

Newsletter

No: 1352 | 6th October 2023

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

I write this shortly after the end of a magnificent House Drama competition feeling immensely proud of all those pupils who took part - whether on stage, behind the scenes or as writers and directors. I am also very impressed with all the pupils who came to support and watch for the mature and respectful way they behaved during the entire evening. For those directly involved, the benefits are self-evident, with pupils working in a team, organising time for rehearsals and learning their lines, gaining and honing leadership skills, learning about how theatre works, and more. Watching the joy and camaraderie among the pupils in their performance and as the results were announced - whether they were in the winning house or not - was icing on the cake. Congratulations to Bede, of course, who got excellent feedback from our expert judges, and claimed the trophy for their outstanding performance of Hotel Transylvania.

What a great night!

The newsletter offers some fascinating insights into recent activities which are well worth



Clockwise from top left: Oswald perform Alice in Wonderland, Aidan perform The Twilight Zone, Bede perform Hotel Transylvania and Cuthbert perform Ghostbusters. More photos and report next week!

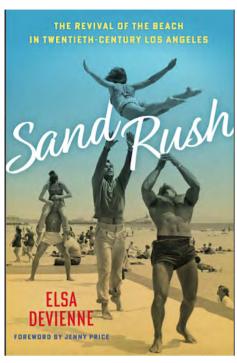
exploring, including work from students and news of some fascinating recent trips and events. There is also a forward look at some exciting opportunities to come. These include our next Enrichment Lecture from a Former Pupil talking about robotics in surgery, thoughts on the value of university open days, news of the Community Action Group's hopes to raise money for UNICEF next week after recent tragedies in Morocco and Libya, news of a reading group for pupils in Fourth and Fifth Years, a heads up that the boat club will be

featured on a forthcoming episode of the Yorkshire Vet and news of some outstanding recent results on the water and, for Lola, on the netball court!

Our Open Morning last weekend was a great success, and I want to thank all pupils for volunteering to help, offering their time as guides or in departments and ensuring that our visitors left with a very positive impression of the school, having met our finest ambassadors, the pupils.

Dr Huw Williams

LIFE'S A BEACH



In the October half term a fortunate group of Politics and Biology A Level students will be heading to California to explore the synergy between their subjects, in an exploration of environmental management, ecology and stewardship. As part of the preparation for this visit we invited Dr Elsa Devienne, a French scholar. currently Assistant Professor in US History at Northumbria University. Dr Devienne is the author of Sand Rush: The Revival of the Beach in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles (New York: Oxford University Press, 2024). She is also the programme leader for the BA American Studies, History & American Studies, English & American Studies.

Most curiously Elsa's research into beach culture and the environment began with her own visit to the famed Santa Monica Beach in Los Angeles a number of years ago, and her shock to find huge swathes of the beach devoted to car parks and a highway fencing in the beach itself. This launched her interdisciplinary research into environmental humanities - the attempt to understand why ecology matters.

Elsa took us through a swift and engaging history of the California coast, in many ways its invention, and the deliberate promotion of California and the city of Los Angeles as a paradisaical, nature-soaked bountiful alternative to the crowded tenement slums of the East. We were shown early advertising posters and promotional material, such as an image of Uncle Sam clutching a huge bunch of lemons whilst boasting 'I grow these myself in California'. There was some truth behind the rhetoric; California opened the first national park, Yellowstone, in 1872, hosted the very first Earth Day in 1970 following the Santa Barbara oil spill and was the site of the founding of important environmental NGOs

such as The
Sierra Club
(1892) and
Friends of the
Earth (1969).
But the beaches
were also in part
fabricated, with
millions of
tonnes of mined
sand imported,

and then the coastline was impacted by aggressive gentrification, as well as overbuilding. Marina del Rey was a case in point with colossal urban transplants to an otherwise environmentally critical marshland area. One English visitor Reyner Banham, in 1972, described the development as 'another executive ghetto, plastic people in a plastic boat'.

The challenges remain today, ever more present as human settlement Canute-like seeks to resist the erosion of coastlines, building multi million dollar homes on precipitous cliff edges in the likes of Malibu. The future is uncertain, and Elsa details some of the efforts being undertaken to awaken communities and their decision-makers to oblige them to plan better for a future. The idea of California remains resiliently in place but risks a disconnect between its projected fantasy and what it can offer to residents and visitors alike.

Mr S Edwards



ENRICHMENT LECTURE SERIES: ROBOTICS IN SURGERY



Last month, we hosted Dr Gary
Sharples, as he spoke about weird
and wonderful bacteria, amongst
other microorganisms. It was a truly
fascinating talk that had something
for everyone, with questions coming
at the end from first year pupils, all
the way up to staff with PhDs in
biology! It was very well attended,



with a wide variety of staff, pupils, parents and other members of our local community.

Our next lecture comes from former pupil Bola Ajekigbe. Bola is a surgeon currently undertaking a research PhD in robotics in surgery. He'll be talking about trauma and orthopaedics, in addition to his research into robotics.

This promises to be another fascinating voyage of discovery, and as before you are very welcome to attend. This will take place at 4:15 pm on Monday 9th October in the Friarage Theatre. If you are interested in attending, please email me at rcw@yarmschool.org to register your interest. Doors will open at 16:05, and please wait to be invited in by a member of staff.

I hope to see some of you at next week's lecture!

Mr R Williams

DRIVING YOUR OWN LEARNING

On Monday, Third Year took part in a Study Skills workshop; 'Driving Your Own Learning'. The activities were designed to encourage pupils to reflect on what motivates them, to think about their medium and long term goals and to consider how to best achieve success, exploring marginal gains, resilience and failure. All pupils set themselves targets, reflecting on the content of the session, and we encourage them to continue to reflect on their steps to success as they head towards their GCSEs.

Mrs E Bridle

KEY STAGE 4 READING GROUP

This half term the KS4 reading group will be exploring The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic tale of 1920's America. Interested pupils should come and pick up a copy from E3 OR email Ms. Blakemore (helen.blakemore@yarmschool.org). The group will be meeting in E3 at lunch on Friday 10th November (the week after half term). Any interested parents should also email me and I will send you a copy of the text!

Ms H Blakemore

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THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

Last week I wrote about the value of various university league tables. issued as ever with various cautionary notes. They are nevertheless a valuable metric for such metrics as teaching quality, student satisfaction, employability, etc.. Another indispensable 'guide' to finding out more about universities. in terms of the nature of courses, accommodation, atmosphere and location, are open days. They have become a more significant part of the landscape, both in terms of an opportunity to show off what they have to offer to students (and by extension to parents) but also for future students to dig deeper behind the headlines of promotional material.

Open Days are well advertised with sites such as OpenDays offering links and calendars to allow you to plan. They are frequently supported with open days apps that will assist you in navigating the university campus and the offerings of the day. There is little that can match the experience of walking around a university and getting a feel - is it a hive of activity? Does it feel too

hive of activity? Does it feel too much of a bubble? Are the sporting facilities nearby? How are the transport links? Many students report changing their mind entirely with respect to their choices following an open day that opened their eyes against their expectations.

Better to have this insight then than in the often fraught days of freshers week! The organisation and delivery of the events has been improved significantly with enthusiastic student ambassadors keen to greet, inform and direct visitors. The programmes typically include course-specific talks, again a valuable insight lifting the syllabus off the prospectus page and giving a more lifelike impression of the course in action. And it is perhaps this meshing of your child's desires and needs with what's on offer that is most helpful. If a previously fancy sounding research impressive Russell Group university just doesn't seem to match them, then look further into alternatives. We sometimes have to admit that as the offerings change our own views may have become somewhat dated. It can be all too easy to be lured into thinking that those with the highest entry requirements are the only prestigious offerings. So keep an open mind on open days.

Mr S Edwards



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Another week and another departmental link, this time with the languages! We were delighted to welcome Freddie Butler to EconBus Soc and to hear him present in French to our largest ever Society audience - totalling at least 50 students and staff. He explained in detail the economic impact of French cuisine and culinary tourism on France, and for the less linguistic members in the room his detailed powerpoint effectively gave subtitles. We gained much food for thought and Miss Rhodes was pleased to discover that she had not forgotten all her GCSE French.

The session culminated in a competitive quiz with French delicacies as rewards.

We are very grateful to Freddie for enlightening and entertaining us.
(And of course to the EconBus Chairs for continuing to put together such a superb programme of speakers on diverse topics)

FOOD STALL IN AID OF UNICEF!

Lunchtime Mon 9th - Fri 13th Oct

In The Dovecote

In the week beginning 9th October, the Community Action Group is running a food stall to support UNICEF's projects in Morocco and Libya. Cookies, popcorn and fruit will be sold in the Dovecote every lunch time next week; we would be very grateful for your support in buying or making a donation.

Just under 4 weeks ago, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the Marrakech-Safi region. Over 300,000 people have been impacted at the hands of this catastrophic event, with buildings and homes being destroyed and a death toll of approximately 3,000. A day after Morocco's earthquake, news broke of floods ravaging through eastern Libya. At least 11,300 people have been killed and more than 50,000 people have been displaced from their homes.

By supporting the food stall next week, pupils will be contributing to UNICEF's Children's Emergency Fund, created to protect children from conflict, disasters and disease and, wherever possible, to keep them in education.

The Community Action Group

CAREERS AMBASSADORS

The following members of staff are happy to speak to interested pupils about careers and courses in their chosen area. They can be emailed or approached in person - or email Mr Edwards, Head of Careers, se@varmschool.org

Name	Career Area
Mr Graeme Addison	Engineering
Miss Catherine Dixon-Barker	Research & Resources
Mr Adam Bridges	Languages
Mr Stephen Edwards	PPE, Politics, International Relations, International Development
Mr Nick Lyle	Law & Criminology
Ms Ashleigh Jackson	Creative Arts & Design
Mr Dan Spence	Architecture & Product Design
Mr Jonathan Brash	Psychology Routes
Mr Andrew McIntyre	Performing Arts
Mr Tom Newman	Health Professions
Miss Caroline Rhodes	Business, Finance, Management, Accountancy
Mrs Emma Pinkham	Teaching & Education
Mr Chris Webb	Sport Science, Training & Performance
Mr Tim Taylor	Humanities
Dr Arran Tulloch	Science & Research Routes
Mr Peter Collins	Computer Science

PEST INFLUENCES ON FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

This week we were keeping it real in the EconBus department when Kelly Heward, the school's Finance Manager, came to talk to the Upper Sixth about factors which influence the decisions of the Finance department. With multiple school related resources and examples the

audience were enthralled and Mrs Heward happily answered many questions.

We are really grateful to Mrs
Heward for her continued support of
EconBus.

POLITICS STUDENTS ATTEND CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

Linked as it is in many ways to the A
Level syllabus a visit to a political
party conference always makes for a
valuable visit, besides the fascinating
additional insights provided by such
proximity to political theatre. This
conference, poised as it is before an
imminent general election, was
always going to provide a fascinating
opportunity to take the temperature
of the party.

The day itself was split between formal events that had been organised in advance for the students, and then other opportunities when students were free to explore the numerous fringe events, as well as the main stage happenings, the likes of which we

typically see in television coverage.
The Yarm School students were
welcomed by Nickie Aiken MP,
Deputy Chair of the Party, joined in a
session with the Secretary of State
for Education, Rt Hon Gillian Keegan
MP. The students really found their
voice in some dynamic questioning.

After lunch students explored the wider reaches of the conference, choosing which fringe events to attend, alongside other exhibitions, including various think tanks, pressure groups, charities and businesses, as well as media outlets. The milling around allowed for some casual chats with the various senior politicians. The afternoon session in the main hall involved a meeting with

Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP,
Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs. This was
followed by a rather special event
with Baroness Evans of Bowes Park,
Former Leader of the House of Lords
and Member of the Lords Education
Committee for 11-16 year olds. This
forty minute session was chaired
exclusively by our very own Politics
students, Sara Banerjee and Bede
Knox, posing a raft of questions of
their own devising, whilst weaving in
questions from the audience.

It was an insightful and curious day providing phenomenal access for the students.

Mr S Edwards





Bede and Sara chairing a session in the conference room with former Leader of the Lords



Bede and Sara plan their session with Baroness Evans

3PM TUESDAY: TENSION BUILDING, NERVES JANGLING ...

It can only be the Yarm Appentice Boardroom!

Yes, this week saw the culmination of YA Task 1, as Harvey's Econs & Extras challenged Kyra's Business Buddies to Pitch their Wellbeing Packages.

After Open Day morning (where Harvey had his team completing improvisation challenges - yes, really) Kyra ended up as the last (wo)man standing on her team! It was time to see what the teams had managed to put together.

Harvey, Sam, Lucy and Apsara pitched confidently, advising on the provision of Corporate Gym membership, personalised working spaces, face to face therapy and salary sacrifice schemes. Whilst Kyra, forced to choose two teammates to Will, Alex, Indeya and Luke based their decisions on research involving

another local Law practice and proposed an open door policy and a focus on Physical, Social and Mental considerations.

Both teams coped well with intense questioning as both Lord Sugars (Leah Duffield and Lucy Adams, from Knights) and Karren Brady (aka Miss Rhodes) and our own Student Facilitator (Arhana Pradeep) probed the proposals.

After much deliberation Harvey's team were declared victorious, but Kyra was nevertheless also commended on her suggestions.

The winning team enjoyed steaming hot chocolate and a stack of chocolate brownies, whilst Kyra was bring back to the Boardroom and she selected Oliver and Jitha. More

questioning ensued, and the inevitable "You're Fired" was heard but this time not once, but twice (to Oliver and Jitha).

We are very grateful to Ms Duffield and Ms Adams for being so generous with their time, for setting such an interesting first task and for being superb Lord Sugars. And their bags of sweets for all participants were a lovely gesture.

At the time of writing the bonus points are still to be confirmed... So watch out for further details and see the League Board outside B1 for who is currently in the YA lead!!

Who will be Yarm Apprentice 2024? It is all still to play for...

Coming soon, TASK TWO!



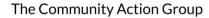




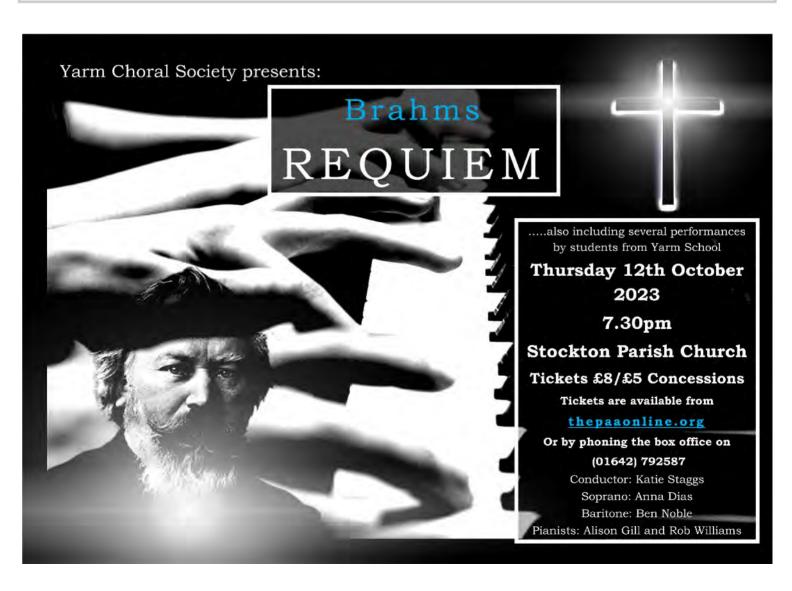


KENYA COMMUNITY LIBRARIES UPDATE

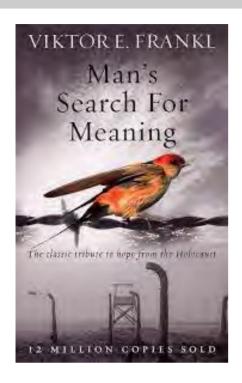
Last academic year, the Community
Action Group helped collect, pack
and donate twenty six boxes of books
to Mr Peter Phillips, who works with
the 'Just Be A Child' Charity to send
second hand books to schools in
Kenya in order to establish
community libraries. This week, we
were delighted to receive some
photographs from him, showing the
books we had collected in use in
Vingujini School library- a 'building'
ingeniously made from a shipping
container!







POLITICS BOOK REVIEW MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING - BY VIKTOR E FRANKL



I I was thoroughly inspired by reading Man's Search For Meaning by Viktor E. Frankl, an Austrian psychiatrist, Holocaust survivor and founder of logotherapy, a psychological practice that is still saving lives to this day. The book follows Frankl and his tragic experiences and interactions through the Holocaust, leading the reader through three distinct emotions of disgust, nihilism and then surprisingly hope, all whilst giving vivid descriptions of the horror he encountered.

The book is chronological, and starts with the picking up of Frankl and arrival at Auschwitz and the first emotion of disgust. Frankl describes the 'naked experience'. This referred to the way in which individuals were stripped of their personality and humanity upon their arrival at the death camps - a concept that I

struggled imagining whilst reading and reflecting upon the book.
However many didn't live much longer after arrival, as Frankl goes on to describe the hectic nature of arrival, where half of individuals are killed on arrival. At this point in the book, I almost stopped reading due to the horrific imagery and struggled with the imagination of what Frankl was encountering, however I decided to continue.

The next emotion experienced is nihilism, which is encountered when people have lived in the camp for a prolonged period. This emotion is due to the constant fear of death, and acknowledgement that there will be no immediate escape. This part of the book was equally difficult to read as Frankl describes the degradation of individuals who, just after a couple of weeks are no longer the humans they were that entered the camp due to constant abuse, racism and starvation. Frankl then goes on to explain that this loss of humanity led to many unfortunately committing suicide, another hard read and something that was impossible to imagine.

Finally, the book takes a more positive turn as Frankl describes the spiritual awakening that some individuals underwent. This awakening came from individuals finding a purpose and goal. He stated

that 'emotion, which is suffering, ceases to be suffering as soon as we form a clear and precise picture of it'. Instead of looking for pity due to individual circumstance, people need to understand and accept circumstance, and then build upon it. I resonated with this concept which is easily applicable to life, and gives a sense of freedom and purpose.

Whilst the book was a hard read, it was thoroughly worth it. The book made me understand the brutality of the Holocaust and the effect on individuals that the event had on the individual, something that is often overlooked. It also let me appreciate my circumstances, and showed me the importance of having meaning in life.

Bede Knox, Upper Sixth

YA SCORES UPDATE

It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it...that's what gets results!

Yarm Apprentice Bonus Points at the end of Task 1

Winning the Task - "The Econs & Extras"

Winning PM - Harvey Karren, Tim or Claude Award -Olivia & Lexie Outstanding by Peers - Ishita &

Kyra



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



Craft Stalls, Gift Ideas, Food & Drink

Yaru School Association

CHRISTMAS INDOR MARKET

Saturday 18th November 2023 10am – 4pm, Yarm School SPORT 6th October 2023

ROWING: TEES LDS & SBH RECAP

It was a strong start for the rowing team last weekend at Tees Long Distance Sculls and Small Boats Head. Twenty-six crews raced over 5000 metres on Saturday, with 16 finishing first or second in their event.

Some of our stand our performance include:

Men's J18 coxless quad won their event by over 1 minute to local rivals Durham School and produced the fastest time of the morning and the entire day. The crew was made up of Will Jeavons, Sai Sidaginamale, Archie Norton & Harry Wildridge.

Men's J16 double of Harry
D'Ambrogio and Patrick Tulloch had
an incredible race, not only winning
the J16 event but also producing a
time that would have won the J17
and J18 double sculls as well. They
finished 12th overall in the division
and were the 3rd fastest double on
the water that morning behind
university-aged crews.

Women J18 coxless quad of Kitty Brown, Storm Smith, Hannah Stewart, and Lucy Bardgett took to the water in the afternoon. Another great race produced a win in the event and the fastest women's crew of the afternoon.

This event saw athletes race the single scull for the first time or the first time over a long head race. All single scullers put in solid performances under challenging

circumstances. Harry Wildridge won the J18 1x in the afternoon division. Cecily Deering, Poppy Bell and Storm Smith all had strong races and finished 2nd, 3rd & 4th respectively in their events.

All our J15 athletes raced over 5km for the first time in 3 coxed quads. These students committed to the race and came home with brilliant results, with all three crews finishing 2nd in their events during the morning.

Our final win of the day came from our women's U17 coxless quad of Lucy Bardgett, Evie Stoker, Rishi Chawla, Cecily Deering. With a last-minute substitution into the crew, these girls adapted and produced a great race, securing the win.

Congratulations go to all athletes who competed; the weekend was a great way to start off the 2023-24 rowing season, showing there will be lots more exciting races to come.

Mr T Kellett



YSBC ON TV!

An upcoming episode of The Yorkshire Vet - which airs on Tuesday 17th October - features the J18 quad racing at Durham regatta!

It's at 8pm on Channel 5 if you would like to watch it.

SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can view them here.

NETBALL SUCCESS

Huge Congratulations to Lola
Vasiliou for being selected into the
U17 Manchester Thunder NPL
Netball team after trialing last
weekend. We will look forward to
following her progress this
season..



THE LIGHTBULB PRINCESS

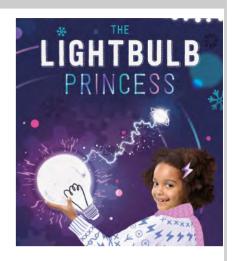
A delightful new show full of sparkle and song, for everyone aged 4 and up.

Can you help a very unusual princess solve an unexpected problem? Without the twinkle of fairy lights, the holiday season could be cancelled! It's up to our intrepid explorer, her pals and YOU to illuminate the world again.

Featuring catchy original songs from Ziad Jabero and electrifying storytelling, The Lightbulb Princess will light up children's imaginations and inspire them to learn more about the world around them.

Tuesday 31st October 2023, 2:00pm

Book Online Here



GERARDO RODRIGUES

The Portuguese pianist Gerardo Rodrigues released, in September 2021, his second original album "Estado de Alma", a composition that continues the work started with "Improvisos", in 2020, and marks his journey of self-discovery in times of change and uncertainty, fueled by the pandemic.

After the Piano Solo tour through almost 30 Portuguese Auditoriums, in the beginning of 2022, Gerardo Rodrigues now brings the "Estado de Alma" to the European stages and the promise is to excite, surprise and inspire all audiences.



Book Online Here



SNOOKER GREATS - CLASH OF THE TITANS

Seven-times World Snooker Champion Jimmy White takes on his arch rival Steve Davis with your host and referee for the evening the Dennis Taylor.

Come and join the UK's favourite snooker stars as they recreate the matches that saw them rise to the top of their profession.

Snooker legend Dennis Taylor, winner of the famous 1985 World Championship Black Ball Final, is your host and referee for the evening. A night not to be missed! There will also be a Q&A, providing you with the opportunity to pose the questions you always wanted to ask.



Monday 19th February 2024, 7:30pm

Book Online Here

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? To date, nearly 43 million UK internet users have encountered a financial scamon line; roughly 20% of those victims wound up at least £1,000 out of pocket as a result. The number of con which, unfortunately, appears likely to continue), and their trade in the digital world has grown in recent years (awarying trend which, unfortunately, appears likely to continue), and their methods have become increasingly creative. It can, therefore, be difficult to recognise an online (in and a seamelet alone to safeguard our children against them but it is not impossible. Our guide offers a few pointers on what to look out for.

PHISHING SCAMS

Scammers often use deception to obtain personal and financial information from their target. They might pose as legitimate organisations, such as pretending to be HMRC and threatening legal action for unpaid tax unless the victim provides their National Insurance number. Their efforts have been getting more convincing recently, so be mindful of any unexpected or unusual emails.

IDENTITY THEFT

Criminals can manipulate someone into providing personal data, then use it to assume their identity online and commit fraud, make unauthorised purchases or engage in other illegal activities. Identity theft can be accomplished by tricking victims into downloading malware that scans their device for information; by figuring out passwords to social media accounts; or through phishing scams.

FRAUDULENT INVESTMENTS

Fraudsters might lure victims into offering their hard-earned cash for a "one-of-a-kind investment opportunity" promising high returns or quick profits - such as the many cryptocurrency scams currently circulating online. Some unscrupulous influencers have even used their status to tempt their followers into paying for courses which promise to help them become rich and more attractive.

DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING

Many online sellers use false or misleading advertising to persuade consumers to spend money or supply personal information.
Certain websites, for instance, have become notorious for using attractive images to advertise their products, promising to deliver an item for a fraction of its usual price only for a cheaper-looking, poor-quality reproduction to arrive in the post instead.

SOCIAL MEDIA

#GIVEAWAY

Advice for Parents & Carers

EDUCATE YOUR CHILD

Talk to your child about the risks of online financial scams and encourage open communication about their digital activities. Make sure they know the kind of ruses that are out ther, and what to look out for when encountering a potential scam. Foster their critical thinking skills –

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

STAY INFORMED

Try to keep your knowledge of current and emerging scams in the digital world up-to-date, so you can help your child stay safe. New methods of exploitation are developing all the time, but thankfully it's not all doom and gloom. There are plenty of sources – such as Ofcom – that keep a record of online scammers' methods, plus lists of which sites or schemes to be wary of.

PRIORITISE PRIVACY

Teach your child to value their own privacy: that is, to respect the value of their personal data and be cautious about sharing it online. It's especially important that children know to safeguard their financial details and other sensitive data — and never to provide that information to anyone online, unless they're absolutely certain that it's safe, secure and to a legitimate resease.

Meet Our Expert

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Encourage your child to report any suspicious or potentially harmful online encounters to you or another trusted adult. Make it clear that that they will never get in trouble for telling you about what's happened. Fraudsters often attempt to play on children's fear of getting into trouble, so cancelling out that notion robs internet scammers of one of their greatest weapons.



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