Newsletter

No: 1359 | 8th December 2023

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

With a festive covering of snow, the Sixth Form Christmas Dinner - reviewed below, Christmas artwork from Prep pupils in the windows of shops and businesses on the High Street, Prep Festival of Carols, Christmas Jumper day (photos within!), rehearsals in full flow for this weekend's Community concert, a wonderful 'Christmas tradition' themed assembly given by Mr Law's tutor group, and with preparations for our carol services at the end of the term nearing completion, there is no escaping the fact that the Autumn Term is, somehow, nearly at an end.

The front page picture shows the wonderful conditions that our intrepid First and Second years enjoyed in their Outdoor Ed trip to the Yorkshire Dales with hiking and caving activities offering an exhilarating challenge, read on for a full review from Mr Mathers. Alongside careers news, econ/bus society and working lunch updates, we also read of rowing adventures and some significant success on the water last weekend, despite the freezing and challenging conditions. Well done to Archie and Harry for their efforts at the GB selection event.

This week is Giving Week, and I am grateful to pupils and families for donating in support of the Houses' efforts to provide a variety of goods for those in our region who will benefit over the festive season from this generosity. I know that many of our pupils volunteer in a variety of ways to make a difference, and building an understanding of the value of offering time, support, skills or donations is an important part of what we do via the House activities as well as in other ways in school.

I hope to see many of you at the Community Christmas Carol Concert this weekend, and look forward to our final week of school before pupils head off for a well earned break.

Dr Huw Williams

A winter wonderland in the Yorkshire Dales last weekend

A WINTERY WEEKEND IN THE DALES

Twenty First and Second Year pupils headed to the Yorkshire Dales over the first weekend in December for a weekend of caving and hiking. For some pupils it was their first Outdoor Education residential, and it was going to be an action packed weekend of activity.

Arriving at our comfortable bunkhouse accommodation on the Friday evening we settled down to our evening meal of bolognese before our activity briefings for the weekend. The pupils divided themselves into two groups (they chose boys and girls!) and after a quick blast on the pool table and ping pong we headed to bed.

A hearty breakfast of cereal, porridge, toast, eggs, bacon and beans greeted us in the morning and then we kitted up for the day. Hikers got their boots on and cavers got into their furry suits and oversuits.

The hiking group headed off to summit Whernside (the tallest of the Yorkshire 3 peaks) from Ribblehead, passing under the world famous Ribblehead viaduct, on a clear Saturday morning. There was some ice on the path but the group coped well and had fantastic views of the Dales from the summit. The cavers drove round to Kingsdale first and went in to explore Yordas cave and the first set of challenging squeezes of the day. After a lunch break in the minibus, the cavers drove back round to Ribblehead and explored Runscar and Thistle caves close to the viaduct.

After a chilly day of activity both groups headed back to the bunkhouse for some hot chocolate, biscuits and hot showers. Helping in the kitchen was an option as pupils and staff prepared an evening meal of sausages, cheesy mash, veg and gravy which was enjoyed by all. An evening game of Trading Post followed with each small group of pupils aiming to make the most money by completing various challenges available to them. It was a closely fought game with most groups producing a similar profit.

Sunday saw the groups swap over, taking part in the activity that they didn't do on the Saturday. The hikers tackled Whernside but with an extra layer of the snow to overcome and the cavers had a reduced day of just two caves as the access road to the third cave was blocked by snow.

After returning to the house for a thorough clear up of bedrooms and toilets, we loaded up and headed back to school.

My thanks go to all the accompanying staff on the trip: Miss Street, Mr Lee, Mrs Thompson and Mr Tomlinson.

Mr A Mathers

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS: A HUGE THANK YOU

We're delighted to share that the Charity Tombola at our YSA Christmas Indoor Market made a fantastic £460!

First Choice Labels have generously matched this donation, bringing the total to £921 for The Teesside Family Foundation.

Thank you to all our stallholders who donated prizes and to everyone who supported the tombola.

THE HEAT IS ON!

Last week Maisy and Erin brought Psychology into the sphere of Business as they explored, "Stress and Success: Understanding the Psychological Impact on Business Performance". In a well researched and well delivered presentation they discussed the idea of an optimum level of stress, as well as exploring the impact of stress on a worker. They queried whether Google should be a benchmark for worker treatment, before opening the floor to discussion as to whether Google really do offer the utopia we often imagine and, even if they do, is it realistic in a world where AI poses a greater threat and makes capital and labour more substitutable, for other firms to follow suite.

Work-life balance is something we often discuss in Working Lunches, and something students are increasingly aware of when considering career paths, as more appreciation of the physical and mental consequences of stress emerge. We are grateful to Maisy and Erin for being so generous with their time and for selecting and giving such a thought provoking presentation.

Miss C E Rhodes

UNIFORM SHOP CHRISTMAS UPDATE

The uniform showroom will be open:

- **Tues 19th December 12-3pm**
- **Thurs 21st December 12-3pm**

It will then remain closed until school returns on the 4th of January 2024.

Perry's Christmas Delivery Information

Orders placed by 12pm on Tues 19th Dec 2023 will be dispatched on Wed 20th Dec 2023.

Orders placed *after* 12pm on 20th Dec 2023 but before 5pm on 27th Dec 2023, will be dispatched on Thurs 28th Dec 2023.

Orders placed after 5pm on 27th Dec will be dispatched on 3rd January 2023.

This includes express/next day delivery services which will be received the day after dispatch, not the day after an order is placed.

Named orders or personalised orders will be delivered in the first week of January.

All delivery dates above are subject to stock availability.

Perry's telephone lines will be closed from 5pm on Wed 20th Dec 2023 until 9am on Tues 2nd Jan 2024. E-mails will be monitored intermittently over this time if parents would like to contact us: info@perryuniform.co.uk.

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM

YARM SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

Click here for tickets!

Cinderella

ENCHANTED VERSION

MUSIC BY RICHARD RODGERS
BOOK & LYRICS BY OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY - SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2024
7.30PM

THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM, YARM SCHOOL

ADULTS £15.00 CHILDREN £8.00

TO BOOK TICKETS CALL 01642 792587 OR VISIT WWW.THEPAAONLINE.ORG

This amateur production of CINDERELLA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

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MANAGING YOUR FUTURE - FAME WORKING LUNCH

"What is your dream job?" This was the opening question posed by our Working Lunch speaker this week to all members of the audience assembled to hear her speak, as she tested the ability of the Sixth Form to respond to an unanticipated question. How would you respond if put on the spot??

This week we were delighted to welcome back a familiar face, Hannah Carey (Class of 2013) for her fourth WL. Now a Project Manager at North Yorkshire Council, Hannah went to Sunderland University to do Business and Applied Management and this involved securing a placement year for herself, where she worked for Lear Corporation- a Tier 1 manufacturer for Nissan. After she graduated, she joined the Project Management graduate scheme at Network Rail and, after promotions with Network Rail, she moved to North Yorkshire Council where she works on complex, multidisciplinary projects. These range from implementing IT system updates, improvements to health and social care processes and installing EV infrastructure across North Yorkshire. Hannah discussed her approach to progressing through education and into the working world and gave the assembled throng an insight into the practical steps she took to build the foundations of her career.

The audience asked many superb questions and were keen to absorb advice. We are really grateful for the very honest and useful guidance from Hannah and her continued support of the EconBus department.

Miss C E Rhodes

HEALTHCARE AND ECONOMICS AT ECON BUS SOCIETY

This week Health Economics was the topic of EconBus Soc, and two hopeful Medics, Ammar Soni and Syed Omer, shed light on the intersection of healthcare and economics.

They examined the problems currently faced by the NHS in terms of scarcity of funding, brain drain and growing expectations due to an aging population and advances in medical science, before evaluating a range of viable solutions.

With an audience made up of multiple disciplines they gave an excellent and confident presentation which had clearly been well researched, and coped well with a deluge of questions at the end.

We are very grateful to them for being so generous with their time and ideas at such a busy stage of the term.

Miss C E Rhodes

SHINING A LIGHT ON 'MODERN SLAVERY'

Following on from classroom discussions on the nature and extent of modern slavery in the UK and beyond, the Politics Society reached out to the Wilberforce Institute and were delighted to welcome to school Dr Alicia Heys.

The talk began with a wrestle over the complexity of the term 'modern slavery' and its confusion in many quarters with human trafficking, better understanding that the definition is predicated on the nature of the purpose, consent, victim and the location of the act. It could involve labour, criminal or sexual exploitation, domestic servitude or organ harvesting. The Global Slavery Index estimates 40.34 million people are in modern slavery around the world, with around 100,000 victims in the UK. Interestingly the top nationalities for the victims were Albanian, British and then Eritrean. We learned of the National Referral Mechanism and the work of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, working with public authorities but offering an arguably patchy approach to the issue. One of the biggest challenges is a lack of transparency in supply chains. Any company in the UK with a turnover of £36m or more must now write a modern slavery statement, outlining what they are doing to mitigate against the potential risks of modern slavery in their company, but even this requirement comes with flaws; it relies on self-regulation, the content of submissions is very variable and a form can say that they 'are doing nothing'.

The Wilberforce Institute, operating out of and involving staff from the University of Hull, conducts considerable research and collaborates with various public and private bodies. Latest research has improved in its incorporation of survivors in its research, but suffers from research fatigue on the issue. Dr Heys concluded that the problem was not insurmountable but was significant, and that greater awareness and more watertight regulation will be required if we are to adequately protect citizens from such peril.

Mr S Edwards

MORRISBY CAREERS PROGRAMME COMPLETION

This week and last saw the completion of the Morrisby Careers programme for members of the Fifth Year. The careers testing and interviewing experience is offered to all members of the year group and is planned to coincide with and assist them in the shaping of their plans for A Level and beyond.

The system comprises a lengthy two hour session of psychometric and skills testing, measuring a diverse range of skills, attributes, interests and inclinations. The testing is very similar to that being used by a range of global employers as part of their selection and recruitment processes. All of this culminates in a lengthy report, presented in a format consisting of charts and diagrams showing pupils areas of strength and ability.

Following on from this all involved students were then scheduled a bespoke one-on-one interview with an external trained careers professional. These interviewers had prepared their interview using the findings of the individual reports and were then well positioned to engage the pupils in informed dialogue over their current and future plans. The reports and the interview notes will be permanently accessible to the students and through them to their parents, and can be a valuable source of reference at points in the future. Current members of the Fourth Year will be offered a similar provision in the late autumn of next academic year.

Mr S Edwards

Morrisby

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY IN AID OF HOUSE CHARITIES

A huge thank you to everyone who wore their Christmas jumper on Wednesday to raise money for the House Charities! A fantastic amount was raised, with money still coming in!

SIXTH FORM CHRISTMAS DINNER

Last Friday evening saw the Festive Season welcomed in style in the form of the annual Sixth Form Christmas Dinner for students and staff. Following a lot of hard work by our Estates Team, Sodexo staff and a good number of willing volunteers guided and directed by Miss Gamble, The Princess Alexandra Auditorium was transformed into a wintery wonderland of white linen, twinkling lights and, of course Christmas crackers.

Students arrived dressed to the nines and in suitably festive mood for pre-dinner drinks in the Atrium and a few photographs. Thank you to our Sodexo colleagues for a delicious meal for well over 200 and served with faultless precision. We are so fortunate to have such an exceptional catering team here at Yarm. The night continued with a knockout festive set from our talented musicians, BRACK, prompting some impromptu dancing from the students. A fitting start to the festivities planned over the last few weeks and an evening that was enjoyed by all. Thanks go to our Estates Team, Sodexo staff, Mr Bromyard, our team of student party planners and especially Miss Gamble for masterminding the event.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Dr A M Goodall

ROWING

Rutherford Head Report

Snowy ground, frozen trailer wheels, and ice-covered boats couldn't stop YSBC racing at this year's Rutherford Head on the Tyne River. Running over 4500 metres, 33 athletes from the 4th year and above raced in 8 boats over the day. Rutherford Head attracts the best competition in the autumn term, and our pupils performed exceptionally, coming home with first, second, and third-place finishes.

Winning their event was our men's J18 coxless quad of Archie Norton, Harry Wildridge, Sai Sidaginamale, and Will Jeavons. Despite getting stuck behind a university-coxed four the whole way down the course, our boys secured the win with a time of 12:24 and were the 4th fastest quad of the event.

Next with a second-place finish in the men's J16 coxless quad were Harry D'Ambrogio, Patrick Tulloch, Noah Vincent, and Zeph Atkinson-Talib. For this event, Noah moved up from the J15 squad and significantly impacted the crew. This crew has shown strong development over the term and reduced a 1-minute 30-second gap on the senior boats at the start of the year to 16 seconds.

Two of our girl's crews took third place on Saturday. The J18 crew of Hannah Stewart, Hannah Bettinson, Kitty Brown & Storm Smith finished with a time of 16:06. In contrast, the J16 crew of Poppy Bell, Abby Stewart, Becca White & Charlotte Maund finished with a time of 16:32. The introduction of J15 Charlotte into the crew added new layers of development as the J16 girls quad closed a 1 minute 25-second gap on our senior girls from the start of the year down to 26 second seconds last weekend.

Congratulations to all crews that race in extremely cold and challenging conditions. All boats came away with valuable development and race experience, and we are incredibly proud of the effort and resilience shown by the athletes at the weekend.

GB Training Day

Following a cold Saturday of racing at Rutherford Head, 6th formers Archie Norton & Harry Wildridge were invited down to Caversham (home of the GB rowing team) for a training day with the top junior rowers in the country. This made for a long weekend for our pupils after completing 4 race pieces on Sunday morning in mixed crews. On all pieces our pupils finished in the top half of the rankings. Sunday proved to be a valuable experience and opportunity for our athletes and was a great achievement to be invited.

Mr T Kellett

SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can view them here.

ROYAL NORTHERN SINFONIA - PROKOFIEV AND MOZART QUINTETS

Meet the musicians of the North East's professional orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, in four pieces of music that show off just what you can do with small
groups of wind and string instruments. They're playing two household names, Sergei Prokofiev and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and two composers you probably don't know – Reinhold Glière and Grażyna Bacewicz.

Friday 12th January, 7.30pm
Book Online Here

THE SOUTH

To celebrate their 10th year anniversary and 30 years since The Beautiful South released 'Song For Whoever', The South are back this February – playing shows up and down the whole of the UK. After a successful year of touring the theatres and Festivals of the UK up and down the country, The South are keeping alive all those timeless songs – A Little Time (the number one single), Perfect 10, Rotterdam, Old Red Eyes Is Back, Good as Gold, Don't Marry Her plus many more singles and album tracks as well as a few choice South originals.

Saturday 10th February, 7.30pm
Book Online Here

LINDISFARNE

Legendary 70's Tyneside folk-rock pioneers Lindisfarne present a classic five-piece line-up of long-time members fronted by founder-member Rod Clements on vocals, mandolin, fiddle and slide guitar.

For their 2023 tour, Lindisfarne recall a memorable period of live shows focussed on the 1977 release of live LP 'Magic in The Air'.

Saturday 17th February, 7.30pm
Book Online Here

Click here to open

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many platforms which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there *are* some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.

ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and safety behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety® #WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=ff88edd3dbafe0498015ecd1d5960f9f | https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=193eba11dbd441d03c1fe02ed3981938 https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=19f82e6bdb1aac50055ecedc1396f917 | https://help.disneyplus.com/en-GB/article/disneyplus-en-gb-account-prevention#:~:text=84%25%20of%20Brits%20that,us%20password%20or%20telling%20others

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