

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

This edition of the newsletter celebrates the successes and exploits of our mathematicians, swimmers, rugby players, a golfer, economics and business students, musicians, budding engineers, geographers, politics students, scientists, English students, apprentices, interviewees Phab club members, theatregoers, Community Action Group, Eco committee, and book club members!

I have thoroughly enjoyed the range of articles and reports and hope, with nearly three weeks before the next one is published, that many of you will spend time exploring its contents, which provide real insight into the pupils' activities, successes and enthusiasms. There is far too much inside for me to review or mention it all, but a highlight is the laudable news that our pupils in the Eco Committee received the School's sixth Green Flag Award, which was presented in Assembly this week and, fittingly, was dedicated to Felix Buckley, who sadly died in 2022. Felix was a key member of Eco Committee and a passionate advocate for environmental matters, and he laid the groundwork for this award, not least by inspiring other pupils to share his commitment and interest in the environment.

On the theme of the environment, and in the week that the Tree of the Year has been announced (a 500 year old Sweet Chestnut in Wrexham, in case you were interested), I am sorry to say that one of the oak trees next to the road out of the school has been condemned as diseased by an arborist, and will be removed over the half term. I hope that we will be able to use some of the wood in some way around the School.

We are hosting the Tees Valley Business Club for an event on Entrepreneurship over half term, and I am looking forward to three different presentations from our pupils as part of the evening. Speaking to an audience of more than 100 business leaders, they will explain how - in varying ways - they have demonstrated entrepreneurial

spark and innovation; it promises to be a fascinating evening.

As well as a visit from Julie Robinson, the CEO of the Independent School's Council, who offered some generous comments and compliments about the school and the pupils she met, I had the pleasure of visiting our founding Headmaster, Mr Neville Tate OBE, with Bill Sawyer this week. I was reminded by Neville of Yarm's inception as a response to the closure of the County Grammar Schools and the founding ethos of the School to educate the whole child. It remains a pleasure and a privilege to serve this community, and I hope to continue to respect and uphold those founding values, with your support. I hope everyone has a great half term.

Dr Huw Williams



Mr Neville Tate OBE, with Mr Sawyer and Dr Williams

NEW TASK (NO. 2) - NEW LORD SUGAR (NO. 2) NEW PROJECT MANAGER (X 2) - NO. OF STUDENTS 22



The Yarm Apprentices discovered this week that Dr Who is not the only "Lord" (Ok, Time Lord) who renews, our YA "Lord" ie Lord Sugar has also regenerated and this week Lord Sugar was in the form of Mr Rory Stephen.

So what challenge now faces our intrepid 22?

Well, the Festive season has come early in B1 and our students have been tasked with stocking and manning a stall at the school's Christmas Market on Saturday November 18th. Teams have been allocated £75 each, along with a stall in the Dining Room and advised that the stalls must be family friendly, customer service must be superb, stock must be sparkly (though sustainability is also key!) and the whole stall needs to be Christmas themed.

Lord Sugar will meet with the teams in the Boardroom on Tuesday 21st November and he expects a 5 minute presentation from each team detailing the whole process and the decision making behind it! One team will win and one or more individuals will be fired!

Sam and Will were keen to put themselves forward as Project Managers and ideas were quickly being thrown around. We await confirmation of the chosen charities and planned stock. So save the date, 18th November and plan to help the teams in their drive for profit for good causes.

Miss C E Rhodes

FINANCIAL TIMES STUDENT ADVOCATES

We were delighted to hear this week that Sam Page and James Muir (L6) have both been selected as FT Student Advocates.

The FT offers ambitious, curious Lower Sixth students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and confidence by becoming a Student Advocate. Part of their role will be to represent the voice of students and they will work closely



with the FT Schools Team to develop more engaging resources for young people. Both will be set monthly tasks and each month they must feedback

their findings through an online meeting. They are following in the footsteps of Upper Sixth Economists Adhi and Arhana who successfully undertook this role last school year and found it really valuable and interesting.

Miss C E Rhodes

BRAHMS REQUIEM CONCERT

Congratulations to everyone involved in last week's stunning concert at Stockton Parish Church. The concert proved to be a true Yarm School community occasion with pupils and students from Prep and Senior School performing alongside our community choral society, former pupil, Anna Dias singing, Mr Williams and Ms Gill on piano, Mr Henderson on guitar with Mrs Bury and Mr Gooding in the choir alongside former Head of Psychology Mrs Nixon together with a host of current and former parents (and grandparents) of the school.

Musicians from Prep and Senior School performed superbly in the first half of the concert, providing a small number of our most accomplished instrumentalists to play a meaty programme of classical works in a stunning acoustic.

On the back of incredible success at the nationally renowned Wharfedale Festival, nine year old Kaiden played a superb programme of piano music demonstrating musicality and technical aplomb well beyond his years. Sixth Form violinist, Jennifer Chan, leader of the school orchestra and senior member of Tees Valley Youth Orchestra performed a Baroque work with a beautiful tone and a mature understanding of the style. Talented First Year pianist, Henry Pugh, stunned us with his exquisite translucent playing, evoking the spirit of the arctic

beautifully. The first half concluded with Second Year, Effie Peacock, cellist in the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain, performing Fauré's Sicilienne with such sensitivity in a beautiful arrangement for cello and classical guitar, accompanied by her dad! A member of the audience emailed: "The talent on display in the first half was incredible - I have seen adult performers not match what we were treated with and it was quite amazing and so enjoyable."

The second half was a complete performance of one of the most challenging pieces of choral repertoire, Brahms' Requiem. In addition to the standard orchestral accompaniment, Brahms also arranged the work for piano duet affording a more chamber music style performance of a great work.

Ms Gill and Mr Williams worked their magic on the piano bringing timbral variety to the piano score. It was a privilege to work with local baritone, Ben Noble and former pupil and accomplished soprano, Anna Dias, both of whom were outstanding in their solo roles. I must also add my heartfelt congratulations to our incredible choral society who well and truly rose to the occasion of tackling one of the most complex choral works ever written. They sang with such energy and their shaping and musicality shone through in their performance. The work ethic the

singers have shown in recent weeks certainly paid off!

Thank you to all our performers for a wonderful evening of very special music-making.

I have attached the [programme here](#) for further information about the concert and the performers.

Mrs K Staggs



LABMAN AUTOMATION WELCOMES FOURTH YEAR PUPILS

Last week there was a great opportunity for pupils in Fourth Year to attend a special Women in STEM event at Labman Automation. The company is a leading player in designing automation systems with its base in Seamer, outside of Stokesley. The pupils toured the entire facility, and engaged with a range of designed apparatus. The pupils witnessed and then competed manually against a robot system designed to mix precise quantities of ingredients and assess the properties

of the mixed product. They spoke to a diverse range of members of staff involved in the design and manufacturing of the products, as well as those involved in coding and computing. The last part of the afternoon was spent with Andrew Whitwell, Managing Director of Labman, who toured them around additional parts of the facility and hosted a competition involving some innovative use of marshmallow and spaghetti! The visit certainly opened the pupils' eyes to the variety of

opportunities and pathways available for those wishing to pursue a career in engineering and robotics, as well as enjoying a purposeful, but relaxing working environment as created by Labman. We are deeply appreciative to all those members of staff who gave up time during this wonderful afternoon long visit.

Mr S Edwards

'This was a fun and very worthwhile trip; I learned so much about a profession I had never considered pursuing before' - Anika Lawrence



SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHERS VISIT OUSEBURN AND THE QUAYSIDE

Last Thursday, Sixth Form geographers visited Newcastle to expand our understanding of key themes and case studies in our Contemporary Urban Environments and Changing Place units. In the morning, we enjoyed a walking tour around Ouseburn with John from the Ouseburn Trust. He shared the rich industrial heritage of that area of Newcastle, and the many projects that have revitalised the area, including new residential developments and office spaces especially created for small businesses and the creative sector. The urban farm was a particular surprise for me, but it demonstrated the community-centred strategy to the area's redevelopment.

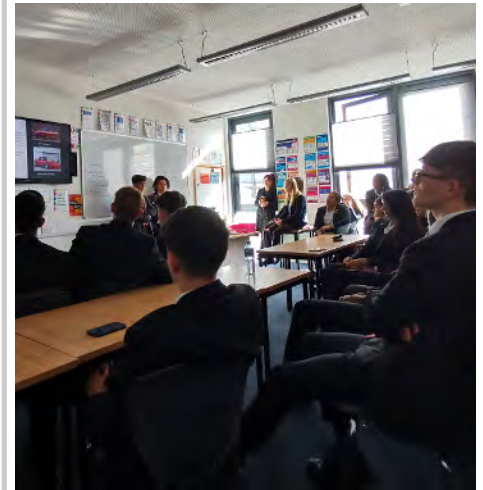
After enjoying lunch on the quayside, we enjoyed a behind the scenes tour of the Baltic. As well as learning about the redevelopment of the quayside and the continuing work to bring a large new arena to the city, it was fascinating to learn about how the Baltic is aiming to redefine itself from an art gallery to a visitor centre. Our guide showed us the way that inclusive design and community engagement can open up spaces to communities that they would have previously felt uncomfortable with.

Overall it was an engaging and thought-provoking trip, that left the whole group with great takeaways to apply to our Geography course!

James Waine, Upper Sixth



ECON BUS SOC: FULL OF DRIVE



Another week and another fabulous contribution to EconBus Soc. This week our Business Chairs had arranged for Nathan and Rayan to present on the topic of automobile modification. We learnt much about the ways in which cars can be modified with respect to both power and aesthetics to make them more unique, to either add monetary value or enhance satisfaction for the owners. It was fascinating to discover just how much money and expertise, thus business opportunity, is involved with what many of us previously and wrongly assumed to be just a low cost personal hobby.

We are very grateful to Nathan and Rayan for a well researched and detailed presentation, and of course to our Chairs for coordinating as well as to the large audience of open minded Sixth Formers for attending. B1 is now clearly THE place to be at 1pm on a Thursday lunchtime.

Miss C E Rhodes

ELEMENTAL FAME

This week those interested in FAME pathways were inspired by former pupil Oliver Bourke who left Yarm seventeen years ago. Beginning his bio by admitting that he didn't realise how great Yarm School was until he left, he certainly captured the attention of the Sixth Form.

Since leaving school after Sixth Form, Oliver has embarked on a journey of education, travelling the world, becoming one of the youngest Fellows of the Personal Finance Society, a Certified Financial Planner and he has also completed an MBA. Oliver is now the Managing Director of Mercury Wealth Management and has been a board member of several companies. Our students discovered what wealth management really involves, quizzed Oliver on the highs and lows of the profession and sought advice on how to establish a career in the industry. They also gained guidance, as Oliver gave words of wisdom to his 16 year old self! We are grateful to Oliver for being so generous with his time, it was lovely to hear how well he has done and we hope he will be involved with other departmental and school initiatives in the future.

Miss C E Rhodes



ECO-SCHOOLS GREEN FLAG AWARD PRESENTED



As part of our school's Eco-Committee we were proud this week to officially receive our sixth Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. To achieve our award, we conducted an environmental review based on 10 topics and then we produced a plan focussing on some of the key topics to actively build on in school.

We asked our school community to contribute as we raised awareness of the environmental impact in these areas. To be awarded the Green Flag, we have to submit evidence of how we have met the targets on our plan and how we cover eco-related areas in our curriculum. We showcase projects such as the Eco-Fashion competition and how we have raised awareness during tutorials, assemblies and through the school newsletter. We've also taken the initiative to install battery recycling

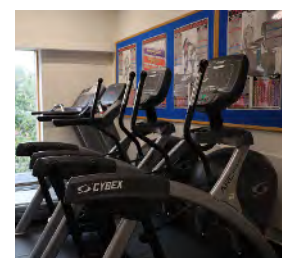
boxes for pupils to recycle old batteries in the Tate Building.

This year we are focussing on Global Citizenship, Waste and Healthy Living. We were grateful to have Jessica Jenyns present us with our most recent and sixth Green Flag Award. She is a former pupil of the school and over the last couple of years she has helped pupils both at the Senior School and the Prep School get involved in Eco-Art projects both in school and within the Yarm Community. Ms Jenyns has now left her position teaching at Yarm and is currently running her own business through which she up-cycles and recycles clothing.

We are planning to have an Eco-Week in March and further details will be released later on in the year so look out for future notices if you'd like to get involved!

YSA VISIT NEWLY REFURBISHED GYM

Representatives from the Yarm School Association (YSA) joined members of the Games Department and Dr Williams for a tour of the newly refurbished gym. Huge thanks to the YSA for the generous support and funds towards this refurbishment, which provides superb facilities for pupils and students. Click for [Gym Timetable](#) and [Induction Video](#).



ARTISTS' CORNER

In the Artists' Corner this week we have some beautiful autumnal leaves drawn by First Year pupils from Mrs Thompson's art class. These pupils were set the task of drawing the leaves directly from real life, paying close attention to shape, colour and tone.

Top (l-r) Alex Wormald, Edward Whitfield

Bottom (l-r) Max Askew, Harriet Batley, Anirudh Ginagunta, Bea Maredia



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A 'CHINESE CITIZEN'? PROFESSOR OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES SPEAKS TO THE POLITICS SOCIETY

There is much debate and controversy of late as to whether global politics is patterning in greater globalisation or rather more in a fragmentation. To what extent is there a universal playbook for how states should run themselves and engage with one another, or are states increasingly freestyling their approach to internal and external dynamics. The case of modern China has fascinated scholars and laypeople alike for decades. An area of intrigue for our recent guest, Dr Małgorzata (Gosia) Jakimów, Assistant Professor in East Asian Politics at Durham University, is an understanding of the experience and concept of citizenship for the people of China.

Joining us in a live relay from Spain where she is currently working on a secondment for the European Commission, Dr Jakimów began with

a presentation outline the findings in her book, 'China's Citizenship Challenge', details issues of the marginalisation of internal migrant workers, the activities of rights groups, as well as the recent suppression of citizens' rights. The audience consisting of forty Sixth Form students, comprising a healthy number of History A Level students who study Mao's China, were then immersed in a fascinating discussion around the nature and perception of 'citizenship' in China, the extent to which this was a national conversation, the risks of subversive discussion. Our guest, being a fluent Mandarin speaker, was also able to shed light on the linguistic context of China's expressions and terms

for citizens, some of them being rather derogatory. We also had the chance to explore the opportunities and challenges of Gosia's research methods, and her process of interviewing people in China.

It was a jam-packed session in every sense, from the ideas flowing out of the discussion to the assembled crowd. What a super way to spend a Friday lunchtime.

Mr S Edwards



HAVE A PHAB HALLOWEEN!

Phab Club group had a spooky Halloween fundraiser this week to raise money for the running of the club. They sold Halloween shaped cookies, did a treasure hunt round school and guessed how many pumpkin sweets were in a box!

Mrs S Lodge



FIFTH YEARS TAKE A MEANDER DOWN THE RIVER

On Wednesday 11th October, we went for a walk around the meander of the River Tees in order to deepen our understanding of flood management techniques, the affects of these, and how they are going to be changed in the near future. We first observed the two flood lines marking the height of two extreme floods, one was situated on the town hall and the other, on a house down one of the alleyways. Through this we were able to learn that an extreme flood occurs about every 100 years, but due to climate change, this will be more prominent in the future. When walking along the river, we were able to spot all the floodgates and observe their sturdy design. We learnt that they are soon going to be refurbished by the Environment Agency



construction is expected to start in January 2024 and complete in Autumn 2024 .

Also, when looking at the river, we tried to guess where the thalweg was, which is where the fastest flowing water is along the river channel, and which bank of the river had

experienced the most erosion.

Overall, walking the meander was a valuable experience in helping us understand our rivers topic, and we are lucky to have the River Tees so accessible to us.

Alice Ward, Fifth Year

ALL THAT GLITTERS

"Santa's Apprentices", Project Managed by Sam and "Deck the Stalls", Project Managed by Will, will be at the YSA Christmas Market on Saturday November 18th, competing to try and win Yarm Apprentice Task Two and raising money for their chosen charities. The stalls can only take cash so please save up your change for then, put the date in your diary and show your support for our fabulous Sixth Formers who are currently hard at work planning their merchandise and Christmassy themes.

Miss C E Rhodes

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR UNICEF

Thank you for your generous support!

Thank you to all of you who supported the Community Action Group's food stall last week in the Dovecote by purchasing popcorn, caramel slices and, of course, chocolate strawberries! We were delighted to raise £200 for UNICEF's Children's Emergency Fund which is assisting young people experiencing the catastrophic events in Libya and Morocco.



Community Action Group

YARM SCHOOL ENTERED INTO THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE SCIENCE IN MEDICINE TEAM PRIZE FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING

The Upper Sixth Team consisting of Archie, Harry, Toma, Alfie, Oscar and Tom pitched their novel approach to reducing the number of asthma related deaths in the UK. Their poster, entitled: 'The use of mRNA technology to treat imbalances within the extracellular matrix to reduce asthmatic inflammation', coupled with their informative and well delivered presentation won praise from the expert panel of judges. The judges praised the cross-discipline approach to solving a medical issue - in particular the design of the inhaler based delivery system. Success was down to their

hard work as a team which meant that their poster was incredibly well designed, clear to read and well researched. The team placed in the top 10 in the country - 56 teams had entered posters into the competition. The result in this prestigious national competition is a testament to their hard work on top of balancing their A Level studies and other extracurricular commitments. The team will now meet with an

Imperial College academic to discuss their idea in more detail.

Mr T Newman



MOCK INTERVIEW EVENING

The first Tuesday after the half-term holidays will see the Careers Department host the U6 Mock Interview Evening. The programme is designed to equip the Sixth Form students with the experience and skills that will be required as they move on in their education, training and employment.

The evening will see over 100 members of the year group benefit from a bespoke interview in their specific area of future application, with around 40 areas of study/apprenticeship/employment being covered. A large number of external specialists will be welcomed

onto the school site, alongside interviewers drawn from across the school community.

In preparation for the event the students have been guided in their preparation by prepared talks in school, including a session this Friday with Naomi Woods of Maoni Consulting, who brought her years of industry experience to the benefit of the students, helping them to focus on what they wanted to achieve from the mock interview process.

Mock interviews can be 'valued' in many different ways:

- It is an opportunity to practise skills

- It provides valuable feedback for improvement
- It allows one to focus on the reasons for a chosen course of action
- It can allow one a chance to perform in a different 'mode' and practice enthusing with someone who will value and share your enthusiasm
- It can help you develop strategies, approaches and techniques to answers questions
- It can also help settle nerves by having a dry run at what you will later experience
- The event promises to be of considerable value to all participants and we will report back after the evening with further details.

Mr S Edwards

A LEVEL ENGLISH STUDENTS EXPERIENCE DRACULA AND GRAYSON PERRY'S SMASH HIT EXHIBITION IN EDINBURGH



On Saturday the 14th of October, the A Level English students embarked on an exciting journey to Edinburgh to view the contemporary art of Grayson Perry and watch Sally Cookson's reimagining of Bram Stoker's gothic novel 'Dracula'.

We started bright and early with a meet of 07:45 at Darlington Station, our train was unfortunately delayed for 40 minutes but we did not let that dampen our spirits! We then embarked on the two and a half hour train journey to our first stop, The National Gallery of Scotland to see 'Grayson Perry's Smash Hit' exhibition.

This exhibition covered Perry's forty year career. Popular and provocative, Perry makes art that deals with difficult and complex ideologies in an accessible and often funny way. He tackles issues such as masculinity, sexuality, class, religion, politics and more. He creates subversive pots, brilliantly intricate prints, elaborate

sculptures, and huge, captivating tapestries - all of which are embedded with sharp wit and social commentary. Working with traditional artforms, Perry addresses the controversial issues of our times. After the artwork, we all had some lunch and then made our way to the Festival Theatre to watch 'Mina's Reckoning'. It was a uniquely Scottish, contemporary, retelling of Bram Stoker's classic tale written by Morna Pearson and directed by Sally Cookson. With an all-women and non-binary ensemble cast, we witnessed the addiction, intoxication, and empowerment of Mina. The play itself was filled with humour and a taste for the strange and grotesque. It was an insightful and useful experience for the U6th and L6th students and further developed our understanding of Stoker's fin de siecle novel 'Dracula'.

Erin Scott, Upper Sixth



BOOK REVIEW

A PROMISED LAND - BARACK OBAMA



A Promised Land is the first of two presidential memoirs by Barack Obama, where Obama reflects on his childhood, then adolescence and onwards to his political career, with all of this finishing in 2011. It covers every significant decision Obama had to make and outlines the thought process behind these decisions. Obama acknowledges the challenges he faced having lived through financial instability. Obama was the first African American President of the United States. After graduation from Columbia university in 1993, he worked as a community advisor in Chicago, and then in 1998 he enrolled in Harvard Law School. In 2008 he was nominated for President a year after his presidential campaign began and was successful making history in the process becoming the first Black

President of America. A year later Obama was named the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Obama covers his childhood in each of his books, however this is the first book to describe his upbringing in Hawaii. After living in Indonesia for his younger childhood, Obama moved back to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents. Obama spent his teenage years playing basketball and he still retains strong friendships from this time and these childhood friends are astonished by his transformation. To them, teenage Barack turning into President Obama is a miracle. Despite this Obama mentions that part of this lack of direction at this age was due to uneasiness in his own skin, he describes himself as being from everywhere and nowhere at once. Another habit that Obama picked up during his adolescence was smoking, this is a habit that he struggled to tackle during the early years of his presidency. Obama admits that he sometimes smoked up to 10 cigarettes a day however the inspiration behind him quitting was his daughter.

From the beginning Obama was fueled by a desire for social change; this was his passion and what encouraged him to run for office in the first place. However Obama admits there were occasions where

his ego took over. This occurred in his failures and his successes; he would always notice this though, and would refocus on the importance of social change and be angry for letting his ego takeover. It took Obama a while to realise that politics was his route to making social change, therefore Obama suggests to readers that having a purpose from a young age is not essential. You can learn in time how you can direct your passions into a specific purpose.

A Promised Land uncovers massive decisions Obama made during his presidency. For example Obama explains an alternative approach he had to take when calling his first military intervention in Libya. He had been given a high tech communication system supposed to be super secure, however just as Obama needed to use it, it stopped working, therefore Obama had to use a regular cell phone to make the significant decision of intervening in Libya. The phone was used to deliver a cryptic command to a general in Washington DC. He took a relaxed approach to a massive decision. Obama stated 'I experienced failure and learnt to buck so I could rally those who put their trust in me, I suffered rejections and insults often enough to stop fearing them, in other words I grew up and got my sense of humour back.'

BOOK REVIEW CONTINUED

Overall *A Promised Land* whilst being a biography on Barack Obama's life story, becomes more of a lesson on the impact of decisions and the road to success. Its message suggests that all successes and failures are important in life and shape you to become the person you are and that while it may not be clear on the direction of your purpose, just by

having it you will find a way to implement it. I would recommend this book to anyone as whilst being a political book, overall it will turn out to just be an inspiring book.

Nathan Muzawazi, Upper Sixth

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop will be open at the following times throughout the half-term holiday:

Tuesdays 10am - 3pm

Thursdays 10am - 3pm

YOSEMITE PARK RANGER AND RESEARCHER SPEAKS WITH THE CALIFORNIA CROWD

This half term a mixed group of Politics and Biology A Level students are heading to California for a ten day study tour exploring the synergy of their subjects, looking at issues such as ecology, environmental management and stewardship. One of their sites will be Yosemite National Park, where they will be investigating issues of sustainability as well as the impact of global warming.

To prepare for this particular site we were joined on Monday evening by Rachel Friesen. Our guest works as a Park Ranger at Yosemite but also is currently researching towards her doctorate at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where her focus is the impacts of climate change on alpine plants in Yosemite National Park.

Rachel gave a presentation of her previous research projects at Yosemite, including a comparison of

botanical coverage on specific sites compared to data gathered in 1991. The Park's future faces significant challenges, from the number and concentration of visitors given its iconic status; as Rachel expressed it is at risk of 'being loved to death'. She also detailed her work looking at a range of alpine flowers growing at altitudes where there is no tree growth. Her early findings seem to suggest that with the passing years the alpine plants are having to spread upwards, attempting to reach a cooler temperature suited to their growth. For some, they have run out of height and are now facing the risk of extinction. We were also taught about the native american context to the park; few know that native populations were actively and violently cleared to make way for this visitor attraction, though some significant recent conversations are

exploring possibilities of returning lands to native populations given their knowledge and record of better environmental management than federal agencies and efforts.

We were also given some valuable insights into what a 'better' visitor to Yosemite might look like and some helpful 'dos and don'ts' for what promises to be one of many highlights on our forthcoming visit.

Mr S Edwards



MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Our senior mathematicians have had great success this term in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. 54 students from Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Year took part in the challenge on 3rd October in which they answered challenging Maths questions over a 90 minute period using only pencil and paper and their problem solving skills. 85% achieved an award with 19 Bronze, 10 Silver and 17 Gold awards. All 17 of the Gold award winners have progressed onto the

next round of the competition with 14 to take part in the Senior Kangaroo competition and 3 to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad. Particular congratulations must go to Keya Shah, Abdelrahmen Ellidir and Patrick Winters for progressing to the Olympiad competition for several years in succession. Well done to all involved and good luck to those taking part in the next rounds on 15th November.

Mrs K Barnett



AND THEN THERE WERE NONE ... THEATRE TRIP

This term, the Book Club decided that we would explore Agatha Christie's infamous novel, 'And Then There Were None' and complement this by watching the current theatre adaptation that is touring.

Our trip to Theatre Royal in Newcastle began with much excitement in E1 as we ate our picnic tea, whilst discussing our thoughts on the book, and what we were thinking the play would be like with Mrs Dugdale. Before we knew it, we boarded the minibus and set off to Newcastle.

Everyone was really excited and couldn't wait to see the play, but we chatted to each other on the journey, discussing Christie's novel. When we got into the theatre, we found our seats and waited ... for the curtain to go up!

As the play started, we were all

dazzled by the amazing use of costumes, scenery and acting. It was definitely a production that everyone would remember! As the characters were introduced over their first dinner on Soldier Island, the director had divided the stage in two with a translucent curtain, which added great effect and mystery. After the characters had finished dinner, they moved onto the main stage to the shock of the first murder. All of the acting was done brilliantly, with humour every now and then.

In the interval, over drinks and snacks, we discussed what we thought of the play so far, and compared it to the book. Before we knew it, the curtain was going up again and it was the second half.

Again, we were even more dazzled by the scenery and found the second half just as thrilling as the actors

slowly got fewer due to all of the murders and the murderer soon came clear. When the production came to an end, everyone was ecstatic with the energy that the actors and actresses had created during the performance and again we talked to each other about our views on the performance.

I would highly recommend joining Book Club as it is a great way to spend your Thursday lunchtime and an amazing opportunity to meet new people and discover different authors and genres.

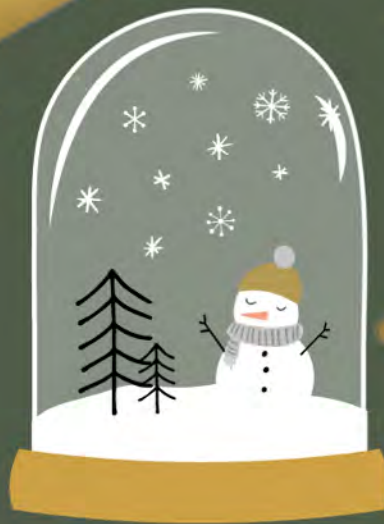
The book club would like to thank everyone who spent their time into helping this trip go forward and to Mrs Dugdale, for her amazing book recommendations and ideas. Thank you very much - we can't wait to get reading again!

Eliza Fellows, Second Year



YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

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



Craft Stalls,
Gift Ideas,
Food & Drink

Yarm School Association

CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

Saturday 18th November 2023

10am - 4pm, Yarm School

PUPILS PERFORM WITH GERARDO RODRIGUES

Our String Ensemble will be performing with international pianist and composer Gerardo Rodrigues in his concert in the PAA on Saturday 11th November.

The ensemble will be accompanying Gerardo in his suite of pieces called Estado de Alma. What a fantastic opportunity for our young musicians!

Tickets are available [here](#).

Mrs K Staggs

Gerardo Rodrigues



**Saturday 11th November,
7.30pm**

WWW.THEPAAONLINE.ORG

01642 792587

 PRINCESS ALEXANDRA
AUDITORIUM

SWIMMING SUCCESS AT DURHAM

Yarm School sent a full squad to the qualifying round of the English Schools' Swimming Association National Team Championships in Durham. The teams each swam a 4x50m medley and a 4x50m freestyle relay against the best teams in the North East. Having trained together the previous weekend, the team had practiced their relay takeovers and starts, ready for the competition.

The event went very well, with all 7 relay teams securing good qualifying times. Notably, the Senior Girls team won both of their events. Both the Senior Boys and the Senior Girls have qualified for the National Championships which will be held in Birmingham on Saturday 18th November. We wish them the best of luck.

Full National Results

Team - National Position

Junior Girls Free - 134th/238
 Junior Girls Medley - 129th/250
 Junior Boys Free - 62nd/167
 Junior Boys Medley - 49th/161
 Inter Boys Free - 136th/176
 Inter Boys Medley - 92nd/175
 Inter Girls Free - 165th/245
 Inter Girls Medley - 163rd/244
 Senior Boys Free - 18th/162 - Qualified
 Senior Boys Medley - 13th/161 - Qualified
 Senior Girls Free - 29th/180 - Reserve
 Senior Girls Medley - 16th/180 - Qualified

GOLF STAR



Huge Congratulations To Sophia Rudd who has been selected to play for the Yorkshire Regional Golf U18 squad. She is one of only 5 people to be selected and this is a fantastic achievement. We look forward to following her progress.

Miss S Cottrell



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online. You can [view them here.](#)

RUGBY

U15 vs Ashville: The match vs Ashville on Saturday was overall a very good and positive experience for the team with the final score ending in 56-7 to Yarm. We played well throughout the game as we looked to go forward with the ball confidently. Our structure during the match was also very good particularly in the centre as we controlled the game and we were very good in contact both at the breakdown and making crucial tackles when needed. The defensive alignment was a lot better than in previous games as we all managed to go forward as a unit instead of singular players going up which meant that we weren't as exposed as in other games. We were alright at set pieces - there is room for improvement as we made a few silly mistakes which we could have avoided. Every player played a vital role in the game with multiple different people scoring tries.

Try scorers: Harvey Dawson, Oliver Mowbray, Oliver Blake, Mustafa El-Sherif, Henry Bottomley

Ben Hunt, Fourth Year

U14 vs Ashville

On the 14th October Yarm U14s travelled to Ashville Harrogate for a match. Missing some key players, we had to reshuffle the side against a team that were not as strong as us, so it gave a good chance for players to work on their game in perhaps different positions. It was clear our attacking game was too strong for the opposition, so we also lent them some players to try and balance the game. Despite this, and with some restrictions on our play, the team still won the match 60-20 with some excellent displays of teamwork to score many tries.

Oscar Lane, Third Year



U13A vs Ashville

On the 14th October the U13 team played Ashville Harrogate at Green Lane. It was a very good match, with a score of 8 tries to 1 for the A's. The team played with good attacking intent and looked to have options to run through or get round the edge of the defence. We moved the ball to space well and scored some great tries against a good opposition team. Some of the try scorers were: Jack Smith, Christian Boyes, Rorke Anderson amongst others.

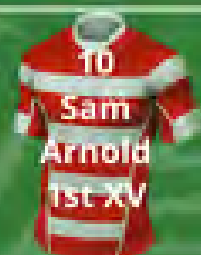
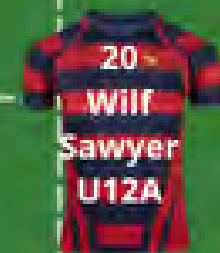
George Howlett, Second Year



RUGBY

YARM SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM OF THE WEEK

7th - 14th October

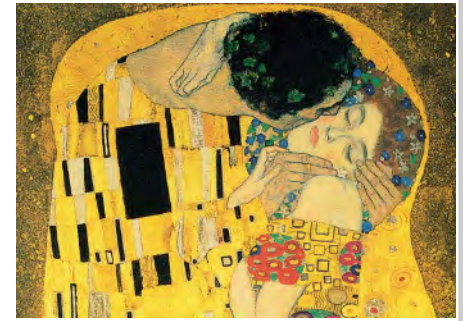


EOS LIVE: KLIMT AND THE KISS

Painted in Vienna around 1908, the evocative image of an unknown embracing couple has captivated viewers with its mystery, sensuality and dazzling materials ever since it was created.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A LIVE STREAMED PRODUCTION AND IS NOT PERFORMED LIVE AT THE AUDITORIUM.

Eric Chappell's comedy is by turns hilarious and poignant,



Wednesday 1st November 2023 7:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)

ROH LIVE: DON QUIXOTE

Don Quixote, based on Miguel de Cervantes' epic novel of the same name, regales the adventures of the eccentric nobleman Don Quixote and his faithful squire Sancho Panza, as they help to bring a vivacious young couple, Kitri and Basilio, together.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A LIVE STREAMED PRODUCTION AND IS NOT PERFORMED LIVE AT THE AUDITORIUM.



Sunday 12th November 2023 2:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)

ROH LIVE: THE NUTCRACKER

Join Clara at a delightful Christmas Eve party that becomes a magical adventure once everyone else is tucked up in bed. Marvel at the brilliance of Tchaikovsky's score, as Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker fight the Mouse King and visit the Sugar Plum Fairy in the glittering Kingdom of Sweets. Peter Wright's much-loved production for The Royal Ballet, with gorgeous period designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, keeps true to the spirit of this festive ballet classic, combining the thrill of the fairy tale with spectacular dancing.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A LIVE STREAMED PERFORMANCE AND IS NOT PERFORMED LIVE AT THE AUDITORIUM.



Tuesday 12th - Sunday 17th December 2023

[Book Online Here](#)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites: it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site @Glowson and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



Source: <https://www.windowscentral.com/youngster-spends-over-8000-fifa-xbox-highlighting-predatory-game-design-co/> <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/addictive-behaviour-gaming-disorder> <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-european-countries-call-for-better-regulation-of-loot-boxes-following-new-report>