

Newsletter



No: 1254 www.yarmschool.org | 13th November 2020

Headmaster's Welcome

A highly successful careers cluster webinar last night was attended by over 120 guests interested in finding out more about careers in the Health Professions and I am grateful to Mr Edwards and other colleagues for coordinating and hosting this, and particularly to the panel guests for offering their time and expertise to all those who participated. You will see below that we are planning the next of our series of events and that anyone interested in finding out more about the pros and cons of taking a Gap Year should sign up. Separately, considering 'next steps', we are planning a range of events to inform Fifth Year parents and pupils about options for the Sixth Form and will be in touch about those soon.

Adapting once again to remote learning has unfortunately been a reality for a number of our pupils this week and I applaud their motivation and engagement with their work. The requirement to self-isolate has also been made of some teachers, too, and we hear from Mr Brogan within about the experience of delivering remote teaching from his side of the teachers' desk. The impact of having pupils at home is felt in the ongoing rehearsal and filming of the Fifth Year Production but it was a pleasure to watch the videos of the recently completed Duologues entries and I offer my congratulations to all the entrants for their creative flair.

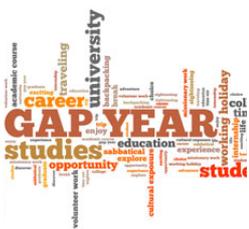
Whilst whispers (shouts?) of a vaccine for Covid raise our hopes of a return to something more closely resembling normality for all, we remain 'in lockdown' for now and continue to do everything we can to minimise the chances of any transmission in School. We remain deeply impressed by the maturity of our pupils and their support of the processes we have in place. I am grateful to all parents and carers for following the national guidance to minimise the impact on our whole community; thank you.

Dr Huw Williams

Careers Cluster Event: Gap Years

Tuesday 24th November
1830 - 2000

*What are the benefits of taking a Gap Year?
How much does a 'typical' gap year cost?
Won't a Gap Year disrupt my studies and career plans?
How would I even organise a Gap Year?*



There is often a big disconnect between the imagined projection and the actual reality of a Gap Year. They can be enormously varied in terms of their focus, location and even purpose. Evidence demonstrates that students who have taken a gap year before university assume above average levels of leadership positions

at university, and also secure a higher proportion of First Class degrees.

We are devoting a Career Cluster session to explore this topic. On the evening of Tuesday 24th November, conducted as a live, remote session via Zoom Webinar, we will be joined by a leading Gap Year provider who will give a presentation on Gap Years before taking your questions. We will also be joined by a number of former students who will speak about the practical aspects of their gap year, as well as their measured benefits, as well as answering your questions.

You must register for this event by following [this link](#)

Mr S Edwards

The Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2020

Parents and pupils may be interested to explore the [linked fact sheet](#) outlining the top 100 apprenticeship employers from 2020. We are all of us acquiring ever more understanding about the many opportunities that exist for those seeking apprenticeships. There are a range of levels of apprenticeships and these are referenced in the factsheet. The fact sheet also provides the number of new starters with various apprenticeship providers. There is also a [video](#) you are able to watch where the countdown announcement was made. The programme also includes analysis and research about the country's top apprenticeships, as well as interviews and discussion with the Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills.

**TOP
100
APPRENTICESHIP
EMPLOYERS
2020**

Mr S Edwards

This House believes all age restrictions should be lifted

The Yarm School Debating Society tackled a difficult issue this week, exploring whether or not age restrictions are a useful way of controlling what people can and cannot do in society. To add to the difficulty, we used a different style of debating this week, following a British Parliamentary format; this meant that speeches could be interrupted by members of the other side if they had a short, relevant question to ask on a particular point. Gabe, Tasha, Will P and Katie were arguing for the proposition this week, and put it to the judges that age restrictions are an arbitrary way to decide who can do what, when maturity and intelligence are often much more important measures. They used the example of a 16 year old being legally old enough to have a child or go to war but not legally old enough to vote. In response, the opposition (made up of Archie, George, Will and Mia) countered that age restrictions are used to protect both society as a whole, as well as the individuals subject to those restrictions. They used the example of a young child being exposed to alcohol too early and the potentially devastating effects this could have later in life. In the end, victory was awarded to the opposition (though it was a split decision), as the judges felt that the proposition had not fully explained their alternative system of restrictions.

Mr A Bridges

Yarm Apprentice

The second challenge of 2020 has been set to our Yarm Apprentices.

The haircare market is currently worth over US\$170bn a year and is expected to continue to increase in value to over US\$200 in the 2020s (source: Grand View Research, Inc.). The shampoo market holds the largest share in this product segment due to the high adoption rate of shampoo in daily use and high-value branded organic and natural shampoos available.

Tasked to brand and then pitch, a brand-new shampoo product to two leading haircare product tycoons (aka Mr Newman and Mr Alexander). The teams' proposals should be based upon rigorous market research, have a clearly defined target audience and an advertising strategy to match.

With success criteria based on market research, branding, marketing and pitch, the teams (Team Ten - Project Managed by Emma - and Team Capillium - Project Managed by Tom) will face the Lord Sugar duo in the Boardroom on Tuesday 24th November, when one team will win, whilst one or more Apprentices will be fired!

Miss C Rhodes

Annual Yarm School Christmas Chess Tournament

The annual Yarm School Christmas Chess Tournament has progressed to its exciting conclusion. The semi-final line-ups were:

Edward Brown v Ihsaan Mahmood

Yusuf Syed v Avanish Batra

Ihsaan defeated Edward, last year's worthy champion and Yusuf overcame Avanish in a tense struggle. In the final, one game was drawn but Yusuf triumphed winning two games to become this year's supremo and he will be awarded the engraved shield. Well done to all sixteen who took part - all games were played on the Lichess.com platform to maintain social distancing.

Mr Pointon & Mr Rye

Fifth Year Production

We made a fantastic start filming this year's Fifth Year production on Monday. Unfortunately we had to halt the production due to a period of self-isolation but



we are already looking forward to capturing the rest when the Fifth Year return. We hope to have an edited production to share with you by the end of November. Watch this space...

Arkwright Scholarship

The Reece Foundation was founded in 2007 with the goal to increase the long term and sustainable prosperity of the North East of England primarily through the promotion of engineering and manufacturing.

The foundation strives to improve education in engineering and related scientific and mathematical subjects by providing training in engineering skills and increasing employment opportunities for young people.

The Reece Foundation have helped the Arkwright Engineering Scholarships for many years and it is with delight that this year they have decided to sponsor William on his engineering scholarship.



Which University



The recently published Good University Guide 2021 reveals its findings into the best universities in this country. All too often faced with such a vast choice of

institutions we can be guilty of falling back on dated, and sometimes inaccurate stereotypes and assumptions about the relative strengths of various institutions. More so than ever with the advance of the 'market place' into such decisions, universities are dynamically auditing their offerings, and seeking to offer their students the very best experiences. But this can be measured in so many different ways; teaching quality, cost of living/value for money, 'student life', career prospects, Firsts and 2:1s, completion rate, student satisfaction, services and facilities spend, and on and on.

The Sunday Times Good University Guide is available online through a subscription, with a free trial period, but there are myriad alternative guides and league tables available for your perusal. Below I will share some of their findings. Whilst some may seem obvious and expected, I think there are enough surprises to warrant parents and pupils to undertake their own further research.

University of the Year: Oxford

Runner Up: Queen Mary, London

Shortlisted: Bath, Coventry, Strathclyde

Modern University of the Year: Lincoln

Top by Subject

Cambridge (top in 32 subjects)

Oxford (5)

Glasgow (4) - incl. Dentistry, Sports Science

Loughborough (4) - inclu. Criminology

St Andrews (3) - inclu. Politics, Business, Philosophy

Edinburgh (3) incl. Nursing, Veterinary Medicine

Birmingham (2) incl American Studies

Strathclyde - Accounting and Finance

Durham - Music

Bath - Architecture

Bristol - General Engineering

Manchester - Drama

Southampton - Physiotherapy

Warwick - Creative Writing

Best for Student Experience

Aberystwyth

St Andrews

West London

Loughborough

Arts Bournemouth

Top Arts Universities

Arts Bournemouth

Leeds Arts
Creative Arts
Norwich Arts
Arts London

Best for Jobs

Imperial College, London

London School of Economics

Cambridge

Oxford

St George's, London

Best for Sport

Loughborough

Nottingham

Durham

Edinburgh

Exeter

Mr S Edwards

Remote Learning from the other side

Remote learning is something we are all, students and teachers alike, are still trying to get to grips with and this week, whilst self-isolating, I've been able to get the true experience of 'remote teaching'. There is no doubt working online holds challenges for teachers and pupils. So much of what we do, as teachers, in the physical classroom is based on the responses and reactions of individual students; I was concerned about how I would teach without this feedback. Without seeing these reactions, how would it be possible to know if I was explaining something too quickly, or if the pupils had misunderstood what I had said?



So, after a weekend of work; rewriting lesson plans, resources and rethinking tasks to suit an online delivery, I have been impressed by the maturity and focus with which my pupils have adapted to yet another new way of learning. The use of various pieces of technology have been fundamental to our work - the Chromebooks have been invaluable. Using Google Canvas, where I can see what pupils are writing in real-time and give them constructive feedback and Google Jamboard so I can work collaboratively with pupils looking at questions on the same document. The use of a visualiser (a modern day, digital OHP) has allowed me to replicate the classroom board demonstrating a method, but over the internet.

By no means have I got everything right during remote teaching and it is the same for pupils - nothing has been easy in exploring uncharted waters and it's a huge change in routines. But as we continue having to move between such blended learning techniques, the last few days have given me great faith in the resilience of our pupils to cope with a changing learning environment where I know they can continue to excel and succeed.

Mr A Brogan

New Sculling Boats given the star treatment



Yarm School Boat Club took delivery of six new sculling boats from Swift Racing just in time for the October half term training camp. This has now swelled our fleet to 24 sculling boats. The guidance from British Rowing means that single sculling is a super way to gain the necessary skills and confidence to be able to compete whilst in lockdown and maintaining social distancing.

Our more senior scullers really enjoyed the new sculling boats. They are much lighter and stiffer than our other boats and harder to manoeuvre round the bends on the Tees as new boats are built for racing in straight lines!! This was a good learning experience and demanded some dexterity and skill.



The October Training camp, held over the first three days of half term proved a great success. Over sixty young people between the ages of fourteen and eighteen attended for the duration and experienced rowing in single sculls, double sculls, quads and octuples.



The pupils stayed in their year group bubbles and took part in two training sessions every day. Coaches rotated around the groups and had the opportunity to see all the participants. The feedback was so positive, the pupils enjoyed the variety...but not necessarily the blisters. Plenty of plasters proved a good solution.

On the final day all the training and coaching was put into practice with two time trials over 3km. There was a sense of excitement around the boathouse and for some this was their first race.

The first time trial was in single sculls and treated like a



proper head race would be. All the scullers wanted to demonstrate the skills they had learnt over the week and the time trial was a great success... even for those who hadn't raced in a single before. The second was in larger boats.



No capsizes, plenty of laughs, plenty of concentration and new skills. Friendships made and a resilience built up to take their rowing to whatever level they want to. A wonderful three days.

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