

# Newsletter

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## Headmaster's Welcome

Somehow, this is the last newsletter of a fantastic first term, and I write fully immersed in the festive spirit after a week of fabulous events to warm us up for the holiday season. The whole music department and Katie Staggs in particular, alongside the scores of pupils involved and our community choir deserve our thanks and praise for a wonderful Community Carols Concert. Sold out over two nights, it was wonderful to hear them perform such a variety of music and notable that so many of the pieces are arranged and rehearsed by pupil groups entirely at their own initiative. It was heartening to receive many messages of thanks and appreciation from our local community who enjoyed the opportunity to come and celebrate with us in the PAA. Other events included the Prep School Carol Service on Wednesday, the EYFS nativity on Monday and Tuesday, the Prep School Third Year Christmas Play, Christmas jumper day, carols in the Dovecote and our fantastic Christmas cake - this year a snowman - provided by the wonderful catering team.



Aidan House hosted a large number of local pensioners for a Christmas dinner this week, too, and I am very grateful to all staff and pupils involved in making this event such a special one for our guests. As I write, about to head into our End of Term Assembly, I will be thanking the pupils for their collective efforts in so many ways that contribute to the school community but, importantly, recognising the contributions beyond Yarm School; I am very proud of them all. I will also be asking them to consider and appreciate the hard work of all our staff who work to make life at school such a pleasure. From the caterers to our science technicians, the team in the School Office to the Estates department, our cleaners to our ICT team, the PAA, Finance, the wonderful teachers and many others beside, we are fortunate to have such a committed and talented group of staff and I'm very grateful to them for their efforts.

We have just completed the mock election and it was an honour to act as the Returning Officer today and announce the result. Our candidates and their teams put on a wonderful and hard fought campaign, and we saw a very healthy turnout from the pupils and students. Congratulations to our victorious 'Member of Parliament' on his team's highly effective campaign! At the time of writing, I am looking forward to our Carol Service at the Parish Church which will end the term for our pupils. On a personal note, I would like to wish my colleagues, our Governors and all our pupils and their families a wonderful Christmas and New Year period. I look forward to 2020 with excitement and optimism!

Dr Huw Williams

## And the winner is...

After four weeks of campaigning, six lunchtime hustings sessions, three assembly presentations, meeting with prospective parliamentary candidates and that gruelling session at the Prep School, the votes are in and counted and the winner is...The Yorkshire Party led by Cameron Gray. The table shows how the votes were distributed across year group at the Senior School and also at the Prep School, where the Green Party was victorious. It was an impressive turnout at the Senior School of 77%, a considerable feat given absences and illnesses and almost non-existent youthful disaffection!



I believe that the process was a vital one in exposing all pupils to the democratic processes of this country, allowing them to get a better sense of the policies of national parties, as well as gain confidence in articulating, challenging and defending their views. My thanks and appreciations go out to all of the candidates and their teams for their considerable time and effort in making this event such a fun, informative and educative process. Let's hope it will be some time before we do it all again! See results over the page.

Mr S Edwards



## The results - Mock Election

Year Group	Brexit	Cons	Green	Labour	Lib Dem	Yorkshire	Spoilt	Total	Turnout
First	3	8	14	2	19	46	4	96	78%
Second	5	4	6	1	14	61	7	98	83%
Third	1	7	1	4	19	54	0	86	79%
Fourth	17	11	0	2	19	24	6	79	65%
Fifth	0	17	6	13	21	13	5	75	72%
L6	1	5	0	4	8	51	8	77	84%
U6	0	7	13	8	3	43	2	76	78%
Staff	0	15	5	12	6	17	0	55	-
Prep	4	29	73	5	35	43	2	191	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>833</b>	
<b>% Share</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>4%</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> =</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> =</b>		

## Christmas Quiz

Here is a fun quiz to complete over the holidays, to test what you remember about school life in 2019. Please email all entries to 16PorterL@yarmschool.org by Monday 6th January 2019. Remember to include your name and tutor group. The winner (and recipient of an edible prize!) will be announced in the newsletter the following Friday. Good luck and have a very merry Christmas!

Which house first organised the school Pensioners Party?  
 A) Aidan B) Bede C) Endeavour D) Oswald

To the nearest hundred how many tickets were sold for this year's Community Carol Concerts?  
 A) 1000 B) 1200 C) 1400 D) 1600

This year, Fourth Year Coswald decided not to do Secret Santa and instead they supported a charity in their aim to give Christmas Presents to those might not otherwise receive one. But which charity were they supporting?  
 A) Young Minds B) Shelter  
 C) Salvation Army D) Rainbow Trust

In 2020, which musical is the school putting on?  
 A) Les Miserables B) Miss Saigon  
 C) Wicked D) Hamilton

This year, how many stalls were there at the YSA Christmas Markets?  
 A) 88 B) 98 C) 108 D) 118

Which members of staff made a 'guest appearance' at this year's Christmas Markets?

- A) Ms Blakemore and Miss Picknett
- B) Mr Taylor and Mr Taylor
- C) Mr Tucker and Miss Rooms
- D) Mr Foggett and Mr Thompson

From which country does the new Headmaster, Dr Williams, come from?

- A) Wales
- B) England
- C) Republic of Ireland
- D) Botswana

For this year's non uniform day, which two charities did the school support?

- A) Clic Sergeant and Footsteps Youth Wellbeing
- B) Shelter and The British Red Cross
- C) Zoe's Place and the Halo Project
- D) Age UK and Young Minds

How many readings were there in each church carol service this year?

- A) Seven B) Eight C) Nine D) Thirteen

Which play was performed by the Fifth Years last month?

- A) Cymbeline B) Romeo and Juliet
- C) Under Milk Wood D) An Inspector Calls



## Announcing the next Career Cluster event: Apprenticeships Wednesday 12th February

Next term will see the next in our series of Career Cluster events, designed to explore a specific area of education, training and employment. Following on the back of the recent Computer Science Cluster we will now turn to the dynamic and expanding realm of higher and elite level apprenticeships. The possibility to 'earn as you learn' provides a compelling alternative route to an immediate transition to university or employment. Many of the programmes incorporate a study component and culminate in an eventual degree. The employment market is very much shifting its attention and resources in this direction and the evening plans to attract and present a number of leading providers of apprenticeships, as well as hearing from current apprentices.

The date for the Apprenticeship Career Cluster is Wednesday 12th February in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium. It is very much aimed at pupils in the Fourth Year to Upper Sixth, though of course all are welcome to attend. Please also do pass on these details to friends and associates at our neighbouring schools. To confirm your place please email me at [se@yarmschool.org](mailto:se@yarmschool.org) stating how many persons will be attending.

Mr S Edwards

## Towards a new world order: China-EU relations in the 21st century

The Politics Society calendar reached the end of term with a fascinating lecture and discussion with Dr Xiudian Dai, an international expert on Chinese power and economics. One might be forgiven for being confused over the dynamic of the relationship that exists between EU countries and China. At the same time China is a cooperating partner with closely aligned objectives, a negotiating partner with balanced priorities, an economic competitor in pursuit of technological leadership, as well as systemic rival promoting alternative models of governance. The democracy, transparency and broadly progressive politics of Europe seem in stark contrast to the centralised single-party state of a country with significant issues related to its human rights record.

However as Dr Dai argued the two powers are united in their wish for a more multipolar global community, each with a vested interest in diversifying away from the unipolar hegemony of the United States. Indeed the United States has been very keen to interrupt previous collaboration between China and the EU over satellite technologies, a field of cooperation that has now resumed.

Perhaps a more powerful example of this closer working relationship is shown by the development of the China-CEEC group (Central and European Countries and China). This gathering of 17 European countries is forging ahead in terms of bilateral investment. What will be the outcome of all of these movements? Arguably we are transitioning to more trilateral



*A sign of things to come: the first freight train from China to the UK*

world order shared between the EU, China and the USA, one which has been achieved by China's innate pragmatism, negotiating in key areas of trade, technology and the environment. It has required a strategic pragmatism on behalf of the EU states, accommodating the 'differences' in China's governance, but it is a strategy that has ensured that many of their members have preserved their seat at the top table of global politics and economics.

Mr S Edwards

## Careers in FAME

**(Finance, Accounting, Management and Economics)**

Advance notice of Working Lunches for the Sixth Form taking place after Christmas. These will all be in the Meeting Room at 12.45 - Learn about a range of careers from Former Pupils, detailing their lives post Yarm and their careers.

Fri 10/1 - Ben Bradley - GSK - Logistics and Production Planning

Fri 24/1 - Alex Baird - PwC - Senior Associate

Fri 31/1 - Hannah Carey - Network Rail - Assistant Project Manager

Fri 7/2 - Hugh Wallis - EY - Project Analyst

Miss C E Rhodes

## A Little Christmas Joy!

Over the last few weeks, members of the Community Action group have been fundraising for Darlington Assistance for Refugees. Running a sweets and cookies stall at break and lunchtime, the group have managed to raise funds to purchase presents for local refugee children. We were delighted to buy gifts that included stationary, craft items, toy cars, toiletries and games, and by doing so, hopefully bring just a little Christmas joy this Christmas.

Community Action Group

## The History Society - A House through Time

Members of the History Society have been working on the House Through Time project. Pupils have been researching the occupants of their households, as far back as possible. This week Annabel Lacy (C2 JJA) presented her project. Annabel has written a few words, reflecting on the process;



"This Tuesday at History Society I did a presentation on my house through time. My house was built for a Victorian Gentleman in 1873. It was then used to billet Italian prisoners in the Second World War. I wanted to do this presentation because there are lots of hidden clues in my house about the war such as gold lettering on some doors. I find this really interesting so I did some research on my house and presented it to the History Society."

If any other pupil would like to contribute to the project, please see Mr Morrison.

The History Society meets every Tuesday at 1pm.

Mr A J Morrison

## Rowing

Rutherford Head – the ultimate winter rowing challenge.

After so many cancelled events, due to river levels being too high, eight Yarm crews raced at the Rutherford Head on the River Tyne on Saturday among 300 other boats and 1700 competitors. It has been described as the ‘ultimate winter rowing challenge’ as December weather can be so unpredictable. Established over 50 years ago, this event attracts clubs from across Britain, from as far away as Aberdeen, Liverpool, Manchester and London and is one of the premier rowing events in the North East.

Rutherford Head is run between Scotswood and Newburn over a 4500m course over two divisions on a wide tidal river. With multiple bends it is a challenging course for both rowers and coxes especially in the challenging winter weather.

The performance of the day has to go to the senior boys’ coxless quad who at aged 17 were rowing at Junior 18 level. Ably steered by Ollie Tompkins, with Tom Ward, Jack Norton and Adam Morris from Durham ARC, the crew were just piped to victory in the Band 2 category by a Hollingworth Lake/Leeds composite by 1.7 seconds. No doubt this will spur them on to train hard and be within the winning time.



The Junior 16 boys were certainly in contention in their actual age category finishing third out of nine crews, behind York and Tyne and it is good to see Mark Proberts back in the crew after a nasty rugby injury.



With limited age categories at this event, our Junior 15 boys had to race Junior 16 and with the assistance of Joe Barron who steered a great course, they did themselves proud, beating quite a few crews.

It is always a super sight to see eights racing on a large river and Yarm entered two girls’ eights in this event. The WJ18 eight had a great tussle with Cambois RC who eventually won



the event, with our girls finishing third in their category and Kings School Canterbury taking second place. This was a good result for the girls’ crew and they will now have to decide if they go into coxed/coxless fours or remain in an eight for future events.



The future looks bright with the Junior 15 girls who have just started sweep rowing this term and are thoroughly enjoying it. Because they have not raced very much they don’t have many points so raced in the Women’s Open category in Band 4 (rather than the WJ18 category )and finished fourth.



As this was the last race of the year, Yarm School Boat Club can look forward to 2020 and more great results.

## Sport Scoreboard

### Rugby

U13A v St Bede's Catholic School	Won 45-0
U13A v King's Priory School	Drew 10-10
U12A v King's Priory School	Drew 15-15

### Netball

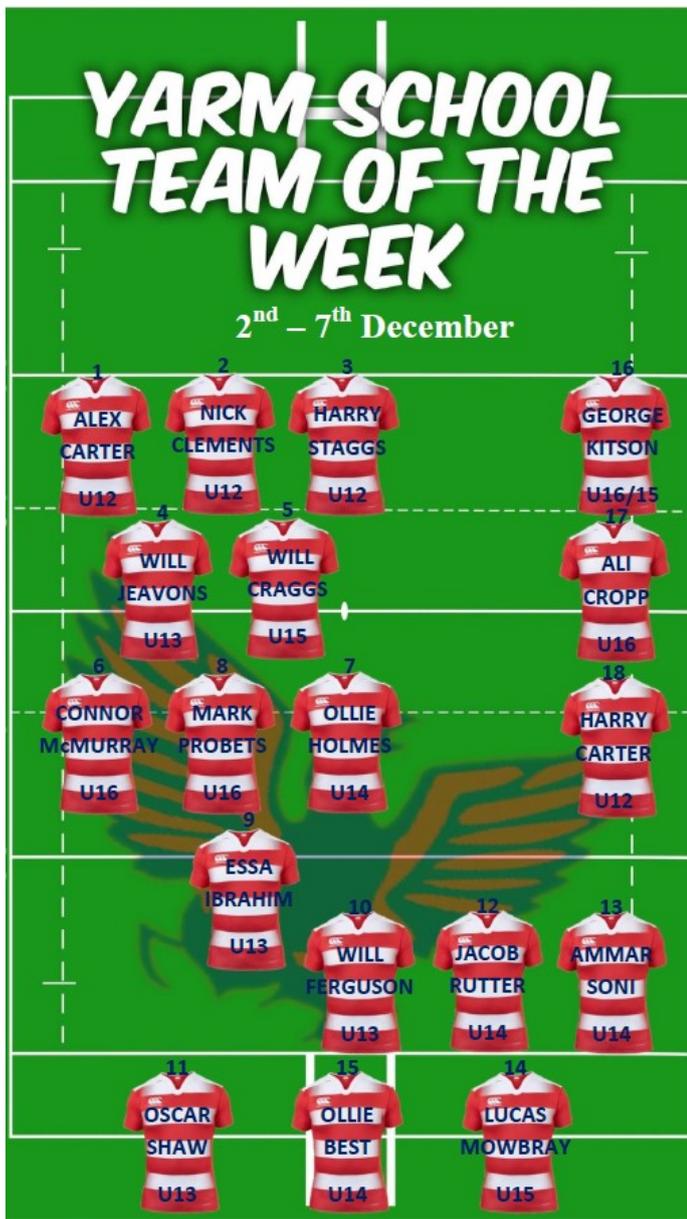
U13B v Red House School	Won 37-6
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### Girls' Hockey

U14A v Durham School	Won 7-0
U14B v Teesside High School	Won 3-0

### Boys' Hockey

Yarm 1SHC v Norton Hockey Club	Won 9-0
U14A v Red House School	Won 2-1



## Rugby

### U12A v King's Priory School **Drew 15-15**

On 7th of December, Yarm School U12A travelled to Tynemouth to play King's Priory School. After a long journey, we arrived at Percy Park RFC where we started with an excellent warm up led by our assistant coach Gabe Dohring. When the game was underway, Yarm were attacking really well and putting pressure on Kings' Priory. This pressure led to the first try of the game from Jake Leader in the fifth minute as he crashed through the defensive line. Yarm were on the front foot for most of the half, but when King's Priory were given the chance, they took it. King's Priory scored after 15 minutes. It was 5-5 at the break.

In the second half, King's Priory came out all guns blazing but after 6 minutes, Alex Carter picked the ball up from a defensive error and put the ball down for a try. 10-5 to Yarm! Yarm tried their best to hold the lead and score more tries, but King's Priory managed to score twice in a matter of minutes. 15-10 to King's Priory .

In the last moments of the game, Yarm were pushing towards the tryline and scored, with a strong finish from Nick Clements! The match ended 15-15 .

By Alex Carter

## YARM SCHOOL TEAM OF THE WEEK

2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December



### U14 v King's Priory

**Won 59-14**

The final weekend of the season saw the highly successful Under 14 team head to Percy Park in Tynemouth for a fixture against Kings. The boys met a physical and capable opposition who started well dominating the driving maul at the lineout. The scores were close for the first 15 minutes. Soon Yarm were able to figure out how to defeat the Kings game plan and quickly began to use the space to run in some excellent tries. Handling across the team was superb despite the wet conditions. It has been really pleasing to see how far all boys have progressed during the season and this was evident in their gameplay. By the second half Yarm were firmly in control and were playing some excellent phase rugby, defending hard and taking the game to Kings physically. Special mention to Ollie Best, Ammar Soni, Ollie Holmes and Jacob Rutter for their stand out performances. The whole team were brilliant and finished off a fantastic season with just the one defeat to Ampleforth. Well done!



# Community Christmas Carols

