

# Newsletter



No: 1288 [www.yarmschool.org](http://www.yarmschool.org) | 26th November 2021

## Headmaster's Welcome

Another busy week is ending with a festive feeling creeping in, with lights on trees and in the atrium giving the school a cheerful twinkling lift in the increasingly dark evenings. Congratulations must go to our talented Fifth Year actors and actresses who have given brilliant and nuanced performances in a challenging play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, this week.

The newsletter is, as ever, full to the brim with fascinating insights into recent events and some useful information for parents and pupils. There is news of the Apprentice teams having to respond to an unplanned real-life business scenario, showing their adaptability and creativity. I enjoyed Tegan's fascinating write up of a memorable concert and there are other pupil contributions from Ananya in her book review, Lola and Olivia in the sports section reporting on a strong netball performance and from Hira in the artists' corner, below.

Elsewhere we read about former pupil Millie's recent talk about her Apprenticeship with PwC - a route that more of our Sixth Form are interested in learning about - the CCF's ongoing activities, recent talks that pupils have attended as well as a fascinating report from the recent meeting of the Debating Society. There is news of an exciting collaboration with Newcastle University, too, and the opportunity for parents to buy Christmas cards in aid of local charity, Sprouts.

Sports reports continue to reflect some excellent performances from our pupils, on the river at British Trials and in a full and very successful day out in York, on the rugby pitch against Durham, and with the First XV's tournament at Silcoates - to which I very much enjoyed accompanying them for a determined and impressive series of matches - and in netball, which sees progress for the U14s to the next round of a national competition.

Dr Huw Williams

## Yarm Apprentice: Don't Stop Believing

Through events beyond their control, the Yarm Apprentice teams had found themselves unable to proceed with their Indoor Market sales. Project Managed by Amy and Imogen, the two teams adapted to cope with a revamped task set by Miss Rhodes at short notice. So, instead of standing up to discuss how they had made their profits and interacted with customers, Tuesday afternoon saw the teams pitching to Lord Sugar (aka Mrs Kingsbury), and justifying their selection of products, choice of charity and planned sales techniques for the now imminent lunchtime school sale of stock.

Both teams had clearly put considerable effort into the process, and wore their hearts on their sleeves when presenting, and both teams must be commended on their resilience. But only one team could win in the Boardroom, and it was Team Alpha who enjoyed doughnuts and fresh orange juice, whilst Imogen was in the unenviable position of bring back two peers (Bakaer and Katherine) to sit alongside her and face a grilling from Lord Sugar, and Katherine was subsequently "fired"!

Bonus points were awarded to Amy as winning PM, while Amy and Imogen secured points from the judges for coping so positively with the unavoidable changes to the task. Ben, Mohammed and Jodie secured points from their peers for their outstanding contributions.

Well done to the winning team, thank you to Mrs Kingsbury

for her excellent Lord Sugar role, and we look forward to seeing lots of pupils, students and staff supporting the charity Christmas stalls the teams are running to sell their stock on the lunchtime of Thursday 2nd December.

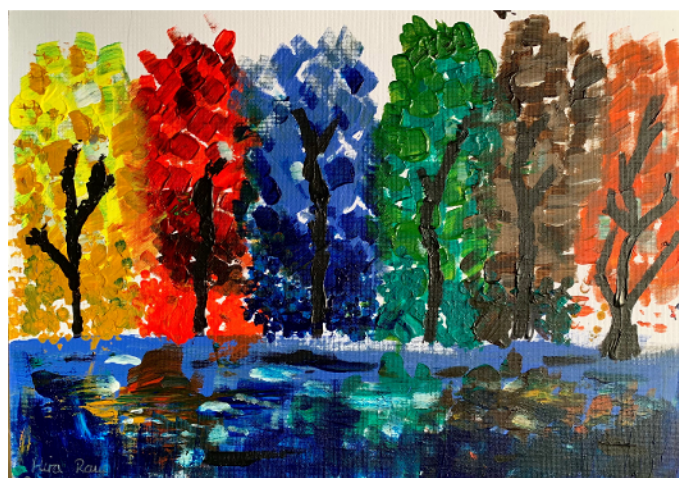
Miss C E Rhodes

## Artists' Corner

Here's this week's Artists' Corner submission, from Hira Rauf, First Year.

I love the bold colours and strong brushstrokes. Hira has captured the reflection on the water beautifully.

Jessica Jenyns, Artist in Residence





## CCF: Self Defence and Regimental History

On Monday, as with the senior cadets last week, our junior cadets had the opportunity to visit the Green Howards' Regimental History Museum in Richmond. The Cadets wear the Yorkshire Regiment cap badge on their beret and the Green Howards is one of the former regiments to make up the modern Yorkshire Regiment. The cadets were given a private after hours tour of the museum and saw many artifacts and heard stories about the Regiment's History. Of particular interest seemed to be the former regimental mascot Major 'Billy' the Goat and the large collection of medals and weapons on display.



Back at school under the watchful eyes of Ms Breslin the senior cadets undertook self defence training. Ms Breslin was herself an international judoka for Ireland. The senior cadets learned basic self defence techniques to protect themselves if necessary (hopefully not!) from an attacker. The cadets were shown how to take an opponent to the ground and immobilise them, to gain an opportunity to run to safety. It was great to hear from the cadets how much they enjoyed Ms Breslin's coaching and how knowledgeable she was in helping them in the application of skills. Thank you Ms Breslin!

Overall another busy and fun week for the cadets. Well done to all cadets and staff for their enthusiastic participation.

Captain Taylor



## Yarm Apprentice Team Unlimited Pt2

**COVID:**  
**AID**

After the postponement of the Christmas Indoor Market, our team has adapted to our newest challenge - a stall which will operate at lunchtime in the Dovecote on **Thursday the 2nd of December, 12.40-1.30 pm**, at Yarm School. All money raised will be donated to Covidaid - our chosen charity looks to support those extremely affected financially and mentally from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite the change of task, we have continued our Spin the Wheel excitement, with many delicious prizes to be won! We will also be selling homemade (by our own team!) Christmas ornaments, including mini knitted Santa socks and hats which can be hung on your Christmas tree! Finally, Christmas jewellery from Jewellerybyloveday will be at our stall to meet all of your Christmas jewellery needs!

We hope to see you there! - Yarm Apprentice: Team Unlimited Pt2



Imogen Slack, Project Manager, Lower Sixth



## Haydn Royal Northern Sinfonia Trip with Sir Roger Norrington

On Thursday 18th November, the Sixth Form Music class went with Mr Reeve and Mr Williams to see celebrated conductor Sir Roger Norrington present his final concert with the Royal Northern Sinfonia at The Sage, Gateshead. Sir Roger is considered an icon of classical music for his inventive and energetic approach to performance and this definitely shone through during the concert. Before the music began, he provided a fascinating and humorous introduction to Haydn. He told us about Haydn's experience in London, the style of performance in the 18th Century and entertained us with references to Haydn's comic approach to composition. Sir Roger made the audience feel "part of the team" by encouraging us to applaud at the end of movements and laugh along with Haydn's wit from his spinny chair on stage. We particularly enjoyed his comment, telling us not to expect any of that "wobbly stuff" (vibrato), but instead a "pure tone" from the strings for a historically informed performance.



Interestingly, the programme was also set out in a historically accurate fashion, comprising a mixed bill of orchestral, solo and chamber music. The orchestra played Haydn's Symphony No.103, famous for its thrilling drum roll with energy that was not only heard through the music, but was visually dynamic. This was followed by a captivating set of English Canzonettas, performed by soprano Susan Gritton and fortepianist Steven Devine. I was amazed by Gritton's incredible range, projection and expression, supported by Devine's quick and technical playing on the authentic fortepiano. The string quartet were perfectly in sync, executing Op.76 No.5 with finesse and virtuosity. However, the obvious crowd favourite was Symphony No.101 "The Clock", named after the characteristic alternating quaver melody representing the tick-tock of the clock. This was so impressively conducted and played by the orchestra that there was a poignant standing ovation and cheering from the audience. Then, Thorben Dittes, RNS's director delivered a short heartwarming tribute to Sir Roger, thanking him for such an incredible career.

Overall, I feel very fortunate to have witnessed such a historically significant concert in classical music. It has really given me a new appreciation for Haydn's music and altered the way I would approach his works in future. Sir Roger truly is an icon, who is clearly very passionate about classical music and conducting. In a way, the concert was bittersweet, as it was his last.

Tegan Addison, Lower Sixth

YARM SCHOOL

**Christmas Cards now on sale!**

Each pack of cards costs £6.50.  
100% of the proceeds will be donated to:

**Sprouts**  
COMMUNITY FOOD CHARITY

Please email  
jessica.jenyns@yarmschool.org  
to buy your cards.

Thank you!

## Working Lunch talking Tax Careers at PwC

This week the Economics and Business Department were delighted to welcome back former pupil Millie McCormack (Class of 2020) for a Working Lunch talk with the Sixth Form. Millie joined PwC as a School and College Leaver in their Leeds office in the Tax line of service and explained to the captive audience how much she is enjoying her Apprenticeship. She discussed in great detail her experience of PwC so far, including the recruitment process, her day-to-day job and how that compares to some of her colleagues who have joined as graduates. Whilst fully extolling the virtues of the Apprenticeship route, Millie also shared lots of information relating to other ways to join PwC, including Flying Start degrees. She then happily responded to a plethora of questions.

We are very appreciative of Millie taking the time from her busy schedule to assist and advise our current Sixth Form cohort and we are proud of her success to date.

Miss CE Rhodes



## Examining the state of the Labour Party

There can be a good deal of planning but equally a large measure of serendipity in the scheduling of Politics Society guest speakers. Designed to explore the almost limitless reach of the subject, there are occasions when an unexpected topicality can creep in. On Thursday the Politics students welcomed Dr Christopher Massey, an expert in the history and development of the British Labour Party. Having conducted innumerable interviews with former Party leaders and ministers for his research, he was able to share some well considered and nuanced perspectives on the



challenges of the past and the opportunities for the future recovery of the Labour Party. And indeed it coincided with the week when the Labour Party found itself ahead in the polls for the first time for quite a while, in part the result of a tough fortnight for the government following numerous scandals, internal opposition and poor press.

Dr Massey made a range of comparisons between the challenges faced by the Labour Party during the 1980s - ideologically divided party, issues of leadership, a leftist agenda - and those challenges faced more recently up to and including the leadership of Corbyn, and then demonstrated the method and means of recovery under Blair compared to the steps being taken by Starmer.

The students explored the topic further with a series of questions focusing on the exact political spectrum positioning of Keir Starmer, the likelihood of a Labour recovery without a resurgence in Scotland and the possible nature of Labour's next 'big idea'. It was a fascinating, well focused and rigorous session and I am most appreciative of the time, thoughts and attention afforded to this session by Dr Christopher Massey.

Mr S Edwards

## Debate: This House believes that we have not learned our lessons from the past!

Izzy opened the case for the proposition, quoting Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel who said "We learn from History that we do not learn from History". She then used an effective metaphor of wrapping an old box in new paper to explain how we may appear to have learned on the surface from our mistakes, but under the surface we are ultimately repeating the same errors. She pointed out that there have only been 268 years without war in over 3000 years. Izzy concluded by saying that every war is claimed to be the route to peace, but we always end up in the same place we've been before.

Ananya S then produced an emotive and powerful speech for the opposition, refuting Izzy's claims and pointing out

that we live in the most peaceful era ever. She used the striking example of the nuclear strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki as an unexpected example of progress; as they are the only times we have actually used nuclear weapons despite having had the capability ever since. Similarly, Ananya stated that World War Two was the largest war in history, over 75 years ago.

Apsara brought us back to very current events, by discussing how the current pandemic is a good example of how we have not learned from the mistakes of the past. Despite modern medicine, Covid has crippled us much as the Black death, AIDS and countless other diseases have in the past.

Caroline produced a calm and convincing rebuttal to this, pointing out the speed with which we have recovered from Covid compared to other diseases. She then moved on to introduce the idea of equality to the debate, and how this key principle shows we have learned many mistakes from our past. She then further explored the changing attitudes to climate change and increased desire for environmental protection. Caroline powerfully summarised by saying that we cannot change the past but we can constantly try to do better.

Olivia seized on the idea of climate change to produce a convincing counterargument to Caroline's points. She recalled the early days of lockdowns around the world, when emissions levels dropped dramatically and it briefly seemed we might learn from climate lessons during lockdown - but we went straight back to our previous habits.

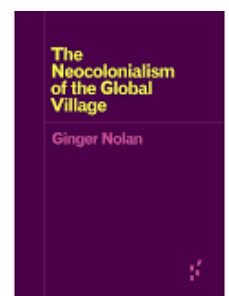
Ananya P stuck with the topic of climate change, stating that despite recent increases, overall levels of Carbon Dioxide have decreased and that recent COP26 promises go further than ever before to bring us towards the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees. Finally, Ananya summarised her previous speakers' points about equality and the diminishing threat of war globally.

As ever, there were gruelling questions from the judges (with Mr Bridges unable to keep himself from intervening at a couple of points!). The panel then had to decide which side had won and, due to the fact that the proposition had given more ground on questioning, the opposition was awarded the victory - suggesting that we in the debating society at least do believe we have learned from our past mistakes.

Mr A Bridges

## Book Review The Neocolonialism of the Global village by Ginger Nolan

Through studying A-level politics, I have been introduced to many ideas surrounding globalisation - including 'The Global Village'. The global village was an idea created by Marshall McLuhan to explore the extent to which the conceptual framework in terms of technological advances may be understood, in terms of Visual Space, and Acoustic





Space. Nolan's 'The Neocolonialism of the Global Village' is a commentary on McLuhan's deductions of soft-power. It allowed me to explore the intersection between anthropological and economic nature, drawing parallels between pastoral beauty and pastoral power. Nolan echoes McLuhan's findings that Visual space through literary mediums was a characteristic of the western world, however, suggests that due to previous writings in the visual medium, liberties have been taken, allowing colonialism of the global south. Nolan, further, draws parallels to the present day in which she notes that films marketed as entertainment rather than education tend to have a greater soft power influence. Whilst I found the essay piece quite challenging at times, I would recommend it in conjunction with 'The Global Village' as both books introduced me to a wide variety of ideas in terms of media theory and the psychological underpinning of urban studies. Although I felt that it was quite heavy in International relations jargon, I found it very insightful in accompanying my studies of soft and smart powers in global politics.

Ananya Padmanabhan, Upper Sixth

## Exploring the Politics of History and Memory in Dictatorships with Newcastle University Academics



Following on from a visit to the Politics Society a few years ago, we were approached by visitor Jorge Catala-Carrasco, Head of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies at Newcastle University, seeking a number of committed students who would be interested in engaging in a new research project in collaboration with the university. Alongside Dr Philippa Page, Lecturer in Hispanic Studies, and Maria Zubelzu de Brown, Lecturer in Spanish, as well as a number of undergraduate students, the Yarm School students were tasked with exploring issues of memory across two continents, focusing on the years following the Argentinian dictatorship and the post Franco dictatorship in Spain.

Following a tour of the campus, the students were treated to a lecture delivered by the three academics, with Philippa discussing the movement of the Mothers and Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, protesting since 1977 in the centre of

Argentina, seeking information on their 'disappeared' loved ones. The result of a network of detention centres, often in the very heart of the cities of Argentina, the regime was responsible for over 30,000 disappearances as well the theft of around 500 babies of the detained. To date the protest group has successfully campaigned for and located the whereabouts of over 130 children. Part of the challenge has been so-called impunity laws, granting amnesties to the perpetrators of the crime, allowing the state to be the controller of memory. Jorge Catala-Carrasco, using evidence drawn from comics and graphic art, explored a similar masking of the past undertaken in Spain, equally constructing a 'pact of forgetting' that fails to address the injustice of the past and the need for understanding and acknowledgement of victims' families. The recent Law of Democratic Memory (2000) seeks to redress this issue, allowing for example the adoption of Spanish nationality for the descendents of those driven into exile. Finally Maria Zubelzu de Brown invited questions on her experience growing up during the transition period between dictatorship and democracy in Argentina.

The afternoon was spent in consultation with undergraduates workshopping issues related to the politicisation of memory, and culminated in the crafting of questions that will be used at a later date when there will be an event devoted to interviewing the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo live from Argentina. The day was focused and purposeful, but challenging in its intensity of thinking and emotion. We very much look forward to the next stage of this collaborative project with the university.

Mr S Edwards

## Fifth Year Pupils' Perform Poignant and Entertaining Play: The Diary of Anne Frank

Our Fifth Year Play, The Diary of Anne Frank, has been an overwhelming success! Our talented pupils took to the stage on Wednesday and Thursday evening, and the play returns tonight, Friday 26th, to the Studio Theatre for the final, sold-out, performance.

The cast includes: Morven Hawthorne, Erin Scott, James Waine, Benji Fleming, Kitty Brown, Clara Wain, Keya Shah, Samuel Millman, Hermia Johnson, Jenifer Umashankar, and Jennifer Chan.

Look out for next week's newsletter for more photos and reviews of the play.

Congratulations to everyone involved!



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY 4TH AND SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER**

Saturday 4th December		
14:00	Harp Ensemble	
14:30	Mrs Trowsdale's Guitar Ensemble	
15:00	Bleak Midwinter singers	
15:30	Time after Time singers	
Sunday 5th December		
10:30	Fairytale, Step Into Christmas, Mary Did You Know, 6th Form Flute duet	<i>Fairytale: Please arrive 10 mins early to set up</i>
11:15	Lux Aurumque Choir	
11:40	3rd and 4th Year Choir	
12:00	All singers: FULL CHOIR	<i>This is for all those in our choirs from 1st</i>
12:45	FULL CHOIR PLUS ORCHESTRA FOR CHORAL ITEMS	<i>Orchestra: If you are accompanying the choral items e.g. O Holy Night, Angels</i>
14:15	FULL ORCHESTRA	<i>Everyone playing in the Snowman and</i>
15:15	BRASS FANFARES	<i>Laura Hull plus adult brass players</i>
15:30	BIG BAND	
16:00	HOT MEAL	<i>In the Dining Room</i>
16:30	BRASS GROUP CAROLS	

## CONCERTS

### SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER

**Concert 1: 17:00-18:15hrs**

**Concert 2: 19:30-20:45hrs**

### MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER

Meal at 16:45hrs if you are staying at School.

If you are going home, please return to School for 18:15hrs and meet in the Dining Room

**Concert 3: 19:00-20:15hrs**

### TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER

All performers should stay at School please. Meal at 16:15hrs

**Concert 4: 18:00-19:15hrs**

**DRESS CODE FOR CONCERTS: SMART SCHOOL UNIFORM!**



## Two days of racing over 100 miles apart

It is the aspiration of a lot of athletes to compete for their country but it is a long and hard road to achieve this dream. This weekend saw two of our Junior 17 women travel to Boston with Mr Lund and Dr Lewis, to compete in the GB Rowing Early Identification for Under 19 rowers. Harriet White and Cordelia Deering had earned their place on merit with their ergo scores meeting the GB requirements. Boston is always the course for trials due to the straightness of the river and being sheltered from wind.



Being only seventeen years of age, the girls were much more inexperienced than some of their opposition, but for them this was the first rung of the assessment ladder.

With the best junior scullers in the country in attendance, Harriet and Cordelia raced in single sculls over the 5km course on the River Witham in perfect conditions. Despite their nerves, they sculled very well. However, as it was their first time at Boston, their first time at trials and being younger, it was always going to be a big ask for them to achieve a top 50 place. Nevertheless they can be very proud of their achievement and Yarm School can be very proud of them. Their next assessment is a 5km ergo test in December followed by trials again at Boston in February.

Sunday saw trailer and several minibuses go to York and for another amazing event for everyone involved. York Small



Boats is one of the last head races of the season. It is rowed over a 3km course from Fulford Landings To Kings Staithes in the centre of York and over 3 divisions with all the results being amalgamated to find the overall winners.

Unfortunately for those rowing in Division 1, there was a nasty head wind and times were slower than the subsequent divisions... but that is rowing!

The fastest Yarm School boat of the day was the impressive boys' Junior 17 coxless quad. Ably stroked by Archie Norton,

he was backed up by Will Woodhead, Harry Wildridge and Deacon Laverick. With two members of the crew still only being 16 years of age, this crew will be a real force to be reckoned with wherever they row.

The second boys' 'win' came in the Open coxed quads. This Junior 15 crew of Luke Anderson, Sai Sidaginamale, Oskar Studholme, Will Lewis and coxed by Dani Devlin, unfortunately didn't have enough opposition to claim a trophy but had a very competent scull.

With Harriet and Cordelia having raced at Boston the previous day, Emily Dunn and Lilian Dufton paired up in the Women's Junior 17 double scull to beat St Peter's Boat Club in convincing style. They were followed by the Women's Junior 16 coxless quad of Kitty Brown, Storm Smith, Hannah Bettinson and Hannah Stewart who beat York City Rowing Club by less than a second. That was leaving it close !!

It was a double success for Hannah Bettinson as she joined the Women's Junior 15 coxed quad to take her second win. Libby Laverick, Cecily Deering, Eve Grey and Joshita Mishra joined Hannah to beat York City Rowing Club by a more comfortable margin of 3 seconds. It was also a double success for Joshita Mishra in the cox's seat. Joshita also ably steered the Women's Junior 14 coxed quad to victory. The quad of Rebecca White, Jenny Atkinson, Annabel Cochrane and Poppy Bell only just managed to beat another Yarm quad stroked by Abby Stewart by 1 second. Another crew to leave it late!

Unfortunately not everyone can win, Yarm school was represented with distinction by 24 crews over the 3 divisions, highlighting a strength in depth at the Boat Club.

If returning late from Boston wasn't enough, both Mr Lund and Dr Lewis sculled at York and both won their events. Well done to the staff too.

Apologies for the lack of photographs this week. Our resident photographers from the North East were not at York, but I am sure parents who were out in force to support our crews will have some. A big thank you also to Mr Bewick and Mr Lund for trailering all the boats and to Mr Burns, Mr Alexander, Mr Brogan, Mr Brown and Mr and Mrs Bettinson for ferrying all the athletes to York and ensuring they got there on time. It is quite a logistical exercise when so many pupils are involved.

Next week sees the final event of the year – Rutherford Head for eights, fours and quads only – but judging by the weather forecast it may be cancelled. Hopefully not after lots of preparation but the Tyne and high winds, and possibly snow, is not a good combination.

Mrs A Lund





# SPORT

## 1st XV at the Tom Burrow Cup

Last Saturday, the 1st XV had the honour of attending the Tom Burrow Cup at Silcoates school; this is an annual tournament held in honour of a former pupil of the school. It is always a special day and we are proud to be involved. Five teams (who are invited by the hosts) compete for the cup in a round robin format. The day was very well supported by schools, players and spectators and it was superb to see so many members of Tom's family in attendance; it was clear how much the day means to them and Silcoates School.



We started against Rishworth, the strongest school there, and the overall winners. It was a really positive game and the boys played some ambitious and committed rugby. It was great to see them carry this throughout the tournament, displaying a very positive and determined attitude against Austin Friars, another strong team, and we came out deserved winners as we played smart attacking rugby and coupled this with some organised and resolute defence. They took this through to the final match against NSB, a team we had previously lost to this season, and after falling behind, we dominated play and territory, eventually drawing the game.



Following the conclusion of play, all the teams, coaches and guests attending a superb post match function for food and presentations; congratulations to captain Mark Proberts who was our player of the tournament.

The whole team conducted themselves on and off the field with great commitment, spirit and respect, showing skill and determination; it was a great day all round.

Mr C Webb



## U12 vs Durham School

Both U12 teams enjoyed some fantastically competitive matches with Durham, where the focus was on moving and supporting the ball, scoring tries and having fun; all whilst being played in a committed and determined spirit. It was tremendous to see how well the boys applied themselves, looking to learn throughout the game to the challenges presented, for example; if the opposition like to put players into a ruck to contest the ball, how do we combat that? Answer: don't set up a ruck; keep the ball alive with support options. Or, at the restart are we best kicking it to them, receiving, or a mix of both? Answer: it depends on several factors in the game; working out our strengths and the oppositions too.

Credit to all the players in both A & B teams for another awesome afternoon of rugby.

Mr C Webb





## U14 Netball Cup Match

On Thursday 18th of November the U14 girls played their 3rd round against Queen Ethelbergas. Our team was motivated to put their all in and win to enable us to compete in the next round of the SnS cup league.

We started off with the tension high, but we began strongly with our first centre pass, converting it to a goal within seconds. The first half of the game was swift and rapid, with attack going at a great speed, and when the ball was taken into the opposing half Hannah Muzawazi, Grace Crawford and Lucy de la Motte were always there for an interception. This lead us to a 24-8 win in the first half to Yarm.

We began the second half positively with all motivation even though QE were starting to bring the ball through court successfully. Many interceptions were made from Yarm's defensive side, stopping any chance QE had at a goal. Attackers did a great job with their passes down the court, with great connections towards the shooters, therefore many goals were scored especially from Lola Vasiliou.

The final score was 46-15 to us and we are now through to the next round of Sisters n Sports against Wakefield where hopefully the girls can pull through with another win. Pom Olivia Mitchell.

Lola Vasiliou and Olivia Mitchell, Third Year



## Results

Full results for all fixtures are available online.

Please [login to the SOCS system](#).

## Sport Weeks Ahead

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

### YARM SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM OF THE WEEK

15th - 21st November

1 Alfie Arnold U12A	2 Zach Parker U15	3 JJ Jenney U12B	16 Oscar Lane U12B
4 Oliver McPartland 1st XV	5 Josh Davison U14A	17 Finn Cook U14A	
6 Spencer Hankinson U12A	8 Mark Proberts 1st XV	7 Oliver Blake U13A	18 Dan de la Motte 1st XV
9 Tom Oatway 1st XV	10 James Graham U14A	12 Marshall Page U12B	13 Ollie Carr U13A
11 Harry Routledge U12B	15 Max Mowbray U15	14 Jude Crack U13B	

### YARM SCHOOL TEAM OF THE WEEK

15th - 21st November

Sophie Hall U15	Hannah Bettinson U15	India Dunkin 1st XI
Sophie Brining 1st XI	Claudia Carter U13	
Naila Krishnamoorthy U13	Kitty Illingsworth U13C	Carys Thompson U13C
Molly White U13C	Ava Holmes U12A	
Sienna Hyndman U12A		



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CRYPTOCURRENCY

## What is cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency is software enabling the exchange and storage of digital 'coins' representing financial value. To monitor who owns which coins, platforms save an online record of every transaction, called a 'ledger' or 'blockchain'. This is secured by cryptography: a set of methods for protecting sensitive information. Bitcoin, released in 2009, was the first cryptocurrency; other platforms have since launched such as Ethereum, Tezos and Filecoin. As cryptocurrency becomes a more established part of digital life, young people are bound to encounter it – so it's vital that trusted adults understand its risks, and how it can be explored and used safely.

### COMPLEX TECHNOLOGY

Like any new software, cryptocurrency comes with bugs, flaws and limitations. Broadly, it hasn't yet evolved to be as user friendly as web browsing or social media. Using it safely means spending time learning about the complicated technology it uses. We would strongly suggest anyone considering getting involved in cryptocurrency should consult specialised tutorials to learn about it properly in advance.

### WIDESPREAD EXAMPLES

Cryptocurrency software for smartphones is often free to download from app stores. Emails with links to cryptocurrency services can land in any inbox. Cryptocurrency is also advertised on search engines, on social media and in online games (for example to buy add-ons which help players level up). It can't be purchased easily without a credit card or bank account, but young people will still be exposed to cryptocurrency in various settings.

### CHANCE OF SCAMS

Cryptocurrency provides another opportunity for scammers to extract personal data and money from unwary web users. Unlike credit card transactions or wire transfers, a bank can't reverse cryptocurrency transactions after a suspected fraud – making it an appealing channel for online extortion. These transactions do leave evidence in the blockchain, however, which means that cryptocurrency scammers can and do get caught.

### BEING LOCKED OUT

If you forget your online banking password, you can reset it by proving your identity in another way. In the world of 'crypto', however, the private key to access your funds can't be reset. Cryptocurrency operates without intermediaries like banks – so no-one stores a copy of users' private keys. This has security benefits, but also presents the huge risk of permanently losing access to your account. Learn how to store private keys securely before purchasing any significant amounts of cryptocurrency.

### RISKY INVESTMENT

Prices can be very volatile, so cryptocurrencies are considered high-risk investments. If you might need your savings soon, don't hold them in cryptocurrency as their value could drop suddenly and sharply. Sometimes, cryptocurrency may be a profitable investment – but note that any gains are taxable. You may even have to pay tax when exchanging one cryptocurrency for another if the currency you're exchanging is priced higher than it was when you bought it.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### AVOID IF UNSURE

In the UK, cryptocurrency is considered risky, because users aren't well protected if something goes wrong. Most cryptocurrencies use software developed by decentralised communities, so there's no customer service and no support if your funds get stolen or you lose access to your mobile cryptocurrency wallet. Unless you understand cryptocurrency, it's probably best not to use it. After all, if you couldn't comprehend the highway code, it wouldn't be safe for you to drive.

### CHECK CREDENTIALS

Buying cryptocurrency for the first time involves wiring funds from your bank to a cryptocurrency exchange – a business that converts your money into cryptocurrency. They can also store cryptocurrency for you, though this could present a security risk. Cryptocurrency businesses in the UK must now comply with money laundering regulations: the Financial Conduct Authority's website has a list of all business that are approved, and it's best to avoid dealing with any that aren't.

### EXPECT EXPOSURE

If your child plays online games that involve some form of virtual currency, and has access to some kind of payment method, they may find themselves in a position to buy and use cryptocurrency. There's probably no immediate danger, but discussing the potential risks with them could be useful. If your child is old enough to understand the concepts of spending and saving or to grasp the basics of programming, then they're old enough to learn about cryptocurrency.

### STAY CAUTIOUS, STAY INFORMED

Approach cryptocurrency with caution as well as curiosity. Don't click on links in unexpected emails referring to cryptocurrency and beware of promotions promising free cryptocurrency in exchange for personal information. Avoid mentioning on social media that you own cryptocurrency, as this can attract scammers. Stay informed of potential new risks and regulations by regularly checking specialised sources (such as CoinDesk).

### Meet Our Expert

JP Vergne is an educator and associate professor at University College London's School of Management. His award-winning research on technology and organisation has been published in leading academic journals as well as in two books. JP is also a speaker and advises on startups. He tweets at @PIRateOrg.



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