

## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

We are excited to welcome many prospective families to our Open Morning on Saturday, which is shaping up to be a very busy event, and I am so grateful to the very many pupils who have volunteered to support it, and to participate in departments or as tour guides around the School. As parents will remember, perhaps, from their own visit to an Open Morning, our pupils are the best advertisement that we could hope for, and it is typical of their pride in the School that they want to come in and represent the school in this way.

Despite the challenging weather, particularly in the morning, it was a great pleasure to see so many current and former parents, pupils and staff at the Stokesley Show, and also to speak with many people considering Yarm for their children. One former parent of three children who came through the school many years ago took the time to pop in and share their reflections of the positive experience their children had, and the successes they have build on Yarm foundations which we strive to build for all our pupils.

These foundations include a sense of 'what next', and being informed

about options for the future and career information is a vital part of our careers provision. This week saw our Career Cluster event on routes into, and pathways through, a career in Law, and I am grateful to Mr Edwards and Miss Rhodes for lining up a stellar group of guests to speak to an appreciative and attentive audience of pupils and parents. The evening ended with a mini careers fair of stands from 5 law firms, with pupils gaining insights and contacts in the profession.

Tuesday was European Day of Languages, and with the broadest of views on this - and with our guest Dr Simon Hyde, General Secretary of the Heads' Conference (HMC) to which Yarm belongs, in attendance - Sixth Form languages students coordinated a multilingual assembly in which those speaking explored the importance of their language to them, and shared a favourite word with the school. *Mwynheais yn fawr rannu fy balchder o allu siarad Cymraeg, a fy hoff air, 'hiraeth'!*

I hope you enjoy news of Outdoor Ed trips, student societies, Degree Apprenticeship success for Adhi, the return of Artists' Corner, a book review by Cassie, university updates and sporting reports, including Izzie's selection for the Scotland u17 squad, Harry and Jacob's progress with Newcastle Falcons and news of a packed weekend of sport last weekend.

Dr Huw Williams



First Year pupils begin their ascent of Buckden Pike

## MY FIRST YARM SCHOOL TRIP: BUCKDEN PIKE

On Sunday the 24th of September, I went on my first Outdoor Education trip with Mr Mathers, Miss Street and 9 other pupils. We hiked up Buckden Pike in Wharfedale and had a look at the village of Buckden along the way.

We arrived at school at 8:30 in the morning. We checked our kit and travelled one and a half hours on the minibus to the Buckden Pike car park.

The weather was very windy and wet. It was only drizzling, but the high winds made it really blustery. We started ascending at 9:45 and the first half of the hike was alright.

There was a slight gradient at the start, but the paths were not too muddy. Near the middle, it really

became soggy and my feet were soaked all the way through my hiking boots. In some parts, my shoes were totally submerged in silt. In the final section of the climb, it was extremely windy and the rain began to lash at my face. The trail became very steep, and there were many slippery stone steps to climb. Eventually, we got to the top.

It was a relief when we reached the summit. We had been walking for 2 hours in the pouring rain and wind, feeling cold and sweaty at the same time. We sheltered behind a drystone wall and had our lunch. I was really happy that I reached the top and could enjoy the beautiful (yet foggy)

view. We quickly ate our lunch and started to stagger down the slopes. Without many issues, we arrived at the car park and had a look at an old shop in the village where some of us bought some sweets and drinks. We drove back to school, where I slept in the minibus for a quarter of it, and went home with my family from there.

It was a really nice day trip to the Yorkshire Dales, and a new experience of hiking. It was really enjoyable and I would want to go again.

Shourjo Dasgupta, First Year



## WORKING LUNCH: STUDYING ABROAD

This week's Working Lunch was a little bit different as we welcomed Marcus Burnett (representing Burnett Global Education Ltd) to speak to those in the Sixth Form who wanted to know more about studying abroad. A good sized audience attended, reflecting the increased appetite amongst the student body to explore the full range of opportunities available after leaving school, as we seek to support all students' aspirations.

We already have, and have had, students furthering their education overseas, in the USA and in Europe, so we were fascinated to learn more from Marcus about the forty universities he represents, and to hear him allude to the contacts he has who can offer further guidance if it is beyond his own personal sphere of expertise. Marcus

specialises in in universities that offer Business Management Degree programs in Hospitality, Luxury Business Management & Event Management and he discussed the opportunities to study Degree and Summer Programs in Switzerland, Spain, Austria, France, The Netherlands, Greece, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Dubai and London. The opportunity for Q & A after the talk was enthusiastically taken up by our students, an encouraging number of whom subsequently took leaflets for further information. We are grateful to Marcus for giving generously of his time.

Miss C E Rhodes



## ECONBUS SOC

The influence of EconBus Soc continues to expand - this week our Econ Chairs had recruited a speaker from the Sciences. Monisha is a student of Biology, Chemistry and Maths, who intends to pursue Medicine but she volunteered her services and spoke to the EconBus Soc about Cruelty-Free Cosmetics and the challenges posed by Animal Testing in Skincare, talking about the changes in business strategies of many brands to accommodate the demand for cruelty-free products.

There was standing room only for the audience of Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth students, who engaged enthusiastically with the session, and asked a plethora of questions during a thought provoking discussion. We are very grateful to Monisha for giving us much to consider and we look forward to a language based lecture next week!

Miss C E Rhodes



## POLITICS STUDENTS TO INTERVIEW CONSERVATIVE PEER AT PARTY CONFERENCE



Next week the Upper Sixth Politics students will head to Manchester to attend the Conservative Party Conference. The event is an

opportunity to see in practice a number of the themes addressed in their A Level syllabus, not least the structure, operation and ideology of political parties.

In addition to attending a number of bespoke sessions, and exploring the fringe events of the conference, two Yarm students have been selected to interview Baroness Evans of Bowes Park. The Conservative peer is the former Leader of the House of Lords

and served in the Governments of Theresa May and Boris Johnson. Since standing down, she continues to sit as a peer and is currently on the House Lords Education Committee. This promises to be a super opportunity for Sixth Form students Sara Banerjee and Bede Knox, who will interview Baroness Evans and then facilitate questions from the audience.

Mr S Edwards

## ADHI SECURES DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP WITH EY



Congratulations to Adhi, Upper Sixth, who has been offered a place on the competitive degree apprenticeship programme with EY.

Adhi aspired to begin his career with one of the 'Big Four' and learned much about the possible pathways into the industry from Miss Rhodes

and from Former Pupils who have returned to Yarm School to share their experiences. He was particularly inspired by Josh Littler who has begun working for EY and spoke of the friendly and collaborative culture there.

The application process began with applying for the summer career academy programme, and once Adhi had participated in this, he was then invited for a final interview to secure his place on the Apprenticeship.

He will work and study in Newcastle for 4 years, combining a demanding role in the office with University study.

The degree apprenticeship appealed to him as he is looking forward to hands-on experience of the working

world. His advice to anyone else wanting to follow this route is to take advantage of all the extra-curricular opportunities you can - Adhi used examples from his experiences from Yarm Apprentice and from working towards his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award when talking to his potential employers.

Well done Adhi!



## ARTISTS' CORNER

Thank you to Auden Ashwell in First Year who brought his work in to School.

I was really impressed with his attention to detail, as well as his use of tone and colour.

Miss A Street



## DR VICKI PUGH SPEAKS TO POLITICS SOCIETY ABOUT SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Our most recent guest at the Politics Society was former pupil, Vicki Pugh, returning to speak to students after leaving Yarm School twelve years ago. Dr Pugh works as the Social and Ecological Justice Project Manager and is a researcher at York St John, a role that allows her to encourage, harness and promote a broad range of academic and practical projects on and around the campus that seek to educate the communities about great awareness. The main themes of such projects at the Institute for Social Justice are children & young people, mental health, learning disabilities and autism, asylum seekers and refugees, ecological justice, women and families. The Centre has brought together a diverse range of university departments and their students, with a considerable reach across the student population. Vicki was instrumental in the development and growth of the university Living Lab,

described as 'an interdisciplinary network in which students and staff collaborate with local organisations to investigate and tackle real-life, local, ecological justice problems. **This short video**, made for students at the university, gives a good idea of the range of activities and the rationale behind such efforts. One of their initiatives, Feeding the Campus, involved research led by students and interns, as well as the hosting of talks, events, workshops, film screenings, and shared meals. Involving all of the wider community that make up a university, the project connected students, the Estates team, campus and residential services, student finance, the students union and the careers, placements and student opportunities team. One spin off was the collaborative creation of a student cookbook, aimed at healthy and environmental eating on a budget. The students were well

engaged with the talk, exploring the motivations and responses to such endeavours, the transferability of such schemes, as well as exploring the possible consequences and impact of the schemes described. It was a delight to welcome Vicki back to the school and see the energy, enthusiasm and expertise that she is investing in the development of the university community, in terms of their awareness, exposure and understanding of the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Mr S Edwards



## POLITICS BOOK REVIEW

### SPIDER WOMAN: A LIFE - BY LADY HALE

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Lady Hale's 'Spider Woman: A Life': I am enamoured by her work, all of which captures the importance of law in the modern world. I was further inspired to continue to pursue my desire to pursue a career in the legal profession after this in-depth look at the life of a prominent female in the legal sphere - an unabashed feminist and the first woman Justice of the Supreme Court. She touches on the cut and thrust of her career, accounts her groundbreaking cases, and for those like me, aspiring law students, even includes endless descriptions of titles, wigs and robes and even, at one point, an example of one particularly nuanced question from a law exam back in her university days.

Hale begins the memoir detailing the media uproar regarding 'what she wore' when in Parliament in September 2019 (her dress was missing a diamond 'spider' brooch, yet she had replaced this with a similar spider shape that had cost £12 on the highstreet). Hale documents in Spider Woman, that it is not what women appear as, or are objectified to be, that matters - what was significant that day was the court's unanimous ruling that the prorogation was unlawful.

Consequently, however, it was this web that highlighted that day that it is indeed possible for a woman to

ascend to the highest of ranks to one of the most important and crucial judicial roles in the country. The people saw her as a person, not just an outline.

Hale's pioneering legislation captures the pertinence of law in a modern world. Her work on significant acts, such as the Mental Capacity Act in 2005 and the most recent Family Act, address complex issues of the day, such as the cruciality of fair governance to form foundations of society. 'Spider Woman' gives a fluently written account of her career: she studied at Cambridge in the 1960s, and from there, after some time spent serving at the Bar, she became an academic at Manchester University. Hale goes into her account as she 'plods' along a legal path, where most would settle with their careers as Professors, but Hale possessed a skill most others miss: patience - she was in it for what she coins the 'long haul'. Success in a legal profession does not come easy, it is a culmination of determination, knowledge and sheer hard work. Whilst in her younger years, Hale marks that she suffered from 'imposter syndrome' - mostly due to the case that, alongside many other women, and far removed from many men at the time, legal roles were still stereotyped by gender. A field wherein a 'fully qualified' man can go



much further than an even more qualified woman.

Yet Hale breaks down these barriers, testing legal waters. Hale became the youngest person to be appointed into the Law Commission, and became a judge in the high courts (family division) a decade later. Hale is the second woman to have been accepted into the court of appeal, and in 2004 she was welcomed into the House of Lords to commemorate her significant contributions to the legal profession. However, perhaps arguably at the pinnacle of her career, Hale was appointed as the first female Justice of the Supreme Court, rising to president in 2017.

Whilst a far cry from the Marvel Comics' Spider-Woman that first comes to mind for many, Hale may not be able to shoot webs and use

## BOOK REVIEW (CONT.)

superpowers - but I certainly get the impression in the novel that many (men) are afraid of her... The two women do have a few things in common, aside from a superhuman strength & patience, they have always considered themselves 'outsiders' - differing from social norms, able to stand down villains and opponents. Hale has proved herself able to withstand, survive, and thrive in face

of 'toxic' sexism.

As for her 'personal life', love, loneliness, marriage and motherhood, are surprisingly not heavily detailed in 'Spider Woman'. That is perhaps the only criticism I have of this memoir. Lady Hale is a stoic force amongst the legal profession, a woman who has so long dealt with barely concealed

systematic prejudice, yet seems to only have a half-opened heart in this account. So, if you are looking for a read that goes in on her personal life and the challenges faced there, this is not it. Ultimately, Hale is an inspiring woman, and her memoir is a true reflection of that.

Cassie Woodier, Upper Sixth

## LAW CAREER CLUSTER OFFERS SOUND LEGAL ADVICE

Monday evening saw the hosting of our latest Career Cluster events. Such events are typically aimed at pupils from the Fourth Year to the Upper Sixth and are always open to pupils and their families from schools across the region. Monday was all about law - the different ways of preparing for the profession, the entry routes to education and training, as well as advice on the various branches of law and how best to prepare for them.

To those accustomed to our Cluster events you will not be surprised to learn that there was a wealth of external guests involved, all offering their advice and guidance. In three separate panel discussions our guests fielded a diverse range of questions from the audience, whilst also weaving in some of the essential nuggets of guidance they wished to share with the audience. In terms of the variety of the guests we had a

number of solicitors, barristers including one from the Crown Prosecution Service, employment and family lawyers, corporate and mergers lawyers, the director of Teesside University Law Clinic, partners in firms, as well as students only recently embarked on their study or training. We had two current law students, as well as a student who had left last year's Upper Sixth to start a degree apprenticeship to train to be a solicitor.

At the end of formal proceedings the event melted into informal conversations with the guests centred around five local law firms who had set up their stands with their employees to offer further specific guidance to the students. The well attended event was a delight in terms of the variety of our guests, the depth of advice on offer, as well as the enthusiasm of pupils and their families to secure better insight and

information into this popular career destination. Those wishing to access an overview of the evening may read details about our guests in the [Career Cluster for Law Booklet](#).

I would like to thank all of our guests for their considerable generosity in giving so freely of their time and expertise.

Mr S Edwards



## THOUGHTS FROM THE GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2023

Universities are facing considerable challenges and opportunities; exciting new courses and initiatives are underway across the country on university campuses, meeting the needs of today with courses and initiatives on AI, climate change and social mobility. But universities are arguably more competitive for the top institutions, costs have increased, the pandemic impacted and lecturer strikes followed. Never before have so many needed to get out the scales and weigh up the pros and cons of a university degree and experience, not least in the face of newer opportunities such as apprenticeships.

Last week saw the publication of The Sunday Times Good University Guide for 2023. I would always add from the outset that 'other university guides are available' and in previous communication recently I shared findings from The Guardian Guide. They each tend to have slightly differing metrics, leading to differing

outcomes and judgements, but The Sunday Times guide is a long-established and well regarded, middle of the road assessor of the state of university offerings.

Over the next few weeks I will share some of these findings that explore a whole range of ways in which students and their families might 'measure' one university against another. But first here are a few of the headline results. Again, a health warning - it is important to look behind the broad brush strokes to understand better the context of these results. The main criteria are teaching quality, student experience, research quality, entry standards, graduate prospects, 'firsts and 2:1's, continuation rate, and student to staff ratio. Of course, for example, the quality of research may be significantly less relevant if you are embarking on a more vocational course, than one driven by current research.

Mr S Edwards

### Top for Arts

- 1st - Arts London
- 2nd - Falmouth
- 3rd - Creative Arts

### Best for Sport

- 1st - Loughborough
- 2nd - Nottingham
- 3rd - Durham

### Best for Teaching Quality

- 1st - University of West London
- 2nd - St Andrews
- 3rd - Aberystwyth

### Most from Independent Schools

- 1st - Royal Agricultural College
- 2nd - Durham
- 3rd - St Andrews



### University of the Year

University College London

### Scottish University of the Year

Glasgow

### Welsh University of the Year

Aberystwyth

### Specialist University of the Year

Harper Adams

### League Table

- 1st - St Andrews
- 2nd - Oxford
- 3rd - Cambridge
- 4th - London School of Economics
- 5th - Imperial College London

### Most Eco Friendly

- 1st - Cardiff Metropolitan
- 2nd - Bedfordshire
- 3rd - Manchester Metropolitan



Rudolph Rodeo  
Children's Games,  
Santa's Grotto!



Craft Stalls,  
Gift Ideas,  
Food & Drink

*Yarm School Association*

# CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

Saturday 18th November 2023  
10am - 4pm, Yarm School

# House Drama 2023



Thursday 5th October @ 6.30pm

The Princess Alexandra Auditorium

Tickets from the Box Office

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



Yarm Choral Society presents:

## Brahms REQUIEM



.....also including several performances  
by students from Yarm School

**Thursday 12th October  
2023**

**7.30pm**

**Stockton Parish Church**

**Tickets £8/£5 Concessions**

Tickets are available from

[thepaaonline.org](http://thepaaonline.org)

Or by phoning the box office on

(01642) 792587

Conductor: Katie Staggs

Soprano: Anna Dias

Baritone: Ben Noble

Pianists: Alison Gill and Rob Williams

## PRE-SEASON SNS NETBALL TOURNAMENT IN OXFORD

On Friday 22nd of September the U14 and U16 girls netball teams travelled down to Oxford to play in a pre-season tournament. We had never entered the tournament before so we didn't know what to expect.

The U14 team stepped on the court, shook off their nerves and played their best throughout. We won all games except one (which was a draw) and the standard was very high. I am very proud of how the girls played and second place is

something to be incredibly proud of!

Ava Holmes, Third Year  
(U14 Captain)

It was a great experience filled with many memories and lots of great netball. This tournament gave us the opportunity to try out different team combinations and for the squad to bond together. The teams we played against gave us lots of opportunities to practice for the National Tournament in March if we qualify.

Lola Vasiliou, Fifth Year  
(U16 Captain)



## IZZIE SELECTED FOR SCOTLAND



Huge Congratulations to Izzie Speight for being selected for the U17 Netball Scotland National Squad again. She took part in trials in Glasgow at the Emirates Stadium and will now train every month with the squad. We are so proud of Izzie and all she has achieved.

Miss S Cottrell

## SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

## GIRLS' HOCKEY



### U13A and U13B v Cundall

Somewhere over the rainbow last week the U13A and U13B ventured forth to Cundall to play their teams.

The U13A team played well throughout the match, keeping the ball wide and looking for each other to give a well placed match. At half-time it was 3-1, with some lovely goals from Isla, Immie and Rosie. Defensively, Claudia kept things controlled and tight and in the second half Yarm scored three further goals against a strong Cundall team.

The U13B team similarly worked hard to connect passes throughout the pitch with some excellent work in midfield from Edie and Neve feeding through to the attack for shots on goal. An outstanding debut performance from Elizabeth in goal, alongside those playing in defence, ensured we were secure when Cundall broke through. The team were 2-1 up at half-time and two further goals were scored in the

second half to secure a win overall.

Great team performances with everyone committed on the pitch. Well done, girls.

Mrs K Gratton

### U12 at Ewart Cup

The U12s traveled to Barnard Castle to take part in the Ewart Cup on Sunday, the first time Yarm had entered the competition. The girls started slow and with the matches only being 10 minutes one way this meant we finished the pool stages

with 1 win and 2 draws finishing in second place. The girls then faced the other top 3 teams in the competition starting with Barnard Castle who we had drawn against in the pool stages. The girls played some nice attacking hockey to take the lead and held on when Barnard Castle came close to take the win. The second game saw us face Dame Allan's where we dominated but despite being camped out in their half we could not break the deadlock and the game finished 0-0. We came up against RGS in our last game where we battled well and after bringing the game back to 1-1 the girls struggled to keep their excellent centre mid out of the game and the game finished 3-1. This was a great learning opportunity for the team, with everyone improving game on game, I look forward to what they can achieve in the future.

### U16 Vs NHSfG

A dominant display by the U16 team against Newcastle High School for Girls' 1st XI. After going ahead early in the game the team was moved around to experience different positions and appreciate pressure, space and the game from a different point of view all with the aim of making them better all round hockey players and teammates going into future games.

Miss N Hodgson



## RUGBY

It has been a great start to the season all round with pleasing performances and wins across all the age groups, with teams playing some great attacking rugby, in particular the U13, U14 and U15 teams.

### U12 RUGBY AT THE TAIT 10S

The new First Years have had a brilliantly enthusiastic start to their rugby season which has seen great numbers taking part at training and matches; 20 boys in one team all playing away at Hill House last week. Following on from that, we took a squad of boys to the annual Tait 10s competition which is always a superb event. The team played 6 matches in total scoring some superb tries along the way, including a length of the pitch stunner against Durham which saw the ball transfer through the hands of

almost the whole team! The spirit within the group is fantastic and they developed in all areas of the game throughout the tournament. It was a pleasure to spend the day with them all and the much appreciated supporting parents.

Mr C Webb



### 1ST XV

The senior team have started the season flat out, with games coming thick and fast! It has been great to introduce some younger players into the side, ably led by our Upper Sixth stalwarts, and see them all perform so well.

The team have already travelled to the picturesque Scarborough as well as games at home and up in Tynemouth, where a 45-7 win this week against King's takes the team into the next round of the national NatWest Bowl.

Mr C Webb



# YARM SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM OF THE WEEK

19th - 29th September



# YARM SCHOOL TEAM OF THE WEEK

2023 - 2024



## NEWCASTLE FALCONS ACADEMY

Congratulations to Jacob Rutter and Harry Wildridge, who have again been selected by Newcastle Falcons to continue their development in the Academy at U18 level; Harry having already played this season against the likes of Harlequins.



Mr C Webb

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow us on social media:



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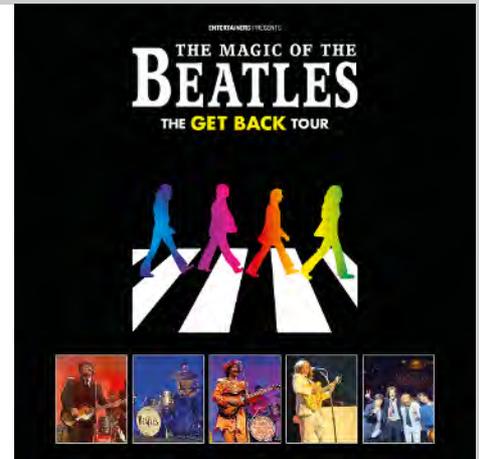
## THE MAGIC OF THE BEATLES

Come together, right now – it's time to shake it up baby with the sensational 2023 Tour!

The incredible cast not only look and sound like John, Paul, George, and Ringo, they also generate that famed, incredible excitement of The Beatles – with the Fab Four's unique sense of humour thrown in for good measure too.

**Saturday 21st October 2023, 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)



## STEVIE WILLIAMS AND THE MOST WANTED BAND

These guys are one of the most accomplished collectives of musicians you are likely to see anywhere. Each individually carries a huge reputation amongst their peers for being at the top of their trade. When put together the interaction of the sum of the parts creates a far greater whole.

Stevie is a phenomenally talented UK singer/songwriter and bassist. He blends momentous melodies and insightful lyrics over songs drawing on country, americana, blues, roots, acoustic and folk.

**Saturday 25th November 2023, 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)



## THE SOUTH

To celebrate their 10th year anniversary and 30 years since The Beautiful South released 'Song For Whoever', The South are back this February – playing shows up and down the whole of the UK.

The South are an impressive 9 piece band who feature former members of The Beautiful South including singer Alison Wheeler and lifelong sax player Gaz Birtles. Since Dave Hemingway, the original singer, left the group at the end of 2016, Gaz has moved across to front the band with Alison and taken on vocal duties. They play the songs made famous by The Beautiful South and bring back the full flavour and arrangements with this exciting live band.



**Saturday 10th February 2024, 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

### REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

### MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

### ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

### PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

### IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

### CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

### CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you really want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

### THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

### Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWiki.

