

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

It has, by any standards, been an extraordinary term. I tried to fit a summary of the term's activities, sporting, musical and dramatic highlights, competitions, trips, individual achievements, and other notable events from the term into a 40 minute assembly yesterday. I had to work very hard indeed to manage this, and only skimmed the surface! As we reach the holiday, I am struck by the pupils' good cheer, their responsiveness and respect for each other and for staff, and their willingness to get stuck in. It is impressive and encouraging that they remain so engaged, and this sense of their progress and development is a privilege to see from day to day. For this to be possible, we all rely on the dedication and determination of our whole staff team. I am very lucky to work with committed and talented colleagues in all departments and I want to pay tribute to their tremendous efforts this term.

There is much in this edition of the newsletter that reflects - as a summary of just one week - the breadth I was trying to convey in my assembly. From community concerts to litter picking, Sixth dinner to the CCF's review of the term, wonderful, sophisticated pupil work in English and Art, and more fantastic sporting success to round off a terrific term. I hope you enjoy what is a remarkable overview of another busy week at Yarm School.

As we head into the Christmas break, there is a degree of uncertainty and, perhaps, concern about the weeks to come. This has necessitated a degree of caution right at the end of term - a remote assembly yesterday and some (short!) outdoor carol services to mark the end of term today. I sincerely hope that all families manage to fulfil their Christmas plans and that you all remain happy, healthy and able to spend time with loved ones over the holidays. See you in 2022!

Dr Huw Williams

Litter and Letters

In the last couple of weeks of term, the Community Action group has been busy litter picking in Yarm. Despite the cold and damp afternoon, pupils were in good spirits as they picked up litter from the High Street and river banks. We were thrilled when we were congratulated by several members of the public as we went about our task.



In our penultimate session of the year, we began writing letters for Post Pals, a UK charity which encourages young people to send cards, letters, emails and little gifts to seriously ill children and their siblings. These letters will be sent this week, together with a small gift and a Christmas card from each pupil. Hopefully, they will bring just

some much-needed Christmas cheer to each recipient.

Merry Christmas from the Community Action group!

Ms H Blakemore

Sixth Form Christmas Dinner

Last Friday evening, the Princess Alexandra Auditorium was transformed into the setting for the Sixth Form Christmas Dinner. Students dressed to the nines were perhaps excited, perhaps relieved, but at least happy that this school tradition was back on the calendar to raise the festive spirits. Pre-dinner drinks and a few photographs paved the way to a sumptuous banquet for 220 - lovingly prepared by our Sodexo team. The Quiz - featuring some of the teachers' hidden talents - saw some fierce competition and then a polished performance by the student band was appreciated by all. Thank you to Tom for managing the technical support and thanks also to the team of student party planners, our Sodexo colleagues and the estates team for pulling everything together.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Dr A M Goodall



Uniform Shop Opening Times

The Uniform Shop is open during the holidays on

Tuesday 21st December - 12:30pm until 4pm

Tuesday 4th January - 12:30pm until 4pm

West End Success for Nancy

Congratulations to Third Year pupil Nancy, who will be performing at Cadogan Hall in West End Does: Christmas 2021! We are very proud of Nancy, who is described by Stagebox as a 'young talent set for a bright future':

Earlier last week I was able to announce my success in a recent audition for 2021's 'West End Does Christmas' concert. It is going to be held at Cadogan Hall on the 19th of December in London's West End. I am very excited for this amazing opportunity especially after completing my first rehearsal via zoom. We met the music director and he taught us the material for the show. The concert's host is the

incredible Dame Maureen Lipman and the line up consists of many stars from the West End. I can't wait to sing in the 'West End does Christmas' choir this December.

Nancy Hartley-Blake, Third Year

[Find out more about the concert here!](#)



Musicians visit Osbournes to sing for Vision 25 Charity

On Monday 13th December the Sixth Form Music A Level classes went to Osbournes on the High Street to provide festive music for a Christmas event organised by the Yarm wine bar to support a local charity called Vision 25, who work with young adults with disabilities. We had created our own set list and put together some of our own arrangements, some in 4 part harmony including a selection of our favourite Christmas songs like 'Stay Another Day' by East 17 which was especially well received! As we sang our descants it was so lovely to see people's faces as they enjoyed the singing. We then finished with 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas' which we all sang together. This moment definitely captured the magical festive feel, as everyone joined us and we all sang together. The enthusiasm we received as soon as we walked through the door was already so great and we were set up for a really wonderful occasion; it was a privilege to be part of the event and we enjoyed performing to extremely appreciative audience.

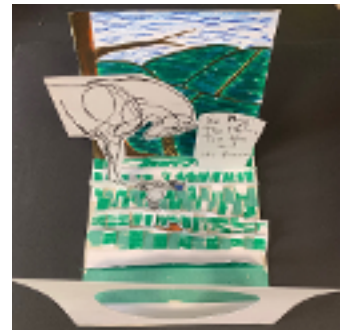
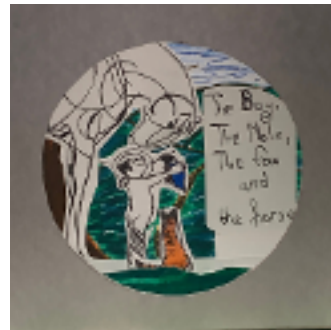
Laura Watson, Josh McGeary, and
Laura Cunningham, Lower Sixth



Artists' Corner

What a way to finish the term!

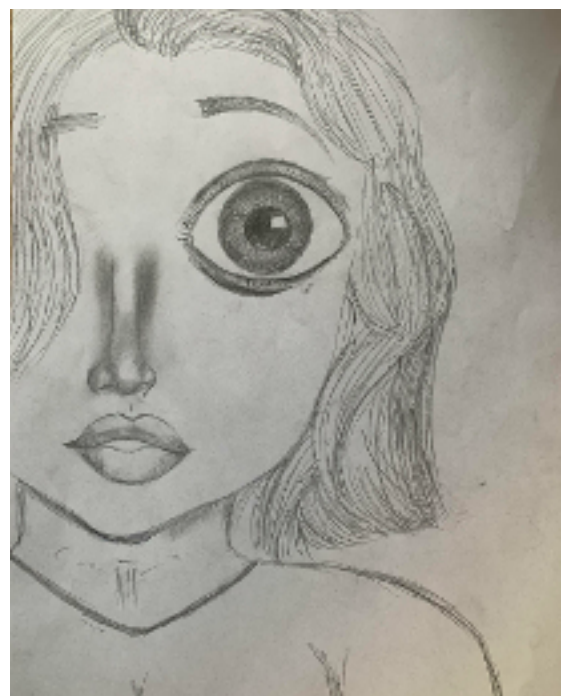
Lydia Waddington has reproduced this beautiful, 3D image of Charlie Mackesy's 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse' (It's one of my favourite books!).



Thanks to Aarnav Kanchibail Savinay for this inspired, and incredibly detailed, coloured pencil drawing of Goku, and Manya Rajeeva's graphite eye is just breathtaking...



Finally, Minakshi Palat-Meethale has drawn this beautiful portrait. I love the exaggerated size of the eye; a very emotive piece. Well done everyone!



Thank you to all the pupils who have submitted their art for Artists' Corner this term. It has been a joy to see and share all your hard work! Have fun over Christmas and I can't wait to see what you show us next term.

Jessica Jenyns, Visiting Artist

Money, Money, Money

Yarm Apprentice are delighted to reveal that the total money made from the Task Two Christmas Task is a fantastic £117.58.

This will be distributed to:

Covid Aid (£68.41),

The Teesside Family Foundation (£20.50),
and

Breast Cancer Now (£28.67)

Thank you to all those who supported the stalls and to the staff who bought up much of the spare stock.

Miss C E Rhodes

Beauty and the Beast Audience Capacity Notice

To take into consideration the current uncertainty in light of the changing picture nationally, please note that we have made the decision to cap the number of tickets available for each performance of 'Beauty and the Beast' in February in order to lower audience capacity. This is a cautionary move whilst we gain a greater understanding of the situation, and we very much hope that the picture will be more optimistic after Christmas to allow us to open up the remainder of the tickets.

Please could I therefore urge you all to take this into consideration in terms of the number of tickets booked per family at this initial stage. We will be in touch with parents as soon as we can with further updates in this regard.

We are grateful to our sponsors, Active Chartered Financial Planners and Cleveland Land Services, for their generosity and support.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast runs from Wednesday 2nd February to Saturday 5th February at 7.30pm. Contact the PAA Box Office on 01642 792587 to book (bear in mind the Box Office is closed from 4pm on 23rd Dec until Tues 4th Jan), or [buy tickets online here](#).



Christmas Concert Review

It is unbelievable to think that this year's Christmas concerts were our first live choral and instrumental performances for two years and what moving occasions they proved to be: four concerts with more space for performers and a much smaller, spaced audience ensured that everyone felt more comfortable in the current climate. What was tangible was the collective desire to enjoy live music-making again and fill our hearts with festive cheer.



Our incredible brass group entertained the audience as they arrived in the Auditorium, before our massed orchestra (consisting of musicians of all ages and abilities) marked the start of the concert with "Walking in the Air". Poignantly, we had performed this piece virtually the previous year, so to hear it live was particularly special. The concert featured our wonderful harpists, guitarists, big band, orchestra, small ensembles, our incredible Upper Sixth musicians and our School choirs and choral society. The richness of the vocal harmonies and orchestral sounds reverberated through the auditorium and moved audience members to tears. Whilst audience participation was limited, we did conclude each performance with some high energy gospel with superb off beat clapping from the audience and a rousing (albeit masked) collective sing of "O Come All Ye Faithful", complete with brass fanfares, descants and organistic wonder, particularly on the most famous chord on "word... of the Father" in the final verse traditionally sung on Christmas day.

Covid has taught us so much and we have all valued the importance of music to keep us going through difficult times. All our performers gave their all and communicated their love of music-making to everyone present. One member of our community rang to say that we had brought Christmas back into her life after a very difficult two years. Through our retiring charity collections, we remembered Naomi Haigh, someone very dear to us all in music and the wider School community.

To the Senior School Music Department and everyone involved both on stage and behind the scenes and our supportive audiences, thank you, from the bottom of my heart and all good wishes for the festive season.

Mrs K Staggs



Towards a Deeper Understanding of International Relations

The study of international relations, or global politics, has grown exponentially in recent years. Once the preserve of a small number of Masters programmes in this country, it grew to be a contribution to various undergraduate offerings, and is now a demanding and ambitious degree programme in its own right. A good number of Politics A Level students have gone on to read degrees in Global Politics, with some of those now well established in careers including working as international security specialists and foreign policy advisors to the Government.

On Friday the Politics Society was delighted to welcome Dr Cristina Masters, a lecturer from the University of Manchester. Our guest specialises in the intersection of international relations - in essence the power structures that exists within and between states - and feminism. What may at first seem like a welding together of approaches to thinking was soon revealed to have a deep seated consistency and logical underpinning to it. Dr Masters argues that individual states spend a good deal of time thinking about the issue of gender, and therefore to suggest that it is within global politics seems somewhat sensible. To ignore gender, she argued, was to retreat to a classic public vs private gendered dichotomy that relegates essential considerations. Dr Masters was skilful in addressing many lazy preconceptions about the nature and role of feminism at the start of the talk, allowing her to proceed with a more nuanced, subtle and academic positioning of the discipline. It was a deeply insightful, thought-provoking session that led to a number of animated follow on discussions in the classroom.

This session was the last in this term's Politics Society programme of weekly talks from experts in their field. I would like to invite all students to consider attending future events that will be advertised in due course when we return in the new year.

Mr S Edwards



Economics and Business Society Discuss Tax on Alcohol

The rights and wrongs of changes to taxes on alcohol were considered during a pertinent and memorable presentation in the Econ and Bus Society this week. Deacon and Will encouraged audience participation through a quiz with prizes, and attendance was exceptional, with a large number of students from outside the department swelling numbers.

Many thanks to both Lower Sixth presenters and also to all those who came along to make Thursday lunchtime so interesting!

Miss C E Rhodes



Morrisby Career Guidance Programme Reaches Completion

This week saw the final interviews of the Fifth Year Morrisby careers guidance programme. Over 90 pupils availed themselves of this opportunity. It consists of a series of detailed psychometric tests that are taken by the pupils, followed up by their immersion in the accompanying report. This is then followed up on by a bespoke interview with a professional, external careers adviser, who has studied the pupil's results and case notes in advance of the thirty minute discussion. The interview is followed by the posting of interview notes from the advisor. All of the information, advice and guidance can be accessed and viewed by parents of the pupils involved. It is very much hoped that the process will have been formative as the members of the Fifth Year shape their thoughts on their future, in advance of making A Level choices or their equivalent in the near future. It is also considered extremely valuable for parents to engage in those discussions, using the data and insight gained from Morrisby as part of that conversation. Parents of pupils in the Fourth Year will be offered details of this programme next autumn.



Mr S Edwards

Busy and Active: Yarm School CCF Term in Review

Winter Term 2021 has been a busy and active term for the CCF. One of the most important aspects of the CCF is the way in which it prepares cadets for the future, providing invaluable skills not only directly related to the army but also day-to-day civilian life. This term the CCF has provided an abundance of events and activities in order to develop these skills among all cadets, junior or senior. The November activity day near York allowed the senior cadets to develop their leadership and teamwork skills through



command tasks and team exercises, which compounded the skills learned in commanding and leading through the splitting of cadets into sections with assigned ICs and 2ICs (individuals who are in command and second in command). The senior cadets were also able to train on the DCCT virtual range, which as well as being good fun helped instil the principles of marksmanship, allowing Lance Corporal Dylan

Corbishley to achieve a grouping small enough to get a marksman badge in the British Army. Cadets were also trained in first aid and self-defence, skills that could save a cadets life, or give them the ability to save someone else's.



Yarm School CCF proudly wear the Yorkshire Regiment cap badge who are the successors of the well renowned Green Howards regiment. We were thoroughly excited to be able to visit the Green Howards Museum as we had a chance to learn about the roots of the Yorkshire regiment. The Green Howards regiment were formed in 1688 and served in nearly every conflict until its amalgamation into the Yorkshire Regiment in 2007. We got to see the advancement of the equipment they used throughout nearly three centuries and even had a chance to try on some of their uniform. We had a look around the Green Howards esteemed medal room which was home to numerous Victoria Crosses and other distinguished medals of bravery, including the most decorated private soldier in England. Overall it was a



very informative and enjoyable trip and we thank the Green Howards Museum for letting us gain a deeper understanding of why we wear our cap badge.



On the 14th of November, the CCF was proud to be a part of the annual Remembrance Service and parade and after missing last year due to Covid restrictions this year was especially meaningful. The contingent marched down the High Street to honour and pay respect to the lives that were taken in conflict, with the parade being led by Lieutenant Bridges. The cadet force standard was held by Sgt Vignesh Janakiraman, and WO2 Sophie Brining had the privilege of laying the wreath. With it being my last year taking part in the parade I was very proud of the whole contingent and thought that the drill and attitude towards the ceremony reflected well on the hard work we put in rehearsing in the weeks coming up to the parade.



After remembering the past, the CCF looks to the future with enthusiasm. Many cadets are considering the career paths they could take at this time of year. In order to educate cadets on their options and opportunities, staff from 4 YORKS came into School, to inform all cadets about



paths open to them in the future within the Army reserves and the University Officers Training Corp. The talk was informative for all present. We were shown choices we could make in the future and shown all the exciting things one can do as a member of the UOTC or reserves. Furthermore, we had the opportunity to hold rifles we never had access to as CCF cadets, and put on combat gear that simulated how much a soldier

may have to carry around when deployed. Most importantly, we got to meet one of the many dogs from 4YORKS. Ultimately, everyone who attended took something away from the talk, even those who aren't considering any sort of military path after school.

Though we have been restricted by the ongoing Covid Pandemic, CCF training this year has been informative and enjoyable for all. From the fantastic trips to the exciting activities at school, the CCF has provided pupils with a range of different experiences and skills that can be used in the future. Many thanks to the CCF staff, Capt Taylor, WO2 Mist, Lt Bridges, Lt Spence, Mr Addison, and Mrs Breslin for allowing the CCF to operate as it does now. We eagerly await the exciting experiences the CCF will provide in the New Year.

Oliver Johnson, Sophie Brining, Tarrun Sandhu, Gautham Sathyamurthy and Vignesh Janakiraman, Upper Sixth
(Senior CCF Cadets)

What does Christmas taste like?

This was the question that I posed to the Thursday afternoon creative writing group. Here is a selection of their creative replies, inspired, I hope, by the numerous mince pies, chocolate coins, crackers and gingerbread we consumed within our last session of the year!

I very much hope this gets you into the festive spirit.

Ms H Blakemore

Christmas is mince pies

Crumbly and delicious in your mouth,

Christmas is the feeling of the cold, winter air

Stillness and beauty in subtle ways,

Christmas is the feeling of opening a present

Anticipation rising in your heart,

Christmas is the scent of the tree

Hopeful and invigorating,

Christmas is staying warm by the fire

Feeling safe and content,

Christmas is chocolate

Blissfully melting in your mouth,

Christmas is gingerbread

Spices engulfing your senses,

Christmas is pulling the crackers

Laughter and chatter abundant,

Christmas is peeking inside a stocking

Delight at the gifts and mysteries inside,

Christmas is spending time with family

Creating new memories - together

Elsa Williams, Third Year

Christmas for Matyas tasted of many things depending on the century. Sometimes it was blood, phlegm, his wife, his wife's cooking, his cooking, his brother's cooking. Now it tasted empty, possibly due to the fact that the USSR did not celebrate Christmas, or also the fact that they did not have that much food to eat- so it tasted of nothing or hunger.

He stared at the picture of Stalin that Mikhail had hung on the wall. There was in every room. They did, on the other hand, celebrate the devil's birthday; it was just a few days ago in fact.

"Matevy,"

Oh. It was his pretend dad again. He wanted his brother. But alas he was scooped up and held against the vast chest- Mikhail may as well have been a land mass. Wait he was... Well, a continent then! The man's chest felt like an earthquake, so did Matyas' stomach as it growled and the pain returned. At least Mikhail had the sense to take him to the kitchen.

The crackers were fresh and tasted of onion and cheese. At least he was fed, even if not all the way. At least even after shooting him in the eye during his rebellious spree, Mikhail had gained some sense and was trying to be a better pretend dad to all of them. "Russ-"

"Dad," the damned mountain corrected him. Matyas scowled and reminded himself it was not the same man who had gave him weapons to fight his stupid neighbours in 1919. Stup-

"Was ist los liebe?" Matyas wanted the mountain to get that word out of his mouth! Only his wife could say that! Okay ex-wife... But still!

Suddenly finding himself bundled against the cream turtleneck the cursed Russian was wearing, Matyas gave a good kick.

IMBECILIC FAILING ECONOMY!

If he hadn't lost the stupid wars he'd still be big and tall and strong and andand-

"Matyas?" he was crying. He hadn't realised. Was he this weak? Had he truly fallen this far from his high when he was older and had his wife? Mikhail gently rubbed his back trying to get the tears to stop.

Sophie Kusterer, Fifth Year

Can Christmas be summed up into only taste?

Granted, the flavours of mince pies, Christmas puddings, turkey and other Christmas treats that only come once a year are joyous and bring happiness into our lives. But what are these things without the special feeling of love and security that I believe can only truly be felt when surrounded by family.

Can the excitement of opening presents, or the sound of Christmas songs, resounding in your brain really be put aside for the tastes that Christmas brings?

However, if the question is more a metaphorical meaning, I would say the taste of Christmas is the best thing that anyone can ever experience. What else can beat laughing in glee as a grandfather gets too competitive at a board game, or the wonder that is snowflakes falling from the sky, being watched by you and your eager cousins and siblings, just waiting to be made into snowballs: starting a ferocious battle of flying projectiles being hurtled towards your loved ones.

While the feeling of being surrounded and playing with family is special, the taste that is felt when biting into a mince pie is most wonderful. The mince meat explodes with

sweet flavour, starting a festival of Christmas inside your mouth. And this is not the only Christmas food that can bring such experiences, many more are waiting for their chance to show you, or remind you, true jubilation and elation.

While crackers are not associated with Christmas, companies never fail to disappoint us when it comes to advertising. After having just eaten a sour cream and chive cracker, I can say that what they promise on the package lives up to its standards. The tang of the crackers coating fills your mouth with a glorious taste, showing the advancements of human food.

Gingerbread men are a favourite during Christmas. The strong flavour of ginger, providing a surprisingly nice taste. I do not know about any of you, but, personally, I am not a big fan of ginger, but there is something indescribably special about a gingerbread man and the delightful taste it brings with it.

Chocolate coins are very common during Christmas, as parents use them to fill up their childrens' stockings. The chocolate seems to have a difference about it, something that separates it from other chocolate, even though they are made from the same thing. Who knows, maybe it is just the feeling of Christmas?

So, that is what Christmas tastes like to me: what does it taste like to you?

Luke Anthony, Third Year

You smell it cooking in the kitchen all morning, starting the night before. Filling yourself up with snacks around the house, a soft pastry of spices and fruit, biscuits and chocolates shaped like the figures of Christmas, whilst trying to make the wait more bearable. The tension as you and your brothers fight and argue over stocking presents, still watching the clock click closer to dinner. Your mum shouting at you as you run around and pick up any half eaten melting chocolates scattered around the room or strayed wrapping paper that had avoided the bin.

Rachel Leng, Fifth Year

Christmas is the time for joy and cheer, for family outings on bleak winter mornings, playing in the snow. But most of all, the month when spirits are high, when festive food fills the shops. Creative Christmas adverts compete to intrigue buyers. The main attraction, mince pies leave a tingle on the tip of your tongue. Intricate designs decorate the pies, such as delicate snowflakes engraved to complete the jolly treat. Jovial cheese boards are a common accompaniment to mulled wine to complete your Christmas feast. Crackers, grapes, pickled onions and all selections of cheeses are presented beautifully on a snack board.

The annual gingerbread decorating competition is near. The warm scent of gingerbread cooking, followed by the sweet icing and sugary decorations. It would not be Christmas

without the failed gingerbread house which won't stay standing! The juicy turkey who lay in the center of the dinning table is surrounded by all sorts of dishes. From potatoes to carrots, parsnips and cabbage, certainly not forgetting everyone's favourite... The nation's favourite brussels sprouts! After the grand main course, you feel stuffed, however there is always space for dessert. The traditional lit Christmas pudding that lets off a pungent aroma of warm clove or perhaps a rich yule log cake, which tends to be loved by the chocoholics Finally some delightful chocolate coins to finish the merry day, before writing your new year's resolution to begin a healthy eating plan!

Nancy Hartley-Blake, Third Year

A
Christ
mas is not
the presents
under the tree
the tearing of the
wrapping paper, nor
the surprise of seeing yet
another pair of socks, never
to
be
worn.

A
Christmas is:
the smell of the mince pies,
fresh from the oven:
spiced fruit, cinnamon
how warm and comforting
mum's cooking could never
be re
pla ced

A Christmas is:
The Feeling
of the
warm hot
choc
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runn
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down
your
throat:
van
illa,
cocoa,
∴ winter.

Sam Corbishley, Third Year

SPORT

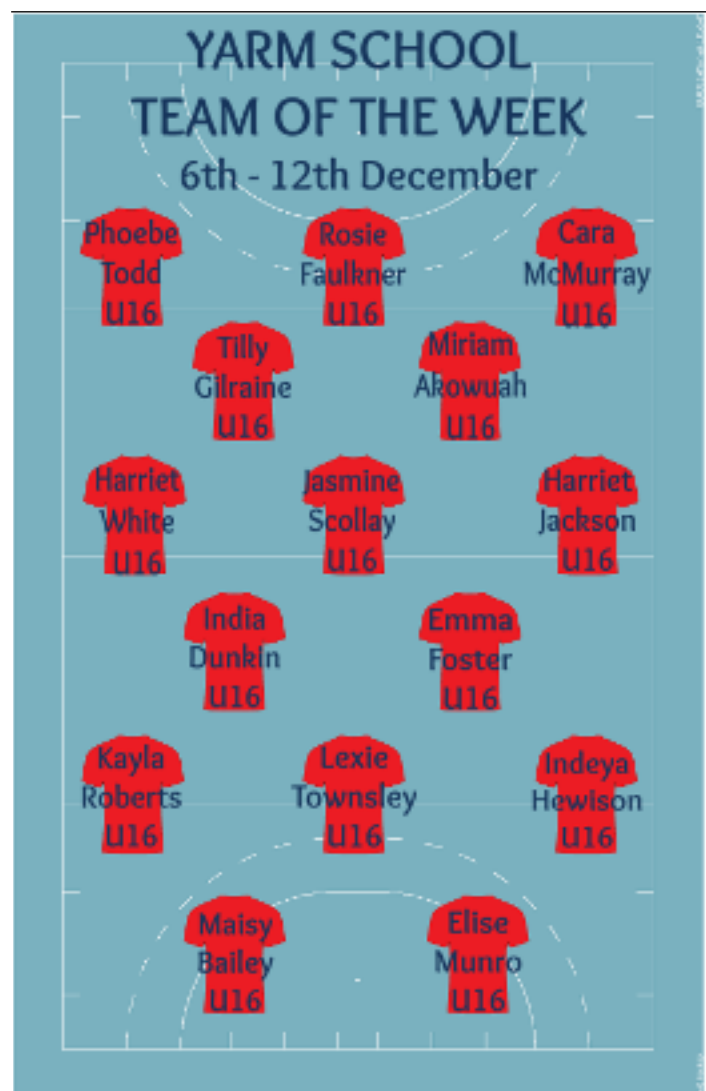
U18 and U16 Boys Indoor Hockey: Nationals Beckon!

The U18 and U16 Boys' Indoor Hockey teams traveled to Bradford on Wednesday (having been thwarted by A1 traffic last week) to compete in the Yorkshire & North East Finals.

With both teams taking on Hall Cross School from Doncaster, first up it was the U16s who were involved in a close game despite dominating possession and chances. Hall Cross took the lead early but the boys fought back with goals from Will Ferguson (2), Max Jones (2) and Roman Andrews. Max's deflection a couple of minutes from time that looped up over the keeper sealed the game at 5-4 and progress to National Finals in London in January.

They were followed on to the pitch by the U18s who put in one of their best performances in recent years against a strong Hall Cross team. Chances were evenly shared between the teams but Alex McGee in goal was in imperious form to ward off most threats including a second half penalty save. Goals from James Beck (3), Timmy Foley (2) and Tom Crack saw Yarm control the game and they led by 3 going into the final quarter. Some careful game management saw the team secure the title with a 6-4 win and also confirm their spot at National Finals along with the U16s.

Mr J Alexander



U13 Qualify for North Final

Congratulations to our U13 girls netball squad who have qualified for the North Final in the School Sports Magazine Cup. After a close and competitive match, they were victorious over Ashville College and are now in the last eight teams nationally. They will face Wirral Grammar School next. Well done girls!



End of an Era for 1st XV

A cracking 1st XV game to end the season with, ending in victory for Yarm. Both teams were competitive, committed and keen to play attacking rugby; it was enjoyable to watch. Well done to all players.

Thank you boys for all you have given to rugby over a combined total of 55 years of representing teams; a fantastic commitment! Please stay involved in the game.

Mr C Webb



U15 Rugby End of Term

The U15 rugby team traveled to Hymers College for their last fixture of the term.

So many positives from this group of young men over the season; well done to them all. Now time for a well-deserved rest!

Mr C Webb



U12 Girls win against Harrogate Grammar School

On Friday 10th December, our U12 squad competed in a netball match against Harrogate Grammar School. We had more of a slow start than usual and took a bit of time to get into the game.

We were all playing well but we knew we had another level in us. By the end of the first quarter we were winning 7-4. We got our heads together for the second quarter and ended up winning that 9-2, taking the score to 16-6. We excelled from this point and ended up winning 46 - 8.

POM- Ruby CPOM- Sienna

Sienna Hyndman and Ruby Kitson, First Year

YARM SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM OF THE WEEK

6th - 15th December

1 Tom Foster 1st XV	2 Muhammed Ibrahim U14B	3 Oliver Johnson 1st XV	16 Guille Garcia Alvarez U16
4 George Farrow 1st XV	5 Ryan Mills U14A		17 Tom Hardy U16/15
6 Connor McMurray 1st XV	8 Mark Proberts 1st XV	7 Jonny Wood U16	18 Daniel Rubal-Garcia U13A
	9 Nick Clements U14A	10 James Graham U14A	12 Alex Carter U14B
			13 Dan Ade-Brown U14B
11 Connor Brown 1st XV	15 Matthew Heathcote 1st XV	14 Gabe Ade-Brown 1st XV	

Results

Full results for all fixtures are available online.

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

Match Report: U13A

Hymers started the scoring by two tries from scrums, and a third from a piercing attack. Then Yarm had a brilliant bit of passing play, winning a ruck and Mustafa El-Sherif made a brilliant run scoring a try. Hymers scored one before half time. Yarm held out for most of the second half making some brilliant tackles and defensive play, but near the end of the game Yarm tired and Hymers scored two tries.

The match finished 6-1 Hymers.

Deacon Hughes, Second Year

Match Report: U14A

Last Saturday, a group of under 14 players went down to Hymers for a game of rugby. It was the last of the season and everyone wanted to return having won. On the extremely muddy pitch, the lads gave it their all and ended up being 25-0 to us at half time.

In the second half, Hymers fought back but we resisted and the game finished at 35-20. Ryan Mills scored 3 of the tries, Will McPartland with 2 and both Jake Leader and James Graham got 1. We recognised their strengths early and played around it, putting the ball in the wing to Ryan and Will who used their pace against them. No-one was scared of contact and we played the ball well leading to some fantastic plays.

Overall a great day out and the result to show for it.

Lewis Roper, Third Year

Match Report: U14B

The Under 14B team played a very good game of rugby against Hymers on the 11th December with a win of 9-6.

These tries were scored by Skye Chen with 1 try, Alfie Gates with 1 try, Daniel Ade-Brown with 2 tries and Alex Carter with an amazing 5 tries. The B team was also very good in defence and some amazing tackles were made by Muhammed Ibrahim, Theo Williamson and Noel Morgan. The scrums were very good and fair and we never gave in. The player of the match has to go to Alex Carter for his tries, passes and kicks.

Tenuk Mendis, Third Year

U15 Girls Cup Run Ends

Great cup run for the U15s but unfortunately it has come to an end at the quarter finals stage. A slow start but came to life in the second half. We were eventually beaten by a well organised and skillful Alleyn's School team.

Well done to everyone.



Senior House Hockey



A wonderful afternoon on Wednesday to join these students finishing the term with Senior House Hockey.

Congratulations to Cuthbert who won the tournament!



Click here to open the guide

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to...

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little ones can rustle up gingerbread houses, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizard.

DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' A Christmas Carol and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-earned movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: Home Alone and The Santa Clause are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has Elf and The Grinch, and Netflix goes with The Princess Switch and The Christmas Chronicles.

GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

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