

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME



The youngest and oldest pupils in the school have kick started Christmas for us. Our Sixth Form Christmas Dinner last Friday saw nearly all the students being able to attend a fun and festive evening, complete with musical entertainment from the students. Our Pre Prep and Nursery pupils put on some magical nativity performances, and we had the wonderful Prep School Carol Service on Wednesday - it was lovely to see them performing on the PAA stage in front of such a large audience of admiring parents, family and friends. We took Christmas fashion by storm on Wednesday for our Christmas jumper day, and now look forward to Community Carols this weekend, our dementia friendly choir, Memento, on the 13th December and the School Carol Service on the final day of term.

Pupils have generously donated a range of items for the House Giving Week and I am grateful to parents who have enabled this at home. If your child hasn't donated anything and would like to do so, we will accept any further items on Monday before these are distributed. A

reminder, if required, of the items required: Aidan House - drinks (tea, coffee, UHT milk etc); Bede House - canned goods; Cuthbert House - toiletries and Oswald House - dry goods (cereal, pasta etc). Thank you to all for their generosity.

Our pupils have been busy, as ever, in competitions of sporting and academic variety. Mathematicians have shone in challenging national competitions with conspicuous success, and our netballers and hockey players have made strong progress through round of their respective national competitions, as well as our rowers competing hard at the Rutherford Head - reports within. We have also been awarding music association exam certificates to pupils in assembly; well done to all pupils who commit time to their practice and preparation.

We hear some fascinating and thought provoking assemblies from Tutor groups, with two excellent examples this week. On Wednesday, Mrs Lodge's Tutor Group in the First Year considered an alternative advent calendar, urging us to try and do a good deed for others on each day of nativity. Then, on Thursday Upper Sixth Aidan considered the challenges faced by citizens of Iran, both historic and recent, reflecting on the importance of freedom of choice, and the dangers faced by those in Iran currently facing up to their

Government in order to exercise this freedom. We were left considering the rights which we might take for granted here in the UK, and how fortunate we are to have these.

Dr Huw Williams



SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE RESULTS

The results are in for the second round of this year's Senior Maths Challenge, the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo.

Eight Upper Sixth students sat the paper in mid-November in which they had to answer 20 increasingly difficult questions - just submitting their final answer - to gain points. Six out of the eight entries gained Merit certificates meaning they achieved 40+ marks out of 100 and were in the top 25% of around 6000 entries nationally.

Merit winners were Isabelle Blackburn, Tyler Brown, Lillian Dufton, Felix Humphreys, Alex McGee and Aishani Paul. Well done to everyone involved.

Dr K Barnett

EXPLORING THE ISSUE OF PEOPLE, POLITICS AND POPULAR CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES

Our recent Politics Society guest was interestingly positioned to explore the intersection of 'people, politics and popular culture'. She has lived and studied in three continents, spending periods of time in her native United States, in Australia and now various locations in the UK. She has also been involved in academic research, policy formulation and implementation as well community building initiatives, and all at local, state and federal level.

One of the rising stars of the Department of Politics at Newcastle University, Dr Skyler Hawkins delivered a highly insightful, eloquent and intelligent overview of the ways in which women and women of colour in the United



States are voting, campaigning and mobilising their voices. The talk was an opportunity to explore the phenomenon and longevity of the Black Lives Movement, the capacity and possibilities for change, cross-cultural comparisons around such issues, as well as the value of community. It was a dynamic and engaging discussion and we are most appreciative of Skyler for her time and insight.

Mr S Edwards

THREE LIONS MEETS THREE J'S : THE ECONOMICS OF THE WORLD CUP

This week we were delighted to have not one, not two, but three keen Lower Sixth students taking on the challenge of presenting to the EconBus Soc.

Examining the Economics of the World Cup was not only extremely current but also extremely thought-provoking, as the audience were informed as to the full extent of the economic costs and gains of the World Cup being in Qatar, and given the opportunity to form their own opinions. The presentation was well

researched and well delivered and demonstrated once again how applicable Economics and Business are to so very many aspects of our lives.

Culminating in a quiz reflecting on both the presentation and the events of recent weeks and months, followed by a little football challenge, which led to our Chair Ben C-S surprisingly being declared football champion of the whole

Sixth Form (and we thought Golf was his superpower)! The 3 Js have set a high bar for their year group to meet!! Who will present after Christmas and on what topics?

Miss C E Rhodes



PROTEUS THEATRE'S ADAPTATION OF ANGELA CARTER'S 'BLOODY CHAMBER AND OTHER STORIES'

Last Tuesday, a number of the school's English Department (consisting of mainly the Lower Sixth, accompanied by Mr Telfer and Mrs Dugdale) embarked on their much awaited trip to watch a live retelling of the short stories within Angela Carter's seminal work "The Bloody Chamber". In her collection of hybrid short stories, "The Bloody Chamber", Angela Carter draws on several of the classic fairy tales embedded with our society; not only does she question our acceptance of these narratives, but also, uses them to challenge societal ideas, such as patriarchy and the sexual power of women within relationships.

Located at 'The Lowry', Manchester, and presented by the award winning theatre company Proteus - "The Bloody Chamber" promise[d] to "translate the fever dream style of Angela Carter's macabre fairy tales to the stage, in a heady, erotic, and surprisingly funny re-phrasing of some of the most famous folk and fairy tales in Western culture."

The all female cast of five were certainly impressive to watch - both the group's acting as too their gymnastic talent held the audience's attention keenly throughout the hour and a half runtime. When speaking to director Mary Swan after the show, she claimed the all female cast was a way to give the

women more power over the entirety of the story, even the parts specified as male. Indeed, in answer to a question posed by a member of our party regarding her directorial decision to have an all female cast, Swan argued that this "would never have been posed as a question, had it been an all male cast".

Whilst some of the group's favourite tales were dropped from the script due to obvious time restrictions, we were all still impressed by the number of stories covered during the performance, even if they were often left a little underdeveloped. Having previously read the collection of short stories as part of our A Level course, I myself was unsure whether my prior knowledge of Carter's work was either a help or a hindrance; as aforementioned the class often was left wanting more from each of the story's reenactments. However, I question whether I would have been able to enjoy, and more importantly

understand the performance, if I hadn't previously studied Carter's work.

Proteus' performance of "The Bloody Chamber" fulfils its promise: emphasising the world in which "women and men across the country confront the double standards of safety and sex". However, whilst Angela Carter herself was able to draw inspiration and create new hybrid tales from the fairy tale genre, Proteus' performance - at times - feels as if it is regressing from its own source material. By both starting and ending the show with the contentious warnings of "don't walk alone at night" and "always hold your keys in your fist", the audience can feel trapped within the show's cyclical gloom; instead of challenging these messages and transgressing the societal norms highlighted by the performance.

Miles Holland

Lower Sixth



REVIEW OF FIFTH YEAR PLAYS 'TRACKS' AND 'AUDIENCE'

In the last full week of November we were treated to two, brilliantly performed, one-act plays by our Fifth Year Drama students.

Having only come together mid September, and only had 5 weeks of rehearsals, the cast did magnificently, you would never have guessed the plays had been staged in a shorter time frame than normal.

The lines were tight and the performances full of character and energy.

We opened with *Tracks*, set in hell or a type of purgatory masquerading as a subway station, which had a lovely build to it, as each character joined the scene and discovered or realised that they were in fact dead. The mix of characters was lovely, with the strident lawyer and the opinionated professor clashing, often pacified by the Nun, eternally trying to reassure everyone.

Once they all accept they are dead,



the question is, where does the next train go, Heaven or Hell? They all recount their lives, conveniently missing out the 'bad' bits, until as the play progresses they all reveal their sin and the skeletons in their wardrobes. The performers did this really well, with a mix of humour and pathos, each character having differing levels of remorse.

Finally as the train arrives, they must decide whether or not to board it... some do and some don't!

The performers really excelled in conveying the emotion of the characters, whilst still finding the funny bits in an otherwise thought provoking play.

After the interval the audience returned to find their seats were now on 'the stage', and the cast of *Audience* started their performance. The show is set in a theatre, with our performers being the audience at a show, watching a show (our real audience) - confused yet?!

This play is very challenging as the lines often don't interrelate. It is very tricky to learn and to rehearse because of this. The cast did a magnificent job of mastering lines early, and therefore being able to give a full, characterful performance.

As the play progresses we get to meet the different people in the theatre; a group of strangers enjoying a show together. Katherine the writer is present too, and acts as

a coach to the 'performing audience' and a narrator to the real audience.

We enjoy everyone's reactions to the late arrivals, the incessant coughing and the constant seat moving.

The cast fully invested in the character created some wonderful comic moments and the high energy performance made it all the more enjoyable.

Two very different plays, both beautifully executed by two very talented casts! I have purposely not picked out individuals as these were two wonderful ensemble pieces. We worked a lot in rehearsals on the theme of a cast being a team, every person as important as the next. We also focused on the importance of accuracy to the text and lines the author has chosen to use. The cast embraced all of that, plus a strong focus on character, and produced two fantastic plays. Well done Fifth Years, you were a joy to work with, thank you!

Mr D Brookes

More pictures of [Tracks](#) and [Audience](#) are on our website.



SIXTH FORM CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Festive Season in school is well under way and, of course, that means the return of that highlight of the social calendar - Sixth Form Christmas Dinner. As ever the students really entered into the spirit and dressed in their finery for the occasion. The Princess Alexandra Auditorium was transformed over the course of Friday after Mr Vardy and the estates team miraculously arranged for 241 diners to be accommodated

in style. Thank you to everyone who helped in decorating the venue not least with the individual Christmas crackers for everyone. We are grateful to the Sodexo staff for the delicious meal - it is no mean feat to prepare and serve this for such a number and is testament to what a professional catering team we are lucky to have at Yarm. The evening was rounded off with some high quality musical performances from the students - we have some

supreme talents in our midst and a rousing rendition of some Christmas favourites certainly got everyone dancing in the aisles. A special thank you should also go to Mr Milton for managing the technical support. Well done to everyone on a wonderful evening.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Dr Goodall and Miss Gamble



FESTIVE MATHS

As the year draws to a close we are delighted to have seen 60 different pupils from YS3-YS7 attending on a Monday after school. This has amounted to a lot of maths and hard work been done by the pupils choosing to attend.

The sessions are becoming increasingly popular and we are regularly coaching in excess of 20 pupils on a Monday night. My thanks to Mr Addison, Mr Bell and Mr Skirving for their faithful dedication to the cause.

Mr Yates

ARTISTS' CORNER

Our First Year pupils have been busy creating these imaginative name designs for their sketchbooks. They have done a fantastic job making each letter look original and personal to them.

Mrs G Thompson



Rosie Ferguson



Oscar Whitfield



Emma Scott



Finnley Marsh



Jaydon Zhang



Aunushka Chakrabarti

BOOK REVIEW

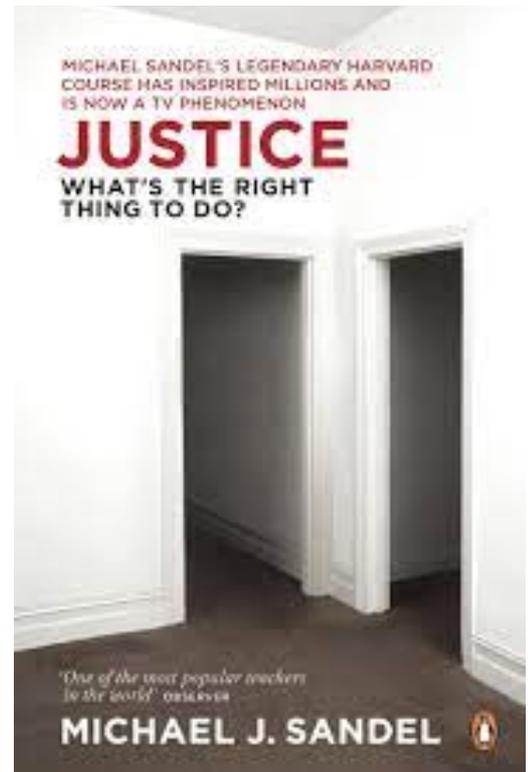
JUSTICE: WHAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO? BY MICHAEL J. SANDEL

Justice: What's The Right Thing To Do? is a book by Michael Sandel that explains philosophical and moral dilemmas from a political angle, and how this relates to real world justice. This thought provoking book took on some polarising debates such as same sex marriage, abortion and euthanasia. Sandel uses a series of hypothetical situations to focus on the different ways philosophers would have analysed and puzzled out solutions to the problems raised in the hypotheticals. Additionally, he regularly proposes ethical dilemmas, perplexing the reader and allowing an insight to the ambiguity of right vs wrong, also asking how they might help us decide what constitutes justice. For example, the book starts with Sandel presenting the example of a train headed towards 5 people on the track, but the breaks don't work. If the train continues it will kill the five people, however, there is an option of pulling a lever to switch to another track whereby only one person is standing. The question is: What do you do?

The first view of justice that Sandel explores is the utilitarian view; this suggests that the right thing to do is whatever is in the interest of the majority: killing the one person instead of the five. They believe that maximisation is the only moral justification. There are many complications that Sandel explored

that challenge this view, such as accepting that collective pleasure does not always align with morality. This ideology relies on an optimistic view of human nature as a whole, which is denied by many. Another school of thought he explores is the libertarian view, which prioritises individual freedom. This view places emphasis on ideas such as consent, equality and freedom. Libertarians would be against switching the tracks and putting an additional person in harm's way without their consent. The dilemma here is that there have to be limits to freedom to maintain order. Sandel highlights that people often require these limits for their own wellbeing. What if a person wants to ride a motorbike without a helmet? Or take excessive drugs? Arguably, shouldn't taxation be banned as it infringes on an individual's ownership?

An intriguing debate Sandel discusses is that of how we view our bodies, and to what extent we have autonomy. The Libertarian argues we own our bodies and therefore can do whatever we want with them. A real case involved a prisoner in the California prison system who wanted to donate his remaining kidney to his daughter. The UC Ethics board denied his request. Does their decision mean that the state owns his body and can determine what to do with it? Does



state determined wellbeing hold priority over freedom? There is a blurred line between freedom and anarchy that threatens this idea of justice.

Sandel also explores the works of political philosophers Immanuel Kant, John Rawls and Aristotle. Kant rejected 'doing whatever you want', arguing that being coerced by your inner drives makes you a slave to your passions and inhibits freedom. Rather, he argued, our duty is to do what is right. John Rawls - as per his liberal political stance - believed in the social contract: the agreement for individuals to be governed within context such as workplace or culture. Regarding Rawls, Sandel explores the concept of how much we 'deserve' and how this influences how we are governed. For Aristotle,

BOOK REVIEW (cont.)

Sandel explores the idea of collective responsibility, he quotes Aristotle: "He who is unable to live in society, or who has no need because he is sufficient for himself, must be either a beast or a god." Interestingly, Sandel goes on to argue that a framework for morality needs to be reached before determining justice, whether this be god, religion, or pure reasoning. We alone are not enough to create moral codes in which to base all of human justice. Sandel remains impartial throughout his explanations, seemingly just as conflicted as the reader in regards to the correct response to justice. This often created frustration; as the reader, myself, was seeking his 'answers' to the dilemmas he was presenting. This book may be perceived as a guide for moral behaviour, but it is quite the opposite. However, Sandel still inspired new ways of thinking, and this book created lingering personal reflection, more than a biased binary conclusion would have allowed for. He makes the reader relate to how important it is to debate and really think about morality and justice.

Elise Wilcock, Upper Sixth

CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

We were delighted to be able to hold our Christmas Indoor Market this year, and what a fabulous one it was!

The school was filled with families enjoying the festive activities for children, browsing the huge range of stalls, and marvelling at the stunning grotto where Santa made his home for the day.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all the Yarm School Association volunteers who made the event such a success.

We're delighted to share that the Charity Tombola at our YSA Christmas Indoor Market made a fantastic £350 for Heel & Toe Children's Charity!

Queensway Dental Clinic, who now



QUEENSWAY
DENTAL & ORTHODONTICS

have a branch in Yarm, have generously matched this donation.

Thank you to all our stallholders who donated prizes and to everyone who supported the tombola.



YARM APPRENTICE STOCK CHARITY SALE

Thank you to all who gave kind donations for the remaining written off YA stock. We have raised a fabulous £47.01 for Breast Cancer Now the long term supported charity of Yarm Apprentice.

Miss C E Rhodes

**BREAST
CANCER
NOW** The research & support charity

RUTHERFORD HEAD

Saturday 3rd December saw the final Head race of the year held on the Tyne. Rutherford is the race most crews focus on with their winter training. It is an event only for fours and eights, being rowed over two divisions over 4500m. Crews from all over the country ventured 'up North' to compete.



With over 150 crews taking part in each division, for some crews it was a long wait in cold conditions before they started rowing. However, unlike some years the water was flat

and calm. University of London, Edinburgh University along with Newcastle and Durham Universities were the fastest crews in both divisions, but Yarm School Boat Club were very well represented from Junior 16 level to Junior 18.

In Division 1 the Women's Junior 18 quad of Emily Dunn, Kitty Brown, Hannah Stewart and steered by Lilian Dufton continued their winning run by taking the WJ18 (Band 1 event). As we always say, not everyone can win, but other competing Yarm crews also put in good performances they can be proud of.

Winning any event at Rutherford Head is a major achievement and Yarm School Boat Club managed a



second win in Division 2 with the boy's Junior 18 coxless quad of Archie Norton, Will Woodhead, Harry Wildridge and Deacon Laverick. This crew are certainly one to watch in 2023 in forthcoming Heads and regattas,

The season is now over, but the training doesn't stop. Ergos will be well used over the holidays as crews prepare for York Small Boats Head (January 14th) and Tyne New Year's Head (January 21st).

Mrs A Lund

SISTERS N SPORT CUP U13

On Monday the 5th of December we had the Sisters n Sport U13 netball match against Ryedale. We worked well as a team and took to the court against an unknown opponent. We focused on our through court



structures and our one on one battles.

We took the opportunity of being on top to refine our skills and set our own targets to achieve. This led to us coming out with a 45-5 win and Ruby Kitson went on to win player of the match with amazing shooting stats.

Amelie Sawyer
and Lucy Mitchell,
Second Year

U13 NETBALL

Yarm U13D team played Northfield U13A in the Stockton Schools' Netball League on the 24th of November. We got off to a slower start than normal and ended up 4-0 down after the first half. However in the second half, after listening to Miss Hodgson's advice we worked hard on our structure and brought the score up to 4-3. After, they managed to score another goal bringing the final score to 5-3 to them. Overall it was a great match and we learned a lot from it.

Yasmin Shawgi, Second Year (POM)



**YARM SCHOOL'S NEW
DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CHOIR, MEMENTO,
PRESENTS:**



JUST LIKE THE ONES WE USED TO KNOW



TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

4:30PM - 6PM

AT YARM SCHOOL

Join us as we come together for
a Christmas Singalong, Memories
and Refreshments

Free Entry - Transport Available

To book places and request
transport then please contact
admin@yarmschool.org



**The Good
Companions**



Memento
Dementia Friendly Choir

This event is kindly supported by The Good Companions - a Yarm School Senior Music Department collaboration with The Hampton by Hilton, Stockton

THAT'S VARIETY!

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls take your seats for the North East's grand variety performance as "That's Variety" takes to the stage at the Princess Alexandra Auditorium!

Fantastic acts Andy Eastwood, Danny Posthill and Ray Quinn take to the stage to entertain you, accompanied by rousing songs from the Yarm School Choir.

Saturday 4th February 2023, 7:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE

Join our presenters as they dive deep into the world of science and look at how science shapes the modern world we live in with a few loud bangs along the way!

Expect 20ft LIQUID NITROGEN clouds, exploding OXYGEN & HYDROGEN balloons, FIRE TORNADOS, HYDROGEN bottle rockets, ignited METHANE and even a self-built Hovercraft!

100% Educational. 200% Entertaining. 300% Explosive. 400% Fun.

Tuesday 21st February 2023, 2:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)



RHYTHM OF THE DANCE

Rhythm of the Dance has brought audiences around the world to their feet for over two decades and is returning with a brand new production.

Rhythm of the Dance is an array of everything Irish dance has evolved into, from its roots in 'Sean Nos' (meaning old-style), to the militant, clean, modern style we see on stage today. With lyrical and contemporary influences, it will be Irish in essence, with a new edge and promises to be an exploration of how far you can push the boundaries of Irish dance.

Thursday 27th July 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to ...

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

4 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide - curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs - no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizard.

5 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

6 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

7 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year; after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

8 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents - and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

9 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

