

# Newsletter



No: 1301 [www.yarmschool.org](http://www.yarmschool.org) | 18th March 2022

## Headmaster's Welcome

Perhaps a record breaking Newsletter this week, packed to the gunnels with sports reports, House chess competition, book reviews, concert and play reviews, debating news, careers updates and so much more. A return to live music in the Spring concert was much appreciated by those lucky enough to be able to go, and the range and quality of music was terrific. Challenging adult themes were tackled with poise and maturity in the Sixth Form production of 'Things I know to be True', performed in the round in the Studio Theatre. Both events are reviewed below. Thank you to all staff who supported the pupils with their preparations, and especially to the pupils themselves, who brought entertainment and wonder to their audiences. There is more drama to come with the short A Level exam piece coming up next week, and more music to look forward to in the charity concert on the 31st March - details within.

The sporting successes of the pupils continue to astound, in what must be the School's most successful season ever, or close to that. More national success for hockey and netball are described within, including the tremendous achievements of our netballers representing the North East in all three age groups - the only school in the country to have managed this - and more teams reaching the National Finals in hockey too, with the Under 15s coming 4th nationally in their competition. Rugby 7s has also seen a range of terrific performances, with tournament success at Sedburgh for the U16s boding well for the Rosslyn Park 7s to come. Congratulations to all our pupils who represent the School with such distinction.

Our pupils and families have been finding creative ways of raising money for our appeal to support refugees from the war in Ukraine, and I am very proud to say that we have already raised well over £2000 on the [JustGiving page](#). Pupils are bringing money into their Tutors, too, and we will tally everything up next week before making our donation. Please do encourage your children to consider whether they can make a personal contribution to support those people leaving everything behind to find safety.

Dr Huw Williams

## Spring Concert

Sunday's concert was a triumph for so many reasons. The pupils and students were, quite honestly, extraordinary. Every ensemble and soloist took to the stage and performed with assuredness, musicality and maturity that amazed us all and left the desolate drought of live music during lockdowns and "Covid School" a dim and distant memory.

It was hard to believe that, for many, this was their first performance in front of an audience for three years and for a significant number, it was their first ever concert!

The programme was inspiringly eclectic from music of the classical greats to jazz, musical theatre, film, pop and culminated in Nirvana's iconic rock anthem "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

We have got so used to the impersonality of life online, so to experience music in-person was such a tonic. In a world where so much is instant and seemingly superficial, these young people have worked diligently over time to hone their skills and talents and it was a privilege to celebrate the fruits of their labour. To all performers, thank you for warming our hearts and congratulations on an outstanding evening of musical energy.



## Things I Know To Be True

Last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we were treated to some wonderful theatre — challenging, funny, moving and above all, deeply human — as six members of the Lower Sixth performed Andrew Bovell's *Things I Know To Be True*, directed by Mr Pender.

Set in suburban Australia, the play explores relationships within the Price family: retired factory worker and enthusiastic (and militant) gardener Bob (Ella Brent); working nurse, and fierce serial mother Fran (Elise Wilcock); and their children, the unsettled Mia (Jasmine Murphy), ambitious and unfulfilled Pip (Amy Willis), flash and brash Ben (Callum Sanderson), and the accidental Rosie (Laura Cunningham), baby of the family.

The play gives each of its characters a moment in the spotlight, a critical moment to move through and past. Rosie opens the play with a long and touching monologue about her European gap year, her seeking of adventure, her whirlwind romance with a handsome Spanish man, and her heartbreak, embarrassment and shame when she wakes up to discover that she has not only been dumped, but also robbed. Laura Cunningham opens the play compellingly and holds the audience's focus throughout. At the same time she introduces us to the demanding nature of performance in the round, with the audience seated on all four sides of the performers: she and the rest of the cast work this space skilfully, presenting unique views of the action to everyone.

Bob's incredulity and frustration that Rosie might have taken a taxi home from the airport is 'classic dad' and offers one of the first examples of the play's genuine funny moments. Ella Brent has one of the more demanding jobs in the play — a 17 year old girl, playing a 63 year old man — and yet she manages to fully disappear into the role, able to offer that old-school dad energy as well as, later on in the play, genuine moments of romantic tenderness and wounded betrayal in his long and complex, but devoted, relationship with Fran.

Each of the siblings has their turn. Next up is Pip. Amy Willis authentically presents Pip's stern self-reliance (or is that selfishness?), an older child, driven to get what she wants out of life, frustrated by the world's expectations of a wife and mother, and nursing a deep grudge against her own mother from a childhood trauma (aficionados of Yarm School drama will recognise a familiar duologue from this moment). Pip's announcement, eked out of her, that she is leaving her husband, and leaving her children with him, as she goes overseas to explore professional fulfilment, gets very different reactions from her parents, something that recurs throughout the play.

Mia, at this point in the play known to her family as the eldest son Mark, has another revelation to make. Fran and Bob are just about ready to deal with what they think this revelation might be — that their son is gay — yet they are completely blindsided by the reality: Bob tragically even takes Mia's moment away from her by speculating on this as the worst



outcome he could imagine. Jasmine Murphy's sensitive portrayal of the transgender Mia captures the moment in her life when she is ready to do what she needs to do, even break away from her family, if it means she can be surrounded by the support she needs. All Bob and Fran can do is grieve for the son they have lost; they aren't yet ready to welcome the daughter they have gained.

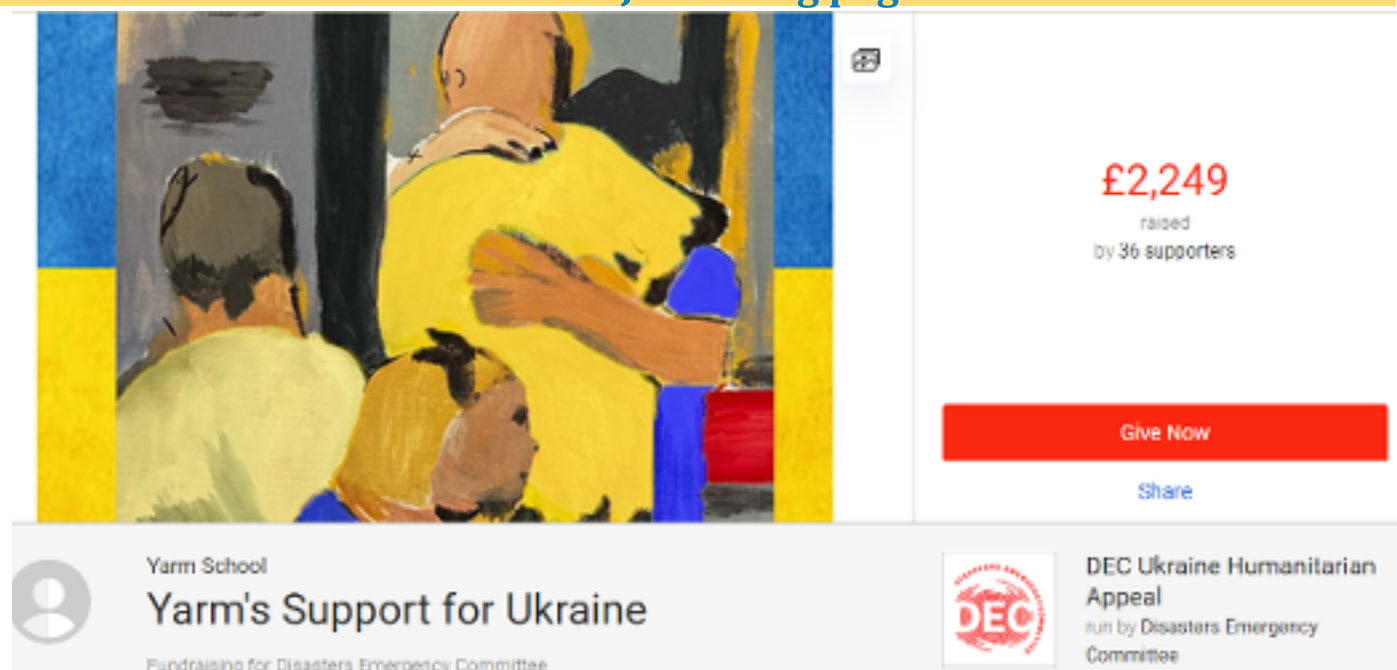
Last among the children is Ben, indulged (at 28, his mother still does his washing), a reckless spender (Bob comments on the car he's parked in the drive), and selfish — he comes for food, but not family or love, and will take frozen home-cooked lasagnes away with him rather than spend time with his parents or siblings. Callum Sanderson shows us this side of Ben, the front he puts on to impress both his family and his snooty private school mates, as well as the panicked little boy, who runs to mum and dad to help him, when his financial crimes catch up with him. Again, the divide in parental reactions is stark, with Bob insisting that Ben be held accountable, and Fran not prepared to let that happen, even if it might cost her her marriage.

Fran is, in some ways, the linchpin that holds the family together. Elise Wilcock gives us a compelling Fran, one who is simultaneously maternal and nurturing, as well as steely and uncompromising. Fran's long career as a nurse and mother has left her unsentimental — she knows all too well what the world is like, how it treats women like her, and she has made sure that she has always had an exit plan, even if she has (almost) never been tempted to use it.

Staged skilfully, with some beautiful and tender deployments of petals and leaves, and swirling movement of the performers in quiet interlude moments of physical theatre, Mr Pender's production was a treasure enjoyed universally by its audience. The testament to the play's effectiveness must be the sound of sniffles from all sides as the play came to a close.

Congratulations to all involved. If you missed out, and reading this makes you wish you hadn't, make sure you don't miss out next week by getting yourself a ticket for the Upper Sixth Theatre Studies Exam performance. I know I will.





## Scrunchies Raise Money for Ukraine

An enterprising group of pupils, with support from the Textiles Department, made hair scrunchies and sold them at school, raising an amazing £200!

Well done to the Fourth Year GCSE pupils, the Textiles Activities group, Sixth Form students Megan and Imogen, and everyone else involved.



## Jack's Running for Ukraine Challenge

Jack Stoddart organised a team of runners and asked for donations for a running challenge. Each £1 donated equates to a mile and pupils donating can nominate who out of the team has to run the mile. We are looking forward to seeing selfies from their running challenges.



## Cakes to Raise Funds for Ukraine

We are proud of Prep pupils Amélie, Heidi and Bea, who held a cake and cookie sale on Sunday, raising a fabulous £135.37.

Well done girls!



## Max's Haircut Appeal

Fourth Year pupil Max is bravely cutting his hair today to raise money for Ukraine. So far Max has raised an amazing £700! We are looking forward to sharing his haircut in next week's newsletter but for now here is a before photo...





## House Chess 2022

The House Chess competition has drawn to a close for this year. In the playoff for third/fourth place Bede had an early win with Spyke Marshall-Burnell on Board 3 closely followed



by an Oswald win with Sai Sidaginamale on board 2 and Ayay Selvan won for Oswald on board 4. Noah Coulman on board 6 finished his game in style with an elegant queen sacrifice followed by promoting a pawn to get mate. At this point Bede was losing 1-3 and needed wins on both remaining boards. Ben Francis managed to claw back one of these points on board 1 with a neat little mate using a pawn, and all that was left was Lily Cox and Mustafa El Sherif on board 5. Lily had gradually gained a points advantage but Mustafa held her off with a spirited defence. Unfortunately we ran out of time to finish this and as Lily was only a few moves from mate she was adjudged the winner. Final result Bede 2 Oswald 4

The final between Aidan and Cuthbert was a close run event. Board 1 players Dom Green (C) and Abhinav Ramisetty (A) played their match a day earlier due to sporting commitments. Closely followed by a small group of chess groupies, the pair played in a tense match that ebbed and flowed. Finally Dom got a stronger position and overcame his opponent. The rest of the squad met on Tuesday. Edward Adams (C) beat his stand in opponent Ashwin Amitharaj on board 2 and Aryan Nalawade (A) beat Umar Khan on board 6. After a tense game James Bannar-Martin(A) finally wore down Ameen Khunda on board 3. With the score standing at 2-2 the final two matches needed adjudication as we ran out of time. Avanish Batra (C) was judged the winner against Oliver Cochrane on board 4 after an interesting game. He was judged to have a slightly better balance of remaining pieces and a 2 pawn advantage which he would have gained the upper hand in the end game had time allowed. On board 5, Aditya Paul (C) for most of the game had a stronger position despite being a piece down. However, this advantage was lost as pieces were exchanged and his opponent Shola Afolabi (A) was judged the winner here.

The final score of 3-3 meant that we needed to "count back", a process weighing the top boards more than the lower ones. With wins on boards one and two, for the third time, Cuthbert was awarded the win.

**Results: 1st Cuthbert, 2nd Aidan, 3rd Oswald, 4th Bede**

## Artists' Corner

We have photos of our amazing ceramicists hard at work at the Prep School, a beautiful and technical coloured pencil drawing of '2022' by Manya Rajeeva and some fabulously colourful work by Emily Lawson. I love the different styles of these pieces and the experimentation - well done everyone. What a wonderful week of art!

Please keep sending in and showing me your amazing, inspiring work: [jessica.jenyns@yarmschool.org](mailto:jessica.jenyns@yarmschool.org)





# This House Believes There Are More Doors in the World than Wheels

This week, debating society's topic was the pressing issue of whether this house believes there are more doors or wheels in the world, and I must say, I have not seen such a heated debate since the question of whether pineapple should belong on pizza was posed.

We decided to conduct the debate in the Socratic debating style - more of a one-on-one conversation - giving speaking time to every member and the chance for spectators to raise points of information. No research or notes were allowed.

The debate began with Bella, introducing the argument in favour of more wheels in the world. She was up against Noah, introducing the door side. Each kicked off the debate to a great start, with competent and insightful thoughts from both.

They were followed by Alexa, who brought the topic of the toy industry, referring to the vast amount of Hot Wheels and Lego cars produced, all of which have functioning wheels but not functioning doors. Madelaine replied by posing the question of the role of doors in our everyday life and how much we use them, which was combatted by Alexa with reference to our reliance on wheels and their historical influences.

Then, Josh L started his argument by declaring that windows and coffins are in fact doors too, so much be counted. Ava M talked about the surge in rollerblading in the 80s requiring wheels, alongside a surge of open plan households eliminating doors. Noah questioned whether it is out of a place of privilege to assume that everyone has wheels for chairs, cars, etc, to which Ava responded by asking if everyone has access to doors.

Jodie took a global approach, looking at all of the warehouses, with many conveyor belts, hence many wheels, across the globe that must outweigh doors, to which Ava L brought in the argument of skyscrapers, and the amount of doors used in tall buildings, hotels, accommodation, etc. Jodie combatted by pointing out the amount of wheels needed in the production and manufacturing processes of these skyscrapers. In an attempt to catch her off guard, Noah asked Jodie about the amount of wheels in her house compared to doors, arguing that in everyday life, we use doors significantly more than wheels.

Next, Josh M proposed the idea of advent calendars, bought every year by millions, with many doors. Caroline rebutted that they are soon disposed of, therefore having short shelf lives. She concluded by arguing, controversially, that cogs are wheels. Wheels with teeth.

Hermia argued that we live in an industrial society. Therefore with all the products being produced and manufactured everyday, everything is made by wheels.

She then questioned whether we often have to replace doors, whereas wheels on cars must be replaced regularly. Noah questioned whether it's the wheel itself or in fact

merely the tire that needs replacing. Hermia brought up trains, and public transport, how many wheels versus doors are on a train. However Caddy argued that all of these people have houses, which all inevitably have doors.

Caddy took his argument back to the question. He questioned the future of the argument and determined the squabbles between teams as petty. He concluded by informing everyone that he doesn't tend to find many wheels on houses.

Miriam brought up the concept of hospitals, the wheels on carts, prams, etc which add up to more than doors and Ihsaan raised a question about cars and the ratio of wheels to doors in a car. Alexa questioned the way in wheels used in making the doors and their transportation.

Noah then argued that with global warming becoming a growing concern, it will encourage more people to use public transport, therefore less wheels. Jodie combatted this with the ever present use of wheelchairs, bicycles and scooters.

In a heated final speech, Ananya S stood to make her passionate argument in support of doors. Olivia, advocating for wheels, raised to her the question of warehouses in the world, which Ananya criticised as a Westernised point of view, ignoring countries existing without large scale production. She ended, capturing the attention of the room, declaring that every building or space with open ground must inevitably need a door.

In a final vote, the wheels side were declared the winners.

It was an engaging debate and everyone did brilliantly. Thank you to everyone who contributed, and to Ananya P for chairing this debate with me.

Emily Carter, Upper Sixth



# Informational Interviews - How to access the best advice?

Between reading advice online and sitting in that formal interview there are some valuable ways of finding out essential information. These are known as informational interviews or



informational meetings. I am often encouraging students to make approaches to various bodies or individuals in order to engage in such an exchange.

These meetings are not formal interviews and should not be seen as such, but equally one should not enter into them vaguely, but rather with specific questions in mind. This allows them to be focused and purposeful, and allows the interviewer to provide targeted and bespoke advice. It is important to recognise that the interviewer's time is valuable and such occasions should not be taken for granted and appreciation should be given in person and in a follow up thank you email if possible.

Ensure you look and act professional. Have a clear goal or focus in mind. Be prepared to engage and answer their questions as well. Here are some possible questions that might be relevant in an information interview, but remember they should be tailored specifically to your requirements and curiosities.

How did you get your start and how did that lead you to where you are today?

Can you tell me about a typical day for you?

What are the challenges you've faced in your position?

What do you wish you knew starting out that you know now about your career?

What's the best advice you would give to someone who wanted to do what you're doing?

What can I do now to best prepare me for work in this field?

In the last couple of weeks, for example, a couple of members of the Sixth Form engaged in informational interviews with an RAF liaison officer. Each of them had quite differing ideas and queries to explore, and in the course of a half hour meeting, one in person and one online, they were able to probe away, find out exactly what they wished to know, as well as receive the advice and guidance of an expert in disseminating relevant information. Another student in the Lower Sixth interested in exploring potential careers in Music Technology was put in touch with a former student working in a world leading recording studio company. Again through a half hour remote meeting they were able to have a really valuable exchange, sharing valuable insights and advice. Earlier in the term an aeronautical engineer and trainee pilot came into school over an afternoon and met with a member of the Fifth Year to discuss routes into piloting. And of course through the medium of the 'Working Lunches' often featured in this newsletter you will read about former pupils' engagement

with current students sharing their experiences of work in the field of business and finance.

In essence, be curious and bold, seek out the advice and guidance you need. Find ways to secure such informational interviews and allow them to be a meaningful contribution to you building the best pathways to your future destinations.

Mr S Edwards

## Fun at the YSA Après Evening

Thank you to all the parents who came to our YSA's Après ski event! It was a great night of fabulous music, delicious alpine themed food and tasty cocktails. It was so nice to get people together at last after so many of our previous events having been cancelled. Our raffle and game raised £575 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

**Next event for your social calendar: Bollywood themed summer ball on 18th June!** We can't wait!



Photos by: Squire Photos



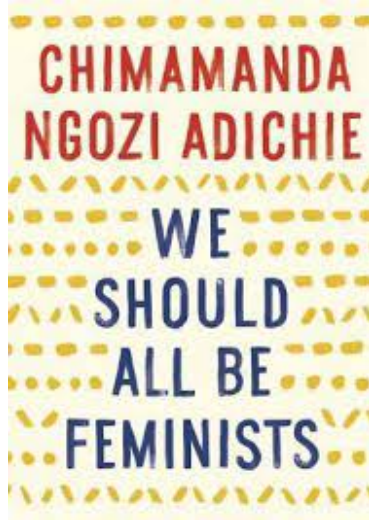
# Book Review

## We Should All Be Feminists - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

This book is a modified version of a talk that Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie had delivered in December 2012 at TEDxEuston. The speakers at this convention are all from diverse fields that deliver concise talks aimed at challenging and inspiring Africans and friends of Africa. She starts the book by saying that she 'felt as though she was in the presence of family - a kind and

attentive audience, but one that might resist the subject of her talk. At the end, their standing ovation gave her hope.'

Adichie starts her speech with the way in which the word 'feminist' has been used in a negative light and how it has been consistently used as a weapon against people. A feminist is defined as 'a person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of the sexes'. People always ask 'why the word the feminist? Why not just say you are a believer in human rights, or something like that?' and Adichie's answer is that 'that would be dishonest. Feminism is, of course, part of human rights in general - but to choose the vague expression human rights is to deny the specific and particular problems of gender. It would be a way of denying that the problem of gender targets women. That the problem was not about being human, but specifically about being a female human. For centuries, the world divided human beings into two groups and then proceeded to exclude and oppress one group. It is only fair that the solution to the problem should acknowledge this.' This conflict on the meaning of the word is something that has constantly been debated within society because it has always been something that has been thrown in arguments as an insult, putting a negative tinge on the word and creating a taboo on the subject. Adichie touches on this and recalls when her friend Oklaoma, one of her greatest childhood friends, being the first person to call her a feminist. She retells how they 'locked eyes in an argument and he said 'you know, you're a feminist'. She goes on to say how she knew 'it was not a compliment, he said it with the same tone with which a person would say, 'you're a supporter of terrorism''. Therefore, because of this comment and those made in the rest of her life, she highlights how she jumped through hoops and 'decided to call herself a happy feminist ... now she would call herself a happy African feminist ... she would now call herself a happy African feminist who does not hate men'. This reflects how women through past years have had to accommodate the taboo put on this subject by society.



Adichie also shines a light in her speech about how gender stereotypes affect the life of men alongside women. She states how 'we define masculinity in a very narrow way. Masculinity is a hard, small cage, and we put boys inside this cage. We teach boys to be afraid of fear, of weakness, of vulnerability. We teach them to mask their true sleeves, because they have to be, in Nigerian-speak, a hard man.' I think that this aspect of her speech is just as important as any of the aspects of feminism and the effects on women because I think that it makes this speech more accessible for men and more likely to make all genders listen and truly take in the message of her speech. Adichie describes how 'the worst thing we do to males ... is that we leave them with very fragile egos' but she then ties it back and says 'we then do a much greater disservice to girls, because we raise them to cater to the fragile egos of men'. I think this speech touches on the surface of how the societal expectation of what masculinity is affects men, a key example of this in real life is the disparity between the amount of men who are being diagnosed with depression and the amount of men who commit suicide per year. In the UK the single biggest killer of men under the age of 45 is suicide. This is because one of the many expectations of 'masculinity' is that men are not supposed to be vulnerable, they are supposed to 'man up' and deal with what they are feeling on their own - hence why it is harder for men to talk to a professional about their mental health. This is one of the reasons I think the topic of Adichie's speech is so important because it brings awareness to this topic and talks about it from the stand point of a feminist who cares about the affects of the stereotypes of what gender is on both men and women and speaks about it in a way which is accessible for both genders.

Adichie also sheds a light on how gender works in a corporate setting. We often find women being told 'you should have ambition, but not too much. You should aim to be successful but not too successful, otherwise you will threaten the man'. She tells us how '52% of the world's population is female but most of the positions of power and prestige are occupied by men' and she includes a quote from the Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai: 'The higher you go, the fewer women there are'. In my opinion, I think this shows how lazy the business world became. The more you are used to seeing something, the more normal it becomes. However, since Adichie has made her speech I would argue that there has been some progression in the hiring of women in the high positions of power, although I don't think there is as much progression as there could have been. For example, in the UK there is still a 7.0% gender pay gap but on an optimistic note, this is on a downward trend. 'A man is as likely as a woman to be intelligent, innovative, creative. We have evolved. But our ideas of gender have not evolved very much'.

Adichie draws on her personal experiences as a woman in Nigeria in the speech. She talks about how she was turned down to be class monitor and it was given to a young boy that 'was a sweet, gentle soul who had no interest in patrolling the class with a stick. While (she) was full of ambition to do so'. She explains how things such as this

## Book Review

### We Should All Be Feminists (continued)

being taught from such a young age teaches young children that only men can be in positions of power - she fights against this. She also talks about 'each time (she) walks into a Nigerian restaurant with a man, the waiter greets the man and ignores me. The waiters are products of a society that has taught them that men are more important than women'. These examples really strike the listener/reader as to just how little progress there has been around the world to the treatment of women, just because it may seem ok in the UK doesn't mean that it is the same everywhere else.

Overall, I think that Adichie's book is a must read. I believe that it provides a lot of insight to the workings of feminism in today's world and how it affects both women and men. 'Gender is not an easy conversation to have. It makes people uncomfortable, sometimes even irritable. Both men and women are resistant to talk about gender, or are quick to dismiss the problems of gender. Because thinking of changing the status quo is always uncomfortable' but it is a conversation that is necessary, one that needs to be had. There are lots of issues with the societal concept of what gender is but the main 'problem with gender is that it prescribes how we should be rather than recognizing how we are. Imagine how much happier we would be, how much freer to be our true individual selves, if we didn't have the weight of gender expectations'. To finish on a positive note, Adichie states how she is 'deeply hopeful (of the positive change that can be made) because I believe in the ability of human beings to remake themselves for the better'.

Cicely Crane, Lower Sixth

## Professor Thom Brooks visits the Politics Society

It has been wonderful being able to welcome guests back onto the school site and have in-person meetings, and this continued with last week's visit of Prof Thom Brooks. Our guest has a dizzying array of accomplishments to his name. He had recently stepped down as the longest serving Dean of the Durham University Law School where he is a Professor of Law and Government as well as a member of the university's Philosophy Department and the School of Government and International Affairs. Thom has held visiting appointments at a diverse range of leading institutions worldwide including law schools at Colombia, Harvard, Oxford and Rome. He has researched, written and taught extensively in a range of fields of law, as well as having a reach into areas of moral philosophy, but he came to us to speak more in his capacity as an advisor on policy. In these realms his chief areas of consultation and advice



are in citizenship and immigration, arguably interconnected in their implications and impact. He was described by the BBC as 'the UK's leading expert' on the UK citizenship test, having himself experienced its eccentricities when applying for citizenship. He detailed his work in the revision of the test with his recommendations being adopted by the House of Lords Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Engagement and his publications in this field include *Becoming British* and *Reforming the UK's Citizenship Test*.

His work at the Office of National Statistics in the field of migration was also explored, in particular his work with the Home Office and other government departments. This led into an interesting analysis of current immigration figures, at times rather out of line with governmental and public perceptions. Thom has also been an advisor to the Labour Party on areas such as immigration and law and is currently in conversation with Keir Starmer over the shaping of these policies for the years ahead. Thom was an intriguing guest with so much insight to share with the students, as well as being able to demonstrate that an academic career need not be exclusively confined to a university campus.

Mr S Edwards

## Life After Yarm

This week we were delighted to welcome back Daniel Moore (class of 2006) for another popular and well attended Working Lunch.

Upon leaving Yarm Daniel went to Northumbria University to study Business with International Management. During this time he worked at his family business as an accounts and logistics administrator. After gaining a first class honours degree in 2010 he joined the business full time (JLM Global Foods - an international snack manufacturing business based in Darlington). Over the years he has been involved in many areas of the business, but he now holds the position of Commercial Director and he is currently in the final stages of completing his MBA at Durham University.

Daniel shared his experiences of coping with Brexit and associated transport and paperwork issues, Covid and associated HR and Health and Safety matters, the current Ukraine situation and the implications of rising oil prices, highlighting the real application of SWOT and PESTLE.

Inspiring the Sixth Formers and emphasising the importance of respect for others, leading by example, determination and hard work, Daniel was open and honest in his advice and he willingly answered a plethora of probing questions.

We are really grateful to Daniel for taking time out of his very busy day to talk with us, and we wish him well completing his MBA over the next few weeks.

Miss C Rhodes





## UPPER SIXTH DRAMA AND THEATRE

PRESENT AN EXTRACT FROM

# WOLFIE

BY ROSS WILLIS

"NEVER LOSE YOUR SPARKLE SIS"

WED 23RD AND THUR 24TH MARCH 2022

5PM STUDIO THEATRE

RUNNING TIME 20 MINUTES

ADMISSION FREE

[www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org)

Wolfie is about the care system, about how children need love and what happens when there is no-one to give it. Come along, meet the Sharkey twins as they act out, narrate and invite you to take part in their story. Fantastical storytelling at its very best, darting between humour, anarchy and tragedy. It's mad - you mustn't miss it.

## Econ and Bus Soc

This week Henri and Dom gave an interesting talk to the Econ and Bus Soc which explored cross-curricular links between Economics and Geography and sparked a keen debate relating to the UK



education system. An audience from a range of disciplines voiced varied views and the value of languages in giving students a USP in the workplace was also explored. Thank you to the presenters and the other contributors for a thought-provoking and at times controversial session.

Miss C Rhodes

## Keep up to date on Social Media

 [yarmschool](https://www.facebook.com/yarmschool)  [@yarmschool](https://www.instagram.com/yarmschool)

 [yarmschool](https://twitter.com/yarmschool)



# CHARITY CONCERT

## THURSDAY 31ST MARCH, 7PM












All tickets are £5 and are available from [www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org) or at the Box office on 01642 792587



## England Netball National Schools Competition Finals!

At the weekend the U19s travelled down to Oundle School near Peterborough to compete at National Schools' finals on Sunday.

The tournament consisted of the 18 best teams in the country who had qualified their way through county and regional rounds! In our pool we played 8 tough matches including against the overall winners and runners up (only losing by 6 to Millfield) showing just what a tough and tight tough competition it was. The team battled hard the whole way through with many games decided by only the odd goal or so.

The players put in a lot of effort throughout the day, doing themselves and Yarm proud. It was great to know that Yarm were the only school who had all 3 age groups teams represented at these finals, a superb achievement. Well done to all players, coaching staff and parents/supporters!

Alex Webb, U19 Captain

On Friday, the U14 and U16 girls travelled to Oundle School in Peterborough to take part in the Netball National Schools' final. This consisted of the top 18 teams in the country (for each age group) competing to win the national title. Each team played a total of 8 games within their group, to get through to semi-finals and finals. After seeing the tough and talented competition, both defence and attack had to step up to be successful to stay in the game. We managed to keep our heads up and the squad had a brilliant performance overall, as well as, some great individual performances throughout the day too. This led to the U14s placed 13th best team in the country, tie-ing with our Durham opposition who we faced in the North Regional round. All of the squads are looking forward to working hard and hopefully competing again next year, with the knowledge of what to expect from the opposition. A huge thank you to all our supporters and to the coaches who came with us and also helped to prepare us for the weekend.

Lola Vasiliou, U14 captain





## District Netball Tournaments

On Tuesday the 8th of March, the U12 girls represented Yarm in the District netball tournament. We played against several teams including Egglecliffe, Conyers and Teesside High. The team worked on backline passes through the court and setting up our centre passes early. We utilised the space in order to give options for the pass. Both attack and defence had strong games, meaning Yarm won all matches and did not concede a single goal!

Lucy Mitchell, U12A Captain



On Wednesday 9th May, the U12 Girls' B team travelled to Grangefield School to participate in the District Netball Tournament. The team competed against 5 different schools in the area. The squad fought hard to tightly mark the opposition team and pass into spaces, replicating what we practised in training and prior to the match.

Starting from Olivia F, Janvi and Amarah at the back, to Rosie (centre), our GA and GS, Olivia W and Caitlin, who performed extremely well by scoring a number of goals which led us to victory in each game. A big congratulations to the 'girls of the matches'; Bella Yang, Lucy Oliver and Caitlin Anderson. Overall Yarm B won the tournament with 25 points. A great victory for the girls - well done to all who participated!

Amarah Kaur, First Year



On Wednesday the 9th of March Yarm School's C team participated in the District netball tournament against a wide variety of teams. Our team was focused and composed throughout the warm up and it showed in our games. From Maya Parker in defence to Ellie Williamson and Anisha Kaur in the attacking positions, the team followed through what we had been practising in training; driving onto the ball and creating new opportunities throughout the game. The performance throughout our games was brilliant and the passing was lovely between our centre Molly Raine and our goal attack Ellie Williamson. Due to our outstanding and solid performance we took the 1st place title, conceding no goals throughout our games. We are extremely proud of our performance. Well done girls!

Anisha Kaur, First Year



## U12A win at Barnard Castle Tournament

On Thursday 10 March, the U12A team travelled to Barnard Castle School to participate in their annual invitational netball tournament. We played numerous schools such as St Peter's School, Durham School and Cundall Manor School. The girls played really well and earned themselves a spot in the semi-final, against Barnard Castle. The goals were end to end and by the final whistle the score was tied and the decision was made to go to golden goal. Yarm won the toss and got to take the centre pass. We did not want to miss out on the final and fought hard to get the winning goal.

The final ended up being Yarm vs St Peter's School, a team who we had already beaten in the earlier rounds. The final played out in a similar fashion, with the game going to golden goal. Unfortunately this time around, St Peter's won the toss and got to take the centre pass. We knew we had a job on our hands and both teams turned the ball over several times before the winning goal was scored by our very own Ruby Kitson.

Ruby Kitson, U12A Captain



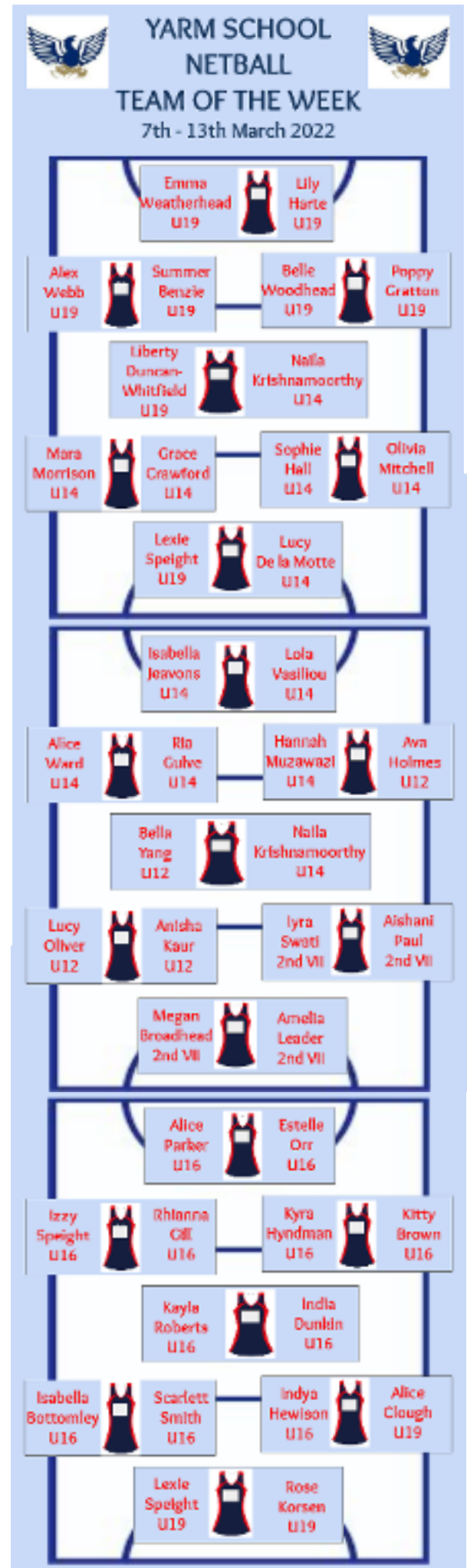
## U14 Netball League

The U14B and C teams played their final league matches of the season this week against Egglecliffe. The girls competed well in an A league tournament and saw the season out with a terrific effort and great team spirit.



## Silcoates Invitational Tournament

On Wednesday 9th March the 1st and 2nd VII travelled to Silcoates to play in their invitational tournament. Both teams played well, with the 1st team concluding the tournament as overall winners.





## Boys Hockey

### Under 15 Boys Reach Last 4 in the Country

#### National Schools Quarter Final

##### Denstone College 1 - 2 Yarm

We arrived at Denstone College. Nerves started to build up as we approached the school and what a school it was. We had a motivational speech from Mr Ferguson and Marcus Walters. We headed out to the Astro and we began the warm up.

We started strongly, winning a short corner early on. Will Ferguson smashed it in from the edge of the D with an absolute peach of an RG. Our spirits were lifted and the Denstone fans fell silent. Yarm piled on the pressure and there was a great passage of play which led to a brilliant top corner strike from Timmy Foley. As the game slowed down, Denstone got a break which led to a short corner. They flicked and got a lucky deflection to put the ball past Zach Parker. They were back in it. The first half played out and ended 2-1 to Yarm.

The second half began and Yarm were dominating the possession with Max Mowbray and Will Ferguson controlling the midfield. This led to a few more unsuccessful chances for Yarm and a nervy last few minutes. Denstone got a last short corner, but couldn't get past the brick wall Zach Parker who made a tremendous save. With this Yarm won the match going through to the National Finals on Tuesday.

Max Mowbray

#### National Schools Semi-final

##### Whitgift 4 - 0 Yarm

In our first game at the National Finals vs Whitgift School (the best hockey team in the country). Yarm made a sloppy start conceding 2 cheap goals: heads didn't go down though and Yarm piled on the pressure and with that had some very good chances but sadly Yarm couldn't come up with a goal. The second half ended with Whitgift 2-0 up.

The second half started and both teams had some quality chances but still Yarm couldn't find that goal. Whilst our defence was looking solid and the midfield strong, a simple miss pass led to Whitgift scoring another goal. Yarm continued to make a great effort all around the pitch but was still struggling to find that goal. Whitgift got a short corner and put it away meaning Yarm were 4-0 down. The score line doesn't reflect the game, Yarm played very well- every player played out of their skin, but the game ended with Whitgift taking the win. Whitgift went on to win the final game by 4 goals to 1 which reflects the very respectable scoreline in our semi-final!

Timmy Foley

#### National Schools 3rd/4th Place Play Off

##### Yarm 1 - 4 St George's

After Yarm's defeat to Whitgift School they played St George's School in a third place play off. The game kicked off with St. George's scoring quite early on in the game. Yarm showed resilience with lots of chances coming from the wings, unfortunately Yarm let their foot off the gas and the opposition scored three within 10 minutes before half-time. This was most disappointing in a game where we were more than capable of winning. At the end of the first half Yarm were down 4-0 and a big comeback was needed. Yarm dominated in the second half and Will Ferguson scored a cheeky goal taking it round the keeper and slotting it in the goal. It was a great second half performance from the defence and the goalkeeper with James Muir performing some acrobatic saves. Overall Yarm finished strong and should be proud of their efforts.

Marcus Walters

**Overall - the Yarm U15 Boys Team can be proud of their efforts this season - and ultimately being crowned fourth best team in the country!**



## Silcoates Block Fixture

### U15: Silcoates 0-3 Yarm

The reigning champions of the north east (Yarm) travelled down to Silcoates. The team turned up with high hopes expecting a win. The game kicked off and Yarm were looking sharp with the captain Max Mowbray running the game and scoring the first goal. As the game carried on, Yarm continued to dominate. There was some great link up play between the midfield and the defence, with Marcus, Ollie and Oscar controlling the game from the back.

Silcoates were strong on the counter attack, but not hard enough for Yarm's deep line. In the second half, Timmy scored a great reverse stick goal (argie) which gave Yarm an even more comfortable lead. Then, in the middle of the field, the ball fell to Diego, who acrobatically did a disguise pass to Jack. This fooled their whole team and Jack calmly put it away. What an assist and what a goal for Jack Van Nierkerk.

Diego Garcia

### U14: Silcoates 0-3 Yarm

The U14A team were feeling the pressure of keeping up the winning streak having just seen the U15As win. This didn't phase them however and they played stunningly well. Yarm held the ball throughout most of the game and the midfield players barely let Silcoates take the ball pass back into Yarm's half and when it did the defence quickly pushed it back.

The goal keeper, Gabe Doring, kept the ball from ever rolling past the goal line. Yarm's attack was strong as well, leading to 2 goals in the first half and 1 to finish Silcoates off in the second. The team's play and determination lead to a masterful 3-0 win to Yarm.

Noah Filer



## Other Results

U13A: Yarm 9 - 0 Silcoates

U13B: Yarm 10 - 1 Silcoates

## Sport Weeks Ahead

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

### U12A: Yarm 3-0 Silcoates

On Saturday morning the U12 boys A team played against a tough Silcoates team. Yarm started slow however they finally got the goal they needed from a wonderful pass from Oliver Dunkin to Freddie Gilrairie who had an easy shot on goal. Our defence was strong and held off Silcoates many times. Near the end of the game, Yarm needed another goal to secure the victory and it came from a short corner, with many shots at the opposition's goalkeeper it fell to Freddie Gilrairie who managed to secure the victory at 2-0. The player of the match was Oscar Lowes who wouldn't stop running and made some very good tackles on the left hand side. Well done to all the Yarm lads who put in a very determined performance against a really hard team.



### U12B: Yarm 7-1 Silcoates

On a sunny Saturday morning the Yarm under 12's team had a friendly match against Silcoates at home. The game started with some strong performances by both teams but Yarm held strong, backed up with some fantastic passing and team work to secure a lead at half-time. Even though Silcoates had a strong defence, Yarm were just too much to hold back and had shot after shot on target.

I believe the great communication produced a strong gel within the team and this backed up with brilliant passing secured us the 7-1 win at full time. It was an amazing performance from everyone on the team and thanks to Silcoates for a great morning match.

Harry Routledge





## Under 18s Book Place at National Finals

### North East Final: Ashville 0 - 1 Yarm

The Under 18s produced another titanic effort to qualify for the national hockey finals in Nottingham on 21st March. This was achieved in spite of a really tough cup tie away to Repton the previous night when the squad returned to school at 9.30pm. The boys looked tired in the warm up and without some key players (rugby and University open days), we were unsure if Yarm would progress. We even had to unleash keeper Alex McGee as an outfield player to give us a sub!

It took Yarm some time to get going as Ashville was up for it and the away sides legs looked tired! However, the Yarm team were sensible in their efforts and deployed a half pitch press squeezing the space well and hitting the opponents on the counter attack. Man of the Match, Tom Howard, was fantastic in midfield as he broke up the opposition play time and again and captain James Beck was able to move the ball up the field with his trademark ariels.

15 minutes in, the ball broke to Toby Simpson who was able to fire a reverse strike into the roof of the net, this was to prove the decisive moment in the game. Even though Ashville responded well, Yarm began to dominate the 2nd half but just couldn't find that 2nd goal. In fact, it took an outstanding save from James Thomson right at the depth to get Yarm over the finish line and book a place in the National Finals at the Nottingham Hockey Centre next week.



## Friday Friendly

### U12 A RGS 3-3 Yarm

On Friday 11th March our U12 A team played against very skillful side RGS Newcastle. We started the game pretty well but RGS opened the deadlock first as we missed some good chances in the final third before that. We conceded the second goal only 4 mins after the first goal, however we pulled one back after Oscar Lowes scored a great shuffle which nutmegged goalkeeper. We got back into the game as I scored from a great counter attack from the defence line including great work from Ollie Dunkin. But again we conceded the third goal from a shuffle which was caused by our poor defence. In the last five minutes we secured the draw by a great shuffle again from Oscar Lowes.

Overall we learned a lot especially in terms of passing and defending.

## Rugby 7s Round Up

**The 7s season continues to gather pace as we head towards next weeks Rosslyn Park National Schools' 7s, with boys right across the school involved in great training sessions and some very challenging and competitive tournaments!**

### U12

For their first ever 7s tournament, the eager First Years headed to St Peter's, York for their annual event; 18 top school sides all in action across three pools. It took the boys a couple of games to begin to understand how to implement into matches all they had worked on in training and so, following a draw with Harrogate and narrow loss to RGS, they came alive! What followed was an understanding of moving the ball to space, keeping it alive, supporting the ball and being clinical in attack. This lead to very impressive wins against Pocklington, Durham and Woodhouse Grove! The team scored a good many tries on their way to 4th place finish overall; a superb effort!



### U13

Following on from a tremendous showing at the Terrington Hall 7s, where they finished 3rd, the team went to Bradford Grammar School for another tough completion. Two pools of 6 awaiting with a play off game against the other pool to decide the finals standings. It was great to see how this team of lads built on the success and had learnt from the previous week as they started on fire; positive attacking play and cohesive defence to the fore. With a total of 6 x 10min straight through matches to be played it needed to be a real squad effort; and it was! They were in fine form and in the 5 pool games they scored 21 tries and conceded only 3 on their way to wins over BGS2, Barney, Birkdale, St Mary's Stoneyhurst and a draw against St Peter's York who had defeated them well the previous week! A superior



points different put the team on top of the pool and into the final shading the hosts BGS. Showing great resilience they came from behind to win the game and the tournament. A brilliant squad effort and a special mention to Ben Hunt, who guested for an injury hit side and also Olly Carr who was voted player of the tournament! We are looking forward to seeing these lads go well at RPNS 7s.



## U16

The U16 travelled to Sedbergh School for their U16 7s tournament, on a wet Saturday morning at their final tournament before Rosslyn Park National 7s.

The weather cleared up and Yarm were in a group against Sedbergh, RGS Newcastle, St. Peter's York and Newcastle School for Boys.

In their first match, against the host side, the school came out of their lessons to watch their team play against Yarm. What happened to them and a quote from Mr T Taylor, "That is the best I have ever seen a Yarm School side play 7s". Yarm School went two tries to nil up with tries scored by Junior Newton and Jacob Rutter. Matthew McCullagh had a great opportunity to make it 3-0, but a wonderful tackle to hold him up over the line, swung the momentum into Sedbergh's favour, with them running out 14-12 winners.

A disappointing second game against RGS Newcastle saw us two tries down within the opening passages of play, but great resilience from Yarm, got us back to 3 tries to 2, when Junior scored a try with the referee making a decision that he had stepped on the dead ball line. The game ended 22 - 12 to RGS Newcastle.

Yarm didn't sulk about what could have been scenarios from their previous games, and won their last two games 27 - 15 against NSB and 20 - 0 against St. Peter's York, which placed them into the Plate Final against formidable opposition Kirkham Grammar.

Yarm School 7-0 with a great break through the middle from Matthew McCullagh, further tries from Jacob Rutter and Junior Newton made the final an amazing spectacle and reminiscent of their opening performance against Sedbergh.

The game ended with a Yarm School try, making the game 26-26, with a conversion kick to win, which was unfortunately dragged to the left of the post.

We played a golden point three minute half game, where after an amazing restart from Kirkham, albeit with some outstanding defence from Harry Wildridge and Junior Newton, Kirkham scored in the corner to win the game.

An amazing day against some of the best school opposition in the country, Yarm School U16's can hold their heads up high and understand this is the level of competition that they can compete with on the 7s circuit.

Well done to;

Junior Newton, Jacob Rutter, Roman Andrews, Harry Wildridge, Matthew McCullagh, Ammar Soni, Jonathon Wood, CJ Thompson, Tom Van-Niekerk, Max Jones, Luke Teare

A massive thank to Mr Taylor for providing medical cover and for his photography skills.





## DON'T MISS - THIS MONTH!

### Simon and Garfunkel

Made up of Dan Haynes & Pete Richards, Bookends have toured the globe extensively with their concerts being described as 'simply breath-taking'.

Hear many of the hits such as The Sound of Silence, Mrs Robinson, The Boxer and Bookends' own beautiful rendition of the unforgettable Bridge Over Troubled Water. This is without doubt the closest thing to Simon & Garfunkel touring the world today.

**Saturday 26th March 2022, 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)



## COMING SOON ....

### Buddy Holly: A Legend Reborn

This all new production celebrates an artist who shot straight into the limelight as soon as That'll Be The Day hit the radio. Though his career was short, this one-man powerhouse gave the world a stack of hits that will never be forgotten.

Join Buddy Holly – A Legend Reborn to relive the Rockin' fifties music scene with hits such as Peggy Sue, Oh Boy, Heartbeat, It Doesn't Matter Anymore, Words of Love, It's So Easy, Rave On and many more.

**Friday 1st April 2022 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)



## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

### In the Mood For Miller

The fabulous Syd Lawrence Orchestra are returning to The Princess Alexandra Auditorium under the musical direction of Chris Dean.

This energetic Orchestra will bring you a glorious and exciting evening of Glenn Miller hits and other favourites from the Big Band era.

The very best in big band music from Britain's most iconic big band, an evening guaranteed to get you "In The Mood"!

**Sunday 10th April 2022, 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)





# SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

## A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From the continuing impact of COVID-19 to the war in Ukraine, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

### 1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they have seen.

### 2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

### 3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex details. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what is happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

### 4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make us feel angry, scared. Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

### 5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

### 6 CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

### 7 SET LIMITS

Managing screentime and content can be difficult at the best of times, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example), it's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try and at least limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screentime limits.

### 8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again, opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

### 9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

### 10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

### 11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

### 12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

### Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-544886>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@nationalonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.02.2022