

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome



At the end of the fourth Community Christmas Concert I stressed to the pupils (and our wonderful choral society) that they must not underestimate the impact that their performances may have had on those of us lucky enough to have been there; each concert will have touched the audience in many and varied ways. This has been reinforced by messages we have received since the concerts, with people commenting on the quality of the music - it was superb - but also on the joy it brought to them after such a long time without live music, and after a tough Christmas last year for many. Mrs Staggs and the whole music department, including our wonderful VMTs, all deserve thanks and praise for putting such a beautiful programme together. I reiterate my thanks and congratulations to all the pupils from Year 5 in the Prep School right through to the Upper Sixth in their last Christmas Concert, who performed with such energy over the four concerts. Thank you!

This week I have watched the Prep School Christmas Carol Service in the PAA and once again marvelled at the quality of the music and readings, and the confidence of our younger pupils who relish the opportunity to perform on the big stage. Within the newsletter is a reminder to book tickets for next term's musical 'Beauty and the Beast', which is an exciting prospect. I am very excited to see the fruits of the pupils' labours.

We are treated within to some wonderful pupil art, news of Caving, Art and Psychology trips and a Politics society lecture looking at recent history in Syria and the impact on its people. Sports news continues to impress with success in hockey, netball and swimming featuring, with some hugely impressive team and individual performances. Congratulations to all.

Dr Huw Williams

Senior Caving Weekend



Over the first weekend in December a small group of keen Sixth Form students headed to the Yorkshire Dales for a weekend of caving in some of the best cave systems in the world. Meeting our caving instructor on the Friday night, the group was introduced to their technical caving equipment for going up and down ropes in a cave; as for a senior caving trip the cave trips involve more vertical sections and more challenges.

With a wet forecast for Saturday, we decided to head to Bull Pot of the Witches cave where the group would have a chance to put all their training from the evening before into practice. Descending three rope pitches the group were then crawling around in the mud and exploring the depths of the cave. After a subterranean lunch, we then had to head back up the three ropes using our jamming equipment. Surfacing just before dusk we headed back to our comfortable bunkhouse accommodation for a tasty bolognese cooked by the students.

Sunday saw us heading over to Long Churn cave, a cave regularly used on the First Year trip, but with this group we were going to descend three rope pitches again to arrive at the window overlooking Alum Pot which is over 100 metres deep. Another excellent day was had to top off our weekend.

Overall, a great weekend with the Sixth Form students rising to the challenge of more technical caving and enjoying it thoroughly. I was mightily impressed. My thanks go to Graham, our caving instructor. Keep your eyes open for more caving in the New Year!

Mr A C Mathers

A Level Artists Visit Liverpool Tate

We started by viewing the beautifully curated 'Lucian Freud: Real Lives' exhibition, which had a gorgeous display of oil paintings and Freud's lesser-known etchings. The



level of detail in Freud's work is astonishing and such a treat to see in the flesh. The ideas and obsessions behind the works are fascinating, like his desire to paint his subjects nude: "I am really interested in people as animals. Part of my liking to work from them naked is for that reason." A firm favourite of mine was his etching of Pluto, demonstrating a stunning and sensitive relationship between canine and owner, as they are seen by Freud as "equals".

Louise Bourgeois' work displayed at Tate Liverpool has ignited in me a deeper passion for her art. Another beautifully curated set of rooms, Bourgeois' work threads melancholy and her turbulent, emotional relationship with her mother and father through her pieces. The spider was a particularly striking sculpture and a gorgeous juxtaposition to some of Bourgeois' more frenzied gouache paintings.



I am always struck with how exhausting being surrounded by art can be. There is so much to see and feel and not enough time as the mind races to take in as much as possible. One must remember to slow down, wander quietly and enjoy the almost tangible atmosphere which art creates. As Mrs Thompson said on more than one occasion, "we've missed the galleries. It's good to be back".

Jessica Jenyns, Visiting Artist



Working Lunch

Another week and another excellent speaker! Former Pupil Alex Lucas (class of 2016), developed a passion for both Economics and Business during his years at Yarm and went on to study Business Management in Birmingham, focusing his studies on supply chain and logistics. His degree included a 12-month placement in the procurement department of a global rail engineering company. Since graduating he has qualified as a Personal Trainer as well as securing a job in London for a start-up baby food brand called Little Freddie, buying and transporting the ingredients to their various European manufacturing partners. In a very candid Q & A based session, Alex discussed his studies, his day-to-day working life and his career aspirations, whilst reassuring his appreciative audience that it doesn't matter if you don't have your life all mapped out at age seventeen - as long as you work hard and persist you can succeed.

Many thanks to Alex for travelling up from London to share his experiences and offer words of wisdom!

Miss CE Rhodes



Psychology Trip to London

The Psychology Department recently held its inaugural London trip to expand and develop students' depth of understanding of the subject and its multifaceted real life applications.

Setting out from Darlington early morning on Sunday December 5th, the first stop was the Wellcome Collection on Euston Road, which housed a variety of inspiring and informative exhibits, including a collection of medical antiquities used in the treatment of mental health and other conditions, as well as an exhibition on the nature of what it is to be human.

In the evening, a change of pace saw a dark and moody tour of the East-End focusing on an examination of violence against women, exemplified by serial killers such as Jack the Ripper, which ties directly to key syllabus topics around crime and aggression.

On Monday the day began with a workshop at the Jewish museum that focused on the Holocaust and the responsibility that different institutions and individuals hold for this genocide. This links closely with A Level work on authority and obedience, which forms such an integral part of the social influence module of the course.



After lunch a visit to a prison museum was followed by a trip to the Natural History Museum where the party was joined by former pupil Jasmine Donaldson who is a currently reading psychology at Queen Mary University in London. Students were challenged to research psychology links throughout the museum before undergoing a Q&A on their findings, which included photos and notes they had collected over a two hour session.

Afterward the group took the opportunity to take a night time walking tour of some of London's most famous landmarks, including Downing Street, The Palace of Westminster, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace, all of which added to the enriching experience.

On the final day a longer trip out to Beckenham saw a visit to Bethlem Museum of the Mind, which is set in the grounds of a functioning mental health hospital and which records the lives and experience and celebrates the achievements of people with mental health problems studied by the students in their A-level.

The final stop was The Freud Museum in Hampstead, in which students engaged in two workshops, the first in the life and times of Sigmund Freud, followed by a specialised session on Freudian Dream Interpretation. The museum is situated in the final home of the father of psychology and includes his famous couch on which talk therapy, so crucial

to the wider understanding of the discipline, was invented.

The trip was an enormous success and students engaged purposefully and positively throughout.

On the train home students were asked to identify their favourite and most rewarding experience on the trip:

"Mine was the national history museum and walking around on the second night." - Ella Ogden

"The time to explore independently with friends." - Abby Clements

"My favourite thing was listening to the lecture in the Freud museum because the gentleman made a very academically heavy topic fun and entertaining." - Iyrah Swati

"The Freud talk was very interesting." - Alex Webb

"Exploring the history of the human understanding of the mind at the Bethlem Hospital." - Thomas Howard

"The natural history museum - Amelia (Allen) and I ran around trying to find everything and anything to relate to psychology" - Abby Scott

"The best was the Freud museum because it directly related to course and improved my perception of him." - Chris Lightfoot

"My favourite thing about the trip was when we went on the Jack the Ripper tour, including Simon the tour guide and his actions." - Megan Fairley

"My favourite part of the trip was the Bethlem museum." - Isabelle Fielding

"My favourite part of the trip was the dream workshop, because I think analysing dreams is really interesting." - Olivia Davies



Syria and the Plight of Refugees

Last Friday the Politics Society was fortunate enough to welcome Dr Haythem Alhamwi to speak to the students. Dr Alhamwi was a practising Psychiatrist in Syria and now helps to lead an organisation based in Manchester



committed to assisting the settlement of Syrians into the country. Rethink Rebuild Society is a dynamic charity seeking the integration of Syrians and other refugees into all aspects of British life.

The talk skilfully took the audience through the recent history of Syria from the years of the dictatorship of President Harez al-Assad to that of his son Bashar al-Assad and the ensuing years of oppression. He details the otherwise unimaginable reality of his own detention by the authorities as well as that of his father and father-in-law, whose current whereabouts remains unknown. The war years, including the use of indiscriminate poisoning, shelling, and barrel bombing of housing areas. The regime used systematic detention and torture, creating an atmosphere of fear and oppression, leading many to take the colossal decision to flee the country and take their chances overseas.

The Syrian community in the UK is renowned for its high levels of education and learning and its efforts at community engagement. Rethink Rebuild Society seeks to meet and build upon this capacity and inclination. Dr Alhamwi's family home and neighbourhood of Darayya, outside of Damascus, no longer exist, reduced as they were to a rubble of a ghost town. But his resilience and that of the Syrian diaspora continue to rebuild their lives and communities.

Mr S Edwards

Rising to the Challenge

Not to be beaten by the cancellation of the YSA Christmas Indoor Market the Yarm Apprentice Teams were determined to make a difference and raise money for charity, to demonstrate their resilience and to celebrate Christmas. Twenty determined and festive Sixth Formers set up their two stalls in the Dovecote last week, and with Christmas music playing, festive attire very evident and seemingly a visit from a very special man... (No, not Rishi although he was in Yarm town that day, I'm meaning the man in the red suit!). Having been allocated £60 per team and told to be festive and add value, Imogen's team focused on "Spin the Wheel" and jewellery, whilst Amy's concentrated on Christmas decorations. After a very busy lunchtime for both teams, Miss Rhodes had a lot of money to count!!

Team Alpha had made an encouraging £20.50 for their chosen charity Teesside Family Foundation, but Team

Unlimited Part 2, made a remarkable profit of £68.21 for their good cause Covid Aid and were declared victorious. Bonus points have been allocated to all members of Team Unlimited Part 2, to Imogen as PM, to Belle and Imogen for their outstanding customer service (yes, mystery shoppers were present and feeding back) and to Liberty for sourcing the very lucrative jewellery.

Spare stock is being sold in school for Breast Cancer Now, but Miss Rhodes wants to commend all the students involved for responding so well to the unforeseen challenges they have faced in recent weeks!

Miss CE Rhodes



Looking for gift inspiration?

ON SALE NOW CHARITY CALENDAR!




A stunning picture each month by Yarm School pupils

All proceeds to the South Cleveland Heart Fund
Organised by Olivia Davies, Upper Sixth

Calendars £10 each from
Senior School reception

[volume discount available]





Yarm School's production of Beauty and the Beast is kindly sponsored by
Active Chartered Financial Planners and Cleveland Land Services

Yarm School proudly presents



Disney
**BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST**

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

© Disney

Wednesday 2nd February - Saturday 5th February, 7.30pm

Adults £12.00, Children £8.00

To book tickets: 01642 792587 or www.thepaaonline.org

Director
Liam Gilbert

Musical Directors
Katie Staggs & Andrew McIntyre

Producer
David Boddy

Music by
Alan Menken

Lyrics by
Howard Ashman & Tim Rice

Book by
Linda Woolverton

Originally Directed by Robert Jess Roth

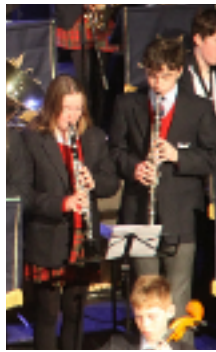
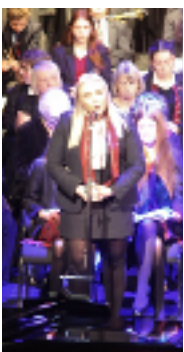
Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

Four Fabulous Community Christmas Concerts

We were blown away by the outstanding talent on show at the four Christmas Concerts in the PAA at the start of the week. These fantastic performances were a truly magical start to the Christmas, and the return to celebrating the festive period with live music was an emotional one.

Here are a selection of photographs from the concerts - watch out for a full report in next weeks' newsletter.



Giving Week Success!

Our first whole school 'Giving Week' has been a superb success, with pupils from across the school showing their generosity and bringing in a phenomenal range of donations.

Each House had a different focus for donations, with Aidan bringing in non-perishable food items, Bede bringing in new toiletries, Cuthbert bringing in new toys and working electronics, and Oswald bringing in clothing in good condition.

Our final day for donations was Friday 10th of December, when our Christmas Jumper Day will also raise money for the House charities.



Learning by Doing

Lower Sixth Business students had a festive introduction to Methods of Production, when they trialled job, batch, then flow production and were challenged to minimise waste and avoid needing to pay a Quality Control Inspector, all through drawing Christmas trees. Thanks to the students for engaging so enthusiastically.

Miss CE Rhodes



Looking for careers in Optometry...

On Monday lunchtime of this week a number of interested Sixth Form students gathered to attend a session delivered by Specsavers. The talk was given by Lucy Knock, the company's Early Careers Manager and was designed to provide a clear understanding of Specsavers as an organisation and through this the life saving work that they can do in terms of identifying disease and improving people's lives. The company detailed its commitment to the development and use of cutting edge imaging and diagnostic technology. Students learned about the pathways into optometry and the training placement year that students complete after their three year degree. There was also insight provided about the benefits of working for a large organisation like Specsavers.

It was interesting to note that Specsavers also offer sponsorship through university, with details available even from your local high street branch. One intriguing aspect of careers in this branch of health professions is the opportunity to combine optometry with business interests through the mechanism of becoming a store director, as well as there being routes into hospital environments as well. It was a highly informative talk and certainly provided some greater breadth in terms of possible health professions in the careers landscape.

Mr S Edwards

Artists' Corner

Well done to Naeha Rajaram for this strikingly ethereal submission this week. The detail of the hands and fabric is gorgeous.



Thank you also to Charlotte Dawson for her beautiful, mixed-media skull. The tones of the frog and flowers are great.



Both pieces are so imaginative and unique!

Jessica Jenyns, Visiting Artist

U12s are in the top 16 in the country: Sisters N Sport Cup Success

On Thursday the U12 girls played against Grammar School at Leeds to qualify for the top 16 in the country. Everyone was motivated to win and put 100% into every move we made.

In the first quarter, we began strongly and confidently and within seconds we turned over a Leeds centre pass. The first half of the game was rapid and tiring, with attacking play going at great speed and the defensive end grabbing every opportunity to turn over the ball. This led us to a comfortable lead at halftime.

We began the second half relaxed and focused. Although Leeds were starting to bring the ball through court more successfully, we still managed to make a lot of interceptions. Attack did a great job of passing into the shooting circle confidently to Ruby and Ava. The final score was 38-14 to Yarm and we are now through to the next round of the Sisters N Sport Cup.

Pom Ruby Kitson and Lucy Mitchell. Thanks to our coaches who helped and inspired us along the way. We cannot wait for our next game!

Ruby Kitson and Lucy Mitchell, First Year



U13s vs Surbiton High School

The U13s cup run has unfortunately come to an end at the quarter finals stage. They have played some beautiful hockey to get to this point but we came up against a very strong Surbiton High School team.



This was a great confidence boost for the girls after beating all the local opposition and a fabulous learning experience to come up against one of the best teams in the country and hold their own and compete. The quarter final started fast and the girls were maybe a little shocked by the pace and skill on show. This meant that the opposition held a 5-0 lead at half time. At half time we talked about how they deserve to be there and if we tighten up in a few areas we will compete and get back into the game. The second half was much better with the girls supporting each other on and off the ball and this led to them drawing the second half 3-3 but ultimately losing the match 8-3.

Super proud of you all, well done!

Miss N Hodgson



Swim England National Winter Championships

Last weekend was a big event in the swimming calendar, as the Swim England National Winter Championships were held at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield. Three Yarm School swimmers achieved qualifying times for the championships.

Archie Norton was first to swim, achieving a personal best in the 50m freestyle, followed by Ethan Stannard who had a fantastic race and another personal best in 50m breaststroke. Later Ben Rogers competed in the gruelling 400m freestyle, which was a hard fought race.

This was an amazing achievement for all three swimmers and testament to their dedication to many hours of training and hard work.

Congratulations to Archie, Ben and Ethan!



North East Regional Swimming

Yarm School was well represented at the North East Regional Swimming Championships last month. Here are reports from some of our fantastic swimmers:

I got 3 Golds in the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke and a bronze in the 100m fly as well as 2 4th positions. All of the swims for the breaststroke put me in the top 3 in my age group in the UK (at the moment).

Ryan Mills, Third Year

I swam 6 events: 200 Free; 50, 100 and 200 back; 200 breaststroke and 400 IM. I came away with 6/6 PBs. The age group we are in puts us with anyone above the age of 15, so I was competing against some swimmers who went to the Olympics.

Toma Saha, Fifth Year

At the NERs I got 4 pbs and it was a really great experience! In the 100 breaststroke I was 13th in the region, In the 200 breaststroke I got 15th in the region, In the 200 IM I got 24th in the region, In the 50 fly 28th in the region.

Owen Reed, Third Year

Lucy Oliver: Swimming Super Star!

Lucy also qualified to compete at the North East Regional Swimming Championships. Lucy qualified for 10 events but chose to swim in 8 events.



Lucy had a great weekend and achieved 7 Personal Bests at the event and from that has been selected to attend a North East Regional training camp as part of the Swim England Talent Pathway.

Lucy's results from Sheffield were:

50m freestyle 28.95 seconds (1st)

100m freestyle 1:02:36 (2nd)

200m freestyle 2:15:92 (3rd)

400m freestyle 4:49:52 (4th)

50m backstroke 34:13 seconds (6th)

100m butterfly 1:11:08 (7th)

100m backstroke 1:13:29 (9th)

50m butterfly 33:46 seconds (16th)

Miss N Hodgson

Sport Weeks Ahead

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

12 Smartphone Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

The Christmas season has finally arrived and soon many of you will be opening your presents in the hope that Santa has listened to your request for the latest mobile phone or smart device. Owning a mobile phone can be fun, but it's important to use it safely and responsibly. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that you set up your phone securely, keep your personal information private and enjoy using your phone in the healthiest way possible.

1 ALWAYS SECURE YOUR PHONE WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your phone without your permission. Make sure your password is memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share it with your parents just in case you forget it.

2 DISABLE LOCATION SETTINGS

This can usually be done from the device's privacy control settings. Disabling location settings means that your phone can't be tracked by others and strangers can't tell where you are when you're using it. It also helps to save battery.

3 ALWAYS USE A SECURE WIFI NETWORK

When you use your WiFi at home usually it is a secure network that only you and your family know the password to. Public networks, like those in coffee shops, can be accessed by anyone which means that people could potentially hack into your device and access your personal information without you realising.

4 ONLY PAIR WITH BLUETOOTH DEVICES YOU KNOW

A Bluetooth connection with another device means that you can send and receive data wirelessly. For example, you could listen to music wirelessly or receive pictures and videos from your friends. However, pairing your phone with a device you don't know means that you could be sharing personal information with a stranger or could leave your device open to receiving viruses.

5 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.

6 BEWARE OF BECOMING ADDICTED TO YOUR PHONE

Your phone can be fun to use and it's easy to become too attached, whether it's keeping in touch with friends, discovering new features or downloading the latest apps. Remember it's always good to talk in person, go out and have fun and get regular exercise. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just your mobile phone.

7 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Using your phone for too long, particularly in the evenings, can make you feel tired at school, affect your concentration and make you lose interest in other things in life. Only use your phone at certain times of the day and don't use it close to bedtime. You can set a 'screen time limit' via the settings on your phone. This will help you stay fit and healthy and means that you will still be able to focus and perform well at school.

8 THINK OF OTHERS WHEN TAKING PHOTOS

Don't take embarrassing photos of other people on your phone. If other people get access to the photos and share it with more people, it could make that person really upset and treated as a form of bullying. Always be mindful of the photos you take using your camera and who you share them with.

9 MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This means that you will be able to use your phone safely and securely and won't accidentally do things you shouldn't do. The best time to do this is when you get a new phone or device so that you're protected from the very beginning.

10 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR PARENTS IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE

Sometimes, even though your phone is really secure, you might see something you don't like, or someone might contact you who you don't know. If this happens, always tell your trusted adult like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and advise you on what you should do next.

11 DON'T TEXT AND WALK

This might seem like a strange thing to say but it can be dangerous to stare at your mobile phone whilst walking outside alongside busy roads or bicycle paths. In some cases, children have been knocked over by cars or cyclists because they haven't been aware of their surroundings whilst texting or playing games on their mobile devices.

12 DON'T SHARE YOUR NUMBER OR YOUR DEVICE WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Never feel pressured into sharing your phone number with people you don't know and don't lend your phone to strangers or keep it where others could get hold of it. Look after your device and always keep it hidden from sight to avoid it being stolen or broken into.