

## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

A hugely busy week before half term is reflected in the newsletter. Tegan's musical inspiration and leadership saw the first of our two Spring Concerts being a creative masterpiece, with a huge range of genres, instruments, and performances blending together to make a memorable concert, and one that I had the pleasure of joining briefly as a performer, which was somewhat outside my comfort zone but enjoyable nonetheless! Well done to all pupils and staff involved in putting on an event that warmed the hearts of the appreciative audience.

Last week's Sixth Form play is reviewed in detail, alongside various fascinating reports of trips and visits, lectures and former pupil lunches. Mr Collins writes about Safer Internet

Day, which has been the topic of conversation in Tutor Groups this week, as well as during assembly last week, and he provides helpful links for parents who want to explore some of the themes or find out more about online safety and the online world our pupils inhabit.

Two YSA events are highlighted - the forthcoming 80s night on 17th March, and details of the Summer Event are launched this week, with an exciting festival theme seeing us welcome GlastYARMbury on Saturday 17th June - save the date!

Our sports teams and athletes saw further impressive success of late, with a range of results and fixtures reported on, often from the players themselves. We congratulate Will McPartland on the outstanding

achievement of his international debut, playing for the England Men's U15s in their 2-1 win over Belgium. Do read on for more details - well done Will.

I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful half term.

Dr Huw Williams



## COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP MURALS

This half term we have continued with our mural project at Yarm Wellness Centre. Having designed, had approved and then sketched the two murals- as well as completing two base coats- work has now started to paint them. The smaller mural depicts some of the activities available in the community centre, including two dancers. The larger

mural is centred around the River Tees and includes many of our local landmarks including the Town Hall, Yarm Viaduct, the Friarage and the Dovecote. We hope to complete the mural next half term, as well as launching a fundraising project for the Teesside Charity. Watch this space for updates!

Community Action Group



## HISTORY STUDENTS WATCH 'HOW TO CREATE A HISTORY PODCAST' AT YORK UNIVERSITY

On Tuesday 7th February, some students with an interest in History travelled to York University to listen to a lecture from Greg Jenner, a former writer of the popular children's show *Horrible Histories*. Though we were a bit late to the talk (definitely Mr Taylor's fault!), we managed to catch most of it. Greg Jenner and Emma Nagouse illuminated us with the secrets behind the scenes of their popular podcast *You're Dead To Me* on BBC such as how they chose the topics, researched it and found a suitable cast for the episode.

A key part to the process was finding a subject that wasn't too broad and could still be funny, preferring to focus on things outside of the school curriculum like the history of ice cream and Eleanor of Aquitaine who was notorious for her many children. The focuses of the episodes are very varied, covering histories over many different countries and time periods which makes *You're Dead To Me* a very unique history podcast compared to some of its competition.

Greg and Emma found through many months of trialling that a better way to present history to a wider, maybe less knowledgeable, audience was through comedy; creating someone for the audience to feel like they're learning with and preventing the podcast from becoming dull. Greg remarked about how the setup of a

comedian and historian (two people who sound completely different but are in fact very similar) in a room actually created a welcoming atmosphere where the two often came out as friends. I found that by combining history and comedy to create a narrative helps people to understand sometimes quite complex ideas in an hour - or even thirty minutes for the radio edits - and widen people's interests which was vividly seen by the variety of people who had also come to the talk. Having learnt the process of researching over almost a hundred different topics from all periods of time and across countries all over the world and finding a cast of experts and interesting comedians, I'm even more curious to find out more about the show and continuing to learn more about the production and presenting history to many different people.

Ava Carter, Fifth Year



## PHAB VALENTINES



This Monday and Tuesday, our school's Phab club hosted a Valentine's Day stall during lunch where we sold various items including roses and sweets alongside our games involving our pupils to guess the name of the teddy bear.

Thanks to Dr Harker and the school's crochet club, we were also able to sell keychains each made by hand. All the money raised is for Yarm Phab Club which provides the funds for the after school club. We are proud to say that with Mrs Lodge's guidance, our pupils from Fourth Year to Lower Sixth took the effort themselves to prepare the activities and stalls.

In total, we have raised £201.57. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and we look forward to your contribution in the next events!

Monisha Ravichandran,  
Lower Sixth

## NICARAGUAN JOURNALIST IN EXILE DISCUSSES PRESS FREEDOM WITH POLITICS SOCIETY

Friday lunchtime saw the visit to Yarm School of two human rights defenders, last week's speaker Meggie Nolasco from the Philippines along with Abigail Hernandez.

Abigail Hernandez works as a journalist, formerly in Nicaragua, but with the collapse of democracy and the oppressive measures being taken out against journalists by President Ortega, Abigail was forced to relocate to Costa Rica. From there she continues her work to report on the situation in Nicaragua, as well as head up a programme to assist with the escape of other journalists from her country. Indeed the day before her visit 222 political prisoners including a number of journalists had been sent into exile in the United States, now at least free and safe, but also without their citizenship or right to return.

Abigail discussed with a crowded

lecture theatre the nature and reality of press restrictions in Nicaragua. It was a case not just of censorship but of the repeated harassment and intimidation of those working in the media. Journalists are frequently surveilled, followed, interrogated, tortured and imprisoned. The tentacles of the increasingly oppressive state are such that even local police officers can act with impunity in the harassment of journalists.

Abigail continues to campaign internationally for greater awareness

of the plight of the press in Nicaragua, and this week's release of prisoners is a measure of the penetration of that awareness. It was a pleasure to welcome Abigail Hernandez and Meggie Nolasco to Yarm School and for us to learn of their experiences whilst being inspired by the bravery and tenacity of others wrestled for the freedoms we enjoy almost obliviously.

Mr S Edwards



Abigail Hernandez, exiled journalist from Nicaragua, being interviewed after the talk by Annabel Cochrane and Poppy Bell, editors of The Dovecote magazine.

## VISIT TO NEWCASTLE TEMPLE AND NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL

On Thursday 9th February, a group of GCSE Fifth Year RS students visited Newcastle Temple and Newcastle Cathedral. They had the opportunity to look around the temple, consolidating their understanding of Hindu beliefs about God and then asked the Hindu priest a variety of questions. We then observed their morning worship, called arti. In the Cathedral, we joined in on a Eucharist

Church service and then asked the female priest a range of interesting questions about Christianity. The trip then ended with a tour of the cathedral. The students got to further their understanding of Hindu and Christian beliefs and practices for their GCSE and it was an excellent opportunity to experience the worship firsthand.

Mrs S Lodge



## BLUE STOCKINGS - SIXTH FORM PRODUCTION

A play of bikes, books, votes and bluster. For three evenings last week a group of 15 Lower Sixth students took the audience back in time to 1896 when Cambridge University held the first senate vote to see if the female students would be awarded degrees for their studies. The play introduced us to four very different female characters studying at Girton College and how they handled the enthusiasm to study whilst experiencing family pressures, first loves, rejection and vitriol for wanting to learn. Kitty Brown embraced the demanding and complex role of Tess Moffat with empathy and skilled craft. Her escapades were supported by the constant guidance and evident care of her fellow students, played by Hannah Stewart, Kayla Roberts and Jenifer Umashankar. The plight of these girls' education was effectively highlighted in the passion and purpose that Miss Blake (Jennifer Chan) and Mrs Welsh (Morven Hawthorne) applied to their teaching and pursuit of the girls' future. This was never more evident in the moving scene where Maeve (Jennifer Umashankar) was given no choice but to go home to care for her siblings after her brother Billy arrived to inform them of their mother's passing.

James Waine as Mr Banks, showed us with flair and sensitivity the commitment and loss suffered by

those lecturers who risked everything to support female education. In contrast Tom Jagger as Dr Maudsley created a presence and tone that made it clear how much of a barrier the women faced to changing opinions. This was further emphasised by Ben Desics and Sam Millman who expressed their views as male lecturers with directness and a resolute stance. In contrast, it was lovely to observe their show of sympathy and respect towards the end of the play when they had observed the girls' knowledge and capability.

The male students Benji Fleming, Miles Holland, Nathan May, Reuben Peat and Sam Croslegh showed us a natural camaraderie between the men through laughter, teasing and the expectations they faced to also achieve. Miles, Benji and Sam at required moments showed compelling characteristics and

emotions as they struggled to align themselves with the events of the girls' progress against the deeply rooted expectations of their family and social tradition of the time.

The vocabulary of the script was verbose and at times complex, yet the ease in which the lines were delivered showed maturity and expertise.

These outstanding attributes were also employed in keeping the pace of the play through fluid scene changes and multi roling, which demonstrated a strong synergy between the cast.

The tension and passion of the final moments of the vote breaking out into violence drew the audience further into the cause and there was evident disappointment in the studio at learning the vote took another fifty years to be passed in favour of the women.

Mrs H Charlton



**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](http://WWW.YARMSCHOOLASSOCIATION.ORG)**

**Bring £1 coins!**

## SAFER INTERNET DAY 2023: 'WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT? MAKING SPACE FOR CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE ONLINE.'

Last week, Yarm School joined the global Safer Internet Day campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology.

Coordinated in the UK, Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 7th February with the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.' Supported in over 100 countries, Safer Internet Day saw Yarm School join thousands of organisations to play their part in helping to create a better internet.

The aim of this theme is to help children and their parents or teachers talk about what they love and what they want to change about the online world. It gives children a chance to be listened to and hopefully can work together to make the internet a more positive place.

To support the event, Yarm School students took part in various activities during the week. For example our pupils engaged in an assembly presentation, celebrating the range of information and opportunities online, and its potential to inform, connect and inspire us, whilst also looking at how young people can share their thoughts on this year's theme by creating videos for the Safer Internet Day Video Wall.

Kate Edwards, NSPCC Associate Head for Child Safety Online, said: "Having regular conversations with your children about their online lives is one of the best ways to help keep them safe. Although the internet is brilliant tool, it also poses risks, and your child might experience or see something online that worries or upsets them. Talking to them about their online life as part of regular conversations will reassure them that they can open up to you for support if something concerning has happened online and that you are there to support them. We know starting these conversations can sometimes feel tricky and we also know that the online world can feel very overwhelming, so the NSPCC has developed lots of advice and support to help parents navigate this."

The School is also part of Parent Zone's Digital Schools Membership programme, further recognising our commitment to keeping our pupils safer online and making sure we work

**Want to talk about it?**

Making space for conversations about life online



with you to achieve this. Our Digital Schools membership gives you free access to the following:

<https://bit.ly/ys-pz-newsletters>

<https://bit.ly/ys-pz-guides>

<https://bit.ly/ys-pz-research>

Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child, to help you understand their online world and to help them to stay safe online.

Mr P Collins



Student debate as part of Safer Internet Day 2023

## DARSHAN RETURNS TO WORKING LUNCH



This week in our popular Working Lunch programme we were delighted to welcome back former pupil Darshan Viswanath (class of 2018)

After completing his A Levels at Yarm, Darshan studied Mathematics and Economics at LSE and completed other internships during this time with firms such as Issufy, a fintech company, and at another investment bank, HSBC.

Now a graduate analyst working at J.P. Morgan, Darshan is currently in the Export and Agency Finance team and he focuses on financing large projects covering various sectors from renewables to aviation. In a fascinating talk Darshan shared his university experiences, discussed the value of internships, the process of securing a graduate placement and gave guidance on the different divisions within an investment bank. Faced with a multitude of questions from a very keen audience, covering topics such as work life balance, the perception of different degrees in investment banking and ways to get ahead, we valued Darshan's honesty and sincerity in sharing his experiences and life lessons to date.

We are really grateful to Darshan

for taking time away from work to support and advise our Sixth Formers and we hope he will stay in contact with the department, as we wish him every success for the future, as it was wonderful to hear how much he is enjoying his role!

Miss C E Rhodes

## ECON BUS SOC

How can modern businesses boost productivity? And why should they try to?

These were the questions posed and subsequently answered by Beau, Jian, Arhana and Tom in their EconBus Soc presentation on productivity.

Culminating in a discussion where Beau explained his own unique views on maximising worker output, whilst Jian's views on trade unions were challenged by the Economists in the room.

Thanks to the four presenters for volunteering and delivering and to the Sixth form audience.

Miss C E Rhodes



## ARTISTS' CORNER

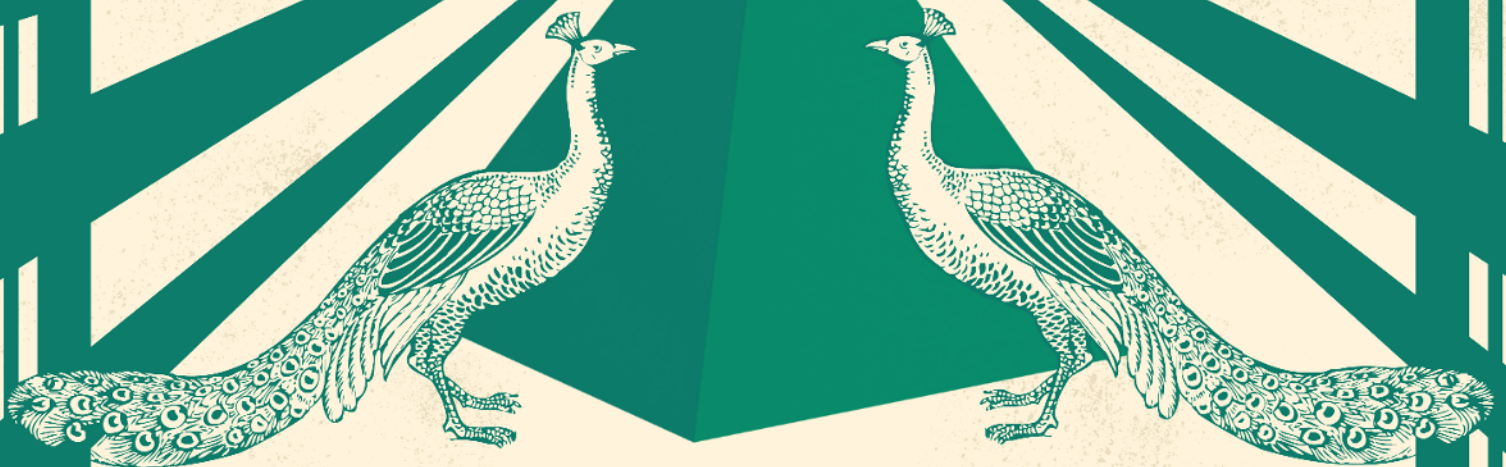
Thank you to Eleanor Wild, First Year, for this wonderful work created independently at home using pencils and charcoal. Her use of tone and line work really brings her drawings to life!

Miss A Street





YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENT



**G** L A S T Y A R M B U R Y **Y**  
**FESTIVAL 1970-2020**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE SOON  
LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL FEEL DELICIOUS FOOD  
IN THE PAA, ATRIUM, AND TERRACE**

**SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023**



## WILL MCPARTLAND U15 ENGLAND FOOTBALL DEBUT

Following four England Men's U15 selection camps that were held in August, October and December 2022, (in which a total of 98 boys attended), Will McPartland (Fourth Year) was recently selected for the final squad of 23 players for England's International Fixture v Belgium U15 on Sunday 12th February 2023.

Will reported to St George's Park, Burton-upon-Trent on Wednesday 8th February to meet up with the England Team Manager, Coaches and the rest of the squad which consisted of players from numerous Premiership Clubs across England (Will was in fact the only player from Middlesbrough FC and a Championship Club).

From being issued his England training kit on arrival,

preparation for the International Fixture was exactly the same as the full Men's England Squad. Training regimes, ice baths, recuperation, nutrition, downtime in the 'England Hub' (lots of Table Tennis) and team bonding. Education was priority though, and first on the agenda every morning!

A warm up fixture was played on Friday 10th Feb v a Wolverhampton

Wanderers U16 team in which England U15 won 7-3. On Sunday 12th February 2023 Will made his official International debut v Belgium Men's U15 Team. Following the line up and singing of National Anthems, Will played Right Wing Back and England went on to win 2-1.

A fantastic experience and hopefully more to come!

Congratulations Will!



### FOLLOW US



### SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can

[view them here.](#)

## NETBALL

Last weekend, our A and B netball teams from U12 through to U15s were in action. Both U12s and U14s travelled to RGS Newcastle. For the U12A this was the second time that they had faced RGS and the girls were elated to grind out a second win, with a considerably different scoreline, showing the vast improvement that they have made. The U12B teams had not played each other before and this was a tightly contested game, with Yarm working extremely hard to come away with the win with only 1 goal in it.

The U14 teams also had strong performances. The U14B team came away with a win and the A team

missed out by 2 goals against an RGS side who qualified for National finals alongside ourselves.

The U13 and U15 teams were battling it out back in Yarm and what a fantastic display of netball they put on! The girls ground out 3 convincing wins, with only the U15B team losing out by 2 goals.

Overall an extremely enjoyable and positive weekend of netball. As always, the girls gave everything they had, worked effectively in their teams and most of all had a great time doing so! We continue to be proud of the effort and determination of all of our players.


## MATCH REPORT

We set off with a good start and by the first quarter the coach told us to make sure we keep our balance when passing and keep going with our square and straight passes. By the end of the second quarter, we were winning 4-1. However during the third quarter they had caught up leaving it at 5-4 to them. We were neck and neck during the last quarter but at the end they scored one last goal and won 8-7.

POM Yasmin Shawgi















Yasmin Shawgi, Second Year

Miss L Hodgson



## YARM SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM OF THE WEEK

6th -12th Feb 2023

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Belle Woodhead</b> 2nd VII</p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Amelia Hudson</b> U14</p>  </div> </div>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Olivia Fatah</b> U13</p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Izzie Speight</b> 1st VII</p>  </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Molly Raine</b> U13</p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Molly White</b> U14</p>  </div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Charlotte Fenwick</b> U12</p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Charlotte Ferreira</b> U12</p>  </div> </div>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Rosie Ferguson</b> U12</p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Gracie Rhodes-Hildrith</b> U14</p>  </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Sophia Rudd</b> U15</p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Olivia Wildridge</b> U13</p>  </div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Olivia Mitchell</b> U15</p>  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Caitlin Anderson</b> U13</p>  </div> </div>	



## BOYS' HOCKEY

### UNDER 13's CROWNED COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Monday 13th February



Under 13 A County Champions

The Under 13 Boys Hockey team produced a fantastic set of performances to claim the County Cup in displayed dominance throughout. In fact, the whole squad have been included in the Team of the Week because this was by far their best showing to date!

A one sided 11-0 opener against Dame Allan's was quickly followed by a well fought 2-0 win against Egglecliffe. These 2 wins meant the Yarm boys had already qualified for the North East Finals to be held at Leeds University next half term. However, they were desperate to claim the title and would need to produce a great performance to defeat a strong RGS team.

Yarm were on it from the outset and a well taken opener from Jake Wheatley from a tight angle led 1-0 at half-time. With a superior goal difference Yarm could afford a draw but they went out and produced an amazing 2nd half performance as 1st

year Rorke Anderson pounced with a reverse sweep after a goalmouth scramble and Man of the Match Wheatley scored 2 more fantastic goals to finish the game as 4-0 winners.

The boys were very pleased with their efforts and it is testament to the hard work, commitment and progress they have displayed throughout this year.

Well-done to all concerned!

More from Jake Wheatley...

On Monday evening, Yarm U13A played a county cup. We faced RGS, Dame Allan's and Egglecliffe. Yarm played great winning all their games and kept a clean sheet throughout. In the first game, Yarm beat Dame Allan's 11-0. The second game was 2-0 to Yarm vs Egglecliffe. The final game was 4-0 to Yarm vs RGS. Special mention to the goal keepers (Oliver Mansfield and Charlie Ashworth) who did not let a single goal in and the two first years ( Rorke Anderson and Ollie Gray) who were playing up a year. Well done to everyone involved.

Jake Wheatley, Second Year

### UNDER 14's WIN COUNTY CUP FINAL

Friday 10th February

**Dame Allan's 2-6 Yarm**

Well done to the U14 boys who travelled to Newcastle to play Dame Allan's to win the County Cup Final. Despite a fairly low key performance

by the boys standards, they never looked in danger of losing this game as a squad rich in depth scored 6 goals. We await the result of the Yorkshire Competition to find out who we will play for a place at the National Finals in London in April.

### BARNARD CASTLE BLOCK

Saturday 11th February

U13A- Yarm 8-0 Barnard Castle

U13B- Yarm 4-1 Barnard Castle

U12A- Barnard Castle 0-3 Yarm

U12B- Barnard Castle 2-5 Yarm

### U13B v BARNARD CASTLE REPORT

On the 11th of February Yarm U13 B team played against Barnard Castle at home. The final score was 4-1 to Yarm. The goal scorers were: Harry Brothwood with 2 early goals, Marshall Page 1 and Noah Coulman 1. Yarm started the second half off with fast passing but Barnard Castle were able to get one goal back. This led to a harder game for us but we continued to work hard to secure the win. Well done!

Harry Brothwood, Second Year



Under 12 A v Barnard Castle

## BOYS' HOCKEY (cont.)

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CUP

Thursday 9th February

## UNDER 13 v QEGS REPORT

## QEGS 1-1 Yarm (Yarm win 2-1 on Flicks)

Well done to the Under 13 team who beat QEGS Wakefield to qualify for the last 8 in the Independent Schools Cup Competition. It was without doubt the teams slowest start to date and despite having much of the play in the first half, the team found themselves behind after some sloppy passing at the back.

The second half was one-way traffic as Yarm pushed for an equaliser. Atsushi Yamaguchi drove down the right time and again which produced shot after shot and several short corners- it looked like it was going to be one of those days. Fortunately, captain Ollie Dunkin managed to force a close range effort across the line which led to the flick competition.

Dunkin and Alfie Arnold both kept their cool whilst goalkeeper Oliver Mansfield made some excellent stops. The boys are now 1 game away from a place in the National Finals and eagerly await the draw.

## UNDER 15 V MANCHESTER GRAMMAR

## Yarm 3-4 Manchester Grammar

It was heartbreaking for the Under 15 team as they came short in a high quality game last Thursday. After taking an early lead through a Dhruv

Wadehera drag flick and a clever improvised Jude Crack finish, MGS grew into the game. They had a couple of outstanding individuals who caused problems and got them back into a 2-2 half-time draw.

The 2nd half went the same way as Jake Leader got Yarm back in front before MGS equalised again. Both teams created chances but just when it looked like it might go to flicks,

Manchester forced a short corner as the final whistle went. It clearly wasn't to be Yarm's day as the resulting shot was going well wide before being deflected into the goal by a Yarm defender.

## OTHER RESULTS THIS WEEK...

Thursday 9th February

**U12 A - St Peter's 1-1 Yarm**

**U12 B - St Peter's 2-2 Yarm**



## LIVE STREAM: LIFE OF PI

Puppetry, magic and storytelling combine in a unique, Olivier Award-winning stage adaptation of the best-selling novel.

After a cargo ship sinks in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, a 16-year-old boy named Pi is stranded on a lifeboat with four other survivors – a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan and a Royal Bengal tiger.

Time is against them, nature is harsh, who will survive?

Filmed live in London's West End and featuring state-of-the-art visuals, the epic journey of endurance and hope is brought to life in a breath-taking new way for cinemas screens.



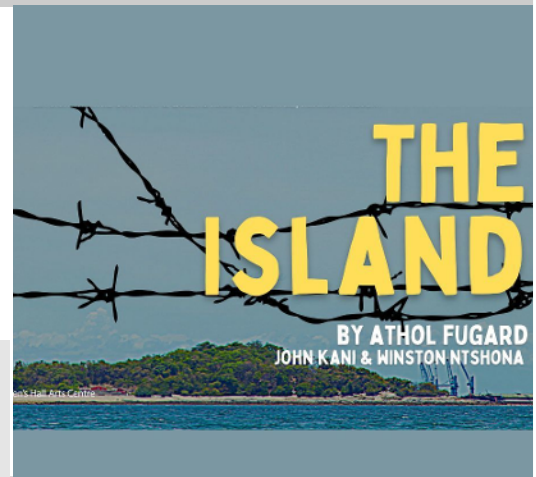
**Thursday 30th March 2023, 7:00pm**

[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](#)

## ONE NIGHT IN DUBLIN

The Wild Murphys guarantee one glorious night of high-energy Irish Music and more than a little bit of Irish Craic.

In their own inimitable style, multi-award-winning Irish tribute band The Wild Murphys perform classic tracks including: Galway Girl, Tell Me Ma, Dirty Old Town, The Irish Rover, Brown Eyed Girl, Seven Drunken Nights, Sally MacLennane, When You Were Sweet Sixteen, Whiskey in the Jar, Wild Rover and Molly Malone, guaranteed to have the audience's hands clapping and toes tapping all night long.



**Thursday 13th April 2023, 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the Internet. Whilst questions will often illicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

### REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

### IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

### LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other people's content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

### STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back - all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

### DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

### ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning - it's an essential part of life, too.

### CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

## 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: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/> | <https://generativeai.net/> | <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-generative-ai>