

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Welcome to our newsletter as May begins with much to talk about. We have had a busy short week here at Yarm, including an impressive Charity Concert in aid of Teesside Hospice organised by Cassie as part of her EPQ, a visit from Professor David Hughes talking about Circular Plastic Recycling, a virtual visit from Former Pupil Ellie Chapman to talk about how businesses can and should embrace creativity, and a unique opportunity from the BBC Big Band musicians who have held masterclasses for three of our talented vocalists and one outstanding sax player this afternoon.

As reported last week, we held our first Career Convention in four years and you can read more within about the success of the event and the undoubted benefits of face-to-face conversations where all manner of advice, updates and contacts were shared, broadening the horizons of student visitors and enabling visiting delegates to meet the next generation in their respective fields of work or study. We are extremely grateful to all the delegates and it was lovely to see many current and former parents, and former pupils supporting the school. Much praise

must go to Mr Edwards and other staff who put so much into coordinating and delivering such a terrific event for our pupils and those from other schools.

There is a more detailed report of the cultural visit to Paris which took place over the Easter break, and, undaunted by the disruptions at the ferry port on their outward journey, pupils packed in lots of locations and experiences. The trip included the opportunity to sample authentic French cuisine - something pupils embraced wholeheartedly!

We hear from James about some fascinating work experience he undertook at Belzona Polymerics and Hitachi Rail, as part of his Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, and from Effie, who spent a memorable week with the National Children's Orchestra at Sherbourne School. Thank you to both for a wonderful insight into these experiences.

After last week's exciting news about the success of the U14 Boys Hockey team, there is a more detailed report on their battle to reach their excellent place as fourth in the country. This evening's Sports Awards dinner will be a timely opportunity to celebrate the various

and impressive sporting achievements our pupils have achieved. I enjoyed my afternoon with Sixth Form students and Mr Thompson at Saltburn on Wednesday, enjoying an afternoon of surfing and watching the impressive progress of the students including those who had never surfed before but who managed at least some time upright on the board, getting a sense of the exhilaration this sport offers.

We have lots of exciting events coming up in the diary - from the Concert and Cake next Wednesday, to the GCSE and A Level Art Viewing the following week, right through to the Dance Showcase and the YSA Summer Ball next half term. Something for everyone!

Dr Huw Williams



The Eiffel Tower from the Seine on the MFL trip to Paris

EFFIE ATTENDS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA COURSE



In the Easter holidays, I attended my first National Children's Orchestra course at Sherborne School in Dorset. It took 7 hours to get there in the car. When I got there, despite feeling nervous, I went into the first sectional rehearsal feeling excited. In that rehearsal, we thoroughly looked at the pieces and met our tutor, Helen Edgar, who was lovely. After a long practice, the whole orchestra had a rehearsal and met our amazing conductor Natalia. The sound was epic and I really enjoyed it. Each day

we rehearsed for 7 hours, but it seemed to fly by.

After a few days on the course, we started preparing for 'surround sound'. This is an activity where you have to make up music to a video by improvising. My group was made up of 2 violins, harp, french horn, viola, cello and clarinet. At first I was unsure at how easy it would be, but after a few days, I got the hang of it.

On the last day of the course, we headed to The Lighthouse, Poole in Dorset for our concert. The concert hall was really amazing. When we arrived, we got straight to it, unpacking all of the instruments (105 in total!!) and began rehearsals. In the concert hall, the sound was amazing.

Next was the concert, which we had been working for all week. I was sitting on the 2nd desk of the Cello section and it was both funny and sad to think that this was our last time

playing the pieces together. The first half was made up of Gayane Suite by Khachaturian, Polovtsian Dances by Borodin which were all pieces that I loved to play. After that there was a 20 minute interval. When the 2nd half was about to start, I got my cello out and... disaster! My fingerboard fell off. Luckily, my lovely tutor Helen kindly gave me her amazing 350 year old cello to play. It was really scary because I had to spin it in the second half! Apart from that, the 2nd half went well, and I really enjoyed playing the pieces, Conga del Fuego Nuevo by Marquez, West Side Story, Somewhere and Mambo by Bernstein and Danzon no.2 by Marquez with the encore as Que Rico el Mambo by Perez Prado.

Overall, it was an amazing, inspirational experience and I cannot wait until the summer course and a second performance in Blackpool!

Effie Peacock, First Year

PARIS 2023

Early in the hours of Friday 31st March, 36 Yarm School pupils and 4 members of the MFL department set off for a 5 day trip to Paris. The day's travel was perhaps more eventful than planned - in the sense that it involved a lot of sitting around in a queue at Dover, and then a rougher ferry crossing than we would have hoped for - but unlike many school

trips we made it over, and arrived safely at the hotel in the early hours of the following morning.

On the second day, after a peaceful if curtailed night's sleep, we set off for the Eiffel Tower. The queue was short, the sun was out, and it was not long until Third Year pupils found themselves admiring the view of spring-time Paris from the second

floor of its most famous monument. After we climbed the stairs back down, we continued to familiarise ourselves with the city on a boat tour along the Seine, allowing us to take in more beautiful views from a different perspective. Particularly striking was Notre Dame, which was covered in scaffolding following the 2019 fire but still beautiful, the famous edifice

PARIS 2023 (cont.)

visible from beneath the repairs and promising of a full repair to come.

Finally on that day, following a group walk through the Tuileries gardens, we had some free time in the forecourt of the Louvre museum, where pupils used their French to order their own food and perused the public exhibits as well as the shops beneath the famous glass pyramid.

Day three saw us venture outside of Paris for a tour around the palace of Versailles, and then a visit to Claude Monet's house. Versailles is a place steeped in history, stretching back hundreds of years to the opulent grandure of the French monarchy, and also encompassing of course the eponymous treaty of 1919. Pupils were overwhelmed by the scale of the palace and enjoyed the opportunity to look around in small groups before we met back on the coach to continue to Monet's house. This was a fascinating contrast, comprising a relatively small building with stunning gardens, in which one could see countless examples of inspiring views which Monet used in his work.

Finally that evening, we returned to the centre of Paris for a night time visit to the Trocadero, which has unbelievable views of the Eiffel Tower lit up at night. There were audible gasps as we arrived on the viewing platform, and pupils drank in

the atmosphere of a vibrant Paris at dusk with the Eiffel Tower as an impressive backdrop.

On the fourth day of our tour, we climbed another of Paris' most famous monuments, ascending the spiral staircase to the top of the Arc de Triomphe. The weather was once again kind, and the views from the top over the Champs-Élysées (as well as the most infamous roundabout in Europe) did not disappoint. We proceeded to wander along the Champs-Élysées, France's most famous street, taking time to buy souvenirs for family and friends and to buy a crêpe or two. The day culminated in a trip to Montmartre and into the Sacré Coeur, followed by a spectacular meal at the Place du Tertre in an authentic French restaurant complete with snails in garlic. The staff were very impressed with the Yarm pupils' willingness to have a go with their French, and of the snails, and some tables even ordered a second round of escargots. The trip was a wonderful return to foreign travel for the MFL department following a few years of COVID restrictions, and I would like

to thank my colleagues Mr Rhatigan, Mr Tomlinson and Ms Troya for giving up their holiday time and putting in the hard work to make this trip possible.

Mr A Bridges



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: CAREER CONVENTION 2023

Sometimes the statistics can do the talking...

160 external delegates

+60 professions

25 universities

Around 1000 guests

...but beyond that there was a wonderful atmosphere. In part a return to the old ways, with an appetite for meetings in person, whilst at the same time a desire to get up to speed with the state of professions in the country and the region, seeking out the very best information and advice.

As we opened the doors it was a scene reminiscent of January sales - for those too young to know of such a thing, imagine if you had to queue up in person to get a ticket to Leeds festival, rather than hitting refresh on a keyboard. And it was this presence of so many students from

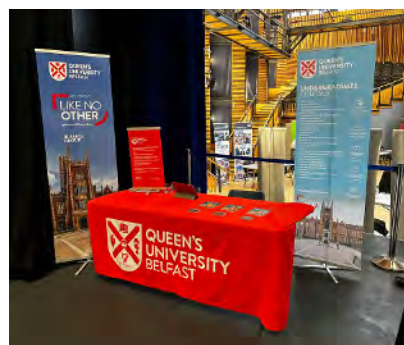
across the year groups, as well as a good number of pupils and families from other schools that made this feel like a special event. There was a measurable energy as visitors explored the multiple venues of the convention. The diversity of professions, from the traditional to the newly emerging, from north east based firms to those with a national and international standing, meant there was surely something for everyone. Of course, not every profession could be represented, and our Career Clusters over the years have helped to extend the specialisation of offerings. But it was a delight to witness so many pupils engaging in meaningful conversations with potential future educators, trainers or employers.

Feedback from the delegates reflected this attitude of inquisitive

and informed pupils discussing options with a seriousness of mind and purpose. The delegates were exceptional for their enthusiasm and energy, and I am very appreciative of their generosity in giving up their time and expertise. I am certain there will be heaps of follow up conversations that the pupils will be involved in, both with the delegates and in exploring their future plans with parents.

A most sincere thank you to all those involved, from colleagues at school, to the wealth of delegates, as well as the pupils and parents who came along. For anyone who may have missed out, you can get a good whiff of the scale and offerings of the event by linking to the [Career Convention 2023 Booklet](#).

Mr S Edwards



OUR GERMAN PARTNER SCHOOL VISIT US



For the first time in four years, we had the pleasure of welcoming a group of pupils and their teachers from our German Partner School (the Evangelisches Gymnasium Werther) last Wednesday and Thursday.

The German school was making its first trip to the UK since Covid-times, spending a week staying in hostels in Newcastle and Whitby. Their other visits included trips to Lindisfarne, Newcastle city, Castle Howard, York,

Whitby and Hadrian's Wall.

All their pupils got the chance to experience a day in Yarm School, being partnered with pupils in Third and Fourth Year and accompanying them in lessons and their other activities. The German pupils and their teachers were very grateful for the opportunity and were highly complimentary about our pupils and the school. We very much hope to continue similar visits in future and to encourage further links between our two schools.

Mr T Fellows

EASTER WORK EXPERIENCE

The Easter holidays can be a popular time for members of the Sixth Form to secure insightful work experience, albeit whilst juggling it with the demands of revision. For some career trajectories work experience can be essential. For most students it is more a case of getting some insight and reassurance of their suitability and interest in a given area of a profession. Below Lower Sixth student James Waine explains his time exploring a couple of visits linked to his [Arkwright Engineering Scholarship](#).

Mr S Edwards

Over the Easter holidays I was lucky enough to take part in two visits as part of my Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. The first of these was a 'connect day' with other Arkwright

scholars at Belzona Polymerics, at their headquarters in Harrogate. There we got to tour their offices and factory, learning more about the repair composite materials and protective coatings that they produce and their uses in a wide range of industries. In the afternoon, we got some hands-on experience with the products - whilst not only fun, it allowed us to understand better what the products were, how they were used, and what they did. Later in the holidays I also visited the global headquarters of my sponsor, Hitachi Rail, in London. Through a series of sessions, I learned about the different aspects of the business and what they do. It was extremely valuable to be able to explore the technical details of some of the

processes, being able to see how some of the work that we have already done in my A Level courses is applied in real world engineering. I was also fortunate enough to be able to interview some of the engineers for my EPQ, which is based on railways.

Both of these experiences were extremely valuable in allowing me to gain a greater insight into the world of engineering. I would strongly encourage anyone with an interest in following a career in engineering to apply for an Arkwright Scholarship.

James Waine, Lower Sixth



FAME ACTIVITY GETS UNDERWAY

The first FAME (Finance Accounting Management and Economics) activity session saw our keen Lower Sixth students (many of whom have fervently competed in YA for the past two terms) given two different, but equally interesting, challenges:

- 1) to be Business Mentors
- 2) to spread the good word of FAME

First, the fourteen students were each allocated a team of Year 6 Prep pupils and have been tasked with guiding and supporting them as they prepare for their own enterprise task, i.e. the Summer Fair. Next week the Sixth Formers will meet their mentees for the first time, on location at the Prep, but this week they were fully briefed.

Meanwhile they have also been given team tasks, with three groups asked to produce their own eye-catching / pupil stopping wall display which enlightens the pupil and teacher body and creates greater awareness of some aspect(s) of FAME. Judging will take place after the 27th June deadline and prizes will be awarded for the most iconic board.

Miss C E Rhodes

WOULD YOU COMPETE IN YARM APPRENTICE?

At the end of YA 2023, students were asked if they would recommend the experience to others. These are a few of their responses:

- Yes, as it's a great way to show your creativity and improve team working skills
- Yes, as there is nothing else like it and it is a fun opportunity
- Yes, as it's more rewarding than other activities
- Yes, definitely as it helps you develop confidence
- Yes, it enables you to understand responsibility and gain organisational skills

Miss C E Rhodes



Concert and Cake Series 2023




WEDNESDAY 10th MAY 2023, 5PM

“Food is music to the body – music is food to the soul”

Tickets are £3.00 and are available from www.thepaaonline.org or from the School Box office on:
(01642) 792587

YARM SCHOOL DANCE PRESENTS
HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME



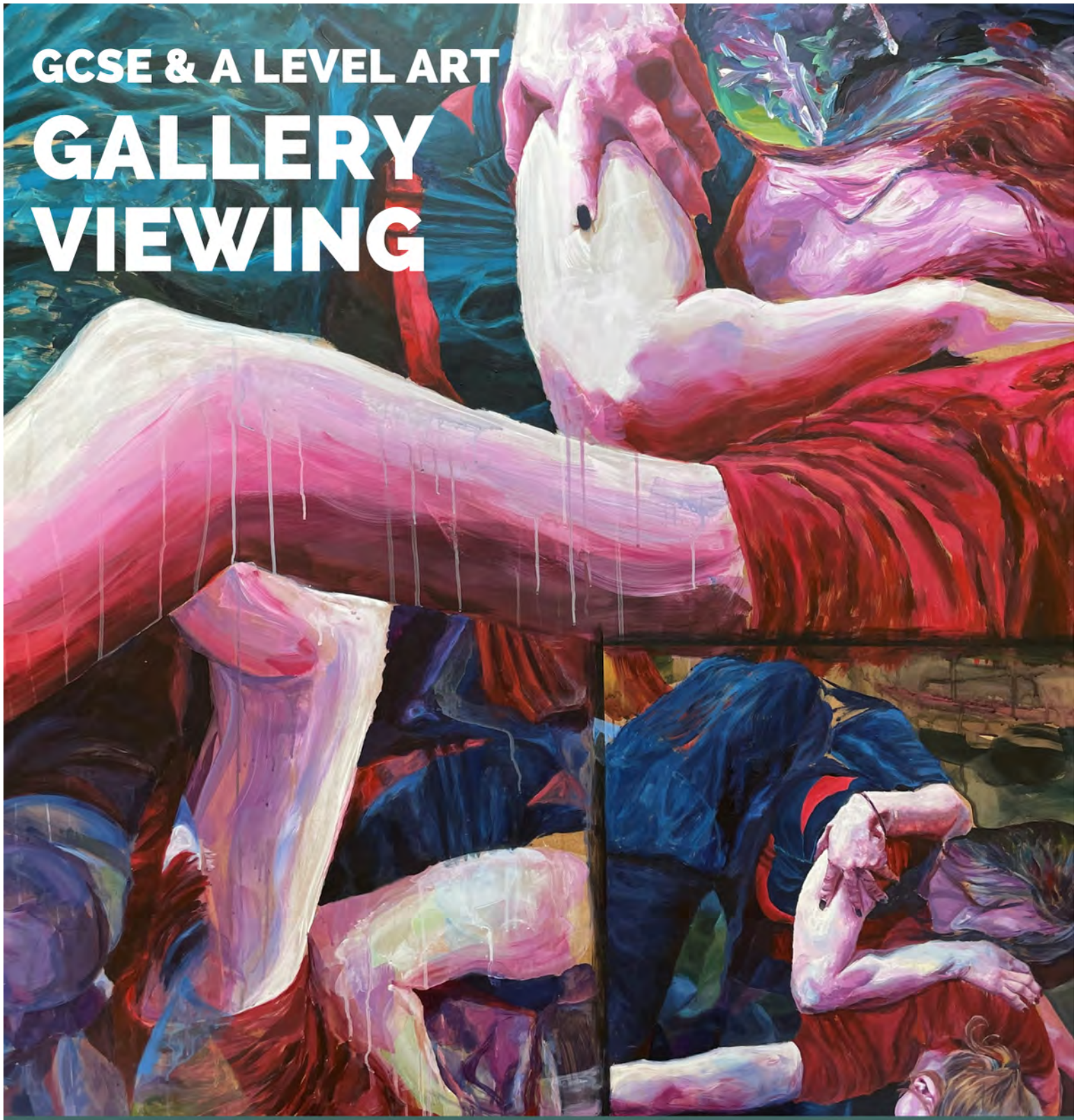
FRIDAY 9TH JUNE

6.30PM IN THE PAA

£7 Adult, £3.50 Concessions, Free for Yarm Pupils

Purchase Tickets Online www.thepaaonline.org

GCSE & A LEVEL ART GALLERY VIEWING



You are warmly invited to Yarm School to view the summer GCSE and A Level collections. Over 100 fantastic pieces of artwork displaying a wide range of styles and techniques. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine whilst viewing the artwork.

**WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY
4-7PM**

GCSE: RECITAL ROOM
A LEVEL: ART ATTIC STUDIO





YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



G L A S T Y A R M B U R Y **Y**

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023

BUY TICKETS ONLINE £75

WWW.YARMSCHOOLASSOCIATION.ORG

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

FESTIVAL BALL 1970-2020

UNDER 14 BOYS HOCKEY TEAM FINISH 4TH NATIONALLY

A huge congratulations to our U14 boys hockey team who travelled to London last week to compete at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in the National Hockey Finals. The Yarm boys were superb throughout and rose to the challenge to finish as 4th best team in the country.

Our first game was against Midlands Champs Solihull School. This was an even game where both teams had chances but as the match wore on, Yarm began to become more dominant and almost scored as a short corner was slipped left to captain Jude Crack who, unfortunately, pulled a well struck shot wide. However, this did not impact on his confidence and when a few minutes later a chance fell to Crack again, he managed to make a backhand hit into the far corner to give Yarm the lead and ultimately the win.

We played The Perse School from Cambridge, traditionally a very strong hockey school and it looked like it might be a task too far as they went ahead by two very early goals. Their play was based around one outstanding individual who ran at our defenders at pace and with skill causing many problems. However, a few tactical changes saw Ollie Mowbray adopt a man marking job in midfield and when the Perse player moved up front, Ollie Dunkin and Mustafa El-Sherif double teamed him to take him out the game. This completely changed the flow of the tie

and Yarm came more and more into it. Yarm looked dangerous on the break and Will Gwyne-Jones pounced on a slipped pass from Ben Bardgett to bring us back into the tie. This was quickly followed by a penalty flick that was confidently converted by Ollie Carr to bring the scores level. Again, Yarm were the dominant team and when Aidan Robinson appeared at the far post to finish another attack from the right hand side there was no way back and it meant Yarm would be secured at least 2nd spot in their group.

The final group game came against London Champs and top hockey school Whitgift. This team was a different proposition and to be fair played at a different level to Yarm. We managed to hold them at bay into the 2nd half but when they went ahead the coaching staff tried a number of tactical changes to bring us back into the game- 3 at the back to push 2 players up the pitch in the hope we could counter left us light at the back and meant we came out with a 2-0 loss. The boys still did themselves proud though!

The Whitgift loss set up a 3rd/4th place play-off v old foes and North West Champions- King's School Chester. King's started off well and were destroying us down the right hand side as a fast winger created a number of chances before one was converted. Man of the Tournament- Ollie Mowbray was given the task of

man marking this player out of the game. His extra pace nullified King's which again changed the course of the tie. In fact, Yarm dominated the whole of the 2nd half and when Ben Bardgett finished a well worked Yarm move, the game went into a shuffle competition shootout. Unfortunately, for the 2nd year running, Yarm lost to King's at this stage to finish 4th once again. Overall an outstanding achievement!

Well done to all the squad who competed including Jasman Sidhu, Dan Rubal-Garcia, Deacon Hughes, Jacob Hardy, Mustafa El-Sherif, Oliver Dunkin, Henry Bottomley, Max Hassani-Millington, Oliver Mowbray, Ben Bardgett, Sam Shawcross, Paddy Key, Jude Crack, Will Gwyne-Jones, Aidan Robinson and Ollie Carr. Also a big thanks to the coaching and management of this group of players by Mr Skirving.

Mr G Ferguson



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

THE ELO SHOW

The ELO Tribute Show is the world's greatest tribute to the genius and music of Jeff Lynne and E.L.O. with a stunning lightshow and 3D video screens.

Expect songs like, 'Evil Woman', 'Don't bring me down', 'Telephone Line', 'Sweet Talkin Woman', 'Turn to stone', 'Wild west Hero', 'The Diary of Horace Wimp' and of course the legendary 'Mr. Blue Sky' plus many more with a surprise or two.

Don't miss out on this fantastic night of nostalgia and classic tunes.



Friday 2nd June 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

RHYTHM OF THE DANCE

Rhythm of the Dance has brought audiences around the world to their feet for over two decades and is returning with a brand new production.

Rhythm of the Dance is an array of everything Irish dance has evolved into, from its roots in 'Sean Nos' (meaning old-style), to the militant, clean, modern style we see on stage today. With lyrical and contemporary influences, it will be Irish in essence, with a new edge and promises to be an exploration of how far you can push the boundaries of Irish dance.



Thursday 27th July 2023, 7:30pm

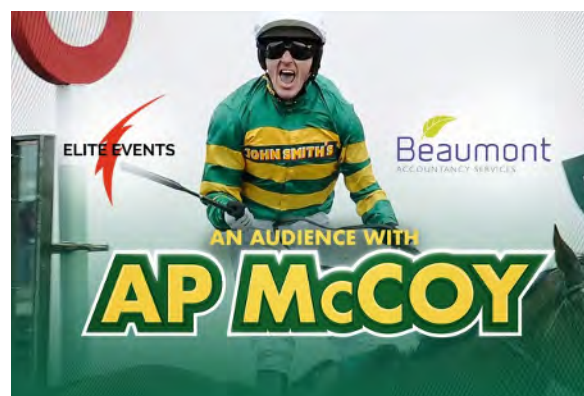
[Book Online Here](#)

AN AUDIENCE WITH AP MCCOY

The greatest jump jockey of all time and one of the world's highest profile sporting personalities.

He dominated his sport for over two decades, recently ending a truly phenomenal career as Champion Jockey for the 20th consecutive year, recording 4,357 wins including: the 2010 Grand National, the prestigious Cheltenham Gold Cup, Champion Hurdle, Queen Mother Champion Chase and King George VI Chase.

Not to be missed!



Friday 1st September 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ECHO CHAMBERS

Digital echo chambers have become increasingly prevalent over the last half decade. Formed by a combination of social media algorithms designed to promote engagement and the basic human urge to be correct, these online environments reinforce the opinions that people already have – such as particular political ideologies – in a perpetual loop. The danger is that exposure to this constant bias can gradually nudge users towards more extreme views. That's certainly a potential hazard for young people, who tend to be more impressionable and easily influenced by things they see and read online – especially if it reflects a view they already agree with.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXTREME IDEOLOGIES

Echo chambers can offer routes to harmful extreme worldviews. A typically teenage distrust of authority, for example, could spiral into a full-blown belief in conspiracy theories – sometimes rooted in ideas which are antisemitic, racist or misogynistic. For impressionable individuals who may be feeling disillusioned with life, echo chambers can often function as a gateway to radicalisation.

NO CRITICAL THINKING

While critical thinking skills are sometimes taught in schools, they are rarely domain specific. A lack of experience in thinking critically – for example, about things we see when browsing the internet – places young people at risk of falling prey to misinformation, untruths and false narratives, which are sometimes deliberately designed to mislead them and influence their thinking.

A VALUES VACUUM

If schools struggle to deliver on a clear ethos, founded in British values as outlined in the national curriculum, it leaves a space within which other ideologies have potential to flourish. Teaching about British values in more siloed experiences, such as PSHE lessons, doesn't always effectively convey the key notions: tolerance, democratic values, individual liberty and the rule of law.

UNDETECTABLE INDOCTRINATION

Many people enter online echo chambers every day without realising. It's easy to simply consume whatever's placed in front of us as we keep scrolling, unaware that we're being funnelled down a particular route. Not recognising that their daily digital diet could in fact be deeply biased in favour of one side or the other can accelerate a young person's journey towards more extreme ideologies.

LACK OF BALANCE

It's challenging to reflect on your own beliefs and opinions, and question whether you might have got things wrong. That's why most of us naturally lean towards consuming information which reinforces and underlines what we thought to begin with. The long-term consequence of this is general close-mindedness and, potentially, intolerance of a more diverse set of perspectives.



Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT CHALLENGES

It could be helpful to explain to your child that, in general, people like to find evidence to strengthen their existing beliefs and prefer to ignore anything which supports an opposing perspective. Emphasise that it's OK if someone (politely) challenges what they think occasionally, and that any criticism of their view is purely that – a criticism of their opinion, not of them as a person.

DEBATE CAN BE GREAT

Encourage any interest your child shows in debating – whether at home, at school, or in clubs or societies. Debates require people to assess the merits of an opposing argument, so they can counter it. Putting themselves in the shoes of someone who has a different point of view is a useful way for children to approach new ideas that may contradict what they previously believed.

DISCUSS 'UNHEALTHY FEEDS'

Help your child understand how online algorithms shape which information is presented to them each day; ask them to consider why things appear in their feed on platforms like TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. Explain that it benefits social media companies' advertising revenue to keep people coming back by showing them content which, generally, reinforces their existing world view.

THE VALUE OF VALUES

It can be hugely beneficial if your child recognises the importance of a core set of principles, such as the British values. By regularly tying their online experiences back to those essential ideas of democracy, tolerance and kindness towards others, understanding the rule of law and protecting individual liberties, you'll be helping them grow into a more resilient and robust future citizen.

VARY THEIR DIGITAL DIET

Sitting down to read online news stories with your child is an excellent way to demonstrate to them why it's important not to always get their information from just one place. Comparing how the same story is reported across popular mainstream publications – and talking about the political biases each may have – will highlight the importance of regularly checking a wide range of online sources.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



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<https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/media-bias-chart>