

The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 764 — Friday 26th January 2024

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier which gives you a flavour of life at the Prep School. Last Saturday saw us welcome a number of new families to our Open Morning to experience a little of what we are about. As ever our pupils were in fine form, guiding prospective families around the school and engaging in the array of activities that were running. It is always impressive to see how our girls and boys enjoy sharing their passion for school life and heartily taking advantage of such opportunities. They are great ambassadors for us in this regard and the experience of being part of Open Morning helps them to further develop their confidence and communication skills. At the end proceedings it was lovely to see many families - current and prospective - enjoy some food in our new dining facilities which continue to be well enjoyed as a community space. If you haven't had a chance to see the new building yet, do join us for the 'open house' sessions. Details of the dates and times are listed again in the forthcoming pages.

As you will see in the newsletter this week and in keeping with our school's mission statement - Educating for Life - we are always keen to ensure our pupils are prepared for the next stage of their educational journey and the world beyond Yarm. This comes in many forms and the combined experience of a Yarm School education ensures that our pupils leave ready to thrive. Whether it is learning the skill of making a product in DT and applying knowledge of the business world to think about the target market, learning to play competitive chess, being part of a whole year group Drama Week or playing in a fixture against another school. Each opportunity brings valuable experience, enjoyment and transferable skills that shape a child's development and character. The breadth of opportunity is considerable and the progress our pupils make on their journey through the school is outstanding.

Bíll Sawyer

Head's Challenge: I can be cracked, I can be made. I can be told, I can be played. What am I?



Photo of the Week: House Chess began this week, with reigning champions Stephenson up against it!

House Chess—Matchday 1

The annual House Chess Championship returned in style, with two tough matches and an abundance of excellent individual performances.

Arkwright against Brunel was a very close match for most of the session, with the scores equal for a long time.

Eventually, Brunel powered their way to a number of late, vital victories, to win the match by the deceptively large score of 9-5.

Captain Miles Page won two games for Arkwright, as did William Lawson.

Freddie Wilson held

two strong players to draws thanks to his excellent defensive skills.

However, Brunel's greater strength in depth eventually proved to be the decisive factor. Wins for Captain Kaira Nalawade, Manha Abdullah, Phoenix Emadi, Fathe Chahal, Scarlett Yang, Agam Vats, Vedh Arcot and Rex White saw them through to an impressive opening victory.

Meanwhile, Stephenson (the defending champions) and Telford had an

even closer



match.

The advantage changed hands several times, before Telford emerged triumphant, but it was very close indeed; the final score was 9-8!

Captain Lolwa Soliman and Dara Jafari won two games each for Stephenson and Benjamin Fulford, Samuel Isukapatla, Stan Dugdale and Rosa Williams all added to the score of the defending

champions.





Telford proved to be just a shade stronger, with Kavan Sidhu (two wins and a draw), Captain Eric Pinedo Fuentes and Anwita Dara (two wins each) scoring particularly well.

Further points were added to the Telford tally by Rory Fitzgerald and

Henry Stanley, allowing their team to claim a victory by

the narrowest of margins.

Anything can still happen over the course of the next two rounds - and probably will, so it is not possible to predict which team will eventually claim the title of 2024 House Chess Champions.

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5H Salads

During the last few weeks 5H have been working on designing and then actually making their own salad in D&T.

Working in groups of three or four they had to think about:

The name of their salad company.

The name of their salad.

They then developed their own design criteria - they thought about:

The taste, texture, colour, smell, durability

and appearance of different ingredients.

Who is your salad for and what event?

What will make your product unique/different?

How will you present the product?

How will you know if you have made a successful product?

The 4 Ps of The Marketing Mix.

To consider food miles/sustainability when choosing ingredients.

Create a base recipe - what will be your base mix?

What ingredient will each person in the group change to make their salad different?

5H thoroughly enjoyed making their salad and most of all eating it at the end!

Mr Grundmann

















PE and Games

Reflections on netball

When I first joined Yarm School, I had never played netball before. In my first games lesson, I learnt so much, like how to pivot, how to catch and throw, the positions on the court and some rules. It was a crash course! After my first few days I played my first fixture v Barnard





Castle and Yarm won 6-3. I play football for Marton girls' and I have found netball similar to football. You still spread out, there are teams on opposite sides, you stay in your position, you shoot and use the ball except with your hands. I really enjoy it and I am getting used to all the new rules. I have had lots of fun playing netball so far because I have loved being part of a team and learning a new sport has been exciting.



Annabelle M.

Under 11 Netball v Queen Mary's

On Friday 19th January, the Year 6 girls had an eventful netball match at Queen Mary's School. Even though they were very competitive, the Queen Mary's girls were nice and played fairly. I think all the Yarm Prep Year 6 girls can agree it was a fun match; we all worked really well as a team and put into practice the skills and techniques we have learnt, guided by Miss Whitehouse who coached from the sidelines of the court. I worked closely with Hannah as we passed to each other while making our way along to the Queen Mary's goal. I had a clear shot, aimed at the goal, and was delighted to score the first point for Yarm. Hannah and I kept up our strong team partnership and we went on to score more goals, with Yarm



winning by quite a few points. I was so happy to be titled Player of the Match. Overall I think all the Yarm girls really enjoyed the afternoon as it gave us a chance to unwind and relax very much since it was just after all of Year 6 had done our Transfer Papers!

Laurel G.



Spring Key Events

New Build Open House visits

'Open house' visits for parents and pupils have been arranged to tour the new facilities (between 4pm and 4.15pm) in groups on the following dates:

Tue 30/1 - Year 3; Weds 31/1 - Pre-Prep; Thurs 1/2 - Pre-Prep; Thu 8/2 - Year 4; Wed 28/2 - Year 6; Fri 1/3 - Year 5; Wed 13/3 - Former Prep pupils currently in Senior School and parents. There is no need to book a place, just come along.

Monday 5th February - Changing rooms operational (Y3-6)

Our changing rooms will open from this date, meaning all children are required to come into school in their full school uniform from this date onwards. PE/Games kit will need to be brought to school in a kit bag, with children given time in lessons to get changed. If a child is in a sporting club or activity, they will also be required to come into school in their uniform and given time to get changed.

You can find out more about our uniform and appearance expectations from <u>our Parent Handbook, which can be</u> accessed here.

Wednesday 7th February - Internet Safety Presentation for Parents

On Wednesday 7th February I will be hosting a talk about internet safety for parents, as part of our Internet Safety Week. It will take place in the new Prep Hall, starting at 4pm, and will last no longer than an hour.

The purpose of the this talk is to give you a broad overview of the digital landscape faced by our children today. It is ever-changing, but we aim to give you some guidance regarding the benefits and risks of being online, along with some practical advice on how to support your child and a look at how we support their digital citizenship at school. The talk is aimed at parents in Prep and Pre-Prep, and pupils are not expected to attend it as they will have been part of our Internet Safety Week assemblies during the week.

To confirm your attendance and to help shape the presentation we would be very grateful if you could spend a few minutes completing this Google Form to give us your views regarding online safety matters: https://forms.gle/p7f9KEWCUNEQpSkm8.

Friday 9th February - Chinese New Year Celebration

As is now tradition here at Yarm, we will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Friday 9th with a special assembly and lunch. The YPSSC will be supporting this too, and we thank them for their support. Your child is invited to come into school wearing one item of red clothing along with their usual school uniform or traditional clothing worn to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Friday 16th February - Staff INSET

A reminder, just in case, that school is closed to pupils on this date. This marks the beginning of half-term, with pupils returning to school on Monday 26th February.

Thursday 29th February - Rare Diseases Day

We will be supporting Rare Diseases Day again this year, raising money for the David Ashwell Foundation. Your child can wear their jeans on this date (or an item of blue) with their usual school uniform if they <u>bring in £1 or donate via this link.</u>

Friday 1st March - YPSSC Cooking Decorating Day for Pre-Prep

Our lucky Pre-Prep children will have the chance to decorate a cookie with Pippa and the team, thanks to the support of the YPSSC! This will be in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and we ask children to bring in £1 for their cookie, or parents to make a donation to our JustGiving page - set up for Macmillan - by clicking here.

Tuesday 5th March - Telford Charity Day

Details on this event for Years 3-6 will follow in due course.

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

We invite every member of the school community to dress up as their favourite fictional book character for the day! Our theme this year is 'Children are made readers on the laps of parents!' During Thursday and Friday we will be inviting you to visit our wonderful new library to share a book with your child and enjoy a drink in the reading cafe. More details to follow.

Additionally, we will be organising a family Book Reading Competition from 8th to the 22nd March, as well as hosting a Book Fair from 18th-22nd March in the Studio Hall and the Prep Foyer.

Friday 8th March - Bring your Mother/Grandmother to School Day (For Pre-Prep children only)

Details will follow in due course.

Friday 8th March - Prep Red Nose Disco (for Years 3-6)

The disco will take place in the Prep School hall on Friday 8th March, from 6pm until 7.30pm. All pupils are invited and will be able to enjoy the usual party games and activities organised by teachers and dance to a range of 'bangers' played by some teaching DJs!

Tickets for the disco will be £2 each (money to be brought along on the night), with all proceeds going to Comic Relief as part of Red Nose Day. We do need confirmation of pupil attendance for catering and safety purposes, as every child will be given something to eat during the event. As such, please could you fill in this online consent form by Monday 4th March.

On the day of the disco, children attending the party will go home as usual and can then return for the 6pm start. Please be advised that children will have to be dropped off at the Prep School car park and met by our teachers to walk to the hall. Staff will be in attendance from here to supervise the children to the disco.

If you plan on booking After School Care, we can supervise them in a special after school care. It is recommended that they bring in a packed tea though to keep them going. Please let me know via email if you want to make use of this.

Please ensure that your child brings their water bottle to school on the day of the disco as they will be drinking water from these during the event to cut back on single use plastic cups.

Parents can collect their children at 7.30pm from the Prep School. If the Prep car park becomes full, please use the Senior School car park as an alternative and walk up to the Prep site. Please complete the online consent form above by Monday 4th March to secure a place for your child at the disco. Please note: the disco is only open to Prep School children.

Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day

For Comic Relief, all children can come into school in the morning wearing an item of red clothing, along with their usual school uniform and should bring in £1 to donate to the charity or you can donate via this link.

Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th - Parent Consultations

Details to follow of how you can book an appointment with your child's form tutor to discuss their progress this term.

Thank you as always for your support.

Mr Stone

Holiday School Dates

Easter 2024:

2nd to 5th April (4 days)

Summer 2024:

15th July to 2nd August (15 days)

Stephenson Charity—Thanks!

Our thanks to everyone who took part in the Stephenson Charity Day events last term. Mr Simpson used the proceeds from the day to take a considerable donation of baby goods up to Hartlepool Baby Bank.



Year 5 Community Spirit

Brunel have created some joyful chalk art to cheer up a grey January day.

Mrs Hart







Uniform Update

We have recently reviewed the Pre-Prep and Prep PE and Games kit, in particular the white shorts and socks. A number of parents have commented that white is not the easiest colour to keep clean.

Moving forward the PE and Games kit will be the current navy games top or rugby top and navy shorts or skort and games socks. I hope that you will agree that this will

be a more serviceable colour when it comes to laundering. As all pupils will already have the navy games kit there is no need to purchase any additional items. The white PE kit can still be used until the end of the school year.

<u>To confirm - the white PE shorts and white PE socks</u> going forward will now no longer be needed.

The white PE polo shirt with house colours however will still be needed for Sports day and summer activities such as tennis and athletic meets.

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any further questions or you would like to make an appointment for the Uniform Showroom.

Mrs Porter, Uniform Showroom Manager

Curiosity Emporium

Last week, Mr Grundmann explained how parkruns started off and how their popularity has soared, as well as how much he enjoys taking part in them.

Mrs Lofthouse-Hill

I found the talk very inspiring and I found it amazing that Mr Grundmann has done 213!! I now would like to do a parkrun!

Amelia C.

Thanks Mr Grundmann. I think that you have done so well that you have done 213 parkruns. It was so inspiring! Best of luck in your next parkrun.

James B.

I found the emporium very interesting and I was very inspired to do a parkrun.

Thomas M.



Tooled Up Education

Wherever you read our newsletter from, there's a good chance you've seen plenty of weather in the last couple of weeks! With freezing temperatures chilling the UK, closely followed by Storm Isha lashing the country with wind and rain, we've all had to think about the power of nature. And whenever there's something interesting happening outside, there are questions from your children and a chance to discover and learn!

Here at Tooled Up we have an ever-expanding list of resources for engaging children in broadening their knowledge and finding out more about the world around them.

Do you know what a weather bomb is? We worked with meteorologist David Bowker to create 20 Fun Facts About Storms to share with your children. If your little ones find fierce wind and lightning scary, it might help them to understand a bit more about the science behind the storm. You can follow storm facts with cloud facts, using

David's <u>Types Of Clouds Quiz</u>, perfect for the budding weather-watchers in your family.

After cloud facts, try fire facts! Try our <u>Science of Fire Quiz</u>, from science teacher Lucy Haseler. Lucy also created this fun and educational list of <u>Questions for Bathtime</u>. Every part of the day can be a learning opportunity, especially if it teaches you why your fingers and toes go wrinkly in the water!



Questions for Bathtime

If you're lucky enough to live on the coast, we have beach science activities for both primary aged children and teens..

Even more inquisitive children – and their inquisitive parents – will love our <u>Learning Through Intrigue</u> questions covering such ground as why drinks are fizzy, why some people are left-handed and where freckles come from! For older children, our <u>Scientific Questions for Curious Teens</u> activity tackles some more in-depth topics.

Of course, learning about the natural world means engaging with the threats facing it. In this <u>podcast</u>, Dr Verity Jones of the University of the West of England talks about climate change education, and how we can help our children through a barrage of dire warnings and anxiety.

The Tooled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could we do better?

We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at research@tooledupeducation.com to let us know how we are doing!

As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click here to register for an account. It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at support@tooledupeducation.com. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

Dr Kathy Weston



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 devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit national college.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SMARTPHONE SAFETY TIPS

for young people

You may have been lucky enough to have unwrapped a smartphone at Christmas, or you might be eagerly anticipating getting a new one at some point during this year. Whether it'll be your first ever phone or an upgrade on your old model, it's always useful to have a refresher about how to set it up and adjust the settings to keep yourself - and your valuable personal info - safe and secure. We've collected some expert tips to help you enjoy your smartphone in the healthiest way possible.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSCODE

Alongside face or fingerprint recognition, your passcode is crucial to unlocking your phone and accessing your apps and personal information. You shouldn't give it out, even to close friends – after all, you wouldn't hand them a key to your house and let them go in for a nosey around! If a friend wants to use your phone, ask them why and make sure you can see what they're doing with it.

RESPECT PARENTAL CONTROLS

If you're allowed to have a smartphone, it's because your parents or carers feel that you're mature and responsible enough to use it safely. They might set controls and boundaries on your device – not to spoil your fun but to help you avoid hazards like too much screen time or costly in-app purchases. Following these rules means you can enjoy using your phone while respecting their wishes.

TALK TO A TRUSTED

Whether it's to listen to music, play games, create content or chat with friends, using a smartphone should be fun. If you're ever feeling anxious, worried or scared about going on your phone, then something isn't right. It's important not to ignore these feelings; instead, talk to a trusted adult about what's happening and how it's making you feel.

STAY ALERT

Two words: look up. It might sound obvious, but it's so easy to get immersed in what we're looking at or listening to on our phones that we can become unaware of our surroundings—or who might be around us. People often walk with their head down, focusing on their phone, and forget to check for obstacles in their path, cars or other pedestrians coming towards them, which is clearly dangerous.

DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS

Phones offer a vast amount of content and the chance to chat with friends whenever we feel like it, which can make it difficult to take it, which can make it difficult to take time away from the screen. If that's something you struggle with, you could try setting time limits on certain apps. Putting our phones down for a while gives us more time to interact with others or do something physical that helps keep us fit and healthy.

There are some scammers who

IGNORE UNKNOWN NUMBERS

There are some scammers who might call or text asking you to share personal data or to click on a link and provide your details. Some may claim to be from a genuine company, but trustworthy businesses don't spontaneously call or message to ask for your information. It's safest to ignore calls or texts from unknown numbers, and never give your personal details out over the phone.

SWITCH OFF GEOLOCATION

In your phone's settings, you'll be able to disable geolocation for individual apps and photos: this means that people online (including strangers) can't see information about where you are when you share or post a pic. On the subject of images, it's also important to ask permission before taking or sharing a photo of someone – and don't share embarrassing images of your friends with others.

18

ONLY USE

REMOVE

TEMPTATION

AGE-APPROPRIATE APPS

Before downloading a new app or game, check what age rating it has. Don't feel pressured into getting a particular game or app just because your friends are using it. If it's intended for older people, there's a definite risk that it could include content (which is violent or frightening for instance) or

frightening, for instance) or language which isn't suitable and may leave you feeling upset or disturbed.

A good night's sleep is so important for concentration, mood and overall health. Unwinding properly before going to bed – which means not staring at a screen late at night – can often improve sleep quality. Put your phone on charge overnight, but not in your room. This means you'll have a lot less temptation to check any notifications, reply to messages or get caught up scrolling on social media.

THINK ABOUT OTHERS

Watching videos,
listening to music or calling
someone can all help to pass
the time while we're on the bus,
waiting in a queue or walking down
the street. It's important to remain
mindful of other people, though: they
might not want to hear your tunes or
your conversation. Likewise, if you're
calling from a public place then
don't forget that anyone could
overhear something personal about
you.

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National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Meet Our Expert

d and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safet; s. She has written various academic papers and co





The National College[®]

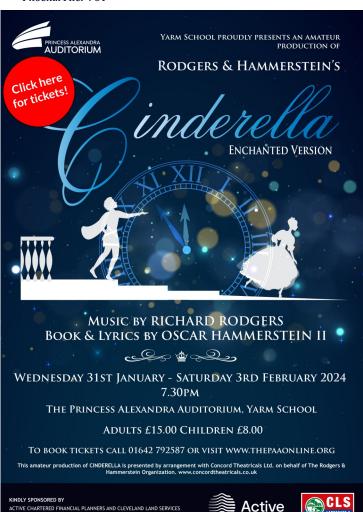








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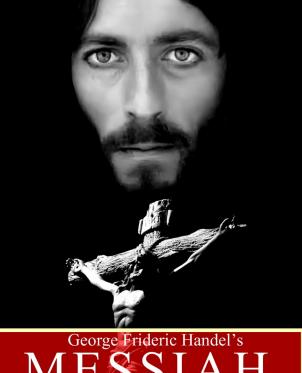
Yarm School Choral Society, Festival Chorus and Yarm Senior and Prep School Choirs accompanied by the world famous Black Dyke Band present:

SATURDAY 23rd MARCH 2024 at 7pm

The best brass band in the world SIR ELTON JOHN

Each new generation of fleet-fingered cornet and euphonium virtuosos add another layer of jaw-dropping achievement THE TIMES





SATURDAY 23rd MARCH 2024 at 7pm

The best brass band in the land

SIR PAUL McCARTNEY

...Virtuosity of this order takes the breath away THE TORONTO STAR

The set of the Festival (Glastonbury 2017) THE GUARDIAN

MESSIAH

Tickets are £15/£10 and are available from www.thepaaonline.org or by calling the box office on (01642) 792587



Coming Up

You can find the Yarm School calendar for the Spring Term by clicking here

JANUARY 2024

Mon 29 House Chess—Matchday 2

Tue 30 New Build Open House—Year 3 parentsWed 31 New Build Open House—Pre-Prep parents

National Schools General Knowledge Quiz heat

House Chess—Matchday 3

FEBRUARY 2024

Thu 1 Schools Cross-Country

(Barlborough Hall; 12noon start, 5pm return)

Fri 2 Official Opening of the Hazel Andrews Building

(2pm)

Mon 5 Internet Safety Week

Internet Safety Workshop (Digital Leaders)

House assemblies

Activities Carousel 3 begins (Y4-6)

Tue 6 Year 3 trip to Centre for Life (all day)

Wed 7 Internet Safety Talk for parents

(4pm; Prep Hall)

Lego League Event in Sunderland (7.45am depart, 5.30pm return)

Thu 8 U9 Netball v Durham

(at Maiden Castle; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

Fri 9 Chinese New Year Celebrations

VEX Robotics competition in Sunderland

(8.15am depart, 5.30pm return)

Term Dates

Spring Term 2023

Half Term Begins Thursday 15th February 2024

(after school)

INSETFriday 16th February 2024Pupils ReturnMonday 26th February 2024FinishThursday 28th March 2024

(after school; no after school care)

Summer Term 2024

Pupils Return Thursday 18th April 2024 Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024 Half Term Begins Thursday 23rd May 2024

(after school)

Pupils Return Monday 3rd June 2024 Finish Thursday 4th July 2024

At 12 noon

(after school; no after school care)

Autumn Term 2024

Preparation Day Tuesday, 27th August 2024

Wednesday, 28th August 2024 Thursday, 29th August 2024

All pupils return Thursday, 29th August 202 Half term begins Friday, 18th October 2024

(after school)

Pupils return Monday, 4th November 2024
Term ends Friday, 13th December 2024
(after school; no after school care)

Spring Term 2025

Pupils return Monday, 6th January 2025 Half term begins Thursday, 20th February 2025

(after school)

INSET Day Friday 21st February 2025

Pupils return Monday 3rd March 2025

Term ends Friday 4th April 2025 (after school)

Summer Term, 2025

Pupils return Wednesday, 23rd April 2025
Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May 2025
Half term begins Thursday, 22nd May 2025

(after school)

Pupils return Monday, 2nd June 2025 Term ends Thursday, 3rd July 2025



https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum

Click here to access the Parent Curriculum Information Site

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	Harrison V.	Genevieve P.
3J	Oscar W.	Darcie M.
3P	Naveah MT.	Zoeya A.
4F	Edith G.	Atticus WT.
4 J	Annabelle A.	Deia T-M.
45	Elizabeth H.	Francesca S.
5G	Stan D.	Isla R.
5H	Jack M.	Annalise D.
5K	Jack S.	Henson C.
6Н	All	All
6L	All	All
6W	All	All

Head Teacher Awards:

Year 3: Louis G., Harrison V.

Music Awards:

Silver award: Emily Q.