

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

A quiet but deeply and impressively industrious week has seen our pupils take their examination week seriously, with close attention paid to the advice given and with much expenditure of energy on cerebral and academic tasks hopefully leading to results that do justice to their efforts. No doubt, for some, this will be a learning experience because things didn't quite go to plan, but having the right approach to the bumps in the road is as important as any aspect of learning and teachers will work with pupils after half term to explore what went well, and how to build on any areas where improvement is needed.

Our Fifth Year and Upper Sixth students are now fully embarked on the public examination season, having been through internal examinations on their journey so far (notwithstanding Covid's attempts to disrupt this process) and learnt from those experiences to prepare them for these challenges. They, too, are approaching the process with appropriate seriousness and determination and we wish them ongoing success.

As reported within, we bade our Upper Sixth farewell as a year group in last week's Leavers' Dinner, which was a celebration of their time at

Yarm and the togetherness and shared experiences that reflect their personal, independent yet interwoven journeys.

I hope everyone enjoys the half term break next week and look forward to welcoming pupils back for the busy and productive final half term; there is much to look forward to, from concerts to sports day, outdoor ed trips, dance showcase, rowing regattas, sporting fixtures, the YSA Summer event (last chance to buy tickets: details within!) and more.

Dr Huw Williams



Upper Sixth Leavers' Dinner

FORMER PUPIL LONDON EVENT

Do you know any Former Pupils that are living or working in London? Please let them know about our London event on Friday 23rd June. Details here: <https://www.yarmschool.org/alumni-london-drinks/>

UPPER SIXTH LEAVERS' DINNER

So, farewell then, Class of 2023. The Leavers' Dinner is an annual event filled with emotion for the students and staff alike - arguably the last formal event where the Upper Sixth gather together at the end of their Yarm School career. I say arguably because I do hope to see many of the students at results day in August and the Senior Prize Giving in September and, of course, there is the small matter of A level examinations to negotiate together over the coming weeks. But this by turns nostalgic, poignant and joyous occasion was a fitting way to bring their journey together to a conclusion.

As always, this is an opportunity to pull out the glad rags and it was great to see the students turn on the style. The Princess Alexandra Auditorium was transformed with sophisticated and elegant decoration for the occasion ready for us to enjoy our delicious three course meal courtesy of our Sodexo team. We all appreciated the slide show of images from the distant past which fuelled the nostalgia for those shared experiences of long ago. Video messages to the students from my colleagues and former colleagues near and far were gratefully received and underlined the high esteem in which the Leavers are held by their teachers. Wise words from our outgoing School Captains, Belle and Josh captured so well the mood of the evening and we all enjoyed the

medley from Elise, Luke, Laura and Ella who literally got everyone on their feet: good times, indeed, never seemed so good...

We thank the Sodexo team for an awesome job in catering for all 140 of us so skilfully. Thanks also to the estates team for all their work not least in putting the auditorium seating in and out twice during the week, to Mr James for all his technical wizardry with the lights and sound, to Mrs Craig for her photography and to my colleagues for their support of the evening both in person and for their video messages. Thank you to the teachers and students who helped in setting up on Friday afternoon and especially to Miss Gamble who masterminded the whole event so brilliantly.

I hope the evening was enjoyed as much by everyone as it was by me and it was, as ever, a privilege to share some time with this fine group of young people. I wish them every success not only over the coming weeks of examinations but in their undoubtedly bright futures.

Dr A M Goodall



LAST CHANCE FOR GLASTYARMBURY TICKETS

Preparations for another spectacular summer ball are in full swing!

This year's theme is 'festival' and the lucky attendees will enjoy entertainment from Desi Nach Fire Dancers, and music from throughout the eras from the talented Bourbon Street Band.

The three-course menu includes a tempting main course of chargrilled chicken breast with potato and chorizo hash, or marinated no-nut peanut tempeh, sauteed heura and potato hash (veg option) - all with charred corn, roasted peppers and a chimichurri yogurt dressing.

All the proceeds from the main auction and the sealed bids auction will go to South Cleveland Heart Fund.

Ticket sales close at 6pm on Wednesday 7th June - the last tickets are available from

www.yarmschoolassociation.org

YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

FESTIVAL BALL 1970-2020

SOUTH CLEVELAND HEART FUND

SOUTH CLEVELAND HEART FUND

GLASTYARMBURY

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023

SUPPORTING SOUTH CLEVELAND HEART FUND

WWW.YARMSCHOOLASSOCIATION.ORG

A LAW APPRENTICESHIP FOR CHARLES

Congratulations to Charles, Upper Sixth, who has been successful in his application to a competitive law apprenticeship programme at Watson Woodhouse & Macks Solicitors. Charles will study one day a week at Northumbria University, then he will follow this with a training contract at the law firm.

Watson Woodhouse & Macks Solicitors specialise in 'legally aided'

areas of law and in personal injury (respectively). To secure his place with them, Charles participated in two rounds of interviews. He is excited to join the busy working environment and move away from full-time studying. His advice to any other young people who would like to take an apprenticeship route with a local law firm is to do plenty of research and take advantage of any opportunities you are offered.



YARM SCHOOL'S FIRST FUNKY FOOTWEAR DAY



On Thursday 18th May, we were delighted that so many pupils at the Senior School participated in our first annual Funky Footwear Day!

Organised to raise funds for The Teesside Charity, with whom we have been working to try to provide school footwear for underprivileged children and teenagers in our wider community, pupils from all year groups dazzled in their choice of

shoes which included trainers, boots, crocs, sandals and a few individually decorated pumps!

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to wear their own shoes to school, as well as those families who donated new school shoes directly. We will be presenting £350 to Diane Williamson of The Teesside Charity in the next half term.

The Community Action Group

FOLLOW US



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SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

UPPER 6TH LEAVERS' CONCERT

June 26th 7pm

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

YARM SCHOOL

Tickets are £5 and are available online at www.thepaaonline.org or calling the PAA box office on (01642) 792587

YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

DOVECOTE CONCERT
SUNDAY 2nd JULY 2023, 6PM

Tickets are free and must be "bought" from [the www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org)
There will be a **BAR** for cool refreshing drinks and a delicious BBQ. These areas will be open from 5.15pm
Tickets for the **Legendary Sodexo BBQ** are available from www.thepaaonline.org at a cost of £6.00pp

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

SIMON AND GARFUNKEL: THROUGH THE YEARS IN CONCERT

Simon and Garfunkel: Through the Years is the most authentic sounding concert to the unforgettable music of Simon and Garfunkel.

Made up of Dan Haynes and Pete Richards, Bookends have toured the globe extensively with their concerts being described as 'simply breath-taking'.

Performing the songs in a truly captivating way, against a backdrop of iconic imagery, their delicate recreation of the unmistakable sound of the American folk-rock duo is something of a masterpiece.

Friday 21st July 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



ECLIPSE – THE PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE

Featuring the whole of their epoch-defining album The Dark Side of the Moon, plus music from Meddle, Animals, Wish You Were Here, The Wall and Division Bell.

A spectacular evening of Floyd classics, not to be missed for any Floyd fan!



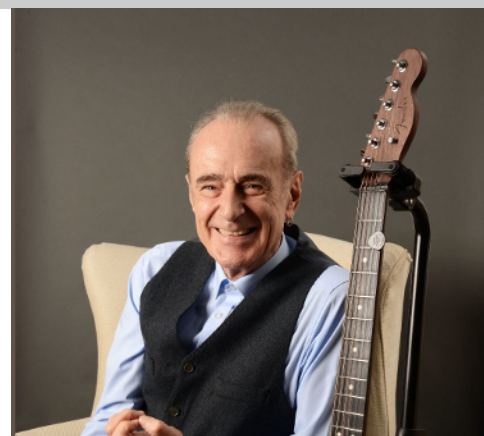
Saturday 2nd September 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

FRANCIS ROSSI – TUNES & CHAT

Status Quo legend Francis Rossi is taking up his acoustic guitar to bring you a selection of well-known hits and some previously not-performed-live-before tunes. It'll be a unique evening in which Francis will reprise fan favourites from a remarkable 50+ year career. Expect original-style, acoustic versions of Quo classics, threaded together with chat in this music based evening.

VIP packages are available for those wishing to meet Francis before the show.



Saturday 7th October 2023, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising: this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

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.

