

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

I am constantly reminded of the skill, talent and tenacity of our pupils, and this week is no exception. Watching our cricketers put up a valiant performance against the MCC was wonderful. Enjoying the stunning and breathtaking production of Beauty and the Beast on the PAA stage was pretty humbling. Hearing some first years give a thoughtful and fascinating Assembly on the evolution, trends, risks and benefits of Social Media was terrific, and it was lovely to present pupils with certificates for Duke of Edinburgh, Mathematics competitions and Speech and Drama examinations. Hearing the sophisticated questions asked by pupils learning about physiology, homeostasis and kidney disease was inspiring. Watching our Fifth Year and Upper Sixth manage the examination season with resilience and fortitude, despite not having sat public examinations before and after two years of disruption, was remarkable. Even witnessing the seriousness and maturity with which our pupils conduct themselves during a fire drill is a reminder of the excellent standards of behaviour we have, where pupils want to get things right. It really is a privilege to be surrounded by such commitment for the community we all enjoy.

Looking through the newsletter once again offers a glimpse of pupils' other activities and I hope you will enjoy the variety of reports. Congratulations to Sam for his success in writing, and to Isaac in the Shine Media Awards; I know that this project has inspired a new group of budding journalists and editors who are already planning next year's magazine. Gracie has made her mark on the Saltburn Singing Festival, our Second Year pupils' success at the Physics competition is reviewed in detail, and - with the Second Year being away on Outdoor Education, 'at home' doing their Independent Learning Projects, and creatively engaged in the National Writing Day, we have seen a flurry of ingenuity, independence and perseverance from them this week. Our historians have been on a successful trip to York, among other significant local destinations, and our Business Mentors all did brilliantly helping Year 6 Prep pupils with their preparation for the Summer Fair, and we meet Laura, co-chair of next year's Econ/Bus society. Our cricket teams deserve praise for their efforts, which are described within.

Pupils (and parents) gave generously for our collection for Sprouts, with a magnificent total collected to help this wonderful charity; thank you to all who contributed. We look ahead to more Beauty and the Beast, Sports' Day, the Dovecote Concert, End of Term assembly and Junior Prize Giving. A frantic dash to the finish line!

Dr Huw Williams

Yarm Poet Shortlisted for Young Northern Writers' Award



We are delighted to announce that Sam Corbishley was shortlisted for the Matthew Hale Award 2022 at the Young Northern Writers' Awards. Some of the feedback from the judges can be found below:

I'm delighted to let you know that although Sam C wasn't successful in winning an award, his entry was shortlisted for the Matthew Hale Award 2022.

This year we received more entries than ever before so being shortlisted is a huge achievement – please do pass on our congratulations to Sam and encourage him to keep writing! This year's judges (the Hale family alongside the NWN staff team) felt that Sam's writing showed real promise, particularly his poetry. Well done Sam!

Congratulations Sam, we hope this will inspire you to keep writing! What a wonderful high to end the year on.

Ms A Breslin

The Futility of Shouting at Water

I am the Ocean,
unwavering,
immovable;
no barrier can halt my flow.

My waves move
wherever they desire;
no man nor mountain can hold them back.

Your boat tramples over my tide,
as your feet trampled my dreams,
but I keep moving;
no ship can hold me back.

You shout at my waves,
but
your words go unheard.
Your insults mean nothing
For the Sea cannot hear.

Only you hear the vitriol you hurl.

Sam Corbishley, Third Year

Cathedrals, Castles and Abbeys: History Trip to York

Last week, the Lower Sixth History students travelled to York to enhance our learning about the religious changes that took place throughout the Tudor Era. This was to help compliment our study of the changes made from Henry VIII through till Mary I in England between 1509 and 1558. In particular it gave us the opportunity to see the devastation caused by Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell's policies to the religious houses in England.

We began at York Minster, which is - as we learned - the largest gothic cathedral in northern Europe (that was built during the period). The intricacy of the architecture was stunning, and gave a sense of the importance of York Minster; the stained glass windows, some dating back to the 12th century, are a testament to the cathedral's immense history, and were even removed during wartime for their protection. The Crypt and the Undercroft Museum displayed York's history across two millennia, of which the ancient Bibles and ceremonial objects were of particular interest. We learnt that the cathedral experienced many changes in appearance during the Tudor era, providing a physical grounding for our understanding of the English Reformation.



We then walked to Clifford's Tower through the Shambles, which really gave us a sense of York's history. From the top of the Tower, after many steps, you could imagine the castle that once surrounded it. This was a significant location throughout history, notably witnessing the mass suicide and massacre of York's Jewish community in 1190, and also the hanging of Robert Aske, rebel leader of the Pilgrimage of Grace, in 1537.

In the afternoon we took a long journey to Rievaulx Abbey (courtesy of Mr Edwards taking us to the wrong Abbey). With the scenic backdrop of Rievaulx Abbey, we discussed different interpretations of the English Reformation and the

nature of religious rebellions, such as those of 1536 and 1549. The physical experience of touring the monasteries enhanced our understanding of the imposing figures of monasteries in English culture, and the effects of their dissolution under Henry VIII. To finish off the day we visited Mount Grace Priory, where we were given a fascinating insight into how Carthusian monks lived and worked.

Overall, we really enjoyed the trip and everything we learned on the visits to each place.

Charles Rowell and Caroline Louwrens, Lower Sixth



Introducing Laura Hull: Co-Chair of the Economics and Business Society

I decided to run for co - chair of the Economics and Business society as the breadth of the topics which we cover in our meetings means that I can widen my knowledge base outside of the curriculum and get a deeper understanding of real life Economics. Moreover, it has aided me through my university application to demonstrate my interest in the subject and has given me an introduction to managerial roles in the real world. Within the society itself, we run talks and presentations led by both the chairs and the student body allowing everyone who attends to extend their knowledge outside of the curriculum, ranging from talks on game theory to the economics of sport. The society is open to all Sixth Form students regardless of subjects they are studying and runs on a Thursday lunchtime in B1.

Laura Hull, Lower Sixth

Yarm School's Dragons' Den

During the off-timetable week for the Second Years we had the incredible opportunity to test our business skills and ingenuity. It gave us a chance to expand our potential when working independently. Through a Yarm School style Dragons' Den we worked in groups to create and pitch the perfect board game for the audience in mind. Furthermore we got to test our creative sides in the manufacturing of a mockup of the products. We started the day in the IT suite brainstorming ideas on the briefs we were given. The workshop came next, fine tuning designs and beginning the production.

The process enlightened us to the financial aspects of a business. Not just selling a product for any price but finding the perfect price that takes into account materials, VAT and profit. The experience also enriched our ideas on advertising and how to write a persuasive pitch that will sway the Dragons into buying stakes into your products.

Overall the day was an absolute joy with no dull moments when every group was rushing to finish their write ups before we all went before the Dragons. Prizes were offered to the best pitch, best products and best idea. We have to say an enormous thank you to the Sixth Form mentors who guided us when we were stuck or when our maths/business skills threatened to place us in crippling debt. Another thank you must be made to the staff involved Mrs Jackson, Miss Rhodes, Mrs Gray and Yarm School's very own Dragons' Den, it has definitely broadened the horizon of potential future careers.

Anna Page, Second Year



The Dovecote Magazine at the Shine School Media Awards!



For the second year running, Yarm School's *The Dovecote* was shortlisted for the prestigious 'Shine School Media Awards' - a national competition rewarding U.K. secondary schools that produce an outstanding newspaper, magazine, podcast, or website. A high bar was set by the Lead Editors, Evie Severn and Katie Hunt, last year. This year, they recruited a fresh set of Third Year students to drive the success of the magazine. Collectively, they came up with the theme of 'Freedom' which reflected on the definition of freedom, how it is achieved, and how it is expressed. We had buy-in from across all year groups - poetry from First Year students to reflections from politics students in Sixth Year. Evie and Katie kindly nominated Poppy Bell and Annabel Cochrane to attend this year's awards; having experienced them last year, they wanted the emerging talent to experience the event themselves in the hope that it would ignite their passion to continue the project next year. They rubbed shoulders with London Media elites: Alice Wignall, Executive Editor at ELLE UK; Gianluca Ena, Chief Commercial Operations of Hearst UK; Liz Hunt the Assistant Editor of Features and Comments at the Daily Mail. They absorbed as much information as they could, with the aim of raising their game for the national awards next year.

At the ceremony itself, they waited with bated breath. They had entered four categories and they were unsure which (if any) they had won. They were delighted when their peer, Isaac Akowuah was Highly Commended for this article, 'Ghana: past, present and future'. The judges noted his "great use of the senses. [They] could feel the hear and the chaos. Excellent reportage!". Isaac was up against students of all ages, and the judges were blown away by the maturity of his writing. Isaac is certainly a young writer to watch!

The girls were honoured to lift Isaac's certificate for him, bringing it back to Yarm School safely alongside a fire in their bellies for next year's student mag! The Shine Media Awards 2023, they're coming for you!

Ms A Breslin

[Read this year's Dovecote Magazine, and Isaac's article, here.](#)

Saltburn Singing Festival Success for Gracie



This Saturday I went to Saltburn Singing Festival to perform and compete in 3 different categories, the first being, Grade 4 and 5 Singing, the second being Grade 4-8 Musical Theatre and the final being Grade 4-8 Disney. I stepped up to perform my first piece "When Daisies Pied" against many other competitors and felt quite nervous. The adjudicator was

really strict and gave loads of feedback so I was amazed to come first and win a trophy, for the second piece "I feel Pretty", from West Side Story I was against some grade 7/8 musicians who were around 4 years older than me, but I still got a "Commended". For the third category I was once again against grade 7 musicians, and I was so pleased to be placed placed third, with "Part of your World".

Throughout the day I had a great experience: was inspired by the older performers, and even saw some beautiful scenery. I can't wait for next year and hope I get a trophy again.

Gracie Rhodes-Hildreth, Second Year

Business Mentors Help Secure Victory for Prep Teams

Congratulations to Business Mentors:

Will Ashforth, Zara Sharpe, and Belle Woodhead, whose guidance, motivation and endless enthusiasm helped their Year 6 mentees secure victory in the Summer Fair Enterprise competition at the Prep.

They will be joining the winning teams in a celebratory meal before the end of the year.

Miss C E Rhodes



Winning Physicists Report Back on Their Day at St Peter's



Two weeks ago, four Second Year pupils travelled down to St Peter's School, York along with Mr Burns to take part in the annual Physics Olympics - the first in-person competition since 2019. Twenty-three schools from across the north

participated in the day of physics challenges. We took part in a Fermi Quiz and five different laboratory-based challenges which required a broad range of physics, maths and problem solving skills, but most importantly teamwork.

Going into our first challenge, we were optimistic and ready to get into some physics! We were thrown off slightly by the fact that we had to deal with the principle of moments - something none of us were particularly familiar with - however through working as a team, we were able to get an excellent result. Eager to get stuck into the next challenge, we got to work straight away and despite a lot of stress, we recorded another impressive result with seconds to spare. In the third challenge, we had to construct a tower using everyday craft equipment to achieve the maximum gravitational potential energy of some steel nuts and bolts. Our tower worked astoundingly well, with our result the highest one recorded the whole day!

After a quick lunch, we worked on the Fermi Quiz during the lunch break before heading to the penultimate challenge. We were not as successful in the afternoon as we had been in the morning but received a respectable seventh on the fourth challenge - a lot better than we had expected before moving on to the final challenge. Despite great teamwork, we recorded our worst result of the day (fourteenth) on the final challenge but this was something we did not know until later on.

After an anxious 30-minute break, the results were in. We received the results challenge by challenge and we had no idea how other teams had done. As the results of each challenge were announced, we noticed our consistency throughout the challenges was something not many teams had managed to match. We won t-shirts for coming first in the gravitational potential energy challenge before finding out where we had placed overall. After a nervous wait with lots of crossed fingers, we were announced the winners!

On the bus back to school, we were all buzzing with excitement that our teamwork and knowledge of physics and maths, as well as words of encouragement from Mr Burns throughout the day, had led us to victory. All in all, it was an excellent day of physics and it was an added bonus to win the competition!

James Goodall, Second Year

National Writing Day

Second Year pupils have been busy writing creatively as part of the English Department's marking of National Writing Day. This event, now in its fifth year, gives us all the chance to celebrate the joys of creative writing. Students were given the following prompt and asked to produce their own piece of imaginative writing:

Imagine you're on a train and someone approaches to sit down opposite...'

Inspired by both the work and advice of the novelist Derek Owusu, pupils produced some amazing creative responses! We have an example below, but would encourage you all to work on your own responses to this, or the other prompts found on [this website](#). Happy writing!

Mrs H Blakemore

I looked up, I knew I'd seen him before. His glaucous eyes scanned my bag as if I was going through security before boarding a plane. He clambered towards me. I felt his odour leak into my senses as his spindly arms swung, claspng onto the back of the chair neighbouring mine. The sable blackness of his suit overwhelmed my eyes; his blazer pockets drooped, as if they were full of coins or bizarrely heavy objects. His newly-polished shoes glimmered like a bright torch in a haunted tomb. Emotionless and downcast, his face explained his mood. The rhythmic beat of his heart pulsated under my

fingertips. He took the seat.

A peculiar shaped oblong box was laid flat - flawlessly balanced - on his knees as he used both hands to pick at his mucid nails. His ring. It had finally struck me. It was only now that I realised who this was. Someone I was not yet ready to see. Someone I had been waiting for.

The time had come.....

Sabie Anderson, Second Year

Giving Week Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Giving Week for Sprouts. The grand total was 145kg and the most generous group was Third Year Aidan 45kg (a third of the total).



PLEASE READ IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

DOVECOTE CONCERT 2022

WEDNESDAY 6th JULY 2022

Updated Event Details

5.30pm Bar Opens

5.45pm BBQ and Live Music Begins

*** Please bring all free tickets with you to gain entry into the event and for the BBQ if you have chosen to purchase that additional item for £5.00**

Free Tickets and BBQ Tickets (optional at £5) available from:

www.thepaaonline.org

Free Tickets and BBQ Tickets are also available from the School Box Office in person or by calling:

01642 792587

Free Tickets and BBQ Tickets (optional at £5) available from:

www.thepaaonline.org

Lower Sixth student, Katherine Henley, is organising a fundraising ball in aid of Parkinson's UK for her EPQ project. Tickets are now available and can be bought by [following this link](#).

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Click here for tickets

Ticket price: £60

Yarm school pupil Katherine Henley's EPQ project presents:

MASQUERADE

AUTUMN CHARITY BALL & DINNER

Black tie or party wear with a fabulous mask



In support of Parkinson's UK

What's included in the ball?

Welcome drink
3 course meal
Coffees and chocolates

During the ball:

A raffle and auction where you will get the chance to win some fantastic prizes. The night will end with a DJ and you can dance the night away!

The night will be hosted by broadcaster and journalist Claire McCollum who is also a Parkinson's Ambassador.

Friday 9th September 2022

Judges Country House Hotel, Kirklevington

Mansfield/Deen Mohammed/Seb Jafri, Teesdale all bowled out for 50 runs.

Cricket Match Reports

U15 vs RGS Newcastle

One of the toughest games on the fixture card. RGS batted first and a big scoreline was on the cards as they were 40-0 off 3 overs. The ball hitting Mr Fergusson's car slowed the batters run rate, and two wickets from Timmy Foley and Samuel Page, restricted the opposition to 147. In response, the team got some well deserved time at the crease, with Harvey Qin/Oscar Studholme and Max Mowbray gaining good scores, but Samuel Page with 33 was the pick of the batters. The team ended the game on 118, but massive improvements all round for this team.

U14 vs RGS Newcastle

Yarm batted first and got off to a slow start, therefore batters had to start strong when they came in - which is unfortunate. Nick Clements and Ashton Flynn were the standout players scoring 29 and 21 respectively; scoring 105 runs. RGS chased the score down in the 17th over, with a good performance in the field, with Rahul Hukkeri and Rebecca White the pick of the bowlers with three and two wickets respectively.

U13 Durham Cup 2nd Round vs St. Michael's

An outstanding game between two individuals who play at county level with each other, but with Yarm School and Jude Crack coming out on top. Yarm batted first, and Jude scoring 100* in any format is incredible but in a 20 over game was remarkable, and one of the best innings I have seen in schoolboy cricket. Yarm were 178-2 off their 20 overs. In return, the opposition batter scored 90, until Nikhil Ramesh, the pick of the bowlers bowled him out. They ended the 20 overs on 138 - 3, winning by 41 runs.

U13 vs RGS Newcastle

Due to traffic, the U13's played a 15 over match, where Sam Shawcross was the pick of the batters, playing some elegant strokes. RGS won the game but wickets from Ben Bardgett and pick of the bowlers Shlok Arcot provided an entertaining game.

U12 Durham Cup Quarter Final vs Teesdale

The U12s were the standout team of the week winning both of their games, to end the season with great confidence. Yarm batted first with Oliver Mansfield scoring 53 runs before being retired, and some great hitting again from Oliver Dunkin scoring a quick 39, resulting in the team scoring 135 - 4. In response the opposition never really troubled the bowlers, with Shayan Raja taking two wickets, and other players gaining one wicket; Oscar Lowes/ Oli

U12 vs RGS Newcastle

The U12 team decided to use the Tyne Tunnel, and got a full 20 over match in at the lovely Jesmond CC. Yarm bowled first and restricted the team to 116, with 9 bowlers used, with wickets being taken by Oscar Lowes/Saatvik Gaarg/Oliver Mansfield and Shayan Raja. In response, the opening pair were amazing, with Saatvik Gaarg retiring at 30 and Oliver Mansfield not out on 29 for the innings. JJ Jenney came in at the end of innings and scored a quickfire 12 including the winning runs.

Mr L Shanahan



Sport Weeks Ahead

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

NEXT WEEK ...

Catch Us If You Can

Catch Us If You Can, is a 1960's variety show covering all your favourite artists, paying special tribute to The Beatles & The Rolling Stones.

Be prepared to sing and dance along to some of your favourite tracks from the likes of The Kinks, The Who, The Beach Boys, Lulu, Roy Orbison, Bob Dylan, Spencer Davis Group plus many, many more.

Catch Us If You Can perform completely 'live' is certain to get those toes tapping and hearts singing!

Friday 8th July 2022, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



COMING SOON...

Supreme Queen

Now one of the most recognisable Tribute bands in the world, SUPREME QUEEN continue to take things to a whole different level, with their homage to the halcyon days of one of the planet's greatest ever rock bands.

Simply, a stage show designed to provide the most memorable of evenings for Queen's millions of fans worldwide.

Friday 15th July 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!

Most suitable for ages 3+ but all ages welcome.

Tuesday 19th - Thursday 21st July 2022

[Book Online Here](#)



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING
7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying: it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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