Newsletter

No: 1349 | 15th September 2023

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

The term is in full swing, with fixtures, drama rehearsals, parents' meetings, enrichment lectures, activities, societies and more creating a buzz around the school. Pupils - new and old - are finding their way into routines and expectations, exploring new topics and subjects and demonstrating a positive attitude in all that they do.

Alongside some important notices about illness and absence, information about the Law career cluster event and a session on studying abroad and some upcoming events in the PAA, this week's newsletter contains some fascinating reports of early successes on the sports pitch, an engaging book review by Daniel, wonderful second year artistic talent, a politics dinner with our local MP, news of creative writing success, updates on summer work experience and the launch of this year's Yarm Apprentice competition. A bumper edition, then, with something for everyone and an early reminder of the breadth of activities on offer.

I was at the first enrichment lecture of the term last night and it was heartening to see an audience of pupils from a range of years, including our new first years out in force, as well as some parents and guests from other local schools. A fascinating exploration of microorganisms, benign and pathogenic, and a world premier of some exciting unpublished research into new anti-bacterial molecules. I encourage everyone to attend these lectures and to broaden their mind and widen their horizons.

Today sees last year's Upper Sixth and parents return to join our Sixth Form and some special guests for our annual Senior Prizegiving. We welcome this outstanding year group back, and wish them all the very best of luck in their future endeavours. I hope they will all sign up to our new website for Former Pupils and thus remain very much in touch with us and with other Yarm Alumni.

Dr Huw Williams

The first 'Lord Sugar' sets her task for the Yarm Apprentices.

WINTER ILLNESS AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

As we approach the colder months, we also face the inevitable winter coughs, colds and other common illnesses. Whilst we are all aware that your child's attendance in school is very important, it can sometimes be tricky to juggle this with limiting the spread of these winter ailments. The NHS have put together some really useful information which can be accessed via the link below: www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs L Wheatley, First Aid Lead

THINKING OF STUDYING ABROAD?

Next Thursday (21st September) at 12:45 in the Friarage Theatre we are hosting a meeting for all of those students curious about the opportunities and advantages of studying abroad. Brexit seemed to disrupt this option in some minds, but the landscape has settled somewhat and increasing numbers of students from the UK are again exploring overseas opportunities.

Our guest, Marcus Burnett of Burnett Global Education, advises and guides students who wish to study outside of the UK. They are only one of many such providers, but it should be a good chance to hear some details and ask some pertinent questions. Burnett Global Education has a strong focus on around 40 international universities, with many of them specialising in Business Management degree programmes, particularly in areas such as hospitality, event management and the like. Their programmes cover such countries as Switzerland, Spain, Austria, France, Greece, Australia, New Zealand, USA and Dubai.

Even if your interests fall outside of some of those specifics, it could still be worthwhile to learn more about the experience of overseas study and the suggested benefits of such a decision. The meeting is open to all students in the Senior School.

Mr S Edwards

NEW LOWER SIXTH POLITICS STUDENTS DINE WITH MATT VICKERS MP

After the first full week of the new school year and the start of their two year A Level course, the Politics students were treated to dinner with Stockton South MP, Matt Vickers. Gathering in the Soul Curry restaurant in Yarm, the new cohort spend a pleasant couple of hours chatting with Matt, alongside his Chief of Staff, Niall Innes. The Member of Parliament was able to explore the students current thinking on a range of issues, as well as asking after their future plans. Being a local MP but also Deputy Chair of the Party meant that Matt had a wealth of experiences to share with the students, and provided some great insights into topics on the recent and current political landscape. There were questions from the students on topics as diverse as the precarious nature of an MPs career, the relationship between politicians and charities, the challenges of MPs' personal security, as well as discussion about Matt's interest in town renewal. There was much material that related to the students' future A Level syllabus, but beyond this, it was a super opportunity to quiz a figure from public life albeit in the relaxing environment of a Friday night dinner. My thanks to Matt Vickers for his time and effort, and to the Lower Sixth students for this first of many future opportunities within Politics.

Mr S Edwards

CREATIVE WRITING SUCCESS

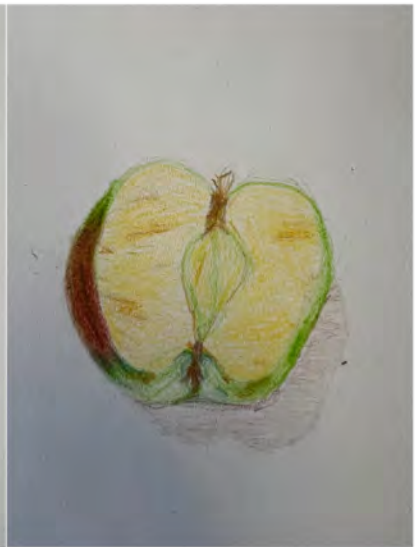
Many congratulations to Sophia Kusterer who successfully entered the Young Writers' Integer Creative Writing Competition with her mini saga - a story told in just 100 words- inspired by numbers. Sophia's saga- 'Take Off'- will be published in November as part of a new anthology entitled 'Calculated Creativity'.

ARTISTS' CORNER

Second Year have produced these excellent still life drawings using coloured pencils and pen, paying close attention to detail in their work.

Will Foster

Vidya Munipalle



Ayesha Aftab

Yuhe Tian

Luke Palmer

Alex Benstead

Annabelle Kyle

STUDENT SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCES

James Waine in the Upper Sixth is a keen engineer and has spent the last two summers exploring the world of engineering with very diverse experiences. Below you can read how he spent part of this summer.

Mr S Edwards

This summer, I have been lucky enough to get greater insight into the engineering industry through my visits. Firstly, I went to the Hitachi Rail factory in Newton Aycliffe, facilitated by my Arkwright Engineering Scholarship - here I learned about the assembly process and the custom nature to each train's production alongside understanding more about the test house, and the on-site certification work that is completed to ensure that the trains are ready for the national rail network. Later in the holidays, I was able to experience a different type of engineering at British Steel's Special Profiles unit in Skinningrove. It was a great contrast here to see the raw heavy industry, steeped in a significant industrial heritage compared to the more modern facility of my previous visit. It was fascinating to see the scale of the steel works, as well as how the old is blending with the new to improve efficiency and make the process more environmentally friendly - it was especially interesting to look at the software and lasers involved that allow them to assess quality as the steel moves through the site.

James Waine , Upper Sixth

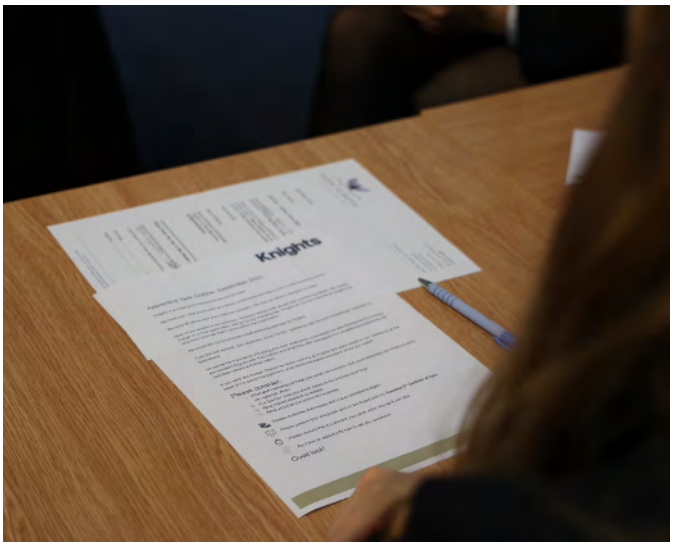
YARM APPRENTICE: READY, STEADY, GO...!

22 students convened in B1, all convinced they have what it takes to get their name on the Yarm Apprentice "wall of FAME". A pep talk from last year's winners Ollie, Harry and Arhana then led into completing a detailed application form, before being split into two teams: the "Econs and Extras" will be pitched against the "Business Buddies".

3.30 pm saw the assembled throng stand to attention to welcome the first Lord Sugar, Lucy Adams from Knights plc, and to hear the details of their first challenge. The teams must propose a staff wellbeing package for Knights and must pitch their proposals on Tuesday 3rd October.

Time is tight and the tension was palpable. With Harvey and Kyra the nominated PMs, we await the Boardroom with trepidation...

Miss C E Rhodes



WHY DOES THE SEASIDE MATTER? POLITICS SOCIETY WELCOMES A LEADING REGENERATOR OF THE BRITISH COASTAL TOWNS

'Trudging slowly over wet sand

Back to the bench where your clothes were stolen

This is the coastal town that they forgot to close down'

'Everyday is like Sunday' - Morrissey

One of the unintended consequences of the pandemic was a rediscovery for many of some of the delights of travel and holidaying within the UK. Many of the coastal towns witnessed a huge resurgence in visitors, and in there a renewed spotlight has been shone on the challenges faced by many coastal communities.

Our Politics Society guest on Friday is multi-talented in the efforts to regenerate, revitalise and conserve the seaside towns of this country. There is an added intriguing element to the profile of Professor Vanessa Toulmin, Chair in Film and Popular Entertainment at the University of Sheffield, in that Vanessa's life has always been centred around the seaside given the fact that she was raised in traveller community whose work, from being a child, was on the fairs of the northwest, having been born and raised in Morecambe. Her own journey eventually took her away from Morecambe to the University of Sheffield, ironically the city furthest away from the coast than anywhere else!

Professor Toumin, speaking to a mixed crowd of Politics and Geography students, explored the various initiatives that have been undertaken in the realm of coastal regeneration. Before this she shared press coverage over the years that can too often disparage and demean such towns, leading to such locations often having to perpetuate their image of deprivation in order to secure the funding needed for regeneration. We heard case studies of Margate with its huge import of the Turner Contemporary gallery, the heritage gimmick of resurrected Dreamland amusement park and the subsequent wave of hipster gentrification that has led to somewhat superficial renovation. By contrast, Prof. Toulin argued, Blackpool built its recent redevelopment more closely around its established assets, and linked the improvements to transport and wider community needs rather than a transplant of a new feature. The third case study sees Vanessa return to her home town of Morecambe, where she is specifically involved as the Chair of the Winter Gardens Preservation Trust, a site that will be developed into a significant music venue. It was recently announced that Morecambe would also be the setting for Eden North, the second site of the Eden Project of Cornwall. This will promise an all year round visitor attraction, but it must only be the start of a process of regeneration so badly needed in a town that seeks to preserve the best of its authentic past, whilst delivering a sustainable model for all of its residents and visitors into the future.

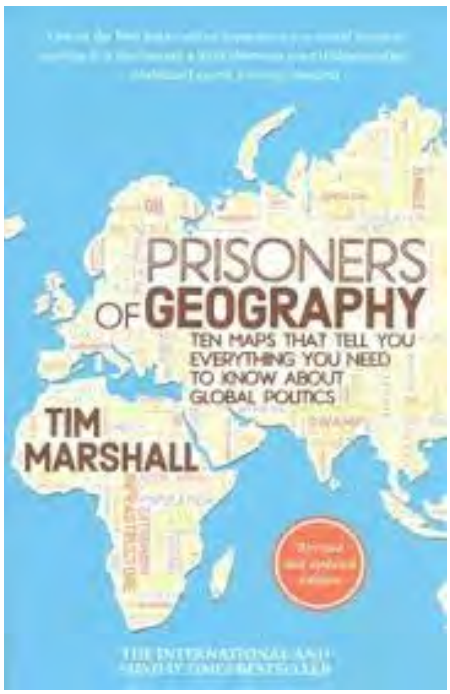
Mr S Edwards

POLITICS BOOK REVIEWS

Every new academic year the Politics students are invited to submit book reviews on books they have enjoyed and would like to share with the wider Yarm School newsletter community. Their choices may have been prompted by texts in the Politics Department, the school library, or else arisen from a lecture, a podcast or some other source of information or inspiration. Students have a free choice in this regard, but find the opportunity, and at times pressure, good for concentrating the mind, not least in considering how best to convey their reading experience to an audience. Below we can read a review by Daniel Boyce, a member of the Upper Sixth currently preparing to apply for a Joint Honours degree in Politics and History.

Mr S Edwards

BOOK REVIEW: PRISONERS OF GEOGRAPHY BY TIM MARSHALL



When I think of what changes a nation's history and what affects their politics, I tend to come to the conclusion that politics is changed by the people, such as Trump in America, or the Communists' uprising in Russia. However, what I did tend to ignore was geography in politics and history, but this book completely changed my perspective on the importance of a country's geography. 'Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need to Know About Global Politics', written in 2015, is a number 1 best selling book which explores the geo-political climate of the world, ranging from the desolate Arctic, to the Arabic world and just about everywhere in between. The Author, Tim Marshall, a British journalist who specialises in Foreign Affairs and diplomacy, writes in an engaging and fast-paced yet precise and accurate manner, which makes this book very accessible and an enjoyable read. Marshall also uses personal experiences such as his covering of the Balkan wars in the 1990s to highlight the importance of geography in international politics. 'Prisoners of Geography' only consists of 10 chapters, and around 300 pages, but it leaves the reader with a renewed appreciation for geography from deserts to mountain ranges to seas, and how each of these have changed the history of nations, and will continue to change global politics in the future.

The world of politics undoubtedly moves at fast speed; in the 8 years since 'Prisoners of Geography' was released, war has broken out between the Ukraine and Russia, China has grown more and more aggressive around the South China Sea, and Afghanistan has reverted back to Taliban control. However, Marshall proves that the geographic impact on politics is constant. In fact, in the first few sentences of the book, Marshall almost predicts the Russo-Ukraine war, by stating that the openness of Russia's western border almost forces them to have an aggressive foreign policy as an army can march from Poland to Moscow without any trouble. Furthermore, when talking about the Middle East, Marshall shows that the abundant resources of Afghanistan, particularly opium, create a natural instability in the region, a point realised through the Taliban's emergence in 2021. Aside from the book's almost prophetic element, Marshall elegantly explains how the world we

BOOK REVIEW (CONT.)

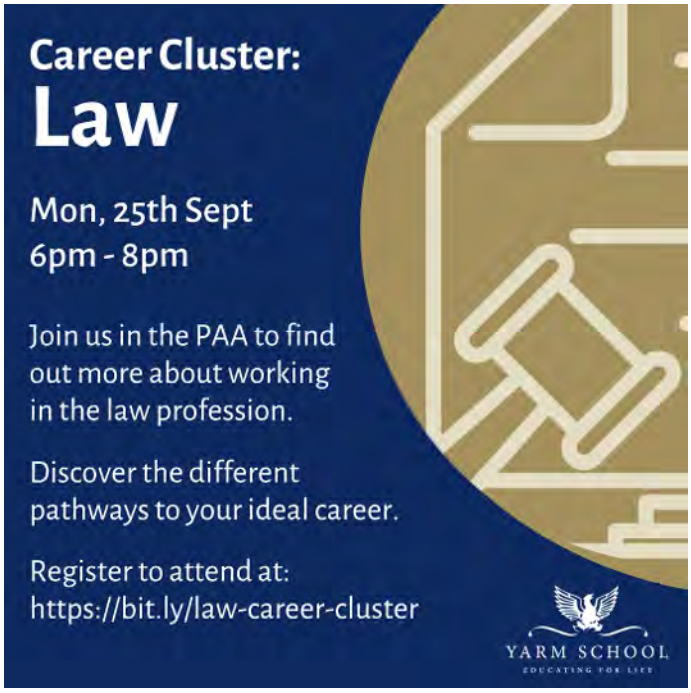
live in today is almost entirely caused by geography. For example, the reason why the United States is so powerful, is that it never has to worry about invasion. Two massive oceans would likely keep any invading army at bay. Likewise, Marshall explains how Northern Europe and Southern Europe are so different. The Northern European plain provides much farmland, with the stable climate meaning that resources for countries such as Germany, France and the Netherlands are abundant, contrasting Southern Europe which has much less arable land to offer. Furthermore, Marshall explores the importance of ports and trade routes to Northern Europe, with cities like Hamburg and London growing exponentially due to trading potential.

One of the book's standout qualities is its ability to shed light on lesser-known regions and conflicts, helping readers grasp the underlying reasons for tensions and alliances. Whether discussing Russia's quest for warm-water ports and therefore its occupation of Sevastopol, China's ambitious Silk Road strategy, or the inherent challenges faced by landlocked countries, Marshall's analysis is insightful and thought-provoking. Additionally, Marshall's work goes beyond simply geographical knowledge with a few maps dotted around, instead the author blends in nation's histories, cultures and economic dynamics to create a full picture of how the world ended up in the position it is in today, and where it might lead too. For example Marshall talks about the destructive legacy of European colonisation, but is also in-tune with the future, citing the problems that climate change will cause, and its new role in modern day geo-politics.

There is no doubt that a read of 'Prisoners of Geography' is a thoroughly worthwhile read, providing readers an insight into the world of geo-politics whilst being witty and captivating. Tim Marshall's writing provides us with the knowledge to be able to understand why countries act the way they do, why some are aggressive and some solitary; and in this world of ever-changing politics, the consistency of geographical impact is important to understand.

Daniel Boyce, Upper Sixth

REMINDER OF LAW CAREER CLUSTER EVENT



A reminder of this exciting careers event for pupils from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth and their parents and teachers. Students from all schools are welcome, so spread the word!

Join us for three panel discussions with questions from the audience. Among our guests will be law students, trainee solicitors, an apprentice solicitor, senior partners, lawyers working in family, shipping, commercial and criminal law, and more. There will then be the opportunity to speak directly to professionals at four stalls representing law firms from the region.

Click here to register.

Mr S Edwards

YSA PRESENTS

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GIRLS' HOCKEY

1ST XI - NOTTINGHAM TOURNAMENT

The 16 strong squad travelled to Nottingham the first weekend back after the summer break. The weekend would see the team spanning three year groups play together for the first time, figuring out positions, tactics and group dynamics.

The players were fantastic, led by Scarlett Carton they gelled quickly and bought into the game plan to come out with a 3-0 win against Norwich High School. Their second game was a frustrating one but the team battled and eventually came away with a 1-0 win against St Teresa's, Effingham and hungry to finish the day with a better performance and a 100% winning record. the last match was against Woldingham School, the team started fast and peppered the goal with no joy until the last seconds of the game where Vice-Captain Miriam Akowuah scored an absolute worldy reverse form the top of the D to take the 1-0 win before getting mobbed by 15 celebrating teammates!

After loading up on dough balls the next day saw us play hosts Nottingham High School, a good test for the legs and a positive start taking our 4th win with a 2-0 victory. This set up a top of the pool clash with us taking on Bradford Grammar

School with the winners almost guaranteed a spot in the final. We started the game strong, and after maintaining possession for much of the first half we managed to finish the half 1-0 up. During the second half we started well, but Bradford managed to equalise and brought the score to 1-1. We played well maintaining possession of the ball and remaining highly motivated. However, they managed to score another goal from a short corner with 5 minutes left on the clock. As the final whistle went we were awarded a short corner and the full team pushed up in hopes of getting a draw. Sophie Hall was slipped the ball and slapped it into the left corner giving us the draw.

This draw left us chasing Bradford's goal difference, unfortunately, after scoring 5 goals to none against Shrewsbury School this still wasn't enough and the team finished 2nd and set up a 3rd/4th play off with Bloxham School.

After 6 games in 2 days this pre-season was gruelling on the legs and this showed in the last game with the team eventually losing out to a team who had a 24 person squad and had played 1 game less. Despite this the team worked till the final whistle and came away with a buzz and real enthusiasm for the season ahead!

Well done Team!

Scarlett Carton, Upper Sixth

SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.
You can view them here.

GIRLS' HOCKEY

U14 VS SCARBOROUGH

On Saturday the 9th of September the girls U14 hockey team played against Scarborough College. We played with intensity and put good pressure on the opposition throughout the game. Furthermore, we used strong fast passes from the defenders to the attackers and communicated well especially in the D. This led to a 6-1 win.

The U14 team

U15 CUP VS DAME ALLAN'S

Round one of the Independent Schools Hockey Cup saw us travel to Newcastle to face Dame Allan's School. This newly formed team of Third and Fourth Year girls quickly found their feet and started to play with real composure from the defence through to attack making it 3-0 at half-time. The team lost their way a little in the second half but the work rate and intensity remained high finishing the game 3-0. The team have plenty to work on but this was a very positive and pleasing start to their campaign.

Well done team!

Miss N Hodgson

U15 VS SCARBOROUGH

On Saturday the 9th of September 2023 the U15 team travelled to Scarborough to play against Scarborough College U15s. It was an early start but morale was high. We watched and supported the U14 team and provided upbeat music. We started off strong, with 3 goals in the first half. We worked on a new technique called the arrowhead. We picked this up very fast and it helped us to concede less goals. The second half was more challenging as the other team started strong. However, we fought back as a team giving them more of a challenge, managing to score another 2 goals. We ended the match on a high note with the score of 5-3. Well done girls!!

The U15 team

GIRLS' HOCKEY

U13 YARM STOKESLEY TOURAMENT

The U13s started their season with the 4th annual Yarm/Stokesley tournament. The two teams improved throughout the day with the B team finishing their day with a win against St Peter's B team and the A team finishing 4th overall.

Well done teams!

Miss N Hodgson

DOUBLE BILL – YORKSHIRE KERNEL AND THE LAND GIRL

Yorkshire Kernel is a fast-paced theatrical journey. James's Grandad is at death's door, but he has one last mission. A comic and nostalgic tale of Yorkshire wit and grit and one man's determination to leave a legacy.

The Land Girl is a delightful and touching one-woman performance inspired by local stories.

Sunday 8th October 2023, 7:30pm
Book Online Here

THE CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS – CRUISIN FOR A BLUESIN TOUR

The Chicago Blues Brothers have put the band back together and are 'Cruisin for a Bluesin' taking you to the music capitals of the USA for one night of spectacular live music. this award-winning show is bringing you the very best in Rhythm and Blues, Soul, Country and Motown with a few surprises and lots of lunacy thrown in for good measure.

Overflowing with heart and brimming with soul, indisputably infectious with an exuberant spirit and energy that is impossible to resist.

Getting the blues has never been so much fun.

Sunday 15th October 2023, 7:30pm
Book Online Here

GROUND RULES – BY ERIC CHAPPELL

Judith and Gerald look the perfect couple – he's a successful businessman, she's an aspiring counsellor, they live in a stylish suburban home and it seems nothing can spoil their happy marriage… that is until Jo and Ashley arrive on the scene!

Eric Chappell's comedy is by turns hilarious and poignant, preposterous and touching. By the end, nobody's relationships – or perhaps even partners – will ever be the same again!

Wednesday 25th October 2023, 7:30pm
Book Online Here

Click here to open the guide

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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.

Source: https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html

National Online Safety®

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