

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

It was wonderful to welcome a whole host of former pupils, some former parents, pupils, colleagues and former pupils, as well as a special guest speaker to the annual Boat Club Dinner last weekend. Maintaining our links with former pupils is an important part of the sense of community here at Yarm, and something I am keen to expand. Speaking to them is a reminder of the value of a Yarm education, and we heard some powerful affirmation of this from Former Pupil Mark Bowers at the dinner as he credited rowing, and in particular Mr Guest as a central and positive influence on his life in a variety of ways. It was good for our current pupils to hear the positive

impact their chosen sport can have. Mr Guest is retiring this year having made a huge contribution to the club which was acknowledged on the night. Pupils and parents also learned the news that Mrs Lund also plans to retire from her role this year; she will be sorely missed.

The newsletter often confirms the value of keeping in touch with our former pupils, as is the case again this week, with news of working lunches, talks and careers events that they support, encouraging, educating and inspiring our current pupils as they consider their future careers, gleaning wisdom and experience from the former pupils on the way. Miss Rhodes, Mr Edwards and others host a regular stream of generous former pupils for these terrific opportunities (though there is some suspicion that they're particularly keen to be here for the quality of their lunch back in the dining hall!). Next Monday, just after school, Mr Williams is hosting Nina Herbert, another former pupil who will talk about her recent experience as a conservationist on an extended trip to the Antarctic, being held at 4.15pm in the Lecture Theatre.

Pupil success in this week's newsletter is led by Arthana, who has

just achieved the remarkable feat of becoming a published author - more detail within, but many congratulations to Arthana! Our netballers have achieved great success with the U14 and U16 teams making it through to the National Finals, with the U18s just missing out - congratulations to all on this impressive progress. Hockey teams are also continuing their excellent season and there are a number of pupil-written match reports describing the action. Well done to all, and thank you to staff for their tireless support.

As ever, there is much more within - news about science and debating competitions, Sixth Form plays, Phab club activities, student societies, a book review, Holocaust Memorial Day, Internet Safety and more. For those looking for entertainment, the YSA announce their forthcoming 80s themed event, and the PAA share the exciting news that the BBC Big Band will be playing in Yarm in May, with star pianist George Ko arriving in April. For fans of James Bond, there are details of an unmissable evening coming up later in the year. Something for everyone!

Dr Huw Williams



Arthana, First Year, with her novel, Lila and the Locket.

FIRST YEAR PUPIL, ARTHANA, PUBLISHES HER FIRST NOVEL

As a member of First Year at Yarm Senior School, I would like to share with you one of my greatest achievements. Last year, I started writing a novel and it has been successfully published!

You may be wondering, how and why did I set out to write a novel aged ten?

I have always had an interest in writing and would often find myself writing short story after short story. One such story, 'Lila and the Locket' provided the plot and inspiration for my thrilling novel.

To give you a taster of my novel, here

is the blurb:

Lila Manning is an ordinary girl, whose family has moved into a new house. Her life is turned upside down when an ancestral magical locket is stolen by a criminal mastermind! Lila and her siblings uncover astonishing secrets about their parents while trying to retrieve the family heirloom in a race against time. Just when they find the locket and settle down, dangerous obstacles lurk around the corner once again, but will Lila be able to overcome them?

As you can probably tell from my

blurb, 'Lila and the Locket' is the perfect novel for secret-agents-in-the-making, who love suspenseful pursuits on foot, tense car chases, and bringing criminals to justice!

My book is available to buy on Amazon and is recommended for nine to twelve year olds.

I hope my personal journey as an author and novel will inspire other children my age - to put pen to paper and conjure dramatic and exciting adventures. Thank you

Arthana Pradeep, First Year

SOPHIE RETURNS TO TALK PR AND COMMS

Another Friday Lunchtime and another opportunity for the Sixth Form to be inspired and enthused by another former pupil pursuing a career within FAME (Finance Accounting Management and Economics). This week we were joined via a Google Meet with Sophie Allick (Class of 2015).

Sophie recalled fondly her time at Yarm but was keen to point out that life ever since has continued to be, a "fantastic adventure". She described how she felt that, like her assembled audience of over thirty interested Sixth Form students, she had been given the best start in life by coming to Yarm! But she was keen to discourage complacency and advised all to, "leverage all these fantastic opportunities to the best of your

abilities!"

Sophie left Yarm in 2015 to attend Newcastle University and went on to complete a Business Management degree. After a brief return to Yarm to cover a maternity leave position in Marketing she moved to London, where she has been based for the past four years, and she now works in PR and Communications for Jo Malone London (part of Estee Lauder Companies). Sophie explained how she has transitioned into a different area of sales and marketing which has provided invaluable experience to learn how businesses essentially influence the minds of consumers. Sophie referred to projects she has worked on and, to a social media savvy audience, she gave multiple examples of instagram and



tik-tok usages with references to influencers they all knew of.

Sophie was more than happy to answer a plethora of questions from the floor (and from Miss Rhodes), and her parting message to the Sixth Form was for them to, "grasp every opportunity that comes their way.!"

Sophie hopes to be able to visit the school in person in the not to distant future, as she is keen to keep supporting the department, and we are really grateful to her taking the time from her very busy daily schedule to enlighten and encourage our current cohort of students.

Miss C E Rhodes

YARM APPRENTICE

The heat is on... Task 4... 2 teams, 2 bags and only 2 days...

After being escorted on a mystery tour by Miss Rhodes, (feeling like the Pied Piper of Hamlyn), the teams found themselves waiting apprehensively on the landing of the Friarage, for both a new Lord Sugar and a new task.

This time Miss Meikle presided, setting the Yarm Apprentices an onerous task! With 2 intriguing bags of stock to select from, £5 to add value and the prospect of only one lunchtime (Thursday) to sell to the school community, the pressure was immediately placed upon the students. Simmi and Arhana put themselves forwards to be the respective Project Managers and, with both teams wanting the same bag of stock (jewellery and scrunchies), a blind auction was required. Simmi's team were successful in securing the bag, but at a cost, leaving Arhana's group with the Harry Potter merchandise.

"Make A Wish" and "Phab" are the charities who will gain from any profits made and Miss Rhodes, Mr Menzies and Imy Slack will oversee the stall, checking for any anticompetitive practices. Next week Lord Sugar will return, and actions will need to be justified when the teams face the Boardroom and one or more of them "will be fired".

Miss C E Rhodes

THE MERITS OF THE FT

This week it was the turn of Adhi and Arhana, from the Lower Sixth, to present on their chosen topic of "the Financial Times".

The FT offers ambitious, curious Lower Sixth students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and confidence by becoming a Student Advocate and, having both been successfully chosen for the Programme, Adhi and Arhana explained more about the international scheme. Part of their role is to represent the voice of students to the FT and they will work closely with the FT Schools Team to develop more engaging resources for young people. Both have been set monthly tasks and each month they must feedback their findings through an online

meeting. It was fascinating to hear how they have both enhanced their applied reading / application of Economics since commencing the programme. A good discussion was sparked regarding the merits of the FT versus the Economist!

Miss C E Rhodes



PHAB CLUB ENJOY CERAMICS

Last week Phab Club were joined by Ceramics Club and had a wonderful session with clay!



BRITISH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD (BPHO) PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

We have recently run the British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) Practical challenge. This is a national competition where students have to independently investigate a practical physics situation from a brief and write a laboratory report. Each school can only submit one entry, so we held a competition in the department to find the best entry. The competition was entered by two teams of Lower Sixth students: Keya Shah and James Bannar-Martin, and James Waine, Alfie King, and Oscar Buckley.

Both teams did very well. We thought both reports were strong and represented excellent laboratory practice. It was pleasing to see so much of the learning from the A Level practical course being deployed. The investigations were thorough, uncertainty was considered, and data were presented appropriately. Risk assessments featured in both reports. Both reports showed clear thought and care had gone into gathering accurate data. The winning report made more of the uncertainty analysis and more of an attempt to compare the results to theoretical predictions.

Dr PD Prideaux

Keya has written a short account:

A couple of weeks ago, I participated in the British Physics Olympiad Practical Challenge, working together with James Bannar-Martin to do so. The topic of investigation this year

was 'Impact Craters' for which we were briefed and tasked to produce an extended report to investigate relevant variable(s) related to craters formed when ball-bearings are dropped in a tray of flour. This was in reference to such craters that are formed on a larger scale in space - such as those on the Moon.

We decided to investigate how the density of the ball-bearing dropped into the flour affected the diameter and the depth of the crater formed - which meant we would have to find a number of different ball-bearings that were all of the same size and volume but different masses. A trip to the High Street later, we carried out multiple investigations over the course of 2 weeks at lunchtimes, making sure all of our apparatus and repeats were as accurately planned as possible in order to produce a decent set of results. There were quite a few challenges in this, but we made up for it by adding detail about uncertainty, experimental accuracy and key observations in our report in order to evaluate it as effectively as possible.

Overall, we found it to be an enjoyable experience - having learned a lot about not only the physics of impact craters and motion in freefall, but also practical techniques and working as a team. We are delighted to have won in our school and hope to do so nationally - and next year - as well!

Keya Shah, Lower Sixth

DEBATERS PREPARE FOR OXFORD SCHOOLS' DEBATING COMPETITION

This week the senior debaters worked on preparing for Oxford Schools' Debating competition. The regional round of the competition will take place on 10th February in Sheffield School where 2 members of each of the senior debating society teams will compete against schools from all over the North of England to try and gain a space at the finals in March which will be in Oxford.

To prepare, the debaters focused on using the points of information format, which is used by Oxford as part of their debating style, as well as learning how to improve responses to these mid-debate interruptions. The eight debaters are looking forward to their chance to compete in their first external debating competition of this academic year. Good luck to them all!

Simmi Sharma, Lower Sixth



**YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS ...**



TOTALLY 80S

**FRIDAY 17TH MARCH
7PM - 11PM**

Dress for the 80s

Magician & DJ

Light Bites

IN THE PAA BASEMENT BAR

**TICKETS £20 EACH FROM
WWW.YARMSCHOOLASSOCIATION.ORG**

Bring £1 coins!

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY - UNIVERSITY OF YORK VISIT

Last week over twenty members of the Sixth Form and Fifth Year participated in a Holocaust Memorial event hosted by the University of York. You can read two accounts of the event below.

Mr S Edwards



Report: Cordelia Deering, Upper Sixth

Last Tuesday we travelled to the University of York for their Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture which this year was focused on 'ordinary people'. The guest speaker Professor Rebecca Clifford spoke of her book *Survivors: Children's Lives after the Holocaust* which presented a less trodden path of research on the Holocaust: the children often too young to remember their experiences. This has often led to these 'survivors' being disregarded as such, as if they were the 'lucky ones', but in reality, their lives have been affected just as much as those who do remember.

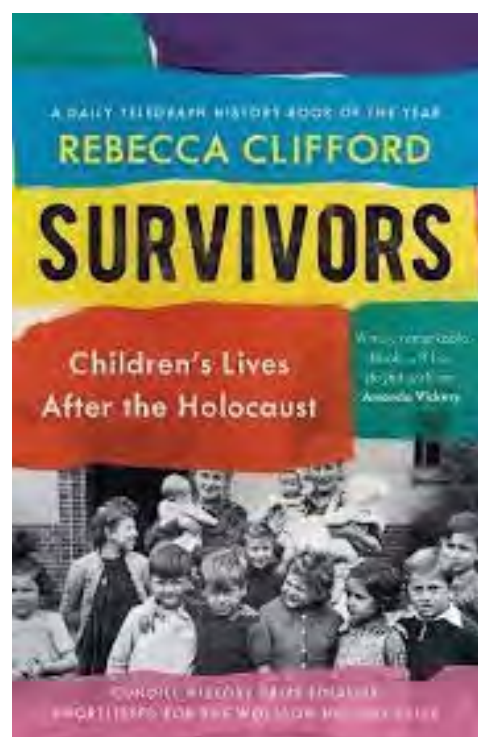
Clifford's area of research focused primarily on the effects of the Holocaust in these people's everyday lives afterwards. Such as

when their traumatic experiences - whether they remembered them or not - affected them most, which happened to be not when Clifford expected: as a result of worldwide events. Rather, it would be more personal experiences which would lead to their trauma catching up to them such as their marriage, their first child, their divorce. She found that they often struggled with their relationships, some having a lack of trust, which led to several of the survivors divorcing their partners.

Clifford also pressed the point that many of these child survivors, not being able to remember the Holocaust, had often been denied the right to be called a 'survivor'. Only now are they really getting recognition for their trauma as the number of survivors of the holocaust continues to diminish as the years go on. They have often been disregarded for their lack of memories of the Holocaust but Clifford was able to prove the significance of the Holocaust on their lives, growing up and in everyday life. It was also interesting how all the survivors seemed to see themselves as 'ordinary people' and for very much of their lives they are living 'normally', despite their experiences. However, Clifford was able to enlighten us that, although they would be deemed to be living normally, in reality their childhood

experiences, despite not remembering them, had significantly affected them mentally.

Overall, the lecture was incredibly interesting, exploring a group of people that have often been forgotten about and that I had never really thought about until now. I was really glad that I got the opportunity to listen to Professor Clifford and learn about those survivors of the Holocaust who have often been disregarded and I would recommend her book *Survivors: Children's Lives after the Holocaust*.



Report: Ava Carter, Fifth Year

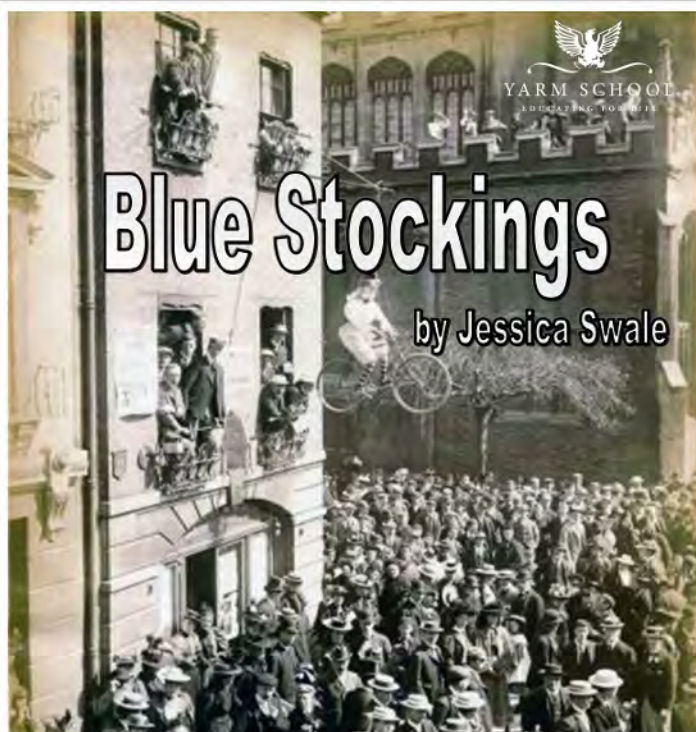
Last Tuesday, a group of historians travelled to York University to hear the lecture from Rebecca Clifford who had written the book 'Survivors: Children's live after the

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY (cont.)

Holocaust' which was shortlisted for the 2021 Wolfson History Prize. The book covers many themes and topics about people who at the time of the Holocaust were very young (around 3-10) and have lived their lives without the knowledge of their culture and their families from before the war. Not knowing their true parents and most having to live in hiding can drastically affect someone's life which Clifford tries to explore by interviewing these people. However, what I found most interesting was how the nature of what a 'survivor of the Holocaust' changed over seventy years later. For many years following the events

of World War Two, a 'Holocaust survivor' only referred to people who had managed to survive through the gruelling work and conditions of the concentration camps; so many of these child survivors weren't acknowledged and were seen as being 'lucky' rather than fighting to survive. Therefore, there wasn't much written down by these child survivors as they weren't seen as true survivors, with Clifford only noting that there was one set of memoirs. Many people when Clifford was interviewing them didn't want to talk about their experiences as, because of how 'surviving' was seen at the time, many previous interviewers and

historians had never really wanted to know what happened to these people after such a traumatic experience. Yet, where Clifford's book stands out is that she wonders how people have coped and lived afterwards which really fascinated me. Many, particularly over lockdown, tried to create family trees or find family members trying to connect the fragments of memory they have together. Overtime, the view of who was a 'survivor of the Holocaust' and who wasn't has broadened to include many other groups like child survivors which has made many more curious to learn about their life and culture before the war.



Tuesday 7th to Thursday 9th February

7pm

Studio Theatre

www.thepaaonline.org

SIXTH FORM DRAMA: 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.

Adults £7.00, Children £1.00, Yarm Pupils Free

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

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

[Tickets online here.](#)

POLITICS BOOK REVIEW: SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS BY THOMAS ERIKSON

Surrounded By Idiots portrays a society through the eyes of the writer who grew up in Iowa in the 80's, in a business-like background. His father developed a keen sense for human behaviour and paired with his son's (Erikson's) ability to develop software, they created 3.5 inch floppy disks that could predict the potential of a human through their habits and mannerisms. Erikson goes on to explain how through his understanding of the human condition people's behaviour can affect their standings and views, for example: politics. I will go on to decipher issues of sovereignty, election turnout and why Prime Ministers are good or bad all through the perspective of a self-centred, frankly narcissistic writer.

The majority of Thomas' book is his observations of the people around him and whether their opinions can be trusted; similar to Nick Carraway in F Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby'. He begins his analysis of a particular woman he knew stating she had an "entire list of things she could blame if something didn't go her way". He then goes on to list off some of the items that this particular woman blames - "the government, the opposition". It is around this basis that the political aspect comes into this book as it highlights the widespread dysmorphia and general dislike towards politics. The next question Erikson asks is whose

responsibility it is for her blaming these things. Is it her fault or is she correct by blaming the government for all her issues? The public's outlook on current political voting and referendums all depends on their ability to be engaged with politics.

The UK public is currently in a state of low turnout depending on the election with only 68% of the public voting on Brexit as well as the US where their average turnout rate is typically between 50% and 60%. This ends up being one of the higher turnout rates compared to such elections as the UK Police and Crime Commissioners in which the turnout is as low as 27.3% in 2016. Not only does this question the legitimacy of the election but it also questions the legitimacy of the role they enact.

Does a person with only ¼ of a population's support deserve sovereignty over others' decisions?

Apart from the questioning of legitimacy from an issue as simple as an excuse, Erikson also highlights the nature of certain humans through four different categories: red, blue, green and yellow. Through the previously mentioned software that the father-son duo developed, Erikson determines that he can find someone with the perfect characteristics to enact political duress. The different coloured categories highlight a person's willingness to change, how they connect with others, considering

conflict and reaction. However, in mainstream we never hear of this system or see it used so what did Erikson find? Nothing. There was no correct answer to his correction. Again, like 'The Great Gatsby', Erikson's answer was filled with contradictions that led to nowhere. One positive aspect of a Red human would also have a negative aspect that would undermine his ability to rule. One may have a fast reaction to a crisis however, may make rash decisions. He states "you may even be jealous of others qualities" and that "no one is perfect" which I believe many Prime Minister's may believe or even wish they could. Liz Truss' recent run at PM was indicated to be because she lacked desired qualities for the job. For example, not hiring anyone that didn't support her rather than hiring the best, most competent person for the job within the Cabinet.

To conclude, I believe although Erikson is an egotistical individual, he is certainly right about two main aspects of politics with his colour theory. The leader cannot be perfect, and the public cannot be reliant on politicians for this exact reason. I believe 'Surrounded By Idiots' portrays a very modern, realistic society that gives a third party perspective to current politics.

Josh Littler, Upper Sixth

NATIONAL SCHOOLS NETBALL

The U14, U16 and U19 Netball squads competed in the National Schools North East Regional Tournament this weekend at Gateshead Stadium, with the aim of qualifying for the National finals in March. The top 2 schools out of 8 competing in each age group would qualify for the finals at Oundle School.

All girls put on a great performance with everyone playing well and contributing to the many wins achieved. The U14 and U16 squads qualified as winners of their

tournaments and the U19's came 4th overall.

Congratulations to all the girls who played as they showed real team work, resilience, commitment and determination in all games.

Miss N Hodgson



YARM SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM OF THE WEEK 2022 -2023

Kyra Hyndman U16



Isabella Bottomley 1st VII

Sienna Hyndman U14



Ava Holmes U14

Hannah Muzawazi U16



Summer Benzie 1st VII

Lucy Mitchell U14



Estelle Orr U16

Naila Krishnamoorthy U14



Amelia Hudson U14

Izzie Speight U16



Rose Korsen 1st VII

Scarlett Smith U16



Kayla Roberts 1st VII

U12 AND U13 GIRLS HOCKEY



The U12 and U13 year girls competed in the U13A County Tournament last week, this is the first step on the way to the U13 National Competition.

The U12s competed well and improved throughout the tournament only losing 1 goal to nil against Egglecliffe and drawing 1-1 against Teesside High. If they continue improving at this rate they will be a force next year!

The U13s struggled to get going and didn't link up as well as they usually would but despite this dominated the tournament, finishing first and progressing through to the area finals in March. Well done Girls!

Miss N Hodgson

ALL TEAMS PROGRESS INTO THE ISHC CUP ROUND 3

U13- Yarm 3 - 1 GSAL

U15- QEGS 0 - 6 Yarm

U19- Yarm 7 - 0 Giggleswick

As the deadline to Round 2 of the ISHC approached at the end of January, we needed to fit 3 games into a tight schedule in quick succession. It was a real battling performance from the U13s with goals from Gilraine, Atsushi and Dunkin as they were pushed right to the every end of a tight encounter v GSAL.

The U19 scoreline suggests a one-sided affair but the boys were made to work for it as Giggleswick had a couple of tricky players and a number of athletes which made them hard to break down. However, after some well executed short corners from Timmy Foley and Will Ferguson, a trade mark 'argie' finish from Ferguson and another poachers goal from Tom Graham meant Yarm moved into Round 3.

Mr G Ferguson

U15 Vice Captain, Cameron Morrison, wrote the following match report...

The U15 team travelled to Wakefield to play Queen Elizabeth Grammar School on Tuesday 31st in the second round of the Independent Schools Hockey Cup. We ended up coming out on top with the final score ending as 6-0.

In the first half Ollie Carr scored a

goal towards the start of the game and then Cameron Morrison got a goal near the end of the first half to end the half 2-0. In the first play of the second half Cam and Jake leader took it off the start passing the ball between each other to get a goal in the first minute of the second half. Ayan Thomas then got a goal not too long after making it 4-0. Cam got

another one towards the end of the half and then in the last play Ashton Flynn got a goal to end the game off a short corner. Everyone had a great performance with heads high for the next round of the cup.

Cameron Morrison, Fourth Year



Above: U13 A Team progressed through to Round 3.

Below: U15 team progresses through to Round 3.



UNDER 12'S DISAPPOINTED IN THE COUNTY CUP - BUT STILL PROGRESS

There were some tears as the U12 A team ended the match as runners up in a tight county cup competition at home last Monday evening. After comfortable group wins against RGS B (5-0) and Red House (5-0) and a straightforward semi-final v Teesside High (3-0), the boys entered the final with high hopes. Their score lines so far were even more impressive as the games were only 12 minutes in length (13 goals in 36 minutes).

RGS were strong and unfortunately scored in the first minute as a

forward scored a world class goal by hitting the ball into the top corner of the net in spite of keeper Kit Foster's best efforts. Whilst Yarm pushed hard throughout the rest of the game, they just couldn't force an equaliser and finished the tournament as runners up- however, they still progressed to the North Finals later in the term.

With one of only two B teams in the tournament, the Yarm B team produced some excellent displays. A tough start against Teesside High

(2-0 defeat) was quickly followed by a 1-0 defeat to eventual winners RGS (this matched our A Team scoreline v RGS which shows how impressive that scoreline was). The final group game was a 0-0 draw v Egglecliffe A Team- a great result! Well done to all the squad they displayed real potential. Jack Smith, William Foster, Jake Davidson not to mention others, are definitely players for the future!

Mr G Ferguson



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).



BOYS HOCKEY ASHVILLE BLOCK- SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY

It was a good effort all-round from the teams as we won 5 out of the 6 fixtures played with the other game a well deserved draw. With much changed teams, the 3rd team won comfortably 4-0 whilst the Fourth Years were pushed all the way but came out 2-1 winners. The Second Year results highlighted the excellent progress this year group has made over the past 12 months with big wins as opposed to much tighter results in these fixtures last year.

U12 A - Won 1-0

U12 B - Drew 2-2

U13 A - Won 6-2

U13 B - Won 6-1

U14 A - Won 4-0

U15 A - Won 2-1

UNDER 12 A TEAM

Ashville 0 - 1 Yarm

In the Yarm vs Ashville hockey game, the game ended 1-0 to Yarm, with a goal from Ollie Gray and the assist coming from Ben Pumphrey. Yarm had a slow start to the game, with the score being 0-0 by half-time. After the two team talks, the second half was more lively and aggressive for both sides and within the first 5 minutes of the second half starting, Yarm found themselves ahead. Ashville fought their way through the second half but couldn't find an equaliser, leaving Yarm to win 1-0. A good game was had by all!

Ollie Gray, First Year

UNDER 15

Ashville 1 - 2 Yarm

On Saturday the Yarm U15 hockey team travelled to Ashville to play a friendly match against the school. In contrast to our defeat last year we won last Saturday 2-1. Ayan Thomas scored a clean goal from a shot corner. Jake Leader also scored a fantastic goal through communication with his teammates. Cameron Morrison took a great shot but unfortunately the keeper saved it. Nevertheless despite all the troubles of the match through sheer determination Yarm won.

Mo Ibrahim, Fourth Year

UNDER 12 B TEAM

Ashville 2 - 2 Yarm

Today the U12 Yarm B team went to Ashville for a friendly hockey match. We didn't have our regular keeper so Will Foster stepped in. In the 1st half, Ashville had most of the possession and ended up scoring two goals. A few minutes later, Jake Davidson scored a great goal where he dribbled through the box then passed it into the corner. After a few minutes, we made our first sub with Harry Oo and Jude Thompson coming on. In the last five minutes of the first half, Archie Axtell set the ball for Harry Oo then he slotted it through the keeper's legs and scored.

In the 2nd half we kept our shape more at the back and we worked harder in midfield. Five minutes later we made our second sub bringing on Jake Davidson and George Forshaw. Our defense played more long balls to the front men providing more chances to score however the Ashville defense marked us tightly. Our keeper Will Foster made a vital save to keep it 2-2 and secure the draw.

Well done boys!

Harry Oo, First Year

SPORT WEEK AHEAD

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[view them here.](#)

JUST ANNOUNCED: BBC BIG BAND

The BBC Big Band performs regularly at most of the UK's major music festivals including the BBC Proms, Cheltenham, Edinburgh, Harrogate, Brecon and as an Associate Ensemble at Town Hall Birmingham.

The Band has also performed many times in the BBC Proms series at London's Royal Albert Hall and also at the BBC Proms in the Park.

The BBC Big Band is now widely regarded as the UK's leading Big Band and has won the prestigious 'Best Big Band Award' at the British Jazz Awards eight times.



Friday 5th May 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

GEORGE KO PIANIST

Heralded by Steinway & Sons for "making classical music exciting and accessible for the masses," pianist George Ko has encapsulated audiences worldwide with his classical improvisations on the piano, blending Chopin-like virtuosity with the vast soundscapes of cinema.

He often takes daring requests from the audience, including their Spotify favorites, to a custom song inspired by their current mood in real-time.



Tuesday 11th April 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

MISSION: THE SONGS OF BOND

Mission: The Songs Of Bond journeys through the decades of these songs – with show stopping vocals and superb choreography – all headed up by our AI computer guiding the cast and the audience through the mission with amazing, detailed facts about each song.

Every song and vocal performance is an anthem and audiences will be taken on an unforgettable vocal journey through the memories, drama and the epic-ness that is MISSION: THE SONGS OF BOND!



Saturday 14th October 2023 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about DIGITAL LIVES

The online world is an entirely familiar and commonplace part of life for today's children and young people, far more so than for previous generations. There are many positives to children being able to access online materials, so it's important not to demonise the internet, games and apps, and limit the benefit of their positive aspects. At the same time, we do have a responsibility to educate children about the hazards they may encounter online (just as we would about real-world dangers) so it's essential that we don't shy away from talking to them about the complex – and often sensitive – subject of what they do and what they see when they're online.

Here are some suggestions for kicking off conversations with your child about their digital life ...

MAKE YOUR INTEREST CLEAR

Showing enthusiasm when you broach the subject signals to your child that you're keen to learn about the positives of their online world. Most children enjoy educating adults and will happily chat about what they use the internet for, or what games and apps they're into and how these work. Asking to see their favourite games and apps in action could help you spot any aspects that may need your attention – such as chat functions which might require a settings adjustment to limit contact with strangers. Keep listening even if your child pauses for a long time: they could be considering how to phrase something specific, or they may be gauging your reaction.

BE OPEN AND HONEST, APPROPRIATE TO THEIR AGE

At various stages, children and young people become curious about puberty and how their body changes; about relationships; about how babies are made; and about sexual health. If your child knows that they can discuss these sensitive subjects with you, they tend to be less likely to go looking online for answers – which can often provide them with misleading information and, in some cases, lead to them consuming harmful content. Don't worry if you don't immediately know the answers to their questions – just find out for yourself and go back to them once you have the facts.

REMAND YOUR CHILD THEY CAN ALWAYS TALK TO YOU

In my role I work with many children and young people who admit being reluctant to tell a trusted adult about harmful content they've viewed online, in case it leads to having their devices confiscated. Emphasise to your child that you're always there to listen and help; reassure them that if they do view harmful content, then they are not to blame – but talking about it openly will help. Children shouldn't be expected to be resilient against abuse or feel that it's their job to prevent it.

KEEP TALKING!

The most valuable advice we can give is to keep talking with your child about their digital lives. You could try using everyday situations to ask questions about their online experiences.

DISCUSS THAT NOT EVERYTHING WE SEE ONLINE IS REAL

Here, you could give examples from your own digital life of the online world versus reality – for example, those Instagram posts which show the perfect house: spotlessly clean, never messy and immaculately decorated. Explain to your child that there are many other aspects of the online world which are also deliberately presented in an unrealistic way for effect – such as someone's relationship, their body, having perfect skin and so on.

TRY TO REMAIN CALM

As much as possible, try to stay calm even if your child tells you about an online experience that makes you feel angry or fearful. Our immediate emotions frequently influence the way we talk, so it's possible that your initial reaction as a parent or carer could deter a child from speaking openly about what they've seen. Give yourself time to consider the right approach, and perhaps speak with other family members or school staff while you are considering your next steps.

CREATE A 'FAMILY AGREEMENT'

Involving your whole household in coming up with a family agreement about device use can be immensely beneficial. You could discuss when (and for how long) it's OK to use phones, tablets, consoles and so on at home; what parental controls are for and why they're important; and why it's good to talk to each other about things we've seen or experienced online (both good and bad). Explaining your reasoning will help children to understand that, as trusted adults, we want to make sure they are well informed and kept safe. Allowing children to have their say when coming up with your family agreement also makes them far more likely to stick to it in the long term.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings of RAISE (Raising Awareness in Sex Education) has almost 20 years' experience delivering relationships and sex education and training to schools, colleges and other education providers. A published author on the subject, she also advises the Department of Education on the staff-training element of the RSE curriculum.



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