

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

There is much to celebrate in this week's newsletter, and much to look forward to in a busy few weeks to come, packed with opportunities and experiences for pupils. Pupils have returned from half term to a purposeful and productive week in their lessons, reviewing assessments from exam week and assessing their progress. We place great value in the opportunity to reflect on assessments, learn from mistakes and hone exam technique, alongside considering revision techniques and planning; all grist to the mill of the preparation for public examinations on the horizon, albeit further away for some than for others.

A host of performances are imminent, with the Dance Showcase this evening and information on how to acquire tickets for the charity concert at Yarm Parish Church, the Dovecote Festival, Beauty and the Beast all detailed within. Reports from the CCF Field Day highlight the adventures and challenges on this excellent trip, and the joint venture between the Biology and Geography departments to study Ecology skills is another successful venture held this week and enjoyed by the Second Year pupils. We read of Lilian's visit as part of her Arkwright Scholarship award, Raphael's book review and there is a link to the wonderful new edition of 'The Dovecote' magazine, 'Gemini', edited by Katie and Evie, but containing work from a whole host of pupils on the theme of Freedom. I congratulate all pupils who have been involved in this initiative, and strongly recommend a read!

Sporting success abounds, with fantastic performances reviewed in detail in the sport section. Of particular note is Ben's triumph on a European level at Golf, and further exciting opportunities to come - we congratulate him! Similar recognition must go to our rowers, who competed at the National Schools' Regatta and - alongside many outstanding performances including three A finals and a number of B final places - the J15 boys came back with a medal for the School for the first time in over a decade; congratulations to them and to all our rowers and wish them well for the Durham Regatta this weekend. There is a roundup of the recent Athletics league match against Ian Ramsay which saw strong performances all round, and we congratulate Jude on his selection to represent the North East of England at hockey; quite an achievement.

Dr Huw Williams

Arkwright Scholarship Connect Day

During the Easter holidays I visited the Baker Hughes Energy factory in Newcastle as a 'connect day' organised by the Arkwright Scholarship award scheme. The factory creates flexible pipes for extracting oil from the sea floor. During the day we were able to have a tour of the factory to see the process of the pipes being made and how they were transported around. After lunch some of the team spoke about how they got into engineering and the routes that Baker Hughes offers young people to get into engineering. We were then able to complete an engineering activity.

The aim of the activity was to create a simplified version of the devices that they use to test the pipes using K'nex. The whole experience was great and it was really interesting to be able to enter the factory while they were still working.

Lilian Dufton, Lower Sixth



Yarm School proudly presents

29th June →
2nd July 2022

Adults £12, Children £8
www.thepaaonline.org

Sponsored by: Active Financial Planners
& Cleveland Land Services

CCF Summer Term Field Day

Monday 6th June saw the CCF travel to Wathgill Camp in Catterick to undertake training in marksmanship skills and on the obstacle course. During the morning cadets had the opportunity to use the dismounted close combat trainer and get to grips with the fundamentals of marksmanship. Following some coaching, cadets fired the SA80 A2 general purpose rifle from various different positions and at targets of different ranges. There was some excellent shooting from all cadets and it was really pleasing to see improvement from everyone. Commendable mentions to some of our younger cadets such as Sally Matthews, Faye Lane, Grace Harbinson and Muhammad Ibrahim who had never fired before and produced a tightly grouped collection of hits on the target.

After a brief pause for lunch the cadets were given the opportunity to tackle the obstacle course. This required teamwork, leadership from the senior cadets and physical strength. Following excellent demonstrations from the Lower Sixth, all cadets present had a really good go at the full obstacle course. It was particularly impressive to see the cadets scaling the 10ft wall as a team. The teams were judged on their efficiency, teamwork and deducted points for any poor technique. Mr Bridges judged the competition and concluded that Sgt Adam Jones's team were overall most effective on the course. Well done!

Overall it was a brilliant day and well done to all cadets involved. Thanks in particular to Mr Bridges for running such a successful afternoon on the obstacle course.

Mr T Taylor



Ecology Skills Day

The Biology and Geography departments joined forces earlier this week to deliver a jam packed field trip to Cod Beck Reservoir near Osmotherley for the Second Years. The pupils spent the day learning new ecological fieldwork techniques which included an introduction to a wide variety of data collection methods. The day was split into 3 distinct activities, conducting a river survey in the beck (and when we say 'in' we really do mean 'in!'), a walk through the diverse habitats surrounding the reservoir, up onto the moorland, and finally a lab based session where pupils analysed and processed the data that they had collected. Along the way we used kick-sampling methods to capture and identify freshwater invertebrates, we used a variety of data probes to collect information about light intensity, soil pH and soil moisture, we used advanced fieldwork techniques to learn more about the characteristics of the river and the shape of the channel and we even learnt how to measure the river velocity using dog biscuits! Pupils will be able to use the data they collected in their lessons in the coming weeks and the skills learnt will stand them in good stead for their future studies in both Biology and Geography. The pupils were a pleasure to spend time with, they were fully engaged in the activities and were a credit to the school.



Mr T Newman

Politics Book Review: Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge



Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race is an informative, tender book that explores the hardship and difficulties many Black-British citizens have faced over the years, not only from racist ill informed bigots, but also from those who sit in positions of authority such as the police and government.

Eddo-Lodge initially lays the foundations for the book by expressing her reasons to write it, sharing her own experiences of racism - which prompted her to write a blog in 2014 - explaining why she is no longer entertains the topic of race with white people - due to their naivety, "emotional disconnect" and blatant ignorance to the subject. However, due to the vast amount of support from readers, Lodge decided to craft this book - in an attempt to spread awareness for minority groups in Britain.

Her first chapter plunges into the archives of racial abuse minority groups have suffered since Britain's involvement with the African slave trade, specifically the outcome it left for Indian, Caribbean and African immigrants - who have legally moved to Britain over the past 120 years to help with industry work, war efforts and farming. Eddo-Lodge argues her belief that many British people hold the subconscious belief that those of darker skin tones are not "as pure" or worthy as those that are white. Of course this view is wrong, however she argues it is still a strong theme which runs throughout society.

Eddo-Lodge gives numerous examples of racism in Britain over the past forty years, and how the response from both higher authorities (such as politicians and the police) and wider society is 'outrageous' - as both have swiftly moved on from the blatant human rights abuse that has taken place on Britain's front door step. Eddo-Lodge explains how a vast amount of documented racism has come from those which we - as a nation - hold a huge amount of trust in, for example, the police. Indeed during the 1970s and 80s it was common for the British Police to pressure Parliament to alter existing laws - such as in 1984, 'The Stop and Search Act' was changed, meaning a police officer could legally stop and search anyone who "looked suspicious". This law was abused and exploited by violent, racist, individuals who happened to be protected by their uniforms.

It is then explored how 'White Privilege', even if subconsciously, plays a role in dividing communities.

Eddo-Lodge explains that "if you're white, your race will almost certainly, positively impact your life's trajectory in some way. And you probably won't even notice it.". To be white enables people to have a benefit over those who are not white - this could be seen in appointing work roles. However, Eddo-Lodge does highlight how this uneven playing-field can be balanced - using the example of the Rooney Rule in America. In 2003, Dan Rooney (NFL's diversity committee chair) introduced measures to address the lack of black managers in the sport. The lack of black managers raised the question "Were black men not applying for the job, or were they not being offered interviews?". Teams were required to interview at least one black or ethnic minority candidate for a senior coaching role available. A decade on, 12 black coaches had been hired across the US and 17 teams had been led by either a black or Latino coach.

For one book, Eddo-Lodge covers a wide variety of examples of innate racism and sustains her argument that not only has racism always been a huge problem in the UK, but that it continues to be one. She explains that "history shows racism does not erupt from nothing, rather it is embedded in British society." We only need to take a moment to try to name five successful, well-known black British actors, for example, or how many children's books that we are familiar with which have a black protagonist. For a multicultural country, it might be argued that Britain is lagging behind in ideas, concepts and values when it comes to how we tackle racism and address the balance between all ethnic groups. Eddo-Lodge urges her readers to support one another in the war against racism, to surround one another with support and enable conversations about race to take place. One can only hope that in our lifetime, there is a greater sense of unity in our country and that the colour of a person's skin does not define them. I would urge everybody to read this book. It is informative, passionate, moving and well-written and this is an issue which should not be ignored.

Raphael McNicholas, Lower Sixth

'The Dovecote' Student Magazine

Last month pupils finished producing the fantastic annual magazine - 'The Dovecote'.

It is packed with interesting features including interviews with former pupils Sarah Portsmouth (who has rowed for Cambridge in the Boat Race) and Hannah Ward (who spent a year working in F1), an interview with Dr Williams, essays, recipes, artwork, and much much more!

You can [read it here](#).



Yarm Choral Society and Yarm School Musicians present

A CHARITY CONCERT

(All proceeds go towards the restoration of the Church Organ)

Thursday 16th June 2022 at 7.30pm



Yarm Parish Church
(St Mary Magdalene Church)





All tickets are £5 and can be purchased online at www.thepaaonline.org or at the School box office on (01642) 792587.

Alternatively you can purchase tickets on the evening itself on the door.

Active  

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

Yarm School proudly presents



Disney
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Wednesday 29th June - Saturday 2nd July, 7.30pm
Adults £12.00, Children £8.00
To book tickets: 01642 792587 or www.thepaaonline.org

Director Liam Gibart	Music Director Katie Slaggs & Andrew Molebys	Choreographer Jess Dunkley
Music by Alan Menken	Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice	Book by Linda Woolverton

Originally Directed by Robert Jess Roth
Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtiusa.com



DOVECOTE CONCERT 2022

YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Wednesday July 6th
6.30pm Music Festival
& BBQ

N.B. A separate BBQ ticket must be purchased online or bought from the box office for each person wishing to partake (£5.00pp)

Tickets are FREE (..but are required) and are available from www.thepaaonline.org or from the box office. A bar is available at the event where you can purchase a variety of cool refreshing drinks

European Golf Champion!

Congratulations to Ben Cordwell-Smith (Lower Sixth) who took part in the US Kids European Golf Championship at Musselburgh Golf Club in East Lothian over the half-term break. Held over three rounds over three days, Ben was the clear winner of his age group category with a total of one under par.

Ben's win meant he was selected for the best ball team competition: the Van Horn Cup, winning his round and securing victory for his team. Ben's win means he has qualified for the World Teen Championship next summer in North Carolina. Well done, Ben.

Dr A Goodall

POSITION	PLAYER	SCORE	R1	R2	R3	STROKES
1	BEN CORDWELL-SMITH Weymouth, DIT - UNITED KINGDOM	-1	35	26	21	218
2	JASON CHAM Virginia Falls, DIT - UNITED KINGDOM	5	38	38	28	218
3	OSCAR MURPHY Weymouth, DIT - UNITED KINGDOM	+3	32	21	26	219
4	WILLIAM ALEXANDER Lancaster, USA	+4	32	26	28	226
5	KOLBEK KJELMAN Bostons, DIT - UNITED KINGDOM	+5	30	27	21	224
6	BEN SMITH Mankato, DIT - UNITED KINGDOM	+13	30	24	26	226



Athletics League Match

Well done to all who competed in the Athletics League Match this week - all 4 teams competed well against Ian Ramsay School at Green Lane winning all 4 team age group competitions. Whilst all pupils were fantastic ambassadors for Yarm School, those who won their events are listed below...

U13- Ava Holmes (Javelin), Lucy Oliver (Shot/1200m), Charlotte Banks (Discus), Oliver Blake (400m/800m), Mustafa El Sherif (Discus/Javelin), Paddy Key (Shot Putt), Oliver Mowbray (1500m)

U15- Estelle Orr (Javelin), Hannah Muzawazi (Shot), Alice Ward (Discus), Sophie Hall (Long Jump), Sienna Hyndman (800m), Annabel Lacy (1500m), Will McPartland (100m/200m), Jake Leader (Javelin), Will Ferguson (800m/1500m), James McGee (Discus), Jack Van Nierkerk (Shot),

U13 Girls

Yarm 53- Ian Ramsay 41

U15 Girls

Yarm 62- Ian Ramsay 42

U13 Boys

Yarm 61- Ian Ramsay 40

U15 Boys

Yarm 66- Ian Ramsay 40

The team will progress on to the league finals in the next couple of weeks - well done to all concerned!

Mr G Ferguson



North East Hockey Selection

Congratulations to our Second Year Captain - Jude Crack. He has been selected to represent the North East of England in a National Inter-Divisional Tournament in Nottingham on Friday 24th June. We wish him well!

Mr G Ferguson



National Schools' Regatta 2022: Yarm School Boat Club achieve boat-loads of success!

Rowing at Eton Dorney, the site of the 2012 Olympic Games is always a special occasion for everyone involved in rowing, but it was even more special as it was at the most prestigious of all the junior regattas – National Schools' Regatta. This event is open to all juniors of all rowing schools and rowing clubs and is held over three days, such is the level of entries. Younger athletes row over 1000 metres and older athletes (16+) row the full course of 2000 metres. Every event is hotly contested and not all can win medals. Finishing high up in various categories is also a personal achievement as the standard of rowing at the National Schools' Regatta is so high.

With the regatta not being held over the last two years, it was once again an opportunity for all crews to compete against the best in the country. The event opened on Friday with the younger athletes competing over the 1000 metre course. Yarm School had entered J14 boys' and girls' octuples and quads in their respective events, but the crews just failed to make the top twelve in order to qualify for the A or B Final. Nevertheless, the scullers gave great performances and can feel proud of their achievements.



Then it was the turn of the Junior 15 boys and girls. The girls' coxed four had a very good time trial and qualified for the B Final where they finished sixth. Again, they can be very proud of that result which puts them 12th in the country in their age category.



But it was the boys who stamped their authority on their event. With two J15 coxed fours in the event Yarm School BC were growing in confidence. Not everyone can win a medal and the crew stroked by Luke Anderson rowed very well but missed out on the A and B Final.



However, the performance of the day came from the other J15 crew stroked by Will Jeavons. Their time trial performance meant they qualified for the A Final and there was hope in the camp that the Boat Club might win its first National Schools' Regatta medal for quite a number of years. Following their race plan and rowing very well indeed the boys battled their way through the field and take the bronze medal. All tiredness and fatigue evaporated with the knowledge that they would soon be presented with their accolades. This was a tremendous achievement for Will Jeavons, Sai Sidgamale, Will Lewis, Jack Pritchard and ably coxed by Jack Stoddart and coached by Mr Bewick. Watch out for this crew next year!



Saturday and Sunday saw the senior rowers and scullers take to the water and race over the gruelling distance of 2000 metres. Unfortunately for the boys' Junior 18 coxed four they were just not quick enough to move onto the next round, but in a heavily contested event, they produced their best row of the season so far.



The Championship Junior 18 coxless quads is always a very heavily contested event with Southern sculling schools tending to dominate the medals. This year was no different with Windsor Boys School taking the gold medal, but Yarm School sculled exceptionally well to win a place in the B Final. With two 16 year olds and two seventeen year olds in the boat, their 7th place in the B Final promises so much for next year.

Three crews had the weight of the Boat Club on their shoulders as they competed over the two days. Firstly the girls' junior 16 coxed four of Storm Smith, Kitty Brown, Hannah Stewart and Morven Hawthorn proved they were a force to be reckoned with and secured themselves a place in the A Final, where they finished in a fantastic fifth place. The girls were delighted with this result in such a large field.



Now it was the turn of the senior girls, who have been racing successfully in eights and coxed and coxless fours. The crew of Siya Puthuraya, Eve Kempster, Charlotte Wood, Rebecca Keetley and Annabel Cunningham narrowly missed out on a place in the A Final in the championship coxed fours event. Spurred on by this result they were determined to go out and win the B Final, leading all the way only to be overtaken in the last 30 metres and coming second by three tenths of a second. Although there was disappointment in the boat, that they just couldn't hang on to their ever decreasing lead they were very pleased with their performance.

Finally it was the turn of Emily Dunn, Harriet White, Cordelia Deering and Lilian Dufton to compete in the championship coxless fours event. Coming third in their time trial and winning their semi-final the girls were hoping to follow the J15 boys and secure a second medal of the regatta. However, it was not to be. The girls rowed themselves to a standstill in their attempt to finish in the top three but they had to be

content with fourth place behind George Heriots School, St Paul's Girls' School and Clydesdale BC. Fourth is always a hard place to finish and the girls were bitterly disappointed, but they can all return next year for another chance of winning a medal.



National Schools' Regatta 2022 was a great success for Yarm School BC and reflected the hard work and dedication of all the athletes and their coaches. The club may not have the incredible numbers of athletes that some of their competitor schools have, but they showed their resilience and determination to perform to the best of their ability on the big stage when they were under tremendous pressure. Very well done to everyone.

Mrs A Lund



Sport Weeks Ahead

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

DON'T MISS - THIS WEEK!

Ooh...And Another Thing...An Evening with Su Pollard

Stories, stand up and songs followed by a candid and hilarious Q and A session with the audience, Su Pollard shows once again why she is a national treasure in the FEEL GOOD show of 2022.

She is best known for her role as Peggy in the BAFTA Award-winning sitcom Hi-De-Hi and was honoured to be the subject of This Is Your Life.

Saturday 11th June 2022 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



COMING SOON

Zog and the Flying Doctors

Zog, super keen student turned air-ambulance, still lands with a crash-bang-thump. Together with his Flying Doctor crew, Princess Pearl and Sir Gadabout, they tend to a sunburnt mermaid, a unicorn with one too many horns and a lion with the flu. However, Pearl's uncle, the King, has other ideas about whether princesses should be doctors, and she's soon locked up in the castle back in a crown and a silly frilly dress!

Tuesday 19th - Thursday 21st July 2022

[Book Online Here](#)



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

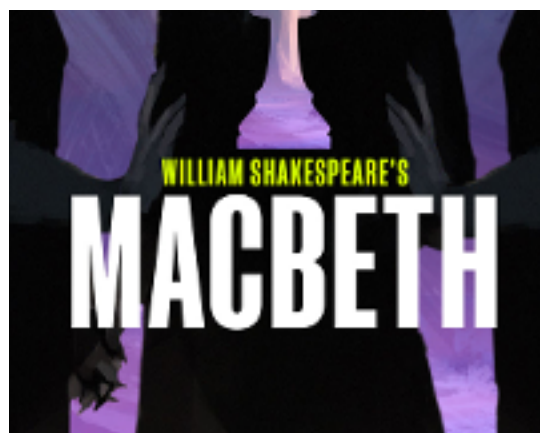
MacBeth

This all female, 3 hander version of the well-known (and very gruesome) Shakespeare classic will tour to theatres, community venues, village halls and schools this Autumn.

Adapted by writer and director Chris Connaughton and directed by NTC Artistic Director Louis Roberts, this will be a streamlined and very physical version of the original piece and performed in NTC's unique, fast paced and extremely physical style.

Friday 9th September 2022 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it's only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use – for adults and children alike. Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it? What's clear is that VR is becoming ever more ubiquitous in everyday life: from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PREMATURE EXPOSURE

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide – allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips – most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR affects children in the longer term.

13+

EYE STRAIN

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with prolonged use. Lenses inside each headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity, just as they would in the real world, to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety features built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing – so creating a clear, tidy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'Guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible.

MOTION SICKNESS

Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is nausea caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gameplay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy – so careful curation is advised.

Advice for Parents & Carers

START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short sprints and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get accustomed with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.



NO SURPRISES

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR – and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of falling arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' narrows the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.



RESEARCH CONTENT

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.



Meet Our Expert

Peter Graham is the editor at XR (extended reality) and Web3 specialist the-gma3.com and has been writing about VR, augmented reality and the immersive tech industry for more than seven years. He's served as a panel speaker and a judge at awards events and game hackathons.



Illustration by Nathan Welling

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