

# Newsletter



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## Headmaster's Welcome

This newsletter once again provides a snapshot of the wonderful and varied activities going on at School, and highlights the effort and engagement of our wonderful pupils, ably assisted by committed and passionate staff members. I hope you enjoy reading about our visiting speakers, the Fourth Year Play, pupil progress in their Duke of Edinburgh, maths competitions, society meetings and successes on the netball court, hockey pitch and from our rowers on the water; congratulations to the pupils whose achievements are described within.

Parents may already have heard that, with regret, we have decided to postpone the Spring Concert due to be held next Monday. We will communicate an alternative date when the situation regarding COVID-19 becomes clearer. Parents will have read the Government's new advice following the decision to move to the 'delay' phase of their response and I would ask that all parents take time to read the letter I have sent today to outline the effect of this on us. The School is working hard to make the appropriate and proportionate steps in the light the guidance. It is clear there will be further disruption in the days, weeks and even months ahead. I am grateful to parents for their support and ask for continued forbearance as we react and respond to the evolving situation which will require us all to be creative, resourceful, resilient and supportive.

Dr Huw Williams

## Barbara Becnel speaks with the Politics Society

Barbara Becnel is an enigmatic presence; wearing her significant academic credentials so lightly, she presents as an engaging, enthusiastic advocate for self-awareness and empowerment. She possesses an instantaneous charm and charisma, and yet Barbara's life and work has been shaped by one of most grim spectacles barely imaginable. On the night of 13th December 2005, after years of advocacy and attempts to secure an act of clemency from then California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Barbara witnessed the death by lethal injection of her friend and co-author Stanley 'Tookie' Williams. The act of killing was botched leading to a freeze on such actions by the State of California, making Williams the last citizen to be executed in the State.

Barbara first met Stanley years before when presenting herself in the neighbourhood of Watts in south Los Angeles, as a straight-haired, pearl-wearing, middle class woman she was sent on an assignment to write an article about the origins of the Crips and the Bloods, the rival street gangs of LA. She was told that the co-founder, Stanley Williams, was on death row in San Quentin, and that's where her journey within activism began. Against all expectations she found in Stanley Williams, a highly learned, self-educated, reflective man, soaked in contrition and with an immeasurably appetite for redemption. Williams would go on to write numerous books for children, advising them how to avoid gang life and the violence of the streets. He was nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize, but all this would be in vain when, fifteen years ago, despite the protests of thousands, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Yarm School Amnesty International group campaigning for a commuting of the death penalty, Williams was executed.

Barbara continues to work as an activist, advocate and campaigner for the understanding of the dynamics of gangs, and has recently turned to the academic world in the hope that more accurate and insightful research will better inform policy formulation and implementation. She is currently writing her PhD at the University of Edinburgh. She is seeking to demonstrate the ways in which street gangs in the United States have sought to ape or replicate the values of wider society, namely being aspirational, achieving status and fame, albeit through the narrow confines of their own perceived opportunities. As such, and quite tragically, becoming an OG (Original Gangster) comes to be an equivalent of becoming a CEO. And this ambition is best secured by a condemnation on Death Row. Becnel continues to carry with her the spirit of Stanley Williams, with messages of defiance and hope, insight and intelligence, all focused around creating better understandings so that we might all make better decisions.



*Yarm pupils with author, journalist, academic and activist, Barbara Becnel*

Mr S Edwards

**SAVE THE DATE**

**YSA SUMMER EVENT: SATURDAY 6th JUNE**

More details to follow soon

## Cymbeline

Far from Shakespeare's best-known play, Cymbeline presents even the most versatile cast with the full range of demands and opportunities. Last week's Fourth Year production made this complex play not only clear and entertaining for the audience, but admirably caught its great charm, occasional bleakness ('Fear no more the heat of the sun' – because you're dead!), and final redemptive optimism.

Evidently flourishing under Mr Hall's assured directorial benevolence, the cast evoked an unstable ancient world where disguises, misdemeanours, misunderstandings, mistaken identities, deceit, treachery and poison all took their turn. Tyler Brown was convincing throughout as the cranky, easily-led King of Britain – well-meaning for sure, but not a deep or quick thinker (Cymbeline, that is, not Tyler!). He finds himself easily outmanoeuvred by his unpleasant, scheming Queen (who knew Kaavya could convey such malevolence?). She is mother to the Imogen-obsessed brat Cloten - Bakaer Noble's acted stupidity and arrogance again fully rendered.

Probably the most demanding single role is Imogen herself - Cymbeline's daughter, disobediently married to the orphan Postumus. Aishani Paul's range of emotions and her portrayal of Imogen's quiet strength of personality required a sustained subtlety of performance that impressed the Thursday audience deeply. Luke Porter as Postumus faced the challenge of a similar range of subtly drawn personality traits and contradictions - a touching commitment to Imogen's faithfulness, yet a willingness to take on a stupid bet; easily taken in by Iachimo's nonsense, yet his magnanimity in the end a part of the redemption Shakespeare seems to have aimed at. Luke's command of the play's language was particularly strong – the lines had been absorbed with time to spare, allowing for nuanced delivery on stage.

If clarity of diction is your preoccupation, then listen out for Josh Littler's silky tones in the future. If it's lively nobility of face, watch Jasmine Murphy. Oliver Greenaway as the falsely banished Belarius holing up all those years in wildest Wales, captured the rugged simplicity for which he comes to be admired. For moustache-twirling villainy, fear Callum Sanderson. Yet the naming of individual actors misses the most important quality in this memorable production - the confidence the audience drew from the cast's evident and generous commitment, always an essential audience -winner, knowing that they were involved in something special.

A word also in praise of Yarm's own Gary Booth who not only helped Mr Hall with the script, casting and rehearsals, but also strummed his silken, maidenly fingers across the hidden harp-strings to provide our incidental music. No-one who watched any of Gary's dozens of Yarm productions, or any Mr Hall's burgeoning back-catalogue, ever came away doubting that they had enjoyed their evening - that they had sampled an essence of what is best about our School. I'd say the same about this production; the point is neither 'professionalism' (whatever that means), nor hundreds of bums on padded tip-up seats. It's the thrill of it all being done then and there, not to be repeated, simply for its own sake, and well.

Wonderful!

Mr E Craig



## Maths UKMT Summer School Place



Abhinav Ramisetty has won a National Mathematics Summer School place following his stellar performance in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. These places are limited strictly to only the top 1% of performers. The week-long residential course will be held at Woodhouse Grove School in Leeds, with Maths activities, lectures and problem-solving challenges. What better way of spending a week of the summer holidays. Congratulations to Abhinav, who has also qualified for the two-hour Olympiad exam later in the month.

Mr M Pointon

## The History Society

The History Society has been privileged to receive lectures from a number of pupils on a wide range of topics.

Muhammed Ibrahim (AB1 CGR) presented on the Battle of Midway, a decisive naval battle in the Pacific campaign during World War II. Muhammed explained that he was inspired by the release of the recent film Midway. This led attendees on to discuss to what extent dramatizations of historical events on the big screen are reliable and how far we should trust them.

This week, Eva Speight (A2 KLB) presented on the founding fathers of the United States. Eva, like Muhammed was inspired by the musical Hamilton. Having experience the stage performance, she carried out some research into the American Revolution and the men who drafted the first constitution. Eva provided an in-depth analysis of the characters involved, exposing many controversies about them. This developed into a discussion over what it must have felt like to be present when the American constitution was drafted and those famous words; "we hold these truths to be self-evident" were penned. To conclude, we discussed how we could change the world if we had the opportunity.

Next week, Noah Baron (AB1 CGR) will be presenting on his personal connection to the Battle of Jutland in World War One. The History Society meets every Tuesday at 1pm.

Mr A Morrison



## Riddles

Last time's answer: Dozens!

Last week's winners: Keira Cowell, Danny Scott, Tegan Addison and Sophia Jones. Congratulations to you all!

This week's riddle: What am I?

I do not eat food. But I do enjoy a light meal every day.

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

## Jane Eyre - National Theatre

Last Friday, two English sets (5.5 and 5.3) studying Charlotte Brontë's classic novel, 'Jane Eyre', gathered in the Friarage Theatre to watch a recording of the National Theatre's production of the novel. Having been studying the text for over a year, we were definitely familiar with the story but nobody had anticipated witnessing such a bold, innovative production. The cast (expertly led by Madeleine Worrall playing Jane) was so versatile, with many actors slickly adapting to different roles within the play. Not only were we struck by the skill of the actors, but also by the inventive use of music, effectively spurring the story on. The smooth incorporation of the band in accompanying characters (such as the wholly sung role of Bertha Mason) truly struck us, as the writers had evidently put a modern spin on such a classic tale. In addition, the artistic and aesthetically pleasing set- manoeuvred throughout the play by the actors- effectively aided them in portraying the story, making the stage visually exciting.

We were thoroughly impressed by every aspect of the performance and believe that we have gained a new insight into 'Jane Eyre', having experienced it through the medium of theatre.

Annabella Burgess

## Duke of Edinburgh News

We have seen a lot of activity within the Bronze section this week. Mia Mack (Fifth Year) has completed the final section of her award and we are now awaiting confirmation of this from Head Office.

Fourth Year pupils have been particularly active. Three pupils have completed two sections of their awards:- Georgia Charnley (Skills and Volunteering), Laura Cunningham (Physical and Skills) and Holly Hutchinson (Physical and Volunteering).

Several pupils have achieved one of their sections.

Physical—Amelia Leader, Ben Cuthbertson, Ed Adams, George Kitson, Izzy Leighton, James Worthington, Jasmine Murphy, Lucas Mowbray, Ollie McPartland, Phoebe Richardson, Shaan Madhu Kumar, Summer Benzie, Will Craggs and Will Woodhead.

Skills—Ashani Paul, Deacon Laverick, Gavan Birk and Hannah Malik.

Volunteering—Charlotte Scott, Jack Newson and Yumna Ellidir.

We have also seen the deadline for planning expeditions in Easter and May. Sixty pupils have produced detailed route cards in preparation for their two day expeditions in the North Yorks Moors.

Well done to all these pupils on all of their hard work.

Mr M Rye

## EASTER UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Thursday 2nd April, 1- 4pm

Tuesday 7th April, 1 - 4pm

Thursday 9th April, 1 - 4pm

Tuesday 14th April, 1 - 4pm

Thursday 16th April, 1 - 4 pm



# Cymbeline - more photos



## Yorkshire Region Junior Inter-Regional Trials

One of the highlights of the year for junior rowers aged between 14 and 16 is the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta (JIRR). This is a competitive event between twelve regional teams based on the rowing regions in England and Wales. In order to race at this event crews from the region must qualify as the fastest crew in the various categories. Yarm School Boat Club is part of the Yorkshire region and on a blustery Saturday hosted the trials for those to represent Yorkshire on Saturday 25th April at Peterborough. Rowers from Yarm School, York City Rowing Club and Doncaster Rowing Club competed for the privilege to row against the other regions, where more than 900 competitors from schools and junior clubs will race in 25 different categories, with the format of the competition allocating points to all finishing crews.

Having had so many Head races cancelled over the past few weeks due to the bad weather, it was a delight to see all the young people take to the water and actually compete against each other. Yarm School Boat Club is now one of the major rowing forces in the north and as such put out a very competitive contingent to secure some of the places in the Yorkshire team.

At Junior 14 level, Archie Norton was in a league of his own, winning the single sculling event by a considerable margin. The Junior 14 double scull of Jonathan Wood and Alfie King followed suit with a strong display of sculling to claim their spot and the Junior 14 girls were not to be out-done with Morven Hawthorn and Hannah Stewart winning the girls' double sculling event. Unfortunately both Junior 14 coxed quads lost by narrow margins.



A number of rowers competed in both divisions against a very strong headwind. Two of those were the Junior 15 rowers of Shrish Nair and Deacon Laverick. Although they didn't qualify in their double scull, they combined with Will Craggs, Izadin Qasem and Josh McGerry to take the coxed fours event.



The Junior 15 girls crews have enormous potential and both the Junior 15 coxed quad (Medha Rajeeva, Julia Portsmouth, Tess Hardy, Ava Lane, Ruth Fletcher) and the junior 15 coxed 4 (Annabel Cunningham, Emily Dunn, Evie Elliott, Cordelia Deering, Harriet White) both qualified.

And finally, the Junior 16 rowers were also successful. The boys' coxed four were the fastest crew of the day and put on a great display of rowing. Aply coxed by Lilian Dufton, Finlay

Gilraine, Mark Probets, Charlie Bottomley and Sam Dunkin produced a time of 7 minutes 12 seconds over the 1800 metre course.

The boys' Junior 16 double scull of Aidan Garcia and Joe Barron lost by 5 seconds to York City, but will join the other Junior 16 boys and some of the Junior 15 boys to form an eight for the event.



Steering a coxless boat while also rowing is a real skill and Rebecca Keetley did an admirable job of steering the girls' Junior 16 coxless quad down the course to record their win (Abby Clements, Charlotte Wood, and Anna Reeves, Rebecca Keetley). The girls will also join rowers from York City to form an eight for the event.



Twenty nine athletes from Yarm School Boat Club will now proudly compete in their first major event. And who knows, this might be the first step on the international ladder of their rowing career.

## Indoor Rowing

Last week young people from across the North East headed to Durham University for the Northern Schools Indoor Rowing Championships. Five members of Yarm School Boat Club were part of the



Tees Valley team, along with rowers from Tees Rowing Club. The Third Year (Year 9) team of Ollie Holmes, Alfie King, Archie Norton and Charlie Thompson were first to compete. They had to row as far as they could in four minutes. All four boys rowed fantastically, and were quickly followed by Baeker Noble in the Fourth Year (Year 10) category who had a longer, five minute row. Four or five minutes might not sound very long but when you are going flat out on an ergo, it is a mammoth effort. The strongest performance of the afternoon was by Archie, who came in 5th in his category, but everyone gave their all and rowed brilliantly.



## Hockey

### U15 last 16 Independent Schools Cup Yarm v Calday Grange

**Won 3-1**

The U15 boys hockey team travelled across the width of the country to the Wirral to contest for a place to play Repton in the quarter final of the ISHC. The boys completed an intense warm up; and carried this intensity into the game. From the first whistle the boys hassled and pressed, the rotating forwards of George Kitson, Roman Andrews and Lucas Mowbray led this. We were grateful for Alex McGee between the posts, for keeping us in the game in the first 10 minutes when Calday had a number of chances to break through our defence.

The Yarm defence stood resolute to the pressure and continued to force the opposition into our strong areas, which allowed us to steal the ball and play on the counter attack. The first opportunity presented itself, when Theo Grylls intercepted a through ball and played it out wide, from there Tom Graham passed down the line into space for Kitson who rounded the keeper to finish from a tight angle.

Yarm continued to soak up pressure, and were offered a number of chances on the counter attack. Strong hold up play from Andrews bought the pace of Mowbray and Kitson into the game. This led to Yarm winning a penalty corner. After countless failed efforts in the warm up, everything was set. A well worked routine saw Toby Simpson flick the ball high into the top of the net.

At 2-0 Calday came back into the game, and eventually broke through, finishing neatly into the corner of the goal. Yarm settled, regained composure and continued to play our way making it difficult for the opposition to break through our lines. More strong tackling in the middle of the pitch from Junior Newton and Dan Walters created a chance for Charlie Thompson to finish on his reverse.

### U15 Independent Schools Cup Quarter Final Yarm v Repton

**Lost 2-3**

On Tuesday the boys were on the road again, their third away draw in a row in this competition! This was the quarter final stage. If we secured a win the boys would be progressing to the Finals at Birmingham University.

The pregame 'chat' was about continuing on from where we left off in the previous game. This is exactly what we did. Yarm looked solid in the middle and at the back. Repton did look a threat going forward, but we knew that if we kept them occupied at the back they would not be able to push forward in great numbers. The pace of George and Lucas ensured that they had to double up in defence. This opened up overlaps for us to exploit. Yarm did this effectively, and won an early penalty corner. Having successfully scored with the 'box' routine in the previous game, Yarm did this again, to equal success. Toby again finishing high into the top of the net. Repton continued to have possession of the hockey ball, but Yarm's concentration was high, and Yarm managed to control some of the tempo to the game. Yarm managed to double their tally, through Charlie - combative play from Junior in the middle, allowed Dan to find Charlie, who scored with a reverse into the bottom corner of the goal to great delight from the fans in the crowd.

With just two minutes to go in the first half Yarm had to be solid. Under pressure from Repton, Yarm panicked a little and were unable to clear the ball from our defensive quarter. Repton won a penalty corner, and scored a good deflection. The message at half-time was to continue to play our game, and stay controlled, using the ball precisely and effectively.

When we got up to the D we created some chances but we not rewarded with penalty corners for our efforts. We had a lead to protect, but did not want to sit too deep. Repton upped their game and found more space to use the ball as Yarm tired. Alex in goal kept Yarm in with a chance, making a number of excellent second half saves. However, we were unable to prevent Repton from scoring a second. At 2-2 both teams looked dangerous, and the game could have gone either way. Sadly for us, Repton scored their 3rd with just minutes to go. I am very proud of the way the boys have conducted themselves throughout the competition, they have given a fantastic account of themselves and have been a credit to the school. We wish Repton all the best at the finals, and also wish the U14's in our squad good luck for their games at North Finals on Thursday.

Mr Glen

### U18 move a step closer to a National Final Yarm v GSAL

**Won 8 - 0**

Our senior boys moved one step closer to a trip to Reading Hockey Club to play in the National Finals. We have rarely played Leeds Grammar in the past so it was interesting to see what the opposition might bring. The home team was dominant from the outset and although we were missing the influential Matthew Chapman, it was great to see other boys step up to perform.

Striker Alex Greenaway had completed his concussion return to play protocol by warming up with the Stockton HC Over 50 team the day before- he was to play an important role as he caused the opposition no end of problems. In fact, the highlight of the game was an audacious piece of skill where he lifted the ball in front of the keeper before juggling like something out of the matrix to round the keeper before finishing into an empty net!

It was great to see a team consisting of entirely Sixth Form students move the ball around the pitch with ease and the goals kept flying in from all-over the park. The final goal was scored by Atticus Garlick who finished off a flowing end to end move and a real team goal.

The boys have drawn Ashville next week to challenge for the North East title. The winner will represent the region at the national finals in a couple of weeks time.

### U13 into the North Final

**Yarm 4 v 0 Driffield**

**Yarm 8 v 0 Silcoates**

**Yarm 3 v 1 Cundall Manor**

**Yarm 0 v 1 Birkdale**

The U13 boys made it a clean sweep of U12, 13 and 14 to make their tier 1 North Finals. Whilst they never really played their best hockey, they still ran out comfortable winners despite a rare loss to runners-up Birkdale.

A nervous start saw them win 4-0 against Driffield. The boys snatched many chances and really should have made much lighter work of this but they got it together second game and the goals flowed. The best goal was a top corner 'argie' from an acute angle from Will Ferguson. The third game was against a very talented Cundall who boast 3 exceptional players and the Yarm team were made to work hard for this game.

It was disappointing to lose the last game but this may be a blessing as we progress to next week's finals in Leeds. The boys won on goal difference and travel to Leeds University next Thursday to battle for a place at the National Finals.

## Hockey (Continued)

### League Title almost in the Bag Yarm 1 v Tynedale 2nds

Won 5-0

Yarm1 made the long journey to Hexham for a league match against a mid-table Tynedale. As the year has progressed, we have fielded fewer adults and it was great to see a team that was made up of mainly Third and some Second Year pupils that dominated the game from start to finish.

Harry Wildridge, Freddie Butler, Tom Graham and Theo Grylls were excellent throughout and were really knocking the ball around the pitch with ease whilst Timmy Foley and Marcus Walters both made excellent contributions.

The final score of 5 goals to 0 means one more win from the Yarm team should secure the league title and promotion into the North East League Division 3- not bad for a school team!



### SENIOR HOCKEY TOUR TO SCOTLAND

#### 1st XI Report from Captain, Matthew Beck George Watson's 0 - 1 Yarm Stewart Melville 6 - 1 Yarm

After a long 4 hour journey on Friday afternoon, the boys played their first game on tour against potential Scotland national champions, George Watson's College. The Scottish team began strong, unleashing a fierce attack at Yarm's defence led by Captain Matthew Beck, but they were no match for Matthew, James, Atticus and Owen at the back. A skilful goal by Tom Crack just before half-time gave Yarm the lead which the boys kept throughout the duration of the game, with an especially strong performance from the defence with Man of the Match, left-back Atticus Garlick, standing out. The boys then went to a local shopping centre for their tea and went back to the hotel in order to get a good night's sleep as a busy day was planned for the following day.

The boys started off Saturday morning with a 7:30am wake-up and travelled to Stuart Melville's Hockey pitch to play their last game of the tour. A slow start by the boys allowed the opposition to take a large lead within the first half, giving the boys a lot to catch up to. Unfortunately, it was not our day, as Yarm's only goal came from a clever short corner which led to Phillip Simpson putting the ball in the net from a deflection. Although there was plenty of determination shown by the players, especially Harry Walters who won Man of the Match

due to his performance on the day, the final game ended in a loss. The team then travelled into Edinburgh, where the boys engaged in shopping, eating and visiting local sites all having an enjoyable time. We then had a pool tournament and a competitive darts competition (won by Matthew Beck, Captain) whilst also being able to watch England beat Wales in the rugby. After an exciting time in Edinburgh, the boys returned home on Sunday and began preparing for their National Cup game against GSAL the next day. Edinburgh allowed the boys to not only build on their hockey skills but on the team relationship that they will carry on throughout the season in the hope to win the National Finals. Big thank you to all the teachers who travelled up to Scotland with the boys and made the trip the high standard it was: Mr Ferguson, Mr Glen, Mr Skirving and Mr Alexander.

#### 2nd XI Report from Captain- Robbie Wilmott George Watson's 4 - 3 Yarm Stewart Melville 1 v 2 Yarm

After a lengthy trip up to our distant cousins in the North, the boys got stuck in from the first whistle against George Watson's. Despite giving a high pressing performance which was full of quality, the execution in the final quarter left a little to be desired. Early in the second half however, despite the valiant efforts of Will Woodhead, the opposition managed to convert 2 short corners. Yarm quickly turned on the gas and with terrific solo efforts from standout Sam Graham, George Kitson, Connor Brown and some intricate work in the midfield by Robbie Wilmott, Yarm bounced back with three goals of their own. Despite a 4-3 loss, the boys showed great charisma and heart with more honourable mentions going out to Alex McGee, Jack Critchlow and Tom Howard.

Bright and early the next morning the boys were fighting fit and ready to do themselves proud against Stewart Melville College. Despite a slower start, the lads grew into the game and an outstanding bit of work from our very own Akarsh Banerjee meant a solid grasp was put on the game. The team worked exceptionally hard to hold on and with a final score of 2-1 the boys were more than satisfied.

With a special thanks to the staff and our travelling fans, the atmosphere was always bouncing and full of aura. The afternoon spent in Edinburgh allowed the lads to engulf the rich culture and an evening of darts allowed Mr Glen to really come into his own.

A marvellous tour for all the boys!

