

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

Whilst we haven't seen variations in the weather to match recent Australian extremes, the blue skies and sunshine on show as I write contrasts markedly with the challenges brought by snowy conditions at the beginning of the week and with the deluges of rain, high river levels and violent winds brought by recent storms. As is always the case, we try to ensure that everything runs smoothly and with as little disruption as possible. Parents will have read recent news of some schools being affected by the spread of coronavirus and I wanted to reassure parents that we are closely monitoring this situation, taking particular note of the advice given to schools by Public Health England and the Department for Education.

In an assembly before half term I spoke to the pupils about the value of sleep and its vital contribution to our consolidation of learning from the day just gone, and to our ability to learn the next day. We considered the risks, both short-term and long-term, of a lack of sleep and the pupils guessed correctly the outcome of a study which showed that students sleeping more in the run up to exams achieved better marks than those who crammed late into the night and got less sleep! I challenged the pupils to change one thing to help contribute to better sleep such as charging their phone somewhere other than their bedroom, not using a screen in the hour before bed, limiting their intake of stimulants such as caffeine or energy drinks. I wonder how many tried this, and whether it had any impact; perhaps a conversation to have at home?

We look forward to the Fourth Year's performance of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*, running from Wednesday to Friday next week. Tickets are available via the box office. Read on for reviews of our successful careers event, highlights from chess, sporting results and another fascinating book review, among other things.

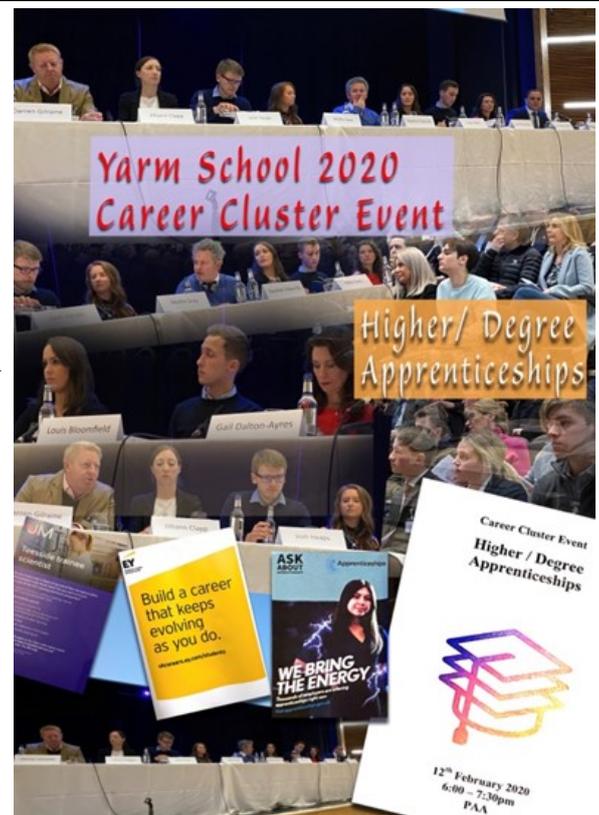
Dr Huw Williams

'Earn while you learn': Career Cluster event Degree/Higher Apprenticeships

The week before the holiday saw the Careers Department present the latest in our series of Career Cluster events. Designed to explore a specific area of education, training or employment, this Cluster was somewhat different in seeking to investigate the diverse, dynamic and developing opportunities offered by higher level and degree apprenticeships. It has certainly become a more considered route for many and is presenting itself as a very real alternative to a conventional university route. To allow pupils and parents to understand this landscape better, and perhaps even address some of their own perceptions and reservations, we gathered a varied range of speakers who are either themselves apprentices or are apprenticeships providers. We had representatives from Active, BL Training, PwC, Envision AESC, EY, Johnson Matthey (JM) and Accenture. The guest speakers gave generously of their experience and expertise, explaining application and selection procedures, the varied roles and opportunities available for apprenticeships, as well as earning potential and future prospects. It was certainly an evening where many of the assembled parents and pupils felt they could learn in depth about this vital area of consideration. There was clearly an appetite and interest in this event with around 350 guests attending, a good number also visiting from neighbouring schools. I am most appreciative of our speakers, including a number of former pupils, as well as the many members of the school community who chose to support this event.

We are soon to announce the date of the biennial Career Convention which will take place in the autumn term. It is a huge event involving a diverse range of guests from the world of employment as well as a significant number of universities. Look out for further details.

Mr S Edwards



A polite notice to remind all parents that the speed limit on the School site is 10mph. This speed limit is in place for pupil and visitor safety. Thank you.

Book Review

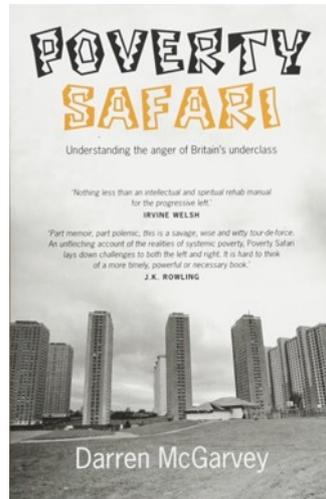
Poverty Safari: Darren McGarvey

The winner of the Orwell prize in 2018, Poverty Safari starts off highly biographically. The author talks about his life growing up in Pollok, a rough part of Glasgow. Born into a dysfunctional family, his mother was a violent alcoholic who left home when he was 10, and died when he was 17. His dry humour and 'matter-of-factness' doesn't leave much room for the reader to interpret his story differently. In particular, his chapter around the culture of violence in deprived communities struck me. In describing an incident with a prison inmate who slashed a fellow inmate's face with a knife over some toast, he proposes this behaviour could actually be a method of reducing violence directed at the individual in their minds, as if people know you are willing to become violent over the smallest of things, people will tend not to aggravate you.

The title of the book comes from his criticism of Ellie Harrison, a student given Creative Scottish funding to spend a year living within Glasgow's deprived communities. McGarvey, at the time, labelled it "Poverty Safari", a trend where liberal, socially mobile academics or activists set up community ventures, without any effort to ensure what they have built for the community is self-sustaining, maintaining positive effects long after they have left. One of McGarvey's main points is that class is still the dominant prism in which we should see the world, and how poverty touches all parts of one's life: physically and mentally. He sees this view as a rejection of intersectional, gender-neutral, "woke" movements, which he argues undermines "a well-organised, educated and unified working class".

The book is definitely political. Just...not particularly partisan. I put it down to his honesty and ability to self-reflect on his own biases, which often can cut through the game of party politics. Whilst admitting he is a member of the left, he challenges what he calls the poverty industry, and calls for the left to challenge the right's "monopoly on individual responsibility". Overcoming his own addictions and going on to forge a successful career as a musician and writer under the pen name "Loki", he has worked on community initiatives such as in the Police Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit. He admits how the amount of support he received from the state was beneficial, but overall it was his own self-reflection and taking responsibility for the role he played in his drug addictions and poor situation that led him out of poverty. But, to say that this book should simply be used in the arsenal of one side's political rhetoric misses the true magic of this book. The fact that it is interpreted like a lefty-loving jab at the establishment's policies on poverty by the Guardian I think to be shameful. It is one of pain, of self-reflection, of class, of identity, and of the mindsets we carry about poverty, of which, whatever they may be, will be put to test in this fantastic book.

A-J Thorne-Wallis (U6 Politics Student)



So tell me what you want, what you really, really want

Another busy week for the Yarm Apprentices as they faced the challenge of conducting market research with four and five year olds. Tasked with writing a book themed around Maths, PMs Philippa and Pranav led their teams to investigate the types of books currently enjoyed by the children in Reception at the Pre-Prep School, whilst also discovering their favourite colours, animals and interests. We are really grateful to the teachers and pupils at the Pre-Prep for facilitating this primary research.

Miss C E Rhodes

Tell me more, tell me more..

A sign of a popular Working Lunch is when there is standing room only for late comers! This week, with the Upper Sixth on study leave for the Mocks, attendance was entirely from the Lower Sixth and they impressed me with their enthusiasm. Our speakers this week were from Hobo on Yarm High Street, owner Lucy Spence and manager (and former pupil) Bradley Howard. With one of the A Level Business papers being centred on "Business in the Local Environment" this talk was really pertinent. The students learnt about the rewards and challenges of owning and running a small business, and the importance of addressing the opportunities and threats from external influences, including social media, veganism, how Hobo survives and thrives in a small space and competition from well-known franchises. Half past one came far too quickly as the students still had more questions, and we are really grateful to Lucy and Bradley for sharing their thoughts and experiences with us.

Miss C E Rhodes

Chess Competition: Teesside Megafinal—Sunday 3rd May

Entries are open to all SECONDARY school pupils for the Teesside Megafinal, which will take place in the PAA at Yarm School.

Entries must be made directly on the site www.delanceyschoolschesschallenge.com and costs £15. Qualifiers – boys and girls – at each year group qualify for the Gigafinals which take place at Manchester and other venues in July.

Mr Rye/Mr Pointon

Social Media Research Opportunity

A social research company based in London is working on a project that is looking to explore and understand the views of 11-17 year olds on social media - both their positive and their potentially negative aspects. Those selected would be paid for their participation. Parents/guardians of pupils who are interested would need to email Tiarnan.mcdonough@revealingreality.co.uk or telephone Revealing Reality (the name of the research company) on 020 7735 8040 to find out more. (This research is being organised by an independent organisation. Yarm School is not involved in any way).

Should students be acquiring micro-credentials?



For some time now at Yarm School we have been encouraging pupils to consider taking short online-based courses or MOOCs (Mass Open Online Courses). They have often proven to be attractive and eye-catching in university applications, demonstrating a commitment beyond the A Level syllabus, as well as an independence of mind and work ethic, in addition to evidence of a deeper interest in a particular subject. There is however the consideration of the benefit of such qualifications for helping to secure work experience, placements and internships and even eventual employment.

When thought of in terms of experiences which build certain concrete skills we may be talking more about training in the areas of new technologies where skills gap exists and there are less formal means of securing such skills. So for example, a pupil may be interested in following an online course to learn a computer language or coding technique. Popular providers includes the likes of Coursera, edX, FutureLearn and Udacity, and it's worth noting that many micro-credentials have been designed in partnership with industry. There is also the perception by many employers that a degree is 'not enough' and there is a need for continual up skilling to make someone more marketable. Whilst some commentators have suggested such approaches might serve as replacements to university, it is currently more measured to consider that the acquisition of micro-credentials should be seen in a complementary sense, adding to one's profile.

Mr S Edwards

Riddles

Last week's winners:

Lola Vasiliou, Keira Cowell, Akash Chakrabarti, Kaavya Venkatesh, Danny Scott, Tegan Addison, Sophia Jones and Ava Brûlé-Walker

Congratulations to you all!

This week's riddle: What am I?

Rating: easy but hard?

A word I know, six letters it contains, remove one letter, and twelve remains. What am I?

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

By Parul Sinha & Aishani Paul

Politics Society Calendar

Week 1

Fri 28th Feb

12:45 (FT)

Andy Preston

Mayor of Middlesbrough

'A Teesside Boy running the town'

Week 2

Thu 5th Mar

18:30 (Uni of York)

Catherine Fieschi

Director of the Global Policy Institute

Queen Mary University of London

'Populocracy: The tyranny of authenticity and the rise of populism'

Fri 6th Mar

12:45 (FT)

Barbara Becnel

American author, journalist and film producer

'Editor, advocate and friend to the last man executed by the State of California'

Week 3

Fri 13th March

12:45 (FT)

'X'

Asian Human Rights defender

'A life lived in the shadows; human rights in Asia'

Week 4

17th – 18th Mar

(Uni of Oxford)

McWhirter Politics Conference

L6 attendees

Fri 20th Mar

12:45 (FT)

Laize Benevides Pinheiro

Brazil-based human rights lawyer

'Dealing with extra-judicial killings in the favelas of Brazil'



CONCERT AND CAKE SERIES

Senior School Pupils

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2020
5PM IN THE RECITAL ROOM

Tickets £2 available from the Box Office or thepaaonline.org/



SCHOLARS' CONCERT
(.....AND CAKE)



MONDAY 30TH MARCH 2020
5PM



Tickets are £2 and are available from the School box office or at: thepaaonline.org/





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

Boys' Hockey

U12s impress as they win the County 7s

Congratulations to the First Year boys who came out comfortable winners in the U12 seven-a-side tournament against local rivals Red House, Egglecliffe and Teesside High. This was in spite of missing key players such as James Graham and Cameron Morrison.

The boys started well against Teesside High with a comfortable 6-0 win. Captain Jake Leader looked like the strongest player across all 4 schools in this age group and was supported by an equally impressive Sam Arnold at the back.

The team made hard work of a 1-0 win against Egglecliffe but the opposition put in a huge effort and caused Yarm some problems. We produced a number of chances but couldn't convert until the fast improving Finlay Cooke managed to force a close range shot home to take the game.

This meant it all came down to the final game against Red House and this was perhaps the team's best performance as they dominated much of the game to come out as 2-0 winners.

The boys look forward to Friday's North East tournament in Wakefield where they should be a competitive team!

Yarm1—CDL League

Yarm1 have opened a 7 point gap at the top of the league with 5 games remaining. They played 2 games over the half term break. The CDL League is the opening tier of men's club hockey and it has so far been a successful venture for the school.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
1- Yarm Mens 1s	13	11	2	0	68	9	59	35
2- Durham City Mens 5s	13	9	1	3	30	26	4	28
3- Morpeth Men's 4s	14	9	0	5	42	34	8	27
4- Newcastle Medics Mens 4s	14	8	1	5	41	32	9	25
5- Tynedale Men's 2s	14	8	0	6	47	27	20	24
6- Gateshead Mens 3s	16	5	2	9	28	42	-14	17
7- Sunderland Broom Mens 3s	12	4	1	7	28	32	-4	13
8- Darlington Mens 3s	14	4	1	9	23	47	-24	13
9- Hartlepool, C & Billingham Mens 3s	14	3	1	10	26	55	-29	10
10- Norton Mens 3s	14	3	1	10	20	49	-29	10

Durham City 0 v 9 Yarm

The first Saturday of half term saw our U14 team travel to Chester-le-Street to take on Durham City. Despite a laboured first half in which Yarm carved a number of chances, we still managed a 1-0 lead at half-time.

The boys were a different team in the second half as we moved an extra player up front. The team produced one of its most impressive displays to date. Theo Grylls, Tom Graham, Harry Wildridge and Freddie Butler are increasingly confident and comfortable moving the ball around the back to switch the point of attack. This allowed Junior Newton and Charlie Thompson to express themselves in a bigger pocket of space and the result was dynamite!

Some of the goals scored were a delight to watch as player after player linked up to move the ball quickly to produce some tap ins! The pick of the goals included a hat-trick by Nathan Muzawazi, a strong run inside followed by an open stick strike at the top of the circle and an 'argie' by the vastly improved Fergal Deane.

Yarm 8 v Gateshead 1

The second weekend was a vastly different Yarm1 line up as many of the U14s were away. This meant a lot of the U13s

players had to step in. This age group play a slightly different brand of hockey at the moment with many players taking too many touches but the quality of skills on display was impressive.

After some sustained pressure, Yarm eventually opened the scoring through man of the match Timmy Foley, who ended the game with 4 goals including an outstanding 'argie' into the top corner. The home team switched off after the first goal to let Gateshead equalise within 30 seconds of the restart.

Fortunately, Will Ferguson converted a drag flick short corner before Foley added another before half-time.

The call was for our forwards to play another 20 yards up the pitch as they crowded out their defence time and again throughout the first half. This made all the difference as the goals began to fly in, the pick of which was a rare foray by the pitch from Marcus Walters who drove into the right hand side of the circle before unleashing a fierce drive into the bottom right corner. It was also pleasing to see the improving Freddie Butler getting onto the score sheet as he arrived on to the far post to convert a strong team move.

SPORTATHON 2020

Well done to all those pictured who gave up their Tuesday night during half term to play sport in aid of the Kenya and Tanzania Trip in July. 30 pupils had made a donation to take part and committed to raise at least £15 worth of sponsorship. The group arrived at school at 8.45pm before embarking on 10 hours of sporting action until 7am the following morning including basketball, uni-hockey, mini olympics and dodgeball to name a few.

Several Fourth and Fifth Year pupils who are going to Africa in the summer led the sessions and were excellent throughout as they enthused the younger pupils and organised the evening well. This is encouraging seeing as they will be taking full control of a school sports day when they visit a school in Tanzania! The younger pupils were excellent in terms of behaviour and attitude throughout.

More importantly, the fund-raising exceeded expectations as the vast number of pupils raised much more than the required £15. In fact, Sam Arnold was the stand out fundraiser as he brought in over £300, although Tenuk Mendis wasn't far behind with over £200 raised. This means the total raised so far is around £2000 with a couple of pupils still to hand in their sponsorship.

The money raised will help finance the trip but the bulk of it will be taken out by Yarm pupils to spend on The Meserani Project charity, including buying beds for African pupils in boarding schools or helping to fund uniforms for children out there.

A big thanks to all involved but a special thanks to Mr Ivey and Mr Glen who gave up their time to help Mr Ferguson manage the evening.

