



YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

# MAGAZINE

2022/2023

## *Community Matters*

Making a difference locally  
and further afield

Yarm School's excellent  
track record continues  
to improve year on year

Sports  
taken to  
a new level

Fashion  
forward  
textiles





# A year of incredible achievements

**T**rying to capture a whole year's activities, successes and endeavours into one publication is a challenging task when you're dealing with the sheer breadth of opportunity available to Yarm School pupils, but I hope you will agree that this year's magazine offers a truly uplifting insight into yet another tremendously successful year.

It is striking and hugely positive to have seen a full return to a panoply of trips, both at home and abroad,

which have offered such rich and varied experiences to our pupils. They gain so much, of course, when challenged by new surroundings, cultures and expectations and I congratulate our pupils on their enthusiasm and conduct on these trips, which reflects all aspects of their participation; they demonstrate maturity, positive engagement and exemplary behaviour when representing the School.

Yarm is a vibrant and diverse community and I am struck once again this year not only by the contributions our pupils make to our school, local and regional communities, but also by the generous and impactful contributions made by others for our benefit here in school. Seeing our pupils contribute to charity projects in their Houses, in PHAB and via the Community Action Group, or in Tanzania with the Meserani

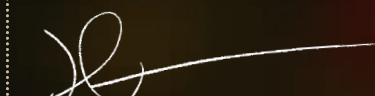
Project, it is clear that they learn the value of service and the positive impact each of us can have on others.

I have been so grateful to a range of people who have supported us and our pupils, whether by offering time and expertise supporting our careers programme, as Governors or coordinating events for our parents with the YSA team; we are so fortunate to have this wider network of support. Our former pupils are also an important part of this and it has been a real pleasure to meet with many more of them this year, whether they have been visiting us here in Yarm or as part of our organised events for alumni. I want to continue to develop these relationships and links, with a former pupil website soon to be launched and more events to come, building on the connections former pupils have with each other and with the School.

As you will see within the pages of this magazine, this has been a most successful year for the School in all manner of measurable and less tangible ways.

Pupils have thrived in extracurricular activities with exceptional concerts, plays and creative shows, they have thrown themselves into outdoor education, debating and much more. On the sports field they have demonstrated both mass participation and exceptional regional and national success in a range of sports. In their academic subjects, alongside terrific public exam results, our pupils have excelled in prestigious olympiads and other national and regional academic competitions. Bravo to them all!

I am so grateful to the staff at Yarm for enabling and supporting our pupils, and thank those departing staff in particular for their contributions over the years. I am grateful to all contributors to the magazine for providing a sumptuous record of a most successful year at Yarm.



**Dr Huw Williams**  
Headmaster

## Inside this year's Yarm magazine



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Thanks to Yarm School staff, parents and pupils who have contributed to this year's magazine.  
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**A**t the start of the summer we spent an amazing few weeks at the Meserani Snake Park near Arusha in Tanzania. 23 Yarm pupils joined Mr Ferguson, Mr Rhatigan and Mrs Ferguson for nearly 3 weeks working with Mr & Mrs Swan from the Meserani Project. The group visited several schools in the region working with the local pupils and distributing donations made through the charity.

We also visited the newly built Meserani Secondary School, this is where money raised throughout the past year has been used to install cooking stoves and beds for the dormitories. The hard work was broken up by going on safaris, mountain biking, hiking and plenty of shopping. Everyone on the trip was a real credit to the School!

*Mr G Ferguson*



# THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

**A**fter a day of travelling via Istanbul we finally arrived at the Meserani Snake Park, Arusha.

Our first experience was at the local LivLife centre where we taught French and IT, played a volleyball game, and sang with the kindergarten children.

This summer a group of Fourth and Fifth Year pupils embarked on a three week expedition to Tanzania in collaboration with the Meserani Project.

We were struck by the dedication of the students there and it is clear how much they enjoy their education whether they are four or twenty-four.

The following day we went to the Moita Boys' Secondary School where we were met by the boys singing a traditional Tanzanian song. We spent our time learning about education in Tanzania and, for many of us, it made us realise how grateful we are for our education.

Later the boys who belonged to the local Maasai tribe also demonstrated a traditional Maasai dance which the Yarm pupils joined in with. In order to get to the boys' school we used the local taxi service, known as Matatas, which was certainly an experience!

The first local primary school we visited was Meserani Chini Primary School where we gave out new pens and pencils, and prizes for students who have overcome circumstances at home and were working hard.

We also got to visit the new Meserani Boarding School - where the Meserani Project has funded the boarding dorms and will be funding the kitchen and dining hall. We painted educational murals for the children who will be starting hopefully in the next few months.

Over the week we immersed ourselves in the local area visiting the city market, which certainly put the group on our toes

- as soon as they saw tourists the prices skyrocketed and bartering was not always easy! Over the weekend we visited the Arusha National Park where we completed a walking safari, got within ten feet of the giraffe and had a game drive through the park. We saw some brilliant views along the way including Mt. Kilimanjaro.



We also visited the traditional Maasai home of Amos - a man who works at the snake park. He taught the pupils about life as a Maasai warrior including a story about when he killed a hyena to become a warrior.

On the following Monday, we visited Kipok Girls' Boarding School. Their faces lit up just seeing the effort we had made to come to visit their school and learn about their culture. We also met pupils sponsored by the Meserani project and filmed videos for their sponsors back in the UK.

The town of Mto Wa Mbu, translated as the town of the mosquitoes, was the next stop on our itinerary. Here we ventured on a mountain bike tour of the town where we visited local fruit markets, saw how rice was produced in the rice paddies, bought local artwork and learnt about bananas and the production of banana beer. In the afternoon, we went on a treetop walk in Manyara National Park where we stood on platforms and walked on bridges 18 metres above the floor. During the walk we saw monkeys, several birds and the footprints of an elephant. On the journey back, we spotted a wild roaming elephant on the side of the road as well as waiting for a convoy to pass in which the president of Tanzania was travelling.

The following day we organised a sports day for the local primary schools. Hundreds of students turned up to the local cattle field (as well as the football pitch) which we had cleared to create a track. The events ran very smoothly with the winners receiving 3 litres of cooking oil. Although for us it may not seem like a prize, for the children

this was essential for their families and something which they wouldn't have been able to afford.

In the evening, the pupils experienced traditional Maasai life by sleeping in a Boma (a house made for the family of a Maasai warrior). The night was interesting to say the least, with a church service at 11pm waking everyone up and the constant mooing and bleating of cattle and goats. Not to mention the fact that most of us slept on animal skin laid on the floor.

In the morning we experienced Maasai life further with a traditional goat barbecue. The goat was delivered from the market before local Maasai men slaughtered and skinned the animal. The cooking process took a long time as it was cooked over a fire. The experience was very different to anything in England and it was impressive to see how the Maasai utilise every part of the animal.

The next day received varying responses from

everyone, as we went on a four hour hike up Monduli mountain in the sweltering heat. In the afternoon, we visited a coffee plantation where we learnt about the processes involved in producing coffee sold around the world.

On a game drive through Tarangire National Park we saw many different animals including zebras, elephants, giraffes, leopards and hyenas some of which visited the public campsite throughout the night. The weekend was a definite highlight of the trip.

The day after, we visited Losingira Primary School to deliver prizes to the children who had overcome varying circumstances and those excelling in their class. It was shocking to see hundreds of pupils in one class and the conditions of the classroom. We also visited a rehabilitation centre the following day, where it was amazing to see the work and the impact that the centre had on those who needed it as well as the impact of our donations.

On our final day we visited Arusha for the final time before heading to Kilimanjaro airport for our flight home.

*Katie Hunt and James Muir*

## Tanzania Trip







# Phab club

**W**e have had an exciting and successful second year of Yarm School's Phab Club.

We welcomed a visit from local animal specialists, Animal Story, where the members had the opportunity to meet and find out about a range of species including snakes, tortoises and lizards. Cleveland Police also visited and our pupils assisted

our members with trying on police uniforms and getting in the car where they were able to play with the flashing lights and sirens to make lots of noise!

Phab Club members also enjoyed special themed sessions this year, organised by our Yarm School Phab team, including a party at Christmas with a special visit from Father Christmas,

a Coronation party where crowns were decorated and a session with the Ceramic Club. Members also enjoyed an adventurous Outdoor Education session in the woods which involved toasting marshmallows by the fire and exploring.

Pupils in the Phab Club team have worked really hard this year to organise fundraising events which raise money for the running of the club. They have held numerous events: selling hot chocolate at the School's Christmas Market, guess the name of the teddy bear competition on Valentine's Day and organising a raffle at Easter.

The end of term Phab Club party was a huge success with music from Mr McGrother,

featuring Yarm pupils, Phab Club members and staff! Certificates were presented at the end of the evening to all members and we are already looking forward to lots more Phab Club fun in September.

The pupils who volunteer at Phab Club have shown kindness, respect and empathy each session, and have enjoyed the responsibility of caring for and socialising with the disabled young people who attend. The parents have enjoyed a bit of respite as they have chatted with each other and enjoyed a cup of coffee. We look forward to growing the club even more next year!

*Mrs S Lodge*

## Award Winning Phab Club

We were absolutely delighted to hear that Mrs Lodge won the Lord Morris Award at the Phab Awards in December 2022 for setting up Phab Club at Yarm School.

Mrs Lodge brought Phab to Yarm after being involved in the club at her previous school. She has coordinated a dedicated staff and pupil team which has helped the club thrive. The visitors and themed evenings have been extremely successful.

This award was nominated by the families who attend Yarm Phab Club.



## Phab Club / Community Action Group



# Motivated by Murals

**O**ur primary focus this year has been on the design, sketching and painting of two murals in the vestibule of the Yarm Wellness Centre, a building designed to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of the wider community through the provision of creative, educational, fitness and wellness classes. Through the development of both the beautiful indoor facilities and the flourishing garden space, the charity hopes to offer a warm safe space in which members of the community can engage with others. Completed over a number of months in the Thursday activity slot, the larger mural is focused around the River Tees and incorporates many local landmarks including, of

course, our own Dovecote and the Friarage Building! The second mural includes two figures dancing and images of cakes and music - a nod to the diverse range of classes that take place within the centre.

In the weeks before Christmas, we raised funds for My Sisters Place, an independent specialist Domestic Violence service in Middlesbrough for women aged 16 or over who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence. Established in 2002, the charity is committed to working in partnership to tackle domestic violence. Despite the near-Arctic conditions in the Dovecote, the group packaged and sold hundreds of Christmas sweets, as well as organising

a 'Name the Christmas bear' competition!

Determined to help spread some further Christmas cheer, on Tuesday 20th December we volunteered at a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme at Stokesley Primary School. Working with Mr Gilbert, we ran two drama sessions for children aged 6- 11, as well as socialising with them and, of course, managing some Christmas dancing too! HAFs provide a vital service in offering healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children and this was a really exciting opportunity for our group to work closely with members of our community.

Lastly, we were delighted that so many pupils at the Senior School participated

in our first annual Funky Footwear Day. This was 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!

We would like to thank everyone who has offered us their support this year and look forward to the new projects that we will begin in September.

*Yarm School Community Action Group*





## Aidan HOUSE REPORT

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Head of Aidan House. The year started with an excellent production of *Monsters Inc.* in the House Drama Competition, where there were some outstanding performances with Minakshi

Palat-Meethale winning an award for her outstanding performance.

We welcomed the new First Year pupils into their prestigious Aidan House at Discovery Day where raft building and canoeing over the river was a

highlight. For Languages week, House Petanque on the "bowling lawn" took place with Aidan taking a victory in this. World Cup fever hit and each form had a country which they had to design a noticeboard for in their classroom.

Over the Christmas period, for Giving Week, Aidan House was asked to bring in an array of toiletries/dry foods/juices/tea and coffee. Aidan House donations went to King's Foodbank in Darlington and

it was gratefully received. The Heads of House for Fundraising Week decided to raise money by having a sports top day at school, all donations going towards our chosen charity for the year, Breast Cancer Now. This is a charity which is very close to Aidan House, and halfway through the year we had already raised a total of £281.17. With the help of Aidan representatives, we had a "keepy uppy" challenge and a netball throwing

competition, alongside this we had House baking challenges where the office staff gladly sampled the cakes.

My thanks go to Laura Cunningham, Julia Portsmouth and Siya Puthuraya in their roles as House Captains and Medha Rajeeva and Danny Scott in their roles as House Vice Captains.

Mr L Shanahan



## Bede HOUSE REPORT

This year has seen a revival in House activities as the school emerges from the long term effects of the COVID pandemic. Many in the Sixth Form have been taking the lead in these activities.



The House Charity for this year, recommended by Monisha Ravichandran, was the British Heart Foundation with proceeds from Christmas Jumper Day and House Colour Day going towards this charity. Additionally, Zaina Islam organised a table tennis tournament in order to raise funds for Islamic Aid to help victims of earthquakes in Turkey.

During Giving Week, members of Bede House from all year groups busked

in the Dovecote providing some light entertainment to the school community as they queued up for lunch. We also saw some excellent victories winning the House Cross Country, Tilly Pallent-Home winning the Third Year round of the House Bake Off challenge and, Oscar Lowes and Oliver Mansfield winning the Second Year round of the House Petanque Tournament. This coming year will see even more House events with the return of the House Music Quiz in November. Exciting times!

Mr N Lyle



## Cuthbert HOUSE REPORT

2022-2023 was a busy year for Cuthbert House, between doing some sterling work raising money for charity and elevating House spirit to new highs across a variety of House competitions. This year's nominated charity was Candlelighters UK - a Yorkshire based charity that raises funds to support young people who have been diagnosed with cancer. Emily Dunn in the Upper Sixth advocated superbly in support of their activities in a House assembly in October.

The Autumn Term saw the return of Giving Week with Cuthbert electing to collect personal care and household cleaning essentials to mitigate the effects of hygiene poverty in the North East. An entire van of donations was collected by The Hygiene Bank in December which reflected

the generosity of everyone in Cuthbert. December also saw us defend our House Quiz crown as Cuthbert took the overall title by a large margin with victories in five of the seven year groups. The highlight of the Autumn Term was, without doubt, securing victory in House Drama with an excellent rendition of *Madagascar*. It was creatively and energetically produced by a directing team led by Kitty Foden, Josh McGear, Luke Porter, Will Craggs and Dan de la Motte.

The Spring Term saw more success in the form of the House Chess tournament (yet again!) and the inaugural

House Bake Off competition (where Jess Flannery of First Year was named Top Baker), and coming in a close second in the new House Petanque tournament organised in support of European Week of Languages. March saw members of Cuthbert redouble their efforts in fundraising for Candlelighters with members of First to Third Year leading the way by taking part in a sponsored Spelling Bee which raised over £300!

The Summer Term saw us bid good luck to our departing Upper Sixth and House Captains: Will Craggs, Kitty Foden, Emily Dunn, Aishani Paul, Luke Porter



and Dan de la Motte. As a year group, under Mr Ravenhall's excellent leadership for much of their Yarm School career, they have well and truly thrown themselves into every House event going and will be greatly missed!

Mr J Alexander



## Oswald HOUSE REPORT

This has been a busy year for Oswald House, with another close call in the House Drama Competition with our excellent production of *Mrs Doubtfire*. The directorship from the Sixth Form team and performances from all the pupils involved was fantastic.

Special mention needs to go to a stellar performance from James Goodall who bagged the Performance Award for his outstanding *Mrs Doubtfire*.

I must extend my heartfelt thanks to my enthusiastic House Captains this year: Iona Hughes, Bakaer Noble, Laura Watson and Amy Willis.

They took a strong lead early in the school year and have been keen to be involved in all the House events this year. They have left big shoes for next year's House Captains to fill.

I was blown away by the impressive amount of food donated by everyone in House Giving Week at the end of the Autumn Term. I took a car-full of food to Hartlepool Foodbank totalling a staggering 170kg.

In the Spring Term Oswald House members made a great showing in the House Bake Off, with wins in both the Second Year with Yasmin Shawgi's cupcake offering and in the Fourth Year with Evie Stoker's traybake. Well done to them and everyone else who put effort into this fun event and brought their baking in to show off their culinary talents.

This year our House charity was Alzheimer's Research

UK, an important charity that supports research into treatments for dementia in the UK. Through the fundraising over the year, including the sales of House hoodies, Christmas Jumper Day, House Fundraising Week and sports top day, we have raised nearly £300 for the charity. Next year I hope we can raise even more money to support great causes!

Mr T Craig







# GREEN CREDENTIALS

Yarm's Eco-team have been successful in achieving their 6th Eco-Schools Green Flag Award!

The pupils worked on promoting an Eco-approach across the school; focusing on their chosen areas of improvement for this year - biodiversity, waste and litter.

The ways in which pupils contributed ranged across many subject areas. In textiles, the annual Fashion show encourages pupils to use recyclable materials to create fashionable garments. The Community Action Group had a busy year doing litter collecting and painting murals for the local wellness centre. The Art department had a recyclable sculpture project, using waste household materials to create animal sculptures displayed around the grounds. The herb gardening activity saw pupils

involved in caring for the various green spaces around school and the Eco-School's committee also introduced a new battery recycling bin.

As a part of promoting and expanding awareness of our current actions towards supporting the environment, the Eco-representatives gave an assembly discussing the School's Eco-approach which included a pupil-created video showing the various Eco-based activities we are involved in. The pupil Eco-committee also transformed the Eco-board, filling it with updated information and ways for pupils to help the environment.

All this hard work and dedication led to the fantastic achievement of Yarm being awarded their 6th Eco-Schools

Green Flag Award, receiving a plaque this time! The comments from the assessors truly convey the progress and positive impact that Yarm has on the environment.

An extract from the Eco-Schools assessors' message: **Our team enormously enjoyed reading your evaluations of each of your chosen topics – it's clear that you've had a very successful year all round. Your work to reduce waste and increase recycling will have had a real impact on everybody at your school and your local environment, and provides solid foundations for future Eco-Committees to build on.**

**Your Eco-Code is fantastic! It's really striking and professional, and provides your students with several**

**important Eco-rules to follow. Great stuff!**

**It has been a pleasure to read through your application. You are a wonderful ambassador for the Eco-Schools programme and we are delighted, without hesitation, to award you an Eco-Schools Green Flag – congratulations!**

*Simone Sharma (on behalf of Yarm School's Eco-team)*



## DISCOVERING NEW FRIENDSHIPS

We welcomed new pupils to Yarm with our annual events to help pupils make friends and get to know staff.

Discovery Day allows the youngest members of the Senior School to get to know each other better whilst having fun outdoors. The team-building challenges saw pupils rescue Sixth Form students from the other side of the river on a raft they built. They searched for answers to the scavenger hunt around the Friarage site and completed the water challenge to open the box of treasure.

Tutors, Heads of House, Sixth Form Officers and several other members of staff were on hand to help throughout the day.

Yarm's Sixth Form students were also welcomed to School. New members of the Lower Sixth were joined by the Upper Sixth and Sixth Form tutors to enjoy a delicious barbecue before heading up the hill to the Yurt for the fiercely contested Tug o' War. By the end of the evening the foundations of new friendships were built which have flourished throughout the year.





# BUILT FOR ADVENTURE

**T**he Second Years returned to beautiful Bassenthwaite for their outdoor adventure residential at the end of June. An action-packed three days saw the pupils go sailing on Bassenthwaite Lake, ride a mountain bike at Whinlatter Forest, ghyll scramble in Stoneycroft Ghyll, as well as climb up Skiddaw to camp at Britain's highest hostel, Skiddaw House.

Always a highlight on the outdoor education calendar, this year group were raring to go after taking part in a number of optional residential as First Year pupils. The teamwork shown in the ghyll, the peer support during the rock climbing, the resilience demonstrated on the mountain expedition up

Skiddaw; the pupils really did themselves proud as they got stuck in and bounced from one activity to the next. Everyone taking part learnt something new about themselves and each other, as they gelled together in their teams throughout the three days. It is these soft skills that transfer into the classroom and beyond to develop well-rounded individuals.

This was another hugely successful week with keen, enthusiastic and polite pupils who will be ready to go on the Third Year Journey. My thanks go to all the accompanying staff on the trip for all their cooking, driving, instructing and all-round supervision of the pupils.

Mr A Mathers



## A journey around *Ripon*

**O**ur Third Year pupils headed to Ripon for their four day outdoor journey, completing a circular route by foot, canoe and bicycle. This trip builds on their outdoor education skills gained from both First and Second Year residentials, giving the pupils more responsibility and more independence. In their small groups pupils enjoy their own successes but also have to work out solutions, should things go not quite so well.

The focus is on the journey, travelling through the great outdoors with pupils moving from one campsite to the next. The pupils needed to be organised enough that all their equipment went with them on the journey too! Along the way, pupils were trained in expedition skills for their Bronze

DofE and completed their practice expedition.

Teams also undertook a day cycling on a mix of road and off-road cycle paths, passing through Fountains Abbey for those all important ice-creams, as well as canoeing on Ripon Canal from the heart of the city out to our campsite.

Throughout the trip, pupils collaborated within their teams to pack, navigate and cook successfully for all four days, as well as showing

their resilience when the cycling got tough and when getting wet whilst canoeing!

It was a very busy and successful trip with our pupils showing their excellent capabilities despite a dormant two years. Bronze DofE qualifying expedition is the next step, good luck! My thanks to all the staff who gave up their time to assist in some way on a very busy trip.

Mr A Mathers





# BOULD AND THE BRAVE

During the Easter holidays, a keen group of 17 pupils from Second Year through to Sixth Form headed to the bouldering mecca of Fontainebleau not far from Paris for our annual rock climbing trip.

This is always one of the highlights of the Outdoor Education calendar and allows our keen indoor climbers to sample climbing outdoors in a warm, family friendly environment. We kicked off the trip with a visit to Cul de Chien on the first day, taking on some easy challenges on the boulders with nice soft landings. This was our first day climbing and with another five days to follow we had plenty of time to move on to the harder problems.

Over the days that followed we visited many different climbing areas across the forest, developing our outdoor climbing techniques and working our way through different coloured routes; first whites, then yellows, oranges and attempting the odd blue. The Sixth Form students warmed up on oranges, then worked their way through

blues and tackled the odd red problem. Some of the Sixth Form were on their third and fourth visit to the area and knew the place well.

Towards the end of the week, we managed to align our rest day with the only wet weather day. We had our annual Easter egg hunt and visited the chateau and gardens of Fontainebleau town. We were lucky in having mainly dry days this year, even if the nights and early mornings were very cold.

We'll done to all the pupils involved for working together and supporting each other on a successful trip; their climbing has come on leaps and bounds. My thanks go to Dr Tulloch, Mr Tucker, Miss Street and Miss Jeffries for giving up a week of their holidays to accompany the trip.

Mr A Mathers







# CONQUERING the CAIRNGORMS



Our annual Winter Mountaineering weekend happened over the first weekend in February.

Eight Sixth Form students along with Mr Mathers, Miss Street and instructor John headed up to the Cairngorm National Park for three days of mountaineering and winter skills in the snow. From our comfortable bunkhouse in Rothiemurchus Forest, each day we ventured into the Northern Corries and Cairngorms Massif to learn new skills with an ice axe and crampons

before refining these skills on journeys each day. Throughout the weekend the pupils learnt about how the snowpack forms, the different layers that appear and how to journey safely in the winter mountain environment to avoid avalanches. Confident use of an ice axe and crampons was key as pupils ascended, traversed and descended steep mountainous slopes. On the final day,

John took two students on their first winter climb, the Fiacail Ridge, whilst the others completed the traverse of the three tops leading to the summit of Cairn Gorm. In addition to the adventurous side, confident cooking skills were displayed in the kitchen with bolognese and eggs (not together) on the menu.

Mr A Mathers



# OUT AND ABOUT



It has been another busy year in the Outdoor Education department. As always, the year started off with our series of 'Introduction to...' days which included biking, rock climbing and caving. These days give our First Year pupils a sample of what activities we offer throughout the year to all ages and abilities, so even if they have never tried the activity before the pupils can come and have a go - they may pick up a hobby! Throughout the winter season we had older pupils kayaking on the rivers of northern England, led by Dr Tulloch and supported by our water technical advisor Ian. We also had two winter ascents of Blencathra in January by pupils in First to Fourth Year. As the weather warmed up slightly, we had two outdoor rock climbing days at Almscliffe Crag where students challenged

themselves and supported others by taking on a number of quite difficult routes.

Easter saw the department returning to Fontainebleau, as well as supporting the Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition section with Bronze expeditions to the North York Moors and Gold expeditions to the Lake District.

The Summer Term brought our annual year group camps, enabling whole year groups to camp out under canvas for a residential experience. The year rounded off with Sixth Form students joining the boat 'James Cook' from the Ocean Youth Trust North and taking part in race two of the Tall Ships Races from Hartlepool to Fredrikstad in Norway. What another action packed year!

As ever, my thanks to all the teaching staff who give up their time to accompany all these trips.

Mr A Mathers





# Combined Cadet Force

It has been a busy and eventful year for the CCF. The Autumn Term saw us welcome our new Third Year cadets, who quickly slotted into the contingent and have made the most of the opportunities presented to them. We were also very lucky to have Captain Glenn Bridges join us from Cleveland ACF.

He has many years of valuable experience and has thrown himself into his new role within the school CCF with great enthusiasm.

As part of our Autumn Term training, we went paintballing and conducted the Krypton Factor obstacle course at Adrenalin near Richmond. We also conducted marksmanship training on the indoor range at Wathgill Camp.

As always, we were very proud to represent the School on the annual Remembrance Day parade on Yarm High Street, to remember those who sacrificed their lives in the World Wars and conflicts since. Lt Adam Bridges led the contingent, and WO2 Jakob Stussi had the privilege of carrying the contingent standard, with Cpl Grace Harbinson laying the wreath on behalf of the School. All cadets were extremely well turned out and marched brilliantly.

In December, we had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for a familiarisation visit and to watch the Commandant's passing-out parade. The cadets

learned about the history of the Academy and also got the opportunity to meet current officer cadets to further understand what life in the army is like and what a year's training at Sandhurst entails.

Drill nights in the Spring Term were spent practising for our Spring Term Field Day. In late March, we deployed with 27 cadets to Catterick Training Area where cadets had the opportunity to practise their fieldcraft skills, cooking and eating in the field before conducting a nighttime ambush and a series of section attacks using the SA80 Cadet GP rifle with blank ammunition.

The Summer Term finally brought some better weather and more light for Monday evenings! In early May, a group deployed to the Northumberland Coast overnight on an Adventure Training package. We had hoped to go coasteering, but unfortunately, owing to high seas, this wasn't possible.

Instead, cadets learned advanced survival skills before undertaking a range of adventurous activities, including climbing, abseiling, zip-lining, and wood carving. A fantastic trip, and Northern Outdoor is a centre we hope to use again in the future (hopefully to go coasteering!).

We finished the year with a successful summer camp in Somerset. Eighteen cadets and four staff joined cadets from a range of different schools near Cheddar Gorge for a week-long camp. Cadets spent 48 hours on exercise and should be commended for their perseverance given extremely inclement weather! We also conducted multiple different military training opportunities, including live ranges, signals training, laser tag, paintballing, and archery, to name just a few. We also took the opportunity to take the cadets paddleboarding in Exeter and on visits to Cheddar Gorge and Wells. Another fantastic experience.



Our final day on camp was spent firing the Cadet General Purpose SA80 rifle. Amazingly, all cadets passed the shoot, with Colour Sgt Alex McGee and LCpl Noah Filer attaining the marksman standard. Colour Sgt McGee scored 98 out of a possible 100 points, meaning he was the best shot of the estimated 1000 cadets who attended camp in the South West this year.

My thanks, as always, go to the cadets for their hard work and commitment, in particular our leaving Upper Sixth Cadets: WO2 Jakob Stussi, WO2 Adam Jones, and Colour Sgt Alex McGee. I would also like to pass on my thanks to Lt Adam Bridges, Captain Glenn Bridges, Lt Dan Spence, as well as Mr Graeme Addison

and Ms Antonia Breslin for all their efforts over the course of the year. In particular, I would like to thank Mr Mist for his tireless work to ensure that the Yarm School Combined Cadet Force runs smoothly.

*Mr T Taylor*





# Going for Gold

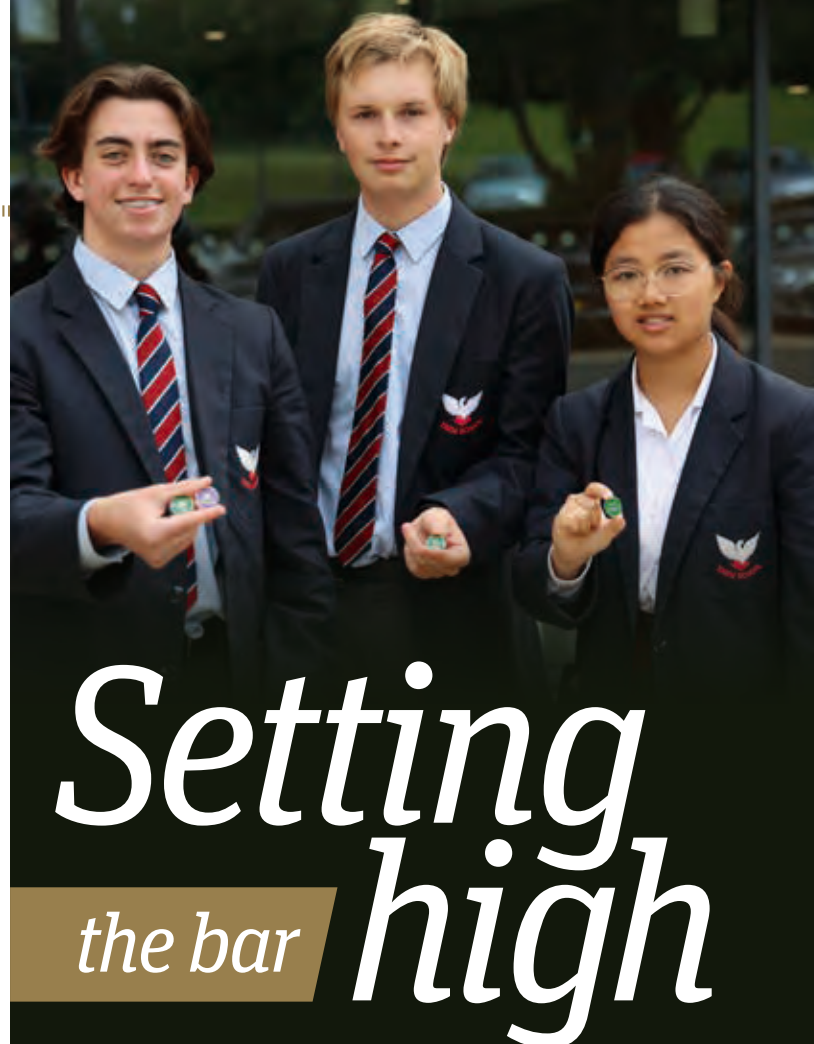
The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is thriving at Yarm with a large number of pupils signing up for the challenges the award brings.

Four Upper Sixth students have recently achieved their Gold Award and will be receiving their certificates and badges at a formal ceremony in either London or Edinburgh. There are still quite a few students who are close to completion of their Gold Award with the remaining sections to be concluded over the summer. Twenty-six Lower Sixth students have signed up for their Gold Award this year and are making steady progress towards achieving it. Of the Eighty pupils who signed up for the Bronze Award in the Fifth Year, thirty-six have achieved the award to date with many others close to completion. Six Fourth Year pupils have already completed their Bronze Award in just over a year with many others making good progress through the sections. Finally, sixty-three Third Year pupils have started the scheme this year and have already completed the expedition training through their participation on the Third Year Journey.

Tutoring fellow pupils and supporting the learning of younger children has been a very popular option for the volunteering section, along with working in charity shops and food banks, providing an increasingly important resource to our local community in the current cost of living crisis. Many of our pupils use the opportunities that are on offer at Yarm to undertake their physical section, with rowing proving particularly prevalent. This is closely followed by personal fitness and team games like Hockey. For the skills section, playing a musical instrument, enhancing sporting performance and cooking/baking have been common choices with the current cohort. The expedition phase of the award is now back in full swing with over 180 pupils having either completed their training or qualifying expeditions in the last academic year.

For many of our pupils the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a starting point that will mould their future outlook and actions through the experiences gained. This clearly connects with Yarm's mission 'Educating for Life'.

Mr A Monk



## Setting the bar high

The YBACC (Yarm School Baccalaureate) celebrates the involvement of Lower School pupils in a range of extra-curricular activities. The YBACC is arranged into 5 sections; Sport, Culture, Outdoor Education, Community Service and Independent Learning. Pupils can achieve the YBACC Award when they complete the 5 sections. Pupils can also achieve the Distinction Award when they complete extra challenges in 3 of the 5 sections. Pupils are required to exhibit organisational skills in order to complete the award, as they have to log their achievements in a booklet and approach the relevant members of staff in order to achieve signatures, in a similar fashion to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

During the course of this year the following pupils achieved their YBACC:

### ■ Third Year

Noah Vincent - Award and Distinction  
James Goodall - Distinction

### ■ Second Year

Christina Lin - Award

The pupils have challenged themselves with their involvement in various activities such as; the Second Year ILP, the Third Year Journey, school sport, plays and school music concerts.

A number of First Year pupils have also made excellent progress with their award since they joined the school in September. Zohan Wadia has completed his culture award due to his commitment to extracurricular clubs. Avighna Arvind and Diviyan Thayalan are close to completing their independent learning and community service awards respectively.

I have been very impressed with the way the pupils have expressed their skills and interests through the completion of various sections.

Mr A Morrison

## JUNIOR SKI TRIP

After a 3 year skiing absence, a group of excited pupils and staff headed out to Austria during the February half term for a fantastic week of skiing and fun! We went with the biggest group we have taken on a junior trip, 45 pupils, and were accompanied by a fantastic ski tutor team from Ski Austons. This meant, as always, every pupil was given the best opportunity to enjoy their ski week and progress their skills even further.

We experienced good weather and all the snow conditions you could ask for. All the skiers learnt how to ski in softer snow, groomed pistes, fluffy pistes,

bumpy powder, sunshine, snowfall and combinations of all of them at once!

It was brilliant to see the pupils immerse themselves in ski life from understanding the basics of balance and control, to using the carve of the ski and appropriate weight transfer to ease turns. One of the real highlights for the staff was just how well the group interacted with one another. Every lunchtime when we met up to eat, they would sit around talking through the morning and laughing about what a good time they had.

Every single person displayed such a positive attitude and a real sense of "I can" and in turn all



demonstrated superb progress. Even the complete beginners were flying down the slopes by the end of the week!

The enjoyment wasn't just limited to the daytime as there was a full programme of evening entertainment for the whole group to get involved in. This included

swimming, bowling, an interactive quiz night and dancing at the disco.

Many thanks to all the pupils, staff and ski instructors for what was a truly memorable week.

Mr C Webb



## SENIOR SKI TRIP

After a two year break it was great to be back in Austria with a senior ski trip. We returned to the Zillertal Valley and were blessed with some early snow and great weather. With high demand we had a full trip with 49 pupils including a big beginners group.

The beginners group

were excellent, showing great determination and enthusiasm. They went from slipping and sliding all over the nursery slopes to skiing down the whole mountain on the last day. It was great that they were taught by former pupil Kim Guest, a product of previous Yarm ski trips!

The other four groups

worked and played hard. Each evening they were full of stories of how fast, how steep, and how well they skied. There were also a few big tumbles, fortunately with nothing more to show from it but bruised pride.

Evening entertainment included bowling, with the staff team retaining their

unbeaten record. Other highlights were the Tyrolean evening, swimming, and an excellent last night quiz.

A great time was had by both pupils and staff. What a great way to start the Christmas break!

Mr A Guest



# Setting sail

The Greece Sailing Trip is a popular trip which this year had 29 students attending supported by 7 staff. The trip involves flying to the Greek Island of Lefkada and staying at the Nikiana Beach Club where a range of watersports activities can be experienced.

The trip commenced with an early morning meet at school and a coach journey to Manchester Airport. It happened to be Poppy Bell's birthday and one unnamed member of staff relayed this to the aircraft's cabin crew for a mention on the tannoy and a rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. However the celebration did not stop here with a piece of unexpected work experience for Poppy where she was engaged alongside the cabin crew for a short period of time. To Poppy's credit, she took her role seriously, managed her best welcoming cabin crew smile, but below the surface she only had thoughts of vengeance for those that had set her up!

On arriving at the Beach Club we had the first of many meals with a Greek twist and engaged eagerly with the healthy Mediterranean diet. Meanwhile, Poppy opened up her birthday presents that her friends had brought along. She was to discover 3

water pistols; the form for vengeance had now been cast!

To say it was hot in Greece was an understatement. The southern Europe heatwave 'Cerberus' was intensifying during our stay in Greece and was reportedly too hot for the working donkeys, who, with permission from the Greek agricultural agency could have the afternoon's off.

For the first 3 days, wind was hard to come by with the Pico dinghies barely moving. This was possibly a blessing in disguise in that the students learnt to develop their technique and appreciate the need to duck when tacking or gybing with the light educating taps on their heads from the crossing boom, alongside an opportunity to perfect their capsize recovery drill. However, for the next 3 days we had wind in excess of 20 knots (22mph for those not nautically minded). Life on a dinghy was now dramatically different. Screams of terror gradually turned into whoops of excitement as the students started to master the skills of sailing. The capsize drills were also put to good use as students explored the limits of their competence or as some tried to convince me, 'they capsized to take an opportunity to cool off', yeah, who are you kidding! When the wind became too much, joyrides on the 'Cats' or being towed on a paddleboard by a fast moving Bahia became de rigueur.

Alongside the sailing tuition, the students were introduced to 'sit on top' kayaking, stand up paddleboarding and windsurfing. To many, these were new watersports activities to be tried and they quickly became popular with the students. These recreational sessions frequently resulted in a stop off at Zorba's Beach Cafe.

The evenings were occupied with a variety of events from visiting Lefkas to shop, a quiz night, the 'Instructor Challenge', a restaurant meal and a presentation evening for the 'Watersports Olympics' and the Sailing Regatta.

The 'Watersports Olympics' was to prove widely popular with the students, where they were split into 4 even ability teams to undergo 5 different events. To say that the students were competitive is an understatement, and clearly sporting prowess and gamesmanship is alive and kicking at Yarm. The sailing conditions were initially benign, but come the start, conditions were becoming quite wild. Success for the students was to actually get over the start line in those winds. The eventual student winners were Ben Hatton, who was helming the pico dinghy with an air of confidence and precision, accompanied by crewmate Will Gwynne-Jones who was acting as the stabilising ballast to steady the dinghy and prevent capsize.

With the incessant heat, free-time was spent cooling off in the sea or playing pool

volleyball with a hastily arranged rope to act as the net. In the midday heat even this was not enough for some to keep cool, and so students could retreat to their rooms for an air-conditioned time out and re-hydrate before the next activity session.

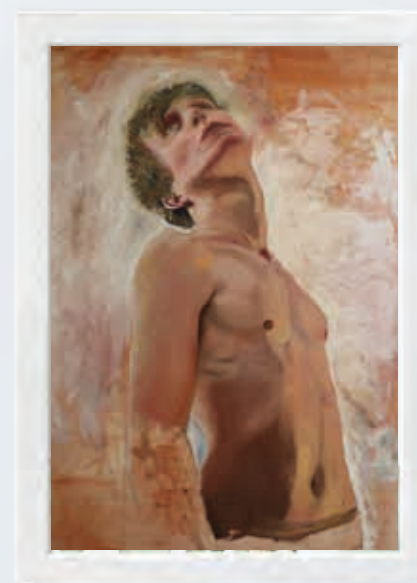
Come the end of the week, each and every student had successfully completed their RYA Level 1 Sailing certificate, got a good tan and learnt a bit about themselves. All in all, it was a superb trip with a happy but exhausted set of students needing a holiday to get over this holiday. The accompanying staff greatly enjoyed their company and worked well to provide a supportive and action packed full week.

The Nikiana Beach Club does not normally engage with school groups, but it is to Mr and Mrs Guest's credit and their successful suggestion and delivery of a trial school trip to the venue that it has become a regular trip for more than 10 years now. It is also to the credit of our Yarm School students, whose politeness and consideration of others shows the school in a very good light and enables our ongoing good relationship with the Beach Club.

With Mr and Mrs Guest retiring from Yarm School and moving onto the next exciting chapter of their lives, it is now my great pleasure to continue the legacy of the Greek Sailing Trip to the very high and successful standards of the trip pioneers. I am sure there are many students (and staff) who would also like to offer a heartfelt thanks for all the trips that Mr and Mrs Guest have run over the years and the fabulous memories and experiences that they will have to reflect upon for the rest of their lives. They will be missed.

Mr A Monk

## THE A LEVEL GALLERY



Jasmine Murphy



Oliver Greenaway



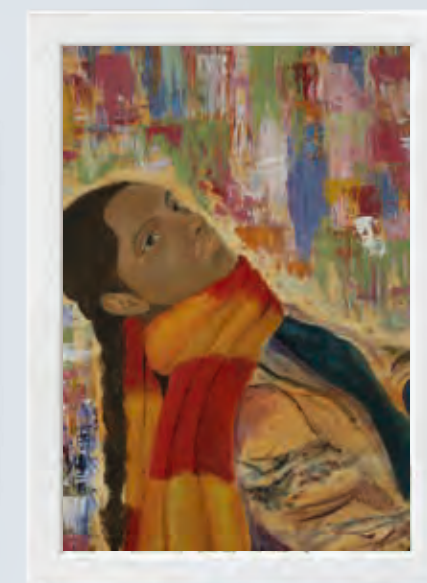
Poppy Monk



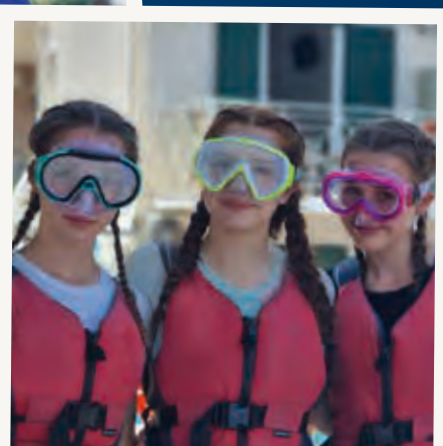
Jasmine Murphy



Oliver Greenaway



Poppy Monk





# THE GCSE GALLERY



Annabel Lacy



Emily Nicholson



Harry Jackson



Lucy Woodhouse



Hannah Bettinson



Nicole Lambert



Isra Ali



Evie Severn



Cecily Deering



Olivia Miller



Tilly Gilrairie



Naeha Rajaram



Isabelle Swallow



Oliver Ayton



Rhianna Gill





# A Spoonful of Musicking Helps the Medicine Go Down

“Winds in the east, mist coming in, like something is brewing and about to begin”

Here in the Music Department, we all felt the metaphorical change in weather conditions at the start of the academic year with the arrival of Stockton's very own Mr Mike Mc"Community"Grother. Within Team Music, our collective goal was to build on our existing focus on community and partnership and Mr McGrother's appointment was the catalyst to enable such developments to happen. "Community engineer" extraordinaire, Mike embarked on his musicking journey from day one and enveloped everyone in his path to join him in his crusade to unite people from all walks of life through music. But what is this strange verb musicking? A certain quote from a certain principal character resonates strongly here with the McGrother approach: "First of all, I would like to make one thing clear; I never explain anything..."

We just knew that we all had to embrace this new verb, trust in the journey and seek to fly our musical kites far and wide in our quest to demonstrate the extraordinary power music has to lift the spirits of all. I would argue that every musical event this year has had a positive impact upon the well-being of all those participating either through "doing" or actively appreciating. A staggering 38 ensembles met each week with growing numbers of pupil and student-led ensembles adding to the many groups led by our incredible team of staff. The live room is rarely free these days and many are now making extensive use of the studios for composing and recording in their free time. It was heartwarming to see so many new musical faces performing at our end of year Dovecote Festival in which the standard of performances from debutants and accomplished performers alike was extraordinary. It was great

to welcome our new friends, Mr McGrother's male voice vocal group, Infant Hercules, to the musical party as they joined forces with Erimus, School of Skiffle and the First and Second Year Girls' Choir. These ensembles have contributed significantly to our partnership activities this year; leading the singing at our new all-inclusive dementia friendly choir, Memento, carolling at Vision 25's Christmas party at Osborne's, singing with PHAB club at the end of year party, performing at the Dementia Friendly Awards Ceremony held in the PAA and performing alongside BGT stars to great acclaim in That's Variety. It seems to me that these pupils have been veritable role models of "musicking" and this shone through in their spirit-lifting performance at Lower School Prize-Giving where, with the addition of percussion ensemble, they got the whole school community of pupils, parents, staff and governors

clapping and singing along. Others, too, have shared their love of music within the local community. Our single reed ensemble of clarinets and saxes helped Stockton's flourishing u3a (University of the 3rd Age) group celebrate "40 years of positive ageing" with a music-infused afternoon tea, where musicians young and slightly less young were united in their incredible ability to bring pleasure to others through their love of musical endeavour. Saxophonists Chloe and James have also provided musical entertainment for a host of community events during the course of the year, choir members sang carols for a festive fundraiser at Crathorne Arms and Laura once again played the Last Post and Rouse with such finesse and poise at Yarm town's Act of Remembrance. Our flagship band, Phoenix, and talented artists, shared their gifts with other young

people from across the area at "Skiver's School of Listening" symposium led by Mr McGrother. This was the first meeting of young people exploring how the arts can be used to improve young people's mental health and well-being and to discuss the importance of actively listening to each other. Our community choral group continues to thrive and it is always so uplifting to perform together at the Community Christmas Concerts. However, it was our brass group who played at perhaps the most exotic event of the year, at the Civic Reception of the Cook Islands rugby league team at the world cup. Our visitors were so touched to hear their national anthem played and the team responded

with the sounds and the spirit of the South Pacific much to the pleasure of our young musicians. Tony Iro, Cook Islands Rugby Team Head Coach, said: "It was great to be welcomed with the national anthem, that was very unexpected." Finally, after a five year hiatus due to Covid, Yarm's music tour resumed and it is safe to say that every member, young and old, had a blast! Tours; an opportunity to blossom, to grow as a person; "Open different doors. You may find a you there that you never knew was yours." Yes, music is at the centre of a tour and, after an intense period of end of term rehearsing, the quality of the singing and musicality in all 8 performances was superb. When the priest heard

us singing at the mass in the Basilica Sainte-Thérèse, Lisieux (the second biggest pilgrimage site in France), he said that he had tears in his eyes and prayed that he wouldn't be taken to heaven until the music was over. Our singing in the Basilica was a special moment for the whole choir, none more so than for Laura Watson as we performed her own Magnificat composition as part of the mass. Singing amidst the stunning impressionist artwork in the Musée Boudin, Honfleur was breathtaking. A last minute set of changed conclusion to the tour. Instead of travelling to Paris, we resided in the delightful Château Kinnor. Yes, friendships through music are special and it was great to put on joint concerts with Dartford Grammar School,

However, we all have a very special place in our hearts for our hosts at our alternative accommodation, Jean-Claude and Thérèse-Marie. Not only were we called to dinner in our fairytale castle dating from the medieval period by the ringing of a bell by Jean-Claude, but the couple welcomed us into their home with an infectious enveloping warmth. Patron of the arts and conductor, Jean-Claude was so moved by the choir's musicality and was effusive in his praise for our young musicians. The concert we shared with Ukrainian prodigy, 15 year old pianist Arsen Sychevsky, will remain in our memories forever, as will our impromptu soirée on our final afternoon of the tour when Tegan performed her A level piano sonata composition on a 19th century piano in the castle music room and Jean-





# A Spoonful of Musicking Helps the Medicine Go Down

Claude conducted the choir to everyone's delight. Yet so much more happens on a tour; the luge, the wildlife park, sightseeing and shopping in Caen and Honfleur, the beach at Deauville, folk-dancing and flashmobbing at Pont L'Évêque's ancient market, the thrills and spills of Festyland, Zaara's birthday celebrations, loads of sport, loads of laughter, end of tour hilarity, the cup song competition and an incredible sense of togetherness and fun. I can honestly say that, by the end of the tour, EVERY tour member sang; Mr Boddy and Mr Williams were immersed in the music from day one, but the "musicking" bug reached Miss Hodgson by the end of the tour and I have video evidence of her singing "Peace White Dove" with the choir, proving "anything can happen if you let it!" To see our young people grow in confidence and gelling as a team, making new friends for life, was very special indeed.

In addition to termly ABRSM, LCM and Rock School music exams, concerts and formal School events involving music have continued a-plenty this year both in School and further afield and, whilst still grappling to understand what "musicking" means, I am pretty sure that the

sheer scope, variety and number of pupils involved in our programme of concerts encapsulates something of the spirit of this verb. Yes, we aim high in terms of the quality of our music-making, but we fervently hope that "in every job that must be done, there is an element of fun" and this year's group of musicians have demonstrated that in spades! Every event has provided nourishment for the soul and I hope the following menu of musical spoonfuls of delight provides a flavour of our busy schedule of events this year:

- Music at Pre-Prep new parents' social
- Senior Prize Giving
- Garden Party for u3a
- Concert organised by Amy Willis
- Skiver's School of Listening Symposium
- Brass Band Civic Reception performance at Rockliffe Hall
- Evensong in Ripon Cathedral
- Music at Tees Valley Business Forum event
- Joint Prep and Senior Small Ensembles Concert at Yarm Parish Church
- Rock School Drummers' and Guitarists' Concert
- Service of Remembrance at School
- Bugler for Act of Remembrance in Yarm

- Hampton by Hilton, Stockton Christmas Lights Switch On Party
- Festive Music at the Christmas Fair
- 2 Community Christmas Concerts
- Carol Singing at Vision 25
- Memento Christmas choir
- Carols from the Staff Brass Band
- 3 Carol Services
- Charity Christmas carolling at Crathorne Arms
- Concert and Cake
- Big Band Performance in the Great North Jazz Festival
- Harpists performances in Harrogate Festival
- Spring Concert with Tegan Addison as creative director
- A Level Recitals
- Performing in That's Variety
- Chamber Choir performance in Durham Cathedral at the North East Festival of Youth Choirs
- Performances at Dementia Awards
- Memento St Patrick's Day choir
- Musical Theatre concert
- Guitar Group Charity Concert in Stokesley
- School Easter Service
- Show organised by Cassie Woodier
- Concert and Cake
- Chloe, Esther, Kayla and Tilly involved in

- masterclasses with members of the BBC Big Band, Andy Panayi and Claire Martin OBE
- Leavers' Service
- Solo performances in Saltburn Festival
- Solo Performances in the ABRSM High Scorers' Concert
- Harp Ensemble Charity Concert in Saltburn
- Leavers' Concert
- Dovecote Festival
- Memento Summer Holiday Choir
- Lower School Prize Giving
- Choral performance at Château Guillaume le Conquerant, Falaise
- Performance at Mass at the Basilica Sainte-Thérèse, Lisieux
- Joint concert with Dartford Grammar School at the Basilica Sainte-Thérèse, Lisieux
- Performance at the Château Canon Soirée Illuminée Festival
- Choral performance at the Musée Boudin, Honfleur
- Joint concert with virtuoso Ukrainian pianist Arsen Sychevsky at L'Église de Fervaque and Château Kinnor
- Choir performance at the Marchée à l'Ancienne, Pont L'Évêque
- Afternoon musical soirée in the music room at Château Kinnor
- These performances have evoked a host of emotions

from sheer joy to tears, along with an immense pride in all our performers and I should like to thank every pupil, student and staff member involved in these events. Whilst performing may seem easy, there is much graft and dedication behind the scenes and the commitment of the young people and staff involved is incredible.

Perhaps the most challenging performances are those where the music's role is to help those present focus on the significance of an event and this certainly resonated with many in our Remembrance Service; bookended by a lone piper, with a stunning Last Post at its heart, choral and congregational items brought the School community together in an exemplary Act of Remembrance. Trumpeters Laura and Jodie were the buglers at Senior and Prep School respectively and I am grateful to them both for playing so superbly for what is commonly known as the "toughest gig" for a trumpeter! It was very special to return to Yarm Parish Church this year for three stunning carol services (the best ever according to Mr Boddy) and to say a formal farewell to our Upper Sixth leavers in Yarm Methodist Church. Our immensely talented departing musicians chose all the music for the service; from the power of the hymn-singing to the heartfelt delivery of choir and leavers' items, many in the congregation were moved to tears; a poignant

moment of reflection from all that "Childhood slips like sand through a sieve... and all too soon, they've grown, and they've flown." Many performed in the superb Leavers' Concert organised by "Laura's Squared" as well as in Tegan and Amy's concerts earlier in the year. I should like to pay tribute to all our leaving musicians this year - to every single person who has participated in music and productions at School during their careers; "there's the whole world at your feet", so cherish every moment!

During the year, I have tried in vain to pin Mr McGrother down for a "musicking" definition; just a one sentence summary. Our very own answer to Mary Poppins finally explained it thus: "Musicking shifts the emphasis away from music being purely a skill set and focuses on it being a verb - a thing that everybody can access

and participate in." Implicit within this is the breaking down of barriers and demonstrating that music has a key role to play in this. This is just the start of our musicking journey and Mr McCommunityGrother-Poppins has ignited in all with whom he has come into contact a joy of musicking; leading by example and demonstrating that, even just a spoonful of music is medicine for the soul. Having infiltrated this article with references to Mary Poppins, dare I quote the first verse of the iconic song from the show in next year's Music Department development plan - "In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun and snap! The job's a game!"

The Music Department is a special place and that is thanks to the efforts of the whole team of classroom, community and visiting music staff. They are "practically perfect in every way!"

Mrs K Staggs

## MEMBERS OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL MUSICAL GROUPS

### Tees Valley Youth Orchestra

Sara Banerjee, Jennifer Chan, Annabel Cochrane, Emily Eveson, Tilly Gilraine, Morven Hawthorne, Eleanor Madden, Manya Rajeeva, Dhruv Wadehra, James Waine, Paddy Winters

### Tees Valley Youth Choir

Natasha Cunningham, Anoushka Paul, Sophia Kilkerri, James Waine

### Samling Academy for Classical Singing

Tilly Armstrong

### Choral Scholars at Middlesbrough Cathedral

Oscar Shaw, Laura Watson

### National Youth Training Choir of Great Britain

Summer Benzie, Morven Hawthorne, James Waine

### National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain

Effie Peacock

### Royal Air Force Cadets National Concert Band

Cody Staggs



# Dance delivers

The Dance department has had a fantastic year, going from strength to strength in participation, talent and enthusiasm. More pupils are involved in dance at Yarm School than ever before.

**P**upils have learnt dance routines in a range of dance styles including commercial, jazz, contemporary, lyrical, street and musical theatre. Pupils improve in skills, technique and performance skills in their weekly dance lessons.

First to Third Year pupils took part in dance as part of their PE lessons and focused on dance styles, dance in film and Strictly Come Dancing. Pupils created their own choreography for their end of term assessment.

48 First to Fifth Year pupils entered into the Northern Schools Dance Competition

with a piece performed to *Scream* by the Jacksons and *One More Time* a Britney Spears medley and did extremely well against some strong competition. KS4 came runners up and missed first place by 1 point. Huge well done to all dancers who competed.

25 First to Third Year dancers took to the stage in this year's Fashion Show. They opened the show with energy, enthusiasm and confidence as they performed an exciting dance based on the 70's era. They performed choreography to a medley of music including

*You Should Be Dancing, Get Up Offa That Thing and Shake Your Body.* Well done to all dancers involved!

180 pupils from Prep Year Three to Upper Sixth took to the stage to perform in the Hollywood Walk of Fame Dance Showcase 2023. It was an evening of fantastic entertainment as Yarm School dancers danced their way down the legendary Hollywood Walk of Fame to iconic music from Destiny's Child to Stevie Wonder to Disney soundtracks. The evening was a celebration of the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment of Yarm

School dancers throughout the year. It was full of magic, energy and fun! Well done to everyone involved!

The dance pupils continue to challenge and push themselves and always have so much energy and enthusiasm. There is a genuine love of dance at Yarm School which is evident not only in the big showcase and performances but in the everyday life of the school. I love seeing the fun, dedication and enjoyment the pupils have. Well done for another fantastic year!

*Mrs J Dunkley*

**What the audience had to say...**

*"That was absolutely magical. Well done."*

*"An awesome effort. A real celebration of talent, grit, hard work and creativity. To have that many dancers on stage delivering such a varied range of styles was incredible."*

*"Each year we think it can't be topped and then the following year it is!!"*

*"Dance Showcase on Friday was amazing, love watching everyone perform."*

*"The children were so confident and happy. It was an absolute pleasure to watch."*





# Undeniable talent

This year's House Drama Competition was an extremely close call, with the audience enjoying four superb performances.

The show opened with last year's winners Bede House, and their adaptation of the film version of Fantastic Mr Fox. The performance included many pupils on stage in a variety of animal roles and really inventive use of costume. There were some really well acted scenes between the Fox family (Sophia, Sabie, Isla, Rose) and their friend Kylie (Caitlin) with great energy, especially from our youngest performers. The scene between Boggis, Bunce and Bean, with the three farmers sitting at a table, under a simple spotlight was extremely effective and a highlight!

Aidan House performed

a colourful and condensed version of Monsters Inc. The costumes and staging were both well thought out and captivating. There were many good performances, Harry as Mike and Shlok as Sulley both gave strong, amusing and confident performances, holding the audience with their energy and clarity of delivery. There were many amusing cameos but Minakshi who played Roz, showed great comic timing, character and delivery and earned the certificate for the Best Cameo Appearance in House Drama 2022.

Oswald House chose the 90's classic film Mrs Doubtfire. A brave choice to take on a film with many different settings in quick succession but they simplified the elaborate scene changes to feature the essentials rather

than the superfluous and this allowed the talented performers to stand out. There were some very strong individual performances from the children (Zaara, Oliver and Esme), Grace as Miranda was headstrong and controlled and James was superb as both Daniel and Mrs Doubtfire. James' comic timing, energy and range of accents was fantastic and he was a well-deserved winner of the Performance Award Certificate.

Finally we welcomed Cuthbert House to the stage, with an adaptation of Madagascar. The script was edited brilliantly and is what made this stand out. It was also the shortest of the scripts, leaving the audience wanting more. The performances were strong too, Noah, Danai, Olivia and Lucy were all superb and

really encapsulated their characters. There were also great performances full of comedy and energy from Avanish, Alex, Luke and our Penguins. The company were fully involved. A very well acted piece put together and staged cleverly by the Sixth Form directors.

In the end, it was very tight, but Cuthbert won. All the performers and Sixth Form directors must be congratulated for their hard work, it really was a superb night of theatre!

Mr D Brookes



We enjoyed two great nights of theatre at the end of June for the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Duologue Competitions.

# IT TAKES TWO

It takes a lot of courage from our pairs to get up on the big stage and perform in front of people. Secondly, the work involved in choosing the scene, learning the lines, working out the blocking, developing the characters and thinking about the set and lights deserves recognition! All our pairs did themselves proud, with great performances and dedication to the contest.

There were 12 pairs competing in the Junior Competition. We enjoyed excerpts from Mean Girls, Two Ronnies, Lion King, Friends, Basket Case and Trousers, and sketches from Miranda, Houdini's House and the self-written Boro Mafia sketch. All these couples performed well and entertained their audience.

What Does IT Mean and UP were really well put together and staged with some great acting performances. The winners were Hatim Khan and Hira Rauf with an excerpt from Disney's Aladdin. This piece had stacks of energy and character in it, and the performers were fully

invested in their characters from start to finish. The Intermediate Duologues saw five pairs perform and there was one Senior Duologue entry. We opened with a pacey and energetic performance of a Seinfeld sketch followed by a cleverly staged Key and Peele sketch. Thirdly we had an excerpt from The Princess Bride; a wordy and complicated script was well executed by the performers. The pace and the delivery of lines of The Two Ronnies and their Mastermind sketch was enjoyable.

Our winners however, were Ajay Selvan and Avanish Batra with an

unnerving performance of a scene from the new Joker movie. Both performers played their characters brilliantly, they were fully engaged and believable.

Finally came our only Senior entry, but what a good piece of theatre it was. Jennifer Umashankar and Jennifer Chan performed a wonder piece from Andromache by Euripides. Their command

of pace and presence was excellent, as well as their character development. A worthy winner.

Although this is a competition by title, the real winners were the audience who were treated to 18 varied, engaging and entertaining pieces of drama. Well done to all the performers!

Mr D Brookes





# A hard act to follow...

This year our Fifth Year pupils performed two brilliant, one-act plays.

We opened with Tracks, set in hell or a type of purgatory masquerading as a subway station, as each character joined the scene and discovered that they were in fact dead. Then the question is, where does the next train go, Heaven or Hell. They all recount their lives, conveniently missing out the 'bad' bits, until as the play progresses they all reveal their sins and the skeletons in their wardrobes. The performers did this really well, with a mix of humour and pathos, each

character having differing levels of remorse. Finally as the train arrives, they must decide whether or not to board it... some do and some don't! The performers really excelled in conveying the emotion of the characters, whilst still finding the funny bits in an otherwise thought provoking play. After the interval the audience returned to find their seats were now on 'the stage', and the cast of Audience started their performance. Set in a theatre, with our performers being the audience at a show, watching a show

(our real audience). This play is very challenging as the lines often don't interrelate. It is very tricky to learn and to rehearse because of this. The cast did a magnificent job of mastering lines early, and therefore being able to give a full, characterful performance. As the play progresses we get to meet the different people in the theatre; a group of strangers enjoying a show together. Katherine the writer is present too, and acts as a coach to the 'performing audience' and a narrator to the real audience. We enjoy everyone's reactions to the late arrivals, the incessant coughing and the constant seat moving.

The cast fully invested in the characters and created some wonderful comic moments and the high energy performance made it all the more enjoyable. Two very different plays, both beautifully executed by two very talented casts! These were two wonderful ensemble pieces. We worked a lot in rehearsals on the theme of a cast being a team, every person as important as the next. We also focused on the importance of accuracy to the text and lines the author has chosen to use. The cast embraced all of that, plus a strong focus on character, and produced two fantastic plays. Well done Fifth Years, you were a joy to work with, thank you!

Mr D Brookes



## Filling up on great drama

Gas Station Angel is a love story, it is a story of family, and it is a story of growing up in a small rural community.

It opens with the excited Ace (Erin Scott) telling his father, Mannie (Ella Brent), that he's fallen in love. Mannie's rage against the sea that will take their house haunts him. Ella's forceful Mannie is balanced beautifully in scenes with his wife Mary

Annie (Jasmine Murphy). Jasmine's character is losing grip on reality, one moment, childish and liberated, the next fearful of past and future loss, but she has the range to control all this.

Matti (Chloe Godfrey) and her husband Gruff (Larisa Hartness) also live with loss - their eldest son, Bri (Danny Scott), hasn't been seen for two years. Marsh (Piya Nag) is the younger,

favoured son who misses his brother and squabbles with his sister Bron (Elise Wilcock). Ace falls in love with Bron. Bron misses her brother too, and escapes from her sad family life and dull job by driving Bri's blue Marina 1800 TC, into the heart of Saturday night. When Elise enters, she does so with the purpose that is key to the storytelling style of this piece; her stillness and

precision in movement are a lovely counterpoint to Erin's energy and exaggerated physical work as the nerdy Ace. Pacey, moving, saying so much about families and about growing up in a small town, the cast of this production certainly delivered a fine piece of theatre.

Mr T Pender



## A play of first class performances

Blue Stockings is a play of bikes, books, votes and bluster, set in 1896 when Cambridge University held the first vote to decide if female students would be awarded degrees.

It follows four very different female characters studying at Girton College: the complex role of Tess Moffat was played with empathy and skilled craft by Kitty Brown, and her fellow students were played by Hannah Stewart, Kayla Roberts and Jenifer

Umashankar. The plight of these girls' education was effectively highlighted in the passion that Miss Blake (Jennifer Chan) and Mrs Welsh (Morven Hawthorne) applied to their teaching and pursuit of the girls' future.

James Waine, as Mr Banks, showed us with flair and sensitivity the commitment and loss suffered by those lecturers who risked everything to support female education. In contrast Tom Jagger, as Dr

Maudsley, created a presence and tone that made it clear how much of a barrier the women faced to changing opinions. Ben Desics and Sam Millman expressed their views as male lecturers with directness and a resolute stance, but moved to show sympathy and respect towards the end of the play.

The male students Benji Fleming, Miles Holland, Nathan May, Reuben Peat and Sam Croslegh showed us a natural camaraderie

through laughter, teasing and the expectations they faced to also achieve.

The tension and passion of the final moments of the vote breaking out into violence drew the audience further into the cause and there was evident disappointment in the studio at learning the vote took another fifty years to be passed in favour of the women.

Mrs H Charlton





# WONDERS OF THE WORKSHOP

This year the Design & Technology department has had a busy year. We have had new staff joining, activities got back to how they were before Covid and the workshop was busier with students taking a real interest in engineering and the design opportunities on offer.

The year started out with the Upper Sixth and Fifth Year commencing their practical work and beginning to fabricate their projects. The workshop was busy with steam bending, welding and the use of the lathes to both turn wood and metal.

Students took full advantage of the expertise on offer and pushed the limits of their designs to really excel in what they wanted to create.

The GCSE pupils had their work cut out for them with their projects as they needed to complete theirs first. It was fantastic to see so many keen designers flocking to the workshop and spending countless hours working hard on what they have created. This year saw many new project ideas: a modular storage system for university, an adjustable desk and a table football table. A special mention has to be made to Adam Addison, who used part of the old science desks to create one of a kind guitar that we hope he will cherish for years to come.

The departing Upper Sixth will be sadly missed and I would like to congratulate them on everything that they have achieved. The group really pushed the limits of their designs and came up with some fantastic solutions to problems that they identified. I was, as always, impressed to see the final outcome of the Upper Sixth designers' hard work and dedication.

The Lower School DT curriculum has continued to adapt and change as it goes through a new era and the pupils enjoyed a large breadth of challenge and creativity. As a department we want our pupils to enjoy all aspects of DT and learn new skills that will help them in the ever changing world we

live in today. As designers we encourage our pupils to think positively and explore their creative side.

This year saw the return of our Technician, Mr Thomas Whitcombe, and he has been a huge help to the team. Offering a massive amount of support to the pupils and the staff. The department would certainly not run as smoothly without him.

Finally I would like to say a massive thank you to the pupils who have worked hard in DT this year and really shown the strength and ability we have in School. Also a big thank you to the staff in the Department who have made it all possible.

Mr D Spence



Alex Walton



Matthew Parker



Essa Ibrahim



Adam Addison



Will Ferguson



Jakob Stussi





# WONDERS OF THE WORKSHOP

Jack Van Niekerk



Hannah Bettinson



Haider Ali



Grace Harbinson



George Kiston



## HIGH FASHION

Pupils amazed audiences with their spectacular creations at the Fashion Show. Pupils from across the Senior School showcased their designs, with Eco, toiles, GCSE and A Level garments all on display. The Fashion Show started with a bang, Senior and Prep pupils performed two mesmerising group dances which featured 61 pupils in total.

Pupils then took to the stage to model their garments bringing energy to the catwalk. The pupils showed poise and confidence to wear their garments and walk out to an audience of 250 parents and peers. The Fashion Show was a fantastic opportunity to display the beautiful designs that our pupils achieved guided and supported by Mrs Jackson.



### Design & Technology / Textiles

## LEARNING IN LONDON



In November, the Sixth Form textiles students travelled to London with the aim to develop knowledge for our NEA (Non-Exam Assessment). We studied the market place, designers' work and society, in order to ensure our garments were suitable for the commercial industry.

We started with a visit to the Design Museum, in which the Yinka Llori exhibition was particularly useful. This designer associates societal issues from his personal perspective and experiences, with the use of bright, bold pattern and colour. Next, we visited the V&A museum, where this year's fashion and textile exhibition was on "African Fashion". The exhibition provided powerful modern and cultural inspiration for styling, pattern, colour, and further exploring ideas within the design process. Afterwards, we visited Harrods which provided the perfect environment for market research on high-end brands and haute couture.

On Saturday morning we visited the Tate Modern. Here the paintings and installations caught our imagination, providing ideas for how art can be interpreted into garment decoration and construction. Understanding the stories behind the work offered further ideas for exploration. The final museum we visited was the Fashion and Textiles museum, showcasing Kaffe Fassett. It exhibited examples of his extravagant use of colour and patterns, richly incorporated into quilting and surface decoration. Finally, we headed to Oxford Street to carry out further market research.

Imy Slack



# Future plans

And at last we were back! After the disruption of the last years our biennial Career Convention returned and surpassed all previous measures.

**W**e were thrilled to have such support from our external delegates and wider community, making this very much a standout event for the whole region.

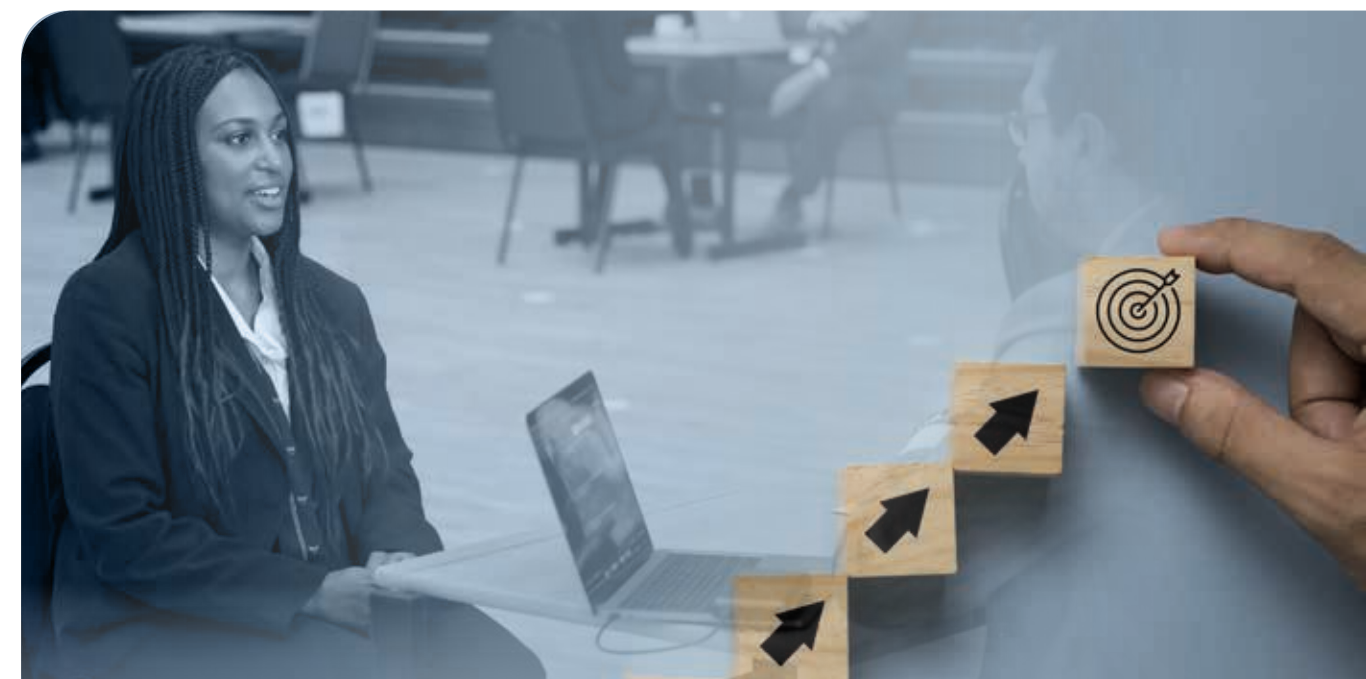
We welcomed 30 universities from across the country, over 50 organisations, and over 160 external delegates. At its peak there were over 1000 pupils and parents

on the site, coming from schools from near and far.

Visitors were able to engage in invaluable conversations with all manner of future direction. We had very strong representation from career areas such as law, finance, the health professions, as well as new developments and visitors in the form of tech industries, the Civil Service

and security services. There are of course far too many to mention here, but the event was a supercharged, energetic offering of expertise, enthusiasm and guidance. A huge thank you to all participants, from our delegates through to you the pupils and parents.

Mr S Edwards



## STEPS to SUCCESS



It was another busy and dynamic year for the Careers Department. As we built back from lockdown we held on to some of the positive aspects of convenient remote sessions, but reached back to offering a heap of in-person events.

A Career Cluster event in the Public Sector proved very popular - introducing the school community to a vast array of opportunities from healthcare, armed forces and civil service through to the police and prison service.

Upper Sixth Mock Interview Evening was delivered differently this year with all students being interviewed in a single evening involving a huge number of external guests as interviewers.

The MMIs evening this year involved all Medic, Dental and Veterinary applications undergoing a high speed, round robin style

of interviewing. The invitation to participate was extended to applicants from some of the neighbouring schools.

Working Lunches continued throughout the year with Miss Rhodes welcoming back to school a number of former students from Business and Economics to give advice and inspiration to current students.

We also hosted a diverse range of visiting professionals for lunchtime and after school talks, including Nick Lane (Law), Shaheer Bhatti (Engineering/Piloting), Sam Guest (Medicine), Ethicon (Medical Technology)

Off site visits were made to a number of locations including hospitals and the Endeavour Law Firm. One stand out innovation event this year was the development of a collaborative programme with the Civil Service at their Darlington-based Department

for International Trade. The national first pilot programme saw 20 Lower Sixth students participating in a four day work experience/ training programme over the Easter holidays.

Another memorable off-site experience was Upper Sixth aspiring engineer Lilian Dufton's visit to Red Bull Racing on International Women in Engineering Day, for which she was selected following a tough application process.

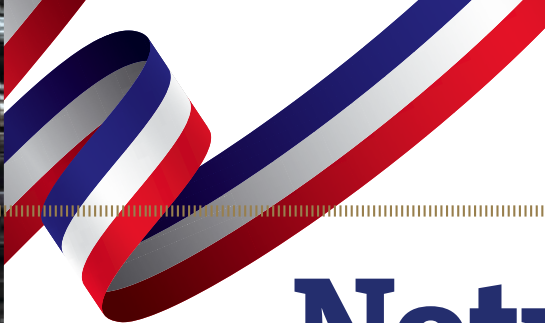
Careers opportunities continue to develop and expand in terms of the breadth and depth of the offerings. Interpreted in the widest sense of the word, careers is about decisions and the need to access the best information



and guidance. I would like to thank all my colleagues, teachers and tutors, for their continued support of the pupils in this realm.

Mr S Edwards





# Notre voyage à Bernay:



## PERFECT PARIS

On our first day in Paris, 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.

Finally on that day, following a group walk through the Tuileries gardens, we had some

time in the forecourt of the Louvre museum, where pupils used their French to order their own food and perused the public exhibits.

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. Pupils were overwhelmed by the scale of the palace. Monet's house 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.

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. We proceeded to wander along the Champs-Élysées, 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. The staff were very impressed with the Yarm pupils' willingness to have a go with their French, and to sample the snails,

and some tables even ordered a second round of *escargots*.

The trip was a wonderful return to foreign travel following a few years of COVID restrictions, and I would like to thank my colleagues Mr Rhatigan, Mr Tomlinson and Mrs Troya for giving up their holiday time and putting in the hard work to make this trip possible.

Mr A Bridges



Avant Noël, les lycéens de Yarm qui étudient le français sont allés en France pour visiter un lycée à Bernay.

Après un voyage de dimanche très long, lundi, nous sommes allés au lycée Saint Anselme à Bernay pour assister aux cours français, et nous avons bien bavardé avec nos correspondantes. Cependant c'était une journée difficile pour la plupart d'entre nous, parce que nous avons eu besoin de nous habituer à la langue française, et en même temps passer une journée très longue. Le deuxième jour était beaucoup plus facile, parce qu'on s'était mieux habitués à la langue. Après beaucoup de leçons différentes, à 3h, nous sommes partis pour aller à Honfleur, une très belle ville au bord de la mer. Le soir, nous avons regardé 'Le Torrent', un nouveau film français écrit et réalisé par l'actrice légendaire française Anne Le Ny.

Malheureusement, le mardi soir, il a neigé, et alors nous ne pouvions pas aller au lycée. Donc nous sommes allés au centre-ville

de Lisieux pour voir la belle basilique de Sainte Thérèse, faire du shopping et manger de la vraie cuisine française. Heureusement, certaines des correspondantes ont pu venir à Lisieux, et donc nous avons mangé avec eux avant de jouer au bowling et de regarder le match (c'était encore la Coupe du Monde) de la France contre le Maroc. Le jeudi a été touché par le temps également, et donc nous avons tous joué au badminton, et M. Spence a presque gagné le concours avec son partenaire. Après avoir tristement dit au revoir aux correspondantes, nous avons pris le voyage d'environ 2h à Rouen. La ville était si belle avec les lumières et les marchés de Noël. Le soir, nous avons regardé un spectacle de comédie dans un théâtre.

Surtout, le voyage était très bénéfique pour notre utilisation de la langue française, ainsi que nous nous sommes beaucoup amusés avec nos correspondantes et maintenant amies françaises.

Luke Porter and Eve Kempster



## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The Modern Languages Department celebrated the European Day of Languages again. This time, the date fell on a Monday and our Sixth Form linguists prepared a whole school assembly conducted entirely (apart from the hymn) in French, German, Spanish and, from the Headmaster, some Welsh.

We ran European Day of Languages activities in lessons with First, Second

and Third Year pupils. There was also a languages-themed lunch, with pupils and staff asking for their meals in target languages and popular dishes from various European countries served. Many thanks to the kitchen staff for preparing such delicious continental food!

As last year, we ran competitions for a poster on the importance of languages (First Year) and a joke in a foreign language (Second

Year). Congratulations to the winners - Arthana Pradeep in First Year, with Eliza Fellows and Aisling Timmons runners up, and Emma White and Noah Coulman in Second Year.

Finally, this year saw the first running of an inter-House pétanque competition for each year group. Heavy rain meant a delay in completion, but in the end, Aidan secured a last-minute (last throw!?) victory to win overall. Well done to all participants!





## German success

It has been a productive (German) year for Kitty Brown (Lower Sixth). Firstly in the Autumn, Kitty was a joint winner of a German Translation Competition run by Sheffield University. Kitty had to translate a 300 word extract from Sharon Dodua Otoo's text, *Adas Raum*, into English.

Then, in April, she won a prestigious UK German Connection Scholarship. This is a four-week summer holiday programme run and fully funded by the German Educational Exchange Service (Pädagogischer Austauschdienst). Competition was strong this year as the programme restarted after a three-year hiatus owing to Covid 19 restrictions, and Kitty had to complete an essay in German, submit written work, and take part in an interview to win her place. She will participate in the course with other students from around the globe and will travel around Germany with visits to Bonn, Cologne, Berlin, Hamburg and Munich. This is a wonderful opportunity and previous participants from Yarm School have thoroughly enjoyed the programme, while their German has benefited greatly from the immersive experience.

Finally, Kitty was a runner-up in the Oxford German Olympiad competition. For her entry, Kitty had to research the food culture of a society anywhere in the world in a period before 1800 and write a story about that period in which food plays a part. Her entry was set in 1621 in the US state of Virginia. In it, the Pilgrim Fathers and the local native American Wampanoag tribe gather together to share a harvest meal. This coming together of the two hostile groups is still celebrated today through the annual American Thanksgiving meal. Gut gemacht Kitty!

Mr T Fellows



## Marvellous markets

Very early (at 4.00am!) a group of thirty-nine pupils in First and Second Year set off the day after term ended for our trip to the German Christmas markets in Aachen and Cologne, accompanied by Mr Fellows, Mrs Addison, Dr Hallam and Mr Rhatigan. We usually make this trip every two years but the Covid-19 pandemic had unfortunately delayed this visit, making it our first overseas trip in three years to Germany.

Travel went very smoothly in both

directions, with calm seas, surprisingly quiet ferries and clear roads. The return journey coincided with the football world cup final, so France was very, very quiet!

Pupils enjoyed visits to the traditional Christmas markets, as well as the Lindt chocolate museum and cathedral in Cologne and a festive boat cruise on the Rhine which featured a visit from St Nicholas. We also had fun in a large leisure swimming pool just outside Aachen on the second day. Everyone was grateful for the

chance to warm up as the weather was very cold!

Pupils were able to practise their transactional skills in German at the many market stalls and shops, with lots of Christmas shopping being successfully completed.

We look forward to our next visit!

Mr T Fellows



# PROVING A POINT...

This year has seen debating at Yarm go from strength to strength, with the introduction of new debating opportunities, along with the return to in person debating competitions with other schools post Covid restrictions. This year, the Senior Debating Society has enjoyed debating a wide range of topics. Would you lie to get ahead? Is censorship

of children's books for the better? Does cancel culture legitimise bullying?

Members of the society also enjoyed their second annual dinner this year whilst also enjoying, along with some guests, another fantastic Inter-House Debating Competition, debating the motions: Is the news glorified gossip? and Debating Competition, debating motions. Is the news

glorified gossip? Does cosmetic surgery warp the male gaze? Oswald were the winners.

Lower down the school, debating has been introduced for the first time as part of the First Year activity carousel and a Sixth Form led activity has also been added at the Prep School. It has been wonderful to see the range of years involved in debating expand and so many pupils enjoying

and benefiting from it.

Debaters in Sixth Form have also enjoyed a range of competitions with other schools, including those organised by the society such as the Debating Matters competition at the Durham Union, and those organised by specific departments such as the French debate at St Peter's and the History debate, where we hosted a great debate against Conyers.

Thanks go out to last year's debating secretaries; James (Outreach), Cassie and Madelaine (Social) and Simone (Press) with special thanks to co-presidents Jodie and Caroline. We are looking forward to another exciting year ahead for debate with our current team; Eleanor (Outreach), Piya (Social), and James (President).

James Waine, Debating Society President 23-24



## Vive le débat!

For most of us, the prospect of debating difficult motions with strangers in front of an audience would be daunting enough in English, let alone a foreign language, yet such was the task ahead of Kitty Brown and Hannah Stewart, who represented Yarm at the MFL Debating competition held at St Peter's School in York. The motions were complex: does travelling abroad do more harm than good? Do digital technologies improve our lives? Should it be compulsory to study

a foreign language to the age of 18? To make matters harder, the teams did not know which side they would be arguing for until a coin toss immediately prior to the competition starting.

In each debate, all speakers have two uninterrupted minutes to present their argument; 5 minutes of open debate follows between the two teams, and the debate is brought to a close with a 90 second conclusion from each pair. At the conclusion of the debate, each pair receives

a score out of 10 from the judges, and the pair with the higher score wins; the entire debate is conducted in the target language.

The pair, both Lower Sixth students, battled hard against opponents who were often older and therefore a full year further into their French studies. Despite strong performances and some victories, sadly Hannah and Kitty did not advance to the semi-final stages on this occasion (Mr Ravenhall continues to insist "they were robbed" whenever the competition is mentioned). However,

they did themselves proud and will be able to return as Upper Sixth students next year, when I fully expect them to once again show the competition what they can do.

Mr A Bridges







# CAPITAL TIMES!

## Politics students' London study trip

The Lower Sixth students enjoyed the annual Politics trip to London. The trip is designed to enhance their understanding of the syllabus, as well as expose them to a realm of potential future career opportunities. The students were granted great access, meeting with the Chief of Staff at Conservative Campaign Headquarters, being hosted at the House of Commons, visiting the Supreme Court as well as having meetings with former students studying and working in London.

Mr S Edwards



**POINTS OF VIEW** Students engage in debate at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park



**WORDS OF WISDOM** In Westminster Square with former student, now PPE undergraduate at LSE, Ananya Padmanabhan



**ALL ACCESS** Inside the famous Committee Room No.14, scene of the deposition of Johnson and the election of Sunak



**INTERACTIONS** Students in conversation with Stockton South MP, Matt Vickers, on the terrace of the House of Commons



**PICTURE PERFECT** Perched on the Thames overlooked the newly refurbished Elizabeth Tower of Big Ben

# NORDIC HEIGHTS

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS  
Inside the Opera House



It was with delight that we returned to our annual offering of an overseas trip for Upper Sixth Politics students.

We chose to go exploring the political and cultural landscape of Norway.

Norway and Scandinavia more broadly is renowned for its progressive social democratic politics, with a political system very much inclined to building a consensual, collective societal fabric.

The Politics group was welcomed to the Norwegian Parliament and given a guided tour followed by an intriguing discussion with Member of Parliament, Trine Lise Sundnes.

Another highlight included being welcomed at the British Embassy with a lengthy meeting at the Ambassador's Residence. The Embassy had arranged a panel of diplomatic

staff to meet with the students, allowing them to explore a diverse range of issues.

The tour also allowed for a number of cultural visits including the new, high tech Central Library of Oslo, the vast collection of the brand new National Museum, as well as a guided tour of the Nobel Peace Museum. Much of the new architecture of Oslo that has sprung up in recent years is the work of so-called 'starchitects' given their fame and stellar accomplishments. One such work was the Oslo Opera House at which we were given a behind the scenes tour of the entire building and its stage, costume, rehearsal and office spaces.

Beyond all of this itinerary there was the immeasurable value of the impromptu conversations, the scooting around a city's public transport system, the exploration of new food

venues, and the overall immersion in a country that is sufficiently different to our own as to prompt considerable reflection.

Mr S Edwards



**IN GOOD COMPANY** (above) Politics students touring the residence of the British Ambassador to Norway

**A REAL PRIVILEGE** (above right) Politics students inside the Norwegian parliament



# Politics & possibilities



**PARTY READY**  
Students at the Conservative Party Conference



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**  
Students dining with Matt Vickers MP

This year the students accessed a fascinating and diverse array of visiting speakers from all manner of political backgrounds, roles and responsibilities. They cover issues of local, national and international significance, broadening the students' perspectives, as well as providing insights into a range of career possibilities that exist within politics. We had politicians - but it is very much more than Westminster politics! I would like to thank all of the students for their engagement, and especially my colleague, Mr Grimwood, for his support and ideas in generating and delivering the busy, weekly programme.

Mr S Edwards

Speakers and events this academic year included:

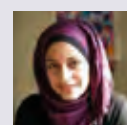
- Dr Laura Gutiérrez, Lecturer in Criminology, Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, University of Liverpool - 'A Beastly Business: The development of green crimes'
- Matt Vickers MP, Conservative Member of Parliament, Stockton South, Deputy Chair of the Conservative Party - 'The life of a MP'
- Marwa Al-Sabouni, Syrian Architect, writer, commentator, BBC 100 Women in 2019, Author: 'Building for Hope: Towards an Architecture of Belonging' 'Rebuilding Syria: Homes not Houses - the need for community Cohesion'
- Visit to Conservative Party Conference, Birmingham
- Dr Kodili Henry Chukwuma, Lecturer in International Politics, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University, 'Understanding the issue of 'security' in Africa'
- Dinner with Matt Vickers MP, dinner with Stockton South Member of Parliament
- Helen Elston, Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister for Sport, Tourism, Heritage, Civil Society and Youth, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport 'A view from the inside: Working for a government minister'
- Dr Craig Jones, Senior Lecturer in Political Geography, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University, 'War Lawyers:

The role of law in military operations'

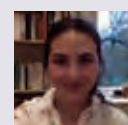
- Learn with the Lords, students in conversation with Baroness Thornton
- Dr Adam Koper, Politics Department, University of York, 'Do not forget your dying king: The Kennedy assassination and conspiracy theories on film'
- Mehrangez Turzunzoda, Analyst & Human Rights Defender - Tajikistan, 'Understanding the challenges for journalists in Tajikistan'
- Alan Rusbridger, Former Editor-in-Chief of The Guardian, 'What to Believe in a Fake News World'
- Dr Skyler Hawkins, Lecturer in Politics of Race & Ethnicity, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University, 'Social media, communities and campaigning: the place of women in US elections'
- Prof Matthew Williams, Author, Analyst & Chair in Criminology, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University, Director - ESRC HateLab, 'Exploring the nature of 'hate''
- Professor Tim Bale, Academic, author and political pundit, Professor of Politics at Queen Mary, University of London, 'Red walls & blue walls: Constructing a new politics'
- Holocaust Memorial Day event, Keynote Speaker: Professor Rebecca Clifford Univ of York, Author: 'Survivors: Children's Lives after the Holocaust'
- Meggie Nolasco, Human rights defender 'Leading the advocacy for community

schools for indigenous children in the Philippines'

- Abigail Hernandez, Independent investigative journalist and lead member of PCIN (Independent journalists and Communicators from Nicaragua network), 'How to evacuate more than 50 journalists from an authoritarian regime in Nicaragua'
- Oliver Wilmot, Security Risk Analyst Intern, Northcott Global Solutions, 'How to assess security for professional clients'
- Lecture to mark International Women's Day: 'A history of feminism', Newcastle Uni, Dr Hannah Dawson, King's College London
- Phil Armitage, Administrative and Public Lawyer at JUSTICE, 'Advancing access to human rights and the rule of law in the UK'
- Amy Booth, Parliamentary Assistant to Rt Hon Nigel Evans, 'Building a life and career in Parliament'
- Dr Hannah Dawson, Reader in the History of Political Thought, King's College, London, 'A history of feminism', International Women's Day event
- Abdalle Mumin, Secretary General of the Somali Journalists Syndicate and human rights defender, 'Assessing the security situation for journalists in Somalia'
- Thandekile Moyo, Zimbabwean human rights defender, 'Understanding privilege in the context of Zimbabwean politics'



Marwa Al-Sabouni



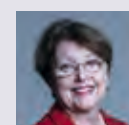
Dr Laura Gutiérrez



Dr Kodili Henry Chukwuma



Dr Craig Jones



Baroness Thornton



Alan Rusbridger



Dr Skyler Hawkins



Prof Matthew Williams



Professor Tim Bale

Politics Society / Independent Learning Project / Language Taster Day

## LANGUAGE TASTER DAY AT YORK UNIVERSITY

In April, Fourth Year Spanish and German pupils visited York University for a Language Taster Day. After a walk through the campus grounds, pupils split into German and Spanish groups for their language sessions. The German group watched clips from a film, followed by activities related to the language, themes and characters. The Spanish group started with some ice-breaker language tasks to introduce themselves and then looked at different aspects of Hispanic culture. They used a variety of nouns, verbs and adjectives to write wonderful poems about themselves and their interests. In the afternoon, pupils had a session on linguistics which involved taking part in a carousel of 4 activities looking at how language is formed and language patterns. The final session of the day was hearing from final year university students about their year abroad and language studies. Our pupils loved listening to the fantastic experiences that students had had in Paris, Seville and Mexico and hearing about their time in university, work placements or teaching in local schools. A question and answer session followed this and our pupils were very keen to find out more about language courses and the opportunities for studying and working abroad. We had a great day and our thanks go to Mr Fellows for organising the trip and to York University for hosting us for the day. Let's hope this has sparked their enthusiasm to study languages beyond Yarm!

Mrs B Addison

## Learning together

During the week of the Second Year Outdoor Education Experience, pupils also took part in two days of cross curricular project work, working with Business, DT, Art and Drama.

### Business and DT Board Game Project

The challenge set to Second Year pupils was to research, design, produce and pitch for a board game. Project managers were selected, gaps in the market identified, USPs established, and the four Ps were considered. Sixth Form students were on hand to support and enthuse, as glue guns and paint came out, mood boards devised and presentations polished. By the afternoon, the teams were ready to pitch to the judges. We were really proud of what the Second Year pupils achieved and the employability skills they honed. We must commend Luke Elliott and Rosie Woodier as Outstanding Students and thank the fabulous Sixth Formers for their support.

### Art and Drama Independent Learning Projects

Mr McGrother introduced the day detailing the history of the River Tees and some myths based around the river. In Art, pupils enjoyed using paint and canvases to create works of art based on rivers. The drama sessions began with a discussion of the stories they had heard earlier in the day about the River Tees. Pupils then planned, rehearsed and scripted their own productions.





# Exciting times

2022-23 has been a busy year in the English department.

As ever, we are grateful for the support we receive from our school librarians, Miss Dixon-Barker and Mrs Mason, who not only organise author visits and support us with organising theatre trips, but also coordinate the National Reading Champions Quiz. This year, nine students - Bee Williams, Ellie Williamson, Hira Rauf, Amarah Kaur, Sarah Abbas, Ewan Green, Jacob Bandeira, Dihain Madapathage Don, and Waleed Ahsan - took part in the competition, and although we missed out on a place in the top ten this year, I know the students enjoyed the challenge.

Many wonderful evenings were spent in the theatre this year: forty-three students travelled to Sunderland to see the National Theatre's magical tour of *The Ocean at the end of the Lane*; Sixth Form students attended a touring production of *A Doll's House* and enjoyed a workshop with the cast; some current (and future!) A Level students attended productions of *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Seagull* and *The Crucible* broadcast in the Friarage Theatre. I very much enjoyed reading Eleanor Madden's review of *The Crucible* of the play: 'with the ever-present ecclesiastical music and the choral death chants of the young girls, who hang over the opening scene like ghosts, the whole produces an undeniable eerie and ominous mood.' We are very lucky to be a chosen broadcast centre for

National Theatre Live, and I'd love to see even more of our students taking advantage of this brilliant opportunity. I was thrilled when launching next year's Fifth Year play (*The Merchant of Venice*) to see around 20% of the year group turn up for audition material to take part in a Shakespeare production, and remain delighted that every year a new Sixth Form Reading Group forms to meet weekly to discuss writers as various as William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, John Donne, Brian Friel, Carol Churchill and Toni Morrison. At the other end of the school, we managed to cram the whole of the First Year into the PAA with other local schools for a visit from five local authors and Mrs Dugdale took a wonderful group of Key Stage Three pupils to Conyers School to discuss the novels shortlisted for the Carnegie

Award with some of their students. The Shine School Media Awards provided a real highlight at the end of the year too, with our department magazine, *The Dovecote*, either winning or being highly commended in five national awards, including Best Non Fiction Writer, Best Fiction Writer, Best Photograph, Best Business Strategy and Best Piece on Freedom of Speech. I'm very grateful to Ms Breslin for her work coordinating the magazine, and to Poppy Bell and Annabel Cochrane who have done a really brilliant job as its lead editors. Ms Breslin will be on maternity leave next year, and we wish her all the very best. Warmest wishes also go to Mrs Picknett and Mrs Lund, both of whom are retiring. I'd like to wish them well, and thank them sincerely for their valued contributions to the English department.

Mr L Gilbert



## PERFECT ADDITIONS

It's been another busy year for the department. Our new staff, Mr Bridle, Mrs Perks and Dr Barnett, have been very well received by staff and pupils alike. They have assimilated well into our weird and wonderful ways and have helped carry the torch in our passion for the subject.

Take up with A Level Maths and Further Maths has been better than ever with nearly 120 pupils studying the subjects across both year groups. Our annual maths camp at Carlton Adventure Centre was a great success. Watching nearly 60 pupils devour 16+ hours of maths without wavering was a sight to behold.

The Maths Mentoring programme ran smoothly and my thanks to those Sixth Form students who showed such patience, reliability and understanding with our Fifth Year, it was lovely to see the pairs working together. Oxbridge Maths Mentoring with Mr Taylor has seen some enthusiastic pupils who have engaged well with this challenging level of maths. Our Monday maths clinics have also been extremely well attended this year - nearly 500 pupil hours of additional maths, with some weeks attendance exceeding 40 pupils.

We say goodbye to a motivated group of pupils

in the Upper Sixth as well as our diversely talented Fifth Years and hope that they will continue to visit.

It is with a tear in our eyes that we will be bidding farewell to our senior mathematician Mrs Guest, who has been with us for an incredible 21 years. Her passion for the subject and the outdoors will be hugely missed by our pupils and staff. Her compassionate approach to life has been very grounding for us all. She has shown such thoughtfulness and dedication to all, from the sunflower seeds given to pupils in lockdown to the gifts for colleagues. Mr Addison takes on the



mantle as the senior mathematician.

To my department, thank you for your monumental efforts this year and to all our leavers, good luck and come back and see us!

Mr D Yates



## 2023 UKMT

As we come to the end of the yearly cycle of Maths Challenges run by the UK Mathematics Trust we can reflect back on another very successful year. A total of two hundred and seventy eight Maths challenges were taken, so there were many collective hours spent puzzling over interesting Maths problems with nothing but a pencil and a brain to help!

A high-point came when 100 pupils from Second to Fifth Year took over the Princess Alexandra Auditorium due to such high interest in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Results have also been excellent with one hundred and eighty eight certificates

achieved in the main challenges; 35 Gold, 75 Silver and 78 Bronze. Twenty five pupils progressed to the follow-on rounds in their respective challenges with 21 Kangaroo entries and 4 Olympiad entries. The Mathematical Olympiads are designed to test the very brightest young mathematicians in the country and we have had some great successes with these this year. Abdelrahman Ellidir, Patrick Winters and Ajay

Selvan achieved two Merits and a Distinction between them, with Abdelrahman winning a medal for the second year in a row, putting him in the top 30 participants nationwide and winning him an invite to a Maths Challenge training camp which could see him on course to represent the UK in international Mathematical competitions. Well done to everyone who participated in the challenges this year and we look forward to another year of puzzling challenges and certificates achieved.





# FUN IN PHYSICS

It has been a busy year for Physics. The Physics Society activity saw pupils and students from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth take on unusual practical work, such as measuring the wavelength of light by shining a LASER on a ruler, working collaboratively across the age range to share data and visualise in real time. Particular highlights included finding the position of our own centre of mass using only a bathroom scale and a ruler, and measuring the resolution of our eyes.

Six certificates of Merit in the British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) Senior Challenge (Upper Sixth) were awarded to Edward Adams, Izzy Blackburn, Lilian Dufton, Liam Green, Felix Humphrys, and Callum Sanderson. Liam and Felix were tied for Best in School. These are excellent achievements putting these students amongst the best candidates in the country.

The BPhO Practical challenge was also on offer this year. This is a national competition where students have to independently investigate a practical physics situation from a brief and write a laboratory report. The

competition was entered by two teams of Lower Sixth students: Keya Shah and James Bannar-Martin, and James Waine, Alfie King, and Oscar Buckley. Both teams did very well investigating crater formation on a dry powder surface, such as that found on the Moon; we thought both reports were strong and represented excellent laboratory practice. It was pleasing to see so much of the learning from the A Level practical course being deployed. The investigations were thorough, uncertainty was considered, and data were presented appropriately. Risk assessments featured in both reports. Both reports showed clear thought and care had gone into gathering accurate data. The winning report was by Keya and James, but the standard was very high from both teams.

Lower Sixth students earned a School record of twenty four medal certificates in the BPhO Year 12 Challenge, including Oscar Buckley, Daniel Elwell, Reuben Peat, Keya Shah (Best in School), and James Waine at Silver level. This was a demanding paper and our students once again fared well



against the national average. Several Lower and Upper Sixth students are also taking part in the BPhO Computational Challenge, which is still ongoing at the time of writing.

I was delighted to see several students use their Extended Project Qualification for furthering their knowledge of Physics. The detailed investigation into the possibility of time travel by Emily Miller was especially noteworthy, featuring accessible analysis of some of the most demanding concepts in the subject. Also in the Spring Term Ffion Roberts and Chloe Godfrey attended an astrophysics event organised by the York Astronomical Society featuring live stargazing and expert lectures.

The annual Physics Olympics for Year 8 pupils saw Second Years Hatim Khan, Christina Lin, Bhargav Mannan, Minakshi Palat-Meethale travel to St Peter's

School in York with Mr Burns to take part in a series of practical challenges. The team had been selected by an audition process similar to the challenges in the competition itself. Despite not winning, the team learned a lot and delivered some pleasing results.

Engineering is a key discipline attracting many Physics students. Our new Engineering activity has proven to be very popular; open to all ages, a packed laboratory has seen innovation, design, success, failure, and teamwork thanks to Mr Addison's challenging design problems. Building a machine to lift an object over a barrier with just rulers, string, and other bits and pieces led to a wide range of solutions including an articulated crane and a transporter bridge style rig.

.....  
*Mr P Prideaux*

## ExCEL 2022-23

The Extension, Culture, Enrichment, and Learning course provides students in Sixth Form with the opportunity to explore an interest in depth via the Extended Project Qualification, as well as learning about how to learn, to research, present ideas, to argue, and to evaluate.

This year saw a record number of projects submitted by Upper Sixth including some of the most impressive pieces of work I have seen to date. Especially notable

amongst the artefacts were the amazing album of songs composed, performed, and recorded by Tegan Addison, an outstanding charity event planned by Katherine Henley, and several superb textile projects especially that from Phoebe Richardson. There were also many outstanding essays submitted, too numerous to mention here.

Lower Sixth students engaged in a debate exploring the benefits and harms of smartphones, as well as researching a question of their choice and presenting to their peers in class. There are excellent projects

underway, some already completed, in Lower Sixth including the successful charity concert organised and hosted by Cassie Woodier.

Sixth Form Tutorial time wouldn't be complete without the ever popular Quiz of the Week, organised and written by Dr Goodall. If my own Tutees are anything to go by, the quiz fosters friendly competition and an awareness of the wider world featuring news stories from the week, sometimes even from the same day.

This year also saw the return of the Schools' Challenge Quiz open to players from

Fourth Year to Upper Sixth. Our team of Will Craggs, Josh McGeary, Mae Kempster, Sam Corbishley, and Noah Filer took on a University Challenge style quiz, held via Google Meet. We won our first round against Alcester convincingly 390 to 180. Our second round was against Lancaster Grammar - the game was even throughout but the gong went just as Lancaster went in front on the last question. Nevertheless a great showing from our team; I'm sure we will be seeing our younger players again in this competition.

.....  
*Mr P Prideaux*

# Sampling the Lake District

Lower Sixth biologists travelled to the Lake District in the Summer Term for a 3 day residential fieldwork trip. The students had the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of fieldwork techniques and put them into practice whilst out in the stunning Lake District National Park.

During the Friday afternoon session, students were taught the basic principles of sampling - using quadrats to estimate populations of different grass species and the importance of representative data collection. They made good use of the recreation facilities - organising their own basketball tournament on the on-site basketball court which proved popular amongst the group.

Saturday was a full day of fieldwork - starting bright and early, the group headed out to the Blencathra Moors to study conservation before heading to St John's Beck down in the valley to learn about freshwater

sampling. The students had the opportunity to complete required practical work - using choice chambers with freshwater shrimp to identify their preferred environment.

Back at the centre, students learnt about Mark Release Recapture and had the opportunity to use this technique to estimate the pond snail population size in the centre's pond. Students also set Longworth traps overnight in an attempt to survey the small mammal population.

On Sunday morning, students were delighted to have captured some mice and voles in their Longworth traps - they released them back into the woods before setting off back to the river to complete their own investigations using the wide variety of techniques they had learnt the day before.

It was a jam packed few days in the field - thank you to FSC Blencathra for their hospitality and to the staff at the centre for their expertise.

.....  
*Mr T Newman*



# Champions of Chemistry

The Chemistry department enjoyed an extremely successful 2022-23. As well as celebrating some of its best ever public examination results, young chemists from Yarm also made their mark in national competitions.

On Saturday 25th March a team of four young chemists from Yarm travelled to The University of East London to compete in the national finals of the Royal Society of Chemistry's "Top of the Bench" competition. The team of Arshia Arora, Isaac Akowuah, Abdelrahman Ellidir and Harvey Qin won through to the national round after they were crowned Champions of the Teesside section just before Christmas. The students competed against other regional winners in tests and a practical activity before the overall national champions were crowned. Despite a fantastic effort the team weren't able to break

into the Top 6, however, they should be extremely proud of their achievements.

Upper Sixth students competed in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad. Izzy Blackburn achieved Yarm's highest ever score and narrowly missed out on being in the top 30 students nationally, an exceptional performance. Matthew Anthony and Siya Puthuraya also achieved highly impressive Gold awards.

Students in the Lower Sixth had to wait until the Summer Term to take part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. 18 students completed the challenge with some really good scores achieved.

With other strong performances in all year groups in Chemistry we are looking forward to another exciting year in the department next year.

.....  
*Mr E Baker*





"HISTORY IS A JANGLE OF ACCIDENTS, BLUNDERS, SURPRISES AND ABSURDITIES, AND SO IS OUR KNOWLEDGE OF IT, BUT IF WE ARE TO REPORT IT AT ALL WE MUST IMPOSE SOME ORDER UPON IT."

Henry Steele Commager, American historian (1902-1998)

# HONOURING HISTORY

The History Department has had a productive and eventful year. Inside the classroom, First Year pupils have undertaken our new curriculum, looking at History thematically by exploring the impact of conflict and religion on society. The course began with Alfred the Great and the Vikings before addressing key case studies in History such as the Reformation, English Civil War and the impact of Total War in the 20th Century on society. First Year pupils enjoyed retracing the route taken by Royalist soldiers during the 1643 Battle of Yarm, a significant event in the English Civil War. Second Year pupils studied the Early Modern era, closely examining societal changes in Europe, such as the Reformation and European colonisation. Third Year pupils have delved into the 20th Century, analysing the impacts of the World Wars, the Suffragette Movement, and the contributions of colonial soldiers as well as de-colonisation.

Outside the classroom, pupils had the opportunity to engage with history through various activities. They participated in the History

Society, where different presenters shared their insights each week under the guidance of Mr Morrison.

As part of the department's extracurricular program, pupils also attended several lectures throughout the year. In October, a number of them heard from Professor Sarah Ansari at Newcastle University she spoke on 'The Partition of India 75 years on'. She examined the break up of India and Pakistan at Independence in 1947 and looked at how it was an event of global significance that triggered the largest single population displacement of the twentieth century. In January students travelled to York University where they heard from renowned popular historian Greg Jenner. Greg spoke about his work as a British public historian with a particular interest in communicating History through pop culture.

In commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, students participated in the University of York's annual event, led by keynote speaker Professor Rebecca Clifford. She spoke in depth about her new book 'survivors'. She

explored the aftermath of the Holocaust and revealed how these children, often branded "the lucky ones", had to struggle to be able to call themselves "survivors" at all.

In November, Sixth Form students attended our annual History Society banquet at Lumley Castle. Below is an extract of the review of the evening from one of our students: "We got the chance to explore the 14th Century site and observe a variety of artefacts, from collections of Japanese and Chinese pottery to busts of Cleopatra and Julius Caesar. Despite the pouring rain, the magnificence and grandeur of the location was beautiful and steeped in history. The first reader spoke about Alfred the Great, which then led in an interactive discussion, comparing Alfred with other monarchs. The next reader took on the Magna Carta, leading a debate on whether it was to be celebrated in the modern world. We then discussed the role of individuals like Oliver Cromwell and Charles II and it was in these discussions where aspects of other subjects were used to compare, the

students from Classics using their knowledge of Augustus, and the steps he took in consolidating his power. Our last main topic of conversation, possibly the most lively and interactive debate, was the question, "Can Monarchy survive the future?". We explored both the importance of the monarchy," and its impact on culture, as well as the possibility of there being no monarchy. To support our delivery of the GCSE curriculum we also took the Fifth Years to York to help them understand the historic environment of Yorkshire. Pupils visited York Minster, Cliffords Tower, and St Mary's Priory as well as walking a portion of the city walls. Finally, in June, the Lower Sixth successfully defeated Conyers in an inter-school History debate proposing the motion 'this house believes that communism as a political ideology can never work in practice'.

Overall, it was a very busy and successful year. We are already looking forward to next year!

Mr T Taylor



History / Geography

## Getting involved in Geography

In September, the Geography Department launched 'Junior Geography Society'.

This has been a year where younger pupils (First to Third Year) have been able to expand their knowledge, understanding and love of Geography in a fun and interactive way.

Throughout the year pupils have had the opportunity to explore the world around them using Virtual Reality headsets, use arts and crafts to represent different cultures, take part in competitions and quizzes, attend lectures and talks by both students and external speakers.

One of the highlights was achieving funding from the YSA to create a mini rainforest in the classroom. Working with the Estates Team, the

pupils were able to build a planter box from recycled materials and then plant a range of different sized plants to represent the different layers of the rainforest. As part of the bid the pupils are currently creating a large 3D map that shows different climate zones of the world.

Pupils take an active role in planning and deliverering sessions and ideas. One suggestion from the Society was to have two Geography trips, the first will happen in Easter 2024 with a Lower School trip (First and Second Year) to The Bay of Naples, Italy and the second in October 2024 to see the wonders of Iceland (Third - Sixth Form).

Mr R Ivey







## Reflections on Religion

It has been an exciting year for the Religion, Philosophy & Ethics Department. In the Autumn Term, pupils in Third Year wrote some excellent responses to the question 'the (religious and historical) identity of a people/country is created by those in power' for the RPE & History 'Cogito' Competition and were awarded with Amazon vouchers for their efforts. Some pupils have also bravely sought to attempt the termly challenges for RPE and many pupils of all year groups put forward their entries for the RPE journal Reflections on the theme 'Sanctity of Life'.

We have also had a range of trips and visits this year. A group of Fifth Year RPE pupils attended a Masterclass day of lectures at Our Lady and St Bede School in Stockton, given by the renowned philosopher Dr Peter Vardy. The talks included a variety of thought provoking topics: the ethics of decision making and good vs evil; the ethics of things such as AI rights, reproductive technology, genetic alteration, and the debate of sanctity over quality of life. With

reference to Aristotle, Singer, St Thomas Aquinas, and multiple religious viewpoints, the pupils engaged with many interesting theories that will hopefully help them in their GCSE and A Level Religious Studies. Pupils in Fifth Year studying RS GCSE also enjoyed a trip to Newcastle Temple and Newcastle Cathedral. They had the opportunity to look around the temple, consolidating their understanding of Hindu beliefs about God and then they asked the Hindu priest a variety of questions. We observed their morning worship, called Arti. In the Cathedral, we joined in on a Eucharist Church service and then asked the female priest a range of interesting questions about Christianity. The trip then ended with a tour of the cathedral. The pupils got to further their understanding of Hindu and Christian beliefs and practices and it was an excellent opportunity to experience the worship firsthand.

The Sixth Form RS A Level students attended a conference at St Peter's School in York, where they attended a series

of lectures by philosopher Dr Peter Vardy. The students listened to talks about God and morality, arguments for and against religious experience, the nature of God's attributes and secularism, which culminated in a debate 'this house believes that God exists'. The students made detailed notes, participated in the discussion and had a valuable experience for their A Level Religious Studies course.

The RPE department has also welcomed a visit from the Tees Valley Community Church who offered sessions on Christian creation, and Christian beliefs and practices. They spoke to a First Year class and two GCSE classes about Christianity and broke out into small groups allowing the students to ask challenging questions.

The year culminated in an exciting Interfaith Day in June for the First Years, with local faith leaders visiting Yarm and leading interactive sessions to each teaching group.

Mrs S Lodge



## HEAD TO HEAD

The annual House Chess Competition sees teams of 7 consisting of one player from each year group going head-to-head against their peers in best-of-7 matches. The fixtures were live-streamed this year, for the first time, allowing the rest of the school community to tune in to watch!

The first semi final pitched Cuthbert against Aidan in a tight match, with Cuthbert taking the win due to the greater weighting given to boards contested by older players.

Oswald played Bede in the second semi-final, which also turned out to be a very close match. The match was tied at 3-3 when Isla Close sealed a late checkmate to secure an overall win for Bede.

Aidan and Oswald played out yet another very close match for third place. Ashwin Amitharaj completed a match-winning checkmate on the

Upper Sixth board, with just seconds left on the clock, to secure a 4-3 victory and third place for Aidan.

In an exciting Cuthbert-Bede final, the first two boards to finish were shared, with convincing

wins for Cuthbert's Aditya Paul and Bede's Thiyaash Thinesh. Diviyan Thayalan and Ameen Khunda secured wins soon after to put Cuthbert 3-1 up and one away from victory. With hard-fought contests, between Adhithyan Dinakaran and Ankith Rangan, and between Ihsaan Mahmood and Benedict Francis, looking highly likely

to end in draws, it was down to Avanish Batra to get over the line to win Cuthbert the trophy. Final score 5-2; Cuthbert are champions again!

Mr L Tucker



## COMPUTING GETS COMPETITIVE

Computing has witnessed outstanding results and unprecedented success in various competitions, truly showcasing the talent and dedication of our pupils.

### Triumphs in the Bebras Challenge

Pupils have embraced the opportunity to participate in various national competitions, pushing their boundaries and showcasing their skills on a broader platform. In the prestigious Bebras Challenge, 219 Yarm pupils went head-to-head with over 340,000 pupils from across the country. A remarkable 52 of our pupils ranked among the top 10% nationally, earning them a coveted invitation to participate in the renowned Oxford University Computing Challenge. Congratulations to Ewan Paul, Thomas Pritchard, Euan White, Katie Melvin, Patrick Winters, and James Waine for their remarkable achievement of Best in School in the Junior, Intermediate, Senior, and Elite categories. Notably, Patrick Winters secured joint first place in the Senior category, surpassing an impressive pool of 37,310 competitors.

### Success at the Oxford University Computing Challenge

The journey continued as Yarm pupils pitted their skills against more than 20,000 pupils nationwide in the Oxford University Computing Challenge. Luke Palmer and Abdelrahman Ellidir earned a Merit, while Patrick Winters achieved a well-deserved Distinction. Patrick's exceptional performance led him to qualify for the National Final in the Intermediate category, where he secured an impressive second place, scoring 56 out of 80 points in the face of gruelling programming challenges.

### Triumph in the Perse Coding Team Challenge

Demonstrating their ability to collaborate and thrive as a team, 38 Yarm pupils showcased

their skills in the Perse Coding Team Challenge. Ten pupils advanced to the final round, with Arshia Arora, Yusuf Syed, and Patrick Winters leading the way. Their stellar performance earned them a Distinction, and their team secured an impressive 7th place out of 640 teams nationwide.

Mr P Collins





# Let's do lunch

**T**hese sessions are a fantastic opportunity for students to learn from the expertise and experience of Former Pupils and friends of the school in an informal 'working lunch' setting.

We are incredibly grateful to the speakers, who were all generous with their time and candid in their comments and advice. They talked about everything from their experience making applications for internships, apprenticeships or job roles; their experience setting up new businesses, details on what their specific job roles have entailed on a day-to-day basis, and giving insight into how a wide range of companies and institutions in the sector operate.

We look forward to next year's Working Lunches with excitement!

■ **Aditya Choudhury** talked about his internship at a European Investment bank and his placement at Lazard in Mergers and Acquisitions.

■ **Josh Littler** discussed his successful application to the EY Academy and subsequent offer on the EY Apprenticeship programme.

■ **Nikhil Krishna** gave insight into his Economics and Management degree at Oxford, advice on internships and talked about his current job at OC&C Strategy Consultants in London.

■ **Dheeraj Viswanath** shared his expertise in the Energy and Utilities sector and the current energy landscape in the UK.

■ **Alice Tilly** talked about her life working for

PwC in the very beautiful St Helier, specialising in Audit.

■ **Gavin Cordwell-Smith** discussed how The Hellens Group has expanded and adapted to changing market conditions and the pros and cons of working for and now running a family owned SME.

■ **Matt Nixon** advised on how to make all experiences count, emphasising the value firms place on applicants being different, and shared some of his career highs from all over the world until his current position as a partner in a London-based advertising agency.

■ **Matthew Heathcote** and **Suneil Sidhu** talked about the challenges of University and the differences between school and undergraduate study.

■ **Finlay Gilrairie** advised on the PwC degree apprenticeship, discussed life in Belfast, work-life balance and whether a typical working day with PwC exists.

■ **Jamie Pender** gave insight into the application process to become an Economics Apprentice at HM Treasury, along with a real taste of how interesting his days are.

■ **Olivia Weatherhead** discussed her role as an operational consultant at Newton Europe – a management consultancy who focus on operational improvement across the Public Sector, Defence and in Consumer Businesses.

■ **Graham Robb** shared intriguing insights into running

his company, Recognition PR.

■ **Martin Anderson** and **Lesley Wratten** explained how they had started and grown Lemon Business Solutions, who provide business process outsourcing services to engineering, technical and care sectors.

■ **Abishek Naguleswaran** talked about becoming an investment professional and how to break into finance, especially for a role in the buy-side.

■ **Daniel Orlopp** gave a fair and balanced appraisal of the apprenticeship programme he is currently on with EY and an insight into what it is really like working for one of "The Big Four".



## RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

**T**wenty four students competed in the oversubscribed Yarm Apprentice competition this year - the 11th year of the Yarm Apprentice!

Competitors faced five challenges:

- developing a mocktail for the new Yarm Heritage Centre,
- sourcing, stocking and manning a Christmas themed stall at the YSA Christmas Market,
- adding value to miscellany from Primark to raise money for good causes,
- developing a recruitment strategy for a local business, and,
- producing resources to enrich the experience of Year 5 pupils on their trip to London!

Each challenge brought them into tense Boardrooms in front of one of five different Lord Sugars.

They worked in teams, led on tasks, were creative, juggled workloads and encountered conflict. They developed new skills, received pitch training courtesy of Darlington Building Society, and raised £1162.33 for charities of their choosing!

The winner of Yarm Apprentice 2023 was **Ollie Best!** Runner up was **Harry Rodwell.**

Peer Voted prizes were awarded to:

- **Arhana Pradeep** as outstanding team player across all tasks.
- **Harry Rodwell** as most creative individual across all tasks.
- **Ollie Best** as outstanding leader across all tasks.

YA will be back next year... Who will be the winner of YA 2024?

Miss C E Rhodes



## FAME AT THE FAIR

**F**ourteen Lower Sixth students, all interested in Finance, Accounting, Management or Economics, opted for the FAME activity during the Summer Term.

The activity offers advice on courses, support on personal statements, the application process and much more.

The students acted as mentors to groups of Year 6 pupils, guiding and supporting them as they prepared for their own enterprise task - running a stall at the Prep Summer Fair.

The culmination of several weeks of business mentoring saw the students actively involved with everything from setting up the stalls and preparing materials to crisis management when rain threatened!

The outstanding FAME mentors, as determined by the Prep School, were Harry, Nathan, Arhana and Ella - well done! We are proud of all our mentors for their hard work and commitment and we hope they enjoyed this valuable experience.



*"Ollie was good at effectively delivering in accordance with the brief and getting the best out of people in his group"*

*"Ollie listened to the whole team and included everyone."*

*"Ollie was good at crisis management"*

*"Ollie was good at communicating with the team"*





# ROW AND GO!

It has been another action-packed year for the Yarm School Boat Club.

It is only when we take a break for the summer holidays that you realise how many events the Boat Club was involved in, how many miles were covered and how much training and coaching was undertaken. Crews have competed nationwide. Success at the longer winter Head races, both locally and nationally, was the basis for a successful summer regatta season. The Tyne News Year's Head started 2023 very successfully with 4 wins in a variety of categories from J16 to J18. Some of our younger athletes took on the shorter 1800m course at Durham SBH. Winding their way through Elvet Bridge –

a rather large obstacle in the middle of the course – the girls' J16 double scull of Cecily Deering and Sophie Jewitt sculled very well to win their event in a very competitive field. For the J14 and J15 crews, this was their first taste of competition this year and the girls' J15 coxed quad of Megan Hull, Zaara Soni, Darcey Allcock, Zara Stoker and ably steered through the bridge by Lydia Wain produced a great row to win their event.

Meanwhile some of our senior athletes were trialling for a place at the GB Easter training camp by competing at Boston in the second of the trials events over the 5km course. Both Harriet White and Archie Norton made it through to the GB Early Assessment camp, but unfortunately the gruelling nature of this event took its toll on both athletes and they didn't progress any further. Nevertheless this was a very good achievement and Archie still has one more year as a junior rower.

Easter is probably one of the busiest times for the Boat Club. Over the course of a three-week holiday period, pupils took part in a variety of events. The annual Easter training camp was this year held in Nottingham at the

National Water Sports Centre where rowers trained on the 2000m course. Although at times windy, our athletes were not perturbed by the rough water. This was promptly followed by the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta held in Nottingham. This event saw Yarm making up most of the Yorkshire Regional team. From Junior 14 to Junior 16, this gave the younger rowers the opportunity to race other rowers from all over the country.

The Coronation weekend saw racing at Durham City Regatta, with many rowers taking home Coronation medals. Side by side racing is always exciting and the weekend saw seven wins for Yarm with a further five crews losing in the final. Six days later it was our own local Tees Regatta, the only multi lane event in the North with a four laned 850m buoyed course giving all crews another type of racing experience. The crew of Izadin Qasem, Ollie Holmes, Ethan Stannard, Will Craggs and Bakaer Noble won both the open coxed four and the J18 event, before combining with the J16 boys to win the eights. Other wins during the day were from the senior girls' coxed four,

the girls' J16 coxless quad, the girls' J15 coxed four and the girls' J14 coxed quad.

While Tees Regatta was happening, the senior boys' quad of Archie Norton, Harry Wildridge, Will Woodhead and Deacon Laverick were competing at Nottingham City Regatta. Their first race was the J18 event where they sculled very well to finish third. Having learnt a lot from that race they then raced the open men's coxless quads and took the win in impressive style.

The National Schools' Regatta is always the major focus of the regatta season. Held at Eton Dorney it has become the premier junior event in the country as the British Junior Championships is held after a lot of schools have broken up. It was hoped that some of our crews might be on the medal podium, as the boys' J15 crew had done last year, but it was not to be. The girls' J18 coxless four of Emily Dunn, Cordelia Deering, Harriet White and Lilian Dufton had a tremendous time trial, but could not replicate that performance in the semi-final and A final. Similarly, the boys' J18 coxless quad found their event very difficult but showed grit and determination

to qualify for the B final out of finals A-E. The girls' J18 coxed four of Kitty Brown, Hannah Stewart, Eve Kempster, Storm Smith and cox Dani Devlin, also qualified for the B final, having faced equally tough competition.

The most prestigious local regatta has to be Durham Regatta. Winning here and being presented with trophies at the Gala Theatre is a great occasion. All our crews performed incredibly well, with several wins over the weekend and the senior crews beating much older opposition from Leeds, Durham University and Newcastle University. The rumours circulating around the riverbank, again this year, was that they may only be school pupils but do not underestimate them, coining the phrase that the losing crew had been 'Yarmed'.

Henley Women's Regatta is now a very prestigious event, being the first event on the Henley course that is laid out for Henley Royal Regatta. Due to the exam timetable, only one

crew from Yarm was able to enter. The coxed four of Lilian Dufton, Harriet White, Cordelia Deering, Emily Dunn and coxed by Dani Devlin, had a super time trial to qualify for the top eight in the event. Unfortunately the draw put them against the eventual finalists and they lost by two lengths. This was an exciting race and Yarm School were very much in contention all the way down the course.

Qualifying a boat for Henley Royal Regatta is not an easy task and not in an event where there are 60 other crews vying for so few places. Once again, the boys' J18 coxless quad were determined to qualify for the Fawley Challenge Cup having narrowly missed out last year. However, in their time trial they caught up to two crews ahead of them who wouldn't give water and narrowly missed out on qualification after an appeal.

The last event of the summer season was at Strathclyde Park – the British Junior Championships.

Only two crews entered due to holiday commitments. Archie Norton and Harry Wildridge combined in a double scull in the boys' J18 event and following their time trial they qualified for the A Final. The girls' J18 coxless four also qualified for their A Final after a gutsy time trial. However, in very challenging conditions, neither boat managed a podium finish, the girls finishing 4th just outside the medals and their last event together and the boys finishing 6th. These were very good results with crews attending from all over the country and Ireland.

It has been another tremendous year for Yarm with wins in all age categories and so many pupils wanting to row. The Summer Camp and Learn to Row courses over the holidays are fully subscribed. And after a six week break it will all start again, but this time until new leadership.

The Boat Club will welcome Mr Tom Kennett, following Mr Guest's retirement and there will be new coaches, following Mrs Lund's retirement and Mr Shaw leaving for pastures new.

It is always nice to follow what some of our rowing alumni are doing and this year Sarah Portsmouth, rowing for Thames RC in the Wargrave Challenge Cup, won a Henley Royal Regatta medal. It may be only a little red box, but they are very much coveted. And Jack Norton, rowing for the University of Bath has been selected for the England team as the men's lightweight single sculler – his first international vest. Two great achievements from two former pupils who started their rowing careers at Yarm.

Mrs A Lund



Rowing







# Finishing Strong

Our Senior teams led by Belle Woodhead and Katherine Henley have had a good season. The 1st XI beat Queen Ethelburga's convincingly, 4-0, in the first round of the cup, but the second round saw them come up against a very strong Sedbergh team who ended our cup hopes. Our focus turned to the National Competitions where our 1st XI finished second in the Area Finals and fourth at the North East Finals and also competed in the Indoor Regional Finals with a very young but eager side. The girls are now competing at the indoor and outdoor regional tournaments year in year out and this consistency

is something that they should be proud of. The second team have been a real force to be reckoned with, finishing the season with strong performances, dominating teams like Barnard Castle (9-0) and GSAL (5-0). As well as being part of the Seniors 1st and 2nd XI sides the U16s also had their own shot at indoor and outdoor National Finals. Indoor saw us compete at the regional tournament in Bradford where we finished an incredible 4th with a young side. The outdoor competition started in September where the girls comfortably won the Cleveland County Championships. They progressed to the

Area and then the North East Finals, where they finished a respectable fourth place after losing to the eventual winners in the semi-finals. In the U15 ISHC National Cup Competition, the U15s started off in style with a resounding 10-1 win over Wakefield. The second round saw us face local rivals RGS Newcastle and it went down to the wire with a controversial umpire call but this is where our cup ended. The girls have had some very good results throughout the season, for the first time entering the U16 county tournament. This saw them compete against U16 sides on the first step to the National Competition, and they finished second only to our own U16 side and qualified for the U16 Area Finals! There they played out of their skin to finish second in their group and reach the semi-finals - what an accomplishment! Since this great season the girls have also been competing in the Duham Ladies Indoor League where they came third. They have also played in the Indoor Hockey Grand Slam in Derby where they finished seventh overall after playing and beating big club sides such as Guilford, Telford & Wrekin

and Stone HC. I am proud of their commitment and dedication and look forward to working with this group again next year. The U14s started their Nationals run at the Cleveland County Tournament in September. Their first place finish in the County tournament saw us enter the Tier 1 competition at the Area Finals competing against some of the best in the North East. The girls competed well and were undefeated in the competition but unfortunately this was not enough to progress to the next round. The girls, understandably disappointed, have made great progress and have continued to do so playing in the U16 local league. Izzy McGlade has been a brick wall in goal after really improving her angles. Jemima Fleming is a work horse in the middle and does great work for her team whatever is asked of her and Mara Morrison, Sabie Anderson and Tilly Pallent-Home have built a good understanding and link up well together in the midfield and going forward. There is a lot of potential in this team and we are only starting to scratch the surface of it.

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Our U13C team played in the U13B league, led by Caitlin Anderson and Danai Mawoko. Our U13B&C teams also competed in the U13B County tournament, with the C team earning a third place finish overall, and the B team, led by Bella Yang and Lucy Oliver, winning every game to take home the trophy! A combination of A and B team players also came together to play in the 11-a-side U14 league, this league went down to a final after finishing joint on points with Red House U14 team. The final was tense and the game went to penalty shuffles. This saw our attackers finish some lovely goals but the hero of the day was Gillian Teoh who made some awesome saves keeping out shots from one of the best U14 players in the area. What an achievement for an U13 team finishing second in an U14 league! They have had a stellar season first winning the pre-season tournament and beating teams like St Peter's and Dame Allan's. Unfortunately our cup run was cut short losing in the second round again to a strong GSAL team but this pushed the girls on to work hard and keep improving their game. In our Nationals run - first in the U14 T2 competition - we advanced to the U14 T2 Area and North East Finals finishing 4th overall. In the U13 competition we progressed through the Cleveland County round with ease scoring freely and conceding none. This then led to the Area Finals at Durham University where the girls got to showcase their skills against the rest of the best in the area, finishing first and gaining a place in the North East Finals. The North East Finals at Leeds University were a straight semi-final and final and we met GSAL in the semi-final, a team we lost to in

the cup but we went into the day confident. Unfortunately, this was not to be, the girls gave a good account of themselves to finish the game 5-4, a loss but a real show of their actual ability and what they can do on a hockey pitch. They finished 4th overall and this was another great experience for this talented group and I can't wait to see what the 11-a-side version of the game holds! Our U12 squads have had a very strong year to start their Yarm playing careers. Our A, B and C teams have all been playing either older or higher level opposition in the local leagues. Our U12 A team played in the U13A league learning the game quickly and progressing well they finished third in the league. Our U12 B team led by Neev Sahoo and Yuhe Tian played in the U12A league and won after beating Red House U12A team in the final on shuffles! The U12C team played in the U12B league and finished third after some good wins against Teesside High, Egglecliffe and Macmillan. Our squads also competed in the Cleveland County Tournament with the U12B teams competing in the U12A tournament finishing 2nd respectively and the U12C competing in the U12B tournament finishing 2nd. The U12A team competed at the U13A tournament which was a real test of their skill and game play. The girls finished the year with a clean sweep of wins in the indoor competitions. Well done! Lastly, can I say a massive thankyou to all my colleagues who make this all possible, your dedication, expertise and enthusiasm make the season what it is and myself and the teams really appreciate everything you do.

Miss N Hodgson

## Girls' Hockey



### Girls' Hockey: Most improved

Rosie Ferguson U12	Ella Fitzgerald U12
Sophia Rudd U15	Anna Grimbley U13
Rose Korsen 1st XI	Nicole Lambert 2nd XI
Emma White U13	Tilly Pallent-Home U14
Jessica Flannery U12	Edie Redhead-Sweeney U12
Amelia Hudson U14	Cody Staggs U15
	Gillian Teoh U13

### Girls' Hockey: Team of the Season

Isla Close U12	Emma Scott U12
Sophie Hall U15	Amelie Saver U13
Scarlett Carton 1st XI	Izzy Blackburn 2nd XI
Zoe Wild U13	Sabie Anderson U14
Yuhe Tian U12	Aisling Timmons U12
Katie Melvin U14	Alice Ward U15
	Lucy Mitchell U13

### County representatives

- Monica Pallent-Home
- Aisling Timmons
- Isla Close
- Lily Cook
- Rosie Cook
- Rosie Ferguson
- Anushri Wadehra
- Immie Mulgrew
- Ava Holmes
- Sienna Hyndman
- Erin Jackson
- Lucy Mitchell
- Zoe Wild
- Amelie Sawyer
- Ava Ryan
- Sabie Anderson
- Isobel McGlade
- Gracie Rhodes-Hildreth
- Tilly Pallent-Home
- Manya Rajeeva
- Katie Melvin
- Ellie Melvin
- Cody Staggs
- Poppy Bell
- Isabella Brown
- Poppy Faulkner
- Pippa Ferguson
- Sophia Rudd
- Alice Ward
- Sophie Hall
- Summer Hyndman
- Miriam Akowuah
- Rosie Faulkner
- Emma Foster
- Tilly Gilrairie
- Harriet Jackson
- Annabel Lacy
- Lexie Townsley
- Izzie Speight
- Cara McMurray
- Indeya Hewison

### Performance Centre and Challenge Cup

- Mara Morrison
- Belle Woodhead





# TALENTED

**B**efore the season began, there was amazing news to report with a number of pupils representing Durham Performance Centre in the Challenge Cup competition in Nottingham.

These included James McGee for the U17s and Max Mowbray, Oscar Thomas and Jake Leader for the U15s. All of our players there played well and made a significant contribution. The Challenge Cup formed part of the selection process for the England age group teams and both Max Mowbray and Timmy Foley were invited to the England U16 assessments.

Will Ferguson finished his England U16 cycle with great performances and goals against Scotland and Germany in July and made his National League Debut for Durham University at the age of 15. Many other boys continued to develop and improve their games through senior club hockey with 1st XI captain and vice captain (Dan Walters & Joe Roberts) representing Stockton HC in the North Premier League joined by Foley and Mowbray.

The final outdoor hockey stats read an impressive 115 games were played with 96 wins, 6 draws and only 13 defeats. A total of 487 goals were scored and only 106 were conceded!

In the indoor version of the game, the boys played a total of 54 games, won 44 and lost 10 scoring 260 goals in the process whilst conceding 111.

The U14, U16 and U18 teams travelled to Bradford in December to contest the North East Indoor Hockey Finals, and Yarm won all 3 games: U14 7-0 v QEGS Wakefield, U16 5-4 v Hall Cross Doncaster, and U18 6-5 v Bradford Grammar.

This led to appearances at the Indoor National Finals in London, where our U18 team came a fantastic eighth place. The U16s went into the tournament with high hopes, which were well justified as they won their first 2 games against The Perse School (3-0, with goals from Timmy Foley, Jake Leader and Will Ferguson) and against Sir William Borlase's Grammar School (2-0, with further goals from Foley and Ferguson). It was a

great feeling to walk into the last group game with a place in the semi-final as group winners already confirmed. Unfortunately, Caterham School in the semis was a stretch too far, and Yarm came away with a final position of third in the country.

The First Year boys have really bought into the sport and, after winning an U12 invitational tournament in Wakefield before Christmas, continued their good form by winning the regional indoor and outdoor events. Their exciting season finished in Macclesfield in March at the North Finals where the boys battled through to the final before losing to an excellent The King's School, Chester. Second place in the North of England is a great effort and gives the boys plenty to build on moving forward.

The Second Year boys have won 18 of their 21 games this season making them our most improved team. They travelled to Bishop Vesey School in Birmingham in the ISHC National Quarter Final where they lost 1-0 and they

produced some strong displays at the Regional Finals in Leeds towards the end of the season coming in fifth place.

The Third Year boys won all 10 of their games and reached the North East Final which led to a great win on flicks against Scarborough College. They then travelled to London to compete in the National Hockey Finals at the Olympic Park. An exciting 3-2 win against The Perse School followed a 1-0 victory in our opening game against Solihull School. These results set up a group decider versus top hockey school Whitgift to reach the final, but this proved a step too far as we lost 2-0 against a very well drilled opposition. We then had a 3rd/4th place play-off against our old foes, The King's School, Chester. After going down in the early stages of the game, the momentum turned thanks to some tactical changes and the boys clawed back an equaliser. The game ended in a penalty shoot out which the boys unfortunately lost. They finished the tournament as the fourth best team in the

# TEAMWORK

country, equalling the fourth place finish in the 7-aside version of the game that team displayed the previous season.

Whilst the Fourth Year team and First XI have won the majority of their games, both came up short in the National Competitions against teams who ultimately reached the National Final - both teams promise to be competitive next season.

The U16s produced one of the most outstanding displays of hockey at the National Finals in Nottingham just before Easter. The boys won all 5 of their games scoring 16 and conceding just 1 goal in the process to take the national title for the second year running. With wins against The Skinners' School (5-1), Worksop College (3-0) and Church's College (6-0), Yarm won the final 2-0 v Eltham College to successfully defend the national title they had won in 2022. A magnificent achievement!

Finally, huge congratulations to the 56 boys who were selected for the county and to Jake Leader, Oscar



Thomas, Timmy Foley, Max Mowbray and Will Ferguson who all train at the regional Talent Academy in Durham.

All in all a magnificent season and with a junior tour to Barcelona and a senior one to South Africa, there is plenty to look forward to - well done to all concerned.

This success cannot be achieved without the considerable commitment of some very enthusiastic and talented members of staff. Huge thanks must go to Mr Skirving, Mr Alexander,



Mr Glen, Mr Lyle, Mr Ivey and Mr Newman, not to mention our resident coach, Lee O'Connor.

*Mr G Ferguson*

## Boys' Hockey: Most improved

Wilf White U12	William Foster U12
Harry Brothwood U13	Ben Bardgett U14
Shola Afolabi U15	Rob Qin U15
Jake Davidson U12	
Sam Matthews U13	Matthew White U16
Freddie Birkin U12	Finn Davie U16
Dhruv Wadhwa U16	George Howlett U12
Max Hassani-Millington U14	
Kit Foster U12	Harry Carter U15

## Boys' Hockey: Team of the Season

Jude Crack U14	Olly Carr U14
Oliver Dunkin U13	Jake Leader U15
Atsushi Yamaguchi U13	
Shola Afolabi U15	Jake Davidson U12
Sam Matthews U13	Matthew White U16
Freddie Birkin U12	Finn Davie U16
Dhruv Wadhwa U16	George Howlett U12
Max Hassani-Millington U14	
Kit Foster U12	Harry Carter U15







# Net SUCCESS

I write this article with immense pride knowing that the girls have, yet again, outdone themselves, with two squads breaking school records and achieving outstanding placings at National Schools' Finals. We have had around 200 girls choosing to commit their lunch times, break times and after-school time to training and competing this year.

## Stockton Schools' Netball League

After playing many games over the duration of the season our U12, U13 and U14C teams were all crowned Championship League Winners and will be promoted to the Premiership leagues next season.

## Sisters n Sport National Cup

This is a knockout cup where the regional parts of the country play off against each other; eventually leaving the regional winners to compete

against each other to reach the final. All teams had a fantastic cup run this year. The U13, U14, U15 and U16 teams all finished top 16 and the U12 and U13 teams both finished top 8 nationally.

## National Schools'

The first round of our campaign was in September, where our U14, U16 and U19 teams were all successful in qualifying for the regional rounds. The girls were immediately enthused at the opportunity to compete at this level with the possibility of qualifying as one of the top schools in the country, and they fully engaged with the increased work rate required. When the January Regional rounds came around, the girls believed in their ability

and were ready to compete. Both the U14 and U16 teams won overall and cemented their place in the 2023 National Schools' Netball Finals in Peterborough.

The finals were a fantastic experience for the girls and one they will never forget. The teams competed in an all day long tournament, with many players present who played at international level. The U16 team experienced wins and losses which resulted in valuable experience. Each and every girl stepped up and made not only themselves but our entire school proud by becoming the first U16 Yarm team to achieve joint 13th place in the country.

The U14 team was a fairly young squad with five U13 and four U14 girls.

*"It all went so fast. We haven't really had time to process everything but I could not be more proud of our squad. I can't believe what we have achieved, especially with a particularly young squad! We didn't expect to win as many games and to get as far as we did."*

*Nailla Krishnamoorthy*

*"Going to Nationals was an amazing experience and playing against some of the top teams in the country was a great opportunity for us to learn and pick up new skills along the way. We really enjoyed being part of the squad and playing alongside the other members of the team. An overall memorable experience!!"*

*Lola Vasiliou and Hannah Muzawazi*



## Other Achievements

**U12A** winners of Shropshire netball tournament  
**U12C** Shropshire netball tournament plate winners  
**U12, U13** and **U14C** Championship League winners

## Netball Honours

A huge congratulations to:  
**Ella Fitzgerald** for her selection for the Republic of Ireland U17 Netball Squad.  
**Izzie Speight** and **Estelle Orr** for their Scotland U17 Netball selection.  
**Ava Holmes** and **Sienna Hyndman** for Leeds U13 selection

## Netball

## Yarm School Netball: Most improved

Ivy Addison U14	Brooke Young Senior	
Demi Scott U12	Lucy de la Motte U15	Namitha Naveen U12
Amelie Sawyer U13	Millie Haswell Senior	

Kitty Illingsworth U14	Indeya Hewison Senior	
Annabelle Kyle U12	Pippa Ferguson U15	Sanjana Murali U12
Olivia Wildridge U13	Harriet Jackson Senior	

## Yarm School Netball: Team of the year

Ava Holmes U13		Scarlett Smith Senior
Libby Scott U12	Amelia Hudson U14	Charlotte Fenwick U12
Lucy Mitchell U13	Sophia Rudd U15	

Ellie Melvin U14		Amelia Leader Senior
Ella Fitzgerald U12	Lola Vasiliou U15	Rosie Ferguson U12
Yasmin Shawgi U13	Izzie Speight Senior	







# RUGBY ROUND UP

This has once again been a very pleasing season across the age groups in terms of effort, commitment and enjoyment.

**W**e have seen great numbers at practices and matches in all our teams. The key this season has been the real development in our junior teams in terms of skill levels, game understanding and a willingness to focus on positive rugby whilst having fun; it has been a joy to see the improvement of the new U12 teams across the year. Alongside this was a great Senior Tour to Dubai, which saw the boys experience the rugby, culture and entertainment of this unique destination.

Throughout the season we have had some great performances and results against the likes of; Durham, Ampleforth, Pocklington, Bradford

Grammar, Dame Allan's, and Ashville, to name a few. Special mention to the U13, U14 and U15 sides who all went undefeated in the County Cups to be crowned Durham County Champions, scoring a huge number of tries between them and conceding very few; a superb achievement. This also carried over into the 7s season, where the U13 and U15 teams were County champions, completing the rugby clean sweep, and the U14's were also in the silverware, beating Sedbergh at the Durham Invitational 7s. The U15 side also recorded some very impressive wins in the NatWest National Vase competition. We continue to have many boys involved in the representative and performance pathways:

- **England Rugby Developing Player Programme**  
Oliver Blake, Henry Bottomley, Harry Staggs, Oscar Burns, Sam Arnold, James Graham, Fin Cook, James Elsworth, Cameron Morrison, Essa Ibrahim, Thomas Hardy, Alex Bromiley.
- **Durham County U17**  
Jacob Rutter
- **Durham County U18**  
Jacob Rutter, Raf McNicholas
- **Newcastle Falcons U17/18 Academy**  
Jacob Rutter
- **Newcastle Falcons U18 Academy League Squad**  
Harry Wildridge

Mr C Webb

## TEAM TOUR OF DUBAI

The Senior Rugby team had an amazing experience visiting Dubai on tour over half term, when a squad of 18 players headed away for a week to experience the rugby and culture on offer with their friends.

They played some good rugby - all the more impressive given they are not used to the conditions - with games against Abu Dhabi Harlequins and Dubai

College; played in the morning and late afternoon respectively.

The tour party also enjoyed a superb range of excursions such as exploring the desert in 4x4's followed by a cultural show, Dubai creek and Souk markets, Top Golf, Burj Khalifa, Atlantis Aquaventure park, Jumeriah beach and more.

What a truly memorable tour experience for all involved and a real trip of a lifetime.

## Yarm School Rugby: Most improved

Alex Carter U15	Austin Elliot U12	Harry Rodwell 1st XV	Matthew Anthony 1st XV	Charlie Leggett U15
Oscar Trouten U14	Mustafa El-Sherif U14	Harvey Qin U16		
JJ Jenney U13	Ollie Gray U12	Jack Van Niekerk U16		
Zach Casson U13	George Howlett U12	Nick Clements U15	Mohammed 1st XV	
Archer Campbell U13	Will Bromiley U15	Alex Berbari U14		

## Yarm School Rugby: Team of the year

Theo Kunonga 1st XV	Oliver Dunkin U13	Samuel Page U16	Harry Wildridge 1st XV	Sam Arnold U15
Tom Burchall U15	Jack Smith U12		Alex Bromiley U16	
Matthew McCullagh 1st XV	Oliver Blake U14	Cameron Morrison U15		
Luke Elliot U13	Olly Carr U14	Sam Lane U13	Luke Palmer U12	
Ayrton Cant U12	Jacob Rutter 1st XV	Daniel Rubal-Garcia U14		







## BRINGING THEIR A-GAME TO ATHLETICS

Unfortunately, we were unable to compete in the Stockton Schools' Athletics Championships as this clashed with exam week but we were able to take part in the Stockton Schools' Athletics League. After facing both All Saints and St Michael's in the league the U13 girls' and boys' teams progressed to the finals. The finals saw the boys face Ian Ramsey and Eggescliffe. There were some great

performances from Saatvik Garg in the long jump and Sam Lane in the shot put. The boys finished a respectable 2nd. The girls faced Teesside High and Northfield School where after great efforts from all athletes, including Charlotte Banks in the discus and Olivia Fry in the 100m, it all came down to the relay. We narrowly missed out which meant that we now share the Stockton League Athletics crown. Well done to everyone involved!

# CROSS COUNTRY

Yarm has had an excellent cross country season. Starting in November with our House events, Bede won the overall cross country competition by just two points over Aidan and Cuthbert who finished joint second. The next event was the District Championships at Preston Park. Our teams commanded the field with every runner's position counting towards the school's total.

At the Stockton District Cross Country Championships we competed against much bigger schools, in terms of number of pupils, but Yarm won all 6 age category team events - U12, U14 and U16 (boys' and girls' teams). This was a fantastic effort.

Many of our students gained an invite to the

Regional Championships where Sabie Anderson and Atsushi Yamaguchi ran an amazing race to qualify for the English Schools' National Championships in Kent. An incredible achievement and an experience and memory for life.

Miss N Hodgson

### District Selection

Emma Scott, Libby Scott, Alfie McBain, Sienna Hyndman, Sabie Anderson, Megan Hull, Sophie Hall, Atsushi Yamaguchi, Oliver Dunkin, Isaac Akowuah, Will Ferguson, Yusuf Syed, Jake Leader, Finley Cook, Mark Elsaify, Toma Saha



# STARS OF THE COURT



It is always brilliant to see the courts full of players in the Summer Term, with practices, activities, after school and lunchtimes being so well attended; boys and girls across the school age groups have spent every minute they can on the courts and there has never been one empty! So much so, that we have also been using Yarm Tennis club for our weekly activity sessions.

We once again hosted our annual invitational tournament and it was fantastic to have 8 schools from across the North of England in attendance.

The Boys' U15 A team are County league winners and progress to the wider

regional rounds of the National Cup in September. This year we once again had strong representation at the Independent Schools' Championships, held at Eton College; the U19 Girls' pair of Isobel Le Clerc and Vineetha Kandikonda playing some superb doubles to record significant wins on their way to the last 16 of the cup (a year young). The U15 Girls' pair of Sophia Rudd & Evie Boyle made the semi-finals of the plate, the U19 Boys' team and both U15 Boys' pairs reached the plate last 16 and the U13 Boys just missed out on their knockout rounds by the smallest of win margins.

Mr C Webb





## GIRLS' CRICKET

Girls' cricket is still fairly new to Yarm so it has been great to see the number of pupils involved increasing this year, as well as the number of fixtures.

The indoor season started in December. The U13 competition saw our U12 team narrowly losing out on progressing through to the regionals due to them playing our U13 team in the final, this is an excellent achievement considering we are still learning the game. At the Regional Finals the U13s improved each game they played and made their way to the finals again, narrowly losing out to a strong Barnard Castle side. A great experience for both teams!

We have had six teams entered into the local outdoor cricket league this year, four teams in the U13 league and two teams in the U15 league. These games provided an opportunity for every girl to play, building their confidence

and skills. We hope that we can increase the hard ball fixtures again next year.

The most notable successes were the U12's performing at the St Peter's Super 8's Tournament and the U13 team reaching the regional cricket finals. The U12 team attended the St Peter's Super 8's Tournament which provided some girls their first experience of hard ball cricket. The girls played beautifully in the field where Lucia Chahal and Yuhe Tian bowled really well, the batting is an area we need to develop but Anushri Wadehra and Thea Shepherd worked well together throughout the day. Our U13 team also had an impressive season on the field playing their way through the rounds to win the Durham County Championships while also playing at the Hill House Invitational Tournament, special mention to Anna Grimbey for her consistency with the ball and big hitting with the bat.

It's been an exciting year for girls cricket and I am looking forward to us progressing further next year!

Miss N Hodgson

## BOYS' CRICKET

The 2022/23 Cricket Season has been one of thorough enjoyment combined with some frustrations that come with a short Summer Term. The pupils' enthusiasm and desire to train during the activities programme and play in competitive matches has seen another pleasing season come and go.

The 1st XI captained by Daniel De La Motte started the season in the U18 Cup against Barnard Castle, and with our out team ranging from U15 upwards we are shy of experience but countered that with great enthusiasm. Daniel led the team brilliantly, he scored 50 which nearly won the game. The 1st XI also played fixtures versus Newcastle School for Boys and again enjoyed two invitational teams at Yarm CC. I would like to thank Gaz Jones the groundsman for allowing us to play at this venue and the amazing catering team at Yarm who feed these players. The, the MCC and Yorkshire & NE 40 Club have added our school as a permanent fixture. I like to think we keep these games because of the tough matches but I think it's for scones with lemon curd!

We entered the U17 Cricket National Paper Cup for the first time where we played the Yorkshire & NE winners St Peter's York in the 1st Round. Alongside the above fixture the school are looking to add to our fixture card next

season by playing Durham Pilgrims, another invitational team, and embracing Scoland for a mini tour.

The junior teams entered the Durham Cup this season, and again with an extremely rainy April/May trying to facilitate these fixtures was near impossible. The First and Fourth Years performed the best and both progressed to the semi-finals before the term finished. All teams participated in regular block fixtures against Durham/NSB/Barnard Castle and Ampleforth, with many of these fixtures being pushed to squad players to ensure all players who train this year have an opportunity to play. The U13 went to Ampleforth to participate in the Worsley Cup as defending champions and took a predominantly U12 team due to players involvement in the Second Year Adventure and a new tournament this year was played by the U15 at the Bradford Grammar 6-a-side Festival where the team lost in the semi-finals to the hosts after good wins against Hymers/Scarborough College and Woodhouse Grove.

The number of players at Yarm representing Cleveland County is truly staggering with certain players now progressing up the talent ladder for North Yorkshire and Durham County respectfully.

An evening fixture against Cleveland County ended the cricket season on 6th July at Yarm CC with the game played in such high spirits and 22 smiling faces showcased how this sport is progressing at Yarm.

My thanks to the staff who help out at training and take pupils to fixtures, Mr Ferguson, Mr Morrison, Mr Glenn and Mr Webb, also Mr Bell who has stepped in with the First Years on Wednesdays after school. Mr Mist for arranging minibuses and coaches during a ridiculously busy period in the school calendar and the catering team for their amazing work at the invitational game throughout the season.

Mr I Shanahan

## Representative Honours

**Yorkshire County**  
Anushri Wadehra  
**Durham U13**  
**Pathway**  
Anna Page  
**North Yorkshire**  
**U15 Pathway**  
Rebecca White  
**Cleveland County**  
Saatvik Garg  
Oliver Mansfield  
Jude Crack  
Sabeeh Qureshi

Nikhil Ramesh  
Aditya Paul  
Harry Carter  
Nicholas Clements  
Harry Staggs  
Ayan Thomas  
Dhruv Wadehra  
Rushil Partha  
**Durham County**  
James Graham  
Matthew Maloy  
Abhinav Ramisetty

## SUCCESS IN SWIMMING

In November, Yarm competed in the English Schools' Swimming Association National Finals at the London Aquatics Centre for the first time. All three Yarm teams had qualified for the competition: the intermediate boys' team for the medley relay, the senior girls' team for the freestyle relay and the senior boys' team for both medley and freestyle relays.

The intermediate boys' team comprised Ryan Mills, Owen Reed, Robert Qin and Fin Cook. They qualified 30th for the event and with some fast swims, managed to come 22nd overall.

The senior girls' team comprised Pearl Lightwood, Hannah Bettinson, Isobel Keetley and Laura Hull.

They swam some excellent individual legs, which put them up to 26th place from their 30th qualifying place.

The senior boys' team comprised Archie Norton, Toma Saha, Ethan Stannard and Ben Rogers. This team qualified for both of the events in 7th place. In the medley relay, the boys narrowly missed out on a place in the

final by 0.57s - finishing 11th. However in the freestyle relay they managed to qualify for the final, placing them in top 10 teams nationally on the day - a magnificent achievement.

Well done to all teams and hopefully Yarm will continue this success for future swimming competitions.

Toma Saha and Archie Norton



## FENCING

This year has been the biggest year ever for the Yarm Fencing Club. We have had record numbers of fencers taking part and it has been great seeing the development throughout the year. Our coach Simon Trevithick has led our sessions and introduced lots of fun games to build core skills which helped improve our overall performance. The golden glove award for fencer of the year went to Oscar Lane this year, showing a great attitude and dedication to the club every week. Well done Oscar!

Mr T Craig







# SPORTS DAY

**1st** **Aidan**  
6396 points

**2nd** **Oswald**  
6230 points

**3rd** **Bede**  
6216 points

**4th** **Cuthbert**  
6134 points

## It's good to be in the YSA

This has been a stellar year for the YSA.



The committee (made up from parents and staff who voluntarily give up their precious time) have created and hosted some of the best events ever! In addition, the committee has agreed to fund more requests than ever before, which were all gratefully received by different departments of the school. Here are some of the items:

- Wireless bluetooth speaker for music appreciation activities
- 30-40 pairs of ballet shoes and knee pads for the dance studio
- 12 body wires and smart scoring box for the Fencing Club
- Resources for the First Year Board Games Club
- Funding towards printing the Dovecote school magazine
- 3D textured climate mat for the Junior Geography Society
- Rainforest plant box and planter for the Junior Geography Society
- Several sets of netball posts covers for the netball team
- Several kayaks for the Outdoor Education group
- A large pop-up tent for use by all areas of the Senior and Prep school.
- We have also agreed to a large donation towards the new gym which is being fully refurbished this summer.

Evening in September where we introduced the new parents to the YSA.

After last year's last minute cancellation, it was a joy and a welcome return for our festive Christmas Market which was held late November with wonderful stalls and an amazing Food Market. Record numbers of attendees made it a fantastic start to Christmas!

At the AGM in February Dr Williams thanked the committee for the return to YSA events post COVID. Amanda Stephen was re-elected as Chair for her sixth and final term with Lisa Willis as Vice-Chair, Dave Stewart as Treasurer and Claire Abbas and Louise Mitchell as joint secretaries.

The autumn event was a Gin and Swing evening with X-Factor's Jamie Tinkler entertaining us whilst we sampled a wide selection of Yorkshire-based Hooting Owl Gin in the Basement Bar.

In springtime we had a fun 80s night where we took part in a quiz, games and danced the night away to some memorable sounds.

On a blissful summer June evening we had a fantastic time at our GlastYarmbury Festival! Over 180 guests enjoyed a fabulous warm evening, watched an amazing fire

act whilst getting into the festival vibe with exquisite food supplied by the school's very own Sodexo and entertainment from the ever popular Desi Nach dancers and the Manchester-based Bourbon Street Band. The silent and main auctions raised almost £7,000 for the South Cleveland Heart Fund. Thanks to all the generous people who donated prizes and to all the bidders who who raised such an awesome amount! The guests in all their attire brought the festival vibe and we all shared an unforgettable night - which will be very hard to beat - but we will try in 2024!

The committee is very small in number and we really need more help from volunteer parents to ensure that these fabulous events continue; even an hour or so here and there helps us tremendously.

The YSA is a wonderful way to make friends so if you are interested in joining or volunteering (especially for the Christmas Market) please check out our website at [yarmschoolassociation.org](http://yarmschoolassociation.org) which contains all our future meeting and event dates plus a form where you can request to join us; or simply come along to one of our meetings.

We look forward to seeing you soon at our events!

Amanda Stephen and  
the YSA Committee  
[ysa@yarmschool.org](mailto:ysa@yarmschool.org)

## YARM ALUMNI

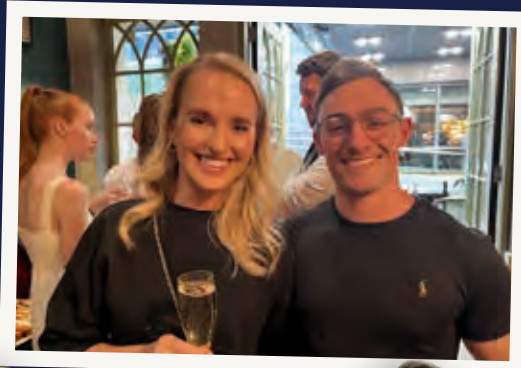
### Keeping in touch

This year we were delighted to see the return of our Christmas Alumni Drinks event. Over 120 former pupils from across the years gathered in the Atrium and Lounge Bar to reconnect over drinks and nibbles. Some former pupils caught up about their first term at university whilst others had left over 30 years ago.

The inaugural London Drinks event was held in June with over 70 former pupils joining us throughout the evening to catch up and reminisce about their days at Yarm. It was great to see so many London-based

former pupils as well as some that travelled, in what we hope will be a yearly event in the alumni calendar!

Our new alumni system was launched this summer and we hope this will be a useful hub for former pupils to connect, look at archives and register for events. If you are a former pupil, register your details on [yarmalumni.org](http://yarmalumni.org) to stay in touch.



Our school year began with Tea and Cookies in late August and a New Parents'



# A DAY TO REMEMBER

The Fifth Years celebrated their achievements and hard work in style on Friday 12th May.

The pupils received their 'Class of 2023' hoodies and signed their Yarm School notebooks before enjoying a barbecue on the terrace. The afternoon was filled with competitive games of football, rounders and the inter-House tug-of-war (no comment on some of the strategies used by the winners!). This was followed by reconvening in the Friarage Theatre for closing speeches along with some well-deserved and highly amusing awards issued by tutors and Mrs Waters.

Their journey through Senior School has been peppered with uncertainties in the world, including lockdowns, loss of social

contact and opportunities often restricted at times. These pupils have persevered through this and shown unbelievable strength of character throughout. They have blown us away with their performances in drama and music, Duke of Edinburgh and sporting achievements including reaching National Finals in a range of sports. They have given their all in everything they've done including CCF, DT and Art and outdoor education. We are thoroughly proud of them and wish them the best in their future studies.

*Mrs J Waters*



## Exam Leave Day / Sixth Form Leavers' Day



# SO LONG UPPER SIXTH

Tuesday 16th May saw the last formal lessons for the Upper Sixth students before they began their sequence of A Level examinations.

The last two years of Sixth Form studies really have flown by and, as always, this was a poignant day. Sporting their buttonholes and posing for photographs, this was the end of their second, seventh or - for the eleven students who joined in Nursery 1 - sixteenth year at Yarm School. As has become the tradition, yearbooks were being filled with valedictions from classmates and teachers and there was a real sense of camaraderie amongst this group of fine young men and women.

We are grateful to Yarm Methodist Church for, once again, allowing us to use this wonderful space for our Leavers' Service and it was good that so many parents were able to join the students for the occasion. We thank our guest speaker, The Reverend Dr Catherine Reid for her words of wisdom.

As Chaplain to the University of York, Dr Reid is well placed to understand the challenges, excitement and joy

that lies ahead for the leavers. As ever the service was filled with music, from the choir and congregation and the Leavers' rendition of Come What May left few dry eyes in the room. We thank Mrs Staggs, Mr Williams and the members of the choir for making this a really special occasion. Thank you to the School Captains for their readings and to Mr Boddy for leading the service. Then it was back to school for a delicious buffet courtesy of our excellent Sodexo colleagues, some family photographs, the issuing of the hoodies and then away into the sunny afternoon.

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. 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.

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. We all appreciated the slideshow 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 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...

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 in their undoubtedly bright futures.

*Dr A Goodall*







## School Officers 2023 – 2024

### Captains of School



Kitty Brown



Jacob Rutter

### Vice Captains



Miriam Akowuah



Tom Graham



Monisha Ravichandran



Ammar Soni



James Waine

### Prefect Appointments

Aidan House		Bede House		Cuthbert House		Oswald House	
Maisy Bailey	PSMP + AVC	Ollie Best	PSMP	Freddie Butler	PSMP + CC	James Aitken	PSMP
Sara Banerjee	AC	Myles Brown		Adhithyan Dinakaran		Miriam Akowuah	SVC
Sam Croslegh	PSMP	Scarlett Carton		Rosie Faulkner		Kitty Brown	SC
Lucy Fletcher	AVC	Benjamin Fleming	PSMP	Emma Foster	CVC	Oscar Buckley	PSMP + OC
Jacob Luke Harriskitt		Chloe Godfrey	BC	Morven Hawthorne	CC	Jennifer Chan	PSMP
Miles Holland	AC	Tom Graham	SVC	James Heward	CVC	Michael Elsaify	
Syed Omer		Zaina Islam	BC	Molly Ogden		Alfie King	PSMP + OC
Arhana Pradeep	PSMP + AVC	Nathan May	BC	Erin Scott	PSMP + CVC	Sophia Kusterer	
Kayla Roberts	PSMP + AVC	Piya Nag	PSMP	Charlotte Stephen		Abbi Macgregor	OC
Emma Rubal-Garcia	PSMP	Beth Newson	PSMP	Brooke Young	PSMP + CVC	Archie Norton	
Toma Saha		Ankith Rangan	SVC			Jacob Rutter	SC
Keya Shah	PSMP	Monisha Ravichandran	PSMP			Jasmine Scollay	PSMP
Simone Sharma		Lauren Richardson	PSMP + BC			Manisha Shyam	PSMP
Ella Smith		Harry Rodwell	PSMP			Ammar Soni	SVC
Harry Wildridge		Alexa Simpson				Charlotte Sowerby	PSMP
Izzi Williamson		Storm Smith	PSMP			Hannah Stewart	PSMP + OC
		Cassie Woodier				Jenifer Umashankar	PSMP
		Vincent Zhang	PSMP			James Waine	SVC
						Harriet White	
						Amie Wiedman	PSMP
						Thomas Williamson	

**Key:**  
 SC = School Captain SVC = School Vice Captain AC = Aidan House Captain  
 AVA = Aidan House Vice Captain BC = Bede House Captain  
 CC = Cuthbert Captain CVC = Cuthbert Vice Captain OC = Oswald House Captain  
 PSMP = Peer Support Mentor Prefect



**W**e were delighted to celebrate our pupils and students over the summer who have achieved incredible GCSE and A Level results.

Despite the return to rigorous pre-covid grading standards the results were extremely strong, placing the school best in the area for GCSE and A Levels.

At A Level, forty-two students achieved three or more A\*-A grades with more than 50% of all examinations taken achieving these top grades. Eleven students achieved three or more A\* grades and one student was recognised as one of the highest performers in the country in her English Literature examinations.

Fifteen students are moving on to study medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine (MDV). They will be studying MDV courses at prestigious institutions including Birmingham, Belfast, Cambridge, Lancaster, Liverpool and London.

Three fully-funded Sixth Form Scholarship students at Yarm also celebrated their A level results with four A\*s, four As and one B between them. There is a rising trend of Yarm students undertaking degree apprenticeship and apprenticeship placements, with eight gaining places on competitive schemes with industry leaders such as PwC, EY and BAE Systems.

At GCSE, this year's cohort excelled with nearly half (47%)

of all examinations reaching the highest 9/8 grades. Thirty pupils achieved 9 or more 9/8 grades and six talented pupils accomplished the extraordinary feat of eleven out of eleven grade 9s.

Alongside individual success stories, with pupils reaping the rewards of their hard work, individual departments were celebrating the cohort's overall results in their subjects. The English department is celebrating outstanding outcomes in English and English Literature with Yarm pupils achieving 35% and 39% respectively at the highest grade (grade 9). Strong outcomes in Mathematics across the board are exemplified by 40% of the pupils taking Further

Mathematics achieving a grade 9. Creative subjects also thrived, with grade 9-7 being achieved by 90% of pupils in Art and 100% of pupils taking DT Textiles.

Pupils at Yarm not only excel academically but seize the opportunities to grow and develop by embracing the wide range of extracurricular activities available to them. Pupils excel in sport, music and drama, and others have committed time to community service in our Community Action Group and in supporting our PHAB club for disabled children.

All our GCSE and A Level students have contributed so much to the full Yarm experience and we congratulate them all.





# YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

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