

# Newsletter



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## Headmaster's Welcome

This week may be a Newsletter 'double bill' for some parents after we recently identified a problem with the delivery of last week's newsletter which saw some of our emails being incorrectly identified as spam. I would encourage parents to read last week's newsletter as well as this one, especially as my introduction last week contained some important information about new staff members and our new website.

Within the pages of this week's edition you can read about the exploits of runners, orienteers, debaters, mathematicians, YBACC contributors, computational thinkers, musicians and performers, politics students, sports team members and overseas cultural exchange participants! Also described within are the rise of degree apprenticeships, England in the Middle Ages and prestigious visiting speakers! The reality is that much more is happening, too, and pupils' engagement in the broad opportunities available to them is heartening and exciting to see.

I thoroughly enjoyed joining the judging panel for the final of the House Debating Competition and witnessing the oratory skills on display. Equally impressive was the students' ability to nuance and adapt their arguments in the face of the opposing views of the opposite team and their capacity to handle tough questioning in the heat of the moment. Well done to all involved!

Dr Huw Williams

## Inter-House Debating

Over the last two weeks the Inter-House debating competition has been taking place at lunchtime in front of a packed Lecture Theatre, expertly chaired by AJ Thorne-Wallis.

In the first semi-final Cuthbert (Parul Sinha and Juju Mon) went head to head with Bede (Kate Greenaway and Aislinn Kalyan), on the topic of whether social media represented one of the world's greatest evils. After some outstanding individual speeches and forensic questioning from the judges it was Bede (arguing for the proposition that social media was indeed evil) who were victorious.

The second semi-final posed the motion that it was better to be beautiful than brainy, with Aidan (Kate Harrison and Isla Thomson) arguing for the proposition and Oswald (Olivia Barber and Eilis Fitzgerald) arguing in opposition. Following a spirited debate and some excellent questions from the Sixth Form audience our judges gave the narrow victory to Aidan.

In the final the teams expanded to three participants on each side, with Sol Kench joining Aidan (proposition) and Alex Dunn (opposition) being added to the Bede team and they debated sexism in society with the motion 'This house would rather be a man'. After an extremely high quality debate, including detailed and probing questions from judges and audience alike, it fell to the Headmaster, Dr Williams, to announce that by the narrowest of margins Bede were the 2020 Inter-House debating champions.

Congratulations to all involved.

Mr J Brash



## Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge 2019

Last term, 184 Yarm School pupils from First to Fourth Year joined over 260,000 young people from across the UK, to take part in the 2019 Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge run by Oxford University.



This is a timed challenge designed to introduce students to strategies used in problem solving and software development. Examples of these techniques would include the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design, pattern recognition, pattern generalisation and abstraction.

Of the 184 Yarm School pupils:

93 pupils achieved Distinction grade, placing them in the top 25% nationally. 49 of those pupils were also in the top 10% nationally and have been invited to take part in the prestigious Oxford Computing Challenge taking place later this term.

Our pupils competed in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories. With the following pupils achieving Best in School in their respective categories:

Junior - Patrick Winters

Intermediate - James Waine

Senior - Parul Sinha

In addition to receiving a Best in School certificate, Patrick, James and Parul have been awarded a BBC Micro:Bit computer to support them to further develop their computational thinking skills independently.

Well done to all pupils who took part in Yarm School's first ever entry of the challenge!

Mr P Collins

## The staging of a Broadway Classic

What does it take to stage a show? What you will see on the performance night is just the tip of the iceberg.....the culmination of weeks and months of hard work, both in rehearsals and behind the scenes for actors, musicians, technical support and more.

Here are some facts about the show that you might not have realised..... The staff and cast have spent nearly 140 hours rehearsing this show in school (not to mention all the hard work the cast have put in at home, learning lines and practising dances etc). That is equivalent to 20 days at school or 93 football matches!

The production team have spent probably the same time again practising the music, sourcing instruments, directing the show, sourcing props, designing set, planning dances, buying costumes etc etc. It is always worth the mammoth effort when you see the end result, and the achievement of the cast and the effect the production has on an audience.

Then there is our technical team and Estates Department, who have built a set, using over 200 metres of wood, 20 tins of paint and thousands of screws!! There is a full TV replay installed into the PAA, and the lighting and sound has taken weeks to design and plan. The set alone was started back in October.

We are so lucky to have an amazing team of support staff who go above and beyond, not only for the good of the production, but also for the experience we give the students.

Our cast have done a fabulous job in rehearsals, tackling some really challenging material both in its difficulty and its content and we have discussed some of the historical context with them: the reality of war; the difficult choices individuals have to make in adversity and so on. The experiences of the characters in the show are powerful and moving and the pupils have tackled the issues with sensitivity and maturity. The School's Edition has been specifically and carefully edited and adapted to make it age-appropriate whilst retaining the central and personal stories portrayed in the production that has made it such a worldwide success.

We hope you will join us to support the cast, school, staff and everyone who has given their time to make our production a success!

Mr D Brookes



## Politics students chosen to attend prestigious Oxford conference



I am delighted to announce that Politics students Jonathan Oakley and Erin Gilhespie have been selected to attend the 2020 McWhirter Conference at Trinity College, Oxford later this term. The annual event pulls together Sixth Form students from a number of schools from across the country in order to explore an area of contemporary political life. This year the conference will focus on the impact of artificial intelligence. They will be in residence at Trinity, Oxford for two nights, enjoying college life and catering, with a range of conference events including guest lectures as well as seminar discussion groups. We will look forward to a report from both students after their return.

Mr S Edwards



YARM SCHOOL PRESENTS

# MISS Saigon

School Edition

Wednesday 5th February

Thursday 6th February

Friday 7th February

Saturday 8th February

7.30pm

Adults £12 Children £8

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM, YARM

TO BOOK TICKETS CALL 01642 792587 OR VISIT [WWW.THEPAAONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.THEPAAONLINE.ORG)

MISS SAIGON® SCHOOL EDITION Performed entirely by students  
 Music by CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHÖNBERG Lyrics by RICHARD MALTBY JR and ALAIN BOUBLIL  
 Adapted from the original French lyrics by ALAIN BOUBLIL Additional material by RICHARD MALTBY JR  
 Orchestrations by WILLIAM DAVID BROHN Original Stage Production by CAMERON MACKINTOSH  
 School Edition special adaptation licensed by MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL and CAMERON MACKINTOSH LIMITED

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## French Linguistic and Cultural Trip

Early on the morning of Tuesday 10th December, long before most pupils would arrive at school, six Upper Sixth French students gathered in the stablyard with Mr Bridges and Dr Hallam, ready to depart for an immersive experience of French language and culture. A full day's travel later, and having braved some choppy seas, we arrived in Lisieux, a historic town in Normandy and capital of the Pays d'Auge, an important agricultural region famous for its cheese and apple products (think Camembert and Calvados).

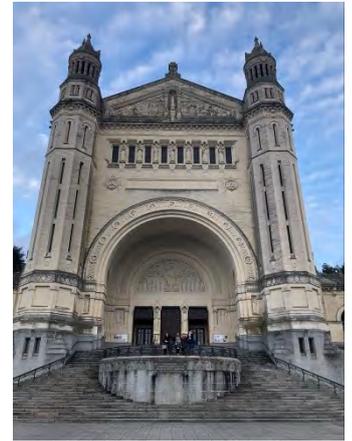
It was early to bed and an early rise the next day, as we left the hotel and arrived at our partner school. Each member of the Upper Sixth had been partnered with a French student, and Wednesday morning marked the first of three days of immersion in the French school system.

Our students followed their partners' lessons, experiencing what Maths, Geography, PE and even English is like for their French counterparts. They would also spend break times and lunch times with their partners on the following days; on Wednesday afternoons, however, French school stops at 12:00 (incroyable!) and so the Yarm students and their French partners met up in the local town of Bernay for a delightful lunch, where much French was spoken and many ideas were exchanged.

The following two days in school were longer, and by the end of it our students had been put through their linguistic paces. I received many compliments in the French staffroom, not only about our students' conduct and their French, but also in some cases about their subject knowledge. I will not embarrass her by naming names, but one of our students was the only student in the room to answer a particularly difficult economics question - pas mal du tout, and in a foreign language to boot.

Outside of lessons, we filled the time with other cultural activities. On Wednesday evening, we travelled to Honfleur, a beautiful seaside town with a historic harbour which has been the subject of many famous paintings in its time. On Thursday evening, the students researched and selected a French film for us to watch at the cinema in Lisieux, and impressed me greatly with their grasp of the film's plot. We visited the Basilique de St Thérèse on Friday, a stunning monument to the young Thérèse who died young yet inspired many people locally and far afield (there is a primary school in Ingleby Barwick named after her).

Finally, having bid adieu to our partners (or more accurately au revoir, as they will be returning to see us in March), we embarked on the return journey with Christmas songs, ready for a well deserved break. I would like to commend all of our students on being exemplary ambassadors for the school, and on their French!



Mr A Bridges

## Forthcoming Career Cluster event: Apprenticeships Wednesday 12th February

Later this half term will see the next in our series of Career Cluster events, designed to explore a specific area of education, training and employment. On February 12th we will be exploring 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

## The History Society

The History Society met this week to continue with the theme of 'myths of the Middle Ages'.

Attendees gathered to discuss key myths about the middle ages, with the assistance of some sources. The sources provided some evidence that contradicted preconceived ideas about what life was like in medieval England.

Firstly, we challenged the notion that mindless violence was a feature of everyday lives of medieval peasants and we discussed the fact that there was no police force, but crimes were certainly policed. However, if you happened to be wealthy or a member of the church you could probably avoid punishment for your indiscretions. Furthermore, we challenged the notion that all peasants were illiterate, by examining sources that suggest peasants were able to read legal documents and use them to present their cases of injustice to manorial courts. In one case a group of peasants quoted the Magna Carta when appealing against new taxation laws. We also discussed the idea that bad smells were a constant feature of medieval towns as evidence suggests fines were put in place for people who threw their waste out of bedroom windows. Also some of the winding streets around the River Seine in Paris were known for their sweet smelling perfumes, as fragrance sellers gathered to peddle their products.

The History Society meets every Tuesday at 1pm.

Mr A J Morrison



## Politics Society - Spring

- Fri 17th Jan 12:45 (FT)  
**Betty Abah**  
 Nigerian Human Rights defender, journalist and author  
*'Defending the Chibok girls: threats to children in Nigeria'*
- Mon 20th Jan 17:00 (FT)  
**Dr Mohammad Haqmal**  
 Afghan Public Health Chief  
*'Building a better health for Afghanistan: from kidnapping to commendation'*
- Tues 28th Jan 1830 (York)  
**'Night Will Fall'**  
 Documentary screening and Q&A Holocaust Memorial Day event at University of York
- Fri 31st Jan 12:45 (FT)  
**Eman Alasah & Marah Jaber**  
 Palestinian postgraduate students at Durham University  
*'Confronting challenges & building communities in the West Bank'*
- Tues 4th Feb 19:45 (Newcastle)  
**'The Ballad of Johnny Longstaff'**  
 Political musical performance Northern Stage, Newcastle
- Fri 7th Feb 12:45 (FT)  
**Urooj Fatima**  
 Pakistan-based Human Rights defender & journalist  
*'Caught in the crossfire: the work of a journalist defending children's rights'*
- Mon 10th Feb 1700 (FT)  
**Dr Bradley W Hart**  
 Associate Professor College of Arts and Humanities California State University, Fresno  
*Skype Lecture: 'Hitler's American Friends'*

## The Yarm School Baccalaureate

I am pleased to announce that the following pupils have recently completed sections of their YBACC;

First Year: Katie Hunt- Culture Award, Rebecca White- Culture Award and Muskaan Assudani- Culture Award.

Second Year: Evie Severn- Culture Award and culture distinction and Adil Arshad- Culture Award and culture distinction.

Nila Baskar in the Second Year will also complete her YBACC award in the summer, when she attends the Second Year adventure camp.

The pupils mentioned have experienced a wide range of different cultural activities, such as giving short lectures and talks on areas of historical interest as part of the weekly History Society, attendance at Philosophers' Lunch and assisting at the January Open Morning.

Pupils in the First to Third Year should remember to ask the member of staff involved in running an activity to sign their booklet and they too could receive a certificate in assembly in the near future.

Mr A J Morrison

## Orienteering England Selection

Congratulations to Dominic Green in Fifth Year who has been selected for the 2020 England orienteering team after winning 3 out of 5 of the selection races.

Dominic will compete for England in the U20 category on 1st March at Egypt Woods, Slough.

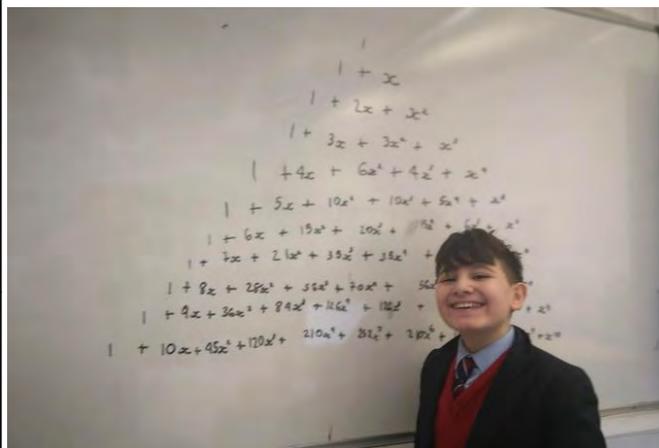
Dominic has previously been part of the England orienteering team but this is the first time he will be competing for England—good luck!



## A Level Maths for Second Year

Congratulations to Ameen Khunda for completing the unaided expansion of 11 terms in the expansion of  $(1+x)$  to the power 10 in front of his peers, unaided! Very well done.

Mr Yates



## Reminder: Leading Afghan Public Health Chief to visit Yarm School

A reminder that we will have a visit from Dr Mohammad Haqmal on January 20th in the Friarage Theatre. Our guest is a highly recognised official from Afghanistan, whose work has been instrumental in improving the lives of women and children. 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 20th 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

## Sport Scoreboard

### Boys' Hockey

U15B v Red House School	Won 1-0
U12A v Giggleswick School	Won 6-1
U12A v Rossall School	Draw 1-1

### Netball

U11A v Durham School	Lost 6-14
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## Hockey

### Girls' Hockey

A new development for Yarm Hockey this season has been to enter the U14s into senior women's league hockey as Stokesley's 4th team. At the halfway point of the season the girls have only lost one game to date and sitting second in the Durham Clubs Division 2 table. This is an achievement from a team made up of 13 and 14 year old players!

Some of our U13 girls are now old enough to play women's hockey and will join the 4th team while the U14s will move up the club to the 3rd team and up a league to Durham Clubs League Division 1, playing teams such as Stockton 1st and Gateshead 1st teams. This new initiative has already proved to be a great pathway into club and ladies hockey and we look forward to seeing the girls progress.

### North East Indoor Hockey Tournament

It was an amazing result for Yarm as we took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place at the North East Indoor Hockey Tournament. Our A team had dominant performances in the group stages where we won all 3 games (4-1, 5-0 and 5-0) and then came up against our B Team who had finished runners up in the other group. Our A team went 1-0 ahead after a goal from skipper Junior Newton they looked stronger of the 2 teams but the B team rallied and forced a late equaliser to take the semi-final to sudden death penalty flicks. Ammar Soni in goal for the B team proved to be the difference and the B team pulled off a shock victory to reach the final.

The other semi-final saw our C team (U13s) take on a strong Hall Cross side. After going 1-0 down, the boys showed some character to come back to 2-1 up before Hall Cross forced an equaliser. In the dying minutes, Will Ferguson skilled the goalkeeper by putting a reverse ball through his legs to allow Harry Jackson to force home to make the final.

In the 3rd/4th place play-off the A team stepped up their performance and beat Hall Cross 6-0 whilst at the same time Yarm B and C battled out for the title. The final could have gone either way. Freddie Butler (B team) proved to be the hero by scoring a cheeky goal through the keepers leg with the last touch of the game. All the boys were excellent throughout and it is hopefully a stepping stone to much bigger competitions in the near future.

### U13A v St Olave's School, York Won 11-4

On Thursday 9 January, we played an adventurous hockey match against St. Olave's boarding school. It was a lovely game with many ups and downs. The first goal came when Will Ferguson passed it into the D where Max Mowbray was waiting to strike by scooping it over the keeper. Over the rest of the game we played some brilliant hockey, but made some mistakes. We scored 11, these amazing goals were scored by

Will Ferguson, Finn Davie, James McGee, Max Mowbray and Timmy Foley. Sadly we also conceded 4 goals. The ending score was 11:4. A great result!

By Max Mowbray

### U13B v St Olave's School, York Won 10-2

The match started off with a goal in the second minute with good passing around the opposition's defence then a reverse flick from Jack Stoddart. Before the second half we were leading 5-1 with goals from Henry Parker, Harry Jackson (x2) and an amazing top corner from Matthew White.

In the second half we started off well with goal from Harry Jackson, Yaseen Hegab, Mathew White scored 2 goals and one more from Henry Parker.

By Matthew White

### U13A v Giggleswick School Won 15-0

On the 11th of January, the U13 A team played against Giggleswick. Yarm scored 9 goals in the first half and as a result of this, they were only allowed to take 3 touches before passing the ball for all of the second half. There was lots of strong passing, tackling and defending throughout the match. Even though Yarm dominated the whole game, James had to make a few saves and kept a clean sheet for both matches. Mathew White scored 1 goal, Max Mowbray and Harry Jackson scored 2, Timothy Foley scored 4, Will Ferguson and James McGee both scored 3. This meant that the final result was 15-0 to Yarm. It was a great result and all of the team contributed to the amazing result.

By James Muir

### U13A v Rossall School Won 16-0

In the second game, the boys played really well against Rossall School from Blackpool. We started great, getting our first goal about 30 seconds in to the match. The game ended 16-0. Max Mowbray scored 2, Timmy Foley scored 4, James McGee scored 5, Harry Jackson scored 1 and Will Ferguson scored 4.

### Yarm1SHC v Harlepool HC Won 7-2

It was another impressive performance from the boys in the Men's CDL League game played at St Hilda's School in Harlepool as they came out 7-2 winners to cement their place at the top of the league. The next match is to be played on Sunday v Sunderland HC.

## Cross Country Champion

Well done to Finlay Cooke who became County Cross Country Champion at the recent Inter-District Cross Country Championships held at Stewarts Park. After the successful Stockton Schools event, a number of our pupils gained district representation to compete against the best of Redcar, Harlepool and Middlesbrough. Our dominant intermediate girls team from the district champs were unfortunately tied up with school mock exams meaning they couldn't run- Emily Dunn from Fourth Year was the sole participant and came a very credible 12th to gain county selection as did Toby Simpson running in the boys intermediate event. Annabelle Lacy also achieved county selection and will compete at the inter-counties event on the 8th February at Lowther Castle in Cumbria. Our other 2 runners, Alice Ward and Ryan Mills came 9th and 13th respectively and should be very proud of the level they have reached. Well-done to all concerned!

