



# Newsletter

No: 1333 | 3rd March 2023

## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

In my assembly on Monday, I reflected on the letter I'd been asked to write as part of our contribution to the Yarm Town Hall time capsule, which is being buried under the floor of the newly developed Heritage Centre. Pupils in our Junior History Society have added some fascinating accounts of the history of the School and the town, next to be read by someone decades in the future! I considered what to write, wondering what would be interesting to someone opening the time capsule, and chose to give a summary of some of the recent and current issues - Covid-19 and a global pandemic, the anniversary of the war in Ukraine, devastation and loss in Turkey and Syria in recent earthquakes, Chinese spy balloons being guided by artificial intelligence, the rise of AI as something publicly available to all. I also considered local and regional changes, and reflected on the School and our role in the community, wondering what the situation might be in 50-100 years time.

In the assembly, I explored Artificial Intelligence and the changes - for better and for worse - this might bring. I focussed on ChatGPT as the current cause célèbre and considering the impact that might have on

education, but giving pupils a reminder about the importance of work being their own, and the need to consider carefully the sources of information they trust. This is becoming increasingly hard to do, given the rise of AI software that enables 'deepfake' videos to be made of politicians and others, with the potential for influence and deception increasingly likely. Chris Ume's AI videos of Tom Cruise are worth finding, I think, to see how advanced this technology already is, and I challenged pupils to consider how they can reassure themselves that information and news they access is reliable and true.

Pupils gave fascinating assemblies in the two assemblies during the week, on the dangers of vaping and on conspiracy theories; it is always impressive to see them present effectively and with confidence to their peers on topics that they themselves are interested in.

There is much to absorb in this newsletter, with important information on the forthcoming Careers Convention, YSA summer event, SEND parent webinars and more, and some fascinating reviews and write ups of a range of activities. Well done to our musicians for the Spring Concert, Durham Cathedral choir and our individual singers, to our mathematicians, cricketers, creative writers, debaters, contributors to student societies, Yarm Apprentices, to Liberty on her Degree Apprenticeship and to Larisa on her book review.

Dr Huw Williams



Yarm Apprentice students visit Prep, where their final challenge is set!

## IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN FOR THE YARM APPRENTICES

5 (5th task)

4 (4 Tuesdays til the Boardroom)

3 (teams and 3 PMs)

2 (teams won't win)

1 (team will win)

The final YA task has been set!

Students were issued a directive this week to meet at the exit to school, and the keenest competitors arrived promptly, having been told to sign out but having no idea as to their destination. They were escorted off site by Miss Rhodes and Imy, leaving the less punctual to be shepherded by Mr Menzies, and to subsequently incur the wrath of Lord Sugar for their tardiness.

Curiosity was piqued as the students were led to the Prep School, directed to the library and introduced to the final Lord Sugar, aka Mr Stone (Deputy Head of Prep). With 3 teams, rather than the usual 2, and switches made to balance the characteristics and strengths of the teams, the final challenge was explained.

Teams must produce a resource for Year 5 for their imminent London trip, and must pitch their proposal on 21st March, with a strict time constraint of only 3 minutes. Teams benefitted from the opportunity to complete primary market research



at the Prep, and they will have similar opportunities after the half term vacation.

Ollie, Harry and Simmi are the PMs for the task and we are curious to see what ideas they will develop.

Thank you to the Year 5 pupils for welcoming us, and to Mr Stone for taking time from his very busy day to set such an intriguing challenge.

Miss C E Rhodes

### THANK YOU YEAR 5

Thank you to fabulous Year 5 pupils at the Prep for assisting our Lower Sixth Yarm Apprentices this week, when they went on location conducting market research. The enthusiasm and willingness to contribute, displayed by the pupils was really appreciated and the teams left with lots of valuable ideas.

Miss C E Rhodes

## DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS!

Congratulations to Liberty, who has been successful in her application to a highly competitive degree apprenticeship programme at PwC. Liberty will study towards a Business Management and Leadership degree, attending university one day a week, while working for PwC's Belfast office for the other four days.

Liberty began the process of preparing for potential applications last summer, and was confident enough to approach Dragon's Den mentor Sara Davies and ask for some work experience. Two weeks of work at Sara's business, Crafter's Companion, gave Liberty an insight into lots of different areas of the business and plenty to talk about in her application process.

The long PwC application process started in September, involving three rounds and culminating in a career day where applicants worked in

teams online. Liberty found out she was successful at the end of January and is now looking forward to visiting Belfast and checking out where she'd like to live!

Liberty follows in the footsteps of former pupil Finlay Gilraine - currently enjoying his time on the same Degree Apprenticeship programme in Belfast - and former pupil Millie McCormack, who joined PwC on an Apprenticeship programme in 2020. Both have returned to School to talk about their experiences, and share their knowledge with keen Sixth Form students. This route appealed to Liberty, because of the exposure to the working world and the job security once her degree is complete.

Well done Liberty and good luck in Belfast!



## YARM APPRENTICES HAND OVER CHEQUE TO PHAB CLUB

We were delighted to have the opportunity this week to formally hand over a cheque to Mrs Lodge and the Phab Club, from the Yarm Apprentices. The funds were raised from the Task 4 selling activity, and it was wonderful to hear that the money will be used to buy games and other activities for the young people who find Phab so beneficial.

Miss C E Rhodes



## DURHAM CATHEDRAL

The build up to half term was a busy one for our talented musicians. Following on from our involvement in "That's Variety", our older singers were both honoured and excited to perform in Durham Cathedral as part of the North East Festival of Youth Choirs. After a warm-up in the uplifting acoustics of McGonagall's Classroom (the Chapter House at the cathedral), the magic of singing once again in the North East's most magnificent and awe-inspiring building became a reality. It was a privilege to be part of such an outstanding concert where every choir involved was superb. Our Chamber Choir sang two songs, Come to Me by Dan Forrest and the blessing Blahoslovy Dushe Moya Hospoda by Ukrainian composer Kirill Stetsenko. The choir's blending in our first song was superb and the purity of the solo lines from Morven Hawthorne, Laura Watson, Sophia Kilkерri and Anoushka Paul, resonated angelically in the natural acoustics of the cathedral. The obligato cello part, exquisitely phrased by talented first year, Effie Peacock, weaved through the choral sound. The Choir's a cappella performance of the Ukrainian blessing was hauntingly beautiful and the richness of the vocal sound, the group's homogenous musicality and dynamic build were all commented on by the Durham University Chamber Choir whose

performance was inspirational for our young singers. Members of the university choir congratulated Yarm choir on the performance saying that they had never heard a school choir perform with such musicality; praise indeed from such an accomplished auditioned choir! The concert ended with a joyous massed performance of the first movement of Vivaldi's Gloria and the warmth of the applause from the large audience was a testament to the musical quality of the evening.

With heartfelt thanks to James Armitage, Vice-Master of Hatfield College (and former Maths and Psychology teacher at Yarm) for hosting us at Hatfield College, all the performers, Mr Williams and the many parents and friends who came to the concert.

Mrs K Staggs



## SPRING CONCERT

The magical musical mystery tour continued with the first of our “Spring” concerts where the creative direction of the evening was handed over to talented Upper 6th musician, Tegan Addison. After intensive rehearsals on the Sunday and Monday, the concert itself took place on Valentine’s Day so an interweaving thread of love was an inevitable necessity! The quality of every item in the concert was superb. Whilst providing our flagship bands Phoenix and Big Band

with a chance to shine (and performers really did shine), Tegan created a set list that enabled guest performers to join these ensembles. Barbershop, Soul Band, guitar ensembles, solo and small ensemble items added love-filled treasures to the evening’s performance and Dr Williams sang Calon Lân, a Welsh song close to his family’s heart that extols the virtues of a pure heart, full of goodness, not tainted by greed. The chamber choir was honoured to be part of this moving performance.

From the virtuosic electric guitar brilliance of Eruption, the opening number to the collective joy of the night’s finale Dancing Queen (a special family song for Tegan), the evening was a superb evening of sheer musical joy where every music morsel contributed to the creative flow of the evening. Congratulations to all performers involved, thank you to all staff involved and a big “bravo” to Tegan for her musical talents and creative planning.

Mrs K Staggs



## FORMER STUDENT DISCUSSES GLOBAL SECURITY WITH THE POLITICS SOCIETY

The week before the half term break the Politics Society welcomed Oliver Wilmot to present to the group. Oliver left Yarm School in 2017 and went on to read History and International Politics at Queen's University Belfast, followed by a Masters in 'Global Security and Borders'. The university clearly possesses a fascinating historical backdrop in the Troubles but has a reputation for its international research in this area of conflict resolution and security, and Oliver shared his experiences studying various modules as an undergraduate that would inspire him to pursue this field as a potential career. During his time in Belfast he also conducted research visits overseas, including a stint in

Colombia. The main focus of his talk centred on his work with Northcott Global Solutions, a private company offering security intelligence and services to a diverse range of global clients.

Oliver spent several months on a variety of assignments dedicated to security assessments in a number of regions, and as such has enhanced and stimulated further his interest in this dynamic and expanding field of work. There was a lively question and answer session exploring everything from his experiences in Belfast through to future plans. We are most appreciative of Oliver for his time and wish him all the best in the future.

Mr S Edwards

## FROM LIGHTBULB MOMENT TO WARDROBE...

How does a garment pass from designer to consumer? This was the topic under discussion during an applied presentation from Business students Molly, Maddie, Izzi, Lauren and Ella, who shared their thoughts with the EconBus Soc before half term. Considering fads and investment pieces, gave the assembled audience of L6 and U6 from our department and beyond, much food for thought and sparked a vibrant discussion about the need to consider vintage, curb waste and seek solutions to short lived trends.

Many thanks to the fabulous five for volunteering and for rising to the challenge of showing how applications of Business and Economics are truly everywhere!!

Miss C E Rhodes



## INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE



We had a great turn out for the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge at the beginning of February with 100 pupils from YS2 to YS5 choosing to sit the paper. After a tough hour answering challenging problems, the results are now in and the pupils achieved 22 bronze, 24 silver and 13 gold certificates between them.

This was a great result, particularly for those pupils in YS2 who received a certificate as the challenge is designed for pupils in YS3 and above. Sixteen high scoring pupils have been invited to take part in the follow on rounds which take place on 16th March. This includes 12 pupils taking part in the Pink and Grey Kangaroo competitions and 4 YS4 pupils, Avanish Batra, Abdelrahmen Ellidir, Ajay Selvan and Patrick Winters, being invited to the Olympiad competitions. Abdelrahmen, Ajay and Patrick will take part in the most challenging Maclaurin Mathematical Olympiad. Well done to everyone who took part and good luck to those doing the follow on rounds on 16th March.

Dr K Barnett



YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



GLASTY ARMBURY

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023

EARLY BIRD TICKETS £65

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

**SUMMER BALL MEETS FESTIVAL  
LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL FEEL DELICIOUS FOOD  
IN THE PAA, ATRIUM, AND TERRACE**

**FESTIVAL BALL 1970-2020**

## DEBATE: "THIS HOUSE BELIEVES CANCEL CULTURE LEGITIMISES BULLYING"

In order to mark safer internet day, the senior debating society took on the appropriate motion "This house believes cancel culture legitimises bullying." The debate took place on safer internet day during lunch break, open for a whole school audience. With Luke as chair, and a judging panel of senior debaters (Ava, Alexa and Caroline) the debate commenced with two debaters on each side, debating matters style.

Opening for the proposition, Jodie (Team Agree to Disagree) addressed the motion through defining cancel culture and focusing on how aggressive the technique is using violence rather than education as a response. She emphasised how the proposing motion is not suggesting cancel culture is always bullying but that it legitimises it. She further strengthened her argument through explaining how cancel culture ostracises the person being cancelled before setting out what her team will also be discussing later.

Nathan (Team Arguably the Best) opened for the opposition taking his arguments' emphasis on cancel culture creating a safer online environment through encouraging tolerance and giving a voice to those previously silenced. He further discussed how those seen untouchable have been opposed to using cancel culture promoting equality and not standing for intolerance. He then went onto how

it acts as a way for education and apologising to be achieved through combatting the problematic behaviour initially rather than staying quiet about issues.

Josh (Team Ultimate Shannerz) strongly closed for the proposition raising the issue of cancel culture giving the authority of what is right and wrong to the public without the idea being vetted. He also expressed how the media is too limited for real opinions to be expressed and therefore cancelling someone based on limited information. He then concluded how this use of aggression and jumping to conclusions allows for bullying in all contexts to be emphasised.

Closing for the opposition Simmi (Team Vici) tackled the idea of cancel culture opposing bullying as it encourages people to stand up against the bullies of the internet. She further explained how it boosts the idea that words do matter and encourages change in society through allowing the expression of moral outrage. She concluded by conveying how even the most famous and "powerful" celebrities face punishments for their intolerance and indifference, which encourages more to stand up against bullying and therefore showing how cancel culture does not legitimise bullying.

Both sides then faced questions from the panel of judges. The proposition

were asked about cancel culture removing people without the research to back up their opinions, using a majority view to express positive views and differentiating between cancel culture and general hate. The opposition were asked to comment on online comments lasting forever compared to real life experiences being forgotten and moved on, bullies on media continuing to stand by their view after being cancelled and cancel cultures positives being too idealistic. Both proposition and opposition replied to questions clearly before answering difficult audience questions too.

The judges were then given some privacy to discuss and make their decision whilst the debaters and audience waited in eagerness to know who would take the win. The judges came to a conclusion that both sides worked very well with their teammates and answered some very difficult questions in a respectful and thoughtful manner, but the opposition took the victory due the clarity they kept consistent throughout the debate. A huge thank you to the members of the school community that joined the audience and all that were involved in this themed debate!

Simone Sharma, Lower Sixth



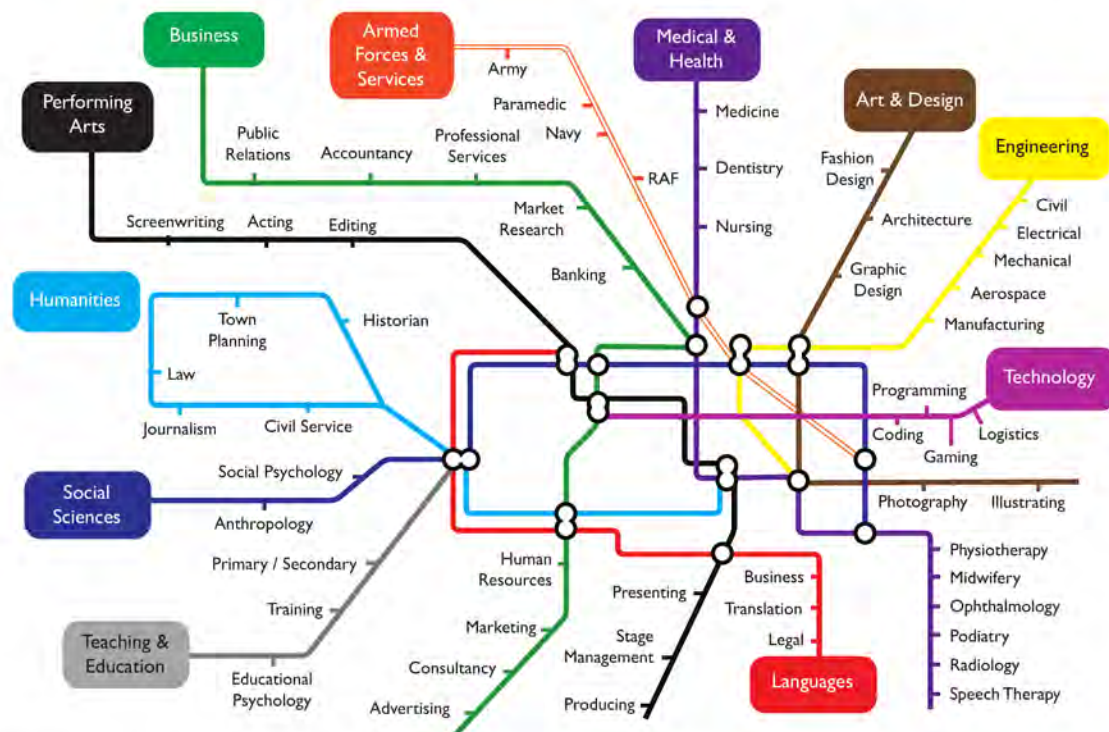
## CAREERS CONVENTION COMING UP!

We are delighted to announce the date of our forthcoming Career Convention taking place on the evening of Thursday 27th April, from 1830 to 2030. This huge event will host a diverse range of universities, represent a vast number of professions of national and local employers, as well as other training providers. We very much expect that all pupils from the Fourth Year to the Upper Sixth will attend with parents, but if there are interested members of the Third Year they would be most welcome. The event is also very much open to pupils from other schools, so please do spread the word to friends and family. More details will be released in due course, but please do make a note in your diary!



# Yarm School CAREER CONVENTION

Thursday 27th April, 6.30pm



### CAREERS CONVENTION TIMINGS

with two optional talks

- 6.30pm - Arrival
- 7.00pm - 'Choosing a Gap Year' Talk
- 7.30pm - Choosing a University: A Guide for Parents Talk
- 8.00pm - Close of Convention

## YARM SCHOOL CAREERS CONVENTION

OPEN TO ALL PUPILS AGED 14-18

Parking on the Senior and at the Prep School sites (Prep School a short walk away)

Yarm School, The Friarage, Yarm, TS15 9EJ

01642 786023

[www.yarmschool.org](http://www.yarmschool.org)

## SEND - PARENT SUPPORT/INFORMATION



PATOSS is an organisation that works with and supports individuals with specific learning difficulties. They run Parent Webinars, which cover a very broad range of topics; everything from supporting reading and spelling at home, to what dyslexia and dyscalculia actually are. If you're interested in finding out more you can visit their website: <https://www.patoss-dyslexia.org/Parents>


Mrs E Bridle

## DOVECOTE FUNDRAISING FOR AUSTRALIA 2024

Pupils are fundraising NEXT WEEK (week beginning 6th March) for their Australia sports tour! Head down to the Dovecote to guess how many balls are in the bucket and try to win this fabulous Easter Bundle, or to bag yourself some quality recycled golf balls!

**GUESS the NUMBER OF GOLF BALLS in the BUCKET!**

**AT THE DOVECOTE**



SAVE THE DATE  
6th - 7th  
MARCH

FUNDRAISING FOR AUSTRALIA TRIP 2024

50p per guess

Every guess = small HARIBO Bag

CLOSEST GUESS = Easter Bundle!



**GOLF BALLS FOR SALE**



PRICES £

£5 FOR 15 golf balls

All golf balls are RECYCLED + in good condition

BRANDS include:

- Titleist
- Callaway
- Srixon
- Taylormade

(ALL PROFITS MADE GO TOWARDS THE AUSTRALIA TRIP 2024.)

## SPRING CREATIVE WRITING

Inspired by the changing seasons, pupils in the Creative Writing activity have been writing these poems about the arrival of Spring.

Ms H Blakemore

### Snowdrops

Among the scattering of frost-tipped leaves

Worn down by the freezing breeze I find little spots of white that peak out,

Like stars sprinkled across the dark sky.

They sprout up suddenly, surrounded

By others of their kind but still too shy,

With their pure silver heads scared to face the sun, to grow

To the heights of the amber daffodils.

Yet every time I pass, I stop

To look upon the cluster;

Forgotten by the brightly coloured bees

Awakened by the sweet scent of pollen.

Though nature may ignore their presence,

The sun does not and

Illuminates them to look like moons Shrouded in the ivory mist.

Weeks later I find them gone.

Gone to time's endless pursuit,

But ready to rise up again when

The relentless wind calms in spring's warm embrace

And the azure sky turns as clear as the endless sea.

Now cherry pink blossoms on the Thin branches of a once bare tree Fall in their place, marking the memory.

They are the final sign of winter But the first step of spring.

Ava Carter, Fifth Year

### Spring is here

Spring is here,

Snowdrops grow,

Sunshine returns,

And rivers flow,

Sunflowers bloom,

The winds gently blow,

And all around,

The signs of Spring show.

Spring is here,

Birdsong fills the air,

And peaceful music plays,

People basking,

The sun's beautiful rays

Everybody loves,

These amazing days

And all around,

The signs of Spring show.

Izzy Barrass, First Year

### Spring

Re-enthused pigeons coo

All with ladies to woo,

Chivalrous they bow,

Peach trees blossom

Branches no longer solemn

Pink and blushed they grow

Daffodils and snowdrops sprout

Headless and green they multiply,

stout

The floral army regains the soil lost

months ago.

The odd leaf lay on live grass,  
Strewn and slain, they bestow  
A gratitude on those yet to pass.

The heath is stubborn, uncaring of the season,

Grass tall and yellow, empty except for the odd crow.

Despite the world, it refuses to see reason,

The heath is stubborn, tall grass resisting the wind's blow.

Sophia Kusterer, Lower Sixth

### Spring Blessings

Snowdrops and sunlight,

Happiness and joy,

These are the blessings that spring brings.

The snowdrops are petite

And as dainty as porcelain,

And the sun just glows and grins.

Bird songs and music,

Jubilation and delight,

These are the blessings that spring brings.

The bird songs are cheerful,

And the music is grand,

These are the blessings that spring brings.

Eliza Fellows, First Year

## POLITICS BOOK REVIEW: ANIMAL FARM BY GEORGE ORWELL

Animal Farm - written by the democratic socialist George Orwell - is a satirical classic which remains as a remarkable and timeless novel since its publication in 1945. Although the book consists of just ten short chapters, its didactic message is brilliantly executed through each page in an anthropomorphised allegorical fashion which combines a horrifying tale of treachery and intellect with the harsh horrors of communism.

Orwell symbolically alludes to the Russian revolution in 1917 and the early years of the Soviet Union under the dictatorial rule of Joseph Stalin. It is set in a farm where the animals overthrow the humans; they believe they can run the farm more efficiently and equitably than any human, including: less work, fairer treatment and a change in dietary provisions. However, the most intelligent and well-educated animal - the pigs - seize power and become the ruling class by subjugating the other unfortunate, unschooled animals and controlling them with propaganda and threats of violence. As they entrench themselves in the farmer's house, more and more of the rules are gradually bent to their personal benefit as they overwork the other animals. This leads to an extremely unequal society where power is not distributed fairly, further enhancing political corruption.

Orwell intelligently critiques totalitarianism, symbolising the "pigs" as greedy, communist dictators. Orwell's depiction of communism is that it is essentially futile because "animals are equal but some more than others". This commentary alludes to the hypocrisy of the communist manifesto as the elitist governments, the hubristic pigs, abuse their power and exploit the working class by forcing them to commit hard labour without compensation.

A key theme of the novel is indoctrination and the abuse of power. Humorously, the pigs 'teach' themselves English and read an abundance of books which is a rather strange image. However, this abnormality reflects the downtrodden of a communist society as this is a stark contrast to the other farm animals who either don't have access to academic appliances or capability to teach themselves. A victim of exploitation and brainwashing is 'Boxer'; he persists that he "will work harder" because the leader "Napoleon is always right". Boxer is the epitome of the peasant workers of Russia who were exploited by the Tsar Nicholas where workers never earned enough money to pay for food or accommodation. Watching the vulnerable and abused animals' rights slowly deteriorate as well as their physical health truly expanded my political awareness of



the dangers of tyrannical dictators.

Quite frankly, it was symbolically inevitable that the pigs would eventually rule over the uneducated farm animals. Born and bred - the pigs were always sovereign since their birth, starting from the pigs vocalising their political views and advocating a revolution at the beginning of the novel. Blind to malevolence and cunning dishonesty, the desperate and less educated animals fall for this desire of an equal 'paradise'. It was infuriating for me to witness the relentless trickery as it reminded me that these were real occurrences and not some terrifying fairytale, for instance the many changes of the 'holy' seven commandments representing the power of propaganda and the malleable nature of history when the people are ignorant of the facts. For many of the peasants in communist Russia, many were illiterate and some were blind to deception like the farm animals.

## BOOK REVIEW (cont.)

So many tragic symbols of communist indoctrination are evoked, consisting of: architectural propaganda, the state anthem, the extreme extent of worship of dictators and the exploitation of peasants. However, hiding under the depression and darkness of the book, it has radiated a sense of hope in our society. The violence, gore and abuse in this beast fable has brought more awareness to extreme absolutism in communism which has and will prevent future generations from falling into the same traps as the previous communist society.

Overall, 'Animal Farm' is revolutionary from the day it was

released in 1945 to modern day. The book describes history and complicated events in a simple and effective way; the characters reflect historical figures and events are very well thought out and designed, concerningly similar to modern-day political events like North Korean communism or the dictatorship of Putin, which are very relevant in our time. It's one of the most clever and well written stories I have ever read, only taking me a couple hours to read and I was hooked from beginning to end. Beginners can certainly read this compact novel and even children but for some they may perceive it as a dark fairytale rather than the reign of political terror it is.

As a reminder, Orwell struggled to find a publisher that would work with the book as it was possible that it would create tensions between Britain and the Soviet Union again. If I can't convince you enough to read this controversial novel, Time Magazine chose this novel as one of the 100 best English language novels, and it was seen on the Modern Library list of Best 20th Century Novels. Clearly, his short piece of literature has created a mighty impact on politics and definitely deserves to be read to unsilence the exploited, workers and to deter a future absolutist ruler.

Larisa Hartness, Lower Sixth

## SINGING SENSATIONS

Many congratulations to James Waine who has gained a place in the National Youth Training Choir of Great Britain (NYCGB). James will be joining Morven Hawthorne and Summer Benzie who are already members of the choir. NYCGB comprises singers aged 15-18 from across the United Kingdom. Members have the opportunity to attend two, week-long residential courses a year. During the Easter vacation, James, Morven and Summer will be attending a week-long course at Tudor Hall School in Banbury, culminating in an exciting concert in the Royal Albert

Hall to celebrate the 40th anniversary of NYCGB.

Last year, Morven and Tilly Armstrong successfully auditioned for the Samling Academy programme that is a highly prestigious programme for talented classical singers from the North East.

As part of their training, Morven and Tilly have received 6 intensive days of workshops and masterclasses, working with leading opera singers, vocal coaches, accompanists, actors and movement specialists to develop a broad range of skills in vocal technique, acting,

movement, interpretation of text and singing in foreign languages.

Congratulations to all our talented singers. Any young singers interested in auditioning for the NYCGB or the Samling Academy, please get in touch.

Mrs K Staggs



## U12 & U13 CRICKET

Our U12s and U13s competed in the Durham County Indoor Cricket Championships before half term.

The U12s did very well in their group winning two and losing one match against some very good county cricket players. They improved massively throughout the day, growing in confidence, learning the indoor game and tactically getting better in the field. They finished top of their group and progressed to the semi-finals facing the team they lost to earlier in the day. The girls were outstanding in the field this time with some fantastic bowling from Charlotte and Yuhe who both took an amazing catch and bowled (Yuhe with just her outstretched left hand!). There were some great catches in the field like Anushri's sliding catch and finished with much better running between the wickets racking up the runs and Rosie adding a few 6s to the

score. This performance meant they beat Durham Johnson to progress to the final.

The U13s put in some excellent team performances, everyone played

a part in winning all of their group matches. Lucy Oliver led the bowling which was consistent, keeping it very hard for the opposition to score any runs. When the opposition did get a hit the players in the field worked together, backing each other up to limit the runs or run them out. The batting is where this team have struggled in the past but this was a real strength with every batter backing up and taking as many runs



as possible meaning they had lots of retired batters over the course of the tournament. The U13s also progressed to the final to make an all Yarm final, The U13s proved too strong for the U12s on this occasion but both teams could progress to the next round if the U12 are the best runner up out of the 3 competitions. We look forward to the next round and the cricket season after Easter! Well done girls!

### FOLLOW US



### SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can

[view them here.](#)

## BOYCS AND AGGERS - THE LENNON AND MCCARTNEY OF CRICKET

AN EVENING WITH AGGERS and SIR GEOFFREY BOYCOTT

This show night is peppered with wickedly funny anecdotes and will, as ever, be fun, fiery and full of surprises. It will cover films of Sir Geoffrey's playing career and commentating career.

There will be stories, anecdotes, questions from the audience and some straight forward cricket sense but best of all it will be fun.

Wednesday 19th April 2023, 7:45pm

[Book Online Here](#)



## NT LIVE: GOOD

David Tennant makes a much- anticipated return to the West End in a blistering reimagining of one of Britain's most powerful, political plays. As the world faces its Second World War, John Halder, a good, intelligent German professor, finds himself pulled into a movement with unthinkable consequences.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A LIVE STREAMED PRODUCTION AND IS NOT PERFORMED LIVE AT THE AUDITORIUM.



Thursday 20th April 2023, 7:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)

## 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](#)

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

### GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

### OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 16), potentially causing alarm or distress.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

### ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

### CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.



### TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

### KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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