

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Another fascinating newsletter offers a range of glimpses and deep dives into the pupils' experiences, with stunning artwork, adventurous and snowy outdoor trips, contentious debates, language challenges (unless you're fluent in French), boardroom battles, Sixth Form play previews (tickets are going fast), staff exertions, RPE conference news, global music chart domination (really), enrichment lecture details, concert photos, book review, business presentations, Former Pupil visits, and sporting triumph!

We read about Vlad entering the dizzy heights of global music charts - an extraordinary feat with further details within. On the theme of chart toppers, we celebrate the school

being recognised as the 37th best sporting school in England - in the top 2%! Quite an accolade, and reflective of the graft and dedication of pupils and staff alike, with support from parents too, to propel our teams to the final stages of a number of sporting events on a national level. Congratulations to all concerned for further establishing our credentials and cementing our growing reputation as a force to be reckoned with.

In assemblies this week we learned about virtues from Mr Lyle, and then about different customs around the world from Lower Sixth students. We also reflected on the fact that today is Holocaust Memorial Day, hearing from James and Jian as we considered

the Holocaust and other genocides, and particularly the effects of these unspeakable events on children who were either directly or indirectly impacted, being imprisoned, displaced or separated from family and suffering lifelong trauma as a result.

As ever, our pupils think deeply and seriously about such issues. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's theme this year is 'Ordinary People', and - while reflecting on the ordinary people who found themselves involved on all sides of the Holocaust - we are reminded that we all fall into that category, with a responsibility to ensure that we challenge prejudice and hatred to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Dr Huw Williams



Fourth Year hikers summit a snowy Blencathra last weekend, after First and Second Year pupils enjoyed an adventure there the previous weekend.

SIXTH FORM PLAY TICKETS

Adults £7.00, Children £1.00, Yarm Pupils Free

Tickets available from the box office, 01642 792587, or online.

Gas Station Angel

Wed 1st, Thu 2nd, Fri 3rd Feb, 7pm

[Tickets online here.](#)

Blue Stockings

Tue 7th, Wed 8th, Thu 9th Feb, 7pm

[Tickets online here.](#)

ENRICHMENT LECTURES

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER STASINSKI: 'THE SERIOUSNESS OF MATHEMATICAL JOKES'

Yesterday evening, forty keen mathematicians came to hear the University of Durham's Professor of Algebra, Alexander Stasinski talk about the seriousness of mathematical jokes, as part of the enrichment lecture series. I think the biggest joke was my own lack of mathematical knowledge, but even from the perspective of a 'layman' it was engaging, and professor Stasinski's passion was evident. He went on to explain how we can consider Grandi's series a mathematical joke due to the meaningless paradoxical qualities of it, but then went on to describe how

we can make it meaningful and serious. Discussions of the Riemann Hypothesis, representation Zeta groups, and infinite groups certainly made this a challenging lecture, however our students and pupils engaged well, rose to the challenge, asking some thought-provoking questions at the end. We are very grateful for Professor Stasinski giving up the time to come and talk to us.

Our next lecture in the series is from former pupil, Nina Herbert. Nina is an ocean conservationist working with the charity ORCA. Over the past few weeks, she has been on



expedition in Antarctica to further understand the changes taking place in the ecosystem, and looking at ways to protect it. It is on this theme that she will talk to us. This will take place on Monday 6th February at 4:15pm in the Friarage Theatre.

Mr R Williams

CONCERT AND CAKES

We were delighted to hold 'Concert and Cakes' in the Recital room again on Tuesday. Thank you to all who came along and to all our young musicians who performed.



FOURTH YEAR WINTER WALK

A group of eight hardy Fourth Year pupils joined Miss Street, Mr Roberts and Mr Mathers for a wintery walk on Blencathra on Sunday.

With plenty of snow on the ground we headed out towards the back of Blencathra, hoping to catch the most snow on the lee facing slope. A well-paced stroll up towards Mungrisdale Common in shelter from the wind ensured the group made good progress, using their map skills from the Third Year Journey to navigate and lead the way.

After a short bite to eat and adding an extra warm layer and some waterproof overtrousers we headed up into the clouds, all the while using our ice axes for extra support and stability on the steep snowy path.

Upon reaching a slight flattening in the hillside the group thought they had conquered the first mountain of the day, Atkinson Pike, and so we carried on our upward journey

aiming for the second summit, Blencathra. Not much time passed before we actually reached Atkinson Pike, with a cairn marking the summit. From here we had to follow Mr Mathers and his compass bearing across the snowy plateau and through the cloud, passing the monument cross, to the summit of Blencathra.

From here it was a quick descent down the 'Normal Route', stopping for our second lunch in the group

shelter, and then back to the minibus. From here it was off to the service station to celebrate with some ice cream and then the swift return to school.

Well done to the enthusiastic and energetic pupils taking part and to Miss Street for giving up her weekend to join us. See some of you on the Winter Mountaineering Weekend next year!

Mr A Mathers



DEBATE: IS MATHS THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT?

This week in senior debate, we were joined by the first year debaters to explore a current hot topic through the motion of "This house believes maths is the most important subject." With Rishi as chair and student judges Josh, Eleanor and Miriam, the four teams were divided into opposition and proposition, with two debaters on each side.

Luke (Team Ultimate Shannerz) on the proposition, opened by setting out his team's argument emphasising the use of maths through everyday activity and as a fundamental building block of real life with links to discipline. He also described maths as a universal language which is a well respected subject to the extent that everyone has an expectation to

have some knowledge of it.

Opening for the opposition, Manisha (Team Agree to Disagree) focused on the importance of other subjects when it comes to everyday opportunities as well as highlighting how the existence of maths would have only come around with the subject of English and languages. She also gave further insight into how

DEBATE (cont.)

learning difficulties affect people's mathematical abilities and the growing movement away from mathematics when it comes to higher education choices.

Closing for the proposition, Kitty (Team Arguably the best) explained how despite the difficulty some may face when learning mathematics, it does not decrease its importance. She further explored the use of maths in other subjects such as music, ethics and philosophy even alluding to the recent government proposal of making maths mandatory up until the age of 18, conveying its importance.

Simmi (Team Vici) then closed for the opposition highlighting the lack of importance maths had in the history of education and the modern world that is more dependent on technology to solve mathematical issues in the real world. She further emphasised the importance of individuality in the world and conveyed her team's belief that there is no most important subject, and that therefore maths could not be seen as the most important.

Both Teams then faced a series of questions from the judges and then the audience. The questions ranged from higher level maths being useless, the role of maths in medicine, maths as a necessity and

technology like card machines calculating for us in the real world.

The judges then departed to collate ideas before choosing a winning side. On returning, they expressed how entertaining they found the debate with strong arguments and well answered questions before concluding that the proposition took the victory due to the clarity and consistency of their argument. Another great debate, shared with our younger debaters too!

Simone Sharma, Lower Sixth

ARTISTS' CORNER

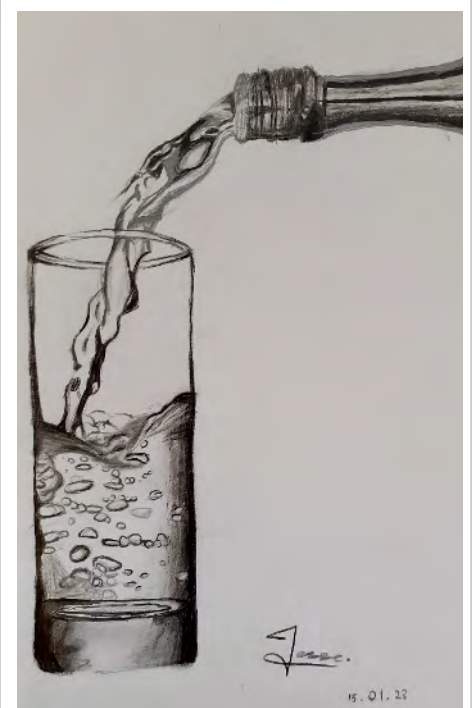
Monisha has created this beautifully playful drawing which captures the character of 'Cat' perfectly. Thank you Monisha!

Jessica Jenyns, Visiting Artist



Jesse Bissett Brown in Second Year has worked on these excellent tonal studies independently at home and has done a fantastic job capturing the shiny, reflective surfaces.

Mrs G Thompson



NOTRE VOYAGE À BERNAY

Avant Noël, les lycéens de Yarm qui étudient le français sont allés en France pour visiter un lycée à Bernay. Malgré le temps glacial de la Normandie en hiver, on a apprécié l'expérience de parler français pendant le séjour entier et aussi de se faire des amis français.

Après un voyage de dimanche très long qui incluait Freddie qui dormait tout en serrant sa chaussure, lundi était notre premier jour en France. Nous sommes allés au lycée Saint Anselme à Bernay pour assister aux cours français, y compris le STSS et les maths experts, ainsi que nos premières expériences avec la vraie langue et cuisine française en bavardant avec nos correspondantes. Cependant c'était une journée difficile pour la plupart d'entre nous, parce que nous avons eu besoin de nous habituer à la langue française, et en même temps passer une journée très longue (les journées scolaires française durent 10h, de 8h du matin à 6h du soir).

Le deuxième jour était beaucoup plus facile, parce qu'on s'était mieux habitués à la langue. Nous avons fait des cours de bio, d'anglais et, le plus bizarre, une leçon de français ou nous avons bien travaillé en faisant des exercices sur le subjonctif. A 3h, nous sommes partis pour aller à Honfleur, une très belle ville au bord de la mer, où nous avons passé deux heures. Le soir, nous avons regardé

'Le Torrent', un nouveau film français écrit et réalisé par l'actrice légendaire française Anne Le Ny.

Malheureusement, le mardi soir, il a neigé, et alors nous ne pouvions pas aller au lycée. Donc nous sommes allés au centre-ville de Lisieux pour voir la belle basilique de Sainte Thérèse, faire du shopping et manger de la vraie cuisine française. Heureusement, certaines des correspondantes ont pu venir à Lisieux, et donc nous avons mangé avec eux avant de jouer au bowling et de regarder le match (c'était encore la Coupe du Monde) de la France contre le Maroc.

Le jeudi a été touché par le temps également, et donc nous n'avons pu aller au lycée que pour faire deux heures de sport. Nous avons tous joué au badminton, et M. Spence a presque gagné le concours avec son partenaire. Après avoir tristement dit au revoir aux correspondantes, nous avons pris le voyage d'environ 2h à Rouen. La ville était si belle avec les lumières et les marchés de Noël. Donc heureusement, nous avons eu beaucoup de temps pour explorer, visiter la cathédrale magnifique, et faire du shopping. Le soir, nous avons regardé un spectacle de comédie dans un théâtre - c'était plein d'humeur et de blagues que Monsieur Ravenhall a vraiment appréciés.

Surtout, le voyage était très bénéfique pour notre utilisation de la langue française, ainsi que nous nous sommes beaucoup amusés avec nos correspondantes et maintenant amies françaises.

Luke Porter and Eve Kempster,
Upper Sixth



3(RD) BOARDROOM, 2 PITCHES AND 1 LORD SUGAR

Yes, it was Yarm Apprentice back in full flow for the Spring Term!

Lord Sugar, aka Karl Pemberton the MD of Active Financial Planners, had previously challenged the YA teams to act as Recruitment Consultancies to help them expand the reach of their recruitment. He informed the students that Active currently has a very experienced team, but wants to recruit some young talent to secure the future success of the business.

With Gaurav and Lawrie required to step up and be Project Managers the teams had worked hard, with evidence of their research, and they were ready to offer up good proposals. Gaurav, Miles, Jasmine and Arhana were first to pitch, followed by Lawrie, Cassie and Simmi. Both teams were professional in delivery and coped well with a range of probing questions, but there could only be one winning team. Whilst commending the efforts of Gaurav's group, Lord Sugar declared Lawrie's team victorious, with particular reference made to the originality of the ideas.

Whilst sweet treats were enjoyed by the victors, Gaurav brought Miles and Sasha back into the Boardroom, with Sasha the one to hear the ominous words, "You're fired!"

Bonus points have been awarded to Lawrie as PM, whilst the Karren and Claude / Tim points go to Ollie and

Harry, and the Peer voted "Outstanding Apprentice on Task" points are given to Arhana and Simmi.

Many thanks to Karl Pemberton for

giving his time and energy so generously, and for his ongoing, much appreciated support of our YA programme.

Miss C E Rhodes

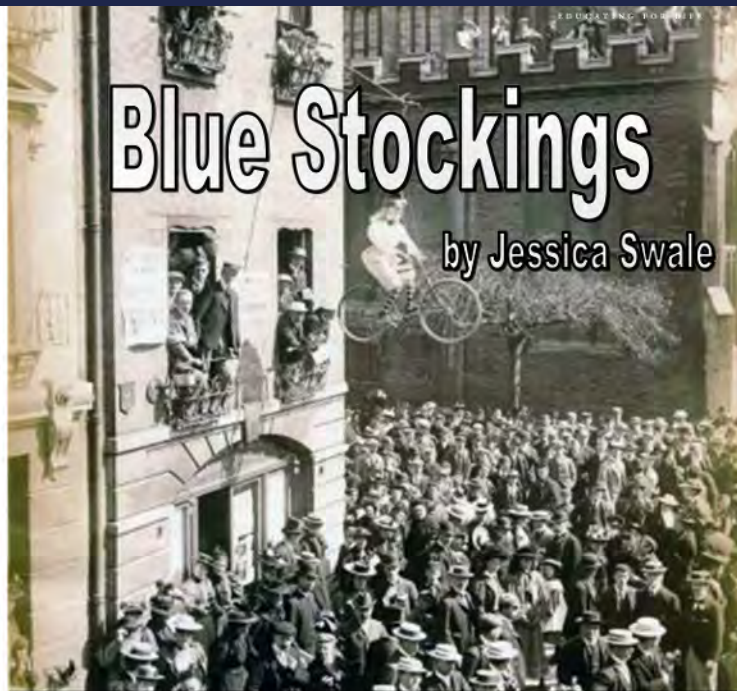




GAS STATION ANGEL
ED THOMAS

Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd February
7pm

Studio Theatre
www.thepaaonline.org



Blue Stockings
by Jessica Swale

Tuesday 7th to Thursday 9th February
7pm

Studio Theatre
www.thepaaonline.org

TWO WEEKS OF DRAMA: GAS STATION ANGEL & BLUE STOCKINGS

Sixth Form Students are performing two fantastic plays next month. Don't miss a chance to see them!

Gas Station Angel

Ace lives with his mum and dad. Their house falls into the sea.

Bron has a dead-end job and a missing brother.

Will falling in love rescue them from their messed up lives?

Or will the dark tragedy that connects make love impossible?

A story of family, fairies, angels, axe-murders and chickens, set in 20th century, smalltown Wales.

Seating is in-the-round and limited so book early!

Set in a shrinking land, Gas Station Angel is the latest play from Ed Thomas whose previous plays includes House of America (also recently released as a film) and Songs From a Forgotten City.

Blue Stockings

It's 1896, a time when the majority of people strongly believed a woman's place was in the home.

The idea of a woman wanting to be educated or studying academic subjects was a controversial debate. Women didn't need to learn; they just needed to behave. But times are changing. Blue Stockings follows the journey of some of the first female students at Girton College,

Cambridge University as the hurdles of life, love, family expectations and fierce opposition are placed in their way in their determination to graduate.

BUY TICKETS

Adults £7.00, Children £1.00, Yarm Pupils Free

Tickets available from the box office, 01642 792587, or online.

Gas Station Angel

Wed 1st , Thu 2nd, Fri 3rd Feb, 7pm
[Tickets online here.](#)

Blue Stockings

Tue 7th , Wed 8th, Thu 9th Feb, 7pm
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RPE CONFERENCE

Mrs Lodge took five Religion, Philosophy & Ethics GCSE students to a day of lectures at Our Lady and St Bede School in Stockton, given by the renowned philosopher Dr Peter Vardy.

The talks included a variety of thought provoking topics: the ethics of decision making and good vs evil; the ethics of things such as AI rights, reproductive technology, genetic alteration, and the debate of sanctity over quality of life. With reference to Aristotle, Singer, St Thomas Aquinas, and multiple religious viewpoints, the students engaged with many interesting theories that will hopefully help them in their GCSE and A Level Religious Studies.

Esther Lane, Fifth Year



VLAD TOP OF THE CHARTS

At the beginning of 2023, Vlad Ostapenko recently hit the top 100 Apple Music charts (top 10 in Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan to name only a few and top 20 in Ukraine) thanks to a beat he produced and released by White Gallows.

For some context, the Ukrainian Eurovision winner is 32nd in the charts.

This is not the first hit release he has produced, which is why he has the status of a chart producer.

Vlad is the founder of the FEVRAL BEATS global team of 10 producers, mix engineers, designers and social media managers from different countries (Ukraine, Poland, Finland, France, Great Britain, etc.) You can listen



to his work on different platforms of his team on Youtube, Beatstars, Instagram, etc.

Vlad built Fevral Beats as a commercial venture and taught himself to produce as his main passion is business. Very soon he will release a new project called FEVRAL DESIGN where professional designers, digital artists and others will work.

Vlad joined Yarm School in May 2022 after moving from Ukraine.

We wish Vlad good luck on his business journey ahead!

DODDIE AID

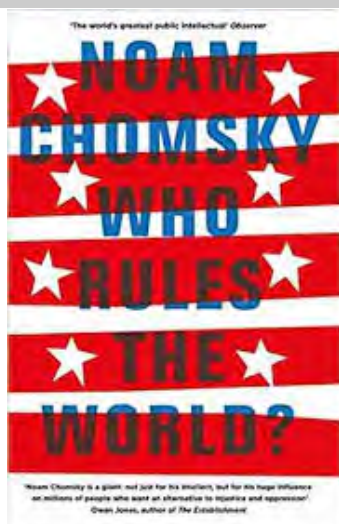
As we approach the end of week 4 of the staff Doddie Aid Challenge Yarm staff have accumulated over 1000 miles. Staff have been walking, running, playing sports, cycling and taking part in the Sunday morning Doddie Aid zwiift rides with Sir Chris Hoy. Mr Baker is still at the top of the leaderboard with a whopping 190.47miles! He is being closely followed by Mrs Baines, Miss Street, Mrs Smith, Mr Newman, Mr Thompson, Mrs Thompson, Mr

Burns, Mrs Parker, Mr Collins, Mr Taylor, Mr Grimwood and Mr Mathers. So far, we have raised nearly £300 for the MyNameDoddie5 MND charity.

Mr A Morrison



POLITICS BOOK REVIEW: WHO RULES THE WORLD? BY NOAM CHOMSKY



Noam Chomsky presents a different answer than one might expect in his book *Who Rules the World?* which provides an interesting read. I originally chose to read *Who Rules The World?* because it linked nicely to our present Global Politics studies in Politics where we have discussed US power: the Cold War balance of power between the US and the USSR, the post-Cold War power of the US as the hegemony and the potential for a more distributed balance of power throughout the world. The rise of culture and arts from other countries such as China and South Korea have posed a threat to US power hence the extent of how much power the US really holds was on the forefront of my mind when choosing a book.

In his book, Chomsky reviews the current state (published 2017) of world affairs through a critical lens, analysing the US' (and other Western powers') role in shaping the wider world and its post-9/11 policies. He focuses a portion of his book on the

extent that the US have drifted from their human-rights focused policies as a result of the shift to military priorities which has led to a more frequent use of torture and elimination of perceived threats which I found most interesting to read. Chomsky uses the reported 'just and necessary' murder of leader of Al Qaeda Osama Bin Laden whose body was 'dumped at sea without an autopsy [or] trial, as there was in the case of Nazi war criminals' as an example of this. He also explores three categories of murder: 'murder with intent', 'accidental murder' and 'murder with foreknowledge but without specific intent'. More often than not, the US falls into the third category: 'killing without intent' yet being aware of the potential for catastrophe. Such as when Bill Clinton ordered the bombing of the al-Shifa plant in 1998, despite the Human Rights Watch's advice, or the assassination of Al-Musawi and consequently his wife and five-year-old child by Israel with a US-supplied helicopter. The prioritising of eliminating perceived threats has caused the US to sacrifice those who were not so and Noam Chomsky uses the analogy of 'the ants we crush while walking down the street' to describe how the US perceives those civilians killed during their campaigns: the idea that we do not intend to crush the ants we walk over, although we are aware that it

will happen, but they are 'not worthy of such consideration' that we will consciously avoid crushing them. Chomsky explains that despite the US presenting itself as if it holds the moral high ground and its public support of human rights, when it deems appropriate, it does not mind deviating from the values it was built on. As Chomsky stated, it makes us wonder about 'which criminals "wanted the world over"' and I personally found myself thinking about the self-interested actions of nation-states that were operating at the expense of others.

Chomsky holds little back when critically delving into US foreign policy and their military adventures which ignore international standards of human rights and cause hundreds of reckless deaths of noncombatants in the US 'War against Terror'. It almost feels ironic that to us the US seems to be the symbol of human rights, preaching to developing countries to change their own internal laws to adhere to the US and Western idea of human rights while behind the scenes they're putting into action a much grimmer policies that fundamentally goes against the international standards of human rights. Chomsky doesn't avoid controversial events to make his point through exploring the US torture memos and the dangers that nuclear weapons presents to the world and the idea that the US, today,

BOOK REVIEW (cont.)

'entitled' the US to be able to resort to the 'unilateral use of military power' if deemed necessary.

Overall, *Who Rules The World?* was an insightful read and I would recommend it to anyone wishing to learn more about global politics and the US role in the world. Chomsky portrays the grilling truth of the reality of the US and what occurs behind the scenes of one of the biggest superpowers in the world which leads to an interesting, albeit slightly shocking, read and leads us to wonder not just 'who rules the world?' but 'what values rule the world?'

Cordelia Deering, Upper Sixth

STUDENT BUSINESS PRESENTS TO PEERS

With 40 students in attendance this week, the EconBus Soc goes from strength to strength! Thank you this week to Jasmine Scollay (Lower Sixth) who volunteered to present on a topic close to her heart, i.e. her own business. In an insightful, well presented and confident presentation we learnt all about how Jasmine had the idea for her business, how she grew it and what

challenges she has faced along the way as a sole trader. To make the presentation even better, she provided samples of her fabulous cream fudge!

We are really grateful for the wow factor fudge, but also for such an interesting and inspiring presentation.

Miss C E Rhodes



WELCOME BACK FOR WORKING LUNCH

This week the EconBus Dep were delighted to welcome back former pupil and former Chair of the EconBus Soc Jamie Pender for a fabulous and inspiring Working Lunch.

Posing the questions to the assembled throng of Sixth Formers, "Do you want to study Economics but aren't sure about University?", "Do you want to work directly on current economic issues whilst getting paid to complete your degree?" And "Are you interested in apprenticeships but struggling to find roles in economics?" Jamie shared his experiences to date of his Economics Apprenticeship at the HM Treasury.

The Government Economic Service Degree Apprenticeship offers apprentices the chance to study for a BSc Economics whilst working in government, with a range of departments offering exciting roles all over the country. Economic Apprentices sit at the heart of their teams, working on key economic issues and policy areas, gaining invaluable experience, all whilst achieving an Economics degree by the end of the 4 years. Jamie gave insight into the application process along for a real taste of how interesting his days are. It is evident that Jamie is thoroughly enjoying his apprenticeship and his linked studies

and his enthusiasm for the career path he is pursuing is very apparent.

It was lovely to catch up with Jamie again, and we are grateful for him taking time off on his study day to engage with and inspire our students. We will continue to follow his career with interest and wish him all the very best for the future.

Miss C E Rhodes



YARM IS 37TH BEST SPORTING SCHOOL IN ENGLAND

Yarm School is delighted to be named the 37th best sporting school in England in 2022 by School Sport Magazine. This puts the school in the top 2% of the country's state and independent sporting schools!

The ranking is based on appearances at National Finals level across 20 major sports and how successful our school teams were when they competed at the higher levels of competition.

We had previously finished a school record of 183rd in previous rankings but to finish so high is a testament to the excellent performances of many of our school teams in boys and girls hockey, rowing, netball, rugby, tennis and swimming.

This achievement is even more amazing when one considers the size of the school in terms of numbers of pupils compared to some that have come much lower down the list.

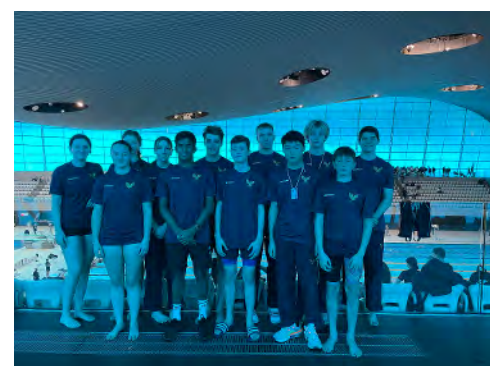
Several of the schools offer sports

scholarships, bring in specialist sports coaches/teachers and have access to a wider range of facilities which is why the Games staff at Yarm are rightly proud of the news.

Finally, this ranking is testament to the commitment of many of our pupils who work extremely hard across a number of sports. However, none of this can be achieved without the expertise and dedication of the whole of the games department and those members of staff from other departments who give up a huge amount of their time to make it all possible.

Well done to all concerned!

Mr G Ferguson



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can

[view them here.](#)



ON THE EDGE

In the style of Whose Line is it Anyway? This improvised comedy show will put a smile on your face and a spring in your step, even though it's February!

Fresh from a sell out world tour – Canada, America, Hawaii, New Zealand – On the Edge features one of the UK's most engaging, comic performers. Having performed all over the world, Kevin is fast becoming internationally renowned for his unique and exciting performance style.

The show explores such topics as; the first time we fall in love, leave home or achieve something important in our lives and received 5 star reviews and a standing ovation at the Edinburgh Festival.



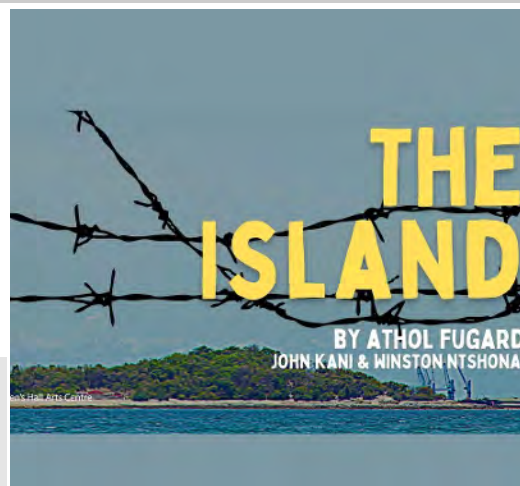
Thursday 16th February 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

THE ISLAND

A rich, boisterous, funny, moving piece of theatre, it is a hymn to the human spirit and a cry for freedom everywhere.

South Africa 1973, Robben Island, the top security prison. John and Winston are sharing a cell. They survive through a mixture of solidarity, bickering, laughter and defiance. The two men's sense of brotherhood has kept them going for years, then John hears that he's going to be released...



Wednesday 22nd February 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

THE REAL THING

THE REAL THING with ORIGINAL VOCALISTS CHRIS AMOO and DAVE SMITH and live 5 piece band are coming to Yarm!

Best known for their legendary hits 'You To Me Are Everything', 'Can't Get By Without You' and 'Can You Feel the Force', as well as their ground-breaking 1977 song, 'Children of the Ghetto', The Real Thing remain Britain's most successful black group of all-time.

If you love Soul this is the show for you!



Saturday 25th February 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off; streaming services for shows and movies on demand; games consoles; smart speakers; phones; laptops ... the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident; and making the recovery from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE

The longer, less common and predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 'three random words' guidelines are ideal for creating a long password which is easy to remember but hard to guess.

2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS

When you use the same password across different logins, your cyber resilience is only as strong as the security of the weakest site or service you've signed up for. If cyber criminals gain access your username and password for one site or service, they'll definitely try them on others.

3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

A good way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you simply need to remember the master password. LastPass, Dashlane, 1Password and Keeper are all excellent password managers.

4. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Keep a copy of your data using OneDrive, Google Drive or another reputable cloud-based storage solution. If it's extremely important or sensitive information, you could even decide to keep more than one back-up version - by saving it to a removable USB drive or similar device, for example.

5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone (to receive a code, for example) or another source to confirm your identity. This makes it far more difficult for cyber criminals to gain entry to your accounts and your data, even if they do manage to get your username and password.

6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY

Some services let you set 'recovery questions' - such as your birthplace or a pet's name - in case you forget your password. Take care not to use information you might have mentioned (or are likely to in future) on social media. More unpredictable answers make cyber criminals' task far harder.

7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS

Some services provide the facility to add secondary accounts, phone numbers and so on to help with potentially recovering your account. Make sure you set these up: they will be vital if you're having trouble logging in or if you're trying to take back control of your account after a cyber attack.

12. STAY SCEPTICAL

Cyber criminals commonly use various methods, including emails, text messages and social media posts. Be cautious of any messages or posts that are out of the ordinary, offer something too good to be true or emphasise urgency - even if they appear to come from someone you know.

11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED

Download official software updates for your household's mobile phones, laptops, consoles and other internet-enabled devices regularly. Security improvements and fixes are a key feature of these updates - so by ensuring each device is running the latest version, you're making them more secure.

10. CHANGE DEFAULT IOT PASSWORDS

Devices from the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), such as 'smart' home appliances, are often supplied with default passwords. This makes them quicker to set up, but also less secure - criminals can identify these standard passwords more easily, so change them on your IoT devices as soon as possible.

9. CHECK FOR BREACHES

You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by entering your email address at www.haveibeenpwned.com (yes, that spelling is correct!). It's useful if you're worried about a possible attack - or simply as motivation to review your account security.

8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH

Consider our tips in relation to the gadgets and online services your household uses. Protect yourself and your family, and don't let the bad guys win: devices are not only integral to modern life but also a lot of fun - so as long as you keep safety and security in mind, don't stop enjoying your tech.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



Source: www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/three-random-word | <https://haveibeenpwned.com>