



Newsletter

No: 1360 | 15th December 2023

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

As is always the case, but without any sense that the repetition diminishes the joy of it all, the last week of term has been a blur of festive activity, full of a sense of community togetherness. Our pupils have excelled themselves in various ways. Their deeply generous contributions to giving week meant that we were able to donate huge quantities of goods to the various food banks and charities with which we partnered. The musicians performed in the magnificent Community Christmas Carol concerts last weekend alongside the Yarm Choral Society, bringing together our community for a festive celebration, and some exceptional musical performances. The retiring collections from these concerts have meant a really meaningful contribution to the charities we were collecting for, too. Phab Club met for their Christmas party, with a treat for our guests with the visit of a certain festive celebrity, and our pupils, alongside Mr McGrother and others, welcomed a large gathering for Memento, our dementia-friendly singalong which saw the power of music in bringing people together with happy memories and shared joy and happiness.

Thank you to all pupils and staff who have been involved in such a wide array of community activities.

Yesterday, we had our end of term assembly, celebrating the achievements and activities of a very busy term, and accompanied by some wonderful music from our Sixth Formers. Trying to fit everything into one assembly is impossible (though I do try!) and it's a reflection on the brilliant ethos of participation by our pupils as well as the commitment and skill of our staff to be able to talk about success in events, competitions and activities in academics, music, sport, trips and with our community. Hopefully all

pupils will have left the assembly feeling inspired to try their best and to enjoy their varied endeavours.

Today's carol services in the parish church are a wonderful way to end the term, with a renewed sense of community propelling us into the Christmas holidays.

I hope the coming weeks offer all families some precious and valuable time together, and that pupils find the time to rest and recuperate and, where required, to be productive as they look ahead to the new term.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year: I look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Dr Huw Williams



Two wonderful Community Christmas Carol Concert

TOP OF THE BENCH 2023



On Wednesday 29th November Sophie Pritchard, Christina Chen Xi Lin, Patrick Ward and Ajay Selvan represented the school in the regional round of the annual Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench Competition at Teesside University. Before the competition the young

scientists had completed a selection process in school and they had also submitted a preliminary quiz which would also contribute to their overall ranking.

After lunch at the University the students completed four different rounds testing their chemical knowledge. The first two rounds saw the students complete Kahoot quizzes against the other competitors. The final two rounds involved a research task and an

exercise processing and analysing experimental data.

The students performed extremely well and were only outside the top three in one of the five rounds. This meant that for the second year running Yarm have been crowned regional champions and will be invited to the national finals in the spring term.

An excellent all round performance by the students involved! Well done.

Mr E Baker

SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS



Just as the festive spirit brings excitement this December, our Eco-Schools committee would like to remind everyone how we can make this Christmas environmentally friendly!

For starters, let's think about Christmas trees. Every Christmas, 120 million trees are cut down as part of our decorations. This results in huge amounts of greenhouse gases being emitted. A 6ft artificial tree has a carbon footprint equivalent to about 40 kg of greenhouse gas emissions which is more than twice that of a real tree. Plastic trees only

have less of an environmental impact if used 10 times or more compared to a real tree being used. So what Christmas

tree would be more eco-friendly? Consider getting a potted Christmas tree or renting one. If you still get a tree, make sure it comes with a stamp from the British Tree Growers' Association.

Another way to celebrate a green Christmas is to ensure that your decorations are eco friendly. The best thing to do is to reuse old Christmas decorations that are difficult to recycle. When in need of new decorations, try to replace them with paper ones: you could even try to make your own. Show off your crochet or origami skills!

Another staggering fact about Christmas is how much food is wasted from mince pies to brussel sprouts. It is estimated that we waste an equivalent 4.2 million Christmas dinners which would cost around £64 million. To reduce this try to cook for appropriate portion sizes and try to eat any leftovers!

We hope that this guide has been informative to help you consider your impact on our environment when you celebrate Christmas this year with your family and friends! Don't forget about our crisp packet collection points around school to start with your good deeds for this season! Merry Christmas!

Eco Schools Committee

POLITICS STUDENTS MEET WITH STOCKTON WEST CANDIDATE

With little certainty and much speculation over the date of the next General Election the Politics Society invited the Labour Party candidate for Stockton South to speak to the students. The current school constituency of Stockton South will transform at the next election to Stockton West, given the shift in boundaries by the Electoral Commission to reflect recent population shifts. Our guest, Joe Dancey, will contest this seat against the Conservative Party's Matt Vickers MP, and other yet to declare candidates from other parties.

Joe Dancey grew up in this area, having attended Eggescliffe School before going up to Oxford to read PPE. After a brief stint in the Civil Service Joe worked in the House of Lords with Baroness Amos, a period

that was followed by working for some time with Lord Coe, the former Olympian and Conservative Peer, as they crafted the 2012 London Olympics. Joe has been back living and working in the constituency for the last five years or so.

Our guest talked refreshingly over the need for greater political consensus and a shift away from overly partisan, binary politics. He carries a significant interest and experience in the field of trade and industry, keen to develop greater, more prosperous partnerships for the Teesside region. Students explored a diverse range of questions in what proved to be a most interesting and agreeable exchange of ideas and opinions.

Mr S Edwards



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

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

THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

How do UK manufacturing businesses remain competitive? What will be the impact of AI on the secondary sector? Is JIT realistic nowadays? Just some of the many questions asked by the interested audience of Lower and Upper Sixth assembled to hear from Commercial Director and Former Pupil, Daniel Moore, in last week's FAME Working Lunch.

Upon leaving Yarm, Daniel went to Northumbria University to study Business with International Management. During this time he worked at his family business as an accounts and logistics administrator. After gaining a first class honours degree in 2010 he joined the

business full time (JLM Global Foods - an international snack manufacturing business based in Darlington). Over the years he has been involved in many areas of the business, but he now holds the position of Commercial Director and he has completed his MBA at Durham University.

We are extremely grateful to Daniel for a fabulously fascinating talk and his honesty and candour in answering so many probing questions. We appreciate his ongoing support of the EconBus Department.

Miss C E Rhodes



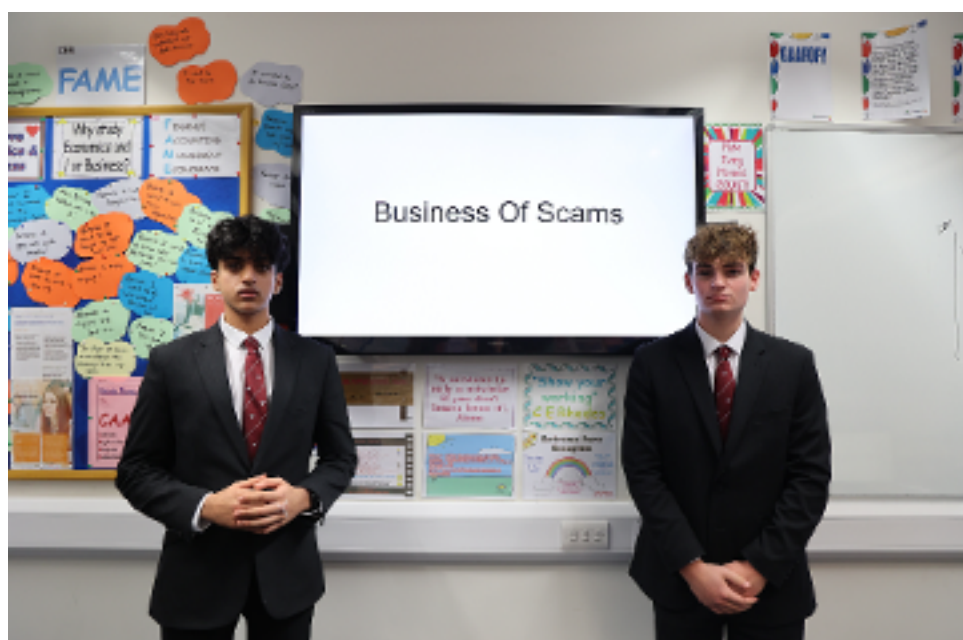
THE BUSINESS OF SCAMMING

When I first heard that this week's EconBus Soc topic was "The Business of Scamming" I was unsure what to expect. Will Lewis (assisted at last minute by a friend) bravely stepped up to be one of the very first Lower Sixth presenters following on from superb Upper Sixth led talks, and I and the multidisciplinary audience were all really impressed. In a well researched and detailed presentation Will spoke of the way "scams" have moved from being in person to often being on-line. He discussed who is most vulnerable and what to be aware of, as well as offering advice and guidance to avoid

falling victim, before the floor was opened for questions. Discussion ensued as to how much government intervention is needed to protect

individuals and what form this should take. We are grateful to Will for a really interesting talk.

Miss C E Rhodes



MMIS FOR THE MDVS

Last week saw the successful completion of this year's Mock MMIs (Multiple Mini Interviews). This is a common form of interviewing for applicants of Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, and is increasingly being used further afield. It is a shorter, pacier form of interviewing that more conventional one-on-one or panel type arrangements and is often compared by some to 'speed dating'. The arrangement consists of a number of stations designed to test key skills, attributes and knowledge in the form of very short interviews.

To assist Yarm School applicants in these areas and this format, for a couple of years now we have offered a mock version of this process. Mr Newman, who has responsibility for Health Professions applicants has a carefully constructed programme that replicates the 'official' experience to an excellent degree.

Nineteen students, including a number of applicants from Egglecliffe School, experienced ten different stations during these interviews with members of staff. The focus of the interviews included the topics of ethics, teamwork, NHS values, communication, integrity, critical thinking, resilience and calculations. The rapid fire nature of the process requires considerable mental agility, for which the students had been preparing for this event beforehand, not least through the MedSoc activity. Mr Newman has already in the aftermath found time to debrief to individuals and to the group as a whole. Our appreciation is also extended to the group of Yarm School staff who gave generously of their experience and expertise, as well as a couple of hours of their evening in order to interview the students. As someone who is frequently pulling together resources to organise such events, I can appreciate the time and effort required to realise such an invaluable experience. Mr Newman with his characteristic professionalism, commitment to precision and the delivery of a high quality experience, ensured that the students received the very best preparation, as well as

presenting as a role model for the high standards required within the health professions. It was immediately obvious to the students themselves that they had been put through a demanding, exacting and authentic round of interviews, that will certainly stand them in good stead in their applications, for which we wish them all the very best in the weeks ahead.

Mr S Edwards



(TASK) - 3 - (EMILYS) - 2 - (FP) - 1

Champagne Glasses or Gold-plated Stainless Steel Rings...Which do you associate with Yarm School?? This was the decision faced by Lord Sugar Number 3 (FP Imogen Slack) when she returned to Yarm for the final Board Room of the Term.

In a perfectly pitched battle of Emily v Emily, first up were Emily C's team "Future Alumni". Emily herself, accompanied by Ishita and Harvey, gave a confident presentation using slides and tangible paper resources. They proposed a logo of a Lotus Flower to represent knowledge, wisdom and rebirth, coloured gold to celebrate the school's imminent 50 year anniversary. And they had an extensive package of merchandise costed, which included a calendar, notebook, photobook, mugs, cufflinks and a ring.

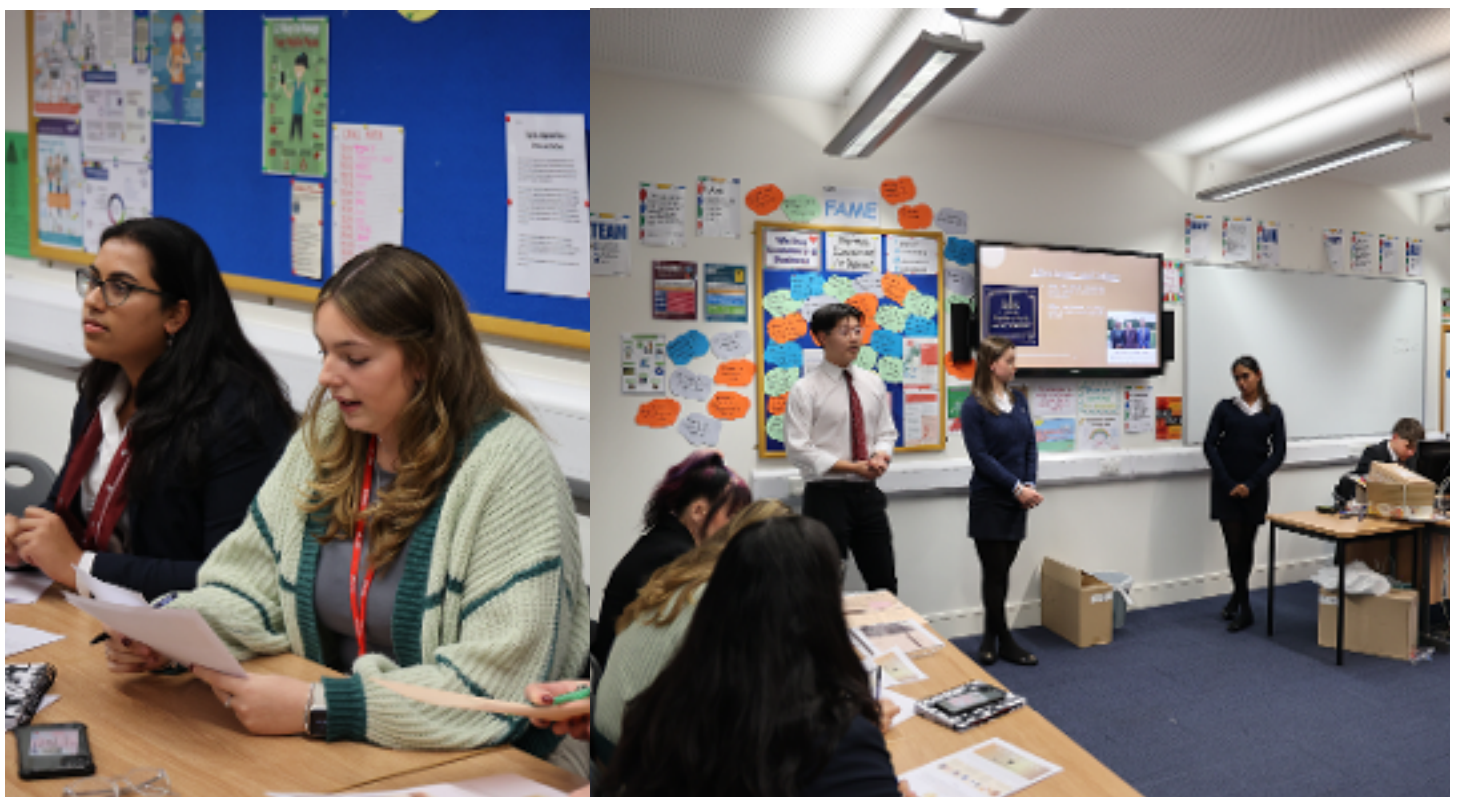
Next to present were Emily N's team, with Emily, Sam, Lucy and Alex explaining a complex logo design encompassing the Friarage with leavers as birds and a colour palette of navy and gold. They described their goods which included champagne glasses, a pen, an umbrella and cufflinks.

Detailed questioning from Lord Sugar, Arhana and Miss Rhodes probed the effectiveness of market research samples and the extent to which the solutions met the challenge. Lord Sugar declared Emily C's team the victors and, whilst they enjoyed the spoils of brownies and hot chocolate, Emily N was left to bring Cara and Will back to the Board Room and after deliberation Emily N heard the infamous words "You're Fired".

Bonus Points are awarded to Emily C as PM of the Winning Team. Oliver and Alex received the accolades of their teams with peer points, whilst the "Karren, Tim and Claude" points went to Olivia, Nila and Emily C.

We are hugely grateful to Imy for her fabulously designed and creative task and her commitment to her role as Lord Sugar and we are grateful to her ongoing support of the EconBus department. We wish her well with her University studies and know she will be back again to visit very soon.

Miss C E Rhodes



FOURTH YEAR PUPILS ATTEND HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKSHOP AT JAMES COOK

As the term begins to draw to a close nineteen members of the Fourth Year opted to spend their Saturday morning gaining greater insight into possible future careers within medicine.

The annual event was hosted by the Strive Centre at the James Cook University Hospital. The centre is the venue for the training of a vast range of medics and dentists from across the region, including students from the York-Hull and Newcastle Medical Schools. On hand to assist the pupils was a diverse range of medical practitioners who were able to take the students in small groups through a series of workshops. These included the likes of obstetrics and gynaecology where pupils learned on a simulated model the process of delivering a baby, and a workshop centred around keyhole surgery training skills involved a gastric surgeon. Other students learned more about cardiology with video and mannequin simulations, whilst others took their turn learning to insert cannulas into a model of an arm, albeit complete with a blood supply to more fully replicate the real experience.

It proved to be a fascinating morning for so many pupils, gaining their first hands-on experiences as they begin to consider their future options, and whether their skills and temperament could benefit this diverse profession field. We are most appreciative of the time and efforts of all of the staff at the Strive Centre and James Cook for facilitating this wonderful visit.

Mr S Edwards

MONEY MONEY MONEY

Delighted to confirm the totals from Yarm Apprentice's Task 2 and where the money is going (All £1035.92 of it)

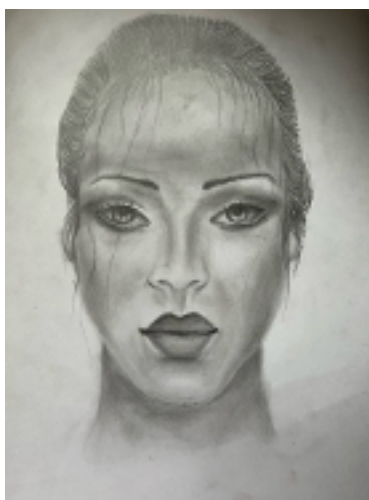
From the 2 main stalls - £343.50 Shelter & £426.75 Save the Children

From the raffle the photo subtask - £220 for the School Music School

And from the selling the spare stock - £45.67 for Breast Cancer Now (the charity always supported by Yarm Apprentice)

Miss C E Rhodes

ARTIST'S CORNER



Some lovely drawings of Rihanna and a lion from 2nd Year pupil Misha Krishnan. The sensitive use of tone and attention to detail really brings the drawings to life.

PHAB CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Phab Club members and some of our pupils had a wonderful Christmas party to get in the festive spirit. There were Christmas-themed activities, Christmas music and lots of festive attire! Father Christmas even stopped by to give everyone an early Christmas present!!!



BOYS' INDOOR HOCKEY

Whilst the boys have played a number of outdoor fixtures this term the focus has been on the indoor version of the game. It was pleasing to report that we beat all of the regional opposition as we were crowned champions at the Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 age groups.

The Under 12s travelled to Manchester for the North Finals and eventually finished 4th after tight one goal defeat in the semi-finals and 3/4th place play off. Unfortunately, the U14s didn't make the tournament in Manchester as they got stuck behind a crash on the A19- they will play a rearranged game against eventual winners King's Chester in the New Year.

The Under 16's and 18s played out their National Final tournaments in London last week and although both teams might have been disappointed with their final placings, one could not fault their commitment and attitude throughout.

The Under 16s lost their first 2 games to eventual finalists St George's 4-1 and Repton 4-1. Considering both

schools are attached to top clubs and in Repton's case recruit England players and German internationals, the score lines were very respectable. The only disappointing result came in our last group game against Southampton where a poor start saw us fall behind and we never recovered. The boys did save their best hockey for the final 7/8th place play off game against Katharine Lady Berkeley's School. We went 3 goals ahead before eventually drawing 4-4 to claim joint 7th place.

The Under 18 tournament was very frustrating. The boys looked amazing against Ipswich and quickly went 2-0 before the game unravelled due to some ill discipline and what can only

be described as a tough to take umpiring decisions that led to us losing the game 3-2. We dominated Southampton (who boasted 3 England Internationals) but somehow lost the game 2-1 before comfortably beating Dean Close to finish 3rd in the group. Everyone agreed that we should have topped the group and could have had a crack at Whitgift or Repton but this was not to be.

We made many changes in the last game and eventually ran out as the 6th best team in the country- the vast majority of this squad will still be at the school next year so it is hoped we can be more successful then.

Mr G Ferguson



CLEVELAND SCHOOLS TABLE TENNIS

Table Tennis Success!

Congratulations to Sri Rajaram, Charlie Burnside, Ben Pumphrey and James Reeves who competed in the Cleveland Schools Table Tennis Competition and won the competition so will be attending the next round, early next

year! Well done boys and good luck!



INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SELECTION

Congratulations to Ella Fitzgerald, who has been selected to represent Ireland at the upcoming U17 Euros in 2024. Ella we are so proud of you and can't wait to see you shine on the International stage at such a young age.



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: bit.ly/paa-voucher

SANTA ROCKS

Come and rock with us and Santa!

Santa may be busy getting ready to head out on his deliveries, but he is dropping into Yarm on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th for his Snow Ball! But we need you to come and stop Jack Frost as he is looming to zap the Auditorium of all its festive cheer!

Come and join us and rock in the aisles and get the party started!

(approx duration 45 mins)

Saturday 16th December, 9:30am or Sunday 17th December, 10am

[Book Online Here](#)



CINDERELLA PANTO

Don't miss the most magical pantomime of them all CINDERELLA. Starring Benidorm singing sensation Asa Elliott as Prince Charming, Yarm regular Tom Rolfe as Buttons and a full supporting cast for the PAA's biggest festive family panto ever, cram packed with all the usual fun and chaos with one or two surprises thrown in for good measure!

(approx duration 2 hours)

Various dates still available

[Book Online Here](#)



NT LIVE - DEAR ENGLAND

With the worst track record for penalties in the world, Gareth Southgate knows he needs to open his mind and face up to the years of hurt, to take team and country back to the promised land. Joseph Fiennes (The Handmaid's Tale) plays Gareth Southgate in James Graham's (Sherwood) spectacular hit play that explores nation and game.

Friday 26th January, 7pm
(Live Streamed in the Friarage Theatre)

[Book Online Here](#)



12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lace yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Mirko Alsedo design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualification. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – a position of school leaders and staff who are in a unique and vital role to shape their setting's inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is a top priority.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday