

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Last week we were delighted to host the Tees Valley Business Club in the Auditorium for their meeting 'Generation Tees Valley'. The wide-ranging discussions included consideration of employment opportunities in the region and how local businesses can get involved with schools across the region. Five of our Sixth Form students spoke eloquently about how businesses, parents and Former Pupils have helped in careers talks, Business and Economic lessons and activities such as Yarm Apprentice and the Business and Economics Society. Leading business members from across the region went away

praising the students' confidence and delivery, and there was a palpable sense of optimism about future opportunities to engage with schools.

There has been a buzz of excitement across the school this week with House Drama rehearsals taking place during lunchtimes and after school which culminated in last night's performance, which I sadly had to miss this year. I would like to congratulate all the pupils who took part either on stage or behind the scenes, the Sixth Form Directors who steered and guided the younger pupils and also our Auditorium team for their hard work in supporting the show.

This week's edition of the newsletter is packed with careers guidance and it highlights next week's Careers Cluster event on Public Sector professions which is highly recommended and open to anyone who wishes to register. Read about the Politics Department's visit to the Conservative Party Conference, Hobo's visit to a Business Working Lunch, the most recent Economics and Business Society discussion, and see the fantastic work of our Third Year pupils in the Artists' Corner feature. There is a book review, from Charles which gives us insight into the political climate in America and reports from a fantastic first swimming meet for Yarm School. For aspiring medics, there is a fascinating insight into the application process and the support offered at Yarm. The Community Action Group has an appeal for donations for their latest project: thank you for your generosity. Don't forget to put the YSA Christmas Craft Fair date in your calendar: Saturday 19th November!

If you know of any Yarm Former Pupils, or in fact, are one yourself, we would love to get the word out about our Former Pupil Christmas Drinks event on 17th December. We hope to welcome back former pupils from as wide a span of years as possible, as well as current and former teachers.



Cuthbert House - Winners of the 2022 House Drama Competition. Congratulations to all performers - a review will be in next week's newsletter.

Dr Huw Williams

THE ECONOMICS OF NICOTINE

Last week the EconBus Soc heard from Deacon, Will and Benji in a very thought provoking presentation on the economics of nicotine.

Examining the social costs of so called "alternatives" as well as considering the need for intervention in the market. The talk was well received and attendance was so high that we had "standing room" only before the session even commenced. The presentation culminated in a quiz to assess recall and awareness of the issues covered and we are really grateful to Deacon, Will and Benji for their continued commitment to the department!

Miss C E Rhodes



POLITICS STUDENTS ATTEND CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE



Autumn is the season for the political party conferences and one aspect of the Politics A Level centred around the development of political policy. This conference was set to be a compelling one given recent political events; a new Prime Minister, a looming economic crisis, and a party wrestling with its recent leadership decision. Political conferences often feel like closed shop affairs with only glimpses of insight provided by the media. The chance to wander around, meeting a range of delegates and absorbing the atmosphere was not to be missed.

The students were hosted most generously throughout the day with a number of special meetings, including a session with a Conservative Party Whip, Nigel Huddleston MP, the Minister for Schools, Jonathan Gullis MP, and the Secretary of State for Education, Kit Malthouse MP. They

also met with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire Chris Nelson, along with the Chairman of the Education Select Committee, Robert Halfon MP.

The students had a good period of time wandering around the venues of the conference where they could attend fringe meetings with the likes of Policy Exchange and other think tanks, engage with a range of media representatives, spotting the likes of Andrew Marr and Emily Maitlis.

Later in the day they took up their seats in the main conference hall for a series of speeches from ministers, hearing from Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Therese Coffey, and the speech from the Home Secretary, Suella Braverman. It will certainly have been a memorable and lasting experience for the Politics students.

Mr S Edwards

BUILDING FOR PEACE: CONVERSATION WITH A SYRIAN ARCHITECT

For many viewers the news cycle has moved on from its previous intense coverage of the conflict in Syria. The country remains in conflict, but everyday life also fights to reassert itself. And of course there is then the consideration of the reconstruction of the country.

Into this space steps Marwa Al-Sabouni, currently a leading light in architectural theory. Her recent Ted Talk has garnered over one million views. And yet it all began rather unexpectedly following a memoir, *The Battle for Homs*, which catapulted Marwa to international renown. Considered one of the top architecture books of the year, Marwa was soon voted as one of the BBC 100 Women of 2019. Her book recalls the life of Marwa and her family in the besieged, war-ravaged city of Homs, witnessing over 60% of the city reduced to rubble.

We were delighted that we were able to join Marwa on Friday through a video call direct to her home in Homs, Syria, with Marwa answering a raft of questions with intelligent, reflective, layered and nuanced responses, replete with occasional sound horns leaping through her window from the street.

Her thesis is compelling; Homs over-reliance on textile production led to the proliferation of cheap



housing blocks for migrant workers, all situated on the periphery of the city. This prevented mixing, leading to a sense of alienation, displacement and neglect. Without a sense of place and identity these communities were capitalised upon by political forces, giving rise to a loss of social cohesion and a rise in sectarianism. The notion of fractured communities, ghettoised communities, and an approach to urban planning prioritising profit over providing a meaningful sense of home, is a lesson that extends well beyond the borders of Syria.

It was a great privilege to have access to such a prominent and sought after speaker, one who beyond other accolades have provided expertise to the World Economic Forum, NPR and the BBC. We wish Marwa and her family the very best as she seeks to contribute to a considered reconstruction of her country.

Mr S Edwards

PEST ANALYSIS IN THE REAL WORLD

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Kelly Heward (School Finance Manager) into our Upper Sixth Business lesson today to discuss the external influences on the Finance Department of a business.

Mrs Heward discussed the impact of a range of political, economic, social and technological factors on the school and provided our students with multiple applied examples relating to Covid, the recent changes in the interest rate, current inflation figures, demographic changes and more, before happily staying to answer a plethora of questions.

We are very grateful for Mrs Heward's continued support of our department and for her taking time from her busy schedule to help our students appreciate the reality and relevance of what they learn in the classroom.

Miss C E Rhodes

HOBO TALKS BUSINESS



How does Hobo remain competitive against big name coffee shops on the High Street? Why do they not move to bigger premises? What was the impact of Covid on their business model? What are the biggest challenges they face on a daily basis? How are they responding to the current economic issues? And how do they produce such amazing cakes and flapjack!

We were unable to get an answer to the last question (but were very grateful for the samples brought in

on the day), but in a fascinating and very open and honest presentation from Hobo's owner Lucy and co-worker Rhi, we really learnt an awful lot and got very detailed responses to all of our many questions.

Thank you to Lucy and Rhi for giving up their time to enlighten and engage us and demonstrate that what our students learn in lessons really does relate to everyday life.

Miss C E Rhodes

CAREER CLUSTER

Join us at our Virtual Career Cluster: Public Sector event on Wednesday, 12th October, 6pm - 7.30pm.

This event is online via zoom webinar and open to pupils from all schools - it's ideal for pupils from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth (Year 10 to Year 13).

Registration is essential. [Register here.](#)

Virtual Career Cluster: Public Sector

Wed, 12th October
6pm - 7.30pm

Join us at this virtual event to find out more about working in the public sector.

Discover the different pathways to your ideal career.



YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

FORMER PUPILS CHRISTMAS DRINKS

We are privileged that many of our Former Pupils now send their children to Yarm and would love for you to come along to our FP Christmas Drinks event.

Join us in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium Lounge Bar for drinks on Saturday, 17th December from 7:30pm until 11:30pm.

You are invited to arrive at the School from 7:30pm. Upon arrival, you can enjoy a complimentary

welcome drink (prosecco, lager or a soft drink) while delicious light bites prepared by our outstanding Chef will be available in the Atrium. Our bar will be in full service, allowing you to purchase drinks of your choice until around 11pm.

The event is open to all former pupils so please share the invitation with friends from your time at Yarm.

If you are interested in attending

please complete the form:

<https://bit.ly/FPdrinks22>



ARTISTS' CORNER

More beautiful still life drawings which have been produced by Third Year pupils.

Ms E Stebbings



Anna Kurlöse



Srikari Gollapenne



Oscar Galloway

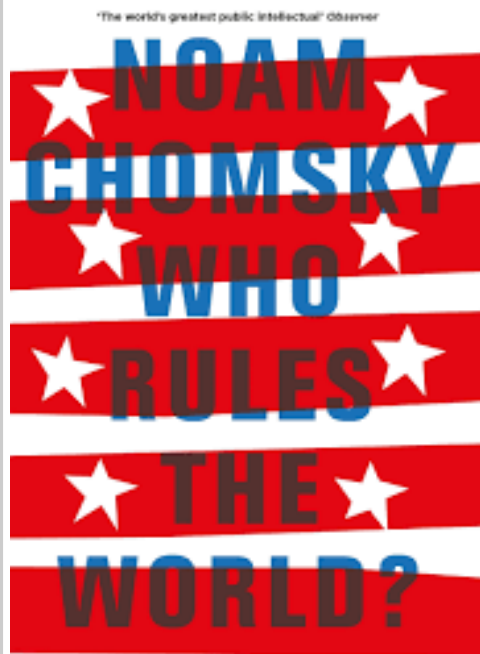


Kate Howell



Ben Hatton

BOOK REVIEW: WHO RULES THE WORLD? BY NOAM CHOMSKY



Over the past week, I have read Noam Chomsky's *Who Rules the World?*, a book that helps me both advance my knowledge in the classroom, while studying global politics, but also provides me with a book to further grasp my interest in my university course; Politics and International Relations.

I really enjoyed the book, as Chomsky offers an unconventional, yet extremely controversial outlook on who has control over global affairs, with his views often aligning with his beliefs in anarcho-syndicalism and libertarian socialism. Immediately from the get-go, Chomsky takes aim at the USA's foreign military endeavours, particularly their interventionist policy during the midst of the Cold War. He describes the inhumane, torture tactics used by the US

military on the orders of Vice President Dick Cheney in order to get information on the 'War on Terror' in Iraq. Lambasting these tactics, Chomsky shockingly warns the reader that we, are disregarding the crimes of the US state, leading them to commit 'Historical Amnesia,' forgetting atrocities such as ethnic cleansing in French Algeria and the Rape of Nanjing at the hands of the Japanese in China.

Throughout the book, his criticism remains at a relentless level, suggesting that the US is a 'leading Terrorist State' in the global political climate, due to their involvement in wars in Angola through backing a terrorist organisation. Chomsky, views major US politicians such as ex-Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger as 'terrorist commanders', owing to his involvement in US proxy wars during their interventions across the globe, during the Cold War. He also highlights how America is viewed by the rest of the world (through polls); the biggest threat to global peace, obliterating the West's view that they are the peacekeepers of the world.

It is correct to say that Chomsky addresses the values that run and control the world rather than the states that have political, real control over the world. Nevertheless, Chomsky repeatedly reiterates his attacks on American interventions,

most notably the wars in the Middle East, claiming that their involvement is all for economic gain, and not for improving countries such as Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan. The use of US drones is heavily criticised, as they have caused irreversible damage to communities of innocent non-combatants. It is clear to see Chomsky sees the US as a selfish, greedy immoral state, ruling the world all in search of economic gain.

Overall, Chomsky somewhat opened my eyes to the dark depths of American foreign policy, and their potential dealings around the world and perhaps their true motives for foreign interventionism. Although I don't believe his claims are entirely wrong or incorrect, I cannot help but feel he is slightly overexaggerating (due to his political sympathies with socialism) America's role in global affairs; forgetting that the bulk of America's intervention around the world was set during the backdrop of the Cold War, where they and the USSR were locked in a fierce battle for global domination, with no mention of the USSR's equally brutal historical record during that period. However, I found the book an extremely valuable experience of an unorthodox, often unspoken view of America's bloody military history.

Charles Rowell, Upper Sixth

SWIMMING SUCCESS!

Last Sunday, Yarm School attended the qualifying event for the English School Swimming Association National Finals for the first time. We had three teams entered in their respective age categories, each team competing in both the freestyle and medley relay.

The intermediate boys' team: Ryan Mills, Owen Reed, Robert Qin, Fin Cook and Mark Elsaify came first in both their events. This puts them in a good position to qualify for the national round.

The senior girls' team: Pearl Lightwood, Hannah Bettinson, Isobel Keetley and Laura Hull. They swam some excellent individual legs and managed to come second in both of their relays.

Archie Norton, Toma Saha, Ethan Stannard and Ben Rogers made up the senior boys' team. This team won both relays in record times, breaking the 200 medley relay set in 2009 by 3 seconds, in the time of 1:51.37, and the 200 freestyle relay also set in 2009 by 1 second, in the time of 1:41.05. This result puts the senior boys in good contention for reaching the final which is to be held at the London Aquatics Centre on November 19th.

Overall, a very strong showing from the first ever Yarm School Swimming Team, and a big congratulations to all athletes who competed.

Toma Saha and Archie Norton
(Lower Sixth)



FOODBANK DONATIONS NEEDED

Members of the Community Action Group are organising a foodbank collection for Stockton and Billingham Foodbank. We would like items that the food bank currently need including:

- Tinned Carrots / Sweetcorn
- Long life milk
- Sugar
- Small jars of coffee
- Juice / Squash
- Tinned Fruit
- Custard
- Jam
- Shampoo
- Deodorants
- Washing up liquid
- Washing powder

All donations should be brought to E3, under the Friarage stairs or the Atrium donation bins by Friday 14th October. We appreciate all donations.

The Community Action Group

SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).



Rudolph Rodeo
Children's Games,
Santas's Grotto!



Craft Stalls,
Gift Ideas,
Food & Drink

Yarm School Association

CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

Saturday 19th November
10am - 4pm, Yarm School
Adults £2, Children free

GETTING INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL ...

Only 15.6% of medical school applicants were successful this year. That is surely a statistic to set the nerves jangling of many prospective applicants. And the trend seems to be downward, from 20.4% in 2021.

Taking time to research and plan the application process is critical.

Students are able to choose four medical schools on their UCAS application and have one additional insurance degree course. But even with top grades and high scores in the biomedical admissions tests (UKCAT and BMAT) many were unsuccessful, with some turning to courses overseas in the likes of Latvia and Poland. Indeed there has been a recent surge in applications to courses in Poland. Courses taught overseas in English can cost around £10,000/year for the six year duration. And the traffic flows the other way with overseas students taking up places at one of the 43 UK Medical Schools, though this provision or allocation is capped at 7.5% of places, and they will pay 3 to 4 times the price for the opportunity.

Good exposure to the admissions test is certainly important, but so is the need to get a good sense of the different ways and approaches to teaching by the medical schools. The major difference here is between more traditional courses with classroom teaching for the early years and integrated courses with

clinical experience from the start. Work experience is also vital and on this front it is essential that it is meaningful and provides a learning outcome not just empty bragging rights, as students' family contacts will vary enormously.

The relatively new medical schools of Sunderland, Lancashire, Chelmsford, Lincoln and Canterbury have spearheaded attempts at great social inclusion but still remain hugely over-subscribed with Sunderland receiving eight applicants per place in 2021-22. The newest idea on the block is an apprenticeship route, already available in the NHS for nurses and paramedics. Likely to launch next summer this exciting innovation is certainly something to look out for!

I caught up with Mr Tom Newman, Head of Biology and the Career Ambassador for Health Professions at Yarm School. Mr Newman takes responsibility for all applicants for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, as well as assisting all others interested in health profession routes. His Med Soc is a significant source of support, information and guidance for prospective applicants and is open to members of the Sixth Form. Below you can find Mr Newman's responses to a range of questions I asked him; they are very thoughtful, detailed and invaluable for those

wishing to reflect on future options.

1. Is it hard to get into Medical School?

Yes. With limited places and most applicants who are considering medicine already set to achieve As and A*s at A level - it is extremely competitive. Unlike most university degree courses, there are a number of obstacles to overcome even before submitting an application - let alone the prospect of an interview.

2. On average how successful are Yarm applicants compared to the average applicant in the UK?

Very. 47 students have gone on to study MDV courses in the past 3 years alone. Our students most definitely buck the national trend. In the same period, of those students who make a UCAS application, 81% of them have received at least 1 offer of a place - the vast majority of them then go on to achieve the required A level grades. We do also support re-applications - and have a very strong success rate there too.

3. How important is A Level choice?

The GMC approves 44 medical schools in the UK - this, compared to the 130+ higher education institutions in the country. This means that your options are already limited - Each medical school will have its own relatively unique entry requirements and admissions policy. In order to ensure that you have the

GETTING INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL (cont.)

prerequisites to apply for the vast majority of Med Schools - Chemistry and Biology A Levels are essential. It is possible to apply with just one or the other - but this will limit your choices significantly. As for the third A level choice - it is broadly up to you, some students choose to complement Chemistry and Biology with Maths (indeed some universities such as Cambridge suggest this), but most will welcome applicants with a variety of third A level choices - my advice is pick an A level you are likely to succeed in and importantly one that you will enjoy. Successful Yarm medics have studied chemistry and biology alongside History, Geography, French, Spanish, Psychology to name but a few.

Many pupils/students overlook the importance of GCSEs - most medical schools will require a grade 6 or above in English and maths, some will now ask for a minimum of a grade 7 in an attempt to help them sort and select the very best candidates.

4. What about work experience?

What counts as good experience and how does an applicant secure work experience?

Obtaining work experience can seem like a significant challenge and we will work with students to help them secure placements but there

are a number of things that they can do themselves.

- Brighton & Sussex - Virtual work experience
- MOOC - Future Learn - Sheffield University
- Local hospitals often run volunteering schemes for students (aged 16 or over)
- Local GP

Actually - the most important thing is long term commitment to something voluntarily - could be directly related to care (e.g. in a care home or in hospital) but really it could be anything - junior hockey / any sport coaching, helping tutor / teach younger pupils, could link in with the D of E volunteering section, charity shop,

Paid work can also be relevant too - it is about the experiences you get along the way & the skills you learn such as teamwork, leadership, resilience.

5. What support is offered in school?

Substantial support but it must be driven by the pupil / student. We understand the process inside and out - we offer guidance & experience opportunities (like YS4 event coming up), Med Soc, & general events throughout the year. When it comes to the sixth form, we explore 'life as a doctor' in the lower 6th and help with work experience placements -

we then help with entrance exam preparation (we run a UCAT course in the summer) - followed by personal statement support and help with making strategic decisions when it comes to selecting where to apply - it can be a minefield in terms of entry requirements. We then run an in-house bespoke interview preparation program - culminating in a mock MMI (Multiple Mini Interview) evening before the main interview season (January - April).

6. Do Medical Schools differ greatly in what they offer? Does it matter where someone studies medicine?

There is some variety, yes - some courses are more traditional and students won't come into contact with patients for a number of years - in favour of learning the theory first. Others are integrated, with both a lecture and seminar approach combined with placements from first year. Some pride themselves on a PBL (Problem Based learning) approach which helps to develop other important skills such as teamwork, communication and critical thinking alongside learning theoretical knowledge. It is important to research the way in which the course is taught as this can be a determining factor - however, based upon your academic profile (including your UCAT/BMAT score), your degree of freedom to choose your Med School based upon

GETTING INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL (cont.)

their course structure is likely to vary - my advice is to remain flexible. At the end of the day - all UK medical schools must adhere to strict GMC guidelines in order to be licensed to train UK doctors - IE they all broadly teach the same content - their methods will just vary.

7. What do you think about overseas Medical Schools?

It can often seem a bit of an afterthought for candidates who do not get a place in a UK med school - but actually, there are some seriously good options out there if you are interested in studying abroad. It is often possible to apply simultaneously alongside a UCAS application to a European university - many of which offer courses in English - often paired with a UK Med School.

8. Does all of the above apply for Dentist and Vet applicants too? Is there different advice you would offer?

On the whole, yes - for Vets - the work experience element is a little more involved. A number of Vet Schools will now specify a set number of weeks of work experience as a requirement - examples of good work experience include volunteering on a farm - lambing, calving, helping care for livestock in general, experience in a

small animal practice, equine vets, abattoirs (yes, really) to name some experiences that our successful vet applicants have engaged with. Vets do not need to take a pre-application test (like the UCAT & BMAT) but Dentists do. All three courses will require an interview - we also help prepare students for these interviews and they will also take part in the mock MMI experience.

9. What would be the top three tips for a prospective applicant?

Make sure that you are able to confidently answer the question 'why medicine?' - to do this you will need experience in medicine yes, but also it is important to have considered other career paths if only to convince yourself that you have made the right decision.

Your GCSE results are important - get into good study habits early

Choose the right A levels

10. What other routes would you advise someone to consider besides a Medicine application?

It is so important to remain open minded when thinking about a future career. You may be reading this thinking 'yes, I am 100% doing medicine and nothing will change my mind' but it is important to allow yourself to be persuaded by other careers and other options out there - all too often, students will sit in an

interview having already submitted their UCAS form and to have to justify 'why medicine' but the only answer they can come up with in their head is 'because what else is there?'.

If money is your motivation - there are more lucrative careers out there

If life long learning is your motivation - why not academia?

If working with people is your motivation - you do not need to become a doctor to make an impact...

There are a huge variety of allied healthcare professions which are all central to the care of patients - I would urge you to explore these too - pharmacy, physiotherapy, radiography, nursing, paramedic science to name but a few.

In December we are organising a trip for those members of the current Fourth Year interested in exploring further ideas around the health professions. Hosted by the Strive Academic Centre at The James Cook University Hospital the workshop will expose pupils to skills and advice in this area of careers. Further details will be emailed directly to parents and pupils.

Mr S Edwards

Ice Gala Winter Ball

26th November 2022

Includes
Sensational
Ice Show
&
3 course meal

* Fiery welcome * Arrival Drinks * Entertainment * Ice Bar *

Dress code Diamonds and Furs

Skates on at midnight

Tickets available now £55

www.ypssc.co.uk

COMING SOON : SNOOKER GREATS

Come and join Steve Davis and Dennis Taylor as they recreate the match that gripped a nation – the 1985 World Snooker Final.

Snooker legend John Virgo is your host and referee for an evening guaranteed to include his famed, hilarious snooker impressions.

A night not to be missed, there will also be a Q&A, providing you with the opportunity to pose the questions you always wanted to ask...



Monday 17th October 2022, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

COMING SOON : LIPSTICK ON YOUR COLLAR

Step back in time to the golden era of music where the jukebox roared and feet didn't touch the floor. Get your dancing shoes at the ready, grab yourself a milkshake and relax – you are in for an evening of back to back hits from the 1950s and 60s!

Performed by a full live band, featuring some of the country's top musicians, this incredible show features excellent vocals, tight harmonies and an infectious sense of fun.



Saturday 22nd Octoberr 2022, 7:30pm

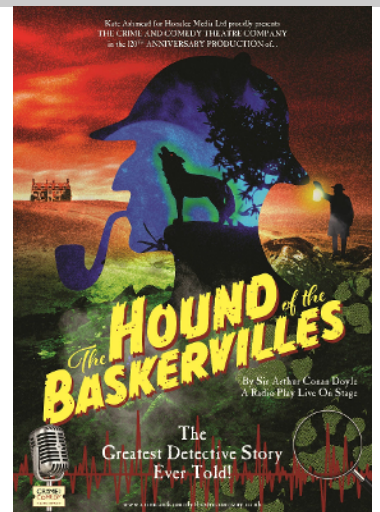
[Book Online Here](#)

NEXT MONTH : THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

Presented by Crime And Comedy Theatre Company as a radio play on stage, this tale of murder, mystery and horror is surely the greatest detective story ever told!

COLIN BAKER, will be playing Sherlock Holmes. Colin is of course known for his countless theatre and television appearances, but perhaps most famously for his starring roles in Doctor Who and The Brothers.

Celebrating the 120th anniversary of the publication of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic detective novel.



Saturday 5th November 2022, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

10 tips for parents and carers

HOW TO BE GREEN WITH YOUR TECH

Right now, humans aren't living sustainably: we're taking too many resources and not leaving the world in a fit state for future generations. Old tech products are a clear example: if we throw them away, the poisonous lead and mercury inside can get into the food chain through the soil. Recycling tech, though, has its own issues: it's often exported to countries where the law doesn't protect people from hazards. Whole villages (including children) sort through discarded devices to remove useful parts and substances like gold, silver and copper – often putting their health at risk. Finding ways to re-use tech is the greenest option.

So what can we do with those cupboards and drawers full of old phones and unwanted computers?
Reuse, recycle, donate or sell them!

1 DONATE THEM TO CHARITY

There are lots of charities that redistribute unwanted tech to worthy causes, either in the UK or in developing nations. If your old products are still working, this is a great option – as it means that new products don't have to be made. Search online for your nearest place that does this.

2 REMEMBER THE BATTERIES

Almost all batteries can be recycled – even the little 'button' ones from smaller gadgets. You could choose a box at home or school to keep used batteries in, and then take them to a designated place that collects them. Be very careful, though – button cells can be deadly if eaten by small children or pets.

3 USE YOUR ONLINE SAFETY KNOWLEDGE

If you're recycling, selling or repurposing any of your devices, make sure that all your personal data, private photos and so on have been deleted before the tech leaves your hands or is connected online.

4 REUSE THEM

Old smartphones can be used as webcams, security cameras, baby monitors or pet cams: there are apps that will configure them to do this. You can also turn an outdated phone into a TV remote control, an alarm clock that wakes you up with your favourite track, or a media centre you can take to places where you wouldn't risk your new phone.

5 TURN IT INTO SOMETHING NEW

Smartphones are more powerful than most older computers. If you have an unwanted android phone, it's quite easy to create a new computer – you could use an old TV as a monitor, meaning you just need a mouse and keyboard. There are also small devices you can buy which let you do the same with iPhones.

6 RETURN THEM

Return devices to the manufacturer or retailer you bought them from. Some manufacturers take responsibility for their products and accept them back, to refurbish and redistribute. If they don't, you could contact them and ask why: the more consumer pressure there is on shops and manufacturers, the more likely they are to act in a greener way.

7 SUPPORT SCIENCE

Let your old devices help modern research. Scientists currently investigating topics like far-off star systems, cancer treatment and earthquakes need enormous computing power. If your unwanted device is WiFi enabled, for example, you can connect it to a network so that it can boost scientists' research.

8 SELL THEM

This is also a green option as it means that fewer devices have to be produced. On top of that, you could also donate some of the money you make to an environmental charity.

9 RESEARCH DISPOSAL METHODS

If your device is beyond repair and no one wants it, get rid of it safely through a specialist tech disposal company. Check that your device won't be shipped off to another country for processing.

10 KEEP THINKING

There's no such thing as 'too many' ways to help our planet! If you come up with a better idea than ours, contact National Online Safety and tell us.

Meet Our Expert

Neil Atkin teaches scientific literacy through his non-profit organisation, Rubbish Science, which engages people in working together to live more sustainably and creatively uses waste to help address real-life problems. There are a range of environmental activities you may like to try on their website: www.rubbishscience.com.



USEFUL LINKS: Places to donate old electrical items: www.recycleyourelectrical.org.uk/donate-electrical-goods/ | How to turn an old smartphone into a computer: www.makuseat.com/tag/ways-to-turn-smartphone-into-pc/
The rules about shop responsibilities on tech: www.gov.uk/electrical-waste-producer-supplier-responsibilities/ | Two scientific research schemes which old devices can support: www.warwick.ac.uk/get-involved/ and www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/brainlab/ | Find your local tech recycling centre: www.recyclenow.com

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