

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Over the holidays, our pupils and staff were involved in a range of activities and trips, and I want to thank colleagues who facilitated these opportunities, whilst also congratulating our pupils on their exemplary conduct, representing the School with distinction at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in Europe on the German Christmas Markets trip and on the ski slopes, and also in a wonderful project with the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, which looks to support disadvantaged children during holiday periods; well done to the Community Action Group and all who supported this venture. We also welcomed a number of guests to the School for the first of our meetings of Memento - a dementia-friendly choir. This was a wonderfully uplifting occasion for all involved and you can read more below.

We have hit the ground running this term, quite literally for many of our sports teams, including our U16 and U18 Boys Hockey teams who are currently away from school representing The North at the National Indoor Hockey Finals. It is a huge achievement to reach the finals and we congratulate the teams on their fine progress: at the time of



The CCF visit Sandhurst Military Academy

writing, we await updates on how the teams progressed but whatever the outcomes, even reaching these finals to be among the best schools in the country is a huge achievement.

Further sports reports from girls' hockey can also be found within - well done to all, and to our netballers who are also making progress in their respective national competitions.

There is plenty of pupil success reported within this week's newsletter, with the results of internal competitions and reports of external opportunities being taken by ambitious pupils. Well done to Cody on his success with PwC, Arhana and Adhithyan for their success in the

Financial Times Student Advocate programme, and to Third Year pupils James, Patrick and Gracie for their winning entries into the Cogito competition. Read on for another thoughtful book review, this time from Cicely, and for an update on our pupils making progress in their YBACC awards.

We look forward to the return of our Concert and Cakes series on the 24th January at 5pm, and - following the triumph of the festive musical offerings last term which were truly wonderful - there will be further concerts to enjoy later this term.

Dr Huw Williams

PRIZE WINNERS

James Goodall, Patrick Ward, and Gracie Rhodes-Hildreth are the RPE & History 'Cogito' Competition prize winners. All three Third Year pupils wrote excellent responses to the question: The (religious and historical) identity of a people/country is created by those in power. They were awarded with Amazon vouchers. Well done!

Mrs S Lodge



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD VISIT

Determined to help spread some Christmas cheer, on Tuesday 20th December pupils from the Community Action group volunteered at a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme at Stokesley Primary School. Working with Mr Gilbert, we ran two drama sessions for children aged 6- 11, as well as socialising with them and, of course, managing some Christmas dancing too! HAFs provide a vital service in offering healthy food and

enriching activities to disadvantaged children and thus this was a really exciting opportunity for our group to work closely with members of our community.

Many thanks to all pupils who attended, as well as Mr Gilbert and Mrs Dixon-Barker for so willingly giving up their time in the Christmas holidays, and Mrs Lisa McGee, for organising this opportunity for us.

The Community Action Group



COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

In the weeks before Christmas, the Community Action group were busy raising funds for My Sisters Place, an independent specialist 'One Stop Shop' in Middlebrough for women aged 16 or over who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence. Established in 2002, they are committed to working in partnership to tackle domestic violence.

Despite the near-Arctic conditions in the Dovecote, the pupils were

amazing and packaged and sold hundreds of Christmas sweets, as well as organising a 'Name the Christmas bear' competition! We were delighted to donate the profits to this fantastic local charity. Many thanks to all the pupils who supported these initiatives, and many congratulations to the pupil who correctly identified that the name of the bear was 'Snow'!

The Community Action Group



GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS TRIP 15-18 DECEMBER 2022

Very early (at 4.00am!) a group of thirty-nine pupils in First and Second Year set off the day after term ended for our trip to the German Christmas markets in Aachen and Cologne, accompanied by Mr Fellows, Mrs Addison, Dr Hallam and Mr Rhatigan. We usually make this trip every two years but the Covid-19 pandemic had unfortunately delayed this visit, making it our first overseas trip in three years to Germany.

Travel went very smoothly in both directions, with calm seas and surprisingly quiet ferries, and clear roads. The return journey coincided with the football world cup final, so France was very, very quiet!

Pupils enjoyed visits to the traditional Christmas markets, as well as the Lindt chocolate museum and cathedral in Cologne and a festive boat cruise on the Rhine which featured a visit from St Nicholas. We also had fun in a large leisure swimming pool just outside Aachen on the second day. Everyone was grateful for the chance to warm up as the weather was very cold!

Pupils were able to practise their transactional skills in German at the many market stalls and shops, with lots of Christmas shopping being successfully completed.

We look forward to our next visit!

Mr T Fellows



FINANCIAL TIMES STUDENT ADVOCATES

Arhana Pradeep and Adhithyan Dinakaran, Lower Sixth, have been selected to participate in the Financial Times' Student Advocate Programme this year. The programme offers the opportunity to develop leadership skills and confidence by becoming a Student Advocate. They will raise awareness of the benefits of reading the FT in school as well as working closely with the FT Schools Team to develop ideas on how the FT can better engage

with young people.

Congratulations to Arhana and Adhi on being selected and we look forward to hearing more about the programme as it progresses!



HOUSE T-SHIRTS

If you missed out on getting your House T-shirts this week then please see Miss Prime in the office to order yours for £15.

Miss N Hodgson



MOVING ON UP, MOVING ON UP...

A new year and not one but two visitors for the first Working Lunch of 2023!

Matthew Heathcote and Suneil Sidhu (Class of 2022) offered, before they left Yarm, to come back for a talk, and of course I took them at their word. We were delighted to welcome them both back for lunch and words of wisdom, before they head back to university after the Christmas break.

Matthew is currently studying BSc Economics at the University of Nottingham (and contemplating the option of a semester in Canada) whilst Suneil is currently at Northumbria University studying

Accounting on a three year course with an option to do a placement year after the second year. In a frank and honest session we heard about the challenges of university, the differences between school and undergraduate study, and the large audience of both Lower and Upper Sixth students (and staff) willingly offered up a vast array of questions.

Suneil and Matthew are both clearly enjoying their courses, and it was lovely to catch up and to hear about their experiences to date.

We are grateful to them for taking time away from their

revision to generously assist the current cohort of Sixth Form. We wish them all the best with their imminent January exam papers and know that they will stay in contact and keep us updated as to their progress, and of course they will definitely be back again in the future!

Miss C E Rhodes



CCF TRIP TO THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST

At the end of the winter term, 13 cadets from the CCF and three staff had the unique opportunity to visit the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in Surrey. The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is the British Army's initial officer training centre. The academy's stated aim is to be "the national centre of excellence for leadership". All British Army officers, as well as other men and women from overseas, are trained at the academy. The aim of the day was to watch the Commandant's Commissioning Parade and to find out more about the Academy, its History and what happens there.

After a long drive and an overnight stay in the local travelodge we met our guides. Three retired gentlemen all former serving officers who now

volunteer for the Sandhurst Foundation to lead tours of the academy and impart their knowledge. They told us that the reason that the Academy was created in the first place was the need to professionalise leadership within the Army and stop the process of being able to purchase a commission (rank). The founder was Colonel John Le Marchant, a veteran of the Flanders campaign of the French Revolutionary Wars (1793-1800). Le Marchant therefore began a professional academy and quickly the Army recognised that academic study developed effective military leaders. Therefore in 1801, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst was founded.

We then had the opportunity to watch the commissioning parade.

Although it was rather cold, around -5! It was a fantastic experience and alongside the trooping of the colour is one of the finest examples of a military parade in the country. After a quick lunch we had a good tour around the site, although we were only able to see a fraction as the campus is huge! We then had a talk from two serving cadets at the academy who gave us their experiences of the training and typical week. They also talked in detail about the selection process and what they planned to do after leaving.

It was a fascinating experience and hopefully one the cadets took a great deal away from.

Mr Tim Taylor



Concert and Cake Series 2023

(1st Year/Upper 6th Performers & Clarinet Ensemble)



TUESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2023, 5PM

Tickets are £3.00 and are available on the door/
at the Box office Tel: 01642 792587 or online at thepaaonline.org



DODDIE AID 2023



In 2016 former Scotland and British Lion rugby player Doddie Weir was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. Following his diagnosis, Doddie set up the My Name' 5 Doddie Foundation which has raised millions of pounds towards finding a cure for the disease. Doddie passed away in November.

Further fundraising has taken place recently as former rugby league

player Kevin Sinfield raised £1.5 million by running from Edinburgh to Manchester, completing 7 ultra marathons in 7 days.

Doddie Weir's former Scotland and Lions teammate Rob Wainwright set up the Doddie Aid mass participation event 2 years ago in order to raise funds for the foundation. For a 6 week period, beginning on 1st January 2023, Doddie Aid participants are encouraged to cover as many miles as possible in any form of measurable exercise, competing against one another in various districts across the country. Yarm School staff have set up their own

Doddie Aid league as part of the Barbarians district and have currently covered 453.49 miles, which is the equivalent distance of Yarm to Paris. We have also raised £260, currently.

The current leader is Mr Baker who has covered 68.96 miles, but the rest of the pack are hot on his heels!

More information about Doddie Aid and the My Name'5 Doddie Foundation can be found here;

www.doddieaid.com

www.myname5doddie.co.uk

www.youtube.com

Mr A J Morrison

POLITICS SOCIETY

The Politics Society consists of all students of Politics A Level, but the events are open to all members of the school. We meet every Friday lunchtime and explore issues of local, national and global significance. We meet with a diverse range of figures from the world of politics. Pupils from all years groups are welcome to attend and we mostly gather in the Friarage Theatre. Below you can read some of this half-term's guests and events.

Mr S Edwards

Professor Tim Bale

Academic, author and political pundit Professor of Politics at Queen Mary, University of London

JAN
13

'Red walls & blue walls: Constructing a new politics'

1pm - FT

Holocaust Memorial Day event

Keynote Speaker: Professor Rebecca Clifford

Author: 'Survivors: Children's Lives after the Holocaust'

JAN
24

6.00-7.30pm - University of York

Maytham Al Salman

Human rights advocate, cleric and interfaith leader

Director of 'Bahrain Inter-Faith'

JAN
27

'The challenge of countering sectarianism and religious discrimination in Bahrain'

12.45pm - FT

Maria Eugenia Nolasco

Human rights defender

'Leading the advocacy for community schools for indigenous children in the Philippines'

FEB
3

12.45pm - FT

Abigail Hernandez

Independent investigative journalist and lead member of PCIN (Independent journalists and Communicators from Nicaragua network)

'How to evacuate more than 50 journalists from an authoritarian regime in Nicaragua'

FEB
10

12.45pm - FT

Oliver Wilmot

Security Risk Analyst Intern Northcott Global Solutions

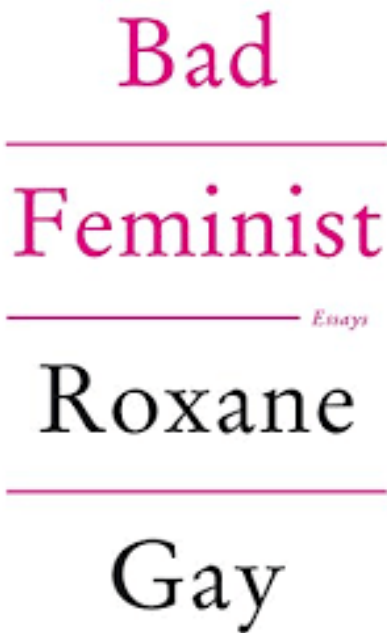
'How to assess security for professional clients'

FEB
16

12.45pm - FT



POLITICS BOOK REVIEW: 'BAD FEMINIST' BY ROXANE GAY



Bad Feminist by Roxane Gay is a collection of honest and truly raw essays that take us on her journey of her evolution as a woman of colour and navigating the meaning of being a 'feminist'. Gay cleverly takes the reader through the culture of the last few years whilst commenting on the state of feminism today. The key theme and aim of this book is to highlight to the world that the label 'feminist' doesn't automatically come with a human who is incapable of making mistakes and is perfect in everything they do. She argues that this label comes with a constant pressure to live up to all demands of it, with one of the issues being that there is no single definition of feminism. As a whole, this is a complex movement and in trying to represent all intersections of

women, it has inevitably ended up disappointing many, despite the best efforts not to.

Throughout her essays, Gay explores the issues of the feminist movement. She points out that traditionally the feminist movement has fought for only the rights and liberties of white, cisgender and heterosexual women. This is because these women typically have a greater opportunity to openly speak their minds and readily have the foundations able to do so. Gay coins this type of feminism: 'essential feminism'. It excludes black, transgender and queer women from the conversation and generally fails to acknowledge the hardships these women face as a result of their race or sexuality - it alienates them from the conversation. Gay argues that these are the women who treat feminism as a club with strict rules that must be followed in order to become a 'proper' feminist. She also points out the irony of the fact that women are fighting the sexist stereotype that they must be constantly more than what they already are, for example more maternal, more beautiful, more perfect, more agreeable, but yet women expect and demand nothing less than flawlessness from their feminist idols. Women who champion 'essential feminism' come

from a position of privilege who often don't share the same experiences of the women who belong to a minority group.

The first essay of this book - 'Feel Me. See Me. Hear Me. Reach Me' - is a poignant piece that delves into Gay as all she truly is. It is more of a personal piece of writing, almost like reading her inner thoughts rather than reading a neatly structured academic essay and in many ways I found this so much more impactful. Through these essays you really get to know Gay not just as a writer, but as a powerful woman who isn't scared to speak her mind, even if it contradicts the narrative of what a 'feminist' should be and look like. Within this essay, she details her struggle with finding someone who she truly has anything in common with, which mirrors in the difficulty to find a true representative of her within reality TV. She states how 'it's a shame how black people consistently have to settle for less when it comes to quality programming' and how 'all people of colour, really - only get to see themselves as lawyers and sassy friends'. She explores her hypocrisies within this piece, one avid one being her discomfort of films such as 'The Help' being written by a white woman, despite arguing that writers of all backgrounds should be able to

BOOK REVIEW: 'BAD FEMINIST' BY ROXANE GAY (cont.)

talk about all such experiences. However, this strengthens the power of her writing because before us she lays bare her flaws and imperfections in order for the reader to realise that it is okay not to be perfect and for every thought and argument you have to be perfectly well rounded.

A key theme within her essays is the topic of privilege. This is something she acknowledges that everyone has in some shape or form, whether it's white privilege or privilege when it comes to education and upbringing. She details the moment she truly realised the extent of her privilege when she taught children from 'inner-city Detroit' who she 'quickly realised, did not know how to read or be a student'. She goes on to state how 'it had never crossed [her] mind before that it was possible for a child to be educated in this country and make it to college unable to read at college level'. However, Gay owns this - 'shame on me, certainly, for being so ignorant about the galling disparities in how children are educated'. Within this, she explores the idea of what it is to truly own up to having privilege and part of this is changing the narrative around it - 'we tend to believe that accusations of privilege imply we have it easy, which we resent because life is hard for nearly everyone ... to have privilege in one or more areas does not mean you are wholly privileged'.

She doesn't make this argument from a preaching level and she too states that 'one of the hardest things [she's] ever had to do is accept and acknowledge [her] privilege'. This is a key strength of Gay within her essays, her ability to own her flaws and accept that in actuality she is a better off with these as they make her who she is. I think this is the main message to take away from her book, accepting that you don't always have to achieve perfection in order to be whole.

Within this eclectic selection of essays, Gay delves into so much more such as the issue of sexual aggression against women becoming desensitised in society, the conflict between finding songs like 'Blurred Lines' catchy but drawing the line elsewhere and her own personal experiences of rape. I believe that the underlying message throughout the range of arguments is that you shouldn't be scared to be imperfect, for not everything you like to follow a strict moral code - feminism should allow for fluidity in order for the individual to allow room for growth. The term 'feminist' is strongly associated with 'essential feminism' and creates an image of a woman who uses this movement to brand who they are as an individual, rather than using it as a tool to better all women. As Gay states, she is not looking to create 'an algorithm ... [for] a neat way of understanding

the problem' and she will 'keep writing about these intersections as a writer and a teacher, as a bad feminist, until [she] no longer feels like what [she] wants is impossible. [she] no longer wants to believe these problems are too complex for us to make sense of them'. After all, a 'bad feminist' is better than not being a feminist to begin with.

Cicely Crane, Upper Sixth

YBACC ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations go to Zohan Wadia in First Year who has completed his YBACC culture award due to his commitment to extracurricular clubs in the Autumn Term. Zohan has been heavily involved in the running of the History Society and Philosophy club.

Christina Lin in the Second Year has completed her community service and culture awards due to her commitment to school music and her assistance at school open mornings.

Avighna Arvind and Diviyan Thayanan, both in First Year, are close to completing their independent learning and community service awards respectively.

Well done to all!

Mr A J Morrison

SENIOR SKI TRIP

After a two year break it was great to be back in Austria with a senior ski trip. We returned to the Zillertal Valley and were blessed with some good early snow and great weather. With high demand we had a full trip with 49 pupils including a big beginners group.

The beginners group were excellent, showing great determination and enthusiasm, going from slipping and sliding all over the nursery slopes to skiing down the whole mountain on the last day. It was great that they were taught by ex pupil Kim Guest, a product of previous Yarm School ski

trips. The other four groups worked and played hard. Each evening they were full of stories of how fast, how steep, and how well they skied. There were also a few big tumbles, fortunately with nothing more to show other than a bruised pride.

Evening entertainment included bowling with the staff team retaining their unbeaten record. Other highlights were the Tyrolean evening, swimming and an excellent last night quiz. A great time was had by both pupils and staff. What a great way to start the Christmas break.

Mr A Guest



MEMENTO DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHOIR

Our first Memento Choir evening was a wonderful event, well attended by members of the community who live with dementia and care for those with dementia. There was much laughter and clapping as Mr McGrother encouraged everyone in

singing carols and well-known Christmas songs, and some poignant moments too - including an elderly lady singing the first lines of 'Away in a Manager' and then being joined, unprompted, by everyone there to finish the song. Visitors enjoyed

hearing festive performances from School of Skiffle band and Senior School singers, while they relaxed with drinks served by volunteers.

Many many thanks to everyone who joined us. We look forward to the next Memento Choir sing-a-long!



PWC MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SUCCESS

Congratulations to Cody Mallabar, Upper Sixth, on being offered a Management Consultancy Apprenticeship with PwC in September.

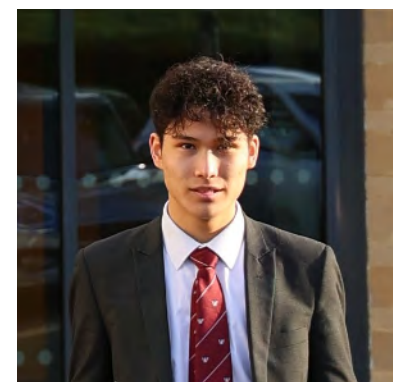
Cody was inspired to investigate, and ultimately pursue, the Apprenticeship route after hearing several talks from former pupils on their experiences doing Apprenticeships with the 'big four'. He was attracted to the idea of beginning his career, earning a wage,

and getting on-the-job experience all while gaining his professional qualifications.

After a tough selection process through an online Assessment Centre last term, Cody was delighted to hear he has been offered a place on the Management Consultancy Programme in Leeds. His advice to anyone else considering applying is to be as confident as possible, and to remember that while individual academic success is important, they

are looking for excellent teamwork and communication skills.

Well done and thanks for sharing your experience with us Cody!



GIRLS U13 HOCKEY

Our U13s had an excellent game against Red House U14s on Monday night. The girls battled hard against a good side to draw 3-3 with Erin scoring and Bella scoring twice. Their

skills and understanding of the game has massively improved and I look forward to watching this develop further this term.

Miss N Hodgson



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on social media:



GIRLS U12C HOCKEY

Our U12Cs were back in action on Tuesday against King's Academy A team.

Their understanding of hockey and skills are improving every game but this game needed a bit of grit and teamwork to eventually win the game 3-2.

Well done girls!

Miss N Hodgson



BOWIE EXPERIENCE

A spectacular concert celebrating the sound and vision of David Bowie. A must see for all Bowie fans, the latest production features all the hits from A to Ziggy.

Bowie Experience continues to amaze audiences with an astounding attention to detail, bringing the golden years of David Bowie to theatres across the globe. So, put on your red shoes and Let's Dance!

Saturday 14th January 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



LEGEND – THE MUSIC OF BOB MARLEY

Legend – the Music of Bob Marley is an unforgettable evening celebrating this musical icon in one fantastic stage show extravaganza. Combining his superb, distinctive vocals with flawless musicianship, and a supremely talented cast.

It is a two-hour spectacular, showcasing the magic of Marley. It captures the charisma and culture of an icon gone too soon.

Saturday 21st January 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



ANDRE RIEU IN DUBLIN

André and his Johann Strauss Orchestra will delight you with romantic melodies, popular classics, party tunes and beloved waltzes.

André in Dublin is the maestro's first recorded concert in the Irish capital for more than 20 years – it is a truly special event not to be missed. Enjoy an evening of music and dance on the big screen with André Rieu. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A LIVE STREAMED PRODUCTION AND IS NOT PERFORMED LIVE AT THE AUDITORIUM.

Saturday 14th - Sunday 15th January 2023

[Book Online Here](#)



STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!



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