

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

We returned from the Christmas break to the tragic news of the death of Lawrie, who is remembered below, and we are all trying to come to terms with his loss. The strength of our community has been evident in the way that parents, pupils and staff have supported each other and I have been struck by the support and compassion shown by and towards Lawrie's friends. Rest in Peace, Lawrie.

The newsletter reports and reflects on a range of activities that took place over the Christmas break, with pupils lucky enough to enjoy varied and enriching trips with their friends, organised and run by dedicated teachers to whom I am very grateful. There is news of pupil success in essay competitions, translation competitions and in cross country - well done to all those involved - and news of the recent return of some former pupils

continuing the rich tradition of Alumni supporting the current A level students. I am sure they all enjoyed just one more school lunch, too.

Our School Musical - Cinderella - is approaching fast (31st Jan - 3rd Feb), with rehearsals and preparation ongoing in a frenzy of activity. It promises to be a spectacular show and although tickets are selling fast, there are still plenty of good seats available. I hope that the hard work of our pupils is rewarded with full houses, or thereabouts, on each night, and recommend the show to you very highly - the level of professionalism and the quality of these productions is always remarkable. The Musical is kindly sponsored by Active Financial Planners and Cleveland Land



Services. Karl Pemberton from Active is raising money for a trip to deliver supplies to areas of Ukraine affected by the war. Further details are available on page 6.

We have recently taken occupancy of our completed new Prep Hall, with photos within; this is a wonderful resource for the School and for our ongoing partnerships activities and I am grateful to our Estates team for their hard work alongside Prep colleagues and Sodexo as we have started the new term benefiting from the wonderful space and resources.

Dr Huw Williams

REMEMBERING LAWRIE

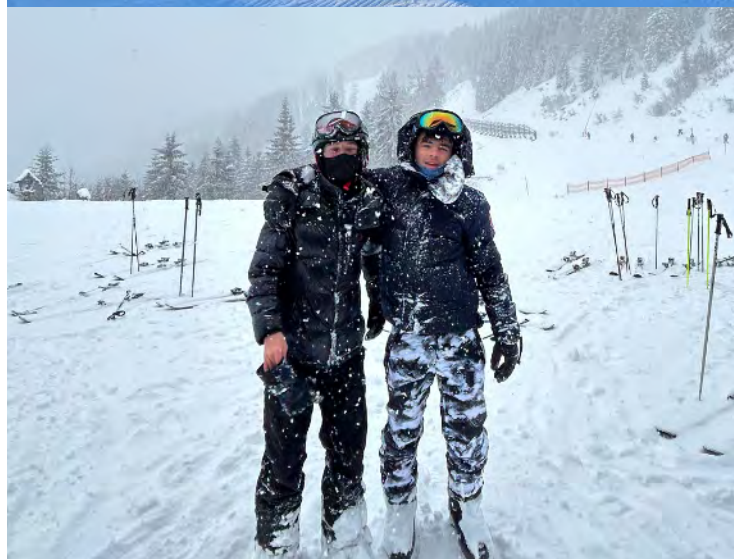


We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Lawrie on the 2nd of January. Lawrie was in the Upper Sixth, and his absence is deeply felt by all who knew him. Talented and able, Lawrie was humble, modest and reflective, with a wry sense of humour and a great deal of empathy for others.

We miss him very much, and the thoughts and prayers of our whole community remain with his family, friends and all who mourn his loss at such a difficult time.

SENIOR SKI TRIP 2023

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form students spent the week before Christmas skiing in the Austrian Alps. Snow conditions were perfect and the group had a great time out on the mountain. We had 6 days of expert ski instruction and it was great to see everyone make such good progress. Even those who had never been skiing before were travelling around the mountain taking on red runs by the end of the week. In an action packed week, the group also visited the famous Salzburg Christmas markets where they had the opportunity to practice their German! The Senior Ski trip will run again at the same time next year, look out for more information coming soon!



THEY CAME FLYING FROM FAR AWAY...

Not 1 speaker, not 2 speakers, but instead 14 speakers gave generously of their time and insight for the first Working Lunch of 2024. The Class of 23 returned en masse with fourteen FPs travelling to Yarm from as far afield as the USA, Northern Ireland and Scotland to share their experiences of life after Yarm. We heard about apprenticeships, studying abroad, industrial placement opportunities and a range of degree opportunities including Economics, Business and Finance.

Representing PwC, Western Washington University and the Universities of Bristol, Northumbria, York, Heriot Watt, Sunderland, Newcastle, Leeds, Lancaster and Strathclyde, our fabulous fourteen happily answered a plethora of questions, relating to their options and experiences and they were wonderfully candid in their responses. We also appreciated the very honest and practical guidance they gave to those currently studying Business or Economics, with advice on revision and maximising potential, including use of Revision Guides, flash cards, Cluster Club, essay clustering, EconplusDal, action points and more. This was clearly a much appreciated session as approximately seventy Sixth Formers attended, keen to glean knowledge!

We are extremely grateful to Eizad, Ben, Laura, Michael, Zach, Danny, Will, Deacon, Kitty, Izzy, Poppy, Imy, Aayush and Divya for coming back to support our department, and Miss Rhodes thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with her former students and hear how they were all doing. We wish them all the best for their courses and careers and hope they will continue to stay in contact (indeed several have already been supporting the department as contact points for current Sixth Formers, with Eizad advising those considering apprenticeships, whilst Imy has been back as a formidable Lord Sugar for YA), as we are firm believers in no one ever really leaving the EconBus department!!

Miss C E Rhodes



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

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS

We normally make this trip every two years with First and Second Year, but with high demand last year and pupils in current Fourth Year having missed out on the chance to experience the German Christmas Markets owing to Covid restrictions, we were delighted to be able to run the trip again. Travel was smooth in both directions, with ferry check in much quicker than last year and the Eurotunnel proving straightforward on the way back. The weather smiled on us too, with calm seas!

We stayed for the first time in the A&O hostel in Cologne Neumarkt. This was comfortable, with a nice relaxation area in reception, plus we were able to use a meeting room to

hold our traditional last night quiz. Being centrally located helped on the first full day as we could simply walk into the city, giving coach driver Gary a well-earned day off.

As usual we began at the Lindt Chocolate Museum, who did very well financially out of the pupils this year! We then spent some time exploring the Christmas Markets at the Hafen, Cologne Cathedral and Heumarkt. It was very busy this year, owing to it being a Sunday and the fine weather. We then made our way to our Rhine boat cruise and Christmas music concert. Sadly, the boat could not sail owing to the high river level, but we still enjoyed the festive music and visit from St

Nicholas. The river current was so strong that the boat actually swayed a little even from a static moored position! Finally for day one, we went Ten-Pin bowling at a local venue.

On day two, we spent the morning in the Cologne Zoo before heading to Aachen to sample the traditional Christmas markets there. The weather was cooler but it was much less crowded.

Mr Fellows would like to thank the pupils for taking part in good spirit and their good conduct, and also the accompanying staff Mr Lee, Dr Hallam and Mr Tomlinson for all their help.



GERMAN TRANSLATION COMPETITION 2023

Jack Pritchard (Lower Sixth) has followed in the footsteps of Kitty Brown (Upper Sixth) by being named as a winner of the Sheffield University German Translation Competition. Jack had to translate into English a passage from the novella 'Contrapunctus' by Michael Götting - a story which sheds unsparing light on the lives of Indigo, Rutha-Pong, Habibi and Oludah - four Afro-Germans, who, at the turn of the century in Berlin, come to terms with the colonial remnants of the city, their relationships and the racist tendencies of German society. Jack won a gift voucher and the chance to take part in an online translation workshop. Gut gemacht Jack!

WHY READ THE FT?

This was the question Sam and James sought to address in their EconBus Soc presentation last week. As Student Advocates for the FT, a role which they were successfully appointed to last term, part of their responsibilities are to enhance an appreciation of the benefits of reading the Financial Times and an awareness of how to access it for free. Sam and James discussed their involvement in the programme and it was interesting to also hear from one of last year's Advocates, Arhana, as to what she had gained in terms of employability skills from completing her year in post.

We are grateful to Sam and James for a successful start to this term's EconBus Soc programme and if any students or pupils want to know more about what the FT can do for them please feel free to approach either Student Advocate.

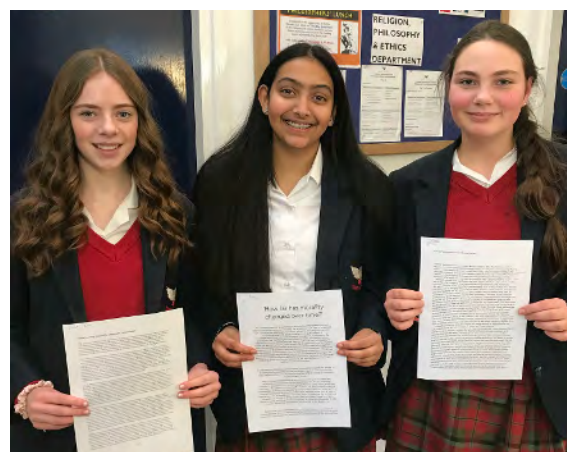
Miss C E Rhodes



COGITO COMPETITION

The RPE department & History departments launched an essay writing competition to all of the Third Year last term. The essay title was 'how far has morality changed over time?' The departments received some detailed and insightful responses to the question. The three winners were Jesse Bissett Brown, Mahanya Podalakur and Constance Deering who wrote brilliant essays, referring to some excellent examples.

All winners received an Amazon voucher for their efforts.



ROADTRIP OF SUPPLIES TO UKRAINE

Karl Pemberton from Active Financial Planners (one of the Cinderella sponsors) is heading off to the Ukraine this weekend to deliver supplies that will help those suffering from the repercussions of the invasion. Karl and Mike Racz have a full transit van and a 40-tonne artic lorry to head through Europe and cross the Ukrainian border to make the delivery. The journey will take 4 days and see us cross seven countries and travel 2,416km! To watch a video about the trip, click here. There is still a chance to donate funds via the link here: <https://gofund.me/b7cce11b>

PREP SCHOOL NEW BUILDING: OPEN HOUSE

'Open House' visits for parents and pupils have been arranged to tour the facilities (between 4pm and 4:15pm) in groups on the following dates.

Which includes a date in March for Senior School families and Former Prep School pupils who like to have a tour of the new building:

Wednesday 13th March, 4pm - Former Prep pupils currently in Senior School and parents



STOCKTON DISTRICT - COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

This week our 12 qualifiers competed at the County Cross Country Championships for Stockton District. The conditions were boggy and the races were tough with some strong runners in all races. The runners did well with 7 out of the 12 gaining a place in the next round of the competition where they will run for Cleveland and have a chance of qualifying for the English Schools Cross Country Finals. Well done everyone and good luck to K Fletcher, N Dugdale, B Allcock, L Oliver, N Shouri, S Anderson and N Krishnamoorthy in the next round.

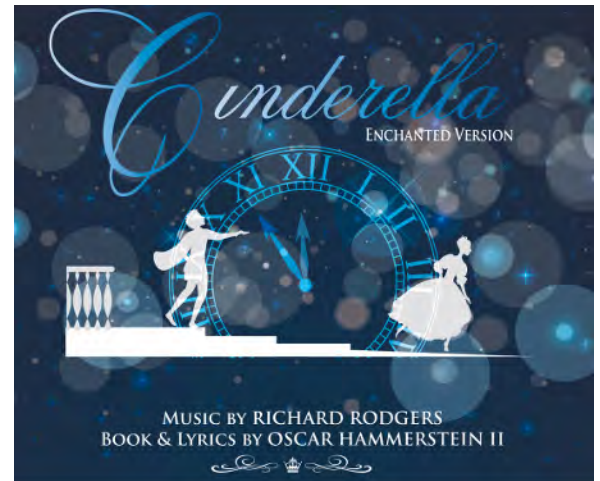


CINDERELLA - SCHOOL MUSICAL

Join us for a captivating evening, filled with dazzling performance and heart-warming moments, and allow our talented cast, crew and musicians to transport you to a magical realm where dreams come true.

**Wednesday 31st January - Saturday 3rd February,
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.

The South are an impressive 9 piece band who feature former members of The Beautiful South including singer Alison Wheeler and lifelong sax player Gaz Birtles.

Saturday 10th February, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



ROH LIVE: MANON

Manon's brother Lescaut is offering her to the highest bidder when she meets Des Grieux and falls in love. They elope to Paris, but when Monsieur G.M. offers Manon a life of luxury as his mistress she can't resist. With the Lescauts' encouragement Des Grieux cheats at cards in an attempt to win Monsieur G.M.'s fortune. They are caught. Manon is arrested as a prostitute and deported to New Orleans, followed by Des Grieux. On the run, Manon dies from exhaustion.

**Wednesday 7th February, 7:15pm
(Live Streamed in the Friarage Theatre)**

[Book Online Here](#)



LIVE MUSIC FROM THE COUNTERFEIT CELTS

YSA PRESENTS

**ST. PATRICK'S
DAY**



CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH, 7-11PM

LIVE MUSIC - FOOD - DRINK

THE BASEMENT BAR, THE PAA

Ten top tips for STRONGER PASSWORDS

Passwords continue to be the most common way to prove our identity online. A combination of a username and a password known only to the user provides access to our online accounts and data – and hopefully keeps unauthorised individuals out. As a security measure, though, passwords are relatively weak. People are often predictable in how we choose our passwords, for example – making them less secure. With increasing volumes of usernames and passwords being leaked online, what can we do to keep our data more secure? Here are our top tips for stronger passwords.

BE UNPREDICTABLE

We often choose passwords which are easy to remember: featuring the name of our favourite sports team or favourite film, for instance. Those are predictable passwords. Cyber criminals will routinely try various combinations of passwords relating to sports teams, actors, musical artists and the like – and they often focus on these during major sporting events or around high-profile movie releases.

AVOID GETTING PERSONAL

Many of us use passwords relating to our family, such as children's names or favoured holiday destinations. The problem here is that we also typically post about our holidays and our family on social media – making that information potentially visible to cyber criminals and supplying them with clues which could help them in narrowing down possible passwords we might have set.

NEW PLATFORM, NEW PASSWORD

Where cyber criminals gain access to an online service through a data breach, they often use the data they've stolen to try and access the victim's other accounts. This is because the criminals know that, for convenience, people often use the same password across different services. When we reuse passwords, our security is only as strong as the weakest site where we've used it.

LONGER IS STRONGER

Our passwords are often stored by online services in an encrypted format. In case the service suffers a data breach, the strength of this encryption, however, is dependent on the length of the password you've selected. If your password is only a short one, cyber criminals are significantly more likely to be able to break the encryption and identify your password.

CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA VISIBILITY

Staying up to date with friends and relatives on social media is part of everyday life now. We need to ensure, though, that we limit who can see our posts via each platform's privacy settings. It's also wise to consider what we're posting and if it's really safe to share online. If we restrict what cyber criminals can see, we reduce the chance of them using that information to identify our passwords.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



CCTV
IN OPERATION

'DOUBLE LOCK' YOUR DATA

It's possible that cyber criminals may eventually discover your username and password. Enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) on your accounts, however, reduces the chance of them obtaining access to your data, as they'd also require a code which is provided via an app, SMS message or email. MFA isn't infallible, but it does definitely provide extra protection and security.

DELETE UNUSED ACCOUNTS

Data breaches occur when cyber criminals gain access to an online service and all the data contained within it – including usernames and passwords. Whenever you stop using a service, it's wise to make sure that you delete your entire account and not just the actual app. If the service no longer has your data, there's zero risk of it being leaked should they suffer a data breach in the future.

TRY PASSWORD MANAGERS

Even though most of us have numerous online accounts to manage these days, it's advantageous to avoid password re-use. Specialist password management software (like Dashlane or OnePassword, among others) can help by storing a different password for every online service that you have an account with: the only one you or child will need to remember is the single master password.

GET CREATIVE

The British government's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) recommends the 'three random words' technique. This method helps you create a password which is unique, complex and long – yet which is memorable enough to stay in your mind ("FourBlueShoes", for example). The NCSC website, incidentally, also offers plenty of other useful information relating to personal cyber security.

STAY VIGILANT

The best way to protect your accounts and your data is to be vigilant and careful. If you receive an email or text message that's unusual or unexpected, treat it as suspicious until you're able to verify whether it's genuine and safe. Starting from a position of vigilance and caution will reduce the likelihood of you or your child being tricked by a malicious email, text or phone call.

Source: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/>