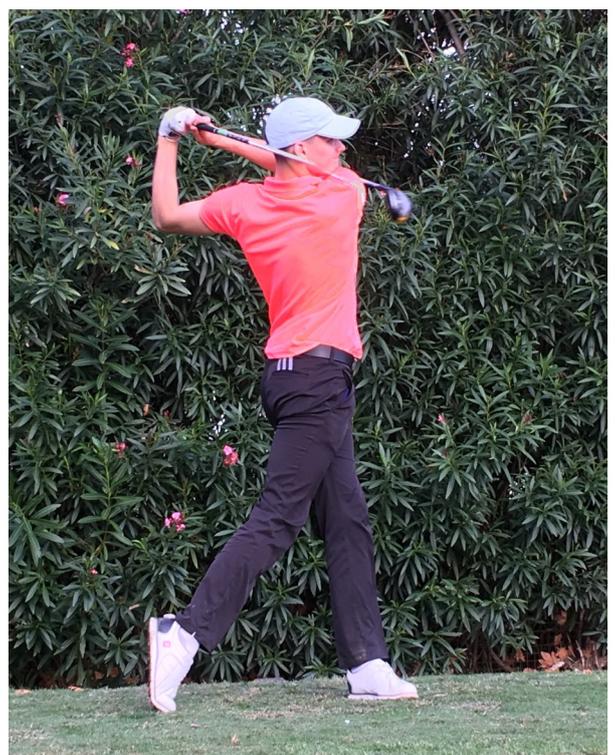
I'd like to extend a huge congratulations to Upper Sixth student Joe Hay who successfully captained the Thirsk and Northallerton Junior Golf Team to the Home Nations Championship Final in the Algarve, Portugal.

Around 1,000 regional teams entered the competition. The top eight teams will go on to the final, representing England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

The Championship Final will take place at the Morgado Golf Club from Saturday, 15th February - Friday 21st, February. Sky Sports will be televising it, so we can all watch and support Joe from home.

This is an incredible achievement and we all wish him and the team the best of luck.

Mr C Webb



## A view from the inside out

Of late, US domestic policy has rather overshadowed what had been a contested foreign policy, not least the controversial aspects of the so-called War on Terror that extended to the use of Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp on the island of Cuba. The Politics Society's guest speaker last Friday sought to draw our attention back to this space.

Dr Jo Metcalf is a lecturer in American Studies at the University of Hull where her primary area of current research is critical prison studies intersecting with American culture. Jo explored the way in which the notion of 'American exceptionalism' might well apply to their approach to imprisonment of 'illegal combatants' at Guantanamo, creating not just a legal loophole for their detention but also exceptional approaches to the treatment of the detainees.

Few of us can be unaware of the fact that the prisoners were not charged with crimes, endured torture treatment forbidden by the Geneva Conventions, and many have been subsequently released without conviction or explanation. Jo's work has involved researching and interpreting the narrative outputs from detainees, including prison diaries and poetry, examples of which she shared with the Politics students. These writings were, in a sense, an act of resistance and subversion, but also an assertive act of what it means to be human albeit in an inhumane environment.

The current US administration is refusing to consider any alteration in the status of the facility, whilst campaigners such as Clive Stafford Smith continue to work for the proper application of the rule of law and due legal process.



Mr S Edwards

CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

THANK YOU

We'd like to thank all of the pupils and parents involved in making the YSA's Christmas Indoor Market such a fantastic success. Whether you donated to our tombola, helped out on the day, assisted with the organisation or came along to support it all on the day, we are extremely grateful! We hope you enjoyed it as much as us.