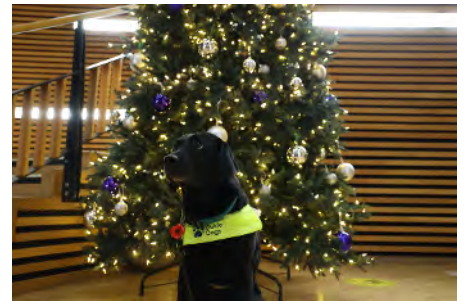


HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Our community came together brilliantly last weekend with a vibrant, busy and thoroughly enjoyable Christmas Craft Fair superbly coordinated by the YSA, with outstanding assistance from a whole range of staff, parents and pupils. Father Christmas made an early visit to Yarm to the delight of the children who met him, and the event saw hundreds, perhaps thousands of visitors come to the School to get ahead with their Christmas shopping in the wide array of stalls. My thanks go to all those involved in making the day such a success, as we welcomed many of our school and wider community on site for a special day.

This week saw another well attended and fascinating Enrichment Lecture on Tuesday, this time from former pupil Alex Bridges who spoke about his career, so far, in archaeology. We also saw our Fifth Formers perform *The Merchant of Venice*, which I see this evening but I understand has been a great success, and today's House Debate Competition saw the debaters consider the merits and flaws of privatising the NHS.

In sport, our swimmers performed magnificently at the National



A fabulously festive time at the Christmas Indoor Market last weekend!

Schools' Swimming Championships in Birmingham, our cross country team came away with some terrific results in the Stockton Cross Country Championships and, with detailed reports within, our netballers have gained great results of late, including in the national 'Sisters in Sport' competition whilst our boys indoor hockey teams have fought hard to rise to the top of the regional competitions, against seriously stiff opposition, to see them all progress to the final stages of their competitions. Congratulations to all. Last week in assembly we congratulated Josh Jewitt for his

success in being selected on the GB Cycling Development Squad, and this week we also found out that Will Ferguson has been selected to join the England Under 18 Hockey squad. Congratulations to both boys on their fine achievements - we will watch their progress with anticipation.

Do read on for some lovely pieces of reflective writing by our Community Action Group who consider others in less fortunate circumstances at this time of year, as well as trip and sports reports, news on societies and more.

Dr Huw Williams

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Please can all parents ensure, when exiting the Senior School site, that they stop before entering the pavement area. Pedestrians using the pavement are put at risk if cars exit the site at speed. Thank you for your support.

WORKING LUNCH WITH ALEX LUCAS

This week in our Working Lunch we welcomed back Alex Lucas who, having taken A Level Business, Economics and been a member of 6/7 CER, had spent a very large proportion of his working week in the EconBus Department, and was happy to return!

Alex left Yarm in 2016 and studied Business and Management in Birmingham, focusing his degree on Supply Chain and Logistics and taking the opportunity to secure a year in industry during his studies. After graduating in 2020 he qualified as a Personal Trainer, before gaining a job in London for a start-up baby food

brand called Little Freddie where he now has responsibility for ensuring that all biweekly productions are fulfilled with the raw materials (fruit purees from all over the world!) used to make the finished products!

Alex explained his view, that life at a start-up is fun, as you are exposed to a lot of areas of the business you might not necessarily see working for a big firm, so he feels that the experience is amazing! He also championed a year in industry, as a way to gain real experience and increase employability. He went on to candidly describe his own long term plans for setting up his own business,

and we wish him every success with his endeavours.

We are very grateful to Alex for taking the time from his busy schedule to motivate and advise our Sixth Form FAME students.

Miss C E Rhodes



PAA Gift Vouchers Now Available!

Stuck for a special gift idea?

Share the magic of theatre this Christmas with a PAA voucher you can use to see everything from fantastic music, moving live theatre, NT screenings and more!

Buy online at: <https://bit.ly/paa-voucher>

AN INSPIRATIONAL AUTHOR



On the 16th of November, Class 1.2 was expecting a peaceful library session. However, this session was far from ordinary! Instead of a lesson reading, there was an author in the middle of the room. The students asked all sorts of questions and enjoyed themselves tremendously (and some lucky children were given chocolate!)



The author in question was Miss O'Connor, an adult crime fiction writer, fond of dystopian settings. She has been writing since she was 11 years old, and found her passion not long afterwards. Miss O'Connor placed a number of our class in her writer's seat and transported us to the life of an author. Tom, a fellow member of our class, asked "Are any of your novels based on real life?" We learnt that her first novel is based on autobiographical detail 'My

Husband's Son'. Her most recent novel to date is 'The Captive' that was published on 7th January 2021. However, Miss O'Connor is busy editing her current novel, which we were the first to see and read...!

Miss O'Connor encouraged us all to find the author that connected with our worlds to spur our imagination. As we left for lunch we considered her parting thought - "you never know where stories will lead you, whether it be a rabbit hole or even a high rise skyscraper". Thank you Miss O'Connor for taking the time to join our English lesson.

Grace Feighery

CHARITY WEEK: MONDAY 4TH - FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER

Our first whole-school Charity Week is Giving Week: Monday 4th - Friday 8th December! Pupils will be asked to help support our local food banks by bringing specified items into School to donate over the course of the week as follows:

AIDAN & CUTHBERT HOUSE - CANNED GOODS

These should be any canned food such as:

- ★ Soup
- ★ Tomatoes/ pasta sauce
- ★ Meat
- ★ Vegetables
- ★ Fruit



BEDE HOUSE - TOILETRIES

- ★ Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, disposable razors, shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, nail clippers
- ★ Household items – laundry detergent, sponges/cloths, washing up liquid
- ★ Period products – sanitary towels and tampons
- ★ Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes, baby



GIVING WEEK

4th-8th DECEMBER

AIDAN & CUTHBERT HOUSE - DRY GOODS

Any boxed or packaged food such as:

- ★ Cereal
- ★ Pasta
- ★ Rice
- ★ Lentils, beans and pulses
- ★ Biscuits



OSWALD HOUSE - Drinks

- ★ Tea/coffee
- ★ UHT milk
- ★ UHT Fruit juice



FIFTH YEAR NORMAN HISTORY TRIP TO YORK

On Tuesday, the 21st of November, Fifth Year pupils studying History visited York. The purpose of the trip was to examine the significant impact of the Norman Conquest on England, with a particular focus on the sites of historical significance in York to assist with the delivery of our GCSE course.

The day commenced with a tour of York Minster, a stunning Gothic cathedral that stands as a testament to the Norman architectural development of the area. Pupils explored the undercroft museum, unravelling the story of how the Normans built upon the foundations of the Anglo-Saxon Cathedral and, before that, a Roman Fortress.

We then enjoyed a visit to Clifford's Tower, where students looked at the strategic military defences that played a pivotal role in shaping the city's history. After lunch, pupils visited the Yorkshire Museum and Gardens. Here, pupils developed their knowledge of the Norman Conquest's impact by exploring artifacts and exhibits, including weaponry, scripture, and coins showcasing the different groups from the Vikings to the Normans that have controlled the city.

St. Mary's Abbey in the Museum Gardens allowed pupils to gain insights into the Benedictine Monastic Orders that flourished in York in the medieval period. This

included a visit to St. Leonard's Hospital, where pupils gained valuable insights into the healthcare practices of the medieval era.

We finished the day with a stroll along the city walls, absorbing the views of York and having a brief discussion with Mr Edwards on monasticism. We walked back to the coach via the iconic Shambles, a historic street lined with timber-framed buildings dating back to the medieval period. Overall, a very successful day, and hopefully, Fifth Year Historians have broadened their understanding of the Norman Conquest and its impact on both York and England.

Mr Tim Taylor



FLU VACCINATIONS

The flu vaccines for First to Fifth Years will take place at school on 8 December 2023, please use the link below to complete either a consent form or a refusal for the vaccinations. The link will close on 1 December 2023. Any consent forms completed after this date will not be included in the school session.

<https://nhsImms.azurewebsites.net/session/da438efa>

GLITTER IN THE AIR

The Yarm Apprentices really learnt the meaning of hard work when they spent a full day manning a stall at the YSA Christmas Fair. After weeks of market research, purchasing, producing, pricing and promoting culminated in a Friday evening of stall dressing. The moment of truth arrived when on a cold Saturday morning in November the teams began to assemble, wearing their Christmas jumpers.

Will's team Deck the Stalls had successfully tendered for Face Painting and Olivia, Oliver and Jitha

(assisted by Emily) soon discovered this was the year of the reindeer for Yarm School, whilst Olivia's handmade wax melts and Nila's designed baubles began to sell out. Will had to restock and reinvest takings before the morning was over.

Meanwhile Santa's Apprentices were busy selling raffle tickets to win a hamper and encouraging youngsters to guess the name of the bear. All whilst selling handmade cards, tree decorations and of course reindeer food, and being shown by Jack how to launch balls at a Reindeer (a

modern alternative to pin the tail on the donkey!?).

The subtask of selling raffle tickets for framed photos, kindly taken by Mr Menzies, kept the teams extra busy.....

It was clear much money was made for very good causes namely Shelter and Save the Children but we await the Boardroom and the return of Lord Sugar No.2 for the final totals to be revealed.

Miss C E Rhodes



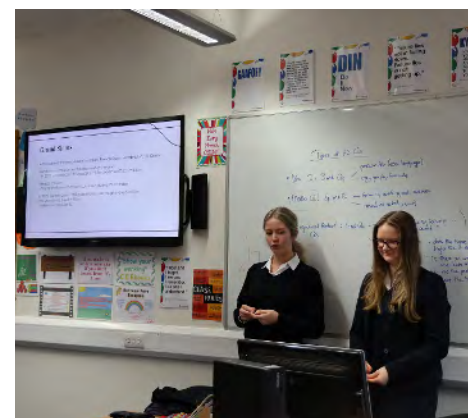
MONEY, SET AND MATCH?

Money matters in sport, as we learnt from Tennis enthusiasts Izzy Le Clerc and Abbi Macgregor. A well researched and enthusiastically presented talk captured the attention of staff and students, as we heard about the gender pay gap in tennis, the vast sponsorship

opportunities and the changes which are afoot to impact equity in the game.

We are grateful to Izzy and Abbi for sharing their knowledge and views.

Miss C E Rhodes



'IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR...'

As Andy Williams sang, Christmas is, for many people, a wonderful time. As we prepare to enjoy the school holiday, members of the Community Action group have been considering those members of society, both near to us or in other parts of the world, for whom this Christmas period is a particularly difficult, dangerous or unpleasant time. As well as highlighting the issues faced by these groups, pupils have considered how we, as individuals, might help them- both in taking part in current school projects or more widely.

The Recently Bereaved

When you're grieving the loss of a loved one, the thought of celebrating Christmas can be really daunting. While grief never fully goes away, there will be times when emotions are much more heightened than others, and when the sense of loss can feel greater. Christmas – the season which celebrates love and family time – is most certainly one of those times. Adverts, television programmes, and even Christmas music which emphasise love and togetherness around the Christmas tree can be really hard to cope with if you're aching with the grief of bereavement.

As an individual, it can be hard to know what to do to help those coping with grief. Often, people shy away from saying anything for fear of upsetting their loved one, but silence isn't the answer. Perhaps we, as individuals, might try to make a specific effort to visit members of our own family or friends who have been bereaved this year. Listening to their concerns and allowing them to show how they are feeling is really important, as well as offering more practical help. You could also help

them mark the memory of the person who has died by doing something special. This could be visiting a special place, lighting a candle, or buying a new special decoration for the tree. Alternatively, you may wish to volunteer or fundraise for Cruse Bereavement Support, Winston's Wish, or a similar charity who support the bereaved.

Ms. Blakemore

The Homeless

Shelter estimates that 131,000 children won't have a place to call home this Christmas, let alone presents. In our society, we'd expect that a home is not just a necessity, but a human right. And yet, so many people are left without a place to live, especially with the cost of living crisis. As of March 2023, 104,510 houses in England were recorded as being temporary homes, 65,000 with children.

So what can we do to help? Donate to charities- both locally and nationally. For every £1 you donate, for example, Shelter spends 79p directly on helping others. Here in school, consider collecting your empty crisp packets to give to our school's Eco Committee, who are recycling them

into sleeping bags and blankets for the homeless.

Jenifer Umashankar and
Louis Thursby

Those Without Parents

Whilst we all sit around a warm fire and spend quality family time with our parents, there are those innocent children who have no-one to call "Dad" or "Mum". Unfortunately, there are around 85,000 orphans in the UK who will wake up on Christmas Day this year, without any parents. These children will not have their parents to make core memories with, on which, for many, is the most wonderful day of the year.

However, there are things we can do to help out. The charity Children North East is working in our local area to encourage others to "be there for a child in crisis this Christmas". Children North East accepts a wide range of donations and this money will provide children with joy this Christmas. For example, providing a child with a week of school holiday activities. So, we must do all we can to help the children in our area to have an unforgettable Christmas.

Ameen Khunda

'IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR...' CONTINUED

Those Living in Conflict Zones

Christmas is a time that most look upon with fondness, with excitement and with joy. However, there are just as many that look upon it with horror, fear and weariness. It can only be described as sad that war has become such a major part of people's lives, and that fear for their safety and for what the future may bring is what fills their minds as the winter months roll in. Whether we celebrate Christmas or not, we become joyful at the hope of a break from school and work - but there is no break in the gun fire, the bombing, and the danger for the thousands of children living in conflict zones.

And while the recent conflicts like those in Ukraine and Gaza have dominated the news, we should also remember and support those in countries that have been war-torn previously, like Iraq, who are still suffering the consequences of violence. There are many charities that put their money and focus into helping children in war-torn areas, such as War Child, by offering relief, education and support. We urge you to donate £10 this Christmas to a charity because every child warrants some peace during the most wonderful time of the year.

Ava Carter

Those Living in Poverty

For poverty-stricken families, Christmas can be a particularly hard time due to the inflated price of household necessities taking priority over presents for children and Christmas surprises. One in four children are living in poverty in the UK currently, meaning that parents are forced to work extra hours in order to afford presents for their children. Although inflation has recently decreased by 0.9%, it is still affecting many families in poverty today. These two factors alone mean that some children will wake up on Christmas morning without presents. This can have a detrimental effect on parents. However, there are a few things we can do to help these suffering families over Christmas: we can donate to charities such as The Salvation Army, United Way and Free Christmas Trees.

Harry Kyle and Rishi Shenoy

Those in Hospital

Spending Christmas in a hospital can be a challenging and bittersweet experience for many. The festive season, typically associated with warmth and family gatherings, takes on a different hue within the sterile walls of a medical facility. Patients often miss out on cherished traditions, like decorating a tree or sharing a holiday meal at home. However, healthcare professionals

and support staff often go above and beyond to create a semblance of celebration, adorning hospital corridors with decorations and organising small festive events. Despite the physical distance from loved ones, the spirit of compassion and care permeates the hospital environment, providing solace to those who find themselves away from home during this special time. This Christmas, 14,000 people in hospitals will be deprived of a true Christmas experience: seeing family, eating that Christmas dinner. And what's being done to help them? Supporting Teesside Hospice or those local charities who seek to brighten up Christmas for patients will help ensure they have a memorable Christmas experience.

Grace Harbinson, Haadiya Shafiq and
Eve Hudson

The Elderly

The festive season is supposedly a jolly time; it's a chance to celebrate with loved ones, indulge in good food, and relax in the company of others. Christmas is considered to be the loneliest time of the year amongst older adults; especially those who have lost loved ones. The research found that over 200,000 older people are not looking forward to Christmas because they will be alone, and 750,000 feel lonelier at Christmas than at any other time of

'IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR...' CONTINUED

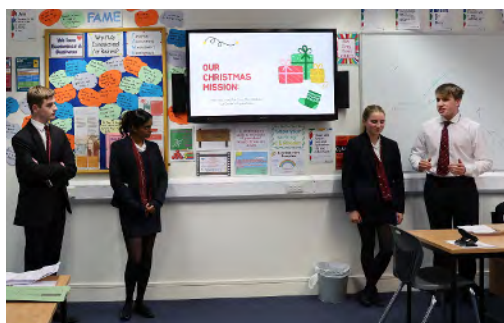
the year. 'Hidden hunger' amongst older people is another major barrier to eating well, especially during the winter months when older people may find themselves spending more money staying warm, due to rising electricity and heating bills. There are 1.6 million pensioners living in

poverty in the UK and nearly a million of these are in severe poverty. Worryingly, over the past two years, the proportion of people aged over 50 using food vouchers rose from 26% to 31%. As we approach Christmas, consider donating items to local food banks- including to the

House collection we have in school- or donating to national charities who support the elderly. Perhaps you could call on an elderly neighbour too and make their Christmas just a little brighter.

Emily Eveson

TELL ME MORE, TELL ME MORE...



Guess who's back, back again, Lord Sugar's back.... Tell the teams!!...

Yes, it was time for Board Room No.2 this week.

First to present were "Deck the Stalls". Will, Harvey, Nila and Olivia gave a confident, slick explanation of their team's strategy and motivations. Then it was the turn of "Santa's Apprentices" with Sam, Kyra, Ishita and Alex ably describing their tactics and activities.

Lord Sugar, Miss Rhodes and Arhana all quizzed the teams before conferring. Overall the teams had met the task requirements and thus profits made were the determinants for success.

Will's team made £111 from face painting and £232,50 from their stall, meaning Shelter will benefit from a fantastic £343.50. However Sam's team secured an incredible £426.75 from their selling, which will be presented to Save the Children. The winning team enjoyed cakes and milkshakes, plus a bonus tin of sweets for also being victorious in the subtask, whilst Will had the unenviable task of selecting teammates to bring back!

Will, Emily C and Emily N faced the pressure and Lord Sugar regrettably had to fire someone, that someone being Will.

We are very grateful to Mr Stephen for being a superb and enthusiastic

Lord Sugar, and to Mr Menzies for taking the fabulous subtask raffle photos.

Winning task points are allocated to "Santa's Apprentices", Sam gains the winning PM bonus points, whilst the teams peer voted for Sam and Olivia and "Karren, Claude and Tim" points went to Olivia and Jack (with extra point to Lucy for selling so many raffle tickets for the raffle).

The league board will be updated and be on display outside B1, and next week Lord Sugar No.3 will be revealed - I do hope the teams are ready!!

Miss C E Rhodes

AN EVENING WITH MARY BEARD

Last Tuesday, the classics department travelled to Newcastle University to listen to a talk by Mary Beard, one of the most experienced ancient historians. Beard, interviewed by Durham University's Professor Edith Hall, spoke about her new book: *The Emperor of Rome*. The book explores greater questions Beard has had during her extensive career as an historian, questioning the true power of the great Roman Emperor, and narrating her ideas through an interesting variety of ancient sources.

Prof Hall initially had Beard explain the reasoning behind the title of the book; why it was called *The Emperor of Rome* rather than *The Roman Emperors*, considering the fact that it focused on so many emperors. This was, as Beard explained, because she aimed to look past individual emperors and instead explore the image of the Roman Emperor - what and who makes them the Emperor of Rome? By exploring the 'less important' poets and administrators working within Rome alongside the Emperor, Beard managed to explore contemporary ideas on the Emperor's curated image.

Beard explores the administrative side of Roman politics and the ruling of the world's first multicultural metropolis, focusing on minutiae and the often comedic complaints of civilians living under the Emperor. Surprisingly to us, the Emperor

actually had a closer relationship with the Roman people than initially believed. Starting with a plight to the Emperor regarding a fallen chamber pot, a culture began in which slightly wealthier citizens would ask for the Emperor's judgement on the mundane administrative or legal aspects of living. Whilst beforehand, most of us believed the Emperor was a far more distant dictator, the revelation of his slightly more hands-on role was shocking to us. Beard's closing thoughts on the topic pushed us to reflect on the similarities between our two societies, bringing into question our passivity in the face of corrupt politicians and systems. There were poets who would have criticised the Emperor's near total power, yet still flourished under his system - would we also keep our heads under the parapet in those situations?

Beard and Hall's closing conversations were on the education of classics in the North, which is far less prominent than in the South.

Hall argued that the North was, in fact, the new centre for classics in England, with many influential ancient historians or authors, such as Pat Barker, hailing from the North. With the ways in which classical studies allow us to reflect on our own world and society, we agree that the subject should be taught more widely in this part of the country. Overall, Beard's talk was an incredible experience for all of us who attended, and we can't wait to learn more about both Beard and Hall's opinions on the subject.

Mr H Lee



U13 SISTERS N SPORT

On Thursday, the U13 netball team played in the second round of the Sisters n Sport tournament. We worked hard throughout the whole game and achieved some great passing, interceptions and shots. Overall we played great as a team and were very successful with a winning score of 41-19. Everyone played really well and should all be proud of themselves.

POM: Ella Fitzgerald

Ella Fitzgerald



U12C VS ALL SAINTS

On the 21st of November Yarm School U12C played All Saints A team. At the start of the game All Saints looked very strong and we realised this was going to be a tough match. However, all of the Yarm girls played really well and through great teamwork from everyone we managed to win 16-10.

Well done to all of the team and thank you to Miss Hodgson.

POM: Darcey-Rue
Richardson



U18 INDOOR HOCKEY TEAM READ ON FOR HOCKEY SUCCESS ARTICLE

A CLEAN SWEEP ON INDOOR TITLES



Our boys hockey teams have been competing at the regional finals in recent weeks playing the indoor version of the game and have come away with a hat-trick of titles.

The Under 14 team that is made up of Second and Third Year pupils. After a slow start, drawing both of their group games and sneaking through the group on goals scored, they overcame GSAL in the semi-finals with an impressive 4-1 win and this was followed up with a 3-0 victory against RGS in the final to take the title. The team will travel to Manchester on the 5th December for the North Finals.

The Under 16 and Under 18 competitions lead on to a National Finals in London on the 7th & 8th December and the boys have been very motivated in training to get there.

The U16s comfortably qualified for the semi-finals via their group. They came up against Scarborough

College whose sports scholarship recruits made this a tougher game than we would otherwise have expected. We went 2-0 down despite playing well before captain, Jake Leader, turned on the afterburners to score 2 quick goals and another later in the game to get us into the final. Cameron Morrison was the stand out performer in the final as he took Bradford's England player out of the game through some highly disciplined man marking - this led to the best performance of the day as we went on to comfortably win 4 goals to 1.

The Under 18s were outstanding throughout their tournament! They played Scarborough College in their first group game which at times felt like an international match- many of their boys coming from Germany or Spain. Yarm started well and scored in the first minute, adding another two by half-time. The second half was a physically tight affair but we finished as winners by 4 goals to 1-

probably shocking the opposition by how strong a performance we put in. A scrappy 4-2 win against QEGS was quickly followed by an 11-3 victory against GSAL- a James McGee hat-trick a stand out feature of this game. The final pitched us up against Hall Cross who are basically the Doncaster Hockey Club and are a team that play an awful lot of indoor hockey. Yarm were in exceptional from start to finish led by captain Joe Roberts. We won 4-0 and qualified for the National Hockey Finals. Will Ferguson was superb throughout and scored an amazing 13 goals across the 4 games played!

These results are down to a group of very committed boys who have trained regularly before school and Monday late evenings to prepare for these games- a proof that hard work truly does pay off.

Mr Ferguson

ENGLISH SCHOOLS SWIMMING FINALS



Yarm School once again made waves qualifying for the English Schools Swimming Association National Team Championship Finals held in Birmingham for the first time this year.

The Senior girls team were originally selected as reserve for the freestyle relay but ended up competing - they finished 20th overall - improving on their qualifying place significantly. They also finished 15th in the medley relay with a couple of significant personal best times. This is an outstanding achievement

considering the fierce competition among over 140 national teams.

The Senior boys team clinched 9th place in the medley relay, (missing out on the final by just 0.07s).

Surpassing their qualifying placement by an impressive 5 spots, each swimmer a swam personal best time - a phenomenal effort. Additionally, their 21st position in the freestyle relay was extremely close with just 3 seconds separating 8th to 21st place - an incredibly tight competition!



Yarm's teams showcased their talent and determination competing against the very best in the country. Another successful year in the pool for Yarm. The teams were:

SENIOR BOYS' TEAM: Toma Saha, Michael Elsaify, Luke Gaughan, Owen Reed, Ryan Mills and Archie Norton.

SENIOR GIRLS' TEAM: Megan Hull, Hannah Bettinson, Alice Ward and Pearl Lightwood.

Mr T Newman

WILL FERGUSON: ENGLAND'S U18 HOCKEY CALL

Congratulations to Will Ferguson, whose skill and dedication has led to his selection into the England U18 Boys Hockey Squad for the 2023/24 season. Having showcased his talent playing for Durham University 1st XI in the National League and Durham Talent Academy in the Challenge Cup. He was subsequently invited to

the England Assessment group alongside 55 other boys and has been to 6 assessment camps at Nottingham and Lilleshall National Sports Centre. Will is now in contention to represent his country at big tournaments in Spain and France next year.



WHITNEY QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

Experience the ultimate tribute to the remarkable musical repertoire of Whitney Houston in an electrifying production that honours her timeless songs with sensational vocalists and a full live band. Prepare to be blown away by an extraordinary journey through three decades of all-time hits such as I Wanna Dance With Somebody, One Moment In Time, I'm Every Woman, I Will Always Love You, My Love Is Your Love, So Emotional, Run To You, Saving All My Love, How Will I Know, Million Dollar Bill, The Greatest Love Of All, and many more.



Thursday 11th April, 7.30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

GO YOUR OWN WAY

Go Your Own Way is a brand new spellbinding show featuring the music from the legendary multiple Grammy Award Winning Fleetwood Mac. Their rock 'n' roll legacy is beautifully performed by a highly talented and acclaimed ensemble of musicians who will take audiences on a powerful journey through their incredible song book. With hits including "Dreams", "Don't Stop", "Everywhere", "Rhiannon", "Gold Dust Woman", "Little Lies", "Big Love" and many more.



Friday 19th April, 7.30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

CHAKA - THE MUSIC OF CHAKA KHAN

An exhilarating music show celebrating one of the world's most gifted music icons and multi-grammy award winner, Chaka Khan.

Honouring the fabulous legendary singer and songwriter who has captivated audiences and inspired generations of singers for over five decades with her funk, soul, pop and dance hits, Chaka – The Music of Chaka Khan is the ultimate musical tribute celebrating an icon.



Friday 3rd May, 7.30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE



Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS



If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS



Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS



Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL



It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS



Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS



A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD



Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE



Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

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 Insider This Insider, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

