

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

The wonderful performances from the pupils in House Drama last night were a fantastic tribute to the hard work of performers, directors and all others who were involved in helping. I was delighted that we could hold the event and thrilled with the number of people who joined us to celebrate the pupils' efforts and enjoy an evening of high quality drama, fun, laughter and celebration with some notable and confident performances from pupils, including those in the First Year just a few weeks into their career at Yarm. I was immensely proud of the pupils in the audience, too, who showed the greatest of respect to the performers. For me, the relationships built up between year groups within the Houses is the greatest positive, and I congratulate all the Sixth Form students who guided the performers to such successful performances. And well done to Bede, on their first ever victory in this competition!

I gave an assembly on Monday which looked at days, weeks and months in the year that are used to raise awareness and prompt discussion and thought about a particular issue. Some are somewhat dubious, perhaps - Monday was 'Taco Day' for example - but others have a very important role in raising awareness and driving progress. I considered Dyslexia Week, Mental Health Awareness Day, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Black History Month, Pride Month and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Each of these, and many others, reinforce the values that underpin our approach here at Yarm, and I reflected on the importance of celebrating differences within our community. It was also International Teachers Day on Tuesday, and I acknowledged all the hard work that teachers here at Yarm do on behalf of the pupils.

There is much to enjoy in the newsletter this week, including last calls for entries into the Art Competition, a request for donations for the Christmas Market charity stalls, news of a buoyant CCF and success in the DofE scheme. There is another book review, this time from Lily on some great thinkers of the past, a celebration of languages, some fantastic sports reviews with reports of various successes, and news of a former pupil who walks the corridors of power. Something, I hope, for everyone!

Dr Huw Williams

BEDE WINS HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION 2021

Congratulations to Bede for winning this year's House Drama Competition. All of the Houses did a superb job and the audience enjoyed four very different, yet very entertaining, performances. A full write up from Mr Brookes will be in next week's newsletter so keep your eyes peeled! In the meantime, [here are some images](#) from all four performances.



B:M2021

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

October has for some time been celebrated as Black History Month, an event that reaches back in the UK to 1987. It is in essence a recognition and celebration of the longstanding as well as recent heritage, culture and achievements of Black Britons. Each year adopts a theme with 2021 being 'Proud to Be', very much seeking to uncover and then more widely disseminate the stories as well as impact of citizens in the UK. From an academic perspective, there has been a significant expansion in the research being conducted into these overlooked, underrepresented and under-recognised realms, giving rise to now widely acknowledged new understanding, such as the prevalence and prominence of Black citizens during the Tudor period, or the complex operations of medieval West African economies and their links to Europe in the period prior to colonialism.

In terms of reading there is an increasing variety of works to choose from be they academic treatises or popular treatments, classic works or contemporary accounts. There are political manifestos through to insightful books for children, all allowing us a broader, deeper and more representative understanding of who we were and who we are.

Listed below is an unavoidably subjective range of works that readers might find to be of interest. Whether you have a curiosity for this expanding literature, a nagging sense of ignorance, or perhaps are more interested from a cultural point of view of this shift in attention, take a chance and choose something new to read... and then hopefully to recommend to others.

Mr S Edwards



New Books from 2021

Manifesto - Bernadine Evaristo
 The Uncomfortable Truth about Racism - John Barnes
 Notes on Grief - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
 Renegades - Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen
 What White People Can Do Next - Emma Dabiri
 The Hill We Climb - Amanda Gorman
 At Night all Blood is Black - David Diop
 We are all Birds of Uganda - Hafsa Zayyan

Black British History

Natives - Akala
 Black and British - David Olusoga
 Black Tudors - Miranda Kaufmann
 Brit(ish) - Afua Hirsch
 One of Them - Musa Okwonga
 100 Great Black Britons - Patrick Vernon

Tribes - David Lammy
 Mixed/Other - Natalie Morris
 We're Here Because You Were There - Ian Patel

Children's Fiction

The Boy with Wings - Lenny Henry
 Amari and the Night Brothers - B. B. Alston
 Hey You! - Dapo Adeola
 The Bench - Meghan Markle
 Change Sings - Amanda Gorman

Classic Fiction

Invisible Man - Ralph Ellison
 White Teeth - Zadie Smith
 Beloved - Toni Morrison
 Things Fall Apart - Chinua Achebe
 The Lonely Londoners - Sam Selvon
 The Underground Railroad - Colson Whitehead
 And Still I Rise - Maya Angelou
 In the Castle of my Skin - George Lamming



Black American soldiers on parade in 1918

October is Black History month, an opportunity to highlight the history of Black people that has previously not been given the attention that it deserves. The History Department is using Black History Month this year to explore the role, contribution and experience of Black British and colonial soldiers during World War I. In tutorial sessions pupils are being asked to consider what they know about the role of Black soldiers during the war and why to some degree the stories of these men have been omitted from History.

Resources have been provided by the National Army Museum and the Historian, David Olusoga, to help pupils identify the vital role that Black soldiers played in bringing about an allied victory during the war. The story of Walter Tull is becoming increasingly well known, however, his story is just one of the estimated 180,000 Black soldiers from Africa and the Caribbean that were a vital part of Britain's military and



British Historian and Broadcaster David Olusoga



British soldiers from the Caribbean arriving at Southampton before being posted to the Western Front circa 1915.

supply infrastructure during World War I. Of those 180,000, an estimated 15,000 gave their lives during the conflict. World War I was not just a conflict between the leading powers in the world; they drew their empires into the war and this resulted in soldiers from all over the globe fighting in Europe as well as across the world. Pupils were given more detail via David Olusoga on the soldiers who served in the French Army, mainly from North and West Africa, and the sacrifices they made. Pupils were asked to discuss and debate the reasons colonial soldiers had for 'joining up' and how their treatment differed from their European counterparts. Some excellent discussions were had and it is great to see our pupils valuing the importance of these previously untold parts of history.

Pupils in Fourth Year and above also have the opportunity to attend a remote Newcastle University lecture: 'Black History Month Lecture: Warm words are not enough – repaying the debt to our Black heroes by Marcus Ryder'. This exciting opportunity is available online on Thursday, 21 October 2021 at 5.30pm and pupils should email Mr Taylor (tdt@yarmschool.org) should they wish to participate. [More information can be found here.](#) Alongside Black History Month, the History Department is seeking to ensure that the history of different races is well represented in the junior history curriculum across the

School. In addition to their normal studies, pupils in First, Second and Third Year are being asked to look at how different groups have impacted major events across history. For example, whilst studying World War I, Third Year pupils have also spent time looking in more detail at colonial soldiers, using primary sources to assess their experiences. Shortly, pupils in First Year will be comparing Medieval England with Medieval African Kingdoms and those in Second Year will be looking at migration to Britain and the case study of the Haitian Revolution. We seek to represent different groups that make Britain such an exciting multi-cultural country today.

Mr T Taylor



This week in Artists' Corner, we're showcasing a fitting piece of artwork from First Year pupil, Emaan Rehman. Her paint splatters are a lovely detail to the overall painting and the highlight on the letters really allows the message to shine through.

Miss J Jenyns

TOMBOLA DONATIONS NEEDED FOR YSA CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

This year the YSA will be running four tombola stalls: an adult tombola, children's tombola, bottle bag (alcohol, shampoo, etc.) and children's lucky bag (books, pens, toys, games, etc.), and we would welcome any donations large or small. All funds from the adult tombola will be donated to charity.

If you are able to make a donation, please drop it off at the Senior School Office before **Wednesday, 17th November**.
Thank you!

We're also looking for keen volunteers to help us on the day. If you're interested, please contact the YSA on ysa@yarmschool.org.



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Parents' Evenings, Reports and Internal Assessment Schedule 2021-22

	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term	
YS1		30 November Full Report Published		Mon 14 & Wed 16 Feb Parents' Evening (online)	w/b 23 May End of Year Assessments	21 June Full Report Published
YS2		Tue 30 Nov & Thu 2 Dec Parents' Evening (online)	8 February Interim Report Published		w/b 23 May End of Year Assessments	28 June Full Report Published
YS3		15-26 November Internal Assessments 9 December Interim Report Published	Tue 18 & Thu 20 Jan Parents' Evening (online)		w/b 23 May End of Year Assessments	29 June Full Report Published
YS4	14 October Interim Report Published	22 November-3 December Internal Assessments	13 January Interim Report Published	Mon 7 & Wed 9 March Parents' Evening (online)	w/b 23 May End of Year Assessments	23 June Full Report Published
YS5	13 October Interim Report Published	Mon 15 & Wed 17 Nov Parents' Evening (online)	5-12 January GCSE Mock Exams 2 February Full Report Published	23 March Interim Report Published		
YS6		24 November Interim Report Published	2 February Interim Report Published	Mon 28 & Tue 29 Mar Parents' Evening (online)	w/b 23 May End of Year Assessments	29 June Full Report Published
YS7	Wed 29 & Thu 30 Sept Parents' Evening (online)	8 December Full Report Published	Mon 31 Jan & Tue 1 Feb Parents' Evening (online)	28 Feb-9 March A Level Mock Exams 23 March Interim Report Published		

When reports are published on the Parent Portal, notification is given by email; dates may vary slightly, depending on school routine in the relevant week.

Further information about our system of assessment, reporting and Parents' Evenings can be found in the Parent Handbook.

The overview of parents' evenings, reporting and internal assessment is available in the [parents' section of the School website](#). We are grateful to all those parents who responded to the survey about experiences of online parents' evenings last year. The response to SchoolCloud was very positive overall and we have taken the decision to continue to run all of our parents' evenings online this year. Please look out for a series of emails from the Headmaster and from me in the fortnight before the parents' evening dates; these will give you all the information you need to book appointments with your child's teachers.

Mr D Boddy

Calendar 2022 / 2023

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Preparation Day: Tuesday, 30th August 2022
 New Pupil Induction: Wednesday, 31st August 2022
 All Pupils Return: Thursday, 1st September 2022
 Half Term Begins: Friday, 14th October 2022 (after school)
 Pupils Return: Monday, 31st October 2022
 Finish: Wednesday, 14th December 2022 (after school)

SPRING TERM, 2023

Pupils Return: Thursday, 5th January 2023
 Half Term Begins: Thursday, 16th February 2023 (after school)
 INSET 1: Friday, 17th February 2023
 Pupils Return: Monday, 27th February 2023
 Finish: Friday, 31st March 2023 (after school)

SUMMER TERM 2023

Pupils Return: Thursday, 20th April 2023
 Bank Holiday: Monday, 1st May 2023
 Half Term Begins: Thursday, 25th May 2023 (after school)
 INSET 2: Friday, 26th May 2023
 Pupils Return: Monday, 5th June 2023
 Finish: Friday, 7th July 2023



Art Competition

To be featured in a charity calendar

The theme is:
What do you think makes a good heart?

There will be a winner from each year, appearing on one page of the 2022 calendar

Open to all year groups.

GOOD LUCK and enjoy!

This brilliant competition is a great way for you to be super creative and make something really exciting! Painting, drawing, photography... give it a go!

Now for the important stuff. Please create your work on an A4, landscape piece of paper. Write your name, year and tutor group on the BACK of your work.

Please submit your work by visiting the Art Department on the 11th October.

All money raised from selling the calendars goes to the South Cleveland Heart Fund

Out In Force

The CCF has enjoyed a strong start to the new academic year. We have been delighted to welcome 15 new Third Years into the contingent. The contingent has, for the first time this year, been broken down into three sections. These are named after Yorkshire Regiment Battle Honours:

1. Crimea Section - Crimean War 1853-1856
2. Ypres Section - World War I 1914-1918
3. Gold Section - World War II, Battle for Normandy, D-Day June 6th 1944

The sections now form the basis for the delivery of training and some friendly competition within the contingent. We have also welcomed Miss Breslin (English) as a new adult volunteer.

The new Third Years have enthusiastically been getting involved alongside the other years with a variety of activities on parade nights. Particularly pleasing has been the Sixth Form cadets' willingness to lead and instruct on the training delivered. This has included cooking in the field, shelter building, First Aid, command tasks and drill.

On Monday, the senior cadets



were given advanced instruction on Training in Built Up Areas (TIBUA). The cadets were shown how to move into and through buildings while clearing rooms and identifying possible targets. For each scenario different senior cadets had the opportunity to lead alongside their command and leadership training. It was fantastic to see the senior cadets taking the training so seriously.

Looking forward, the contingent is excited to be visiting the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer in Catterick three times before the end of term. Senior cadets will be taking part in the North East Skill at Arms Shooting Competition and all cadets will get the opportunity to visit the Green Howards Museum in Richmond to learn about the regimental history of the Yorkshire Regiment.

Mr T Taylor



YARM SCHOOL'S

Christmas

INDOOR MARKET

organised by the Yarm School Association



MEET SANTA

IN HIS AMAZING GROTTO

ADULTS £2

CHILDREN FREE

YARM SCHOOL, THE FRIARAGE, YARM, TS15 9EJ - SATURDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2021 - 10AM TO 4PM

TICKETS ON THE DOOR
LOCAL CRAFT STALLS, AMAZING
CHRISTMAS IDEAS PLUS FOOD
AND DRINK OUTLETS



PL08
CRAFTY CORNER, RUDLOPH
RODEO, CHILDREN'S GAMES
& SANTA'S GROTTO

Politics Students Selected To Attend Innovative Oxford Conference

This week we learned of the success of two Yarm School students, Luke Porter (L6) and Ananya Padmanabhan (U6), who have both been selected to attend a new student conference happening at the University of Oxford during this forthcoming Half Term. The Politics students were required to view some online materials and answer a series of questions and provide a short essay. Following their success at this stage they were then invited to an hour long interview with the founder of the organising group. The week-long residential course is focused around 'helping others and improving the world' and will be working alongside the Centre for Effective Altruism. During the week they will experience university-style seminars and lectures from researchers at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The course is entirely funded, including accommodation, travel, food and tuition. We very much look forward to reading a report from them upon their return.

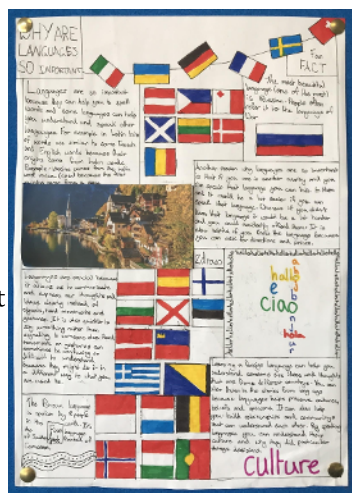
Mr S Edwards

European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages takes place every year on the 26th September, but this year was even more special as it marked 20 years celebrating linguistic and cultural diversity. Over the past few weeks, pupils have enjoyed a number of EDoL quizzes and fun activities in their French lessons.

First Year pupils had great fun taking part in a Language Awareness and logo quizzes. We also launched a poster competition, where they were asked to design an A4 poster showing the importance of learning languages. We were delighted with the number of entries received and the fantastic efforts from the pupils. It was an incredibly difficult decision to pick just one winner, but congratulations go to Ellie Williamson for her winning poster.

Second Year pupils enjoyed doing a language quiz and were asked to take part in our 'present a joke in a foreign language' competition. This could have been presented as a comic, poster, video or animation. Once again, we were thrilled with the number of pupils who entered the competition and the excellent standard of work produced. Mr Fellows (head judge) thoroughly enjoyed reading, listening to and watching all of the jokes, but huge congratulations go to Ollie Jackson for his fantastic video. Here is one of his jokes for you to enjoy:



Comment appelle-t-on un mouton sans patte ?

Un nuage

Third Year pupils engaged with a number of tasks and quizzes from the EDoL website. They listened to lots of extracts in different European languages and had to guess the language as well as looking at tongue twisters and longest words.

Can you say the following tongue twisters?

Combien de sous sont ces saucissons-ci? Ces saucissons-ci sont six sous. How much are these sausages here? These sausages here are six cents.

Zwei schwarze schleimige Schlangen sitzen zwischen zwei spitzen Steinen und zischen. Two black slimy snakes sit between two pointed stones and hiss.

A big thank you must go to Mr Fellows for organising these activities as well as being head judge. Well done to all of our pupils for taking part in the celebrations; we are already looking forward to next year!

Mrs B Addison

Book Review

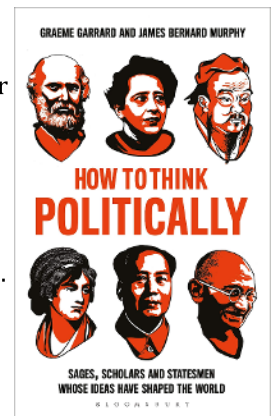
How to Think Politically - Graeme Garrard and James Bernard Murphy

I picked this book from the School Library at the start of the summer holidays because I wanted to further my knowledge on the key political scholars throughout history that have influenced political thought. The book presents detailed summaries of ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary scholars. It contained key thinkers from A Level Politics, such as Thomas Hobbes, Edmund Burke, John Locke and Karl Marx, as well as key scholars from A Level Religious Studies such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas and John Stuart Mill. This was a perfect combination of scholars as I study both Politics and RS A Level.

My favourite thinker that I enjoyed reading about in the book was definitely Thomas Hobbes. The defining event in his life was the English Civil war as it deeply influenced his view on humans as fear was a dominant theme in Hobbes' life and his work. Hobbes believed that it was fear of the state of nature that pushed us into politics. He claimed that the passions dominate reason and that fear is the strongest of the passions. I think it is interesting as it demonstrates how reactions to events can deeply influence our views on human beings.

Another interesting point in the book was that Hobbes was born in England in the year that the Spanish Armada set out to invade his country. A contemporary of his wrote that on the morning of the 5th April 1588, Hobbes mother 'fell into labour with him upon the fight of the invasion of the Spaniards' leading Hobbes to observe that he and fear were born as twins.

Left to our own devices in a pre-political state of nature, without an overpowering government we would live in a perpetual fear of our lives. In this state of constant and



intolerable mutual fear of distrust, life is 'solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short'. This is a very famous quote by Thomas Hobbes.

Although Hobbes' ideas could be argued as a very miserable view of human nature and the view of the state, I found him the most interesting for another reason. He was one of the earliest philosophers in the history of Western thought to have treated men and women entirely as equals, and saw no reason why women should not be sovereigns. Thus he strongly disagreed with Aristotle's belief that women should be excluded from participation in public life, which was one of the reasons why Hobbes rightly or wrongly called him 'the worst teacher that ever was'.

This book has definitely helped me to develop a clearer image of the views of important key thinkers, especially how they have changed throughout history. Therefore, I would recommend this book to anyone who would like to develop their thoughts and understanding of the greatest thinkers in politics.

Lily Cordwell-Smith
(Upper Sixth Politics student)

The Battle Of The Boardroom

Will Alpha be beaten? Will Unlimited have unlimited success?

With B1 turned into the Boardroom and Miss Rhodes transformed into Karren Brady, Project Managers Belle and Izzy nervously awaited the arrival of Lord Sugar, AKA Lucy Bonnard-Spence, owner of Yarm's coffee hot-spot, Hobo. Each team pitched, with Team Unlimited proposing a soup and toastie combo (tomato and basil soup, with a hashtag-resembling mozzarella, pesto and tomato toastie), whilst Team Alpha suggested bagel with scrambled egg, spinach and salmon. Both teams spoke well and confidently answered a plethora of questions but there could only be one winning team... Lord Sugar opted for the soup and toastie, meaning Belle and team celebrated with cookies and iced fruit drinks courtesy of Sodexo.



Izzy was asked to bring two team mates back to the Boardroom and after an intense grilling, both Ben and Bakaer heard the ominous words "You're Fired".

Outstanding Apprentice points were awarded by their peers to both Izzy and Amelia (from Team Alpha) and Belle (from Team Unlimited), whilst Karren and Claude gave their bonus points to Poppy and Charlotte. To see how the league table is looking please see the board outside B1.

Many thanks once again to Lucy. We are really looking forward to working with her, to coordinate the launch of the Yarm Apprentice menu item in the very near future.

Miss C E Rhodes

Politics Students Attend Lecture With Former President of the Supreme Court



There can be few figures more inspiring within the UK judicial system than Brenda Hale. Baroness Hale, a former law academic from the University of Manchester, visited the Politics Society in 2016 when she was Deputy President of the Supreme Court. The next year she was appointed the President of the Supreme Court, a position she held until her retirement in 2020.

Baroness Hale was speaking at the University of York's Society for Legal Scholars' Inaugural Baroness Hale Lecture. With her forthcoming memoirs soon to be published there was much to reflect upon and share with a captivated audience. Through the quality of her work, the nature of her personality, her outspokenness and her willingness to challenge received wisdom, and the small matter of that intriguing spider brooch, she is now positioned in the intellectual landscape of the country somewhat like the late former Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She is a voice that demands an audience. The talk, framed as a conversation with the convener, entailed a reflective exploration of the career of this most senior jurist, from the early days of reading Law at Girton, Cambridge, through to her work at Manchester where she taught law as well as working as a barrister. There were a number of intriguing insights offered into the Supreme Court position during the period of the prorogation of Parliament during those Brexit days, as well as examples of

the challenges faced as a woman in the legal profession. As one commentator had previously mentioned, 'Lady Hale cannot see a glass ceiling, without smashing it'. In a packed lecture hall composed of mostly York faculty members it was a delight that one of the few audience questions came from Cicely Crane in the Lower Sixth. The Yarm School students were then treated to an opportunity to meet and speak with Baroness Hale after the event.

Mr S Edwards

Is It All A Game?

What have share prices, penalty shoot outs and duels got in common? Ask anyone who attended the ever more popular Econ and Bus Society...

There was a record attendance at this week's Economics and Business Society hosted by Owen (Co-Chair of the Soc) and Abhinav. The prospect of a prize, the promise of interactive games and the chance to pit their wits against peers, meant that the attendees included not only Lower and Upper Sixth Econ and Bus students, but also students from outside the department, curious to find out why Abhinav was brandishing washing up sponges, and why Owen had multiple packets of Bourbon biscuits.

In a session which saw blind voting and number guesstimation, many students encountered game theory for the first time as they tried to predict the behaviour of their peers and identify the best outcome for themselves.

PS. And yes, they did get to throw sponges at each other in case you were wondering... all in the name of Economics.

Miss C E Rhodes

Words to Guide the Nation

Remember all of those daily briefings during the lockdown? The emergence of the likes of Professor Whitty and Professor Van-Tam and their reassuring words offered up each day to our screens. You might be surprised to learn that the majority of those briefings were written by former Politics student, Daniel Coleman-Cooke.

During an already varied and fascinating career Danny, who left Yarm School in 2008, has written for nine Secretaries of State in the British Government with his most recent work being at the Department of Health during the coronavirus pandemic. Operating as a civil servant, he has written press briefings, speeches, including those direct to the public, as well as others used in parliament. On Friday, Danny spoke with members of the Politics Society, as well as a number of additional interested pupils, about his range of experiences in government. He provided



an insightful overview of the lessons learned in his time working as a communicator, not least the idea of the need for clarity, openness and honesty, whilst recognising the complex, fluid and uncertain nature of real world events, where a matter of hours can reveal vital previously unknown knowledge. He certainly suggested that his time at the heart of government, not least during the recent pandemic, has made him more understanding of the challenges of government. Though operating as a political neutral in his role, he is nevertheless drawn into policy shaping discussions that can have significant impact on citizens' daily lives.

Also operating as a freelance writer, Danny has developed speeches and books for a range of award winning actors, sporting figures and CEOs of the world's biggest companies. But unsurprisingly his interests and achievements don't end there; he co-wrote an operatic adaptation of Beowulf which was performed at the Royal Albert Hall and has also been involved in the writing and judging behind the annual Olivier Awards. Most recently Danny was out in Tokyo as part of the 2020 Paralympic commentary team. Danny was a wonderful, candid and generous guest, offering to help current students interested in pursuing writing related careers.

Mr S Edwards

Next Week: 'Remote' Career Cluster Event

Next Tuesday evening (12th October 1800 - 1930) we will be hosting the latest in our Career Cluster events. The remote event will explore the diverse world of Teaching and Education. By [registering through the link](#) you and your family will be able to listen to and question a total of 16 guests set across three panel discussions. Each guest will offer insight into their own career routes, as well as advice and guidance for those curious to explore such opportunities. Just by way of a sample of the speakers we will have:

- Several younger panelists just beginning their careers
- An insurance broker and games designer transitioning to a career in education
- A team leader for the service of deaf children at Hackney Education
- An academic from the University of York who coordinates the PGCE at York
- A director of a training school
- A Headmaster

The guests will address all issues including how to enter the profession, opportunities within teaching and education, as well as the diverse roles that can present themselves. Full details will be available in a published brochure emailed out to all those who have registered. Please do encourage any interested friends and family to attend the event which is open to Yarm School and other schools alike.

Mr S Edwards

Duke of Edinburgh Success



Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme participants have been extremely proactive during this term, completing so many sections of their awards at Bronze or Gold level. It is wonderful to see how diverse their activities are. The assessor reports have been a joy to read, describing the personal characteristics and commitment individuals have gained.

We are looking forward to several Fourth and Fifth Years participating in their Bronze Assessed Expeditions this week and during Half Term, venturing into the North York Moors. Participants have had to complete at least two other sections fully, including assessor reports to participate in these forthcoming expeditions. There are further dates in April for those who wish to plan ahead for future trips. The precise dates will be published on the Bronze DofE Google Classroom. Pupils, please liaise with your parents.

DofE Gold invitations to enrol have been sent out already to our current Lower Sixth students to initiate their Gold Award. Fifth Years can also start their Gold Award once they have turned 16 years old to maximise holiday time to fulfil sections such as the Residential, or 12 months of Volunteering.

Several groups of Gold participants are venturing to the Lake District this October during Half Term to explore the hills or paddle on Ullswater and Windermere prior to exploring further afield for their full expedition next year. Dates for future trips are available on the participants' Gold DofE Google Classroom.

- Bronze DofE meetings: Monday & Wednesday lunchtimes M3
- Gold DofE meetings: Thursday lunchtimes M3

Thank you to the various staff members who have generously given their time to assist with route planning, and DofE advice, during lunchtimes and to those who are assisting at weekends and during Half Term, no matter what the weather may hold!

Congratulations to Katie Hunt, Jack Van Niekirk, Tom Van Niekirk, Alex Walton, Tom Hardy, Kayla Roberts, Namisha Chawla, Natasha Cunningham, Harriet White, Jennifer Chan, Keya Shah, Ishaan Mahmood, Piya Nag, Nila Baskar, Sara Banerjee, Lucy Bardgett, Annabel Lacy, Beth Newson, Emma Weatherhead, Izzie Speight, Toma Saha, Miriam Akowuah, India Dunkin, Tilly Gilrairie, Archie Norton, Apsara Naguleswaran, James Muir, Jasmine Scollay, Krista Bissett Brown and Annabel Cunningham for completing Sections in their Bronze Award. Well done also to Dominic Green and Gautam Sathyamurthy who have both completed Sections in their Gold Award. [A summary table can be viewed here.](#)

Mrs J Guest

County Success for the U15s



Torrential weather did not deter the U15 boys from their task last Tuesday as they attended the County Tournament. They stuck to their game plan of playing attacking rugby, identifying space on the pitch, and effective ball movement and running lines. It paid dividends as they opened the scoring in their first match and carried through to the last game in which they scored four tries. Against bigger opposition they were resolute in defence, looking to hunt the ball and win it back.



In the end, they had a really positive day, only losing one match and conceding one try. It was brilliant to see how much they enjoyed themselves and how their team spirit and commitment is making the gel stronger as a side. They now progress to the Finals Day full of confidence.

Mr C Webb

Smiles, Sunshine & Good Rugby



We always have great games against our good friends, Barnard Castle, and this week was no different. Both the 1st XV and U16s traveled for games in glorious weather and ideal conditions for open, attacking and enjoyable rugby. After a slow start, in which the seniors appeared to spend the first 20 minutes still on the bus, they found

themselves behind and not really doing themselves justice. These are the moments that count and the moments you learn from: are you resilient, determined and together?! The second half proved they are; it was a really good, committed and well contested half of rugby, with all players learning about themselves as people and players. They also scored some very good tries along the way.



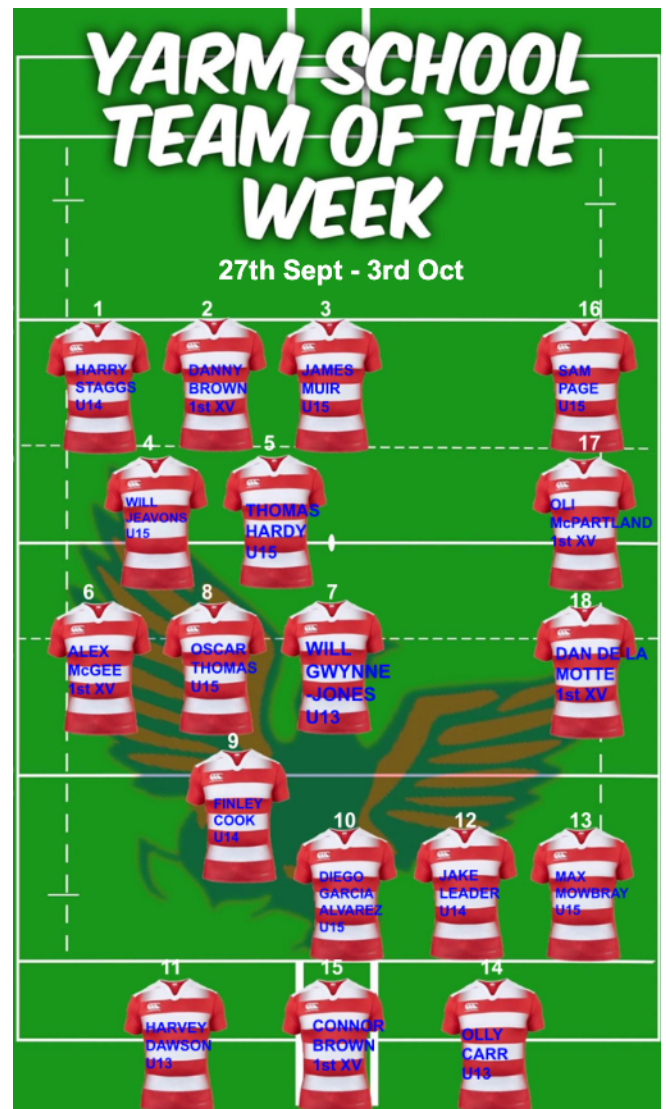
The U16 side had their own challenges in their match, a game of high skill, superb attacking play and some 'win the ball back' defence. In a game where both sides were threatening, it was so good to see how far they have come as a team and individual players that they all, as players, contribute positively across the pitch. Things in sport don't always go your way but strong sides learn to ride those times out and then when they get the chance they dominate; and that is what the team did coming out as worthy winners. It was awesome to see so many boys playing the game they enjoy.

Mr C Webb

Passionate Rugby From the U15s

The U15s travelled to Dame Allans on Saturday for their second Saturday fixture of the season. The game started at a fast pace and Yarm were showing great intensity; pressing hard in defence and making probing runs in attack. Strong breaks came from forwards Jack Van Niekerk and William Jeavons. Timothy Foley opened the scoring for Yarm, having made a pacy break down the left-hand side. Scrum-half, Essa Ibrahim, was showing good control at the base of the scrum to release Diego Garcia at fly half, who in turn created a chance for outside centre Max Mowbray. A further try came before half-time from Van Niekerk following some good support play from the forwards. After half-time, Yarm pulled away on the score sheet thanks to further tries from Foley, Mowbray and Ibrahim. Overall, this was a very positive performance from Yarm due to the passion they showed in both defence and attack. The target is to carry this forward into this week's fixture against Newcastle School for Boys.

Mr A Morrison



District Netball Champions

Wednesday, 29th September saw the Third Years taking to the netball court in the U14A District Tournament. Due to a great number of girls attending training and a fantastic work ethic, we were able to enter two teams into the A tournament. With six teams in attendance, Yarm B team made an impressive start to their tournament by beating Conyers A in a closely fought match. Other matches proved a fantastic watch and were closely contested for the majority of the games. The B team ended their tournament with another hard fought win against tournament hosts Teesside High A. Yarm A took their turn and demonstrated an outstanding level of netball by winning every game convincingly and therefore gaining the title of 2021 - 2022 District Champions. Well done to all!

Miss S Cottrell



The weeks ahead are now available online. You can [view them here](#).



yarmgirlsgames



yarmboysgames

Wins Across The Board In ISHC National Cup Competition

The U13, U15 and U19 hockey teams are all through to the last 16 of the ISHC National Cup Competition after wins this week against Moreton Hall (Shropshire), Wakefield Girls High School (Wakefield) and Stonyhurst (Clitheroe) respectively.

The U13 team had a slow start to their game against Moreton Hall and came under a little bit of pressure early on. This woke them up and they quickly settled, started to use the width and played some lovely flowing hockey. With Yarm having attacking threats all over the pitch, Moreton Hall were overwhelmed in defence and the goals soon followed. The game finished 6-1 to Yarm; we look forward to the next round. POM: Mara Morrison.



The U15s travelled to Wakefield for their last 32 cup game against Wakefield Girls High School. The game was fast paced from the start with chances at both ends. This settled slightly but we still played into their hands by forcing passes and running the ball too much through the midfield. In the second half the girls really pulled together as a team and created more opportunities through their wide passing and high runs. Despite this, the game finished 1-1 which meant the game went to extra time (5 minutes each way). The first 5 minutes went by without any score, with Wakefield having all the ball, so we needed to up our intensity for the last 5 minutes, before the potential of flicks. With 1 minute to go, the girls found a ball through to Indeya Hewison, who slotted the ball away to win the game! POM: Annabel Lacy



The U19 team hosted Stonyhurst this week. With no information on this opposition we had no idea what we were up against. It turned out we were in for a battle! We were by far the better team skill wise but their physicality all over the pitch was immense. This kind of team needs to be passed around at pace but unfortunately we didn't do this, so we had a scrap on our hands. This resulted in the game finishing 1-1 at full time. Again, it came down to extra time and the girls took no time to score (within the first 5 minutes). They continued to attack, not letting Stonyhurst out of their own half until the final whistle, to come away with the 2-1 win. POM: Miriam Akowuah
The next round will be played before Friday, 19th November, opponents unknown at present. Well done ladies!

Miss N Hodgson



BRONZE AWARD	Volunteering	Physical	Skill
Katie Hunt		Ballet	Cake decorating
Jack Van Niekirk	Community project in village		
Tom Van Niekirk	Community project in village	Cricket	Photography
Alex Walton	Litter picking in village		
Tom Hardy	Litter picking in village	Golf	
Kayla Roberts	Assisting in Covid Centre	Hockey	Piano
Namisha Chawla		Dance	
Natasha Cunningham		Dance	Singing - Youth Choir
Harriet White		Hockey	Baking
Jennifer Chan	Assisting in Chinese Culture workshops		
Keya Shah		Dancing Bollywood	
Ishaan Mahmood	Cricket umpiring	Cricket performance	
Piya Nag		Dance	
Nila Baskar	Tutoring young child		Speech & drama
Sara Banerjee	Tutoring children in India	Running & fitness	
Lucy Bardgett	Leader Scouting Association	Hockey	Coxing & river safety
Annabel Lacy	Maintaining cricket grounds	Hockey	Photography
Beth Newson		Fitness & gym	Baking
Emma Weatherhead			Speech & Drama
Izzie Speight		Hockey	
Toma Saha	Swimming coaching leadership		
Miriam Akowuah		Hockey	
India Dunkin		Hockey	Baking
Tilly Gilraine		Hockey	
Archie Norton			Sport officiating Galas
Apsara Naguleswaran		Dance	
James Muir			Piano
Jasmine Scollay	Assisting Little Sprouts		
Krista Bissett Brown			Life Skills Scouting
Annabel Cunningham		Hockey	
GOLD AWARD	Volunteering	Residential Section	
Dominic Green		Orienteering national training week	
Gautam Sathyamurthy	Charity work with Barnardo's		

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ECHO CHAMBERS

The internet is a vast space, home to all manner of differing viewpoints. However, website owners have realised that people tend to enjoy the online company of others who think and sound like them. It's in the website providers' interests, then, to create echo chambers: sites where the user's own views are echoed, reinforced and built on without being challenged. This is common on social media. Combine echo chambers with the dangers of misinformation and fake news, and the result could easily see children becoming trapped in an online bubble – only ever confirming what they think they know, discouraging them from questioning, and never offering a different perspective.

Stifled independent thought

Childhood is a time when free thinking and individual expression should be encouraged. Echo chambers restrict this by fencing young people into a world they're already immersed in. Of course, there's nothing wrong with being a fan of gaming, boy bands or football, but echo chambers can quickly start to focus children's attention on a very limited number of interests, at the expense of everything else.

Blinkered worldview

Social media algorithms may use sophisticated software, but their principle is simple: keep users on the app or website for as long as possible by giving them more of the content they want. For social media platforms, this means prioritising the posts, videos, and streams of your child's favourites. This constant regurgitation of the same kind of content can cause children to develop an extremely niche and selective view of the world.

Risk of radicalisation

Extremist groups have been known to use echo chambers – to their advantage in the past. They also attempt to use social media as a conduit for grooming and radicalising (known as 'red-pilling') impressionable minds. Ironic memes have been known to promote far-right ideology, while terror groups have utilised social media in an attempt to recruit young people.

Creating obsessions

Children and young people naturally tend to enjoy a diverse range of interests. Echo chambers, as perpetuated on social media, can funnel your child's attention down an extremely restricted path. This gradual but powerful take-over of your child's impulses can cause them to slowly whittle down their former varied interests into an unhealthy, overwhelming obsession with one particular subject.

Lack of variety

More than 500 hours of content is uploaded to YouTube every minute, which is over 80 years' worth of material every day. Algorithms, however, push people towards familiar faces and themes. If you notice that your child seems to be watching content from the same small number of accounts all the time, it's a sign that algorithms are exerting an influence and your child is no longer being served a varied diet of online content.

Changes in behaviour

In extreme cases, the content found in echo chambers can lead to radicalisation. Growing isolation, an unwillingness to discuss views, and increased anger and secretiveness after being online can all be indicators that a young person has been at least partly indoctrinated. Other warning signs include sudden hostility towards certain groups, drastic changes in appearance and expressing unusually controversial or divisive opinions.

Safety tips for Parents & Carers

Talk it through

If you become worried about the effect that online echo chambers might be having on a young person, the first step is to establish an open dialogue with them about what they're discussing online, and on which sites and platforms. Try to approach the conversation in a non-judgemental manner – explain that you trust them to make good decisions, but that doesn't stop you being concerned about them.

Introduce time limits

If you become concerned about the amount of time that your child is spending on certain websites or social media platforms, you could talk to them about establishing some time limits. You can maintain these limits either through personal supervision, or by using the parental control options on their devices to either reduce access to sites or prevent it altogether.

Adjust content settings

Investigate the settings of individual apps and sites to see if they can be tailored to limit the impact of echo chambers. Twitter's default setting, for example, is to show tweets it thinks a user will like first, rather than a chronological timeline. Likewise, YouTube automatically plays its next 'recommended' video (selected by an algorithm and based on what the user has watched in the past) unless you specifically tell it not to. Both of these settings can be adjusted.

Ask for expert help

It can be hard to know exactly when having an inflexible opinion on a topic crosses the line into extremist ideology. Should things become so serious that you're genuinely worried a young person is becoming radicalised online, then it may be best to seek additional help. Speak to the safeguarding lead at your child's school or contact a professional support organisation such as Childline or the NSPCC.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin has been writing about technology for a decade. In 2015, he joined Dennis Publishing to help launch an establishment, Alpha – a site about tech and internet culture. He worked on over 1,800 articles and after starting out as Science Editor, he then became News Editor, Deputy Editor and finally Acting before he left in 2018 to go freelance.



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