

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

As recent announcements plunge many of us back into some degree of uncertainty and as restrictions are increased once more, it is a relief and a pleasure to welcome the pupils back after their half term break. Thankfully, we are able in large part to continue as we were before half term and we will continue to monitor the situation and communicate with parents if anything changes.

Our pupils continue to embrace opportunity wherever they can and I was delighted to hear of the successful rowing camp over half term, where hardy and committed rowers spent many happy hours on the Tees improving their fitness and technique. I am grateful to Mr Guest and the whole team for making this such an enjoyable experience and it is lovely to read within of the ongoing success of one of our former pupils who benefitted from her time on the Tees. We celebrate the success of those pupils engaged in their Duke of Edinburgh programmes and I congratulate all those who continue to make good progress in their awares, showing determination, perseverance and imaginative creativity. Impressive, too, is the success of those girls who demonstrated their skills in cyber security.

We welcome a new colleague and say farewell and thank you to two longstanding members of staff who have served countless pupils and families in their time - more details within. Thank you and farewell to Carolan and Chris from us all.

Our musicians have been hard at work in their bubble groups rehearsing and recording for our poignant and reflective opportunities for remembrance today, including on the grass slope opposite the Friarage for a wonderful socially distanced performance. We stopped today at 11 am as a community to observe a period of silence and hear some music, and to reflect on the fact that the lockdown prevents communities from coming together in their normal and powerful displays of remembrance. Pupils then watched a moving video during tutorial which commemorated those from Yarm and other local areas who died in periods of war and conflict. Thank you to all pupils and staff involved.

Thank you for donations to date in support of the hygiene poverty campaign - there are details within on how to make a donation before the closing date and also a call for book donations from our local Rotary Club; we are grateful for any support you can offer.

Dr Huw Williams

Family Resilience in Challenging Times with Dr Kathy Weston

Tuesday 10th November, 7.30pm

Following on from a very successful parent talk in January of this year, the School is delighted to announce a further talk for parents by one of the UK's leading experts on parental engagement in children's lives and learning. Dr Kathy Weston is a published author, writer, award winning radio broadcaster and a regular speaker at educational events across the UK. In this live webinar Dr Weston will look at a range of factors that contribute to family resilience and how to help our children navigate some of the challenging circumstances they face. Her advice is backed up by extensive research but is delivered in an informative and engaging manner. In essence, it will provide simple, clear advice to help your children flourish in school and life.

If you are interested in attending, you can find out more or register here: <http://bit.ly/DrKathyWeston> (Please note that a charge of £3 will be added to your termly extras bill as a contribution towards the cost of the session).



Duologues

The usual House Drama Competition was not possible due to social distancing so we quickly switched to an October Duologue competition. Pupils from across the school year groups got involved and started picking their pieces and rehearsing.

We had a fantastic week filming the Duologues prior to half term. The students worked really hard and adapted brilliantly to a filmed format. It is a very different prospect performing without a live audience.

The videos were then passed to our expert panel of adjudicators. Mr Gilbert and Mr Hall judged the 19 entries for the Junior Duologues competition. For the Intermediates competition, Mrs Charlton had 6 wonderful Duologues to judge; and Mr Boddy deliberated over 4 Senior entries.

The votes have been counted, the results are in...

Junior Duologues winners: Avanish Batra and Ajay Selvan with Beekeeping

Intermediate Duologue winners: Nila Baskar and Sophia Kilkerrri with Fight over Fuchsia.

Senior Duologue winners: Annabella Burgess and Maddie Lane with Honour.

Congratulations to everyone involved! The videos are shared with you in the email part of the newsletter.

Mr D Brookes

Hygiene Poverty

You may remember that before half term we asked pupils to bring in donations of hygiene products for the Hygiene Bank. We are so grateful for all the donations that we have received so far. If you would like to make a donation, please can



you do so by Friday 13th November? There are three drop off points around the school (by the Bistro, in the Tate building and near the entrance to the Dining Hall).

All new, unused and in-date toiletries, hygiene basics, beauty and personal care and household cleaning essentials - such as deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, make-up, nappies, loo roll, laundry detergent and surface cleaner are very welcome!

With many thanks,

The Community Action group

Cyberfirst Girls

Recently we (Apsara Naguleswaran, Nila Baskar, Isra Ali and Sophie Jewitt from the Third Year) completed the two CyberFirst Girls Development Days (for ages 14-17), in which the aim was to 'explore passion for tech by introducing [us] to the fast paced world of cyber security'.



The CyberFirst leaders treated us to two days of cryptography, encoding, encryption, steganography (hiding messages in ordinary objects such as images or sound files) and spectrograms (with hidden messages in the sound). We were split into teams and told to complete as many tasks as possible. The principal subject was to solve the real-life hacking of MediaGames, completely on our own!

At the end of the second and final day, we competed in a capture the flag game, in which we had to answer as many questions as possible relating to the past two days' challenges. Apsara and her team came top of the leader board in both cohorts with twenty-six points, with Isra and Nila's teams following in second and third in their cohort. Sophie and her team also came top of the leader board, though she competed with a different cohort.

We would like to thank the CyberFirst Team, who adapted their development day from in-person (in York) to entirely online! We would love to do it again sometime - hopefully competing with each other rather than against!

By Apsara Naguleswaran, Nila Baskar,
Isra Ali and Sophie Jewitt

REMINDER

Career Cluster Event: Health Professions

We are delighted with the response to our Careers Cluster Event - over 100 families have registered so far. There is still time to register for the event, details below:

Taking place by zoom webinar on **Thursday, 12th November between 18.30 and 20.30** this will be a great opportunity to hear from and question a diverse range of health professions, celebrating and promoting a broad range of fields of work. Guest speakers will include Prof. Steve Jones, David Macafee, Dr Shazia Akowuah, Andrew Gibson, Sue Weatherhead, Molly Bean, Bola Ajekigbe, Rebecca Troughton, Ruth Barker, Jess Lanfranconi, Rosalie Dang and Eesha Gujjurie. For more information and to book your place, please visit our registration page: <http://bit.ly/CareersHealthProfessions>. Booking is essential!

Mr S Edwards

Annual Yarm School Christmas Chess Tournament

The annual Yarm School Christmas chess tournament is reaching its exciting conclusion. We are now on to the semi-finals and these matches will be played imminently:

Ihsaan Mahmood v Edward Adams

Avanish Batra v Yusuf Syed

This year has proved to be a challenge with the impositions of the dreaded virus precluding face-to-face combat and all games are being played on the Lichess internet platform. Edward Adams is the reigning School champion and the burning question is: will he be crowned School Supremo once more?

Mr Pointon & Mr Rye

Giving future direction: careers interviews conducted remotely

During the second week of the half term holidays almost 100 pupils in the



Fifth Year were involved in a series of online interviews as part of their Morrisby career advice and guidance programme. Following on from nearly two hours of previous psychometric testing developed in conjunction with industry experts, and generating a detailed report of abilities, aptitudes and interests, the interview is designed to further explore opportunities for the pupils' futures. This year we adapted the process to allow for the professional, external interviewers to conduct Zoom-based interviews. The pupils reported most favourably on the process and the value of the informative conversations they engaged in. The opportunity to take part in this process will be offered to current Fourth Year pupils in the autumn of 2021.

Mr S Edwards

Former Pupil training for the 2021 Cambridge Boat Race Team

Former pupil Sarah Portsmouth recently featured on the University of Cambridge's Blue Bird news website as part of their Women in Sport feature. Sarah was due to compete for Cambridge in the Boat Race back in March until it was cancelled due to COVID-19. She is now back in Cambridge and is training 12 times a week in preparation for 2021! The article highlights Sarah's astonishing achievement making the Cambridge



Women's Blues crew as a fresher whilst rowing alongside PhD, graduate and undergraduate students! Sarah started rowing at age 15 at Yarm and went on to compete with Katie Anderson (Oxford) in U18 GB European races and training camps - we are delighted to read of her continued success and we hope we can watch Sarah compete in the 2021 boat race.

To read the full article [click here](#).

Mathematics Olympiad

Just before the half term we held the Mathematics Olympiad for Girls. This is a particularly fiendish two-hour examination that requires a high degree of talent, courage, determination and perseverance. Rebecca Keetley from the Lower Sixth and Lily Brown from the Upper Sixth were brave enough to put themselves forward. Both scored excellently and there was only one mark to separate them, however they both just missed the Merit which is awarded to the top 25% of the very strong field. Well done to both for taking part.

Mr M Pointon

Economics and Business Society

Should taxes be raised for Pensioners?

The inaugural meeting of the Lower Sixth Eco and Bus Society took place on Friday. Abhinav had volunteered to lead the first session and he examined the Government's economic response to Covid 19, before proposing ways to stimulate economic recovery and also how this could be funded. His suggestion that taxes on pensioners could be increased which was rather controversial and elicited a range of responses. Thank you to Abhinav for launching what we hope will be a range of stimulating discussions, on numerous Economic issues, over coming months. Thanks must also go to Jamie Pender (Upper Sixth Chair) and Hugh Hawthorne for their superb presentations to the Eco and Bus Society in recent weeks. It is great to have such enthusiastic students!

Miss C Rhodes

Uniform Shop Welcome and Goodbyes

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Lesley Porter as the new Uniform Shop Manager. Lesley joins the School from Jack Jones Retail Ltd where she was the Manager of the Middlesbrough branch. Having worked in retail for over 20 years, Lesley has a wide range of experience within store management and customer service. Lesley lives locally and enjoys cooking and hill walking in her spare time.



Lesley is looking forward to reviewing the online ordering process and is planning to reopen the shop as soon as we are able to. To get in touch with the Uniform Shop please email uniformshop@yarmschool.org or call 01642 792588. The online order form is still available, [click here](#).

Ms Carolan Henderson retired from the Uniform Shop over half term and we would like to wish her a healthy and happy retirement. Carolan joined Yarm in 2005, and has helped many of our Sixth Form students with uniform since they were in Prep School! Also leaving the Uniform Shop is Mrs Chris Donald, we wish her well for her future adventures. Thank you to both Carolan and Chris for their hard work and loyal service.

Apprenticeships in Law

Further developments were made this week in the movement towards facilitating careers as solicitors without the requirement of a university degree. Regulators have now approved a series of reforms in the field of legal education.



The scheme will allow people to join law firms as 'apprentices', leading to work experience and on the job training for five to six years before being permitted to sit a new solicitors qualifying exam. The move is designed in part to broaden access to the profession, as well as demand significantly less investment as compared to the traditional route to achieving this career. The normal, current route requires a law or non-law degree and conversion course, and then a postgraduate course and two years' on-the-job-training, a system criticised by many as too complicated and too costly. Supporters claim the new route could cut costs by up to 80%. It is estimated that qualifying as a solicitor in England and Wales can cost students in the region of £60,000 for the entire process including university fees. The legal practice course done after a law degree, currently has fees that can run to £17,000, in contrast to the new route being paid as an employee of a law firm, paying around £4,000 for solicitors' qualifying exam instead. Those interested in learning more about this route into a legal career can read further details in The Law Apprenticeship Guide 2021.

Mr S Edwards

Duke of Edinburgh News

Yarm pupils have not been idle by any means during recent months. Alongside school and family commitments, our pupils have been busy completing sections of their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

Volunteering: Namisha Chawla and Sam Millman

Skill: Rushil Partha and Emilia Armstrong

Physical: Sam Millman and Parul Sinha

Impressively, Amelia Large has completed her full Bronze Award, having completed her expedition section prior to March, and used her Dance interests (Physical) and developed hair & beauty techniques (Skills) in a salon to complete her final sections of her award successfully.

Due to current restrictions, full overnight expeditions are currently not possible so the DofE officials have created a special 2020 Certificate of Achievement to reward pupils that have completed all the other categories. There have been a huge variety of activities taking place, with wonderful involvement within their communities for the volunteering section in particular.

We also congratulate the following former pupils for achieving their Gold Certificate of Achievement: Shrinidhi Mahadevan, Abhinayaa Amitharaj and Connall Lacy (who has plans to complete his whole Gold Award as soon as residential restrictions allow).

At Bronze level, our current Fifth Year pupils have been astounding with their commitment to complete sections and it is delightful to be able to congratulate the following for their Bronze Certificate of Achievement: Lilian Dufton, Laura Cunningham, Neha Patil, Bakaer Noble, Georgia Charnley, Kaavya Venkatesh, Medha Rajeeva, Shreya Rajesh Kumar, Amelia Severn, Katherine Henley, Felix Humphrys, Alexander Nelson, Divya Hukkeri, Caroline Louwrens, Emily Miller and Michael Bashford. Their certificates will be presented via their Heads of Year.

In addition, the current Fourth Years are already making progress with their Bronze sections and almost 40 pupils spent the first weekend of the October half term holiday gaining training for their expeditions which hopefully can be accomplished in due course. The training involved equipment checks, weather, campcraft skills, navigation and first aid training within the school site on Saturday, followed by a challenging day trek with 'obstacles' en-route on the Sunday in the North York Moors. The groups had to plan routes, navigate, maintain morale and deal with unexpected 'scenarios' in which their first aid and campcraft knowledge was tested. The pupils were great company and thanks must go to the dedicated team of staff who delayed the start of their own half term break.

If any pupils need assistance with any section of their DofE, Bronze or Gold, please contact Mrs Guest. Mr Mathers will be the main contact for expedition sections when future lifting of restrictions allow trips to resume.

Breaking news:

Kaushiki Dasgupta has achieved all possible sections of her Gold DofE already to achieve the 2020 Certificate of Achievement. This is a special certificate this year for students who have done all of the sections with the exception of the expedition. She can pursue the expedition section to complete her full Gold Award when restrictions are lifted, but we are delighted to celebrate her success - great personal organisation, good communication, generous time given to volunteering in the community and diverse skills.

Mrs J Guest



Finance and Accounting in the Real World

Miss Rhodes' Upper Sixth Business students were once again delighted to hear from Mrs Heward, our school Finance Manager, when she came in to speak to them earlier in the week. In the class's penultimate Finance and Accounting lesson, Mrs Heward spoke about the political, economic, social and technical factors which have impacted on her department in recent years, and explained the value of contingency planning. Bringing a plethora of real life examples to engage the students, Mrs Heward captured their interest and brought the topic to life.

Many thanks to Mrs Heward for her continued support of the Economics and Business department, especially at such a very busy time.

Miss C Rhodes

Remembrance 2020

The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Rupert Brooke

Commemorating the soldier-heroes of the First World War will have to take place remotely this November. The Remembrance Sunday March has been cancelled and the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph will not be open to the public due to coronavirus restrictions. At school, too, we will not be able to meet to honour and remember all those who have lost their lives in a way that we are used to. It is, however, imperative that we do not forget those who have sadly passed fighting for this country, or in more modern times, fighting against terrorism. It is also important that we continue to support the British Legion in their Poppy Appeal and wear a poppy to remember those who fought for our peace. Like all charities, they are feeling the effects of the pandemic, but they are continuing to provide help, advice and financial support to families in need, as well as helping to protect older veterans who have done so much to protect us in the past.

When you go home, tell them of us and say,
'For your tomorrows these gave their today.'

John Maxwell Edmunds (1916)

Luke Porter

Plea for Books

Peter Philips from Darlington Rotary Club has just returned from Kenya and asked if we would like to support a charity, Just be a Child. They send containers full of books from Stevenage to Kenya. Once in Kenya the containers are converted into Libraries and stocked with the books that were shipped across in them.

The Rotary Club are collecting books in the North East and SG Petch have agreed to deliver them to Stevenage. Once the containers are full, they go to Mombasa where they are transported to a destination in need of a library.

The official language of Kenya is English but the children using the libraries are approximately 3/4 years behind in their reading. Likewise, adults that use the library, have a limited reading ability.

If you have any books at home that you would like to donate to this very worthwhile cause please leave them on the trolley in the library. Fiction and Non-Fiction are both very welcome.

Ms C Dixon-Barker

Watching All Spaces

In this altered landscape we are finding new ways to share the old ideas. Universities and employers are engaging in this creative process to share their ideas and information. Below you will see details of an event organised by Durham University for anyone interested in exploring the idea of studying languages and cultures at university. The free Zoom event will present a number of their undergraduates sharing their experiences of this course of study. Furthermore anyone interested in learning more about study and work in the field of Languages could speak with Mr Adam Bridges, our Career Ambassador for Languages. Pupils should be encouraged to look out for such opportunities through the newsletter but also through postings in their Google Classrooms. The Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth Google Classrooms frequently share details of forthcoming careers events.

Mr S Edwards

SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Durham University

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT LANGUAGES?
ARE YOU CONSIDERING STUDYING MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES AT UNI AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

This online event is for you!

Date: Wednesday 11 November
Where: on Zoom
Time: 4:00-5:30 p.m.

TO ACCESS THE EVENT ON ZOOM USE:

Meeting ID: 917 5163 7066 PASSCODE: 431821