

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

As we continue to navigate the various challenges of lockdown, and as Covid continues to affect us on a School and an individual level, being reminded via this newsletter of the varied opportunities and level of engagement from our pupils is a welcome and important point of reflection and reassurance. You can read more about success in international film competitions, former pupil news, debating, online musical and dramatic offerings, Community Action Group contributions, careers and choices information, Economics poetry, historical perspectives, House identities and sporting reminiscences! Here at School, we continue to stick as closely to our routines as we can despite the disruption and, whilst there are different challenges for those learning from home for a period of time, I encourage pupils who have to self-isolate to try and remain in a routine of good sleep habits and to align their working day with their school routine. Teachers continue to innovate in an ever-evolving landscape of remote and in-class teaching and I am grateful to them all for their dedication and determination to ensure that pupils are well supported. The pupils, too, deserve our praise and recognition for their resilient and positive outlook, particularly those who have had periods away from school.

In staffing news, with more details beneath this message, we introduce and welcome Mrs Alexandra Kingsbury to the School community after her recent appointment. I also wanted to send our best wishes to Mrs Lynsey Craig who has just started a period of maternity leave, and to inform parents that Miss Beth Henderson will oversee the Marketing department full time in Mrs Craig's absence.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that, after many years' planning and preparation, work will commence over the Christmas holidays and early next term on our new car park on land adjacent to the Prep School. This project, when realised, will benefit the whole School and our local community by enabling drop off and pick up of our younger pupils away from the Spital which should in turn reduce congestion, as well as releasing the pressure on space at the Senior School. The project is expected to take around eight months to complete.

Dr Huw Williams

A Warm Welcome to Mrs Alexandra Kingsbury

It is a great pleasure to introduce Mrs Alexandra Kingsbury who has recently been appointed as the School's new Senior Deputy Head. Mrs Kingsbury, who is currently Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead at Highfield School in Hampshire, will join us in September 2021 to take over from Mr Woodward who announced his retirement in September.

Mrs Kingsbury holds a BA in French and German from St Anne's College, Oxford and teaches French and German. Before her move to Highfield School, Mrs Kingsbury held a number of SMT positions at Whitgift School, namely Senior Manager (Staff and Academic Development), Head of Lower School and Head of Admissions, having previously been Head of French.

Mrs Kingsbury is moving to the North East with her husband John and their two young children Amélie and Heidi who will both be joining the Prep School. They have long dreamed of moving to this part of the world having both fallen in love with the North York Moors whilst visiting John's family. As keen walkers and lovers of the outdoors, all of the family are eager and excited to explore the region and the stunning countryside we are lucky to enjoy.

As well as being a sporty family with interests ranging from hockey and squash to mountain biking and swimming, Mrs Kingsbury is a fan of musicals and is already looking forward to seeing the next Yarm School production in our Auditorium. "When the role came up at Yarm, it was very clear that the opportunity was too good to ignore. The School's ethos of 'educating for life' reflects my own philosophy and approach to education and when I was able to visit the site and meet colleagues and pupils, I was sold. It is with real excitement that I look forward to taking on this role in September and getting to know staff, pupils and parents."

We hope to invite Mrs Kingsbury to visit the School during the course of the academic year - lockdown permitting - so she can start meeting staff and pupils and to ensure a comprehensive handover with Mr Woodward. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Mrs Kingsbury into her new role!



The Piano Sessions: Season One - Mrs Bury's Pupils

Please enjoy this wonderful, short, remote concert featuring a handful of Mrs Bury's piano pupils who were taking online ABRSM piano exams in October 2020. Thank you to Mrs Bury and her pupils for allowing us to share this lovely little concert with you today: <https://bit.ly/YSPianoConcert>

The Music Department

Apprenticeships & Careers with the Armed Forces



A fair number of students from Yarm School have pursued career routes in the Armed Forces. In recent years Sam Guest has built considerable experience and opportunity through his involvement with the RAF whilst pursuing his medical degree at Edinburgh University, and Toby Atkinson is currently attending Sandhurst after graduating from Lancaster University. There are some significant opportunities, though these often fall below students' and parents' radar.

Amazing Apprenticeships, an organisation committed to promoting the value of Apprenticeships, will be hosting a webinar with the Armed Forces to explore the apprenticeship opportunities available within the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. All three services were recently listed in the top 10 of the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers (British Army secured #1, Royal Navy secured #3 and Royal Air Force #10).

Though the timing might not be ideal for all, the webinar is to be hosted on 25th November at 3:30pm. To book a free place you will need to register at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/ArmedForcesApprenticeships>

Mr S Edwards

Hygiene Poverty

Thank you so much for all your wonderful donations for The Hygiene Bank. We were delighted to collect a massive eight bin bags/boxes of toiletries; these will be collected this week by a volunteer for the charity. We were thrilled with the School's generosity and are sure that they will be put to really good use this winter.

If anyone wished to offer further support to this fantastic charity,

you may be interested in their new appeal. In the run-up to Christmas, they are inviting individuals and businesses to donate £15 through their JustGiving page to purchase a bag filled with essential toiletry products, along with a luxury item or two and a thoughtful Christmas card. In December the bags will be sent to The Hygiene Bank's projects around the UK and Ireland to distribute to those in crisis in time for Christmas.



The Community Action Group

REMINDERS

Into the Sixth Form Event

All Fifth Year parents/guardians should have received an email on Monday, 16th November with an invitation to attend our virtual **Into the Sixth Form Event on Monday, 23rd November between 1800 and 1900.**

Registration is essential and can be completed here.

Dr Williams, Dr Goodall, Miss Gamble and Mr Edwards will talk to you about life at Yarm Sixth Form including what your child/children can expect during their transition and advice on choosing A Level subjects. There will also be a live Q&A session so you can ask all of your questions. We hope to see you there.

Dr A Goodall

Career Cluster Event: Gap Years

There is still time to register to our next Career Cluster Event on **Tuesday, 24th November between 1830 and 2030.** [Click here to register online.](#)

We will be joined online by a leading Gap Year provider who will discuss the ins and outs of Gap Years and a number of former students who will speak about the practical aspects and measured benefits. There will also be a chance to ask all of our guests your questions and find out everything you need to know about Gap Years. Booking is essential!

Mr S Edwards

Last Call for Book Donations

Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated books in support of Just Be A Child, a charity that supports children living in Kenya. We are thrilled with the number of generous donations so far.

The charity is filling shipping containers with books, delivering them to Mombasa and transporting them to destinations in need of a library. The shipping container is then transformed into a library for local children and stocked with all of the books it carried over.

We have had some generous and wonderful donations that will help this worthwhile cause however, there is still time if you have any fiction and/or non-fiction books at home that you would like to donate. **The deadline is Friday, 28th November;** all books must be dropped off at the School Office. 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 will use the library have a limited reading ability.

Thank you in advance to everyone who gets involved.

Ms C Dixon-Barker

FilmaroLoco International Under-18 Short Film Awards

On the Saturday, 1st August, I submitted my film entry '2020 So Far..' to the "FilmaroLoco International Under-18 Short Film Awards". The motivation behind the short film stemmed from the whirlwind of events that occurred this year. From the spread of coronavirus to the impact of the BLM movement, I was inspired. I wanted to compile all the main events that happened this year into a single seven-minute film. My aim was to illustrate that, even in the midst of this strange year, we'll (as cliché as it sounds) make it out stronger and smarter than before!

A few months later I received an email from the FilmaroLoco Organisation informing me that I had achieved two awards for this film: "Best Film Editing" and "Best Cinematography Compilation". Michelle Liu, the founder of the competition, sent me a personal email which conveyed her favourite aspects of my film - I was, quote-on-quote, flabbergasted!

Creating this short-film broadened my knowledge and understanding of film-making, ranging from learning how to use specific algorithms to perform specific functions on my editing software, to knowing how to use a combination of timing, music and clips to gain the strongest emotions from the viewer. Competing against teenagers across the globe was a fantastic experience - I enjoyed it and will definitely participate in next year's competition!

You can watch the video by searching, "2020 So Far by Apsara Productions" on YouTube.

Apsara Naguleswaran

The Yarm School Economics Poetry Competition 2020

The runner up of the Yarm School Economics Poetry Competition 2020 is Emily Scott with her entry...

Four factors of production

Labour, capital, enterprise and land

Deals with the issue of

Supply and demand

Circulating capital

Only has a single use

Whereas fixed capital

Can be used to produce (e.g machinery)

A market is a place

Where buyers and sellers meet

Companies, firms and businesses

Sell products to compete

Inflation is a continuing

Rise in the price level

An economic shock

Is the work of the devil

The government aims for

A stable inflation rate

But how it achieves this

Is up for debate

Abhinav Ramisetty and Owen Reed also deserve a mention for their contributions. Keep an eye for the winning entry in next week's newsletter!

Miss C E Rhodes

Was Field Marshal Haig the 'butcher of the Somme'?

"I hope that historians reconsider their judgement of Haig"
Oscar Thomas O3 PC

Since half term, Third Year Historians have been engrossed in a debate surrounding the role of Field Marshal Haig, supreme commander of the British forces at the Battle of the Somme, a key battle in the First World War. On July 1st 1916, on a calm and peaceful summer day in northern France, Haig ordered his troops to climb out of their trenches and advance across a 15km stretch of countryside towards the German trenches. It was assumed that a seven day long artillery bombardment of the German positions had left "not even a rat alive" and the men would have time for a "picnic" when they arrived at the German positions. However, the German bunkers, dug in 40ft underground, remained mostly intact. Almost 60,000 British troops were wounded or injured in a matter of hours as the Germans were able to man their machine guns and slaughter the advancing troops. Haig commented during the first day that "the losses cannot be considered severe". Such comments have led a group of historians to label Haig as "the butcher of the Somme". The fact that the battle continued for another five months, led to the epithet; "Donkeys leading Lions" in reference to the British Generals. The British suffered a total of 400,000 casualties in the 5 month battle. However, members of the Third Year discussed at length to what extent Haig deserves this nickname. When reviewing the statistical data, it seems impossible that one could counter argue and suggest anything other than the Generals were inept, callous and severely out of touch with the realities of trench warfare. But we must consider that under Haig's command, Britain went on to win the war by repelling the German spring offensive in 1918. Haig was promoted to Field Marshal in December 1916. He was made an Earl in 1919. After the war, Haig set up the Royal British Legion, to assist the families of dead or wounded soldiers. He must have been well received in the context of the time. In fact, between 1914-1915, 200 British Generals died in front line service, providing evidence that the Generals were in fact close to the action and were putting their own lives in danger on the front lines. Furthermore, pupils discussed the fact that most of the negative literature about Haig and the Generals was published in the 1960s, nearly 40 years after Haig's death. This led us to debate the concept of how to judge historical characters. Is it fair to judge individuals in the context of our time? The negative historiography of Haig seemed to come a short time after World War Two. Another global conflict that led to the deaths of 20 million people. Are these historians judging Haig not by his own actions, but via interlinking historical events? Our discussion and our research led to pupils questioning the legitimacy of the historiography of Douglas Haig and forming their own opinions and conclusions. In essence, that is what the study of history is all about; researching, asking questions, challenging assumptions and preconceptions, and having an open mind that enables one to draw conclusions.

Mr A J Morrison

Health Professions Deliver Essential Careers Advice



Few can fail to acknowledge the essential recognition that has been rightfully heaped on the health professionals over the course of the current pandemic. There has been a heartening appreciation of the complex, interconnectedness of so many professions working together for the benefit of public health. Health professions are a very popular career destination for many pupils from Yarm, and though many may have family connections in this realm of work, it is easy to have a myopic view of the range of possibilities and opportunities.

To this end we delivered a Career Cluster event last Thursday, with over 100 families participating, listening to and questioning the offerings from 16 health professionals. We had representation from General Practice doctors, surgery, midwifery, physiotherapy, nursing, optometry, dentistry, veterinary, pharmacy, with our guest ranging from a current medical student through to those involved in the teaching and training of health professionals.

During a two hour Zoom Webinar the guests were able to share advice as diverse as how to prepare for such a profession, the nature and value of work experience, essential skills and attributes required in these lines of work, as well as providing insight into the nature of the working life, challenges, stresses and strains. We were delighted that as well as many Yarm School families we were joined by families from as many neighbouring schools. There is no doubt that those attending left with an enhanced understanding of the range of opportunities, the demands of these professions, as well as the routes available and required to build a career in these directions.

All those interested in learning more about this event, as well as the details of the guests, can find further information and contact details in the **Career Cluster Health Professions booklet**. I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation to all of our guests who gave so generously of their time, not least during this period when their time is ever more in demand.

Mr S Edwards

This House Would Never Lie

This week's British Parliamentary style debate explored the motion: 'This House would never lie'. On the proposing side Max opened with the point that lying can cause distrust within large groups of people, and that the consequences of a white lie can snowball into something with astronomical consequences. Maddie continued to talk about lying in the context of parenting, and how a child can easily lose trust if

lied to by a seemingly reliable person. Maddie's point was further backed up by Will R, who took on this point from another perspective, in terms of a child lying to their parents, and the negative effects this can have on both the parents and the child. Mr Bridges, filling in for a missing member, summed up the proposition's argument with a strong and memorable conclusion, posing the question 'How can we believe you?' to the opposition.

Tarrun opened the argument for the opposition by saying that lying is necessary for retaliation and deception in war situations. This was later rebutted as the point that war is not a force for good was brought up. Katie continued the opposition's argument, bringing up the idea that lying is human nature and frankly, unavoidable. Himank took on a utilitarian point of view; he argued that lying is an essential part of human morals and ethics in order for the best outcome for the most people. Himank also handled a large number of information points from judges and the other side alike. George concluded for the opposition by rebutting the proposition's arguments and summing up the points made by his teammates.

This debate was chaired by Gabriel, who remained (mostly) impartial throughout and kept track of time. The judges (Natasha, Archie and myself) came to a final decision by majority vote, that the proposition had won the debate, and that this house would never lie.

Mia Mack

Career Ambassadors

Within Yarm School we have a number of members of staff who act as Careers Ambassadors. These are individuals who have a declared area of interest, expertise or experience within a particular field. The arrangement allows for more informal conversations and advice about possible career routes, in addition to the other avenues open to pupils for guidance. The following members of staff are happy to speak to interested pupils about careers and courses in their chosen area.

Mr S Edwards

Engineering: Mr G Addison

Research & Resources: Miss C Dixon-Barker

Psychology Routes: Mr J Brash

Languages: Mr A Bridges

Computing: Mr P Collins

PPE, Politics, International Resources: Mr S Edwards

Humanities: Miss S Hussey

Creative Arts and Design: Ms A Jackson

Performing Arts: Mr A McIntyre

Health Professions: Mr T Newman

Law and Criminology: Mrs F Picknett

Business, Finance, Management, Accountancy: Miss C Rhodes

Teaching and Education: Mr T Taylor

Science and Research: Dr A Tulloch

Sport Science, Training and Performance: Mr C Webb

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 <h3>St Aidan</h3> <p>St Aidan of Lindisfarne was born in Ireland at around 590. On the orders of King Oswald of Northumbria he came to Northumbria as a Bishop and is credited to converting the Anglo-Saxons living there to Christians. He established a Monastery on the Island of Lindisfarne. Aidan lived a frugal life, fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays, and tirelessly preached and taught others. Aidan died after an illness on the 31st of August 651, and took his last breath leaning on the pillar of the Church the latter of which has survived two burnings of that Church and is thought to have healing powers. His symbol is a stag as it represents solitude, piety and prayer and he is thought to have made a stag invisible to save it from wolves.</p> <p>Virtues: knowledge of the Bible, eloquent preaching, holiness, kindness to the poor, the miracles attributed to him.</p>	 <h3>St Bede</h3> <p>Bede the Venerable was an Anglo-Saxon Theologian, Geologist and Historian. Born in Monkton, Jarrow of Northumbria in 762. Bede was well known for his 'Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum', 'Ecclesiastical History of the English People'. This is crucial to our understanding of the Anglo-Saxon conversion to Christianity. Bede spent most of his life in Jarrow, ordained a Deacon when 19 and a Priest when 30. His works can be generally divided into three categories: grammatical and "scientific," scriptural commentary, and historical and biographical. Bede died on May 25, 735, aged 62 and having written 45 books. He is the only Englishman to be named Doctor of the Church and is featured in Dante's Paradise.</p> <p>Virtues: Well educated, religious, industrious</p> <p>Shortcomings: Bede's widely copied works have led to less writings by others, some of his works have been questioned.</p>	 <h3>St Cuthbert</h3> <p>St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne was the patron of Durham and a spreader of Christianity in Northumbria. Born in 635, it is thought that Cuthbert was born in the neighbourhood of Melrose (Melrose) in a poor family; as a boy he used to be a shepherd. In the year 651, he saw in a vision the soul of St. Aidan carried to heaven by angels, and was inspired by this became a monk. He retired to the inner Farne Island but left with the persuasion of King Egfrid of Northumbria to become the Bishop of Lindisfarne. Cuthbert returned to his island before his death, in March 687, and was considered a saint when his body was uncorrupted 2 years after his death.</p> <p>Virtues: Religious, model Christian, performed healing miracles, embodied the values of humility, simplicity and tolerance.</p> <p>Shortcomings: Used to be a soldier.</p>	 <h3>St Oswald</h3> <p>St Oswald was the King of Northumbria. Born in 604, he introduced Celtic Christian Missionaries to Northumbria. Oswald's father King Aethelbert had ruled the two ancient Northumbrian kingdoms of Bernicia and Deira. Oswald and his brother Ossa, however, were later expelled when their uncle Edwin came to the throne, where they converted to Christianity. After Edwin was killed in battle, Oswald took the throne, and one of his major accomplishments is calling St Aidan to come to Northumbria in order to assist with the conversion of Anglo-Saxons there to Christianity. St Oswald died in 642 after the Pagan King Penda defeated him in battle. Oswald's remains are considered to have healing powers.</p> <p>Virtues: Religious, helped to spread Christianity, credited with miracles.</p>
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Are Saints Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert & Oswald Good Role Models for Today's Yarm School Pupils?

Second Year pupil, Ajay Selvan has created a poster justifying why Northumberland Saints: Aidan, Bede, Cuthbert and Oswald are good role models for our current Yarm School pupils. The task was part of the Religion and Philosophy optional extension termly challenges which asked pupils to research and reflect on the life and times of the Saints behind the four Senior School Houses. Ajay's poster explores the history of the Saints, recognising virtues that link them to the School. Well done, Ajay.

Miss S Hussey

Duologue Winners Reminder

You can still watch our incredible Duologues entries using the links below. I hope you enjoy watching them as much as we enjoyed rehearsing and filming them:

[Watch the Junior Duologues.](#)
[Watch the Intermediate & Senior Duologues.](#)

Well done again to all of our amazing entries who had to adapt to performing without a live audience... no laughter, no atmosphere, no applause! It was a huge challenge to perform with enthusiasm and energy to three cameras and no crowd, but they all did an amazing job. It was extremely difficult to pick winners this year as the pairs all did



an outstanding job and I have been truly impressed with the way they have conducted themselves in what is a very different year. Well done to all of you and I look forward to working with you more in the future.

Many thanks again to fantastic technical team Tom and Luke and our wonderful judges for giving up part of their half term! Please find a small selection of photos from the competitions below.

Mr D Brookes



Memories from a Rugby Tour

"Sir, if you had to pick, which Rugby tour has been your favourite?"

This is a question I have been asked on so many occasions. Those who have been on tours are obviously hoping I would say theirs and those looking forward to a tour are wanting me to pick just the one... but I can't choose!

Since joining Yarm in 2004 I have been fortunate to experience many fantastic tours to several destinations worldwide: South Africa (x3), Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Australia (x2), New Zealand, Argentina, USA and Canada. They have all been awesome experiences and a trip of a lifetime for all those involved.

My 'top tour' is no singular trip, instead it is an amalgamation of the best bits. If I compiled all the highlights from all seven tours the 'top tour' would likely add up to about six weeks - but that's a burden I would happily shoulder. Over the course of the next few Newsletters, I hope to share with you a snapshot of the experiences myself and hundreds of Yarm pupils have enjoyed over the years: the countries, the places, the people and their cultures. Of course rugby has been important and many of the boys have created friends for life with those they have played against but so too has been the chance to see the world and experience all it has to offer. Touring is something we have always valued highly and despite these strange times it is something we will be looking to continue. It takes a couple of years to organise a tour (from start to finish) and a key part of it is the build up; team building fundraising events, the unity and bond which starts to develop within the tour party and the excitement for the adventure ahead. Alongside this, we savour the shared experiences and the memories made, not to mention the fun and daily laugh-out-loud moments. Touring really is something special and only truly understood by those who experience it.



Up first is a 2006 tour to South Africa and Namibia where we took two senior teams away. This was my first school tour and it certainly set the bar high! It's fair to say I fell in love with South Africa from the moment the plane approached Cape Town Airport, looking out of the window to see the magnificent Table Mountain (something we would later walk up) standing tall. It is a country full of a rich variety of history and culture we were all invited to explore. We were based in Cape Town, Stellenbosch and the surrounding Cape area, followed



by time spent in Namibia. From the mountain to safaris, sea life to townships, Robben Island to the Namib desert and visiting children's charities to the southern most tip of Africa, we covered a huge amount and played good rugby with five matches per team during the 19 day tour. I hope you enjoy looking through just a very small selection of the photos we took.

[Click here to see photos from our 2006 Rugby Tour.](#)

Mr C Webb



Former Pupil Training for 2012 Oxford Boat Race Team

Not long ago we celebrated the success of former pupil, Sarah Portsmouth who is training for the 2021 Cambridge Boat Race team. This week we are congratulating another former pupil, Katie Anderson who was featured in Oxford's 'Feature Friday' as the Vice President for the Oxford boat. Returning to training for her third year, Katie's main motivation is to beat Cambridge in the 2021 Boat Race.

Katie learnt how to row here at Yarm School aged 13 and competed in competitions across the UK. She was selected for the Coupe de Jeunesse Regatta in 2018 and joined OUWBC shortly after. Katie has competed in Oxford's Osiris crew both in 2019 and 2020. It is fantastic to see Katie doing so well and we are looking forward to the Yarm vs Yarm showdown in 2021!

