

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 740—5th May 2023

INSIDE THIS WEEK... Teesside Chess Megafinal... Fashion Show... Clubs and activities latest...

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's Phoenix Flier which gives you a taster of Prep School life. As you will see from the pages in this edition, despite the muted weather of late, we are getting out and about and embracing all that the summer term offers here at the Prep School! We were delighted to capture our whole school photograph at the start of term which was our first since 2018, as more recent attempts were hampered by the pandemic and high winds. It went without a hitch and it was our Nursery pupils who stole the show on this occasion with brilliant patience and composure. We look forward to the finished piece which will no doubt capture many gazes in the weeks and years to come as the historic photos that adorn our walls currently do.

When cameras were not trained on our pupils for formal shots, they certainly were for the DT Fashion Show last week. Our dancers took to the stage in fine style and showcased their moves and a super range of eco inspired 1970s outfits. Congratulations to the pupils for another brilliant performance on the PAA stage. We were back at the PAA during the first May bank holiday weekend as our chess players were in action in the Teesside Megafinal on Sunday. The competition draws a strong crowd from across the region and this year even saw players travelling from Scotland to do battle over the chequered board! The day was a total success and I am grateful to all of the staff who made it possible. It is great to see chess continue to thrive at school. With all Year 3 pupils learning to play as part of their Activities lessons we are certainly embedding further strong gameplay skills, problem solving abilities and strategic thinking in every learner!

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: What seed has three letters?



Photo of the Week: The Senior School Fashion Show saw a number of our dancers take to the stage in 70's style last week. Report and pictures inside.

Tooled Up Education

We're thrilled to announce that our [digital library](#) now contains over 600 resources! To make it easy for you to find what you need, we've created a brand new [A-Z of Frequently Asked Parenting Questions](#). Check it out for an overview of how we can support your family.

One of our newest [latest resources](#) teaches the differences between secrets and surprises and provides guidance on how to talk to your children about staying safe and maintaining their wellbeing. Plus, we've got a [list](#) of recommended maths-based apps and games to make numeracy skills fun for your child.

Finally, we'd like to let you know that we have two exciting webinars coming up next week that you won't want to miss:

[Connecting with Our Children Whilst Living High Stress Lifestyles](#)

May 9, 2023, 12:30 BST

Discover how to sustain emotional connections with your children despite having busy, stressful lives.

[Tooled Up Education Staff & Parent Webinar: Speech and](#)

[Language Awareness](#) May 10, 2023, 19:30 BST

Join us to explore the difference between speech and language, delay and disorder, and learn tips to help your child's communication skills.

The Tooled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could we do better? We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at research@tooledupeducation.com to let us know how we are doing!

A quick reminder As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPSII03 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at support@tooledupeducation.com.

If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

Dr Kathy Weston



Maths Apps and Games to Play at Home



Speech and Language Awareness



Connecting with Our Children Whilst Living High Stress Lifestyles



An A-Z of Frequently Asked Parenting Questions and How Tooled Up Can Help



Talking to Children About the Difference Between Secrets and Surprises

Teesside Chess Megafinal

The Sixth Teesside Megafinal was a fabulous success. We sold out of places a week and a half before the first pawns were pushed.

We were delighted to welcome 150 eager young chess players from all over the North East (and some from even further away) to the magnificent Princess Alexandra Auditorium at Yarm School.

As usual, our Prep School players were out in force and it was great to see them testing their skills against chess players from a whole range of other schools and chess clubs.



Dara Jafari and **Jayden Wang** shared second place in the big **Under-8** section but **Scarlett Yang** went one better to take the trophy for the Best Girl. **Zoyaa Soni** was the second highest-placed girl.

The **Under-10** section was the largest of all and it featured tough battles from start to finish. **Henry Stanley** was our best player on the day, sharing third place, just behind the eventual winners.

Monty Van Niekerk did very well to share second place in the **Under-12** section and **Nikita Sudyarevara** was the second-highest place girl.

It was a fabulous celebration of chess and we are now looking forward to seeing how well our young stars do at the Gigafinal.

For a full set of results please go to: <https://cscteesside.blogspot.com/2023/05/the-sixth-teesside-megafinal-results.html>

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day such a great success.

Mr Marsh



Prep Clubs and Activities

Our Summer clubs and activities programme kicked off last week, with a vast range of endeavours available for the children to take part in. Here, Mr Underwood and Mrs Hart share some highlights of the golf and sewing activities.

Mr Stone



Coming up at the PAA

Stars Live - 16th July

For the first time together, we will see amazing musical performances from your favourite TV Stars, LIVE on stage!



Ben and Holly will sing some of their favourite songs with help from the magical Nanny Plum. The PJ Masks heroes, fresh from a new adventure, will show the kids that they can be a hero too!

And last but not least, we have a very special performance from My Little Pony that will get every ponies hooves stomping.

<https://www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/hasbro-stars-live-on-stage/>

Paul Young - Behind the Lens - 27th May

Paul Young broke into the big time 40 years ago when No

Parlez went to number one and spawned iconic hits like Wherever I Lay My Hat (That's My Home).

More success followed with the

number one album The Secret of Association and the worldwide hit Everytime You Go Away, not forgetting an appearance at Live Aid and more. Paul sustained that success – while having fun in his tex-mex band, Los Pacaminos.

Now, on the 40th anniversary of No Parlez, he's releasing a remarkable new record and publishing his extraordinary memoir; both called Behind The Lens.

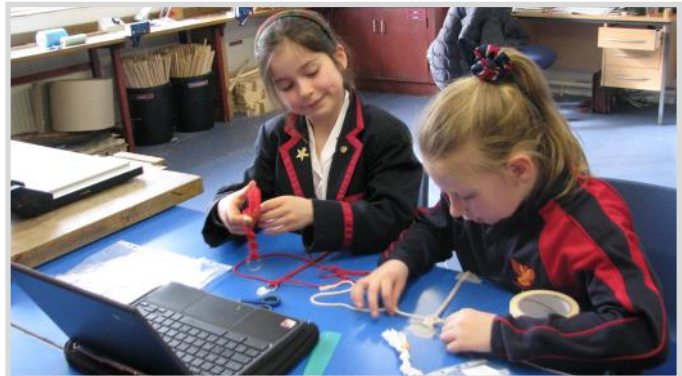
He's touring the UK, too, where he'll meet fans, sing hits and tell stories about his incredible career.

<https://www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/paul-young-behind-the-lens/>



Macrame Activity

Miss Ward's Macrame activity have been busy recently making bunting!



YPSSC
PreLoved Uniform



We have a huge and varied stock of preloved uniform available.

Boys & Girls Blazers
Coats & Cagoules
Hats
Summer uniform
Winter Uniform
Games Kit Items
PE kit Items

From Nursery through to Year 6.

Prices start from £1!

If you are looking to add to your uniform wardrobe or simply want a few spares, visit our website www.ypssc.co.uk or scan the QR code below to complete a stock check/order form.

All clean and reusable donations of outgrown uniform are welcome too- just bag them up and either pass them on to a committee member or drop them off at Prep reception.



Thank you!

Parent Handbooks

You can access the parent handbooks on the school website [by clicking here](#). At various points over the coming weeks, we will post some reminders and key pieces of information from the handbook.

Music Lessons

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, [please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you](#).

Contact Details

Please don't forget to inform the school office of any changes to your contact details, namely mobile number, address or email address so that we can contact you in the event of an emergency.

Mrs White

Easter Colouring Competition

Congratulations to Felicity, Jessica and Florence, who were voted winners by the customers of *Gowland and White* in their Easter competition. The children who entered were tasked with designing a house, with the designs put to a vote on G&W's Facebook page.

Mr Hutchcraft



Brunel Charity Day

Last week we shared the story of Will (Year 4) who was rescued by the Great North Air Ambulance during the Easter Holidays. We are supporting his fundraising for GNAAS as part of the Brunel Charity Day, which takes place on **Tuesday 9th May**. Children are invited to wear an item of blue along with the rest of their school uniform, if they bring in £1. As well as this, the Year 6 Brunellians have organised a vast range of stalls for the children to participate in. Children are invited to

bring in no more than £5 in coins to take part in these.

Mrs Jennings

Plastic Bottle Collection

To help the community and be more sustainable I am creating a greenhouse out of plastic bottles and I need your help. My challenge is for you to bring in at least 5 plastic bottles each that have been used. Whoever brings in the most bottles in the next three weeks will win a prize. I believe in you Prep to help the community and increase levels of sustainability!

Jasmine Scollay, Senior School

Fashion Show

Last Tuesday, the Prep School dancers were involved in the Senior School Fashion Show. They danced to a Jackson 5 medley and the routines were performed with high energy and enthusiasm. The audience loved it! Prep School then got the opportunity to strut their stuff down the catwalk and showed off their 70s clothing! Mrs Dunkley was so proud of the confidence the children displayed!



Bea G - I loved preparing my outfit and being

creative. It was so fun to perform in front of an audience and show them what we have been working on!

Anjali - I liked how we got to perform in front of loads of people and have fun with our friends on stage!

Jack S - It was such a fun experience showing off our creations. Wilf and I enjoyed it so much!

Jess M - I liked walking down the runway with my friends and showing off your costume. My favourite part of the dance was the 'Blame it on the Boogie' section as it was fun and upbeat!

Miss Whitehouse



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: It tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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Key Dates

MAY 2023

Mon 8	School closed; Bank Holiday
Tue 9	Curiosity Emporium (1pm) House Table Tennis begins Stephenson House Duty Brunel Charity Day
Wed 10	Year 4 residential to Vindolanda departs
Fri 12	Year 4 return from Vindolanda U11 Girls' Cricket v Durham School (away; 2.15pm start, 4.45pm return) U11 Boys' Cricket v Cundall Manor (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) U10 Boys' Cricket v St Peters (home; 2pm start)
Sat 13	Open Morning (9am-12noon)
Mon 15	Telford House Duty Year 5 Drama Week
Tue 16	Year 2 Trip to Edinburgh School Captains Day U8 Cricket Workshop with Ashville (home; 2pm start)
Wed 17	Experience Day for prospective Y2-5 pupils Food Council (Lab; 1pm)
Thu 18	Year 1 trip to Souter Lighthouse U9 Girls' Cricket v Durham School (home; 2.15pm start)
Fri 19	Y5 Drama performance to parents (Prep Hall; 4.15pm) U11 Girls'/Boys' Cricket v Dame Allan's (home; 2pm start)
Mon 22	Arkwright House Duty Year 6 Lakes residential departs
Tue 23	Primary Schools Quiz (10am; Prep Hall) U8 Cricket Workshop with Dame Allan's (home; 2.15pm start)
Thu 25th	Year 6 return from the Lakes (7pm)

Half-term begins (after school)

After School Care as usual

Reception visit Hullabaloo Theatre

Year 4 Sports Afternoon

JUNE 2023

Mon 5	Pupils return Brunel House Duty Dance Showcase rehearsals (P6 until 5pm)
Tue 6	U8 Cricket Workshop with St Peter's (home; 2.15pm start)
Wed 7	Arkwright Charity Day Dance Showcase rehearsals (P6 until 5pm)
Thu 8	Y2/3 Transition Morning for pupils Dance Showcase rehearsals (2-6pm) School Council (1pm; Lab)

[You can find the Yarm School calendar by clicking here](#)

Solution to previous Head's Challenge:

A memory

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Isla L.	Ziad S.
3H	Paari M.	Sajan G.
4G	Annalise D.	Martha L.
4J	Manha A.	William G.
4N	Roland M.	Elliott E.
5F	Kavan S.	Hannah C.
5H	Maisie S.	Will B.
5K	Samuel I.	Noah WT.
6G	Eva M.	Sumi K.
6H	Bea M.	Joe W.
6L	Ethan C.	Daisy N.
6W	Navina M.	Wilf S.