

Newsletter



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Headmaster's Welcome

This term has been a truly wonderful smorgasbord of activities, successes and achievements which has seen our pupils: working hard in their subjects; experiencing departmental and Outdoor Ed trips; in fixtures and tournaments; at regattas, at concerts and plays and musicals; in the dance showcase and DT Fashion Show; on the track and field at Sports Day; entering academic and creative competitions and olympiads; on CCF field day; passing music and drama Associated Board exams; raising money for charity and helping in our community; exploring careers options; supporting each other and growing as young people on their individual and diverse journeys through life at Yarm. I tried to summarise all of this in the final assembly of the term and it was striking, once again, to reflect on the terrific achievements and positive attitude of our pupils. I am so proud of them.

The whole School Sports Day which took place on Tuesday was a fantastic event, with our pupils demonstrating a whole manner of traits that articulate and demonstrate values that we hold in high esteem. Endeavour, determination, resilience, compassion, support and striking teamwork were evident throughout, and some outstanding sporting prowess too with a number of long-held School records being demolished by talented and determined pupils. The conduct of the pupils was admirable and I was delighted that so many parents were able to come and support the day, too. I am grateful to the Games Department and all staff involved in running the day - it was a great celebration of the positivity and cohesion of our community.

Last week's performances of Beauty and the Beast were truly outstanding, and our congratulations and thanks go to Mr Gilbert, Director, Mrs Staggs and Mr McIntyre for the wonderful music, Mr Boddy for producing the show alongside some colleagues backstage, Miss Dunkley for the terrific dance choreography, Mr James and his team for the technical wizardry, Mr Horsley and all of the Estates team for their outstanding work on the set and all of the PAA staff for running the venue. That a show of this quality was effectively all run 'in house' is a testament to the talent and dedication of the staff. The production could not have been anywhere near as ambitious in scope and scale without the generous support of Active Financial Planners and Cleveland Land Services who sponsored the production once again: we are enormously grateful to them for their support.

The stars of the show, though, were of course the pupils. Backstage to ensure set changes worked seamlessly, in the pit creating the wonderful music or on stage in the company,

they were all magnificent. Parents, family and friends watched entranced as the story unfolded, with powerful and moving moments interspersed with scenes of hilarious and engaging humour and then of terrifying power and fear. The singing was superb, the dancing and stagecraft dazzling and the overall standard of production magnificent. The show deserved all the plaudits it received: congratulations to all involved. A more sedate event at the Dovecote brought us down to earth with an evening of relaxed yet highly proficient musicianship - well done to all who entertained us once again.

As we look ahead to the summer break, we do so knowing that some colleagues won't be here in September as they leave us at the end of the academic year. I want to pay tribute to Mr Dempsey, Mr Brogan, Mr Reeve and our counsellor Vikki who are all moving on to pastures new next year, and who have offered so much to the School in the time they have been here. Other colleagues also leave us, but head into retirement, and we offer our sincere thanks to them for their many years' service to the School. Mrs Lightfoot, Reverend Lund, Dr Brinham and Mr Rye have been at the school for 8, 9, 10 and 21 years, respectively, and have been fantastic colleagues, supporting and inspiring countless children in their subjects and in a variety of other areas of school life. We hope they will stay in touch. We are also saying farewell to two Governors this year, and I want to record my gratitude to Mr Liam Gamble and Mrs Sarah Anderson for their services to the School and their significant contributions to the Governing Body.

I want to finish with two other votes of thanks. Firstly to all of my colleagues for their dedicated hard work in support of all that we try to do here at Yarm. It has been another complex year in many respects, with a variety of challenges, but they have met these head on, with a sense of collective determination to overcome difficulty and provide excellence, working together to support each other and ensure our pupils have the very best opportunities. Secondly, to parents, for their support of the School in our joint endeavours to nurture and encourage the young people we are lucky enough to have with us at Yarm. An active and cooperative partnership is essential, and sits firmly at the centre of the founding principles of the School; my thanks to parents for their ongoing support.

I hope all families enjoy a wonderful summer break, wish all those awaiting examination results this summer the very best of luck, and all students leaving us this year our best wishes, with a plea that they stay in touch!

Dr Huw Williams

YBACC Achievements 2021-22

The YBACC (Yarm School Baccalaureate) celebrates the involvement of lower school pupils in a range of extra-curricular activities. The YBACC is arranged into 5 sections; Sport, Culture, Outdoor Education, Community Service and Independent Learning. Pupils can achieve the YBACC award when they complete the 5 sections. Pupils can also achieve the Distinction award when they complete extra challenges in 3 of the 5 sections. Pupils are required to exhibit organisational skills in order to complete the award, as they have to log their achievements in a booklet and approach the relevant members of staff in order to achieve signatures, in a similar fashion to the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The following Second Year pupils have now completed their award and have received their badges at Lower School Prize Giving:

James Goodall

Shlok Arcot

I have been very impressed with the way James and Shlok have expressed their various skills through the completion of the award. They have demonstrated a great commitment to the Yarm School ethos; 'educating for life' in the way they have involved themselves in the 5 key areas of school life. They have remained committed throughout their time in the First and Second Years and have been in regular contact with me over how their YBACC'S were progressing.

In particular, the achievement of the independent learning award requires a great deal of determination and personal organisation to complete. In this section, the pupils are required to complete an independent learning project. The independent learning project enables pupils to express their passion for a particular area, whilst developing important research skills, which will assist them further in their academic careers. The pupils are required to explore a project that combines three academic subjects. James showed great maturity in choosing to focus his project on the events of September 11th 2001 and reflected closely on the impact of 9/11 on the United States and the way the terror attacks have shaped international relations since.

Shlok's achievements included his participation in many outdoor education trips and most recently, he has shown incredible commitment to school cricket, progressing to the county cup semi-finals with the under 13 team.

I know that many First Year pupils have filled in parts of various sections in their YBACC due to their involvement in school sport, outdoor education trips and musical concerts this year and I am sure that more pupils will complete the award next year.

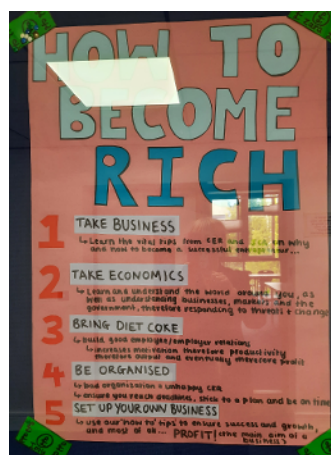
Mr A Morrison

I can catch the moon in my hand?

After the hard work of mentoring, the FAME Soc members were asked how they would raise awareness of Econ/Bus amongst the younger years through boards designed to make the footfall along the Econ corridor stop and stare.

Well done to Katherine, Will, Danny, Belle, Imy and Zara for their entertaining and eye-catching contributions which have definitely started conversations with pupils in younger years!!

Miss C Rhodes



Time is money...



Quite literally! The Econ Bus Soc were delighted to have a presentation from Kitty Foden on the Economics of Watches! Kitty considered the factors that affect the prices of different watches and pondered their position as a necessity or a luxury good, before amazing the audience of Lower Sixth students by regaling statistics on the appreciation in value of well known makes of second hand watches.

Thanks to Kitty for the last talk of the year. The Econ Bus Soc will be back in September with a busy programme of Thursday lunchtime sessions. Hope to see lots of Sixth Form students there. (Details of future talks will be posted on the Society Board outside B3)

Miss C Rhodes

18 before 18

Bucket lists are all the rage. But perhaps they are all too often the stuff of retirement plans of far fetched boasts. What about the idea of a careers-related bucket list that is designed to equip you with the experiences and exposure necessary to curate your future decisions in the best manner.

So here is the proposal or perhaps challenge...18 before 18. Can you stretch and challenge yourself with a view to acquiring 18 different career enhancing experiences before you leave Sixth Form.

Let's have a think about what might be useful skills as you move towards shaping that future career. And then let's consider how we might build these skills or experiences. And no cheating - these must all be new things that you haven't done before!

Communication - listening, writing and speaking - perhaps gets involved in a school debate, extend your reading or start a discussion group with friends on a topic of interest

Teamwork - working effectively and respectfully with others - join a new team or collaborate on a project with friends or family

Leadership - this can be organising, coaching, developing others - volunteer to head up something you're already involved in, start coaching/mentoring/guiding younger pupils

Problem solving - Challenges will arise in every job you have. You'll want to have the ability to analyse issues, make sound decisions and overcome problems.

Digital technology - proficiency and confidence with tech - become familiar with a new technology or programme or push your skills beyond the current level

Initiative - solve situations with independence and without support - start up a whole new venture, whatever that may be, a new course, interest or activity

Adaptability - being flexible in the face of challenges - maybe redesign a trip that can't otherwise happen, organise a weekly timetable that you review at the start and end of each week

Now you need to think about ways you might achieve these or perhaps other more practical skills that will make you more confident and better prepared for the future.

Send a serious email

Write a formal letter

Volunteer for a charity

Start a new sport or hobby

Organise a family outing or holiday

Start a part time holiday job

Learn a new language

Listen to a podcast in a new area of interest

18 before 18 - that's the challenge. If you think it's easy - then just get along and do it!

Mr S Edwards

D of E Update and Action required by Participants!

Naeha Rajaram has this week completed all sections for her Bronze D of E bringing the total of completed Bronze Awards this academic year to 50!

Naeha committed her time to improve her tennis and musical skills for her Physical and Skill sections respectively and devoted her time generously to help tutor in a Maths/English/Science volunteering centre. She also was a considerate and valued member of her expedition team, navigating her way around Wainstones and Bilsdale earlier in the year. Well done Naeha.

A request to the multitude of participants at both Bronze and Gold level: use your time well during the summer break to finalise sections by adding your own comments and photographic evidence to your DofE profile. To complete each section, an assessor report is required by your supervising adult via the website www.dofe.org/assessor for which they will need your participant digital code and the start date and duration for each section. Current participants intending to complete their expedition in the Autumn Term will be required to have all of their Skill/Physical/Volunteering sections signed off.

Those at Gold level should consider completing their Residential section before the end of the Autumn Term too.

Mrs J Guest

Bollywood-themed Summer Ball is Spectacular Success!

The Yarm School Association organised a fabulous Summer Ball this year, with a stunning Bollywood theme. We're delighted to report that they raised an amazing £6600 for Yarm Wellness, a local charity that supports the community.

What a wonderful night in support of a great cause.

Look out for the next event - a Gin Tasting Evening on Friday October 7th 2022!



REflections - Selected Pieces from Yarm School's Journal of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Pupils from a variety of year groups have ventured to write bravely about the topic of Equality from differing perspectives and in different forms. I am sure that you will find the offerings enlightening, thought-provoking and hopefully allow you the opportunity for your own reflections. The variety and depth of contributions demonstrate our Yarm School's philosophy of education, as inspired by Seneca's motto: "We do not learn for school, but for life."

Miss S Hussey

Malala Yousafzai's Struggle for Female Education

The amazing story of one girl who stood up against the Taliban, and the wider problem of female education around the world.

On the 9th October, 2012, women's rights activist Malala Yousafzai was shot by the Taliban. She barely escaped with her life. Recently, her story has been recognised globally, especially due to her bestselling book 'I Am Malala', and has helped to raise awareness about the need for female human rights in many countries, including Pakistan. How did one girl manage to change the world so dramatically?

Malala was born in 1997, in Mingora, Swat. Her father, Ziauddin, was the owner of a local school for girls. When she was 10, the Taliban invaded where she lived and told her father to close down the school, as the Taliban did not like the idea of education for girls. However, Ziauddin refused. It was at this time that Malala began to write a diary entry about life under the Taliban for BBC radio. Malala soon had to leave her town after the Pakistani army was deployed in Swat in an attempt to drive out the Taliban. After several radio broadcasts and speeches, Malala was awarded Pakistan's first ever Nobel peace prize. Malala was soon receiving death threats from the Taliban. It was not long after that she was shot.

Although the injury would have been fatal, Malala was moved between several different hospitals and received life saving surgery and equipment. She was then flown away to the Queen Elisabeth medical hospital in Birmingham, England where she and her family now live.

Malala's story is just one among many of female right activists around the world. Her story has attracted lots of public attention to one of the less well acknowledged crises in today's world, helping the ever-continuing fight for female equality. Malala herself has raised money and support around the world through the Malala fund which

has enabled her to make her campaign for women's education global, such as Syrian refugees in Jordan and those adapted by Boko Haram militants in Kenya.

There are many obstacles that stand in the way of female education, most of them grossly unfair and prejudiced. According to the 'Realisation of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl' report for the Human Rights council, women account for nearly two thirds of the world's 758 million adults who cannot read or write. The study also clearly outlines some of the causes of the female gender gap. The most common of these was gender stereotypes towards the roles of women. It is commonly assumed that women do domestic work, and are financially dependent on their husbands. This perception of men as breadwinners has led to the unfair prioritisation of men over women.

Another factor is finance. Girls are more likely to drop out of school when they are living in poverty and struggle to buy school materials, and so existing biases towards boys may lead them to getting an education instead.

Other aspects include poor infrastructure and limited access to clean water and sanitation at school, educational bias, and sanctions resulting in dress code violations.

What can be done to resolve this pressing issue? Many activists, like Malala, have brought this disparity to greater importance and urgency. Countries are taking measures to promote girl's education. For example, countries such as the UAE are including opportunities for girls to expand their learning. Oman awarded 500 full scholarships annually for higher education to girls who completed secondary school with an 80-percent grade point average. School should also be made a safe and enjoyable learning environment where girls have access to basic needs.

Everyone can make a small difference by simply becoming aware of the impact of these issues, discrediting gender stereotypes. Hopefully, with our combined efforts, we will get closer to a fully egalitarian society in the future.

Ajay Selvan, Third Year

LGBT Healthcare: How far is left to go?

Despite being only 2 years in, the 20s are shaping up to be a decade of great change in diversity around the globe; since 2020, Chile and Switzerland have joined the countries where same-sex marriage is legal, as well as the endless battle over the "don't say gay" bill in Florida developing by the day. However, the level of equality in healthcare worldwide for members of the LGBTQ+ community is frequently suffocated by other, "more pressing" news stories, so much so that it is hidden completely to the population and the evolution of time - I would like to address this for you today.

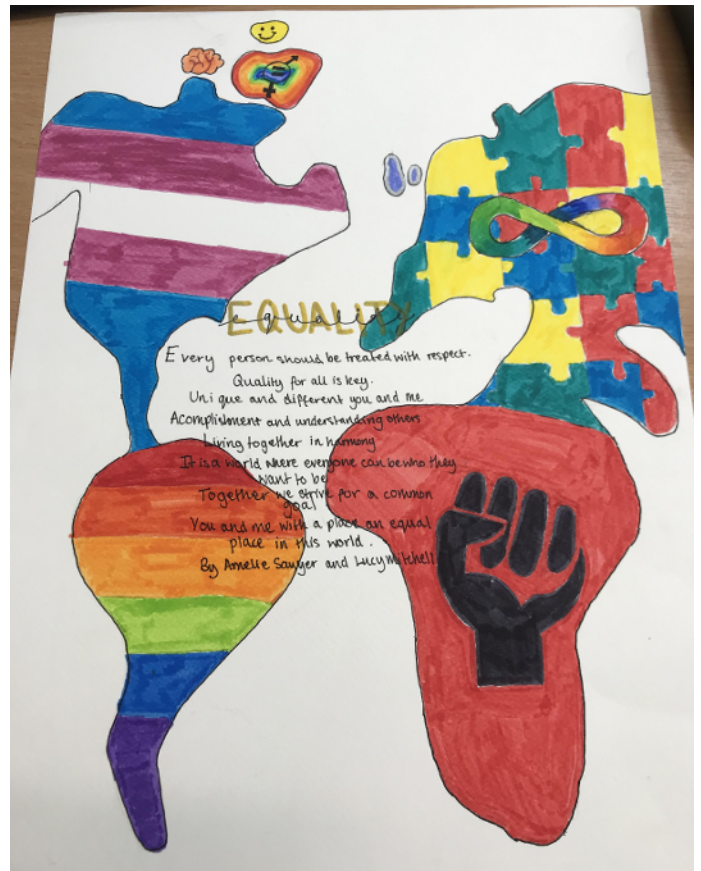
Although seeming obvious, reproduction and contraception are two experiences that, most focally in the USA, are very different for queer people compared to cisgender heterosexual couples. However, a study by the Guttmacher Institute for Reproductive Health in 2020 stated that 46% of queer women reported pandemic-related delays or

cancellations at contraceptive or sexual health clinics, compared to 31% of straight women. If we place this figure alongside the mere 3.4% (as of 2020) of women who identify as LGBTQ+ in the USA, the fact becomes shocking, and has done nothing but aid the growing equality crisis taking place among the citizens. As well as this, the community has been harmed by heteronormative assumptions (medical views that revolve around the workings of heterosexual people/couples) taking place in hospitals or clinics, such as the idea that queer women do not need birth control - as a result of this, many are not receiving the same sexual health counselling, screenings or care that any human being deserves in a first world country such as that.

1 in 7 LGBTQ people in the UK, according to a study by the Stonewall foundation in 2021, feel uncomfortable approaching their local GP about health issues for fear of being discriminated against, the vast majority of these being people who do not identify with their birth-assigned gender. This could stretch from small ailments to check-ups that could result in life or death. As a member of Generation Z, the sheer volume of that number horrifies me - why should any humans, in this day and age, feel the need to stay unsafe for fear of not being accepted in a place that should offer help? Following on from this, 3 in 5 trans patients in hospitals have had difficulty communicating what is necessary due to a lack of general understanding of specific trans needs by healthcare staff. Although this issue cannot be directly blamed on doctors/nurses themselves, less can be said for the UK government and officials responsible for training, as something as simple as an informed conversation could save lives.

The community is struggling, we can all see that, and more and more queer lives are being lost every year because of silence out of fear, or force. I cannot stress enough the level of pain this is causing for thousands around the world, as well as to the daily evolution of society. Planet Earth has been shaken to its core but in times of crisis found change, resilience and relief; it's time to do the same for LGBTQ people.

Annabel Cochrane, Third Year



Amelie Sawyer & Lucy Mitchell, First Year



Apsara Naguleswaran, Fourth Year



Yasmin Shawgi, First Year

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

THIS 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...

The Queen's Knickers

It's a busy year for the Queen – she has lots of important events to attend. But disaster has struck the palace as Her Majesty's knickers have been nicked- call the royal guard!

TaleGate Theatre Productions, producers of 'Father Christmas Needs A Wee!' and 'The Giant's Loo Roll' bring you this regal children's musical full of songs, silliness and a corgi or two!

Sunday 31st July 2022, 2:00pm, 6:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY ...

Lulu – For The Record

Lulu has made music and memories with the greatest of all time. Elton John wrote songs with her, Bowie produced and recorded with her, McCartney duetted with her and one of the Bee Gees married her.

It's a story that has to be told and provides a once-in-a-lifetime insight into some of the world's musical legends. Join Lulu as she shares, for the first time, many untold stories, her memories and experiences with the greats – and enjoy with her the music that has been her constant companion.

This is Lulu – For The Record.

Sunday 14th May 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about STEAM

Steam is a computer gaming digital distribution platform and storefront. It is the biggest platform for desktop- or laptop-based gaming, with a range of more than 30,000 games available. The platform has become a lively social environment for many gamers, and allows people to trade, sell and buy gaming items for real money. Valve, the developers behind Steam, have also released different hardware that works with the platform, including the Steam Deck – a hand-held console that lets users play their favourite games while away from their computer.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNSUITABLE GAMES

Among the 30,000+ games on the platform, there are many that aren't appropriate for children. Individuals can view and download games featuring adult content if they verify their age – but, of course, it's easy to enter a false date of birth online. This can lead to children and young people finding games that they shouldn't have access to: featuring violence or profanity, for example.

SPENDING SPREES

Steam hosts regular sales – including some where game prices are reduced by up to 90%. Some sales promotions also include a mini-game or event which encourages users to spend more money. The sales can be an excellent time for young gamers to purchase the titles they've been wanting, but the attractive discounts can also promote impulse buys driven by the fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Steam isn't a social media site, but it certainly shares some of their elements. Users can add other people as 'friends', for example (whether they know them in real life or not), and then communicate privately with them using text or voice chat. The platform also hosts public discussions and groups for socialising. Steam users can also leave comments on the profiles of other players.

POTENTIAL SCAMS

Sadly, Steam's immense popularity has made it a lucrative destination for internet scammers. The most common ruse is phishing: scammers send links to other users, aiming to trick them into entering their login details – which are then stolen. Once in control of the account, the scammer sends messages to everyone on the victim's friend's list, in an attempt to hijack their accounts too.

SHADY TRADERS

The Steam Community Market is a built-in trading area where players can trade resources for their games on the platform. Gamers can exchange items, or buy and sell them using real-world currency. It's possible for unwary users to be scammed through bad trade deals, and Steam doesn't usually get involved when this happens. There are also third-party trading websites, which can be risky to use.

SPARSE AGE RATINGS

Steam is a digital distribution platform for games of all kinds, including ones not rated by regulatory bodies. Getting a game rated takes a long time, and can be expensive, so developers only tend to follow that process when releasing a title that will be physically sold in shops. Most games on Steam, therefore, don't have an advisory age rating on the store page.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Steam does have some limited parental controls that can restrict exactly what games someone's account can view and access. This can be set up by navigating to the 'Family' tab in 'Settings', then selecting 'Manage Family View'. The platform then allows parents and carers to share a Steam account with their child and limit them to age-appropriate games.

USE GIFT CARDS

Having payment methods (like card details or PayPal) linked to a Steam account makes it very easy for a child to purchase new games or spend money on items in the marketplace. An excellent and safe alternative would be to buy a Steam gift card and let your child make their purchases with that instead – putting a manageable cap on how much they can spend on the platform.

APPLY STEAM GUARD

Steam Guard is an optional additional layer of security that protects accounts. Enabling it ensures that anyone attempting to log in to that account also needs to provide authorisation via their phone or email. The computer that your child uses Steam on can be authorised to prevent having to provide separate authentication for each login.

SHARE A LIBRARY

Using Family Library Sharing lets everyone at home share games across accounts (while still keeping their accounts separate). The entire game library from each account is shared with the other account holders – a great way to avoid having to purchase a different copy of the game for each of your children. However, if two users want to play the same game separately, you would need to buy it twice.

SAFE MODDING

Modifying a game to customise it or to introduce new content – known as 'modding' – is common on Steam. There's nothing inherently bad about modding, but installing the wrong mods can be disastrous: they can stop games from working properly, or at all. Steam's mods are unlikely to contain viruses or malware, but it's still possible – so ensure your child reads the mod's reviews first to avoid anything dangerous.

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.



Sources: <https://help.steamowered.com/en/faq/view/7059-959-2239-AS7B>
<https://help.steamowered.com/en/faq/view/5707-5230-959-ES4E>



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