

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

I was thrilled to be in the launch with Mr Guest last Saturday as we followed the boys and then the girls eights in their annual battle against the former pupils. Both crews put on a real fight against more experienced and older opponents, with the former pupils victorious against the boys, but our girls eight holding on in a very tight contest to pip the former pupils on the line; congratulations! Whilst on the boat, I spotted a kestrel, a buzzard being mobbed by two crows, a pair of low flying swans but, sadly, no kingfisher on this occasion. It's lovely to read Mr Brettell's report of the recent bird watching trip to Saltholme, and the impressive 52 species they saw in a day. Mr Brettell is the keeper of the impressive official school bird list, too; we are lucky to have this variety of wildlife on and adjacent to the school site.

The afternoon's rowing was followed by the annual boat club dinner, which saw fantastic representation from former pupils who enjoyed delicious food, speeches and club awards alongside parents, pupils and staff. The event highlighted the value of maintaining links with our former pupils and was a tremendous success. This link with former pupils is once again emphasised within and we are grateful to former pupils who come back and engage with current students about their careers or university courses; these are invaluable insights for those considering their options or wanting to know more about life beyond school. We look forward with excitement to next week's performances of Miss Saigon. I've been lucky enough to have seen some recent rehearsals and the cast performed a short but enticing and impressive selection of songs in an assembly this week. The performances will, I am sure, be spectacular and I thank all those involved for their hard work and commitment. I hope to see many of you there at one of the performances and am sure you'll enjoy the evening.

Dr Huw Williams

Yarm Ornithologists' Trip to Saltholme RSBP

Thirteen keen young ornithologists met early Saturday morning for a trip to the RSPB's Saltholme reserve. Upon our arrival news came through from someone I know in one of the hides that she was watching two Peregrine Falcons on the ground. We quickly walked around to the Paddy's Pool hide to enjoy 'scope views of one of these magnificent raptors before it flew off. After that we observed a Little Egret flying about along with its Grey Heron cousin. We also got to grips with different waterfowl like the particularly abundant Wigeon and Teal, as well as Shoveler, Tufted Duck and a single Little Grebe. After about 45 minutes in this hide we walked to the Haverton Watchpoint to have an unsuccessful look for a roosting Long-eared Owl. En route, however, we did connect with a Reed Bunting, a showy male Stonechat jumping from post to post as it fed and a Brown Hare hunkered down in the meadow. At the Wildlife Watchpoint we saw a pair of Gadwall before lunching in the visitor centre, near the feeders packed with Stock Doves and many smaller birds.

After lunch we walked to the Saltholme Pools hide from where we observed large flocks of Lapwing, Golden Plover and Curlew. We added to our 'duck list' here with Pintail, both male and female Goldeneye (which some of the Second Years had been particularly keen to see!) and, slightly unusually on freshwater, a pair of Red-breasted Merganser. We then had a brief opportunity to shop back at the visitor centre. As we left we had a brief fly through from a Sparrowhawk and some of us saw a Marsh Harrier from the minibus as we were leaving the reserve.

We finished off with a quick stop at the Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park to look at the feeders here. I am always amazed by the terrific numbers of Tree Sparrow one can see here and we also had a few House Sparrow for comparison and a couple of unobtrusive Yellowhammers. Our thanks go to Mrs Dunn for being our chauffeur and fellow birder for the day.

Full species list: Blackbird, Jackdaw, Kestrel, Carrion Crow, Woodpigeon, Magpie, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Starling, Cormorant, Goldfinch, Tree Sparrow, Moorhen, Coot, Wigeon, Grey Heron, Peregrine, Eurasian Teal, Tufted Duck, Little Egret, Shelduck, Mallard, Shoveler, Canada Goose, Reed Bunting, Little Grebe, Great Black-backed Gull, Northern Lapwing, Greylag Goose, Stonechat, Stock Dove, Gadwall, Pochard, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Robin, Dunnock, Chaffinch, Pied Wagtail, Black-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Pintail, Curlew, Meadow Pipit, Sparrowhawk, Marsh Harrier, Coal Tit, Yellowhammer, House Sparrow. Total: 52 species.

Mr Brettell



SAVE THE DATE

YSA SUMMER EVENT: SATURDAY 6th JUNE

More details to follow soon

Yarm through to Team Chess Challenge National Final



For the second time in four years, Yarm School has qualified for the Team Chess Challenge National Final in London in March. The event will take place at Imperial College in Kensington, and will be hosted by Professor of Mathematics, and ex British Chess Champion, Jonathan Mestel. The competition in the final will be fierce, with other schools such as St.Paul's and Westminster having already qualified, but our team of Yash Gulve, AJ Thorne-Wallis, Gautam Sathyamurthy and Edward Adams are excited at the prospect. It promises to be a marvellous festival of chess.

Mr Rye and Mr Pointon

Holocaust Memorial event: Screening and Q&A of 'Night Will Fall'

'Unless the world learns the lesson these pictures teach, night will fall.'

There is a scene in Night Will Fall – a documentary exploring the first film footage from the liberation of the concentration camps – when camp prisoner Branko Lustig, who would later produce the film Schindler's List – overhears an unearthly music. It was the sound of bagpipes played by the Scots leading the British forces liberating the camp. Lustig lay unable to even lift his head to explore the sound. Rather he felt he was dying if not already dead and this strange unfamiliar sound was the music of angels.

The Politics students visited the University of York for this commemorative event screening of this harrowing film. The film documents all of the footage that was compiled at the time of liberation, utilising the filming of Soviet, British and American troops. Though political circumstances changed in the swift aftermath of the war – namely the rehabilitation of Germany at the expense of Soviet Russia – whilst the film was utilised at various war crime trials it would take almost 70 years to reach the eyes of the general public. Interestingly the film makers were prophetically aware of the need to produce filmic evidence in such a manner that it would work as a counter to any future deniers of the Holocaust. Copious records were kept of the time, place and nature of the camera shots, as well as ensuring that local Officials were also in the footage, proving time and place.

As Peter Bradshaw wrote in his Guardian Film review these images 'once seen, cannot be unseen', and that happening we can some hope to have secured some safeguard against such repeated atrocities.

Mr S Edwards



Investing in the Future

The Economics and Business Department were delighted to welcome back Aditya Chaudhury, who left last summer and had promised on results day to return for a Working Lunch. It was another full table of keen Economists who assembled to hear Aditya's words of wisdom. He talked about Economics at Bath, describing a course with a relatively high mathematical content, but with the opportunity to supplement this with Accounting, Economic and Social History modules. He was also quick to detail his extracurricular commitment to University, having successfully applied to become Treasurer to the Economics Society, with responsibility for organising socials, acting as first year rep as well as maintaining the fiscal integrity of the society. Aditya also discussed his applications for Spring Week Internships in Investment Banking and Consulting and the audience were surprised to hear how early applications opened for these and how competitive the field was. Aditya advised the Sixth Form to make use of the Economics Society in school, take the Apprentice competition seriously and to look for networking opportunities, as he feels these have all helped him secure the three placements he has lined up for Easter. He also discussed the value of sport both in school, and beyond to demonstrate commitment and team work skills.

It was lovely to see Aditya, who was back in the North East for a mid-semester break after exam week. We wish him all the best for the rest of the academic year and look forward to following his progress.

Miss C E Rhodes

Work, Work, Work, Work, Work...

This week the Economics and Business department were delighted to welcome back former pupil Alex Baird, for the most well attended Working Lunch of the school year. Alex left Yarm in 2013 and after graduating with first class honours from Newcastle University in Business Management joined the PwC Restructuring Team.

In a superb presentation, he regaled to the enthralled audience of mainly Lower Sixth students details of his day to day work. The students soon realised how wrong some of their assumptions were about the role of an Accountant. Alex explained how his line of work involves assisting distressed businesses and their stakeholders in attempts to secure their future viability. To date he has gained experience on a wide range of projects covering distressed business advisory and

Creative Writing

As part of the run-up to World Book Day, this term we will be featuring some creative writing pieces for you to enjoy! This week's piece was written by Arhana Pradeep.

Arabian Nights

During my travels, I met the most peculiar and spell-binding characters. They had a sense of enchantment about them, almost as though they were from another world. I initially saw them in a secluded desert, with only sand surrounding us for miles. However, this area, in the sea of sand, was lit up with vivid colours and intense sounds. Proudly, the markets stood along the periphery of the marked circle, selling elaborate antiques ornate with gold patterns. Attempting to sell bracelets and rings to the spectators of the show, young men and women navigated themselves around the clusters of people.

In the middle of the market was a raised platform with cushioned chairs enclosing it. Music reverberated through the stalls making everyone to instantly smile. The light of the sunset didn't stay long. Rich hues of red blended with oranges, purples and crimson. The smell of barbecue smoke lingered in the Arabian night.

The dancers moved like water transformed by the music, flowing in graceful arcs, limbs in constant motion. The chime of golden coins echoed for miles. The vibrant colours of the intricately-made dresses glowed in the bright lights. Their faces shimmered with glitter as they danced with euphoria. Like ribbons in the wind, they were timeless. Posed and balanced like silk, they floated and twisted weightlessly across the stage.

Arhana Pradeep

Annual Christmas Chess Tournament

Going back to September, we had 47 entrants to our keenly-contested Yarm School annual chess tournament—now in its fifth year. Games were played on a 15 minute each rapid-play format on a sudden death, knock-out basis. A lot of the games were played on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon activity lessons. In December the semi-finals were as follows:
Gautam Sathyamurthy v Yash Gulve
Edward Adams v Abhinav Sathyamurthy

Both matches were close, but under time pressure Yash blundered and Edward ground down his opponent Abhinav remorselessly.

Gautam was certainly the favourite in the final having won the event for the last two consecutive years, particularly so as he drew the white pieces against Edward. Edward's choice of opening, a lesser-known Sicilian Defence variant seemed to unsettle Gautam who countered perhaps a little over-cautiously. Gautam did win a pawn and then further material, but struggled under the pressure of the clock, and eventually lost on time. It is Edward's name that will now be engraved on the shield for the first time - well done Edward, and indeed to all those who took part.

Mr M Pointon

Fourth Year Cuthbert's Assembly: Consequences

Last Wednesday, Fourth Year Cuthbert presented their assembly on Consequences to the Lower School. It focused on the true story of June, an English woman from the West Midlands, whose family moved to the Netherlands in the 1920s. The tutor group asked the school to consider the consequences of her decision to let a young Jewish man called Levi Velleman into her house and protect him throughout the Second World War and the Nazi's Final Solution.



For her brave actions during the war, in 2008 June was given the award of Yad Vashem – which translates as Righteous Among The Nations – by the Israeli government. Sadly, June passed away in 1988, but her descendants, and those of Levi, were invited to Rugby Town Hall, where the Israeli ambassador to Great Britain presented the award.

In March 2010, again to recognise June's incredible bravery, the British government decided to posthumously award her the British Heroes of the Holocaust medal. June's son, Ronald, sadly died in 2009 and so it fell upon his son, June's grandson (and Fourth Year Cuthbert's tutor, Mr Ravenhall) to travel to Downing Street to receive the award from former Prime Minister, Gordon Brown on the family's behalf.

To conclude their assembly, the tutor group showed a photo of those at Rugby Town Hall on that day, and asked everyone to think: What would the consequences have been if June's decision had been different? If June had turned Levi away on that fateful night, only half of those people would exist. If June had let Levi in and ultimately been caught, none of those people would exist.

What are the consequences of the decisions you make every day?

Luke Porter

Matrix Challenge

MATRIX
CHALLENGE 2020

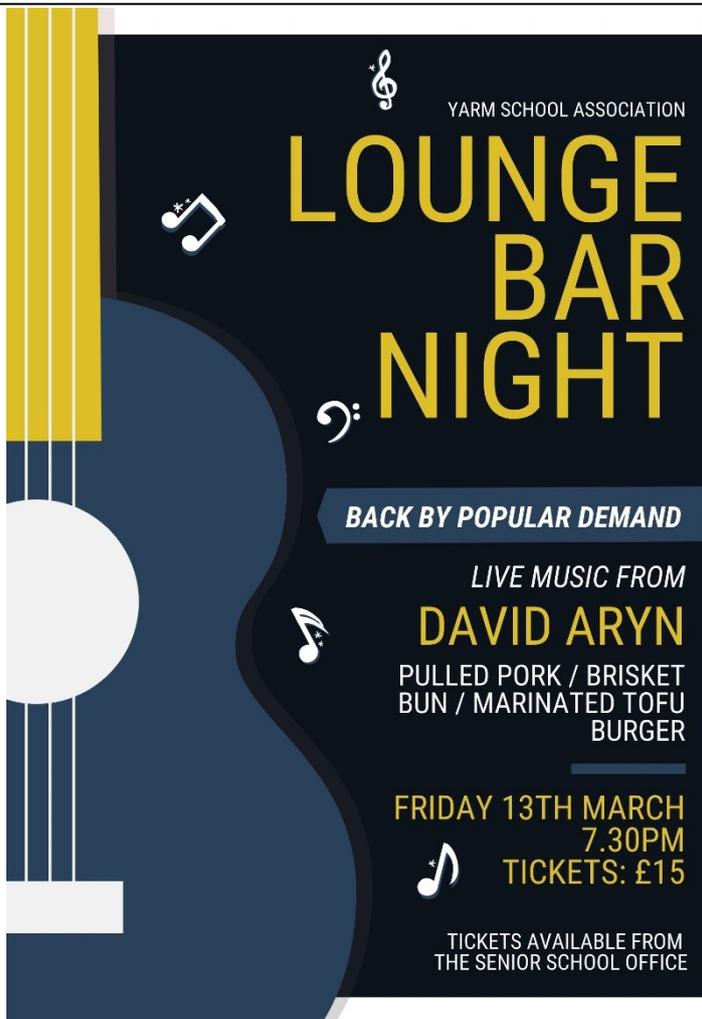
Pupils interested in the cyber security industry might be curious to find out more about the Matrix Challenge. Working alongside Northumbria Police Cyber Crime Unit, this is a national event open

to pupils aged between 11 and 17, with two age categories, 11-14 or 15-17yrs old.

The first stage of the Matrix Challenge is a fun digital game, which runs between January 20th and February 14th 2020. The Matrix Challenge will test participants knowledge of the Computer Misuse Act, how to stay safe online, and then really push those cyber skills. This stage will take around half an hour to complete. Once stage one closes on Friday February 14th the top 20 players in each age category from the region will be invited to a live mini event where they will take on a number of challenging activities designed and delivered by the cyber security industry.

Interested pupils should follow the link: <https://www.matrix-challenge.uk/>

Mr S Edwards



YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

LOUNGE BAR NIGHT

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

LIVE MUSIC FROM
DAVID ARYN

PULLED PORK / BRISKET BUN / MARINATED TOFU BURGER

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH
7.30PM
TICKETS: £15

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL OFFICE

Leading Eco-School

Our Eco-Schools Co-ordinator, Mrs Leary, was invited to talk to other local schools at an Eco-Schools training course 'How to Become a Successful Eco-School' at RSPB Saltholme last week. Yarm is one of a small number of schools that has achieved their Green Flag Award four consecutive times and Head Office invited Mrs



Leary to talk about how Yarm School has achieved this feat. Mrs Leary set up the Eco-Schools programme at Yarm ten years ago and it has gone from strength to strength. When talking to the regional primary and secondary schools, Mrs Leary showcased the different activities which Yarm School has introduced to support the Eco-school's programme. Kirsty MacLeod's chair made out of sustainable materials was also used by the course leader, Francis Hyland in his presentation, demonstrating how Kirsty used her knowledge from being an Eco-rep to inspire her DT project and this is featured on the Eco-Schools website. Mrs Leary enjoyed inspiring other schools, "I am passionate about the Eco-schools programme because it allows us to raise awareness about environmental issues with the pupils. It is run by the pupils for the pupils and encourages the whole school community to be involved. If we all make small changes then it will have a positive environmental impact. It was great to showcase all that we have achieved in recent years to other local schools and the Eco-Schools committee are looking forward to running Eco-week in March."

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh News

Since my last report I am pleased to announce that Alex Wild, George Swinbank, Lochlain Lacy, Ella Ogden and Cavan Harland have been awarded their Bronze DofE. Well done to these.

A large number of pupils have completed sections of their awards. The volunteering section has been completed by Megan Broadhead and Danny Scott. Katherine Henley and Ananya Padmanabhan have finished their skills section. The physical section has been signed off for Callum McCluskey, Eve Kempster, Isabel Robson, Isabella Woodhead, Jacob Stussi, Jodie Hegab, Liam Green, Mohammed Sanaula, Neha Patil, Oliver Greenaway and Tom Crack.

A number of pupils have completed two sections: Divya Hukkeri (Physical and Skills), Lilian Dufton (Volunteering and Skills) and Parul Sinha (Volunteering and Skills) are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Well done to everyone and keep up the good work.

We have 48 pupils in Third Year enrolled onto the DofE, with 18 already having started working on their sections. Fourth Year pupils are working towards the deadline for their expedition route planning. In total 70 pupils have been planning their route all at various different stages of this task. M1 has been the base of operations for this and the atmosphere at lunchtimes has been frantic (Thanks to Mr Tucker for his help with this). Keep up the good work, folks.

Mr M Rye



Yarm School Sports Hall

ALL AGES WELCOME

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Yarm School Ceilidh

FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY

TICKETS £12.50 FROM THE BOX OFFICE

DOORS OPEN 7:00 MUSIC FROM 7:30

FINISH AT 11:00

PIE AND PEAS INCLUDED IN TICKET PRICE

BAR

RAFFLE

THE MESERANI PROJECT



YARM SCHOOL PRESENTS

MISS Saigon

School Edition

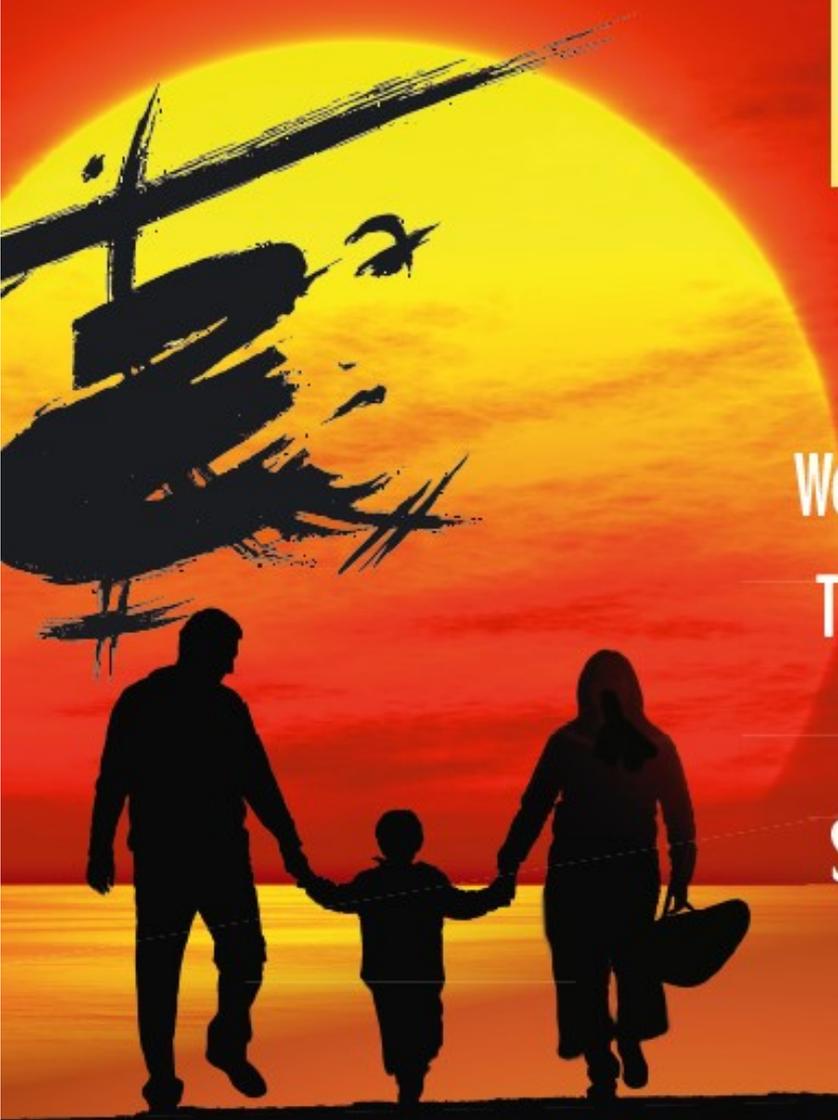
Wednesday 5th February

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

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
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Sport Scoreboard

Hockey

Boys' U18A v Durham University	Won 3-2
Boys' U18B v Scarborough College	Draw 3-3
Boys' U13A v RGS, Newcastle	Won 9-0
Boys' U14A v Darlington HC	Won 9-0
Girls' U14A v Boys' U13A	Lost 0-5
Boys' U13A v Girls U14A	Won 5-0

Netball

U13A v St Peter's School, York	Won 29-22
U13B v St Peter's School, York	Won 13-6
U13C v St Olave's School, York	Won 16-4
U12A v The Grange	Lost 21-38
SNS National Cup Quarter Final	
U12B v Our Lady and St Bede RC Academy	Won 4-3
U12C v Our Lady and St Bede RC Academy	Won 11-0
U15B v Woodhouse Grove School	Lost 7-35
U14B v Woodhouse Grove School	Lost 11-27
U13A v Woodhouse Grove School	Lost 24-32
U13B v Woodhouse Grove School	Lost 13-33
U13C v Woodhouse Grove School	Lost 5-33
U12A v Woodhouse Grove School	Won 11-4
U12B v Woodhouse Grove School	Won 7-5
U12C v Woodhouse Grove School	Won 12-2

Boys' Hockey

2nd XI v Scarborough 1st XI Drew 3-3

The 2nd XI went into this match full of confidence after a very competent 8-0 win over Pocklington's 2nd XI. However, Scarborough's 1st team were a tougher proposition from the outset. Yarm started much the stronger with slick passing resulting in an instinctive finish from co-captain Aki Banerjee. Scarborough started to use their strong central players more effectively and a well worked goal from them brought it level at half-time.

Greater pressure and stronger tackling started to produce more opportunities for Yarm and Tom Howard's looping drag flick with another well-taken Banerjee goal meant Yarm were leading 3-1. At this point Yarm seemed to take their foot off the pedal and a Scarborough goal with 10 mins to go led to a nervous finish, during which they unfortunately scrambled the equaliser to claim a deserved draw.

Lots of positives to take from the game with Elliot Grainger and Jamie Pender strong at the back and Jacob Mehegan a constant threat up front - building nicely towards the impending Scotland Tour!



1st XI v Durham University

Won 3-2

The 1st XI boys headed to Durham University to take on one of their university teams in a practice match for both teams. With Durham fielding a team of talented players who perhaps lacked the coherence of our school team it was set to be a close match. Yarm raced into a three nil lead with goals from Ali Cropp, Philip Simpson, and Sam Graham, but in the second half Durham netted two good goals. Some resolute defending from Atti Garlick and team mates saw the team emerge victors in what was a useful learning experience playing against a different style of team.

Boys' U14A v Darlington HC

Won 9-0

The U14's played in the North East Senior Men's CDL League game last week against Darlington Hockey Club.

This was excellent preparation for the upcoming opening round of the National Schools' Cup as our U14 team took on a mixture of seniors and youth from Darlington Hockey at Carmel School. The Yarm boys have been extremely focused in training so far and the work they have put in was clearly reflected in this performance. They dominated from the outset and if it was not for some wasteful finishing, they would have scored more than 3-0 at half-time. The team talk focused on creating better passing angles and not forcing the ball whilst we needed to make much better decisions within the attacking circle. The new press the boys are working on was well executed as Roman Andrews and the fast developing Jacob Rutter pounced on the opposing full backs to force them into mistakes time and again. Nathan Muzawazi, Jonny Carr and Fergal Deane made some excellent runs beyond the opposition defence and were found time and again from central midfield by Junior Newton and Charlie Thompson. It is hoped the boys can carry this form into their opening county games this week.



Independent Schools Cup- Opening Round

U13A v RGS, Newcastle

Won 9-0

The score suggests that RGS were a weak team but it is more a reflection of how much this group of players is coming on through the sheer number of hours they are putting in to developing their game. It was a tough selection process given there were 4 or 5 players in contention who were not selected. It was a nervy start from the home team but once the opening goal went in, the boys went from strength to strength. Will Ferguson scored 5 goals in total, 3 of which were argies, one of which rocketed into the far corner from the top of the circle. Timmy Foley displayed some dazzling skill by nudging a ball around a defender before spinning off in the other direction and it was pleasing to see both him and James McGee consistently put the opposition defence under pressure. The boys were so good in the first half they were 5-0 up at half-time. RGS did step it up second half and it has

Hockey continued

to be said that the Yarm boys got a little bit sloppy - this gave the ever improving James Muir and Zach Parker the opportunity to demonstrate their keeping skills. With further goals from the likes of Harry Jackson, the boys ran out comfortable winners but agreed we all have work to do on our defensive side of the game. The boys have drawn Bradford Grammar in the next round of the competition and have their opening round of the England Hockey National Schools Cup on Monday.



Netball

This is the first time we have ever had 3 teams qualify for the Regional National Netball Finals at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland and it was a great opportunity for our U14's, U16's and our U19's teams to represent both Yarm School and South Durham and Cleveland in the tournament. The girls met at the venue over the course of the weekend to compete against the other top 7 schools in the North East. Our U14 team met first on Saturday morning and prepared themselves for a fast and furious tournament. They took a little while to get into the flow of the tournament due to nerves and narrowly lost their first 2 matches against Whitburn and Durham High but these losses did not dampen the girls' spirits and they fought back to win their next 5 matches against Bede Academy, NHSG, Red House, Prudoe and RGS. The girls came 3rd overall narrowly missing out on 2nd place by one point. They played so well and gained valuable experience for next year's tournaments.

The U16 team met on Saturday afternoon and warmed up well in preparation for the afternoon ahead. This was always going to be a tough tournament for the girls as the team only consisted of 7 players but again they rose to the challenge and gave every game their best efforts. The first 3 matches were tough and we suffered 3 losses but the girls did not let their heads go down and from then on we went onto draw 1 and win the following 3. They came 5th overall and they need to be very proud of their efforts.

The U19's competed on Sunday morning and prepared themselves well for the tournament. The first match was tough and unfortunately we lost to Durham High but by the second match the girls fought back well against Whitley Bay winning 8-5 by the final whistle. Overall the girls won 3 and lost 3 and came 3rd in the North East which is a great achievement against some very tough competition. All 3 teams performed so well and showed great promise for next year's National competition. Congratulations to all who played.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Isobel Le Clerc who collected a number of trophies at the Durham and Cleveland Lawn Tennis Association County Awards. Isobel received awards for:

- Player of the Year
- Winner 14&U singles
- Winner 16&U singles
- Winner 16&U doubles
- Runner-up 18&U Doubles
- Runner-up Women's Doubles



Congratulations to Mark Probets and Sam Dunkin who both played for Durham County U16's against Northumberland last week.

