

# Newsletter



No: 1230 [www.yarmschool.org](http://www.yarmschool.org) | 6th December 2019

## Headmaster's Welcome

As we all rush headlong towards the end of term I am constantly struck by the vibrant and extensive array of activities and opportunities on offer and - even as fatigue and tiredness creeps in - by the good-natured enthusiasm of pupils who wholeheartedly embrace these opportunities. Our regular assemblies offer the chance to hear from pupils who give thoughtful presentations: this week an environmental message from Mrs Pinkham's Upper Sixth, delivered on 'world soil day' (who knew?) and encouragement to find and develop our passion from Mr Newman's tutor group in the First Year. It's also an opportunity to congratulate pupils on a variety of achievements, and it was a pleasure to present medals to our very successful Second Year girls' hockey teams following recent successes.

Having watched the exceptionally impressive candidates standing in our mock election deal with testing questions and challenges from an impassioned and informed audience in a recent hustling, I felt nervous for our local MP, Dr Paul Williams, as he entered the lion's den to meet the candidates. He reported back to me that the students he met were brilliant, and I know they enjoyed their conversation with him too; the mock election is hotting up in school with just days to go until we all vote. Those pupils involved in Miss Saigon rehearsals are in good voice, and I know that they are fully committed to the show. Thank you to them, and to busy staff who are coordinating the programme - we will all be the beneficiaries of your hard work come the new year...

Pupils involved in the Fifth Year play put on a magnificent performance of Under Milk Wood last week, reviewed within by Mr Hall. They delivered a magical, ethereal and very funny script with aplomb and, along with Mr Craig and other staff involved, deserve huge praise. The build up to Christmas, initiated by Santa's visit to the Christmas Market last weekend, has intensified with the Pre Prep's delightful performance of 'the Angel Express' in the PAA this week. The sense of pride parents felt watching their young stars on stage was palpable and the performers were full of effervescent enthusiasm. The festive themes continue as we head into our last week, including the community carol concert this weekend and our carol services on Friday; I look forward to the final week of term.

Dr Huw Williams

---

## Community Christmas Concert—Parking Limited

We are delighted both performances have sold out! If you are joining us on Sunday 8th or Monday 9th December for our Community Christmas Concert, please be aware parking is limited.

If you would like to guarantee a car park space please arrive early or if you can park on the High Street it would help alleviate the pressure on car parking.

## END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS—13th December 2019

Just to remind all parents and families we break up for the Christmas holidays next Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. As this is the last day of term, the day will include academic lessons in the morning followed by our traditional Christmas lunch with our two Carol services taking place in the Parish Church in the afternoon. I wrote earlier in the term to all parents regarding the services and would like to take this opportunity to remind anyone who still needs to contact the Headmaster regarding attendance to do so immediately. Regrettably, there is no capacity in the Church for parents to attend.

This year, the first service will begin at **1.15pm for pupils in Aidan House and Bede House** and the second service will be for pupils in **Cuthbert House and Oswald House beginning at 2.45pm**.

Pupils attending the first service will be able to go home from 2.45pm on their return to school although arrangements will be made for those pupils who cannot be collected until the normal end of the school day. Those pupils attending the second service will return to school for a 4.00pm finish. Our coach service will run as usual with coaches departing at 4.10pm.

Please also remember that all pupils will **return to school for the start of the Spring Term on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. We wish everybody a very Happy Christmas.

D G Woodward  
Deputy Headmaster

## Fifth Year Play—Under Milkwood

The purpose of theatre reviews is typically to advise the reader on whether they should go and see a particular production. Well, you can't. Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, this year's Fifth Year Play as directed by Mr Craig, had its three-night run last week, and all I can say is that if you didn't see it, you should have.

How can I attempt to set the scene better than Thomas himself?

It is spring, moonless night in the small town, starless  
and bible-black, the cobblestreets silent and the hunched,  
courters'-and-rabbits' wood limping invisible down to the  
sloeblack, slow, black, crowblack, fishingboatbobbing sea.



So begins a play, originally written for radio, that luxuriates in its language. The dense, rich, poetic descriptions of Thomas ring out across the darkness. Not full darkness though, as the stage has been filled with a steely blue moonlight and almost the whole cast are arrayed across the apron of the stage, fast asleep, as our narrators (Bella Burgess, Emily Carter, Maddy Jackson and Connor McMurray) talk us through the dreams of the inhabitants of the fictional Welsh town of Llareggub: blind Captain Cat (George Swinbank) remembers the souls of his dead shipmates and lover; tyrannical and hygiene-obsessed Mrs Ogmores-Pritchard (Mia Mack) conjures the memory of her two late husbands (Henri Butler and Josh McGeary), driven to their ends by her suffocating, nightmare rule; the young and vivacious glamourpuss, Mae Rose Cottage (Shilpi Nanda) dreams of love; horrifying Butcher Beynon dreams of "owlmeat, dogs' eyes, manchop"

– but he's only joking...isn't he? A group of gossipy neighbours (Hasmeet Gill, Patricia Jude, Ananya Singh, Eshat Kabir) cruelly and wildly speculate about the lives of the town.

As the sun rises, as the day visits itself upon the town of Llareggub, with its dawn chorus of the vicar's morning doggerel, PC Rees' (Tom Crack) inventive and appalling morning use for his policeman's helmet and Mary Ann Sailor's (Shilpi Nanda again) announcement of her age (she's "85 years, 3 months and a day!"), the lights come up and the cast clear the stage...but don't go far. Each performer, dressed fully in black, waits around the edges, ready to be called up, to inhabit some new role. Blind Captain Cat now becomes Mr Pugh, who fantasises about doing unspeakable things to his equally monstrous wife (Emma Weatherhead). The gossipy neighbours return as horrid girls, harassing the boys of the town (Tom Crack, Noah, Bickenson, Henri Butler) with mortification, and the demand that they give a kiss to Gwennie (Maddie Lane), or pay a penny. Gwennie becomes Mrs Dai Bread, the second wife to the bigamous baker: gypsy woman, dark and sultry, she torments the baker's sweet first wife (Sarah Mhando) with predictions from her crystal ball.

The lives of the inhabitants of Llareggub were brought so richly to life in this sumptuous production. Enormous credit must go to the entire cast (mostly Fifth Years, but including one Fourth Year pupil, and an impressive stage debut for Dhruv Wadehra in First Year), for tackling demanding language and often a whole range of diverse characters so deftly and confidently. Credit to Mr Craig as well, for his wonderful direction, both evident in the actors' skilful performances and in the overall vision for the piece: a poem for radio, transported to the stage as if it had never been meant to be anywhere else.

Mr John Hall



## Leading Afghan Public Health Chief to visit Yarm School

I am delighted to announce that we will have a visit from Dr Mohammad Haqmal on January 20<sup>th</sup> in the Friarage Theatre. Our guest is a much decorated and highly recognised official from Afghanistan, whose work has been instrumental in improving the lives of women and children in that country.

Dr Haqmal was recently kidnapped by the Taliban, who opposed his progressive health policies. He has a fascinating story to share and this should be a popular and intriguing lecture.

More information about Dr Haqmal can be found in the Guardian article below.

The event will begin at 1700 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Please email [elp@yarmschool.org](mailto:elp@yarmschool.org) to confirm your attendance. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/23/afghan-public-health-chief-settles-in-uk-after-kidnap-by-taliban>

Mr S Edwards

## National Team Chess Preliminary Round

This week we offered to host the first round of the English Schools National Team Chess Competition. Sadly, no other local schools put forward teams, so we went ahead and ran an individual competition instead. We had 12 participants: Avanish Batra, Ajay Selvan, Max Mowbray, Natasha Pointon, Ihsaan Mahmood, Keya Shah, Sophia Kusterer, Shehab Saad, Sai Sidaginamale, Aishani Paul, Vignesh Janakiraman and Yusuf Syed, We organised the event as a Swiss competition over 5 rounds.

The winner was Ihsaan with 4.5 points, followed by Ajay with 4 and Yusuf in third place with 3.5 points. As a school, we now progress to the next round and all of the games have been submitted for ECF (English Chess Federation) grading purposes.

In the separate Yarm School Christmas competition, events progress to an exciting conclusion with the semi-final line-up being:

Yash Gulve v Gautham Sathyamurthy  
Abhinav Sathyamurthy v Edward Brown

Mr Pointon.

## Politics north of the border: L6 students visit Scottish Parliament

Sixth Form Politics students typically engage in a number of study trips during their time of study. This year we chose to avoid the crowded landscape of pre-election London and instead head north of the border to investigate the realm of Scottish politics. What might feel for many like the 'experiment' of devolution has now been a twenty year experience, and the Scottish Parliament has now very much come into its own in terms of its political culture and atmosphere.

The students met with Kate Forbes, the Minister of Finance in the Scottish Government, and had a relaxed and enjoyable discussion with her about her current role, the parliamentary impact of the Scottish voting system as well as her support and promotion of the Gaelic language. Kate is a relatively young MSP (Member of the Scottish Parliament) but her recent promotion suggests she is very much a name to continue to watch, already holding one of the most senior roles in government.

The students were fortunate enough to be able to attend First Minister's Questions, the equivalent of Westminster's Prime Minister Question Time. Seated with the students to spectate First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in action was the President of the Parliament of Catalonia, Roger Torrent. It was insightful to witness the very differing atmosphere between the Westminster and Edinburgh parliaments.

An additional experience included visiting the parliamentary office of MSP Jamie Halcro Johnson, the representative for the Highlands and Islands region, where there was another round of explorative questioning.

There was time in the evening to explore the university area of the city as well as enjoy a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Mr S Edwards



*Politics students with Minister of Finance in the Scottish government*



*Politics students outside the Scottish Parliament*

## Money, Money, Money .....

After the success of the YSA Christmas Fair challenge the Yarm Apprentices have been set their 3rd Task.

CEO of DBS (Darlington Building Society), Andrew Craddock kindly came in to set the teams their challenge.... The Teams have to research a good cause which would benefit from a donation of £500 from DBS and suggest how this money could be increased through team activities. The teams will face Lord Sugar to pitch their proposals on Tuesday 21st January.

The renamed Impact are being PM'd by Jamie and the rebranded Fromage are being PM'd by Will.

Good luck to both teams!

Miss C E Rhodes

## The heat is on... - Helius v Glacier

It was difficult to initially gauge the temperature when PM Izzy D (Helius) faced PM Pranav (Glacier) in the Boardroom. With task setter Gracie at Netball it fell to her associate Mrs Evans to oversee the task finale. Each team faced a barrage of questions and were asked to justify their every action.

Both teams were praised for their task commitment and professionalism on the day of the fair, with substantial sums raised for good causes, and superb feedback received from the team of Mystery Shoppers. And indeed this was the closest ever task in terms of the money raised! There can however only be one winning team and whilst Helius were able to raise £261.21 for Clic-Sargent, though selling baubles, bags of eclairs and providing face painting. Glacier were victorious, and raised a superb £296 for The Salvation Army, through poinsettias, reindeer dust, glitter tattoos and the very successful "Pin the nose on Rudolph".

Whilst the winners enjoyed juice and muffins, Izzy D brought Hugh and Faye back into the Boardroom and, after much deliberation, both Hugh and Faye were fired!

Bonus points were awarded to Pranav as PM, Philippa and Atti as the peer determined outstanding apprentices, and to Izzy L, Philippa, Izzy D and Will for the CER/PME "superb contribution" reward.

Can Helius fire into success or will Glacier freeze the opposition? To find out what the next task will be see next week's newsletter and to see how the points tally up see the YA Board outside B1 Thanks to the Mystery Shoppers (whose identity I will continue to protect!) and to both Gracie and Mrs Evans for their Task setting and judging.

Miss C E Rhodes

## The Reason for the Season: The Interviews



Every year Miss Rhodes is responsible for organising the mock interview process. This enormous undertaking involves offering, organising and coordinating the delivery of a bespoke interview to every member of the U6. The system relies upon the good will of a significant number of friends of the school, including contacts built up over the years which itself includes a good number of former pupils and parents. Whilst recognising that many students will not necessarily be facing an interview for their university application, a number of students will do so, whilst others will be interviewing for apprenticeships. Indeed in the fullness of time all students will be interviewing for internships, work placements and eventually professional positions, so the exposure to the rhythm and rigour of a formal interview is of enormous current and/or potential benefit.

So this is this year's interview programme in numbers:

*9 weeks of interviews*

*97 interviews*

*40 different, external interviewers*

*32 Yarm-based observers*

I would like to thank Miss Rhodes for your time, energy and resilience in facilitating this vital careers-related programme, as well as thank all of our interviewers and observers, as well as Christine Hutchinson in the front office who administrates the whole affair. And now a deep breath before we begin to prepare for next year's interviews!

Mr S Edwards

## Riddles

Last week's answer: History!

Last week's winners:

Siya Puthuraya, Danny Scott, Kaavya Venkatesh, Sophia Jones, Tegan Addison, Ava Brule-Walker, Yumna Ellidir  
Congratulations to you all!

This week's riddle: What am I?

Rating: Abstract

I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?

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

Parul Sinha & Aishani Paul

## A successful week in politics!

Last weekend I took part in the *InvestIN Young Political Leader Programme* at University College London. The experience proved to be invaluable, and the skills and knowledge I have gained through participating in the course will help me considerably in the future.

I headed down to London on the train on Friday night, following a busy week - most notably a two day Politics trip to Edinburgh to visit the Scottish Parliament and a meeting with the Minister for Finance for the Scottish Government - and prepared for the day ahead. The Saturday was based around International Politics and consisted of a well-balanced mix of talks and practical scenarios. One of these scenarios involved being representatives for a country in a UN meeting, debating whether to take action against the Chinese government due to the riots in Hong Kong and their control over Hong Kong. Each member country had time to negotiate with the other members and figure out whether to vote in favour, against or to abstain. My country, Indonesia, voted in abstention for a number of political, economic and geographic reasons. The day concluded with a panel discussion and Q&A with some of this country's leading diplomats and civil servants.

The Sunday provided an insight into domestic politics and how to become an MP. One of the first things we had to do was write a maiden speech as if we were newly elected MPs and then eight people, from the 150 students, were chosen to give their speech. I was one of those chosen. Once everyone had spoken to the House everyone voted for who they thought should be Speaker of the House and I was elected! I then presided over the House during a mock Minister's Questions and I also chaired a debate between the former MP for Poplar and Limehouse Jim Fitzpatrick and freelance communications consultant Paul Richards. To chair a debate between such senior figures in politics was an incredible experience and the knowledge gained from two such great thinkers and speakers will stick with me throughout my life.

Although short, the two days in London have provided a remarkable insight into what my future could hold and I am excited to see where my career in politics leads. I would highly recommend all of InvestIN's courses to 15-18 year olds, as the professional exposure might be something you would struggle to find elsewhere. Couple the enjoyment I had with the knowledge I gained and the weekend proved to be highly beneficial.

Jonathan Oakley (L6 Politics student)

## Yarm School Mock General Election

We are less than a week away to the election, both within Yarm School and nationally. This week saw all of the parties exercise themselves into new and not always familiar spaces and places. On Thursday the candidates negotiated the auditorium's arrangements for a dinner with questioners sat around tables whilst the candidates spoke from a microphone from the balcony. Their lofty thoughts addresses issues of housing and welfare, with challenging questions on such topics as post-Grenfell regulations, causes of poverty and the scrutiny of their policies to raise living standards.

No Yarm School election is complete with the visit up the hill to the Prep School; it is one of the most feared occasions in the campaigners' calendars. The pupils of the Prep School are invariably excellently briefed, informed and well up to date with political issues and there are no certainties when it comes to their questioners. The candidates faced over twenty questions, from challenges to the Green Party over coral bleaching and palm oil, to the Brexit Party being challenged repeatedly over what Brexit will actually mean.



And on Tuesday lunchtime the hustings were taken outside with the candidates on the steps of the auditorium articulating their views to a large assembled crowd comprised of pupils from all year groups. The parties will continue to be active over the last few days of the campaign seeking out every last vote.



The candidates and their teams were also delighted to spend part of Wednesday morning with Stockton South Labour candidate and former MP Dr Paul Williams. In a frank and honest exchange Paul and the students compared notes about the highs and lows of campaigning as well as the dynamic role required for modern MPs balancing constituency demands with the process of law-making in Westminster.



Voting takes place next Wednesday with our result on the Thursday morning!

Mr S Edwards

## Sport Scoreboard

### Rugby

U15 A v Ashville	Won 45-12
U13A v Ashville	Lost 25-50
U12A v Ashville	Won 40-10

### Girls' Hockey

1st XI v St Peter's, York	Lost 0-4
U18B v St Peter's, York	Lost 0-1
U14B v Red House School	Lost 0-1

### Boys' Hockey

U12B v Eggescliffe	Won 2-0
--------------------	---------

## Rugby

### U13A v Ashville, Saturday 30th November (Lost 25-50)

On Saturday the boys entertained Ashville Harrogate at Billingham RFC, due to the Yarm School pitches being frozen.

The away got off to a very strong start on the half size 4G pitch going four tries to 0 up. A quick conversation and some rotational changes meant that the boys stepped their intensity and ruck work.

Some great tries were scored by Yarm, Oscar T, Tim F, Yasin to name a few. Yarm rallied well and scored some great tries to end the first half 6-4 down. The second half Ashville upped their physicality with some big runners and dominated the second half 4-1.

Some great performance but for tenacity at the rucks and tackling was James McGee

### U12A v Ashville, Saturday 30th November (Won 40-10)

The U12 boys rugby team played against Ashville College at Billingham Rugby Club on an extremely cold Saturday morning. However, this didn't deter the team from playing some fantastic rugby. After the first few minutes of the match and several scoring attempts, Jake Leader caught the ball and scored the game's first try. Both teams soon got over the harsh conditions and began playing better than the first minutes. Possession of the ball soon came to Alex Carter and he outran Ashville's players and gave Yarm their second try. Soon after Ashville narrowed the scores by sprinting through Yarms defences. Yarm showed some fantastic attacking skills during the last play of the first half and this is demonstrated by Will Bromiley scoring the teams third try.

After half time the team were familiar with the pitch and had become used to the cold. In the first half Yarm had possession of the ball for the majority of the time and they weren't ready to stop that now. Barely avoiding the touch line, Harry Carter got the ball to the try line and scored once more for Yarm. Ashville scored their final try of the match before several tries from Will Bromiley, Harry Carter, Tom Burchall and Jamie Elsworth each claimed another for Yarm in that respective order. The whistle signifying the end of the match blew meaning that Yarm had won yet another game this season. The team's coach, Mr Webb commented that the team had an extraordinary attacking play and that this was one of their best games. Thank you to all the parents and coaches who encouraged the team throughout the game.

**Tries:** Bromiley(2), Burchall, Carter, Carter(2), Elsworth, Leader

### U15A v Ashville, Saturday 30th November (Won 45-12)

The U15 arrived at Billingham RFC with a strong squad. There had been some extremely pleasing training sessions leading up-to this game, so spirits were high amongst the boys to see what they could produce.

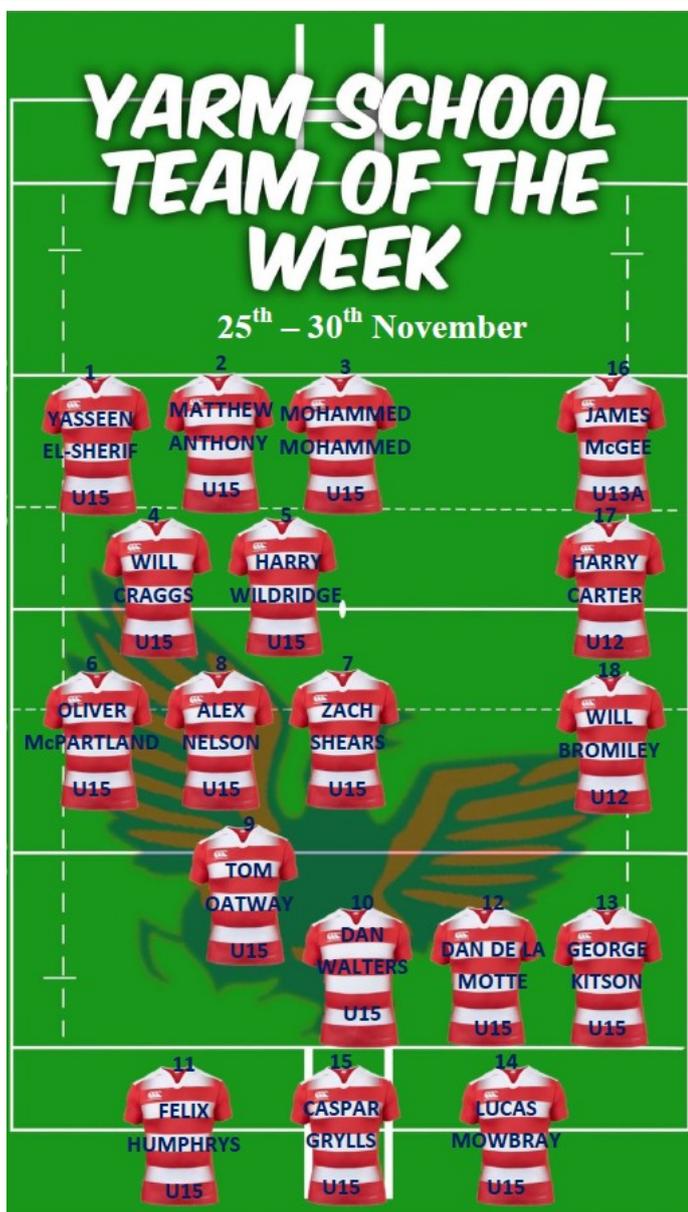
What ensued was one of their best performances of their year, and noted by centre Dan De La Motte, one of their performances in their 4 year stint so far at Yarm School. The forwards played with great prowess, looking at strong running options of the 9. Their lineout set piece was strong which set the platform for their backline, on a 4G pitch to run-run-run.



Some great performances all round, highlighted by the whole teams inclusion into the team of the week. Special mention to Lucas Mowbray who scored a hat trick, including a hat trick. U14 second row Harry Wildridge played a full game and highlighted his skill set by being a constant running threat off 9. George Kitson for two excellent acts of play, firstly for a chip over the top for Lucas Mowbray to score, and for running over 50 metres with ball in hand to then pass the ball at the try line to his support runner, just for him to get as try.

A magnificent performance!!





## Hockey

This has been our most successful autumn hockey term in the history of Yarm School with the U14s, U16s and U18s making it to North Finals and the U16s to North Indoor Finals.

All girls are a credit to the school, their clubs and families. They are understandably disappointed not to progress further in the competition but I hope this will motivate them to keep progressing through the spring and summer term especially the U16 and U18 teams who were a year young this year. Well done girls!

We look forward to seeing what the U13s can achieve now after reaching the North East Finals last week after being crowned County Champions!

Miss N Hodgson

