

Head's Message

It was a real pleasure to welcome many families from our school community to Open Morning last weekend. The atmosphere was very positive and it was a great chance to learn a little more about the opportunities afforded to our pupils. I hope that many of you will take the chance to visit us at our next Open Morning which will be early next term. I am very grateful to all of the pupils who came along to support the event too. They were superb ambassadors for the school and did a marvellous job of leading tours and celebrating all we do at Yarm Prep School.

I am delighted to inform you that as of this term we have two new members of staff working across Yarm School to help further promote the health and welfare of our pupils. Mrs Anne-Marie Hall joins us in the new position of Emotional Health and Wellbeing Practitioner and will work alongside the teaching team to support the wellbeing of our pupils. Mrs Lyndsey Wheatley joins us as First Aid Lead and will coordinate and support first aid across the school. I am sure you will join me in welcoming both Mrs Hall and Mrs Wheatley to our school community. We look forward to working with them a great deal.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

My first two letters say my name and my last asks a question. What I embrace I eventually destroy. What am I?

Photo of the Week:

Our thanks to all of the children who came along to help out on our Open Morning. Thanks too to all of the parents who visited and took part in the challenges on offer, including 'The Crashmat Challenge!'



Peer Mentor training

I learnt that active listening is critical in the job of being a Peer Mentor. It is important to be careful when listening to someone who is upset.

Charlie B.

It was good to learn about active listening and SARAH.

Mustafa E-S.

We have a go at some drama exercises to practise SARAH and our listening skills for when we need to use them on the playground.

Darcey A.

During the training session I learnt that, if someone is upset or needs help, you need to listen carefully to them and not stare at them too much.

Ivy A.



SARAH

Stop talking

Active listening

Repeat back what the other person said

Accept the other person's feelings

Help the other to think of some choices that will help

Embrace something new

Attain is the leading education publication for parents and staff in the independent schools' sector. It contains a range of useful articles written by serving heads and educational commentators. In this term's edition, I make the case for children not specialising too early. A copy of my article is below for your interest. If you would like a free copy of the magazine please collect one from the School Office or take one of the copies that are in the Old Early School entrance.

Embrace something new

There is a growing tendency for children to specialise too early. Bill Sawyer, Head of Yarm Prep, argues that children should regularly embrace something new in order to ensure they maintain breadth.



The excess of the festive season and the turning of the calendar year is often enough of a stimulus for a renewed effort to undertake pursuits to motivate the mind and the body. Just as the New Year brings fresh hope for our own personal development, the start of the Spring Term presents our children with the excitement of adventures in learning across the curriculum. They can take advantage of myriad opportunities through the rich 'super-curricular' web that independent schools offer and value highly.

This is a great time to be encouraging our sons and daughters to embrace something new and different, whether on the sports field, stage, classroom or beyond. Supporting this experimentation and exploration is of vital importance. Of course it needs balance – children should not fill every waking minute with activities and must have ample opportunity for downtime – but there is one key ingredient all children need: breadth.

With the rise of on-demand television, targeted marketing and social influencers, it is hard to deny the hold that the modern day media has over us. Individuals that we view through these channels are often presented as role models and, in many cases, are rightly looked up to and idolised. After all, they have usually worked very hard to get where they are. Such

examples present opportunities for us to discuss the importance of perseverance, dedication and hard graft to our children. This promotion of positive traits helps us instil such qualities in the next generation and, in turn, gives them something to work towards. However, does a bid to become the 'best you can be' in a certain arena push our children to specialise too early and thereby inhibit development of their wider skills and competencies?

“...does a bid to become the 'best you can be'... push our children to specialise too early and thereby inhibit development of their wider skills and competencies?”

We all have our favourite players, stars, heroes and heroines, whether on a sporting, business, musical, art or performance front. They are the ones that we try to emulate and enjoy discussing their relative merits with our pals. As we look to develop the next wave of stars, entrepreneurs, social change-makers and captains of industry, it is very important we

prepare them effectively for the fast changing world they will inherit. In so doing, we have rightly seized upon the idea that to get where you want to go requires a great deal of dedicated practice and commitment to a particular pursuit. At the same time we have allowed talent to become something that is 'spotted' early and the belief that to really excel at something 'sacrifice' is a prerequisite.

There is no doubt that dedicated practice is a hugely important aspect of progress to a high level, especially in areas such as music and sport. But the 10,000 hours rule, as popularised by Malcolm Gladwell in his book *Outliers*, is not necessarily an assured way of reaching the top in many fields. Of course, this level of practice gives you a definite advantage in fields where it can be argued that the rate of change is relatively slow, such as music and sport. But in areas such as business and technology, it's hard to argue that practice makes perfect – experimentation and breadth of experience is far more important.

In his book *Range*, David Epstein uses the example of a recent study into the most successful innovators at technology company, 3M. The study discovered that the best inventors were often not specialists by any stretch – they were generalists who explored a range of different fields and this breadth of experience led them to being particularly adept at

taking ideas from one particular field and applying it to another, enabling the creation of new products. Our world needs generalists as they can often see across problems and find synergy. The British Civil Service, the envy of many a country, is built on the talents and experience of generalists. Indeed, to excel in the Civil Service you need to be able to cope with changing governmental requirements whilst being familiar with a broad scope of legislative ideas – not narrow policy specialisations.

In recent years, there has been a subconscious tendency in schools to allow specialisation as this will lead to success in a chosen field: academic, extra-curricular or sport. The notion that success requires a total focus at the possible detriment of anything else is just wrong. Looking ahead there are some weighty global issues that this generation of children will have to overcome. There is a need for innovation in many areas and a breadth of experience can help to drive this. As parents, we need to resist the call from our children to specialise. Encourage them to keep the door open on a wide range of hobbies, sports and subjects.

Of course, there are many fields that require specialists – and careers often allow for a particular interest to be furthered through specialisation. When we require surgery we would doubtless want a doctor who had performed the procedure many times before, rather than a generalist. But before making a decision to pursue medicine, for example, it is vital to explore plenty of other avenues so as to be sure that this is the right path. Giving our children a good breadth of experiences and opportunities helps to nurture their abilities in myriad ways. When solving complex problems or working creatively, they can do so by drawing on a wide range of sources and experience – two of the *Top Ten Skills 2020* as identified by the World Economic Forum in the *Future of Jobs* report.

So, what can we do to boost our children's chances of being adaptive and purposeful individuals who are ready to maximise their chances of success in whatever field they choose? Certainly the thought of adding more pursuits and activities to the weekly routine for many of us is just not possible. I believe the answer lies in embracing what is on offer already at

school and alternating the mix of pursuits that each child follows on a termly or annual basis. This requires some open-mindedness and recognition that it is an opportunity to make new social connections, to appreciate different forms of expression, to learn to think strategically and to explore new areas. It is also important to place value on the skills and experiences that can be picked up through the home environment such as growing plants, learning to cook, helping with any handy work that is required and giving over regular time for family discussion and debate.

There is no right or wrong but it is worth exploring all the opportunities available to our children. Not specialising brings many benefits: the ability to think creatively, apply strategic thought to problems, learn vital collaborative working skills and to develop a wide appreciation of others. It develops a well rounded individual. Whilst the future may seem uncertain – being able to adapt and utilise these skills is going to be vital for the next generation. 🇬🇧

Bill Sawyer is Head of Yarm Preparatory School, North Yorkshire.

Stockton Hockey Club

JUNIOR HOCKEY TRAINING



TRAINING ON MONDAY EVENINGS

5.30 TILL 6.30PM

YARM SCHOOL ASTRO

SHIN PADS ESSENTIAL

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN



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Australia Day charity collection

G'day mates! We have all been shocked to see the effects of the fires in Australia. According to reports 1 billion animals have been hurt or lost their lives so far. Hearing this news, the Kindness Crew have decided to take action and organise a fundraiser to send a helping hand to Australia.

Next Friday we will be hosting an Australian themed non-uniform day to raise money for WWF and their mission to save Australian wildlife and other animals affected by climate change. Please come to school **dressed in one item** of Australian themed clothing (and the rest of school uniform). Ideas include: colours of the Australian flag, a cork hat, sunnies, surfer shorts - be as creative as you would like! All we ask for in return is a £1 donation to go towards WWF.

Thank you for your help!

The Kindness Crew and Miss Darbar



FOR YOUR WORLD

Emails from school

With the increasing number of emails we are sending to parents to reduce the amount of paper we use, we are finding some parents are finding these emails in their junk or spam folders.

Most email clients have their own rules on how to identify spam e-mails, things like the volume/frequency of emails received by the specific domain (in this case anything from @yarmschool.org) matched by how often they are opened or ignored by the recipient. They learn from regular behaviour and try to anticipate the needs of the user, but you can override this for specific senders.

Most if not all email clients have the option when selecting an e-mail to mark it as 'This is not spam' which informs the email client not to tag anything from us as spam in future. Also in most cases, adding our e-mail addresses (e.g sri@yarmschool.org, gns@yarmschool.org, etc) to your contacts list tells the spam classification that anything from a known contact is probably worth reading.

With us sending the newsletter via email from next week, please double-check that you have our accounts in your contacts and/or you mark us as not spam.

Mr Stone

Internet Safety

Please keep an eye on the Flier over the coming weeks. With Safer Internet Day coming up in February and every child participating in online safety lessons during computing, there will be plenty of ideas, tips and work to share with you all. There will also be some internet safety talks aimed directly at parents from PCSO Eric Barrett, taking place at the school on Tuesday 11th February.

Mr Stone

House General Knowledge Quiz

There were some outstanding individual scores - particularly in Year 3—and it was the tightest finish yet in the 2020 House General Knowledge Quiz. So tight in fact that I had to go to TWO decimal places to split the houses and declare a winner!

House General Knowledge Quiz—Scores

House	Pupils	Score	Avg
Brunel	53	1519	28.66
Telford	44	1252	28.45
Stephenson	48	1360	28.33
Arkwright	40	1132	28.30

Previous winners:

2015-17: Brunel **2018:** Arkwright **2019-20:** Brunel

In the end, Brunel displayed some Lewis Hamilton-style dominance by securing the title for the fifth time in six years. The average pupil scores were much higher than ever before, while it was interesting to see so many of the Year 3 children outscore the vast majority of the Year 4 children on the same quiz. The future is certainly bright for our quiz teams which such good general knowledge coming through from the younger years.

The staff were also keen to have a go at the quiz, perhaps ensuring their general knowledge is up to speed in time for the Staff Quiz at the end of the month. Well done to Mr Grundmann, who spotted a howler of an error in the Y6 questions!

Results are below, with the top four in each year group highlighted. The children listed have been invited to come to some practices this week as we select the teams for the national and Yarm School competitions. The regional heat of the Quiz Club national championship takes place at Newcastle Prep School next week, while our Primary Schools Quiz takes place in May.

Mr Stone

TOP SCORERS:

Y3	Griff W.	(3A; Stephenson)	53
	Arvind K.	(3D; Brunel)	52
	Miguel R.M.	(3A; Arkwright)	50
	Tiger C.	(3D; Telford)	47
Y4	Aisling T.	(4J; Stephenson)	49
	Thomas P.	(4J; Arkwright)	45
	Ying Ying L.	(4C; Brunel)	42
Y5	George F.	(4J; Brunel)	41
	Kabir G.	(5N, Telford)	44
	Luke E.	(5P; Arkwright)	39
	Tabitha L.	(5P; Stephenson)	38
Y6	Myles B.	(5L; Telford)	37
	Siri P.	(6G; Brunel)	44
	Isaac A.	(6G; Telford)	42
	Edward L.	(6G; Telford)	42
	Jack M.	(6G; Stephenson)	41

Class photographs

We welcome Tempest Photography to school again on Wednesday 22nd January, who will be coming in to take class photographs. Children are to come in full winter uniform, including the correct socks for boys and girls in the correct school tights/socks please. Proofs will be ready soon after and all orders must be returned to school by half-term to ensure delivery before the Easter holidays. Thank you.

PE and Games News



We have started the new term with great energy and enthusiasm which has been lovely to see. Numbers at clubs have also been very good. Lets keep this going! On Thursday our Year 4s all travelled to Durham High School to take part in a netball workshop. It was great to remind them of the different skills required for netball and see them mixing so well with the opposition. This workshop was a lovely way to start the new term and our netball season. Well done to the Year 4 girls who threw themselves into the afternoon and as always were a pleasure to spend time with.

We also enjoyed two netball matches v Bow on Friday afternoon and played inside the sports hall at Durham School. We played two matches back to back and the girls were



excited to be involved. As Bow have less girls we could only select 18 this week but I am pleased to say every girl has played today v Queen Marys. It is always our aim to get all involved and playing alongside their classmates in a supportive environment.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

Under 11 Netball v Bow

We started with great enthusiasm but as we went along we got more tired. After a good team talk with the coach, we lifted our spirits and started shooting more goals. In the end we were all out of breath and we enjoyed a bottle of water and a snack. Then we jumped onto the minibus, feeling good about ourselves.

Ivy A.



Good to see the girls out early and in all weathers for their first rugby training session of the year!



Newspapers needed!

An appeal to all parents: any large old newspapers are desperately needed by Mr Grundmann for the school disco next week. Any are accepted, but please can we have no stapled ones! Many thanks in advance.

Mr Grundmann

Prep New Year Disco

As you read this, an email has been sent home regarding the Prep New Year Disco, taking place next Friday, 24th January. Full details are in the email but, due to catering requirements, confirmation of pupils MUST be received via the online booking form.

To paraphrase many a nightclub bouncer, if a child's name is not down on the entry list, they will not be coming in! If you do not receive the email, please check your junk folders before contacting the school.

Mr Stone

Lunchtime and After School Clubs – Spring Term 2020

	Activity	Times	Venue	Year	Policy	Staff
Monday	Guitar Orchestra	10.20-10.50am	Music Room	All	Invited by Teacher	SBH
	Homework/School Library	12.35-1pm	Library	All	Open to All	WECS/KEJ
	Senior Choir	12.35-1pm	Music Room	Y5/Y6	Open to All	RG
	Arty Monday	1-1.30pm	Art Room	All	Open to All	AW
	Prep Baccalaureate	1-1.30pm	4C	All	Open to All	GNS
	Chess Coaching	1-1.40pm	DT Room	All	Open to All	Mr Marsh/JG
	Eco School	1.10-1.40pm	Science Lab	Y4/Y5/Y6	Open to All	AP
	Monday Concerts (fortnightly)	3:45-4pm	Music Room	All	Open to All	RG
	Dance Workshop	4-5pm	Senior School Studio	Y5/Y6	Booked in Advance	Jess Dunkley
Football Skills	4-5pm	Astro	Y3-6	Booked in Advance	Back2Basics	
After School Supervision*	3:45-6pm	Playground/Science Lab	All	Open to All	ELJ	
Tuesday	Indoor Hockey	8.10-8.30am	Prep Hall	Y3/Y4	Open to All	NERS
	Advanced Recorder Group	10.20-10.45am	Music Room	Y6	Invited by Teacher	AS
	Training Choir	12.35-1pm	Music Room	Y3/Y4	Open to All	RG
	School Library	12.35-1pm	Library	All	Open to All	KEJ
	STEM	1-1.30pm	DT Room	Y3/Y4	Open to All	RS
	Art Attack	1-1.30pm	Art Room	All	Open to All	AW
	Prep Baccalaureate	1-1.30pm	4C	All	Open to All	GNS
	Rugrats	3.45-4.15pm	Prep Hall	Y2	Open to All	Andy Dryden
	Kick Boxing	4.15-5.15pm	Prep Hall	Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6	Booked in Advance	Garry Bell
	Girls' Rugby	4-5pm	Astro (half)	All	Open to All	JJC/CJS/KLH
	STEM	4-5pm	DT Room	Y5/Y6	Open to All	JG
	Mindfulness - Hama Beads	4-5pm	4J	All	Open to All	KEJ
After School Supervision*	3:45-6pm	Playground/Science Lab	All	Open to All	ELJ	
Wednesday	Y5/6 Reading Group	8.05-8.25am	3P	Y5/Y6	Invited by Teacher	JP/AP
	Morning Mile Club	8.15-8.30am	Astro	Y2-Y6	Open to All	JJC
	Year 3/4 Recorders	10.20-10.50am	Art Room	Y3/Y4	Open to Years 3/4	AS
	Flute Group	10.20-10.50am	Flute Room	All	Invited by Teacher	SB
	Brass Group	10.20-10.50am	Music Room	All	Invited by Teacher	CHi
	Cello Ensemble	10.20-10.50am	Cello Room	All	Invited by Teacher	RG
	Percussion Group	12.35-1pm	3P	All	Percussionists	IGH
	School Library	12.35-1pm	Library	All	Open to All	KEJ
	Year 4 Maths Workshop	12.35-1pm	5P	Y4	Invited by Teacher	SMP/GC
	Beginners Clarinet Group	1-1.30pm	Music Room	All	Open to All	AS
	Orchestra	1-1.30pm	Cello Room	All	Invited by Teacher	RG/RR
	Horse Riding	2:45-5.15pm	Kirklevington Stables	All	Extended Activity	HNJ
	Netball	2.50-5pm	Astro	Y5/Y6	Extended Activity	ANC/RBr
	Rugrats Rugby	3.45-4.15pm	Prep Hall	R/Y1	Open to Y2	Andy Dryden
Dance Workshop	4-5pm	Senior School	Y3/Y4	Booked in Advance	Jess Dunkley	
After School Supervision*	3:45-6pm	Playground/Science Lab	All	Open to All	ELJ	
Thursday	Y5/6 Reading Group	8.05-8.25am	Mrs Pawluk's Room	Y5/Y6	Invited by Teacher	JP/AP
	Tag Rugby	8.10-8.25am	Astro	Y1-Y6	Open to All	CIS
	Netball Shooting	8.10-8.30am	Playground	All	NERS	NERS
	Boys' Choir	12.35-1pm	Music Room	All	Open to All Boys	RG
	Harp Ensemble	12.35-1pm	Harp Room	All	All Harpists	SP
	Homework/School Library	12.35-1pm	Library	All	Open to All	KEJ
	Year 6 Maths Workshop	12.35-1pm	6B	Y6	Open to All	KLH/RBr/JP
	Year 5 Maths Workshop	12.35-1pm	5L	Y5	Open to All	ANC/HLH
	Art Attack	1-1.30pm	Art Room	All	Open to All	AW
	Digital Leaders	4-5pm	IT Suite	All	Open to All	GNS
	Cricket Nets	4-5pm	Prep/Senior Nets	Y5/6	Open to All	PDU/JJC
	Cross-Country/Urban Running	4-5pm	Prep School	All	Open to All	WECS
	Bakers (bookable via booking form)	4-5pm	Science Lab	Y3	Open to All (15 max)	SHD/GC
	Drama Club	4-5pm	4A	Y3/Y4/Y5	Open to All	AAR
	Grangetown Netball Hub	4-5pm	Playground	Y3/Y4	Open to All Girls	NERS/GW
	Table Tennis Coaching	4-5.30pm	Senior School	Y5/Y6	Booked in Advance	Dr Perry/MC
Phoenix Challenge	4-5pm	5P	Y4/Y5/Y6	Invited by Teacher	JP	
After School Supervision*	3:45-6pm	Playground/Science Lab	All	Open to All	ELJ	
Friday	Reading Club	8.10-8.25am	5J	Y5	Invited by Teacher	KEJ
	Cricket Nets	8.10-8.30am	Cricket Nets	All	Open to All	PDU
	Homework/School Library	12.35-1pm	Library	All	Invited by Teacher	KEJ/AP
	Theory Club	12.35-1pm	Music Room	All	Invited by Teacher	RG
	Plasticine Club	1-1.30pm	Art Room	All	Open to All	AW
	Prep Baccalaureate	1-1.30pm	4P	All	Open to All	GNS
	Digital Leaders	4-5pm	IT Suite	All	Open to All	GNS
	Gymnastics	4.15-5pm	School Hall	Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6	Booked in Advance	Charlotte Wilkinson
After School Supervision*	3:45-6pm	Playground/Science Lab	All	Open to All	ELJ	

* After School Supervision – charges apply from 4:30pm

PLEASE NOTE: We will also be adding Y3/4 Boys' Hockey on a Thursday after school for any children who are interested. Please just turn up and play!

Coming up

Mon 20	World Religions Week
	Telford House Duty
	House Chess—Arkwright v Brunel, Stephenson v Telford
Tue 21	U8 Netball and Football Festival at St Olaves (12.30pm depart, 1.45pm start, 5pm return)
	Girls' Tag Rugby (mixed years) v Red House (away; 2.45pm depart, 4.30pm return)
Wed 22	Tempest class photographs
	Concert and Cake (Senior School; 4.30-5.30pm)
Thu 23	Quiz Club regional heat (Newcastle Prep School; 2pm start; 4.45pm return)
	Plant Day (including special lunch)
Fri 24	5P class assembly (Prep Hall; 10.20am; parents welcome)
	Prep New Year Disco (Prep Hall; 6-7.30pm)
	U10/11 Football v Barnard Castle (away; 1pm depart, 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
	U11 Girls' County Hockey Tournament (Senior Astro; 1.45pm start)
Mon 27	SATIPS Handwriting Week
	House Chess—Arkwright v Stephenson, Brunel v Telford
Tue 28	Year 1 trip to MIMA
	Year 2 walk to Wesleyan Church, Yarm
	U8 Netball workshop with Durham High (home;; 2pm start)
Wed 29	Curiosity Emporium (Mrs Pawluk's room; 1pm)
Thu 30	Telford Charity Day (details to follow)
	Year 4 Good Work assembly
	U9 Netball v Bow (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
	U9 Hockey v Teesside High (away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)
Fri 31	5L class assembly (Prep Hall; 10.20am; parents welcome)
	U10/11 Football v GSAL (away; 2pm start, 4.45pm return)
	U10 Netball v Barnard Castle (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)
	U11 Netball v Barnard Castle (home; 2.15pm start)

Celebration Assembly

	Captain	Vice-Captain
3A	Thomas F.	Sawsan K.
3D	William A.	Nona D.
4C	Archie A.	Emily E.
4J	Lily C.	Zara W.
4P	Daniel H.	Wilf D.
5L	Sanju V.	Ruby K.
5N	Alfie A.	Connie G.
5P	Cooper N.	Sarah A.
6B	Sienna S.	Danny D.
6G	Isaac A.	Noah V.
6H	Manya R.	Jacob H.

Head Teacher Awards:

Y3: Matthew R., Sawsan K., Maisy V., Olivia J., Annabelle A.

Y5: Natasha P., Janvi C., Sophie P.

Peer Mentor of the Week

Name: Siri P.

Form: 6G

Best thing about school: The opportunities

Favourite cheese: Chilli cheese

Most exciting thing to happen in my life so far: I once met the singer S.P. Balasubramunyan!

When I am older... I want to travel the world.

Writing or typing? Typing

Ketchup or mayo? Mayo (*right answer—Ed.*)

Sun or snow? Snow

One wish: To stop testing on animals.

Our thanks this week goes to Siri, who has been a constant help to anyone on the playground, whether it is a pupil, a teacher or a fellow peer mentor.



Head's Challenge solution from last week: He is lying. The statement cannot be true, because if it were he would have told the truth.