



YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Teacher Training Booklet



Are you interested in teaching?

If you are bright, dynamic, enthusiastic, hardworking and passionate about sharing the subject you love with young people, then we would love to hear from you. You may be a final-year university student or recent graduate, but equally you might be someone who is contemplating a career change. You may have had some previous experience in teaching or working with young people, but you might equally have no classroom experience. We can offer you the opportunity to train and work in a school that is exceptional academically, pastorally and in the range of its enrichment activities - our pupils are pleasure to work with.

Why Yarm School?

Yarm School was founded in 1978. Growing quickly since that time, it is now firmly established amongst the country's leading co-educational day schools, with a superb academic reputation as well as a firm commitment to extra-curricular activities and trips. In addition to the Senior School, there is a Preparatory School and a Pre-Prep (which includes a Nursery). In total, there are over 1,100 pupils between the ages of 3 and 18.

Yarm is a beautiful and historic market town situated on a beautiful stretch of the River Tees, on the edge of North Yorkshire. We enjoy easy access to both town and countryside, including the nearby North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales and stunning coastline. Opportunities for outdoor pursuits and exploration of all kinds are many and varied. Similarly, the cities of Newcastle, York and Leeds are within close range and provide much in the way of arts and culture. With superb rail network links in the town itself and nearby, London is also only 2.5 hours away by direct train. The school is very much a part of the town, with pupils, staff and parents enjoying all that the buzzing High Street has to offer by means of shops and cafes.

There is an impressive array of facilities and accommodation at the Senior School, including a modern classroom wing on the banks of the Tees that enjoys panoramic views, a dance studio and boat house, extensive sport, music and drama facilities and the award-winning Princess Alexandra Auditorium. A

timber yurt houses our outdoor education department and eco school curriculum.

The school's academic reputation is outstanding. Expressed as a three-year average, 58% of all A level grades have achieved A*/A and 67% of all GCSE grades have achieved grades 9-7 (A*/A). Equally, Yarm School has a strong commitment to educating the whole child – 'educating for life'. We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities, both within and outside lessons, which help to foster inter-personal skills, confidence and build relationships. A Yarm School education is about far more than just academic achievement. Each pupil is strongly encouraged to take part in sport, music, drama and a range of other enrichment activities.

There is a huge range of clubs and societies that meet either during the two timetabled Activity lessons, at lunch-time or after school on a regular basis. Over 50 activities take place each week, as diverse as canoeing and chess, community action and gardening. Yarm School is an excellent place to teach: especially for enthusiastic teachers with strong academic credentials, who are keen to share their talents and their passion for their subject. Our pupils are selected from the upper half of the ability range.

They are keen, happy and well motivated. Class sizes are much smaller than most schools and the school is very well resourced.





What qualification is on offer?

Yarm School offers the Secondary PGCE with QTS in association with the University of Buckingham. This award is of exactly the same standing as the PGCEs awarded by university education departments or the direct training schemes run by state schools. It qualifies students to teach in any maintained or independent school in the country.

Further details on the University of Buckingham programme can be found [here](#).

What are the advantages of qualifying by this route?

- The scheme gives students a fantastic opportunity to learn by experience, while doing a real job and contributing to the busy, thriving life of this happy school.
- Students learn alongside experienced and committed professional teachers, with whom they are able to build strong and supportive relationships.
- Working full time in a school allows students to build a rapport with pupils and really see progress in their learning over a significant period of time.
- As students are with the school for a full academic year there are extensive opportunities to get involved in a vast range of extra-curricular activities. Our trainees therefore gain important experience beyond the classroom in accordance with their skills and interests.
- Education theory and lecture room learning are kept to an essential minimum but short residential courses at Buckingham University allow time for academic reflection and sharing good practice with a group of fellow students from across the country.
- Students also benefit from a three week placement in a local maintained school, where they gain invaluable experience of working in a contrasting environment.
- There are significant financial advantages – see page 7.



What training does Yarm School provide?

- Yarm School has a very experienced, well qualified and highly successful Induction Tutor, with a generous allocation of time available to work with PGCE students to help their progress.
- Additionally, each student is allocated their own Subject Mentor who will meet with them frequently to help plan and prepare lessons, offering detailed advice on teaching and learning strategies, classroom management and all the complex routines of life in a busy school.
- Ample opportunities are provided for students to observe lessons by experienced teachers in their own subject and across the whole curriculum.
- PGCE students will have detailed, constructive and supportive feedback (verbal and written) on lessons that they teach, given by expert practitioners in their own subject and by experienced teacher trainers.
- Several current members of staff trained with us via this route in recent years and are happy to share the benefit of their experience in getting the most out of the training year.
- There are weekly seminars for PGCE students and Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) which focus on generic and cross curricular topics, enabling participants to spark ideas from and support each other. All members of the Senior Management Team and other key specialists in the school contribute their areas of expertise to this diverse programme. Students also join the regular in-service training sessions provided for all Yarm School staff, with a range of visiting experts and in-house workshops led by successful practitioners in the school.
- Yarm School helps students to organise a three-week placement in a maintained school during the Spring Term and supports them in their termly residential courses at Buckingham University.
- Our trainee programme also includes spending some time at our Preparatory School and an opportunity to try out a short practical educational research project with Yarm School pupils.



What other benefits does Yarm School provide?

- At Yarm School you are joining a very supportive community, which prides itself on giving a warm welcome to new colleagues. From the outset you become a full member of the Staff Common Room, which provides an important social forum for teachers in the school.
- As all teachers contribute to the rota of staff duties, lunch and other refreshments during the day (such as tea, coffee & biscuits) are provided free of charge. Yarm School lunches are excellent, providing a superb range of choice each day.
- For trainees moving into the area for the first time, Yarm School will be happy to advise on possible accommodation options. It is sometimes even possible for us to put newcomers interested in possible house or flat shares into contact with each other.





What are the financial arrangements?

Financially, the programme is far more attractive than a traditional PGCE. Yarm School covers the course fees for the PGCE (approx. £7,000) and will also pay a modest additional salary. This would be in the region of £18,000 but to some extent dependent on the context of the candidate.



How do I find out more information/apply?

Further details of the school are available on its website: www.yarmschool.org.

Our current vacancies can be found [here](#).

Anyone interested in discussing further details, arranging a preliminary visit to Yarm School or obtaining an application form is invited in the first instance to email the Deputy Head Academic, Mr Darren Morton (dkm@yarmschool.org).