

# Newsletter

No: 1319 | 14th October 2022

# **HEADMASTER'S WELCOME**

With half term upon us, I want to start by congratulating our pupils, celebrating our staff and thanking parents for your support over this busy and vibrant start to the academic year. This is possibly the longest edition of the newsletter ever (I'm sure I'll be corrected...) and it may be that the two week break to come will offer people the chance to sit and read it through; I hope so, because it affirms and emphasises the fantastic range of things going on here at school.

One thing that isn't here, though will surely make the next edition, is the exciting opportunity our rowers had this week with Sir Steve Redgrave - he of 5 Olympic gold medal fame - offering his time to coach them out on the river yesterday afternoon. What a privilege, and I know that he was impressed with the pupils as much as they were star struck and eager to seize the opportunity to learn from him.

I thoroughly enjoyed the thought-provoking and powerful event held on Monday, described within, which considered the link between the arts and mental health, and I know that pupils have reflected on World Mental Health day in their tutorials this week. We learn of the power of reading in this regard from Mrs Mason, too.

Mr Edwards and Miss Rhodes offer some fantastic advice and summarise the various activities that have taken place about careers, in the widest sense of the word, with some really valuable reviews, reports and information to consider. This includes the most recent Careers Cluster Event, on the public sector, which was extremely well received, and an interview with Mr Taylor on the value of the humanities.

Reports and reviews of pupil engagement includes our brass group welcoming the Cook Island rugby league team to the region, terrific success in a national science competition, House petanque results (yes, you read that right), a full review of House Drama, news of a debate on evil, dinner with our MP, an intellectually heavyweight book review by Abi, and an invitation to enter the annual Economics Poetry competition.

The sport section offers a remarkable review of our pupils collective and individual successes and I heartily congratulate all those mentioned, including three pupils who have gained international success at netball, the youngest ever Durham university

hockey player, two pupils vying to reach England Hockey squads, an astonishing 104 pupils playing representative hockey, netball success in the national competition and success at the terrific Tees Head last weekend. I know the rugby teams have had great success in the county tournaments and Schools Cup and - hot off the press - we also just learned that our swimmers have reached the national finals, making it into the top 30 schools nationwide: more to come later in the term.

Parents enjoyed the recent Gin and Swing evening in the Lounge Bar, and there is a call from the YSA for donations for the Christmas Fair Tombola stalls, and a call for volunteers to make this important community event run smoothly: thank you for offering some time, if you are able, to support this event.

I wish you all a productive yet restful half term: well earned.

Dr Huw Williams



Yarm School musicians welcome the Cook Islands' rugby league team to the Tees Valley at the Civic Reception held at Rockcliffe Hall.

## SYMPOSIUM COLLABORATION ON WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

'All Art is Quite Useless' Oscar Wilde

NOT at Yarm School it isn't!

World Mental Health Day was marked in a wonderfully reflective and collaborative way on the evening of Monday, 10th October when our Senior Music Department held a gathering of young people from across the Tees Valley. The 'Skiver Symposium', named in memory of a young Stockton man called Peter McIvor, brought together a wide range of pupils from Stockton, Darlington, Hartlepool and Yarm. They came together to share creative and artistic approaches to issues related to

mental health and life choices. Led by Mr McGrother, pupils listened to presentations from teachers of art, photography, design and music, who celebrated the value and importance of the creative subjects and the ways in which the arts help young people to process their emotions.

The event also enabled the music department to collaborate with our art teachers and sixth form pupils and culminated with an emotional rendition of the song 'One More Light' written by Linken Park and performed by our very own Phoenix band. The event was added to with contributions and talks from the Teesside branch of The Samaritans

and a prison officer from Holme
House Prison who both outlined
approaches to listening and arts as
therapy in custodial situations. We
were joined for the evening by
members of Peter's family and 'Pals'
– a new group for men in Stockton
on Tees focused on improving
mental health in the Borough.

This event signalled just one of many forthcoming music partnership initiatives that will enable our pupils and staff to look at how music and the arts can impact on the health and well being of all in our community. As was stated at the end of the evening, this is to be continued ...!

Mr M McGrother









I-r: a section of "Absent Presence" - a painting about coping with grandad's Alzheimer's by Poppy Stephens; a painting by Alice Ward in response to the theme In the News/Mental Health; a painting by Zaara Soni in response to the same theme; paintings presented at the Symposium evening; Phoenix band performing 'One More Light'.



## **DOUBLE THE WORKING LUNCHES!**

First up was Nikhil Krishna who left Yarm in 2016 to read Economics and Management at Oxford. During that time, he did internships at various places including a start-up accelerator in London and Deloitte's supply chain consulting practice. After finishing at Oxford in June 2019 he took a gap year (half of which he completed as planned, half of which was impacted by Covid), and then started at OC&C Strategy Consultants in London in January 2021, where he currently works. He gave an insightful talk into his life after Yarm, offering advice about securing internships, clarifying for us what his career involves and inspiring us with words of wisdom and advice to his "younger self". Finishing off with guidance specific to Oxford applicants, Nikhil's session was appreciated by a large audience, varied in disciplines and goals.

We send many thanks to Nikhil for coming in during his annual leave whilst visiting his family, and we wish him continued success with his career, knowing he will be back in to visit again in the future.

The Second Working Lunch of the Week saw us welcome back Former Pupil Dheeraj Viswanath (Class of 2014). After a superb and well received Google Meet talk last year reflecting on Dheeraj's life post Yarm, he had kindly offered to return at a later date to talk about the Energy



Crisis, and today was the day. Now employed as a Strategy Consultant in PA Consulting's Economics and **Investment Strategy division** specialising in the Energy and Utilities sector, Dheeraj previously worked in EY's Strategy and Transactions division and the energy regulator Ofgem where he briefly worked in implementing the retail price cap! Dheeraj had a captivated audience of keen Economists. **Business students and Geographers** who listened enthralled as he discussed the current energy landscape in the UK, the energy crisis, price caps and the scope for nationalisation, before he addressed a plethora of challenging and probing questions.

We are very grateful to Dheeraj for taking the time away from his busy day job to enlighten our students and I really appreciate the commitment and energy of our students in engaging with a speaker so well at the end of another busy week.

We wish Dheeraj well and hope to see him again soon as in the words of one attendee "This was the best economicsy Working Lunch ever"!

Miss C E Rhodes

## **READ ALL ABOUT IT**



Building on the success of the Economics Scrapbooks, with the L6 beginning to appreciate how applicable classroom theory is to the real world, this week the group were challenged (not only with finding the Library!) but also with selecting an Economics book of interest to them, with the goal of producing a book review by January to share with their peers.

Miss C E Rhodes

# ARE YOU A POET WHO DOES NOT KNOW IT?

The now annual Economics poetry competition is now open! Can you write an original Economics based poem, song or rap and submit it to Miss Rhodes by Monday 31st October. Not only open to Economists this is an opportunity for other pupils and students to show what they know!

I look forward to seeing what will be produced!!

Miss C E Rhodes

# SCIENCE AT HEART COMPETITION SUCCESS



We are (for the second year running!) runners up in the Imperial College Science at Heart competition which was held last week.

On Wednesday the Upper 6th Team consisting of Neha, Evie, Scarlett, Shaan and Divya pitched their novel approach to reducing the number of heart disease related deaths in the UK. Their poster, entitled: 'The use of stem cells to produce artificial cardiac muscle to reduce the number of deaths caused by dilated cardiomyopathy and post-myocardial infarction heart failure' coupled with their informative and well delivered

expert panel of judges. Success was down to their hard work as a team which meant that their poster was incredibly well designed, clear to read and well researched. The team have secured a £500 prize which will be spent on science-related activity in school. They will also be invited to write for the British Heart Foundation blog in due course. The result in this prestigious national competition is a testament to their hard work on top of balancing their A Level studies and other extracurricular commitments.

Mr T Newman

# MUSICIANS WELCOME COOK ISLANDS' RUGBY TEAM

With the Rugby League World Cup commencing on Saturday, teams from across the world are descending on England. Different areas of the country are hosting teams and the Tees Valley is looking after the Cook Islands' national team. The Cook Islands have a strong historical link to Teesside through Captain James Cook after whom the islands were named after the explorer's death.

What an honour it was for our instrumentalists to play at the Civic Reception at Rockliffe Hall where the team will be staying during the stay in the area. Our visitors were so touched to hear their national

anthem played and the team responded with the sounds and the spirit of the South Pacific. Tony Iro, Cook Islands Rugby Team Head Coach, said: "It was great to be welcomed with the national anthem, that was very unexpected. This place (Rockliffe Hall) is probably too good for us but I'm sure we'll learn to live with it!"

The Cook Islands will be playing
Tonga at the Riverside Stadium on
30th October. Having experienced
the Haka and the infectious energy of
our visitors at the Civic Reception,
the rugby and the atmosphere
certainly won't disappoint!

With heartfelt thanks to all pupils, students and staff who performed at the event and play well Cook Islands!

Mrs K Staggs



# DEBATE: THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT YOU CAN BE BORN EVIL



This week's Debate Society had a strong turnout, despite the looming presence of House Drama. We began with the serious matter of naming our final team, which has thus far lived in anonymity. Jodie and Muhammad presented the case for 'Agree to Disagree', which was defended well against the challenge that it sounded like admitting defeat, and has already become something of a catchphrase. We then moved on to discussing topics for debate, and in lieu of our usual topic list settled on the new Jeffrey Dahmer series as a point of interest. To allow for broader arguments, we formed the motion 'This House believes that you can be born evil'. Teams Vici and Agree to Disagree were assigned the role of proposition, with Arguably the Best and Ultimate Shannerz as opposition.

After a brief discussion in their teams, the debaters for each side

returned. The proposition's argument was introduced by Caroline from Vici, who explained that genetics are a key component in personality and mental state and therefore influence whether someone is evil. The proposition's argument was that two people can experience the same environment and only one may 'become' evil defined as the state of being overwhelmingly bad - and so their difference is clearly innate. Though she claimed everyone has the potential for evil, Caroline argued that some are far more likely: they are born evil, hence Hobbes' negative perspective of life in the state of nature. The brunt of her argument focused on the fact that we would like to believe that our environment shapes our nature, but much of ourselves is beyond control or understanding.

The opposition, opening with Cassie

from Arguably the Best, immediately countered the proposition's argument of genetics by labelling it as an excuse. Cassie defined evil as the state of being wicked and taking pleasure in harm, but believed that being evil was a result of a combination of factors in people's circumstances - not genetics. Cassie then employed an intelligent allegory to convey the futility of the proposition's argument; she paralleled the elements of water and fire with the brain, in that they are natural things that can be used for good or evil. Cassie argued that water can give life, but it can also be used to drown someone, and similarly that fire can give heat, but it can also burn - the difference being human manipulation. Therefore, she argued, humans are not inherently evil.

Returning to the proposition,
Muhammad from Agree to Disagree
countered that a dictionary cannot
be used to define the moral problem
of evil. However, he argued that it is
only logical for genetics to play a role
in someone's character, expanding
what Caroline had hinted at through
the example of the MAOA gene.
Muhammad presented that the
MAOA gene in males and a lack of
serotonin are linked to violent
behaviour and the other components
of the opposition's definition of evil.

Ultimate Shannerz's Luke on the

# **DEBATE** (cont.)

opposition quickly rebutted this argument with the fact that many people without the MAOA gene commit murders - a key group being women. Luke highlighted the correlation between socioeconomic hardship and criminal behaviour, giving the example of Mao Zedong, who he argued committed evil acts as a result of being robbed as a child. Luke then ended the debate on a more positive note, arguing for humanity's goodness rather than evil, demonstrated by the kind acts committed even when unobserved.

After the debate had ended, we then proceeded to questions. The proposition was questioned whether it was letting people off the hook by blaming genetics, to which Caroline responded that attempting to explain or justify evil (due to circumstances or genetics) inevitably removes accountability from the perpetrator, but that this was a fault of analysis rather than the genetic argument. However, her answer was slightly unclear in its attempt to argue that some people were 'more evil' than others, rather than an absolute evil. The proposition was then asked whether they were suggesting that those with the MAOA gene have no choice in their actions, which Muhammad humorously answered with the example of a character in Breaking Bad who was moral despite his



circumstances - arguing that we all have a choice, but there is innate goodness or evil within us. Finally, the proposition was asked whether violence equals evil, and they clarified that it was a manifestation of evil.

The questions then turned to the opposition, who were asked for an example of their definition of evil (taking pleasure in harming another), to which Cassie quickly responded with the Jeffrey Dahmer case that had prompted our debate. The opposition was then questioned over whether violence was written in our DNA due to survival instinct, and also why, without genetic justification, had Luke admitted that men were more likely to be violent than women? The opposition once again argued that genetics were merely an excuse for violence, and Cassie proceeded to condemn our patriarchal society as the cause of male violence towards women. The final question highlighted the

contradictions within the Dahmer example due to his mental state, to which the opposition rebutted that his family situation was responsible for his warped outlook.

As the session neared its end, Mr Brash congratulated the speakers on a high quality debate. The opposition of Arguably the Best and Ultimate Shannerz were granted a deserved win, especially due to Cassie's strong speech. Caroline was praised for her speech and Mohammed for his rebuttal, but their weakness as a team was in letting the opposition define evil - an arguable term. Luke was praised for his success in highlighting the inadequacy of the genetic argument, whilst Cassie was complimented on her passionate answers and intelligent rhetorical device. After a fascinating debate, we look forward to finding out more results next week in our final meeting this half-term.

Caroline Louwrens, Upper Sixth

# **EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES**

The Modern Languages
Department has been celebrating
the European Day of Languages
again. This year, the actual date (26
September) fell on a Monday and
our Sixth Form linguists prepared a
whole school assembly conducted
entirely (apart from the hymn) in
French, German, Spanish and, from
the Headmaster, some Welsh.

We ran European Day of Languages activities in lessons with First,
Second and Third Year pupils. There was also a languages-themed lunch on Tuesday 27 September, with pupils and staff asking for their meals in target languages. Many thanks to the kitchen staff for

preparing such delicious European food!

As last year, we ran competitions for a poster on the importance of languages (First Year) and a joke in a foreign language (Second Year).

Congratulations to the winners Arthana Pradeep in First Year, with Eliza Fellows and Aisling Timmons runners up, and Emma White and

Noah Coulman in Second Year.

Finally, this year saw the first running of an inter-house pétanque competition for each year group. See next pages for more details!







# PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SPEAKS TO THE POLITICS SOCIETY



We were delighted to welcome onto the school site Dr Kodili Chukwuma, Assistant Professor in International Security in the School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University. Dr Chukwuma has just recently joined Durham from UEA, and has been recognised and rewarded for his outstanding scholarship in the field of international security. In particular our guest focuses on the continent of Africa, and specifically the country of Nigeria.

His talk to the Politics Society was a deep dive into the nature and extent of terrorism and counter-terrorism in Nigeria, but went further in exploring the very priniciples that underly the concepts of terrorism. After detailing the nature and range of terroristic activity in Nigeria, perpetrated by the likes of Boko Haram, most notably their attack on

the UN HQ in 2011 and the kidnapping of 276 from a secondary school in Borno in 2014 of the Chibok girls, Dr Chukwuma detailed the hard/military and soft/political measures taken against such groups, and assessed their relative effectiveness. It was then over to a more analytical assessment of how terrorism is understood and framed. demonstrating its instability as a concept, changing over time and in different contexts - think Nelson Mandela. The argument went that a poor understanding of the nature of terrorism seruously compromsied the efforts manifested to counter the phenomenon. Ignoring complexities and subtleties, as well as the impact of history, the state and counter-terrorism, risked creating an inertia rather than a positive outcome.

It was heartening to see a crowd of over forty students and staff gathered over a Friday lunchtime to better understand this dynamic aspect of international relations and security. We look forward to continued collaboration with Dr Chukwuma and wish him well in the development of his career in this region.

Mr S Edwards

# **HOUSE PETANQUE**

Last week saw the conclusion of the inaugural House Petanque competition organised to celebrate European Day of Languages. Many thanks to all competitors who volunteered to represent their house with a combination of seasoned Petanque players and enthusiastic amateurs lining up to compete across the days' competition. Year group victories were spread across the houses: Monday saw victories for Aidan in Third Year and Bede in Fifth Year.

Wednesday and Thursday saw a revival of fortune for Cuthbert with victories in First Year and Lower Sixth, whilst Aidan picked up another victory in Fourth Year. With three houses in the running for overall victory, unfortunately competitions on Friday were delayed due to some very un-Mediterranean weather. The Upper Sixth crown was taken by Aidan, however, a final victory for Bede house in Second Year was unable to see any change to the overall winner.

A scoring system of 4 points for a year group victory, 2 points for being a losing finalist and 1 point for fielding a team saw the final results as follows...

# **HOUSE PETANQUE (cont.)**

In fourth place. **Oswald** House with 8 points.

Second place was shared. With 15 points were **Cuthbert** and **Bede** Houses.

Meaning that our inaugral champions are **Aidan** House with 17 points.

Thank you to all competitors, the house captains and staff for helping out.

Mr J Alexander











# A HALF TERM OF MUSICAL OFFERINGS!

It has been a half term in which our musicians have provided so much through their music-making and I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all who have given their time and their talents to support a variety of events both in and out of School.

- - Background
     Music for new
     prep and
     pre-prep
     parents' social

- Amazing performances at Amy Willis' incredible concert
- Choir performances at Senior Prize-Giving
- Ensemble and solo performances at the u3A 40th birthday celebration
- Over 30 performers and composers working their magic at the School's Open Morning
- Background music at the Tees
   Valley Business Club meeting held

at Yarm School

- A thought-provoking evening on the importance of the arts to mark
   World Mental Health Day involving our talented musicians and artists
- Brass and Wind Ensemble at the Cook Islands Civic Ceremony at Rockliffe Hall

Quietly getting on, bringing pleasure to many! Thank you.

Mrs K Staggs





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# **BRONZE D OF E AWARDS**

The following pupils have attained their Bronze Award for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. They have offered their time generously to sporting endeavours such as trampolining, yoga, hockey and dance, and have made progress in their skills section through drama, music, or baking. Most impressive is their creativity and dedication to their volunteering section - where individuals have given their time to community projects and time to others in care homes, or even helping with tutoring young pupils to enhance the quality of others' lives. Finally, they have successfully completed their expedition section exploring fields, farms and hillsides of the North York Moors, making important group decisions and life decisions when faced with, for example, 'long way round' or 'bull in field'!

Naeha Rajaram,

Laura Burns,

Oscar Shaw,

Sophia Kilkerri,

Alexander Walton,

James McGee, and

James Muir,

Adam Addison,

Isra Ali.

Ishita Pathare.

Florrie Tompkins,

Mrs J Guest

# CAREER CLUSTER: PUBLIC SECTOR EVENT EXPLORES THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF CAREERS

Wednesday of this week saw the latest in the Career Department's Career Cluster event. This one focused on the diversity of roles and opportunities within the public sector. This is an enormous and more essential area of training and employment, delivering vital services to our communities, and yet it can feel underexplored as a career pathway.

The remote event designed to add accessibility and convenience to the experience was divided into three panels: Law Enforcement and Security, Government and Social Care, and Healthcare and the

Environment. In a whistle stop tour of so many professions our ten expert guests shared a wealth of experience, insight, information and guidance to those listening. Audience questions explored pathways into the professions, training programmes offered, essential skills and attributes, appropriate work experiences or volunteering ideas, as well as insight into the promotional and career development routes within their professions. We had guest speakers from the CID in the Police, the Prison Service, the Probation Service, the Army, the Fire Brigade, the Civil Service, Local

Government, Healthcare Management, the Ambulance Service and Social Work.

The event was shared with pupils and parents from a range of schools across the region. A recording of the event has been made which can be watched and shared. I would like to offer my most sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the guests who gave their time, insight and guidance so generously, motivated as they are to continue to encourage the very best talent into their most necessary professions.

Mr S Edwards

## **CALLING ALL PARENTS: TOMBOLA DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Donations are requested for the Christmas Indoor Market Charity Tombolas!

We are looking for:

- Bottles for the bottle tombola bottles of \*anything\* from bottles of wine to fruit juice or vinegar, or a box of bottled beers.
- General tombola items we run a

children and an adults tombola and require donations for both. For example selection boxes, advent calendars, chocolates, boxes of biscuits or small gift items.

 Match Funding - if you or a business you know can match fund the charity stalls then please get in touch at ysa@yarmschool.org.

Please bring donations to Senior School reception by Friday 18th November.

This year the proceeds from the adult tombola will support a charity to be confirmed shortly, and proceeds from the bottle and children's tombolas will support the YSA.

# **ARTISTS' CORNER**

Thank you so much, firstly to Monisha Ravichandran for her beautiful pencil drawings of a (gloriously cross!) kitten and a Hibiscus flower. A fun fact is that Monisha drew the Hibiscus on a bumpy car journey - the effect this created is super and really adds depth to the drawing. Very impressive!

Secondly, thanks to Harry Gwynne-Jones for letting me photograph these pages from his sketchbook. The detail in his drawings are intricate and I love peeping through the keyhole! Well done Monisha and Harry!

Jessica Jenyns, Visiting Artist









#### **HOUSE DRAMA REPORT: TOO CLOSE TO CALL!**

"One of the best House Dramas I have ever seen", "Too close to call", "The standard was so high this year" ... were all comments received post show at this year's House Drama Competition, and they were not wrong!

To be a judge for House Drama 2022 was a tough gig, but we were lucky to have the A Team on the job; Mrs Gratton and Mrs Charlton. They commented, as they retired to deliberate "This is tough, we don't know which way it will go ..."

However let's take a look first in more detail at the performances we were treated to on the night. The show opened with last year's winners Bede House, and their adaptation of the film version of Fantastic Mr Fox. Bede must get credit for involving lots of people on the stage, in a variety of animal roles. There was some really inventive use of costume which was great to see and the directors had worked really well with the cast. There were lovely performances throughout the cast, however I must pick out the Fox Family, Sophia, Sabie, Isla, Rose and their friend Kylie played by Caitlin.

There were some really well acted scenes between them, and some great energy, especially from our youngest performers. They also had a lot of lines to deal with, which they did brilliantly. My favourite scene though was a really well staged scene between Boggis, Bunce and Bean, with the three famers sitting at a table, under a spotlight, simple, but really effective! The one thing that prevented this performance, ultimately, challenging for the win, was its reliance on lots of heavy dialogue, and that dialogue was just too guiet. This made it a little hard to follow at times. All in all though, a great performance with lots to love about it! Well done Bede for a strong opening to the show!

Before the interval we were treated to Monsters Inc. from Aidan House. This was colourful and well condensed down into the 25 minute slot, without losing the story. It can be very tricky sometimes to put a film script on stage, particularly an animated film, set in a different reality to ours. Aidan did a really good job though, after a slow start to rehearsals, they worked well as a







team. The company was present in this show, if not always fully integrated. The costumes were really nicely done and the staging had been well thought out. There were many good performances, Harry as Mike and Shlok as Sulley both gave strong, amusing and confident performances well above their years, holding the audience with their energy and clarity of delivery and giving really characterful performances. There were many amusing cameos; Noah as Waternoose with his extra legs, Ben and Jude as Fungus and Randall had a good relationship on stage, but special mention must go to Minakshi who played Roz, showing great comic timing, character and delivery and earning the certificate for the Best Cameo Appearance in House Drama 2022. Monsters Inc. was a very strong showing, and I'm sure was considered by the judges. The one area it could have improved on was in its scene changes, which were often a bit sluggish, and this broke





















up the story a little. This, however, is a minor point, as the overall performance was really strong, and everyone involved should be very proud!

Post ice-creams, we welcomed
Oswald House to the stage with the
90's classic film Mrs Doubtfire. A
very brave choice as none of our
directors or cast were born when
this film was a huge hit ... I can
however confirm I remember it well,
as did the staff and parents in the

audience. To take on a film, with many different settings in quick succession, TV Studio, House, Restaurant, Friends House, Shop, Street etc. is very challenging, and I think it is fair to say that from a directorial and backstage point of view that challenge got the better of them at the dress rehearsal; however what a turn around by show night! They simplified the elaborate scene changes to feature the essentials rather than the

# **HOUSE DRAMA (cont.)**

superfluous and this allowed their vision and the talented performers come to the fore, for what was an excellent all round performance. Lines were clear, characters were strong, the script was well edited, to hold onto the story line and tell it in a concise way for our audience. There were some very strong individual performances, Zaara, Oliver and Esme as the children caught in the middle of the parents divorce were excellent, both funny and touching. Grace as Miranda was headstrong and controlled, providing the perfect opposite to her laid back and carefree husband Daniel, played by James, who then becomes Mrs Doubtfire. Special mention must go to James who was superb as both Daniel and Mrs Doubtfire, his comic timing, energy and range of accents was fantastic and he had the audience in the palm of his hand: a well deserved winner of the Performance Award Certificate. The company were really good, although like Monsters Inc. were not always fully integrated into the action. My favorite section was the montage to show the passing of time, where the directors used the stage space and lighting really well. A very strong, well rounded performance from Oswald and a very strong contender for the win! Finally we welcomed Cuthbert

House to the stage, with an

14th October 2022

# **HOUSE DRAMA REPORT: TOO CLOSE TO CALL! (cont.)**

adaptation of Madagascar. This is one of my son's favorite films, due to this colours and characters in the film ... could this translate to stage? The answer is yes, very successfully! Whoever edited their script did a brilliant job! This was in my view what made this stand out. The essence of the story was not lost at all, it was condensed to tell the most important parts. To start the story already on Madagascar, thereby avoiding the Zoo, the Train station

and the boat trip was a great decision, as this meant staging was not constantly changing and we got to enjoy the performances. It was also the shortest of the scripts, leaving the audience wanting more, which is always the best way! The performances were strong too, Noah, Danai, Olivia and Lucy were all superb and really encapsulated the essence of each of their characters (I'm not totally sold on the onesies!). There were also great

performances full of comedy and energy from Avanish, Alex, Luke and our Penguins ... who closed the show brilliantly! I would have liked to see more of them! The company were fully involved in the scenes as characters, not background dressing, which the directors must be applauded for. I felt like the lights could have been put to better use, as the stage set was static, but again this is a minor point. The whole show knitted together brilliantly, telling a story, transporting us to Africa and making us laugh. A very well acted piece, put together and staged cleverly by the directors.

In the end, it was very tight, but
Cuthbert won it by a gnats hair,
partly in the end down to the simple
yet really effective staging. Which
just goes to show, sometimes it is
best to do one thing really well,
rather than diluting your attention
with lots of jobs or trying to juggle
too many balls. All Houses, directors
and performers must be fully
congratulated for their hard work
though, it really was a superb night
of theatre, enjoyed by all! Also a
huge thank to the Judges and Tech
teams for making this possible!

I hope to see you all at the 5th Year Play at the end of November. We bring you a double header of Tracks and Audience ... don't miss it!









Mr D Brookes

# APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY: A PERSONAL STATEMENT TO STAND OUT

We will all have read the headlines about increased competition for university places this summer and on into the future. This is in some part due to population figures, a surge in overseas applicants interested in study in the UK, and a post-Covid hike in interest. The number of applicants is expected to almost double between now and 2026. There is no hiding from the fact that 'three good grades' at A Level are the crucial ingredient in securing a place, and predictions are a part of this. But the personal statement part of the application can be a critical component in securing the initial offer. It is in many ways your chance to sell yourself to the universities.

It can be valuable to demonstrate and evidence your skills and enthusiasm. The former can be shown by a commitment to a club, sport or activity, beyond all of the opportunities that will be being offered in the classroom. So the likes of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, volunteering experience, music activities or sports teams can be very worth mentioning in this context. An applicant needs to avoid simply offering a list, but should look to link the activities to skills relevant to the course being applied for. Applicants should also avoid trying to game the application; experiences and activities must be genuine, and when that is the case, the enthusiasm can

be felt on the page. Commitment to the course is very important; demonstrating when you have gone beyond the syllabus, be it through further reading (academic journals), listening (to a podcast) or watching, perhaps pursuing an areas of interest in the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), joining the local History Society or bird-watching club. Let the passion be explicit rather than described as passion! MOOCs (mass open online courses) can also show your curiosity to a future course as well as an ability to learn independently and outside of the classroom. University and faculty websites can also be a good source of extra guidance, offering reading lists or links to areas of current research that might interest you.

In terms of the 'language' of the

personal statement, try to capture your voice, but don't be too chatty or conversational. You have a limited amount of words so be succinct and don't waffle. Avoid plagiarism and 'heavy borrowings' not least because university software will detect such practices. You will want a few people - but not too many - to read through and advise on possible alterations. Make sure you have checked carefully for any specific work experience or exams that are needed for your course of choice. There are many people at school who will be assisting you with the process, but take ownership. Personal statements can be very important; they won't win you the place, but they may get you the interview or the offer.

Mr S Edwards

•	×
Research for course and university choices	Avoid bad grammar, spelling mistakes and typos
Write in a formal, succinct but natural style	Avoid flowery or artificial language
Evidence your interest and exposure to the course	Avoid making things up
Go beyond the syllabus with reading, listening, watching	Avoid using someone else's work

# READING, MENTAL HEALTH, AND THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

"Children who are the most engaged with literacy are three times more likely to have higher levels of mental well-being than children who are the least engaged (39.4% vs 11.8%)."

#### **National Literacy Trust (2018)**

"Tested against other forms of relaxation, reading was proved 68% better at reducing stress levels than listening to music; 100% more effective than drinking a cup of tea, 300% better than going for a walk and 700% more than playing video games. Reading for as little as 6 minutes is sufficient to reduce stress levels by 60%, slowing heartbeat, easing muscle tension and altering the state of mind."

Mindlab International, Sussex University (2009)

Monday 10th October was World Mental Health Day and, given the events of the last couple of years and the current world situation, it could be argued that the benefits of reading for improving mental health and life chances for our young people have never been more important.

Here in the School Library we do all that we can to encourage reading and have an excellent stock giving our pupils access to nearly **25,000** books, as well as magazines, newspapers, DVDs, and online resources such as Encyclopedia Britannica and JSTOR. We also offer an eBook and audiobook service, ePlatform by Wheelers

Books. Our pupils can read or listen to books on their Chromebooks, or download an app on to their phones, iPads, and other devices. One of the easiest ways for pupils to find the ePlatform, as well as our other online resources, is to logon to the Yarm School website - in the top right hand corner there is a button for the library which then leads to all our online resources. If pupils need any help with this, or parents would like more information about the library, please contact me at: deborah@varmschool.org. The library is open from 8.15am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday during term time.

Mrs D Mason

# NEW LOWER SIXTH POLITICS STUDENTS ENJOY DINNER WITH MATT VICKERS MP

The thirteen new Lower Sixth
Politics students have immersed
themselves into their study of this
new subject. As well as wrestling
with the first topics on the syllabus
looking at the nature of democracy
and the state of the party political
system, they have enjoyed a half
term of Politics Society speakers on
topics as diverse as green
criminology, global security, life
working for a government minister,
and the impact of architecture on
community cohesion. On Friday

evening they stopped the clocks, or at least sat down to a pleasant meal with Stockton South Member of Parliament, Matt Vickers. Coming as it did just after the election of new party leader and Prime Minister, as well as the close of the recent Conservative Party conference, there was much to discuss and debate. The students took every opportunity to explore issues including impressions of Party Gate, the legacy of Boris Johnson, the ongoing levelling up agenda in the

region, the BLM movement, and current fiscal policy. I would like to thank Mr Vickers for his continued generosity to the Politics
Department and for such a pleasant evening of conversation.

Mr S Edwards



# THE VALUE OF 'HUMANITIES'? THE CLUE IS IN THE NAME!

"Our world is enriched when coders and marketers dazzle us with smartphones and tablets, but, by themselves, they are just slabs. It is the music, essays, entertainment and provocations that they access, spawned by the humanities, that animate them - and us."

Nicholas Kristof

An educational generation ago there was a chasm between the arts and the sciences in terms of A Level subjects. That has now thankfully collapsed and many students are making freer and more considered choices over their future subjects. But still and too often there is a false separation made between the Sciences and the Humanities. How do we value the humanities?

To begin we might recognise that few ask 'what are the sciences? And what are they for?' unlike the challenging questions posed to the humanities subjects. Even back in the late 1980s I remember a 'classic' Oxford University entrance exam question based around the notion of 'How can we afford the luxury of the humanities?' A British Academy report just two years ago suggested that 'graduates in the arts, humanities and social sciences are just as

employable as their counterparts in STEM subjects, fuel some of the fastest-growing sectors in the UK and enjoy rewarding careers in a wide range of sectors.' It went on to suggest the following:

- Of the ten fastest growing sectors in the UK economy, eight employ more graduates from the arts, humanities and social science than other disciplines. They include the well-paid information and communication industry and finance sector
- Humanities and Social Sciences
   (HSS) graduates will be essential to
   fill in the workforce gaps of the
   future, particularly those studying
   fine arts, history and archaeology,
   philosophy and theology, geography,
   sociology and anthropology
- While the health sector is the dominant destination for recent STEM graduates, HSS graduates choose to work in a wide range of sectors across the economy, including financial services, education, social work, the media and creative industries.

This week I spoke with Mr Tim
Taylor, Head of History and the
Career Ambassador for the
Humanities at Yarm School, himself
a passionate advocate for the
humanities, not just for their value
and interest, but also for their power

to increase employability. Below you can read his responses to a number of questions I posed.

Where and when did your love and appreciation of the humanities come from? Is this what you studied at A Level?

I have always loved humanities subjects, as a young child I was fascinated with reading, in particular historical fiction and my interest grew from there. At A Level I studied History, English Literature, Philosophy and Economics. I believe my appreciation for the humanities comes from their nature as subjects that encourage us to think both critically and creatively. They teach us to reason and question what it means to be human.

# What skills did you develop studying humanities at A Level?

Humanities at A Level allowed me to develop a secure and firm understanding and passion for reading, thinking critically and transferring my own arguments onto paper. The nature of the subjects I read at A Level made it very easy to transition to undergraduate study independently. I also enjoyed participating in History Society at school, giving me a taste for academic discourse with regular trips to Bath and Bristol University.

In your experience of studying a

# THE VALUE OF 'HUMANITIES' (cont.)



# degree in History, what skills did you learn that were transferable to life beyond study?

Obviously History has been of significance for my current job as a History teacher! It was however my previous career as an Infantry Officer in the British Army, where the skills I acquired in my History degree were really valuable. Humanities subjects and History in particular requires students to review and critique evidence before developing one's own argument. This skill practised both verbally and on paper at university was extremely useful when faced with high pressure situations, within the infantry where I made use of it on a daily basis, being required to think quickly on my feet. I was fortunate enough to win the top academic prize at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and I owe much of that to the skills forged in my History degree.

Can you give us a sense of what

your fellow students went on to do with their studies in the humanities?

Wow! So many different things, it's difficult to describe, a list is probably better. Some of my fellow students and friends from university have done incredible things with their degrees in History, Politics and other humanities subjects. A few examples:

- Fast jet pilot in the Royal Navy flying the F35.
- Barristers and solicitors
- Middle/Upper management in large retailers, for example Lidl
- Teachers
- Accountants
- Civil servants
- Public relations and marketing

The list is endless, humanities subjects are seen as offering highly transferable skills desirable by a great deal of employers.

# Are there ways in which the study of humanities can benefit society or communities as well as individuals?

I believe that Humanities subjects are crucial in developing empathy, this is a real social value for society. I think that humanities subjects help to create tolerance and understanding between citizens and help lead to greater social cohesion.

They are also important in aiding decision making, particularly on complex societal issues.

What do you think makes a good student of the humanities? What qualities would you look for, or look to build in someone studying humanities subjects?

Clearly having good communication skills both verbally and on paper is important to excel in humanities, these skills we can develop. It is the ability and desire to think critically, to question and debate in order to problem solve that I believe is of prime importance. An open and questioning mind is in my opinion the most important quality for a humanities student.

Those wishing to explore this in greater detail might be interested in the podcast series The Value of Humanities. Anyone wishing to find out more about the humanities options at Yarm School and where these opportunities might lead, please do contact Mr Taylor.

Mr S Edwards

# **POLITICS BOOK REVIEW**

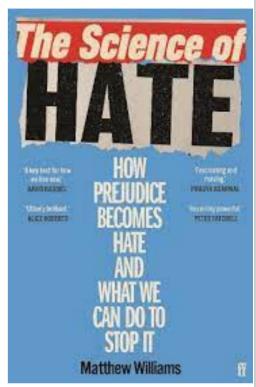
# The Science of Hate: How Prejudice Becomes Hate and What We Can Do to Stop It by Matthew Williams

This book is an exploration of hate through the multidisciplinary lens of criminology, aiming to describe the meaning of hate in a scientific context, the inherent characteristics which predispose humans towards hating, accelerants which exacerbate these characteristics across the tipping point into hate, and setting out proposals for change. Achieving an exhaustive description within 375 pages is, of course, impossible - but what Williams does manage to create is a straightforwardly written and forthright summary of much of the introductory content around the subject of the scientific study of hate. This book is not conclusive and does not claim to be, but it is nevertheless an engaging and accessible discussion of an incredibly sensitive topic of the modern day - hate crime. It is this which makes the book worth reading.

The definition of hate Williams works by throughout this book is the desire to remove a whole group from existence because of a perceived clash of worldview. This definition allows him to relate neatly the concept of ingroups and outgroups - the idea that humans are predisposed to favour their own group over others. Indeed, it seems that the networks of the brain for processing make humans prone to

prejudice. The overall stance seems to be that unconscious bias towards one's own group does exist. Citing biological studies, Williams illustrates that the amygdala (the part of the brain responsible for detecting potential threats), being slightly maladaptive, activates briefly when an outgroup is registered, and must be overruled by the prefrontal cortex. Some clinical trials also suggested that oxytocin can have a role in exacerbating group divides during instances of group threat. Of course, Williams highlights the difference between prejudice and hate - the suggestion is not that all people are prone to hate. He simply demonstrates that prejudice is an ingrained response, which can be exaggerated by other factors, known as accelerants. It is through a sufficient combination of accelerants that unconscious bias becomes hate.

The first of these Williams explores is the role of trauma in shaping hateful behaviour. Adopting a psychodynamic approach to explain this, he expresses how painful and difficult experiences in childhood such as poverty and abuse can lead to unresolved feelings of dependency. The individual is then subject to failure of containment (the ability to alleviate distress and anxiety), as they have no parental figure to



regulate their emotions. This can lead to individuals turning to hate crime, as they have had no parental guidance in another direction, nor do they have any safe outlets. Also helpfully illustrated is the idea of trauma being relative to an individual's ability to cope. Different criminals may have objectively had worse or better experiences in childhood, but this is unimportant as all trauma is relative to the individual's own capacity to process their experiences.

Trigger events are the next accelerant - Williams uses the Brexit vote as one example of this. These are events which occur which increase the frequency of hate within communities, demonstrated through statistical evidence. This is normally

# **BOOK REVIEW: THE SCIENCE OF HATE (cont.)**

for a variety of reasons, such as the increased perception of hate as socially acceptable, and moral outrage increasing the desire to protect sacred values. This increases chances that people will switch from the 'push' category of hate (in which avoidance of the outgroup is most common) to the 'pull' category (in which attacks on the outgroup are made). However, Williams does elaborate on sacred value protection and its ability to inspire hate, explaining the concept of 'terror management'. Those who are better equipped to deal with moral challenges are more likely to desire reduction in suffering over creating punishment when their moral values are challenged by someone, leading to positive action instead of hate. Faith can act as a method of terror management.

Subculture groups take advantage of individuals made vulnerable by other accelerants. They take advantage of individual vulnerabilities and shared sacred values to create identity fusion. This is where the individual's identity and the identity of the group overlap almost entirely. This makes individuals more likely to commit extreme acts of violent hate if their identity is challenged. Williams aptly describes extremist subculture groups as 'finishing schools for those who have gone through the hate mill', and stresses the importance of not

directly challenging the beliefs of those within extremist subculture groups - this could lead to further entrenchment of hateful values.

Subculture groups are also able to take advantage of the internet, which functions as an accelerant due to its ability to act as a 'filter bubble', reinforcing pre-existing views due to the nature of the algorithms on which they function.

I have so far described Williams' book as a collection of summaries of pre-conducted research illustrating various principles behind hate - but there is a personal undercurrent throughout this book which makes it all the more powerful. As well as his role as a criminologist and researcher at HateLab, Williams is a gay man. In the late nineties, he was attacked outside a bar on Tottenham Court Road. He never reported this to law enforcement authorities, due to shame surrounding his identity. He does not stop at his own person, though - there are no less than twenty detailed anecdotal accounts of hate crimes, some of which can be uncomfortable to read. Yet they are necessary - they are a reminder that the effects of hate crime are not abstract. There are many real lives destroyed by the dangers of hate, and by referring to a different tragedy to begin each chapter, Williams ensures that this book never loses this focus. It is an examination of the origins of

hate - but also a tribute to those who have died.

Another merit of Williams' anecdotal structuring is the progressive stretching of the readers' ability to empathise. Victims of hate crimes constitute the first few anecdotes of the book, but eventually there is a change to anecdotes of perpetrators. Williams finds it important that the humanity of hate crime perpetrators is recognised, as this allows for greater understanding. The proposals for change Williams lists are social rather than overtly political, and include questioning prejudgements of difference in media, engaging in contact with different groups (following Intergroup Contact Theory), and being 'first responders' to instances of hate. These changes are all rooted in empathy.

'The Science of Hate' is not only an exploration of the origins of hate, but a call to empathy and a call to effort. This book hopefully inspires its readers to research the topic of hate crime more thoroughly, and to be more conscious of prejudices and hate in their own lives.

Abi Saddington, Upper Sixth

SPORT 14th October 2022

#### **U14 NETBALL**

The U14B/C team travelled to Grangefield last Thursday, to take part in the U14B District Tournament.

The girls were up against five other teams and hit the ground running with a series of wins. The girls all rotated playing positions and concentrated on executing tactics well.

The girls won most games convincingly, suffering only one loss to Ian Ramsey. The girls knew that this loss meant they needed to play as well as they could and win every other game by as many goals as possible. At the end of the



tournament the girls were all red faced after playing their hearts out. At the end of the tournament all of the hard work was rewarded with a

1st place position for Yarm.

Well done girls!

Coaches Player of the Tournament went to Jemima Fleming.

# DISTRICT FOOTBALL SELECTION

A big congratulations to Paddy Key, Oliver Mowbray and Atsushi Yamaguchi who have all been selected for the Stockton District Football Squad for this season - a fantastic achievement!

Mr G Ferguson

# **SPORT WEEK AHEAD**

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can view them here.

# NETBALL REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Congratulations to Lily Harte who has once again been selected to play for the Republic of Ireland U17 squad after being selected for their U16 squad last year.

A further congratulations goes to Estelle Orr and Izzie Speight on their selection for the U16 Scotland netball squad.

An amazing achievement by all girls, we look forward to seeing what they and their respective school teams can achieve this year.

Miss N Hodgson

# **FORMER PUPIL NEWS**

Former pupil, Jonny Wong, has combined his passion for sport and videography, and works with elite athletes and sports events to document and share inspiring stories.

Read more on our website here.



# REPRESENTATIVE HOCKEY SELECTIONS

An amazing 104 players have been selected to play hockey at a representative level ranging from England Assessments all the way through to Under 12 County level. We are very proud of the following players and their selection is a testament to the hard work and commitment they all bring to the sport...

Special mention must go to Max
Mowbray and Timmy Foley who have
both attended England U16
Assessments at Lilleshall recently- Max
has progressed on to the next stage of
that selection process. England U16
International last year Will Ferguson
who is in the same year group but
frustratingly is now too old for England
16s made his National League debut for
Durham University at the age of 15 (the
youngest player in the country to do so)
in their win against Cardiff.

The Regional Performance Centre has been adapted and rebranded to what is now called the 'Talent Academy' and accepts half the number of players compared to its predecessor. We are pleased to announce that Belle Woodhead, Mara Morrison, Timmy Foley, Max Mowbray, Will Ferguson, Oscar Thomas, Jake Leader and Myles Brown have all been selected. The aim of this programme is to prepare such players for England age group selection so it is an impressive number of Yarm players.

The following pupils have just gone through county selection trials and the number of pupils gaining selection is way ahead of any other school so Yarm hockey is looking really healthy.

#### **County U17 Girls**

Miriam Akowuah, Rosie Faulkner, Nicole Lambert, Tilly Gilraine, Harriet Jackson, Annabel Lacy, Millie Haswell, Lexie Townsley, Isabella Speight, Cara McMurray, Indeya Hewison

#### **County U17 Boys**

Harry Jackson, Finn Davie, Matthew White, James McGee, Ben Dempsey

#### **County U15 Girls**

Cody Staggs, Poppy Bell, Isabella Brown, Poppy Faulkner, Pippa Ferguson, Sophia Rudd, Alice Ward, Sophie Hall, Summer Hyndman

#### **County U15 Boys**

Shola Afolabi, Harry Carter, Gabe Dohring, Dhruv Wadehra, Tom Fletcher, Joe Belch, Cameron Morrison, James Graham, Sam Arnold

#### **County U14 Girls**

Sabie Anderson, Isobel McGlade, Gracie Rhodes-Hildreth, Tilly Pallent-Home, Manya Rajeeva, Katie Melvin, Ellie Melvin

#### **County U14 Boys**

Ben Bardgett, Oliver Carr, Jude Crack, Mustafa El-Sherif, Jacob Hardy, Max Hassini-Millington, Aidan Robinson, Sam Shawcross, Jasman Sidhu

#### **County U13 Girls**

Ava Holmes, Sienna Hyndman, Erin Jackson, Lucy Mitchell, Zoe Wild, Amelie Sawyer, Ava Ryan

#### **County U13 Boys**

Alfie Arnold, Charlie Ashworth, Freddie Briston-Smith, Harry Brothwood, Oliver Dunkin, Freddie Gilraine, Spencer Hankinson, Jonah Jenney, Oliver Mansfield, Jake Wheatley, Oscar Lowes, Aadit Kapoor

#### **County U12 Girls**

Monica Pallent-Holme, Aisling Timmons, Isla Close, Lily Cook, Rosie Cook, Rosie Ferguson, Anushri Wadehra, Imogen Mulgrew & prep pupils - Beatrix Allcock, Heidi Kingsbury, Amélie Kingsbury, Ella Leadbitter, Beatriz Garcia Alvarez, Louisa Palmer

#### **County U12 Boys**

Rorke Anderson, Freddie Birkin, Kit Foster, Luke Palmer, Wilf White, Ben Pumphrey, Archie Axtell & prep pupils Fenwick Mitchell, Sonny Foster, Miles Page, Wilf Sawyer and Rex White

Mr G Ferguson







SPORT 14th October 2022

# TEN TRIUMPHS ON THE TEES ... AND MORE EXCELLENT RESULTS

Saturday saw the second of the six regional Long Distance Sculling series and Small Boats Head being run on the Tees. Over 300 crews competed in the two divisions over the 5km twisting course on a sunny and crisp autumn day.





Being on our home river, albeit further downstream, Yarm School BC was very well represented from Junior 15 through to Junior 18. The Boat Club has great strength in depth in all age groups, but unfortunately not everyone can win their category. Nevertheless those that didn't win still put in some great performances.

Division 1 was the Long Distance
Sculling event, run by the Northern
Rowing Council where schools and
clubs from as far away as Aberdeen and
Edinburgh, as well as more regional
clubs, competed against each other. In
this division, it was the senior rowers
who took the plaudits. The Women's
Coxless Four of Emily Dunn, Hannah
Bettinson, Kitty Brown and Lilian

Dufton, not only won their event but were the fastest women's crew of the day.





The Junior 16 girls were not to be outdone. Libby Laverick, Emily Nicholson, Cecily Deering and Eve Gray won their event in style to take the second win of the day.

It was then the turn of the senior boys to win in the smaller boats. Ethan Stannard and Will Craggs won the Junior 18 double sculls, Ollie Holmes and Alfie King won the Junior 17 double sculls and Will Woodhead won the Junior 18 single sculls, and managing to do the double by winning again in the afternoon.

The afternoon saw the Small Boats
Head division run by Tees Rowing Club.
Again over the 5km course, the senior
boys of Harry Wildridge, Deacon
Laverick, Will Woodhead and Izadin
Qasem won the Open Coxless Fours
event.



The coxed quad scull of Sam Pritchard, James McGee, Hamish Garshol-Roy, Austin Bridle and with Jack Stoddart coxing were the fastest crew in their open event. For some of these pupils it was their first Head race.

The Junior 15 girls coxed quad scull of Abby Stewart, Evie Stoker, Rebecca White, Poppy Bell and coxed by Lydia Wain sculled very well over what is a long course to take their win. But we must take our hats off to those who completed the course in single sculls, having already competed in the morning division. Both rowing to the start and then competing and then doing it again meant they had covered over 20km in the day, 10km of which was at race pace. Cordelia Deering did this and won the Women's Open single sculls. Hannah Bettinson, having competed in a quad in the morning and won, then completed the double in the afternoon winning Women's Junior 16 single sculls.

There were many other great rows and many pupils completed the course twice, showing great determination and endurance. The fact that there was such enthusiasm and camaraderie among all the rowers on the day, and the unwavering support from parents, highlights the great energy and verve that surrounds Yarm School Boat Club.

Mrs A Lund

# Can you help? \*

# \* \*

# BEFORE THE EVENT

- Donating raffle prizes, bottles, etc. More info in
- this newsletter
  - Helping decorate the grotto
  - Sharing our adverts on socials

For more info contact:
ysa@yarmschool.org

# ON THE DAY

- Manning the tombola, bottle bag stall or
- pocket money stall for a shift
  - Setting up
  - Packing away



Yarm School Association

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

# CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

Saturday 19th November 10am - 4pm, Yarm School Craft Stalls, Gift Ideas, Food & Drink



# **NEXT WEEK: 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** 

# **THIS MONTH: 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.



**Book Online Here** 



# **COMING SOON: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PANTOMIME**

Join us for a tale as old as time as Tom Rolfe Productions present a real beauty of a pantomime with stunning scenery, beautiful costumes and hilarious comedy!

Fancy a 'relaxed' performance with your little one, where they are free to roam and making noise at the 'wrong time' is never a problem?? Then join us on Thursday 22nd at 1pm. We will also run the sound a little quieter so as not to hurt little ears. There will be no pyrotechnics at this show.



Thursday 15th - Saturday 24th December 2022

**Book Online Here** 

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock - meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.



#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT

#### IN-GAME PROMOTIONS

#### CIRCLING SCAMMERS

#### ADDICTIVE NATURE

# GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR +

# Advice for Parents & Carers

#### **BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS**

#### CONTROL SPENDING

If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so they'll need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit spending – or set up a pre-paid 'allowan When excitedly clicking options on screen, it's easy for a young person forget the real-world repercussions of online purchases.

#### STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS

There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than emails to the account holder (which may well be you). Neither will they ever ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's terms and conditions outlaw the buying of FUT coins, so anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.

#### AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'

If your child's spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less enthusiastic about other activities in their life, you could consider restricting how long they can play for each day with the parental controls in their device's settings. Even if they're not playing on their console or computer, there's a FIFA companion app for smartphones – but that can be limited through parental controls, too.

#### Meet Our Expert

National keUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com





