

Newsletter



No: 1300 www.yarmschool.org | 11th March 2022

Headmaster's Welcome

In my assembly on Monday I considered examples of cooperation, collective effort and altruistic behaviour seen in the animal kingdom, reflecting on the similarities and differences between these examples and our own complex society, and how these behaviours and traits might have evolved. Examples ranged from trees identifying their offspring and preferentially supplying them with nutrients in conjunction with fungi, ants and bees acting cooperatively for the good of the colony, to birds, vampire bats and monkeys demonstrating selflessness (which confers a genetic selective advantage) to help the community they live in thrive. Human achievements rely on cooperation, teamwork and selflessness, and a sense of wanting to achieve something collectively that is greater than any individual could conceive of attempting alone. Despite the ongoing tragedy that is unfolding in Ukraine, I reflected on some of the most powerful images I've seen, of families waiting at train stations and border posts with signs welcoming strangers into their homes, demonstrating the most exceptional generosity, selflessness, and humanity.

We would all like to help those people who are suffering, I know, and many of us will have done so already via donations of items or money. Today, parents will have received a letter explaining that we will be collecting money next week ([link to online donations here](#)) which will be directed to charities making a difference to the lives of refugees who have fled their homes. My hope is that this will engage our pupils directly and that each of them will be willing to consider offering something from their own pocket money or allowance, to know that they have made a personal contribution to try and support those in need, and demonstrate the altruism and selflessness that defines the very best of us all, even in the worst of times. Thank you for engaging your children with this.

I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter which contains some fascinating insights into the week's activities, with pupil success and contribution at the fore, as ever.

Dr Huw Williams

Books 2 Africa

After the half term holiday, Yarm School Community Action group began collecting second-hand books in aid of "Books 2 Africa", a non-profit organisation dedicated to collecting, sorting, shipping and distributing books to children and adults in Africa.

We focused on collecting books, comics and textbooks from fellow students and teachers and we were thrilled to receive donations from them. We then set up a second-hand book sale on Wednesday 2nd March in honour of World Book Day. We were delighted to see many eager students and teachers that kindly donated for our cause, taking away a lovely novel or two as well. Our profits are all going towards funding the shipping of the books!

Thank you very much for your support!

Simmy Sharma, Fifth Year



Third, Fourth and Fifth Year Excel in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

What an outstanding year for the Third, Fourth and Fifth Year in the Intermediate Maths Challenge!

We entered a huge 157 pupils into the challenge across the 3 year groups and they certainly rose to the challenge with over half being awarded medals and a sixth of them being invited to prestigious follow on rounds.

The Kangaroo and Olympiad follow on rounds will be sat on the 17th March - our congratulations and best wishes go to those who have been selected for these most difficult but enjoyable challenges. A special shout out to Keya Shah (Fifth Year) and Harvey Qin (Fourth Year) for their Best in Year Group performances and even more so to Patrick Winters (Third Year) for his Best in School performance despite being in the youngest year group taking part!

It's exciting to see so many Mathematicians engaged in these extra-curricular challenges helping to further their Mathematical skills.

Mr Alex Brogan

Uniform Shop Hours

Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th March (1-5pm)

Photography Club Focus on Experimenting!

How fantastic are these?!

We had a great time in Photography Club experimenting with light, subject, texture and Photoshop to create some fantastic images.

Well done Monisha, Charlotte, Simone and Sophie!



The Power of the Humanities

When considering studying a degree in the Humanities or even Social Sciences there can be a barrier of preconceptions that make it difficult for some students to choose that which they are most interested in and suited to. There can be a narrowly functionalist view of education that it is exclusively for leading directly into a vocation career. Whilst a legitimate consideration for many, it cannot be the sole guidance. For others, degrees in the liberal arts can be seen to be the preserve of a social elite, those with sufficient resources, confidence and connections to not worry about the future. Others might question the practical and applicable skills yielded from such courses and whilst pleasure and enjoyment might be all well and good, there will be bills to pay. Even with these above fears there are contradictions in many people's perceptions that ought to be confronted.

On the skills front there are vital gains from humanities degrees that suit the growing demands of the marketplace. In 2019 LinkedIn revealed that the most sought after soft skills by employers were 'creativity, persuasion and collaboration', with one of the top five hard skills being 'people management'. A majority of UK employers surveyed claimed that their staff 'lacked essential teamwork skills'. A much cited comment from tech giant Microsoft executive claimed that '...as computers behave more like humans, the social sciences and humanities will become even more important. Languages, art, history, economics, ethics, philosophy, psychology and human development courses can teach critical, philosophical and ethics-based skills that will be instrumental in the development and management of AI solutions.' The need for the cross-fertilisation of skills from a diverse range of disciplines seems the most sensible and practical approach.

There are strong links between the humanities and leadership position. A recent study of over 1700 from 30 countries found that the majority of those in leadership positions has either a social science or humanities degree, and the correlation was strongest for those leaders under 45 years of age, with the older generation more likely to have studied STEM. This may reinforce the stereotype that humanities are for the privileged but in our commitment to a meritocratic society we must be encouraging of our students to feel they can 'access all areas'. We must also be cautious that our meritocracy is not a mirrortocracy, and we are not simply promoting, preferring and advising people like us to do what we did. Advice must be up to date and tailored to the individual needs of a student.

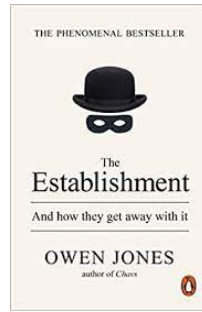
A degree in a humanities subject can increase options and maintain options, a vital asset in a changing global landscape of employment. Students being in pursuit of what they enjoy and what they are passionate about is a strong guarantor of eventual success. For parents or pupils who may be curious to consider further some of these ideas, you can explore a recent [presentation given by Investin](#) on the topic of the 'power of humanities' or for speed have a look through the [slides from the event](#).

Politics Book Review: The Establishment - Owen Jones

A writer as accomplished as Owen Jones, author of *Chavs* and *The Establishment* which I will be reviewing, should recognise the way he portrays himself through his political opinions. Many other political critics such as Russell Brand, an English comedian, manage to make the cover and blurb of this book, showing their undying support for Jones' analysis on the socio-economic class system in the UK. However, I believe that Owen Jones sympathises too much with the 'public' in his opinions and attempts to relate to everyone rather than addressing the issues he discusses.

After reading both '*Chavs*' and '*The Establishment*', I was subtly impressed with Jones' ability to relate to the reader as in '*The Establishment*', where he refers to the chairman of Ernst & Young (a top 4 accounting firm), as "someone who passes the pint test". After explaining Steve Varley's backstory about a football obsessed "everyman" who "never had a real interest in banking", he goes on to address the issue of the finance companies dodging tax. However, it is apparent that Jones is dodging his own question and focuses more on winning the appeal of the British public's working class who are seeking reassurance. This is shown in chapter one of '*Chavs*', where Jones discusses the investigative work of the cases of Madeleine McCann and Shannon Matthews, one family being from a 'middle class' family and one of a 'working class' family. This was one of the points in which I agree with Owen Jones as although he doesn't show how the working class is demonised as claimed in '*Chavs*', it does show a political divide between the two class experiences. Madeleine McCann's life, in the words of Jones, was in the way in which it was investigated was "more important than another child's". Although I'm sure nobody agrees with this statement, it is seemingly true as suggested by the evidence given. I am sure many of those reading this might not have even heard of Shannon Matthews due to the low profile of the case as Matthews family didn't have as much money to advertise their missing child, whereas the week after Madeleine's disappearance, she was the front page of the sun with a £50,000 reward for finding her. I believe this is the only Chapter of these two books in which Owen Jones makes a legitimate point about the socioeconomic divide and how appalling it can make a situation.

When reading both books, I was overwhelmed with the amount of assertion on Jones' political views and his almost persuasive argument for key left wing values. He goes on to discuss modern issues that haven't been handled correctly by the Conservative Party when in power. One example of this is in '*The Establishment*', in which he describes a Labour MP as "no-nonsense" and quotes her to be blunt and thus above the standard of the current Government. This is reinforced only 6 pages before in which Jones subtly persuades the reader that privatisation of the NHS would cause ruin for the UK people. Throughout his paragraph, he



restates multiple times his fear of cost and how it would lead to increased variable cost for UK citizens. This idea of anti-privatisation shows Jones attempting to sway readers with very opposing views to the current views of a traditional right-wing ideology which many support in the UK today, which is why I believe that Owen Jones is not writing for people to hear his opinion but at a younger audience in which he wishes to manipulate.

Josh Littler, Lower Sixth

Human Rights Defender speaks to the Politics Society

We can perhaps all too easily assume that in a largely globalised world we share sets of values that link and connect us in ways that ought to leave few surprises. Perhaps the recent conflict in Ukraine has been a wake-up to the differing perspectives and approaches of others, and a guard against complacency is certainly valuable.

A not dissimilar experience of sorts was offered on Friday when members of the Politics Society met with Marwa Ali Mahmoud. Our guest is an Egypt-based human rights defender who conducts quantitative research on violations against LGBTQ+ citizens in her country. She was speaking to us from the University of York where she is temporarily based as part of the university's Human Rights Fellowship programme.

Egypt has undergone a disruptive recent history from the ousting of the long time dictator Hosni Mubarak, through the year-long period of government by the Muslim Brotherhood, and its toppling in the military coup by current leader General Sisi. Marwa gave a swift overview of this process, whilst demonstrating how events had impacted certain communities within Egypt. From a period of official invisibility in the past when the state denied the existence of homosexuals, the current regime has adopted a significantly more active and aggressive stance, as evidenced in the numbers of those arrested, detained, prosecuted and sentenced. Sentence lengths were a particular shock to certain students. Tragically Marwa shared her experience and knowledge over the significant rates of suicide over members of this community. In a period of questioning at the end Marwa was asked about the nature of the prejudice and whether she felt campaigns needed to focus on political structures and laws, or societal/cultural prejudice. Another question explored the better approach to campaigning in terms of an overt, we are here manner versus a more discreet slow growing of acceptance. It raised a number of significant considerations that had crossover value for all manner of campaigning.

Marwa shared some modest notes of hope, not least a gradual shift in phraseology in the Egyptian press in using the term homosexuals rather than deviants, but this prosaic example perhaps demonstrates the challenges faced and the enormity of the task being confronted by Marwa and her colleagues in seeking to develop a just and inclusive civic society for all citizens.

Mr S Edwards



A vibrant poster for the Yarm School Music Department's Spring Time Concert. The background features a scenic view of a stone bridge over a river, with two lambs standing on the bridge. The title 'Spring Time' is written in a large, green, cursive font, and 'CONCERT' is in a bold, green, blocky font. The text 'YARM SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:' is at the top. The date and time 'Sunday 13th March 2022, 6pm' are in a yellow box. The Yarm School logo is at the top center. The Princess Alexandra Auditorium logo is at the bottom left and right.

YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

YARM SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

Spring Time
CONCERT

Sunday 13th March 2022, 6pm

Tickets are available from www.thepaaonline.org or by calling the Box office on (01642) 792587

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM



A black and white poster for the Yarm School Charity Concert. The central text reads 'CHARITY CONCERT THURSDAY 31ST MARCH, 7PM'. The Yarm School logo is at the top center. Surrounding the text are several photos of students performing: a boy playing the harp, a girl playing the violin, a girl playing the drums, a girl playing the bass, a girl playing the flute, a girl playing the violin, a girl playing the harp, and a girl playing the mandolin. A group photo of the students is in the center.

YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

CHARITY CONCERT
THURSDAY 31ST MARCH, 7PM

All tickets are £5 and are available from www.thepaaonline.org or at the Box office on 01642 792587

Boys Hockey - A Big Week of Big Games!

Under 14s Qualify for National Finals at Olympic Park

Bradford 0-3 Yarm

On Wednesday the Yarm U14s travelled over to Bradford School to play a match to get into the national finals that would take place in London. Yarm arrived knowing that Bradford had a great team with multiple Performance Centre players meaning they could be a potential threat to Yarm.

The game started and Bradford took the push back, Yarm were raring to go as they applied pressure instantly which made Bradford panic. As the game progressed both teams had a few chances created by the defence getting the ball out and the midfield taking the ball forward towards the goal giving the forwards chances to score. Not far into the match, Yarm broke away in midfield with Jake Leader passing the ball forwards to Cameron who took on a few defenders and found the back of the net.

This goal gave Yarm the momentum they needed to keep going. However Bradford didn't give up as they kept on pressing and attacking the back line resulting in close chances for a goal. Yet Yarm managed to win a short corner from a mistake from the Bradford defence inside the D. The short corner was pushed to the end of Jake Leader's stick by Cameron Morrison and it was hit into the bottom left corner of the goal.

At half-time the score was 2-0 to Yarm.

Substitutions were made at half-time however it didn't stop the mentality of the team as within five minutes another goal was passed into the back of the net by Paddy Key. This made a somewhat comfortable lead however the game was definitely not over yet as there was still 20 minutes to go. Yarm had to keep the majority of possession and not let Bradford get a chance on goal. Yarm did very well at maintaining this lead, although they let a few chances through, they kept it together until the end of the match. The final result was Yarm 3 - 0 Bradford.

Olly Carr, Second Year

Sport Weeks Ahead

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

Pocklington Tournament Winners - Fourth Year in a Row!

Yarm 1-0 Cundall Manor

Yarm 3-0 Pocklington

Yarm 3-1 Hymers

On Thursday 3rd of March, in less than ideal conditions with a slippery surface, all teams playing knew it was going to be a challenging afternoon. Yarm played three games coming up against tough sides such as Pocklington and Cundall Manor. The first game opened up with a slow start with 0-0 at half-time. Daniel Rubel-Garcia kept the Yarm boys in the game with a man of the match shot stopping performance. Yarm won a short corner which was injected by Sam Shawcross and beautifully finished into the bottom right by Jacob Hardy.

Coming into the second game Yarm played Pocklington. The Yarm boys knew that we would need to be more lethal and take more of our chances upfront. In the first half Mustaffa El-Sherif did just that, with a great and powerful RG to put Yarm up 1-0. He then proceeded to nick the ball off the opposing midfield, dribble around the defenders and take it round the keeper for an amazing second goal. In the second half Yarm were very quick to know that we would just need to hold onto this lead. Doing just that with the help of Jacob Hardy, Henry Bottomley and Deacon Hughes, Yarm finished the second game with 10 points.

As we went into the third game, the Yarm boys were told that if they win the next game, they would win the whole thing. This made everyone even more determined to win. With a goal from the opposition Hymers, Yarm woke up and followed up with a beautifully struck RG by Henry Bottomley to make the score equal, but Yarm weren't finished. In the second half Henry Bottomley, once again, scored with a clean slap which was unstoppable for the keeper. Later on Jude Crack scored with a lovely hit from the edge of the D finishing the game 3-1 and winning Yarm the tournament.

Henry Bottomley, Second Year



Last Minute Penalty Costs the 2nd Years a Place at Nationals

King's Chester 4-3 Yarm

The Second Year team were unlucky not to progress to the National Independent Schools Cup Final as they went out to a last minute penalty flick. King's Chester are traditionally one of the strongest schools in the North of England so the boys knew it would be a tough game.

Yarm took an early lead against the run of play as Man of the Match, Olly Carr caught the opposition on the counter and drew the keeper before slotting the ball into the corner. This seemed to spur Chester on and they dominated the rest of the half and came in 2-1 up.

The message at half-time was to make the pitch big by moving the forward higher and dropping the wide midfielder deep and wide. This worked a treat as we started to dominate the rest of the game and had many chances from short corners and open play. Olly Carr converted 2 of these chances, 1 of which was a superb powerful shot from the top of the circle.

King's responded well and attacked Yarm with a move down the right before crossing it across the goal for an easy tap in making it 3-3. The game then looked like it was going to penalty flicks but the umpire awarded the home team a flick with a minute to go to take them through.

The boys were devastated but can be proud of their efforts and improvements over the year- they still have another chance to make a national final and will be chomping at the bit to do so.



1st Team Produce an Heroic Performance but go out of Cup

Repton 5-0 Yarm

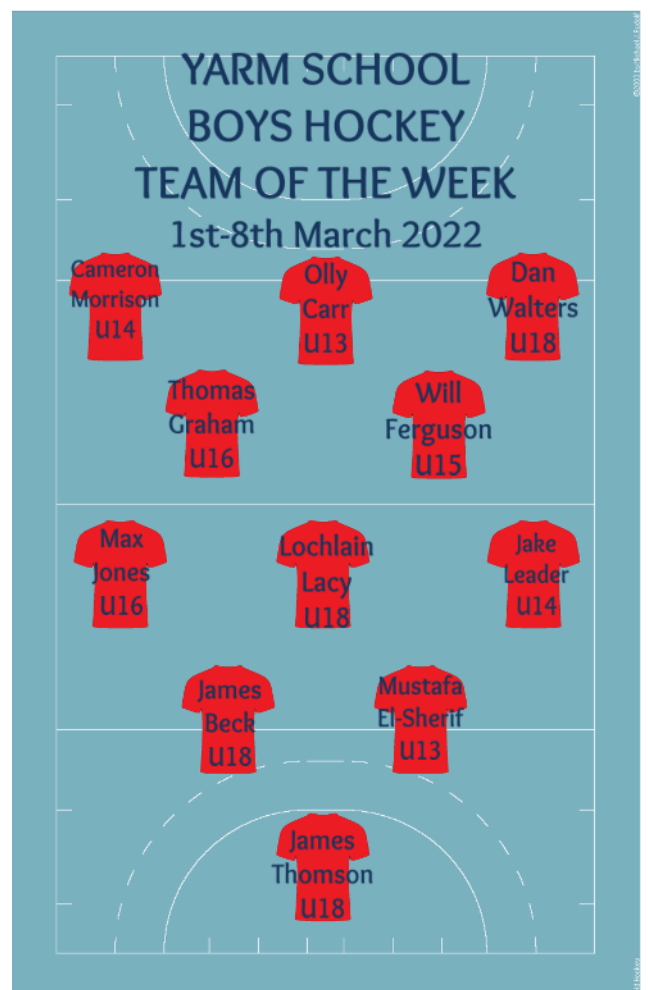
Our 1st XI deserve a huge amount of credit as they travelled to top hockey school Repton to play a National Quarter Final tie. This was always going to be a real challenge as Repton have six international players. Repton are also set up as a Senior Hockey Club on a weekend and their team play in the Midlands Premier League.

It took Yarm some time to adapt to the pace of the game as Repton took an early lead followed by another quick goal. However, the boys grew as the game went on and each and

every member of the team were a fantastic representative of Yarm School. No heads went down and players grew in confidence to cause Repton problems. The half-time score was a respectable 3-0.

It took another 20 minutes of the second half and a yellow card to captain James Beck before Repton added to their tally. Dan Walters was superb in midfield and nearly scored after a clever deflection from Josh Littler whilst both keepers Alex McGee (1st Half) and James Thomson (2nd Half) were excellent throughout.

Repton managed a late goal to make it 5-0 but Yarm can be proud of their efforts and march on to the North East Final against Ashville to attempt to secure a place at a National Final. All players deserve a mention so in addition to those already listed, Max Jones, Thomas Graham, Nathan Muzazwazi, Lochlain Lacy, Oliver Greenaway, Toby Simpson, Tom Crack, Ali Cropp and Charlie Thompson can all be very proud!



Under 15's March into the Last Eight of the National Cup

Yarm 4-1 Merchant Taylors

Well done to the Under 15s as they took advantage of a home draw to beat Merchant Taylors' from Liverpool to book a place into the national quarter Final. The boys were clearly up for this from the outset which was evident in the warm up. Yarm took an early lead with a trademark reverse hit from Will Ferguson and this was followed up a few minutes later with a close range finish by Jake Leader.

Yarm moved the ball expertly around the pitch with the back 4 of Walters, Thomas, Davie and Gatenby plus the CDM Mowbray moving the opposition around well. This led to a few openings and another goal from Ferguson. It looked at this point that the home team would go on to score many more goals but this was not to be the case. Yarm took their foot off the gas and Merchant Taylors' scored on the break to make the half-time score 3-1.

The plea was to move the ball on quicker and to press harder 2nd half. The boys responded well and dominated much of the proceedings but only 1 goal as Ferguson broke into the circle and hit another reverse hit into the top corner to complete his hat-trick.

The boys now travel to Denstone later this week to try and book their place in the national final but know they will need to raise their games to the next level.



U13 Rugby Sevens

After a promising initial outing of the season at the DCSF tournament before half term, the U13's headed to the annual Terrington Hall tournament; a major competition in the season's calendar. 16 of the strongest and most established rugby schools in the North and Scotland were present. The teams are split into 4 pools of 4 with games being played in a round robin format. On completion of that, the teams then enter a waterfall competition based on pool standings; Cup, Plate, Bowl, Shield. Yarm were initially drawn with Aysgarth (former Cup winners) RGS Newcastle (former Plate winners) and Giggleswick (former plate Runners up). The team started very strongly, looking powerful with ball in hand in space and working hard in defence to create turnover chances to win the ball back. It

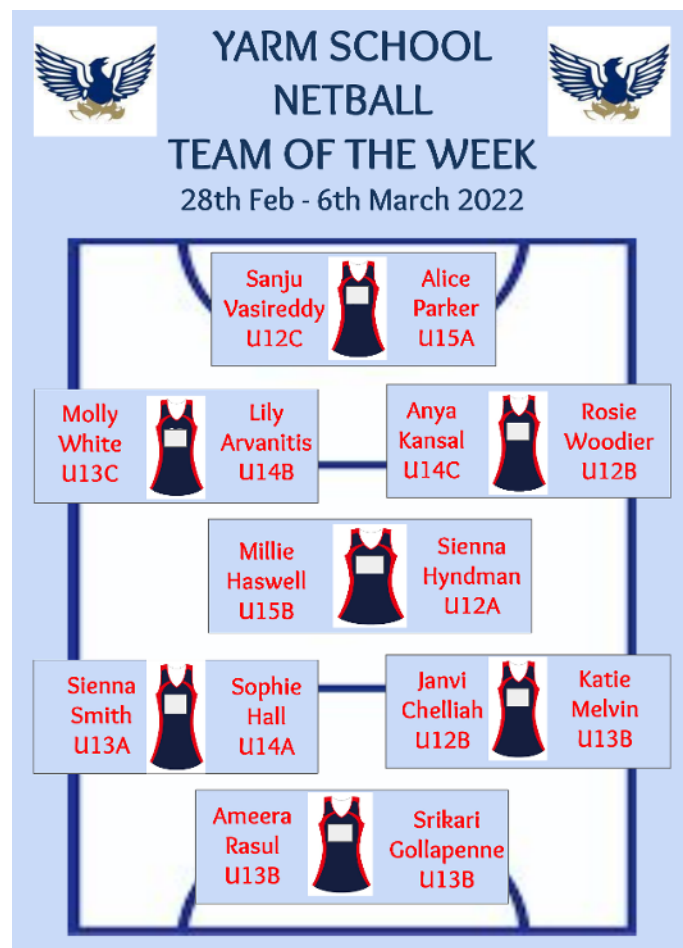
was great to see the boys enjoying themselves and having a real go on the pitch. They were rewarded with some fine wins and we finished top of the pool and so headed into the Cup stages; the first time we have achieved that in a few years. Into the Cup they went and 3 very tough games ahead against the other 3 pool winners. It was a great challenge for the boys who received much praise from the refs and those watching. Eventually they finished 3rd in the Cup and overall (out of the 16 teams) after defeating Durham but losing to the eventual winners St Peter's and the runners up Barney. The boys should be very proud of their effort and endeavour and the rugby 7s they produced, also finishing above the likes of; Sedbergh, Merchiston Castle, Ampleforth, Hymers, etc.

They now look forward with confidence to the BGS event on Monday and to the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s the following week.

U12 Netball Match Report

On the 7th of March the U12 A team went to Queen's Campus to compete against Cheadle Hulme in the Sisters 'n' Sport National Cup. We pushed through and tried our best, getting into space and making strong passes. We won both the 1st and 2nd quarter but lost the 3rd quarter which meant that we were heading into the final quarter tied. Unfortunately Cheadle were too strong and we could not hold on, with a final result of 29-26. As a team we will carry forward our improvements to get ready for the School Sports Magazine Final at Oundle School! Well done girls, we've got this! POM: Ava Holmes

Written by Rosie, Bella, Olivia and Ruby



DON'T MISS - THIS MONTH!

The Chicago Blues Brothers

Direct from London's west end, join the Chicago Blues Brothers and their 9 piece band, for a brand new 2-hour all singing, all dancing hit parade bringing you the greatest movie anthems of all time, performed live in concert.

Featuring the greatest hits from both Blues Brothers Movies with some of the greatest movie tracks of all time. Classic soundtrack anthems from Footloose, Back to the future, The rocky horror picture show with a few surprises and plenty of lunacy thrown in.

Friday 25th March 2022 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



COMING SOON

Ruby Turner

Soul, Gospel and R&B, Ruby Turner is truly the genuine article. Blessed with a voice that can breathe life and meaning into any song, whether it be a passionate ballad or a fast groove." The Guardian

Ruby Turner is one of the UK's greatest ever gospel and r&b singers. Anybody who has caught her singing with Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra will have experienced the full force of her amazing soulful voice.

Thursday 7th April 2022 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Sir Ranulph Fiennes – Living Dangerously

Named by the Guinness Book of Records as 'the world's greatest living explorer', Sir Ranulph Fiennes has spent his life in pursuit of extreme adventure; inspiring generations and risking life and limb in some of the most ambitious private expeditions ever undertaken.

Both light-hearted and strikingly poignant, Living Dangerously offers a personal journey through Sir Ranulph's life, spanning his early childhood and school misdemeanours, his army life, the Transglobe Expedition and his current Global Reach Challenge; making him a pioneer of exploration with an unparalleled story to tell.

Friday 22nd April 2022 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about NFTs (NON-FUNGIBLE TOKENS)

A non-fungible token, or NFT, is a unique digital record of a particular file – such as an image, audio track or video (non-fungible meaning it can't be replaced by an identical item). NFTs let digital content producers like artists and designers control how their work is distributed and monetised. The offline equivalent would be owning a limited-edition art print, signed by the artist, with a certificate of authentication. The value of the tokens is incredibly volatile, unregulated and very much based on hype, publicity and marketing. These digital assets – typically collectibles, avatars for social media profiles or character add-ons for online games – are traded in specialised marketplaces using cryptocurrency.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FAKE COLLECTIONS

When searching for a particular collection of NFTs, it is common for fake versions to display alongside the originals, which can easily fool a less experienced buyer. Larger projects will be verified, but small ones will not, so check the volume that has been traded and check the activity to verify authenticity – fake collections will have almost no trading history.

LACK OF CLARITY

Buying a limited-edition print of a painting isn't the same thing as owning the original. Likewise, when someone buys an NFT, they're not acquiring ownership rights to an original work. Some buyers don't realise that – since many NFTs are publicly on view – purchasing one doesn't stop other people from making their own copies of your NFT (by saving a screenshot of it, for example). Sneak peeks of NFTs can also falsely advertise what the purchaser is investing in, leaving buyers disappointed in what they actually receive, and as they are unregulated, there isn't a procedure for returns and refunds.

IP THEFT & "WASHTRADING"

Many online thieves steal NFTs to sell, while another common scam is "washtrading". Here, an unscrupulous trader creates aliases to buy the same NFT multiple times at increasing prices (so A sells to B for 10, who sells to C for 100, who then sells to D for 300 – except A, B, and C are actually all the same person). The goal is to lure in naïve speculators with the illusion of a juicy opportunity.

STORAGE ISSUES

An NFT is cryptocurrency which is linked to an additional file containing a digital asset. Due to the cost of storing data on a blockchain, it's typical for a project founder to store only the NFT's transaction record "on chain" to prove ownership – with the accompanying asset stored "off chain". Whether that storage is in the cloud or on a personal server, it must be permanently secure or the asset could be lost. So in a large number of cases, the NFT contains a link that points to the image data: it is not the image data itself.

TRANSACTION COSTS

Issuing an NFT requires "minting" it and any future sales require updating a blockchain ledger to transfer ownership. The cost of this – depending on the blockchain and market conditions – can vary wildly, based on supply and demand of "block space". In 2021, the fees paid for NFT transactions on one blockchain regularly cost more than the value of the asset itself, often by hundreds of US dollars.

PHISHING EMAILS & REPLICA SITES

There have been instances of messages being sent advertising the availability of new NFTs with a link to a fake website with a very similar URL to an authentic site. Users then link their cryptocurrency wallet to the site, are able to 'mint' the fake NFT, and once you press 'confirm', the cryptocurrency leaves your wallet and you are left without the NFT you were promised, and very much out of pocket.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHECK AUTHORSHIP

Don't buy NFTs from unknown sources, and be wary of trading outside of official marketplaces. Branded NFTs, like those sold by sports franchises, are typically available via a platform that's easy to authenticate. However, NFTs sold by individual artists can be harder to verify. Research their online reputation to ensure they have a consistent track record of authorship and a recognised cryptocurrency wallet before you send a payment.

WALLET SECURITY

Wallet security can be the difference between keeping NFTs secure and having them stolen. There are two primary types: a hot wallet (such as metamask) is used for minting NFTs and general day-to-day interactions with third-party sites. A cold wallet (or 'vault') is for storing high-value assets, as interactions can't take place without physical confirmation on the hardware. Only buy these from official sites and not from third-party sellers (including Amazon).

DON'T GAMBLE

Beginners should avoid investing significant sums of money and gambling on future NFT prices. Anyone can create NFTs: this potentially infinite supply of "limited-edition" collections means that, eventually, 99% of NFTs will likely be worth nothing. The market is largely based around building hype and making people believe that the next project will be the one that makes them rich. Take time over your decision and ensure you fully understand a project before getting involved.

SPOT THE SCAMS

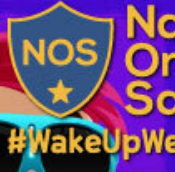
Learn what type of message a hacker will leave. They'll often try to create the illusion that you're one of a select few who has this incredible, limited-time opportunity. These can appear on official pages via hacking, so be wary of this pressure-buying tactic. Hackers also send links outside official channels, such as on message boards and private messages. Turn off direct messaging from the server when you join, and never click links that aren't on a project's official page.

RESEARCH THE SPACE

If you're interested in NFTs and you've learned the basics of cryptocurrency, talk to people who are already involved in the space (like an NFT alpha group) on authentic marketplaces. Research the projects you're considering investing in to avoid scams: follow the project on Twitter or Discord and review the work they've done before – avoid artists and teams who insist on remaining anonymous.

Meet Our Expert

JP Vergne is Associate Professor at the UCL School of Management and a researcher at the UCL Centre for Blockchain Technologies. 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 startup advisor. He tweets at @PirateOrg.



Sources: Bloomberg Businessweek documentary from blockchain to NFT, 'NFT art' Weekly, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JEL3W40A04>



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National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday