

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

I was so proud of our pupils last Friday as they participated in, embraced and respected our Remembrance Service, with stunning contributions from our musicians, including Constance who played the last post, and a beautiful rendition of Danny Boy by Morven, Simone, Esther and Natasha. There were poignant and moving readings from School Officers, and the two minute's silence was flawless as we all took time to reflect on the meaning of remembrance. On Sunday, the CCF Cadets represented the School with real distinction at the Town's Remembrance Parade, as well as other members of the school participating to lay wreaths for various organisations. Thank you to all involved, and congratulations to those members of the CCF whose promotions are detailed within.

We welcomed a group of former pupils back to school last weekend, eager to meet each other and former

Headmasters Neville Tate OBE and David Dunn, joined also by Mr Woodward and Mr Dunn (DT). A tour of the school provided a shock to those who have not returned to Yarm for a number of years, and a trip down memory lane through shared stories and experiences, enhanced by the range of archive material on display, meant that a thoroughly good time was had by all.

Last night, we welcomed the Fifth Year alongside a large number of prospective Sixth Formers, and their families, to the Sixth Form Open evening and I am grateful to all students who volunteered their time to support the event, either as ushers to guide new families, or within departments to speak to pupils exploring their A Level options. Earlier in the week I was delighted to watch the A level Theatre Studies students perform in the Studio Theatre in what was a mesmerising evening of drama - well done to all. I

had to cut short my enjoyment of the Rockschooll concert to make it to the theatre, but congratulations also to all those musicians who were entertaining an energetic and enthused audience in the Friarage Theatre. Further musical success was on display in the PAA last Saturday with an outstanding concert involving our string players alongside professional pianist Gerardo Rodrigues. A full report of this magical evening is below.

There is much to digest and enjoy within the newsletter - everything from information about forthcoming enrichment lectures to reports on trips, Eco Schools, debating competitions, maths success, book review, creative writing, news of sporting success and more. Phew... and breathe!

Dr Huw Williams

CHRISTMAS CONCERT TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Join us at our annual seasonal offering packed with all your Christmas favourites, featuring the fabulous musicians and singers from Yarm School as well as the wonderful Yarm Choral Society. Get your tickets asap to avoid disappointment!

Performances

- Saturday 9th December, 6.30pm
- Sunday 10th December, 2pm

Get your tickets from the box office or [online here](#).



Classics trip to Greece

YARM SCHOOL CCF REMEMBRANCE 2023

On Sunday 12th November cadets and staff from Yarm School CCF participated in Yarm's annual Remembrance Sunday Commemoration. Following some hard work in rehearsal the cadets paraded through the high street and took an active part in the service at the war memorial. The cadets were smartly turned out, well drilled and a real credit to the school and the town. This year Lt A Bridges led the parade, Jennifer Chan carried the Cadet Force standard and Grace Harbinson had the honour of laying the wreath on behalf of the school. Well done to all cadets and staff involved, I was very proud of everyone who participated.

Mr T Taylor



CCF PROMOTIONS

The following cadets were promoted on Monday owing to their commitment and hard work within the CCF.

Sergeant Jennifer Chan to Colour Sergeant
 Corporal Grace Harbinson to Sergeant
 Lance Corporal Rishi Chawla to Corporal
 Lance Corporal Noah Filer to Corporal
 Lance Corporal Spyke Marshall-Burnell to Corporal
 Lance Corporal Patrick Tulloch to Corporal
 Cadet James Aitken to Lance Corporal
 Cadet Shlok Arcot to Lance Corporal
 Cadet Charlie Baines to Lance Corporal
 Cadet Elizabeth Neilson to Lance Corporal
 Cadet Santhosh Ravichandran to Lance Corporal
 Cadet Oscar Simmonds to Lance Corporal
 Cadet Sophie Winnard to Lance Corporal

Very well done to all those receiving promotion.



Capt. Taylor

MAKING IT HAPPEN ECONBUS SOC

This week the EconBus Dep were delighted to welcome Alan Hodgson, in his role as Capital Development Manager, to speak to U6 Business students as they commence their study of Project Management within Operations Management.

Before the vacation students had produced 3D models showing how they would revamp B1 to give it a slightly pink and CER-like makeover and, after being shown these, Mr Hodgson was able to explain to the audience how Project Management works in real life, as he shared his own experiences over his extensive career and discussed in detail how a master plan can come to fruition.

We are very grateful to Mr Hodgson for being so generous with his time and for being so open and willing to answer the plethora of questions he was bombarded with by enthusiastic and interested audience members.

Miss C E Rhodes



PLAYING WITH MONEY

"In the last two decades, the world of football has witnessed a financial revolution like no other. From modest beginnings, football has transformed into a multi-billion-dollar industry, with staggering player transfers, sponsorships, and TV rights deals that have reshaped the game".

This week in EconBus Soc we were delighted to have Gaurav and Benji explore the Finance of Football, as they examined what makes football so money orientated, considered if more regulation is needed in the game and if it is actually possible for such intervention to be effective.

Thank you to both boys for presenting on such an interesting



topic and to Gaurav for coping with an onslaught of questions. Our Chairs have put together an fabulous programme of speakers thus far this term. Join us next week for Talk of Tennis and if you are Sixth Former keen to volunteer please speak to Harry, Ollie, Arhana and Adhi.

Miss C E Rhodes

YARM PREP SCHOOL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

CAPTAIN'S BALL

25th November 2023

IN AID OF NEO ANGELS CHARITY

Tickets £85 - includes Drinks & Canapes, 4 Course Meal
Princess Alexandra Auditorium, 7pm - midnight

SCOTLAND CANOE EXPEDITION, LOCH AWE

At the beginning of half term a small group of students set off with Mr Mathers, Miss Street and Mr Van Opstal for a classic Scotland canoe expedition; the destination was Loch Awe. After driving through the tail end of storm Babet, we set out on the Saturday morning to blue skies, light winds and smooth water. Loch Awe is famous for its islands, alongside it being the longest freshwater loch in Scotland, and so we canoed the length of it over 3 days and 2 nights.

The destination for night one was Innis Chonnell castle, once used as a

prison, and the appeal of camping inside the castle itself. We cooked our expedition food and ate by a roaring campfire in the original fireplace of the over 700 year old castle.

Calm weather waited for us on day two and as we paddled our way up the loch the wind started to pick up, this meant we could raft our canoes and use the sales to continue sailing our way up the loch. From then on we zoomed up the loch, enjoying the lovely autumn sunshine. Our next island campsite, Inishail, featured a

ruined chapel and graveyard, and the grave of the 11th Duke of Argyll. We had the chance to explore the island after we had set up camp by the beach.

After another peaceful night in our expedition tents, we finished our journey with a two hour canoe before retrieving the minibus from the start and heading back home.

What a sunny and successful canoe expedition for a delightful group of pupils.

Mr A Mathers



HISTORY SOCIETY DINNER

On Friday 10th of November last week, presidents of the Yarm School History Society gathered together for the annual History Society dinner. This year to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's crossing of the Antarctic, our dinner was centred around the theme of 'The History of Exploration', for which groups researched a wide array of explorers, from the Italian explorer Marco Polo, to much more local explorers such as Gertrude Bell. All this discussion took place in the wonderful Blackfriars Restaurant, which claims to be the oldest dining hall in the UK, along with being a place of stay for King Henry III during 1236 in his continued efforts to fight against the Scots.

Between courses speakers from each group presented a quick overview of their explorer to the room. Firstly was Marco Polo, a 13th Century explorer, well known for his significant impact on European knowledge of the East; followed by the 14th Century Moroccan explorer Ibn Battuta who tripled the distance

of Marco Polo to the far reaches of China, though its legitimacy has been debated. In the same time period, a Chinese explorer under the name Zheng He who sailed around Asia under the order of the Chinese Emperor to improve diplomatic and cultural relations. Hernán Cortés, a 15th Century explorer from Spain travelled to South America to further Spanish interest in the region - however his violent methods were very damaging to the local population. A couple centuries later, Aboriginal Australian Bungaree became the first Australian to circum-navigate Australia alongside Matthew Flinders. Also in the 18th Century, James Cook - a well-known local explorer- voyaged through the Pacific ocean as a cartographer. Gerturude Bell, also a local explorer in the late 1800s, made a name for herself with her exploration and diplomacy in the Middle East. More recently in the 20th Century and our final explorer, Wilfred Thesinger explored the 'Empty Quarter', around the Middle East and Arab

world, as a fight against modernisation and monoculturalism, a topic which was debated at the dinner.

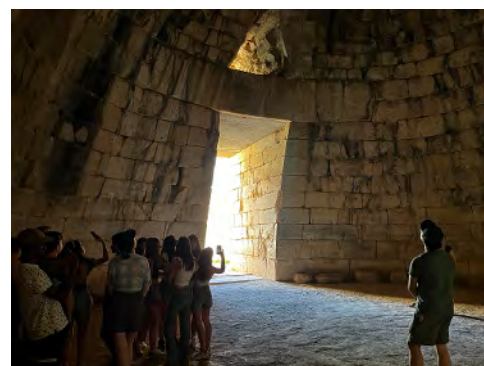
The research into these explorers from around the globe and in many time periods allowed us to thoughtfully consider the desires and impacts of exploration and an interesting question of 'Are explorers, by nature, outsiders to their societies' - a question which we would like to leave open for the reader to consider. Are the explorations done by these people and others actually ethical?

Finally, we would like to graciously thank Mr Taylor and the rest of the History Department (alongside our regular guest Mr Newman) for organising such an amazing event every year, which has greatly enhanced our understanding and general love of history.

Ava Carter and Eva Speight,
Lower Sixth



CLASSICS TRIP TO ATHENS, DELPHI AND THE PELOPONNESE



The Acropolis, Delphi, Olympia, Mycenae and Epidaurus - our fourth and fifth year Classicists visited some of the most significant sites of Ancient Greece over a six day trip.

The students were able to see many of the objects and locations that feature on their GCSE classical civilisation syllabus. This includes the artwork that adorns the Temple of Athens at Olympia and the Parthenon in Athens; we were able

to see the sites of Tiryns and Maecenae and the finds discovered in these important Mycenean sites.

Beside visiting heritage sites, our group also enjoyed modern Greek cuisine, culture and good weather.

On most of the sights, we also encountered many cats and dogs wandering around the site and helping preserve our heritage! The rather excitable dog at Tiryns certainly provided one of the most memorable moments of the tour, while the two cats in a plant pot kept some of us busy as we wait for the coach at Delphi. For Edward, one of our fourth year, the vista from Delphi made a great impression on him; whereas for myself, the visit to Olympia after studying the ancient Olympics for

many years was a moving experience.

We received many positive comments about the behaviour of the students, who enjoyed the museum without being loud and asked interesting questions. I would like to thank the group for being such a good group of travellers and congratulate them for getting so much out of the trip.

Mr H Lee

Trip Report

On Friday the 3rd of November, we flew from Manchester international airport, to Athens, Greece. After a long first day we arrived at the Athens Atrium Hotel where we settled into our rooms and had a meal of afelia (marinated pork and rice).

On our second day of the trip, we visited the impressive site of the Acropolis of Athens, in the centre of the city. After a moderate ascent, we enjoyed an interesting tour from our guide, Efi, among the ancient ruins of the Parthenon. We were also treated to clear skies and spectacular views of the surrounding city. After this, we visited the architecturally



magnificent Acropolis Museum, filled with the findings from the excavation of the Acropolis site (though many of these were actually in the British museum!).

On Sunday we visited the Oracle site of Delphi, we saw many sites including the temples of Athena and Apollo and the temple for the oracle of Delphi. We learnt that every tree in Delphi is an olive tree apart from one in the very centre - a maple tree, which is believed to provide the most shelter. The architecture is one of a kind with marble theatres and buildings protruding from the hillside plus a high street with Roman arches built into the shops.

CLASSICS TRIP CONT.

On Tuesday, we visited the site of Olympia (the archaic home of the Olympic Games). After a tour through the site some of us participated in a competitive race on the original Olympic track (which was won by Isaac). Afterwards, we visited the great Theatre of Epidaurus, which was exquisitely preserved and very close to how it was in classical times.

On the penultimate day we went to the ancient citadels of Tiryns and Mycenae, both were filled with graves and the ruins of palaces, megarons and galleries. The walls reached an insane 13 metres high whilst being up to 10 metres thick! The Western wall of Tiryns was curved to provide a panoramic view and the lions gate of Mycenae was 3x3m with a 13 ton block on top.

Overall, this trip was a great experience; we are all so grateful to have had the opportunity to visit key sites on our course, absorb the culture of a foreign country and spend quality time with friends.

Isaac Akowuah and Sophie Winnard, Fourth Year



ECO-SCHOOLS INITIATIVES

The Eco-Schools committee is launching two new initiatives next week!

Firstly is a full school initiative, to collect crisp packages for the charity Nite Light in Middlesbrough. These packets will be ironed together and assembled into sleeping bags and blankets for the homeless. This is a chance to make a huge difference to the lives of people in the local community! Crisp recycling bins are already in place in the Bistro, by the Snack Shack and at the top of the Tate Building stairs and they are being spread across First and Second tutor rooms early next week. We want to try and get the most number of crisp packets before Christmas to make the most difference, so if you can collect packets at home and bring them in, that would be great!



		
1. Make at least one journey more sustainable <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Go meat-free for a day <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Have a no food-waste weekend <input type="checkbox"/>
		
4. Turn down the heating by 1° for 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Design a flight-free holiday <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Say 'no' to a new item <input type="checkbox"/>
		
7. Donate something you no longer need <input type="checkbox"/>	8. Substitute 4 baths for 4 showers and limit them to 4 minutes <input type="checkbox"/>	9. Share carbon-cutting advice <input type="checkbox"/>

Secondly, is the Cutting Carbon initiative, which will be introduced in the First and Second years by Peer Support Mentors on Tuesday next week! This November, we challenge all First and Second Years to as complete as many of the 9 carbon cutting activities as they can! The poster beside shows the range of activities!

We hope as many people as possible can get involved in these exciting new initiatives!

The Eco-Schools Committee

ENRICHMENT LECTURE SERIES: ARCHAEOLOGY 101

Before half term we welcomed former pupil Bola Ajekgibe when he gave us a fascinating insight into the world of orthopaedics, and the use of robotics in surgery. With almost sixty in attendance, Bola spoke with real authority about the impact of robotics in total knee replacement surgery (one his fields of expertise), and discussed the subsequent benefits and downsides, both for that particular procedure as well as surgery in general.

Our next lecture comes from another former pupil Alex Bridges (class of 2015). Alex is currently undertaking a PhD in archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. He'll be sharing some

insights into how archaeology works, the importance of context, and some common misconceptions about the ancient world. He draws on examples from the Romans, Ancient Greeks, Vikings, and his own research in Egypt. Perhaps this will bring out your inner Indiana Jones!

As always I look forward to seeing as many as can make this talk at 4:15pm on Tuesday 21st November 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.

As we approach the busy Christmas

season, this will be the last of this term's enrichment lectures. There are a number of exciting talks planned for the new year, including the following lectures:

- Ethical Hacking
- Healthcare Inequalities in the Northeast
- The Practical Application of AI in Business and Entrepreneurship
- Sports journalism, and the link between football and dementia

More information about these will be distributed at the start of next term.

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

Mr R Williams

SAMLING ACADEMY SUCCESS

Congratulations to Anoushka Paul in Lower 6 who successfully gained a place in the highly prestigious Samling Academy for young classical singers. Auditions took place last academic year and Anoushka writes about her experience of the first part of her vocal training at the Academy.

Mrs K Staggs

During half term, I had the opportunity to take part in the Samling Institute of Classical Singers. The training consisted of two fantastic weekends of workshops taking place in Newcastle and ending with a phenomenal concert at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music (formerly Sage, Gateshead).

The weekends consisted of vocal masterclasses led by unbelievably knowledgeable and enthusiastic instructors as well as opportunities for both acting and movement sessions which were not only incredibly enjoyable but also really useful when trying to convey what you're singing to an audience, with the aim of making your performances all the more captivating.

In particular, I admired the personalised attention given to each student and learning vocal and acting techniques that really helped me. The training pushed me way beyond any of my perceived expectations. I also found it very inspiring to meet new

people of a variety of ages who all shared the same passion of singing. I learned a lot from listening to all the singers in the Academy.

The combination of guidance and collaborative learning made my experience and the final performance all the more the memorable. And I would encourage anyone who has an interest in classical singing to audition!

Anoushka Paul, Lower Sixth



ONCE IN A LIFETIME MUSICAL MAGIC ALONGSIDE GERARDO

Saturday's concert was one of those "once in a lifetime" experiences for our string ensemble; a collaborative concert with Portuguese professional pianist and composer Gerardo Rodrigues.

As part of his European tour, Gerardo presented his own compositions in the form of an easy listening programmatic concept album. Yes, we have been practising the repertoire for some time in our weekly half hour rehearsals. However the enormity of the experience did not hit home until we started to rehearse with Gerardo on the Saturday afternoon; seemingly simple textures became a musical challenge as Gerardo played a musical freedom that meant every bar ebbed and flowed, wavered from the underlying pulse. Instead of feelings of intimidation, our young string players were drawn into Gerardo's distinct sound world and rose to the challenge.

Gerardo put our performers at their ease, removing tension and nerves from their performance. It really was a mesmerising and enchanting evening of musical collaboration. Congratulations to all the string players involved

James: *"It was a fantastic experience to be able to play alongside Gerardo Rodrigues! As the composer of the music we played, it was wonderful to explore the freeness to which he played his music. It was an experience I'm sure will stick with me for many years to come!"*

Effie: *"The atmospheric nature of Gerardo's piano playing was gorgeous."*

Jennifer: *"Playing with Gerardo was an unforgettable experience - he was so expressive with his music, you didn't realise you were sitting in the PAA during his performance. He was inspirational."*

Mrs K Staggs

Performers

Violins:

Jennifer Chan (leader)
Keya Shah (principal 2nd)
James Waine (co leader)
Eleanor Madden
Isabelle Swallow
Harvey Qin
Sophia Lin
Robert Qin
Christina Lin
Emily Clarke

Violas:

Louis Thursby
Ms Brookes

Cellos:

Dhruv Wadehra (principal cello)
Effie Peacock
Matthew Leggett
Tenuk Mendis
Mr Harbottle



OPENING ROUND OF THE ESU DEBATING COMPETITION: DEBATE AGAINST DAME ALLAN'S

On Monday evening, Morven Hawthorne, Simone Sharma and myself (James Waine) participated in the first round of the English Speaking Union's (ESU) Mace Debating Competition where we were the opposition in the motion "this house would broadcast court cases in the British justice system" against Dame Allan's School.

Following on from Kate from Dame Allan's opening remarks, Morven was the opening speaker for Yarm. In her speech, she carefully redefined the motion from the proposition's more narrowed and criminal case centered definition to one that encompassed all case types and court levels. Following this, she outlined the structure of our debate before launching into her argument; this centred around the importance of privacy, especially highlighting sensitive cases such as rape, divorce and those where there is the potential for the creation of civil unrest. She also drew on comparison to the USA, to demonstrate the higher reoffending rate that is due to the increased dehumanisation of criminals caused by the broadcasting of trials.

Following the second speaker from the proposition, who focused on the public benefit to broadcasting court cases, James focused his speech on the practical challenges of implementing courtroom recording. This included

the need for extra staff to monitor recording so that there are no data breaches, the server and camera capacity required and the added complication of keeping the jury safe. He further went on to mention how studies have shown that both judges give harsher sentences when recorded and that people are less likely to testify or believe that there is a fair trial in broadcasted cases. Finally, he touched on the risk of soundbitting the recording for clickbait and the creation of deep fakes contributing to increased public misinformation.

Following the audience and judges' questions, Simmi provided an excellent summary speech in which she articulately summed up the points of Morven and James' arguments, interweaving it with pieces of rebuttal and answers to questions, emphasising skillfully the key point of our debate.

After a tough debate, the judges declared Yarm to be the winner and that we would be progressing to the next round early in the new year! The judges particularly commented on our effective use of minimal notes, our cohesion as an integrated team, and the quality of both our points and rebuttals.

It was a fantastic experience and we can't wait for the next round!

James Waine, Upper Sixth

LIFE AFTER YARM

Josh Littler left Yarm in the previous cohort of A level students and has since been working for Ernst & Young, in Leeds, in the Indirect Tax Team. His role involves him helping businesses in both the public and private sector reclaim tax. He discussed in detail his journey from his initial application to EY in the Lower Sixth, which led to him securing a summer experience at the end of the L6 with the organisation, to his current position and role in the company. Josh also talked candidly about the positives and negatives of working from the age of eighteen, particularly for a Big 4 accounting firm.

Josh spoke confidently and candidly and faced a plethora of questions from the floor. It was evident how much he has already gained from just three months of working and what a great opportunity the apprenticeship scheme is, as Josh is working towards Masters level qualifications as well as securing superb experience and making fantastic contacts.

It was lovely to catch up with Josh and we are so proud of him and grateful for his generosity in continuing to support the EconBus department. We follow his career with interest.

Miss C E Rhodes



THE
MERCHANT
OF VENICE

5th Year Production

Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th November 2023

Studio Theatre

Adults £6

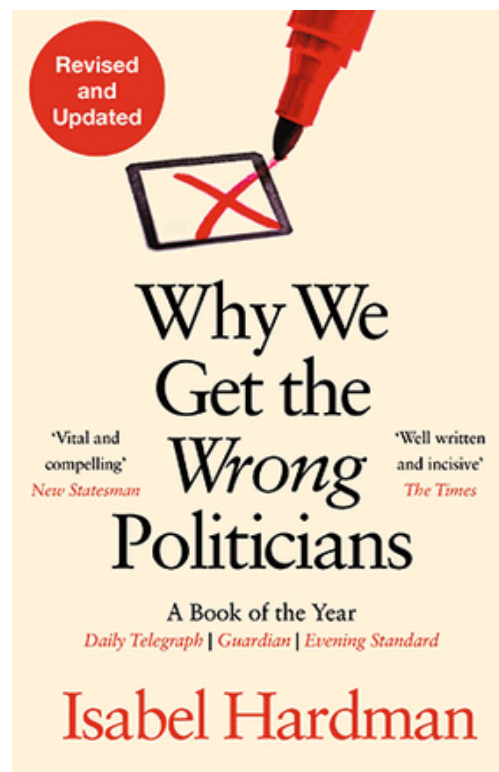
Students and Staff FOC

Book online at www.thepaaonline.org or pop to Box Office

BOOK REVIEW: 'WHY WE GET THE WRONG POLITICIANS' BY ISABEL HARDMAN

Hardman begins by using a short anecdote of Brian Shaw to emphasise the point of how standing for Parliament is a time-consuming and expensive process that doesn't have a guaranteed outcome, and goes on to talk about the difficulties of becoming an MP. She goes into detail about the flaws in the system and how it is undemocratic, as people are overlooked, people are unrepresentative and there is a lack of diversity within the local councillors who decide the Party's MP candidates, and allows more appropriate candidates for the role to be rejected from entering government. Contrary to the title of the book, Hardman does actually talk about the majority of MP's being decent, dedicated people who are in a complicated predicament from the moment they are elected. She highlights how it can be overwhelming to be thrown straight into the deep end, and there is no real guidance on where to go which leads to my personal favourite topic explored in this book: mental health. Especially today, with the instability of the current government, you rarely hear about the mental health problems that are present in Parliament, but it is inevitable for this to be an issue due to the intense work environment. The internet is also talked about, saying how with this new media comes constant abuse from online trolls, which can

seriously impact the work and mindset of these MPs, just as it would affect anyone else. This is especially relevant now as through the Conservative Party's instability, has come a lot of opinions. The recent removal of Suella Braveman and David Cameron's return as Foreign Secretary is a good example, as there has been a swarm of opinions circling online, both positive and negative, from officials in government to people at home, which also is an example for another point explored, which is the toxic political culture that has been created over the years. It explores how this can impact good law-making, as certain roles are rewarded more than others, offering less of an incentive for that job. Hardman also discusses the role in being an MP, and how their main priority is to deal with the issues presented by their own constituency, but presents the idea of having some of the most politically skilled people who can make and look over laws spending most of the time on their constituency issues, is maybe not the best idea. While this is still important, MP's expertise in legislation should be used more, personal crises could be dealt with by other individuals, and any prominent issues are down to the country's lack of a social safety net. While this depicts a more negative view on the political system, Hardman highlights



the positive aspects like select committees, and how their power is well used in acting as serious legislators but that their power can be limited. This is a common theme in this book, as many of the problems stem from there being an unfair power distribution, like the selection of government members and the dreams of promotion leaving politicians permanently distracted. In conclusion, Hardman does not undermine politician's hard work, but blames the structure of the system created, emphasising the need for a more democratic approach and for there to be a shift in power. I would definitely recommend this book to everyone as it involves very current ideas, and is full of statistics as well as different points of view.

Piya Nag, Upper Sixth

500 CREATIVE WORDS

KS3 pupils in the Creative Writing activity were busy last term preparing their entries for the annual BBC 500 words competition, the UK's largest children's story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds. Below is Navina's tense and exciting entry entitled 'The Book of Horrors'.

Ms H Blakemore

It all began with the book. A book with the power to alter our everything . .

The tales featured in the book were one of a kind: mysterious, riveting, compelling! Like a collector stumbling upon hidden treasure, my mother discovered it at an auction and handed it over to me. Said it was almost as if her fingers just 'reached out and took it of their own accord'. I should have known ; should have seen the signs. Sadly, I didn't . . .

One mystic night, as I was reading it, I sensed the strangest sensation: a tingling feeling flowed through my chilled veins as Dracula's tale taunted me. Forcefully, I tore myself from the transfix of his illustrated, bottomless gaze just in time. If I hadn't - this tale would not be told.

If only I had fathomed the dangers within. If only I had extinguished its very presence. Burned it. Buried it! Then, she would be here with me. In her itchy cardigans, sipping her camomile tea.

MY beloved grandma.

Lazing back in her worn out rocking chair, her thin glasses perched precariously on her slender nose, grandma had devoured every tale from the book. Perhaps her fingers

too, had been magnetised to the book? His words? I should have stopped her that fateful night when I still had the chance to save her. The thought that she wouldn't greet me the next morning never crossed my mind, despite her being 104. How could it be the book's fault?

Yet, it was.

Unwittingly, on the day of her funeral, I took the book. A token of the tales she had loved. It was then I stumbled upon the truth. For on Dracula's page, was a drawing of my Grandma instead.

'She fell for my words, unlike you,' Dracula's dark, husky, accusatory voice spoke behind me. Gasping, I swivelled around. The truth hit me - hard!

'Y-O-U,' I choked, 'how could you do this to her?'

'I have been trapped in those pages for centuries, you know. It was only a matter of time before she would have perished, anyway' he whispered. That was when I realised his being was not yet solid. He was only a blurry image, and my Grandma only a pencilled drawing. There was still time to rewrite their destinies. Suddenly, the idea reached out to me.

Instinctively, I flashed my Grandma's tale (written in her scrawly handwriting) at his waxy face. With great delight, I saw his malevolent face start to blur.

'No! What are you doing?!' he barked, stumbling backwards. However, with his failing eyesight, he was losing control. His bellowing voice evolved into a screech, then slowly melted to mute. A new voice came into focus.

A familiar, croaky one . . .

'Grandma!' I cried, my eyes flooding with tears of joy.

Dear reader, now you too have become a collector; one who has stumbled upon hidden treasure: the truth. The real truth! Dracula's tale is no longer a tale hidden by a wooden stake . . .

Navina Muthukrishnan, First Year



SUCCESS IN THE MATHS OLYMPIAD FOR GIRLS

Earlier in September five of our female sixth form mathematicians entered the Maths Olympiad for Girls run by the UKMT. This was a tough test of problem solving skill, with students having to produce written answers to challenging Maths questions. The results are now in and the girls did brilliantly! Everyone achieved a Certificate of Distinction - the highest award possible. Very well done to Keya Shah, Sophie Jewitt, Apsara Naguleswaran, Kayla Roberts and Sara Banerjee.

Dr K Barnett



PAA Gift Vouchers Now Available!

Stuck for a special gift idea?

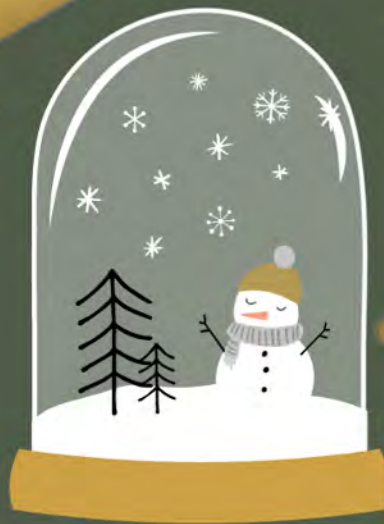
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from fantastic music,
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YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

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

RUGBY V MOUNT ST MARY'S AND ASHVILLE HARROGATE

U12

What a good Saturday morning it was! The whole team arrived by minibus to play two matches: one vs St Mary's and one vs Ashville Harrogate. When playing St Mary's their team pass their half-way line once. The whole squad was very pleased. We ended up beating them by six tries. As a team, we knew that we could carry on against Ashville with a possibility of winning! We all knew that Ashville was a good, well-drilled and physical team after losing badly to them before half term. When the match started, we all knew that we were ready having dominated the first few minutes. After they scored, we had to work hard to get a good result. In the second half, we ran, tackled and played rugby to our best ability. But unfortunately, we weren't able to claim an equaliser, but we did ourselves proud playing some good rugby.

Thomas Ferguson, First Year

U13

Yarm started the game with a great kick from Wilf which was then caught by Rorke leading into a ruck that we won. The ball played out to the wing and Ayrton got an early try for Yarm. As the game started again, Mount St Mary's didn't give up and it was clear that they wanted a try to equalise. After many attempts and turnovers they finally scored a try. After that, the game was paused to remember the soldiers in war. After the two minute silence, Mount started the game with a good kick but it was too long to chase and it was caught by Ollie, who ran down the wing but couldn't make it to the try line. Yarm won the ball numerous times leading to many tries from good attacking play and strong running. Mount didn't give up and they managed to pull one back. The game was nearing the end but Yarm were still scoring.

The game ended and each team had respect for how well the other team played. Some of the try scorers

included: Rorke, Jack, Ayrton, Austin, Wilf but there were many more .

Austin Elliott, Second Year

U16

The U16 team traveled down to Wetherby on Saturday, where we were up against two teams - Mount St Mary's College and Ashville - who were a much improved side from the team we previously beat last season. This weekend marked the first time this season in which we, as an U16 team, were all finally playing together due to several players being involved in the 1st team. Initially, none of us knew what to expect against Mount St Mary's in the first game. This meant we had to just stick to our usual game plan and ultimately had to focus on our performance and efforts during the game. Throughout the game, our forwards looked strong going forward with some great carries from Ollie Blake, Cam Morrison, and Tom Burchall. As well as this, our lineouts were spot on and our forward pack managed to turnover



RUGBY CONTINUED

several balls during the match. In the back line, we had a new combination between Nick Clements and myself at 12 and 13 and the centres constantly got really good fast balls both within the game and especially in our setpieces - all coming from our half backs - Fin Cook and James Graham. The result was 14-5, with excellent tries coming from both our wingers James Elsworth and Alex Carter. After a break and having the chance to take a look at how our next opponents play, we were up against them. The second game consisted of great defence from every individual and was an outstanding display of attacking rugby, to say the least. It was all perfection. Everything from the lineout partnership of Gabe Dohring and Cameron Morrison to our back 3- Harry Carter, Will Bromiley, and Alex Carter who ran rings around the Ashville defence. Tom Burchall bagged two, with one

coming from a spectacular charge down off Ashvilles' attacking scrum on their own try line. Charlie Leggett and Alex Carter managed to score too with some great hard lines coming from the two of them. Huge credit goes to Harry Carter who produced some fantastic nudges off the tee, managing to get all of his conversions but 1 from every part of the field. Even some wheels were shown from fellow prop forward Lewis Roper who made a break from about the halfway line and nearly scored! The final score vs Ashville was 26-0 but could've easily been more. Overall it was a very positive morning of rugby from the whole team, who all showed some very promising signs in which we as a team can build on during the remainder of this season.

Sam Arnold, Fifth Year

U15 Continental Tyres National Schools Bowl

A change of venue due to waterlogged pitches played into the hands of our boys, as they enjoyed the fast surface at Billingham RFC and ran in some superb tries in their game against NSB. Confidence and a desire to 'play' and work hard were the key focus points for the team and there was a huge amount of positive play to be applauded. Many times the ball went through a lot of sets of hands before the try was scored and that was great to see. Strong and direct running at spaces and gaps also got good 'go forward'. The grateful recipients of all this were Paddy Key (4 tries and 5 conversions) and Henry Bottomley (3 tries).

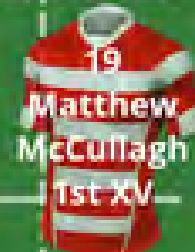
A 45-12 win and through to the 4th round of this National competition.



RUGBY

YARM SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM OF THE WEEK

6th - 15th November



NETBALL

U12A V NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

On Monday 13th November 2023, our U12A Netball Team travelled to Newcastle to play Newcastle High School for Girls in our second round match in the Sisters n Sport cup. We set off feeling a mixture of both excitement and nerves. It was a great game to be a part of, with both teams working extremely hard to fight for a place in the third round. We took the lead early on and maintained our advantage throughout. We worked well as a team, with everyone pulling their weight and our hard work paid off as we won 27-17! We are already looking forward to the next round of the competition. Harlowe was awarded Player of the Match and Coaches Players were Willow Arnold and Anjali Ramisetty. A big thank you to our amazing coach Miss Hodgson for supporting us throughout.



Harlowe Bell, Anjali Ramisetty and Willow Arnold,
First Year

STOCKTON SCHOOLS NETBALL LEAGUE MATCH

On Tuesday we played Conyers in the Stockton Schools Netball League. We didn't get off to a great start in the first half, as the other team were super quick and were great at passing the ball down to the attacking third. Eventually, we got the hang of how they played and managed to reduce the amount of goals the other team scored and made it harder by keeping eyes on the players we marked. We continued to do this in the second half and, again, managed to reduce the possibility of scoring for the other team. However, unfortunately, we didn't manage to score as many shots as the other team, therefore leading to a loss. We tried hard and played really well though against the Conyers A team. Well done everyone!

POM: Olivia Fatah



ROWING - NORTHWICH HEAD

Yarm rowers enjoyed a wet day in the North West on Sunday, racing at Northwich Autumn Head. Fifty-five pupils from the 3rd year up competed in 28 events across three divisions throughout the day.

Northwich Head offered pupils the opportunity to race multiple times in several different boat classes, testing the athlete's endurance and adaptability. Across all the divisions, Yarm certainly made an impact, picking up five wins and six second-place finishes.

Our stand-out performances were:

Harry Wildridge and Archie Norton picked up two wins and a second-place finish over the weekend. Archie won the Band 1 J18 single scull, while Harry won the Band 2 J18 single scull. The two boys took

1st in the J18 2x with the fastest doubles time of the day and teamed up with Sai Sidaginamale and Will Jeavons to take second place in the men's open 4x with the 3rd fastest time of the event.

Becca White had a busy morning racing in all three divisions. Becca had fantastic races in the women's J16 band 2 single, finishing second. Becca teamed up with Hannah Stewart, Cecily Deering, Lucy Bardgett, and Dani Develin in her first-ever sweep race to finish second in the women's open coxed four.

This weekend, Noah Vincent showed his potential by racing in the Men J15 band 3 single scull. Noah won the event by over 30 seconds and posted the third fastest single scull time across all the bands.

A last-minute substitution had to happen in our men's coxed four, but these boys showed their ability to adapt to difficult situations and still performed well. Sai Sidaginamale, Will Jeavons, Sam & Jack Pritchard won the open men's band 2 coxed four category.

Our J14 rowers continue to develop into a really exciting group of racers; both men's and women's J14 coxed quads took second place in a competitive field. Several of these athletes raced for the very first time, so huge congratulations to Olivia Wildridge, Bella Yang, Rosie Woodier, Molly Raine, Kabir Gandhi, Sam Buxton, Nikhil Shouri, Surya Baskar, Luca Speight, Hatim Khan, and J15 Isabella Turnbull on a successful first race.



SNOOKER GREATS – CLASH OF THE TITANS

Join Jimmy White, Steve Davis and Dennis Taylor, 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 18th February, 7.30pm
(Meet and Greet Tickets are available)

[Book Online Here](#)

OFF THE FIELD AND INTO THE JUNGLE WITH MIKE TINDALL MBE

Join us for what promises to be a fantastic evening with the ex-England Rugby Union and World Cup winning legend, Mike Tindall MBE.

There is no topic off limits with Mike and we look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an outstanding evening.

Tuesday 20th February, 7.45pm
(Meet and Greet Tickets are available)

[Book Online Here](#)



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL OPERA - CARMEN

After last season's premiere in the UK, we are delighted to bring back Dnipro Opera theatre from the Ukraine. This opera and ballet theatre has a long-standing heritage of top-quality opera productions, and we are excited to bring it back to the UK in our 2024 Opera Season.

Carmen tells the story of the downfall of Don José, a naïve soldier who falls head over heels in love with Carmen, a seductive, free-spirited femme fatale. The infatuated Don José abandons his childhood sweetheart and neglects his military duties, only to lose the fickle Carmen to the glamorous toreador Escamillo.



Wednesday 21st February, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer, to streaming services such as Netflix, as well connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.



INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.



REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.



UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.



A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.



CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.



Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.



CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.



SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.



CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.



Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

