

## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

National Champions! Is not a statement that you can make often in your career, but I am thrilled to say that our Under 16 Girls Hockey Team have won the England Hockey Tier 3 competition - without losing a game in the Finals - and cemented their place in the annals of Yarm School sporting history! Congratulations to them, their coaches and the travelling supporters who managed to make it to Nottingham earlier this week. They competed brilliantly, as Miss Hodgson describes in detail in her report, and we are all very proud of the team and their coaches.

Alongside this, our Under 14 team also performed magnificently to come 5th in their England Hockey National Finals, and the Under 15 team achieved a superb 3rd place in the Independent Schools National Hockey Cup, competing against the very best schools in the country. Some fantastic performances from the girls, and a week of real celebration for hockey. And it doesn't end there.... Our netballers performed brilliantly at the regional finals to see the U19s just miss out on the nationals, coming fifth, but our U14 and U16 netballers progressing

to the final stage of the competition. Further success on the water at the Durham Small Boat Head is reported within, too, and our U15 Rugby team have been competing in the quarter finals of the national bowl.

The whole cast, crew and staff involved in Cinderella deserve huge praise for their stunning performances at the PAA last week, culminating in a magical closing night on Saturday performed to a packed auditorium with much deserved standing ovations from a spellbound audience. It was a pleasure to see the musicality, acting, dancing, staging, lighting, sound and technical

wizardry, set design, props and, frankly, the sheer enjoyment the whole team brought to their performances. Bravo!, but sadly not Encore!

Our busy schedule means that there is much more activity reported in the newsletter; I hope you enjoy reading the words of students and staff who get and give so much to the wider life of the school. And I'll finish as I started, because it is such a wonderful testament to the hard work and dedication of our pupils and staff: National Champions!

Dr Huw Williams



The victorious U16 team with their medals and trophy!

## 5TH YEAR TRIP TO HINDU TEMPLE AND NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL

Last Friday, a group of 5th Year RPE students visited a Hindu temple and Newcastle Cathedral. In the ISKCON temple, we spent the morning with a Hindu priest; she talked about her life, religion and culture and the students had a chance to ask their own questions about Hindu beliefs and practices. Then, the boys tried on traditional turbans, whilst the girls wore traditional saris. She introduced us to different instruments, as music is a fundamental part of Hindu Vaishnava worship. She played the tambura and taught the students the drums. After lunch, we observed and took part in a Eucharist ceremony at

the Cathedral, before having the opportunity to ask the Dean of the Cathedral some inquisitive questions which helped them with our course, for example we discussed life after death, human sexuality, evil and

suffering and faith in God. Finally, we had a tour around the cathedral and a brief summary of its history, then we returned back to school.

Elsa Williams and Humaira Fatima,  
Fifth Year



# Departures

by John Godber

YARM SCHOOL  
EDUCATING FOR LIFE  
6th Form Play



**Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th February 2024**

**Friarage Theatre, Yarm School**

7pm

Tickets from [www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org)



## SIXTH FORM POLITICS STUDENTS ATTEND LECTURE BY FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO



Within a short period of time it seems that we face a significantly precarious position in terms of international relations. Whilst certain theatres seemed to quieten, namely Afghanistan and the threats of ISIS in Syria and beyond, we were swiftly confronted with the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the war in Gaza, and the fallout imperilling the Red Sea. And we could go on and add yet further fallout from these regions, in addition to the muscle flexing of Iran, North Korea and China.

Politics students study global politics and international relations in their A Level syllabus, so had an additional reason to jump at the chance to attend a lecture delivered by the former Secretary General of NATO, Lord Roberston, seeking to answer the question of what can be done. George Robertson has had a curious

career well placing him to consider such issues. He was Secretary General of NATO and Chairman of the North Atlantic Council from 1999 to 2003 and UK Secretary of State for Defence from 1997-1999. He was Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland from 1992-1997 and Principal Opposition Spokesman on Europe from 1983-92. He was MP for Hamilton and then Hamilton South from 1978 -99. He is one of the sixteen Knights of the Thistle (KT), and among several high international honours received, he was awarded the highest American civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 2003. He is also a Senior Adviser to Chatham House, arguably the leading foreign policy think tank.

In a captivating address to a packed house at Newcastle University, Lord Robertson framed his lecture with

the themes of 'Volatility, Velocity, Vulnerability, Values, Vacuum and Vision', spelling out his analysis of the current world order and its threats. Quoting Lenin, Robertson referred to time when 'there are years when nothing happens and months when years happen'. The current volatility was self-evident, but has been combined with a velocity of change and direction, at a time when he questioned if there was a diminution in the notion of values within international relations and statecraft. This fed into his notion of a leadership vacuum and the need to reinvigorate the global institutions ensuring that there is a renewed vision for the future. In terms of the solutions he spoke powerfully of the need for a reinvestment in diplomacy, a finer development in 'statecraft' comparing the post war period when Germany single handedly wrote the constitutions of the post-Soviet countries of Eastern Europe. There was a need to refresh domestic politics, claiming we were too 'open' to the likes of election interference and corrupt finance. The existing institutions of the IMF, NATO and the UN were also felt to be in need of significant reform, having changed little in decades.

Mr S Edwards

## HOUSE CHESS - SEMI FINALS



The annual House chess tournament got underway last week with two semi finals being contested. An exciting FA Cup style draw pitched Aidan against Oswald and Bede against Cuthbert, the latter a repeat of last year's final!

The format of matches is the same as last year; a total of seven boards are contested by players in each year group in a best-of-7 match. However, this year's fixtures are taking place at lunchtime in the Friarage Theatre with the added pressure of spectators.

Bede raced into a 3-1 lead in the first semi final, thanks to convincing wins for Sam Millman, Vinh Han and Isla Close, with Sam executing the infamous four-move Scholar's Mate. Avansh Batra kept Cuthbert in the match before Harvey Qin and Aditya Paul pulled it back to 3-3. The overall result, therefore, would be decided



by the First Year board; Shourjo Dasgupta and Jack Severn battled for 40 minutes, both missing checkmate opportunities, but they could not be separated, so it was decided that they would return the following day to reach a conclusion. Following another half an hour of intense play, Jack finally checkmated his opponent to complete the comeback and send Cuthbert through to the final.

In the other semi final, Sai Sidaginamale, Noah Coulman and Ajay Selvan won their boards to put Oswald into an early 3-0 lead over Aidan before Aryan Nalawade and Pratyush Partha cut the deficit to

3-2. Monty Van Niekerk had total control over his board for a long time and eventually made sure of the victory to secure Oswald's place in the final. Ammar Soni won the last board for Oswald to finish 5-2. Well done to all the players who have taken part so far, and thank you to those who came to watch and support their House. The competition will conclude in the second half of term, with Aidan and Bede competing for third place whilst Cuthbert will look to increase their winning streak in the final against Oswald.

Mr L Tucker



## STUDENTS MEET WITH LEADING KENYAN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST



Exploring a current theme of human rights protection around the globe, the Politics Society welcomed Kenyan journalist, Robert, to speak to the students. Visiting the UK for a period of respite, lecturing and networking, our guest shared generously of his considerable experience working in the field of

investigative journalism in Kenya and further afield in east Africa. Robert has also been involved in leading the training of a new generation of investigative journalists, made all the more challenging by the reduced safety and space for such work in Kenya.

Much of Robert's work entails the slow and patient exploration of evidence, of delving into discreet leads submitted to him by contacts, with his focus of investigation typically being governmental and judicial corruption, though his work has extended into areas of police and gender violence. It would be an understatement to suggest that the

work is dangerous; Robert lost a senior editor to an act of reprisal, his own family are in de facto hiding in Kenya, and he is frequently tipped of by insider sources about imminent threats to his own safety.

After the lunchtime talk Robert spent part of the afternoon with two of Yarm's young journalists involved in the school Dovecote magazine. They interviewed Robert, engaging in a very interesting and forthright conversation about his life and work. We very much look forward to the realisation of that research in an article in the magazine later in the year.

Mr S Edwards

## THE ECONOMICS OF GREAT BRITAIN'S RAILWAYS

"Should we renationalise the railways?" was probably the topic we expected James Waine to examine when he offered to give a presentation to the EconBus Soc on the Economics of the Railways. And yes, he did conclude with an evaluation on the merits of such a proposal, but that was just the tip of the iceberg. In an enthralling, engaging and educational talk, James expanded on the history of rail, the role of the Government and other nations in our railways. He discussed Network Rail, the growth

of passengers, parliament trains, HS2, electrification and the scope for more freight. Questions flowed and James handled every question with confidence and ease. In half an hour we all really felt we had gained so much knowledge and understanding from someone who was passionate about his subject matter.

We are extremely grateful to James for being so generous with his time.

Miss C E Rhodes



## SAFER INTERNET DAY 2024- 'INSPIRING CHANGE? MAKING A DIFFERENCE, MANAGING INFLUENCE AND NAVIGATING CHANGE ONLINE.'

This week, Yarm School joined the global Safer Internet Day campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology.

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday 6th February with the theme 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.'

Supported in over 100 countries, Safer Internet Day saw Yarm School join thousands of organisations right across the UK and globally to play their part in helping to create a better internet.

This year the campaign focuses on change online, including covering:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology
- Using the Internet to make change for the better
- The changes young people want to see online
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline.

To support the event, Yarm School students took part in various activities during the week. For example our pupils engaged in an

assembly presentation, exploring how technology has evolved over the past decade, and its potential to inform, connect and inspire us.

Kate Edwards, NSPCC Associate Head for Child Safety Online, said: "Having regular conversations with your children about their online lives is one of the best ways to help keep them safe. Although the internet is brilliant tool, it also poses risks, and your child might experience or see something online that worries or upsets them. Talking to them about their online life as part of regular conversations will reassure them that they can open up to you for support if something concerning has happened online and that you are there to support them. We know starting these conversations can sometimes feel tricky and we also know that the online world can feel very overwhelming, so the NSPCC has developed lots of advice and support to help parents navigate this."

The School is also part of Parent Zone's Digital Schools Membership programme, further recognising our commitment to keeping our pupils safer online and making sure we work with you to achieve this. Our

Digital Schools membership gives you free access to the following:

<https://bit.ly/ys-pz-newsletters>

<https://bit.ly/ys-everydaydigital>

<https://bit.ly/ys-parentguides>

<https://bit.ly/ys-pz-articles>

<https://bit.ly/ys-pz-research>

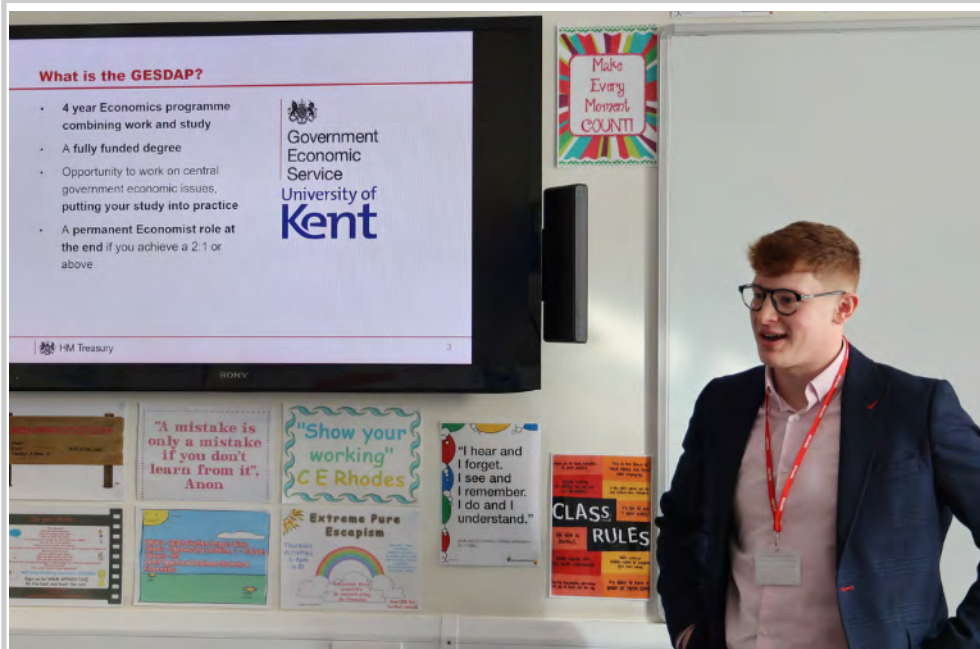
<https://bit.ly/ys-pz-techshock>

Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child, to help you understand their online world and to help them to stay safe online.

Mr P Collins



## HM TREASURY ECONOMICS APPRENTICE



Jamie discussed his day-to-day role, which includes him producing material for the Senior Civil Servants, giving presentations to large audiences and using his Economic theory and understanding on a daily basis. He explained how Financial Markets material learnt in U6 Macro is directly applicable to his work, as he discussed bond yields and values, reinforcing the value of Economic education.

"Do you want to study economics but aren't sure about University?" was the initial question that Jamie Pender (FP, Class of 2021 and former Chair of the EconBus Soc) posed to his FAME WL audience last week.

Following up with, "Do you want to work directly on current economic issues whilst getting paid to complete your degree?" and "Are you interested in Apprenticeships but struggling to find roles in economics?"

In a fascinating presentation Jamie discussed his experiences to date

working as an Economics Apprentice at the HM Treasury.

The Government Economic Service Degree Apprenticeship offers apprentices the chance to study for a BSc Economics whilst working in government, with a range of departments offering exciting roles all over the country. Economic Apprentices sit at the heart of their teams, working on key economic issues and policy areas, gaining invaluable experience, all whilst achieving an Economics degree by the end of the 4 years.

It was super to hear how fulfilling Jamie is finding his apprenticeship and to appreciate the career progression it offers and we are very grateful for him taking the time from his extremely busy schedule to enthuse and educate the next potential cohort of Apprentices.

We wish him well and look forward to welcoming him back again in the future.

Miss C E Rhodes

## KEEP IN TOUCH



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## SPAGHETTI AND MARSHMALLOWS

As part of their Learning Skills programme, Second Year pupils took part in a tower building contest. Using marshmallows and spaghetti, each team was tasked with building the tallest tower possible. The most successful groups communicated effectively with each other, were flexible in their thinking and were supportive of their teammates.

Being able to work collaboratively is a key part of success in education and in the wider world; this activity was a valuable opportunity to strengthen skills in self-management, active listening and higher-level thinking. Well done, Second Year!

Mrs E Bridle



YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

TICKETS  
£25  
Click Here!



FRIDAY 15TH MARCH, 7-11PM

LIVE MUSIC FROM THE COUNTERFEIT CELTS

FOOD - DRINKS - FUN

TICKETS £25 FROM CLASSLIST  
THE BASEMENT BAR, THE PAA





## WINTER MOUNTAINEERING WEEKEND

Our annual Scottish Winter Mountaineering weekend headed up to the Cairngorms National Park for three days of winter skills and mountain journeys. With a very windy forecast ahead of us we had to be pretty flexible in terms of our expectations and objectives on each day. Fortunately we had a sterling team of eight young people from Fifth Year to Upper Sixth, for the majority of whom this was their first experience of being in the Scottish mountains in winter.

The morning of day one saw us all getting our mountain boots and crampons fitted before checking we had all the correct equipment before heading out into Coire Cas. The focus of the day was good footwork and good use of our walking ice axes. Good footwork, both in our boots and also whilst wearing crampons, is essential in winter to avoid any slips turning into slides. We had a mini

journey around the coire, trying out a range of new techniques with crampons and ice axes, before we finished off the day with a little bit of a slide down the snow with our axes in hand.

Day two was much busier but with much the same weather forecast. We headed into Coire an t-Sneachda for some further refining of our bootwork and axe work, as well as carrying in some ropes and shovels to have a go at digging some bucket seats and snow bollards. After a good few hours of digging we continued our tour of the corrie and headed back to the comfortable lodge for some garlic bread.

Sunday had the best weather forecast, no mention of storm force winds in today's forecast, so we set our target as Cairn Gorm summit. Slow progress was made

up the Cas Fiacall towards our first mini summit of the day, the group moving much more confidently when we put our crampons on. Once onto the plateau we headed up the final climb to the summit cairn and weather station. The summit was like an arctic wilderness; lots of ice around, strong winds blowing and the cloud enshrouded us. After a very short fuff (goggles on) we made the slow journey back down to the minibus in some very strong gusts of wind.

Another fantastic weekend in the mountains with an enthusiastic group of older students. My thanks again to Miss Street for accompanying the trip.

Mr A Mathers



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

George Frideric Handel's  
**MESSIAH**



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



Yarm School Music Department presents:



Tickets are available from [www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org) or by calling the box office on (01642) 792587



# Disney

# Inspired

## Recycled Garment Competition



Products will be worn  
Tuesday 23<sup>th</sup> April  
**Fashion Show**  
Senior School PAF - 6:00pm  
(tickets not required)  
See Ms Jackson for details

Garments  
constructed from  
**unwanted materials.**

Judging Criteria:

- Use of the Disney theme
- Quality of the product
- Originality of the design





## DURHAM SMALL BOAT HEAD



On Saturday, 53 pupils from the boat club travelled to Durham to compete in Durham Amateur Rowing Club's Small Boat Head. Racing over 1800m through the centre of Durham, this event consisted of 4 divisions of racing, a difficult stream, and narrow bridges. Our pupils conducted themselves brilliantly both on and off the water, and here are the highlight performances of the day. Our pupils achieved remarkable results, with Archie Norton leading the pack by securing the fastest single scull time of the day and winning the J18 category by a significant margin. Archie's fluid and controlled performance on race day resulted in an excellent win. Despite facing steering troubles and illness, our senior boys quad, comprising Sai Sidaginamale, Patrick Tulloch, Harry

Wildridge & Archie Norton, raced aggressively and secured a win in the J18 4x with a time of 6:42.7, the second fastest time of the day across all categories.

Hannah Stewart, Storm Smith, Kitty Brown, and Rebecca White finished 2nd in the women's J18 4x. The girls managed to navigate the problematic waterway exceptionally well. They produced a solid race, managing to beat two crews that finished ahead of them at Rutherford Head in the Autumn and finish with the 2nd fastest women's time of the day across all boat categories. Lower 6th students Sai Sidaginamale and Will Lewis raced up in the J18 men's double category and produced one of the best rows of the day. The boys found a new rhythm and speed on race day, taking an incredible second

place. Our J15 boys of Isaac Akowuah, Noah Vincent, Charlie Baines, Archie Wilson-Atkin & Oscar Galloway raced up in the open men's coxed quad category. With a last-minute substitution of Archie into the crew, these boys adapted right away and produced a sensational race, taking second place. The women's J15 girls quad of Charlotte Maund, Darcey Allcock, Sophie Winnard, Isabella Turnbull, and Anya Kansal discovered new speed over the weekend. With the experience of Anya steering them through a fantastic course, it was great to see these girls come home with a second-place finish, particularly impressive as Isabella has only just started the sport this year. Finally, due to illness, on race day, our J14 boys were one man



## DURHAM SMALL BOAT HEAD (CONT.)

down for their quad race in division 2. Lucy Oliver stepped up and filled the boat as all the other J14 boys were also racing that division. This mixed crew gave everything they had and finished 2nd out of 12 crews, only 3 seconds behind the winners.

It was a day filled with thrilling races. All our pupils showcased improved performances on the water, and it's evident that the boat speed across the team has significantly developed.

Witnessing their progress is exciting, and we look forward to their future performances.

Mr T Kellett

## SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online. You can [view them here](#).

## YARM 1ST V ASHVILLE COLLEGE



On Wednesday the 31st of January, the netball 1st team travelled down to Ashville College for a friendly. In preparation for our regional tournament on the 4th of February we played short 7 minute quarters. We got off to a slow start where Ashville took the lead, this lead was kept up until the third quarter where we started to pull it back. By the end of the third quarter we managed to get a 6 point lead. It was a very contested game and with no substitutes we all had to keep pushing through and keep up the level of work and by the end we finished the game with a 21-17 win.

Everyone played amazingly and it was a full team effort. POM: Estelle Orr.

On Wednesday, the second team also travelled to Ashville College. We had a slow start but we turned it around soon after which led us to take the lead. We played really well and had some great interceptions and the match ended with a 19-15 win. Player of the match went to Lily Arvanitis, throughout the game she was amazing at shooting, playing in GS and GA, as well as having incredible drives and great movement.

Miss N Hodgson

## U16 HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

After qualifying through the County, Area and North East and Yorkshire rounds the U16 team travelled to Nottingham to compete in the U16 T3 National Schools Championship.

The team faced The Abbey School in their first fixture, this was a nervy

affair with the team not quite linking up but still looking solid in defence. This game finished 0-0 with the girls knowing they still had a few more gears to find.

We faced top of the group Haileybury in the second game. The team were

tuned in for this one with Captain Sophie Hall scoring on the volley after 7 minutes to put us ahead, this lead was then doubled in the second half with Pippa Ferguson capitalising on a save from the keeper controlling the clearance and drilling the ball back

## U16 HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS (CONT.)

into the goal to take the 2-0 victory and to take the top of the table spot.

These results meant a win in our last group game would secure top of the group and a spot in the final. This game was against Croydon High School and it could not have started any better with Mara Morrison taking on their defence and scoring a lovely reverse flick after 5 minutes, she then added to her tally just after half-time with a beautifully taken penalty corner that went out to Sophie Hall back into Mara who finished it into the bottom left corner to make it 2-0. They gained a consolation goal towards the end of the game but the team remained on top to win the game and secure their spot in the final.

With a medal already in the bag the team were hungry for more than just second place and hit the ground running in the final. The defence had been solid all day with Cody Staggs, Poppy Faulkner, Sophia Rudd and Katie Melvin giving the rest of the team the security and confidence to play expansive attacking hockey. In front of them our wide players Tilly Pallent-Home, Eva Leadbitter, Lucy de la Motte, Sabie Anderson, Pippa Ferguson, Olivia Mitchell and Naila Krishnamoorthy put the opposition under immense pressure allowing our midfield to win the ball back with

relative ease. Alice Ward, Sophie Hall and Mara Morrison distributed beautifully through the pitch to find our high players Amelia Hudson and Summer Hyndman who scored after just 3 minutes and then the team really got going with 3 additional goals all coming from Mara Morrison getting herself a hat-trick and the tournament top goal scorer award.

With the game already won Sevenoaks clawed one back but the

game was already finished with us winning 4-1 and being crowned National Champions.

Amazing achievement team, this is four/five years of hard work and dedication through morning, after schools, holidays practices and games all coming together for you to achieve this. Well done to everyone involved.

Miss N Hodgson





## U14 HOCKEY NATIONALS

The U14 girls travelled to Nottingham to compete in the U14 T2 National Schools Championship. The first game they faced Prior Park School who were a tough opposition but the girls worked hard together focusing on passing wide and moving the ball into space. Just before half-time the other team scored which put pressure on the 14's to get it back to an equaliser. The girls went back on focused and worked really hard in defence to keep the ball away from the goal, after a deflection the girls got the ball down to the **oppositions'** D where Olivia Wildridge got the ball and scored. With the final few minutes left Prior Park school managed to beat our defence and take the ball into our defensive area, unfortunately the ball was deflected and hit off the opposing team's foot meaning Yarm lost 2-1.

After the first defeat the girls found it hard to pick themselves up and feel positive about the next match. The next match against Emanuel School was also a tough game. The girls started slowly and not very focused

which Emanuel School took advantage of and in the first minute they passed the ball past through our defence and scored. This then woke the girls up and they focused and worked hard to respond. The girls finally got a short corner when Lucy Mitchell scored in the 22 minute equalising for the team. The girls worked very hard to try and score another goal but Emanuel put up a good fight finishing the game 1-1.

The third game was against King Edward, Southampton and top of the group. This was a tight game but the girls put up a good fight. King Edward took the lead in the first 15 minutes which put pressure on our 14's to score. The girls demonstrated some excellent passing and movement skills and our defence was strong all the way through the game. Unfortunately the girls could not finish with a goal meaning the score ended 1-0 to King Edward.

We then played in the 5th/6th team play off against Newcastle-under-Lyme School. This

was a very intense game and both teams worked hard to get the first goal. In the first 3 minutes Yarm won a penalty corner where Olivia Wildridge converted. NULS then responded in the 11 minute with an equaliser. Yarm knew they had to stay focused and work on accurate passing to get the ball to goal. After half-time the girls went back on with determination and Emma White took the ball past the defence and scored edging Yarm in front with a 2-1 lead. Yarm then went on to receive a penalty corner where Charlotte Banks scored pushing Yarm in front 3-1. NULS then started to respond but with frustration and not skill and becoming very physical resulting in them receiving 3 green cards in 5 minutes! Yarm showed that they were the better team and deserved the 3-1 win, achieving 5th position in the country! What a fantastic day and great experience for the girls - well done girls for all your hard work and determination.

Miss E Howell



## U15 ISHC NATIONAL HOCKEY CUP

Our U15 cup side travelled to Nottingham for the Finals day of the ISHC National Cup competition on Tuesday 6th February.

To get to this stage they have played; Dame Allan's School where they came out comfortable 3-0 winners, Barnard Castle where they made it really difficult for themselves finishing the game 1-1 and needing extra time to put the game away 4-1 in the end, GSAL where it went down to penalty flicks after finishing the game 2-2 Izzy McGlade became the hero of the day in goal to save 2 out of their 3 penalties as Mara Morrison and Lucy Mitchell made the score 2-1 to us with their flicks after each scoring in normal time as well, Sedbergh in the last 16 where we as a squad were amazing from start to finish giving them no options when we were out of possession and playing expansive hockey in possession they scored through Eva Leadbitter with a well taken deflection from a penalty corner and Ava Holmes who coolly took on the keeper one-on-one to slot the ball away to win the game, and The King's School, Chester where we again made it close, not taking our chances but Tilly Pallent-Home came up with the goods with 7 minutes to go to take the 1-0 win and a place in the semi-finals.

The finals day saw us face Wellington College in the semi-final, this was a



tough game from the start. Wellington were a strong side and fresh, with most of our girls playing in the Nationals the day before it was a tough ask on the legs. The final score was 2-0 to a good Wellington College side. This meant we were in the 3rd/4th play off against Reigate Grammar School. This was an edgy affair with both teams desperate for the bronze medal, our team started well with the whole team buying into the game plan. Katie Melvin, Charlotte Banks and Amelie Sawyer, Tilly Pallent-Home and Eva Leadbitter dominated the defence with Sienna Hyndman, Mara Morrison and Lucy Mitchell controlling the middle and Sabie Anderson, Naila Krishnamoorthy, Jemima Fleming, Ava Holmes and Zoe Wild creating and pressuring in attack. It ended 0-0 with both teams having battled well. The captains agreed to flicks, which means that both teams pick 3 players to take

a penalty flick with the best of 3 winning the game. Reigate stepped up first and Izzy McGlade made a brilliant save, unfortunately, a retake was needed as Izzy had stepped off her line before the flick was taken, the second attempt was also saved with Izzy getting a big left hand to it, a double save for Izzy! Mara Morrison was first to step up for Yarm and calmly fired the ball into the back of the net. Second round and once again Izzy made an outstanding save. One flick lay between Yarm and 3rd in the country. Enter Tilly Pallent-Home who scored a dream flick into the top left to take the bronze medal. This is an amazing achievement from our U15 side being 3rd in the country in the un-tiered cup competition. A first and best for Yarm School. Thank you to all who have helped to make this possible, I am incredibly proud of the squad.

Miss N Hodgson



## U19 NETBALL REGIONAL QUALIFIERS



On Sunday the 4th of February, the U19's travelled to Newcastle to play in the regional round hoping to get to the national finals at Oundle school. There were many tough teams and with only 8 players we knew it was going to be a challenging day. Our first game was against Whitburn who are a strong team. We went all out and with two minutes left we were two points up but unfortunately Whitburn got a turnover and managed to level the score. We kept it equal and finished with a 9-9 draw. Our next game which we knew would be the hardest of the day was against Durham Johnston, everyone went all out and different combinations were tried but we couldn't manage to secure the win. The following games were against RGS, Ponteland, Bede College and King Edward's, they all resulted in wins after everyone gave it their all. Our final game was then

against Newcastle High School for Girls, which if we won would have led to us qualifying, but it was a tough game and with an amazing performance from their shooter we lost 12-15. Going into the ceremony it was unclear the outcome as 4 teams all had two losses and a draw. This meant it had to go down to goal average and all teams from 2nd to 5th position were going to be based on that, we just missed out on qualifying with Whitburn being awarded second place behind Durham Johnson who were unbeaten all day. Even though we didn't qualify it was still a brilliant experience as all players took the court and for some it being their first encounter with competitive netball. Everyone was amazing and should be very proud of their performance. Miss Cottrell awarded Estelle Orr and Izzie Speight players of the

tournament after outstanding performances in attack and the centre court.

Estelle Orr, Lower Sixth

### U14 D TEAM MATCH REPORT

On Thursday the 8th of February, we had the challenge of going against North Shore's A team. Our team did an excellent job swiftly getting the ball to the goal and taking an early lead. Credit to our shooters as there were some great goals scored. Our team did well driving onto the ball and intercepting. There was some excellent passing, however we aim to work on getting into space better next time. In the end we won 11-9. Well done girls!

POM: Charlotte Dawson

Charlotte Dawson, Third Year

## U16 NETBALL REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

Last weekend, we played in the North East regional finals to get into the England Netball National Finals in March. We needed to get into the top 2 in the North East to get into Nationals and fortunately we did! We had a very strong win at Prudhoe which put us in the right mindset to carry on the competition. We then faced Gosforth and Ponteland and successfully beat them. Our hardest match was against Carmel College but the team showed great character, hunger and determination and we



won. The final match was definitely a challenge and we did unfortunately crack under the pressure and lost to RGS by 4 goals. Thankfully the solid performance throughout the day

aided us to winning the whole tournament. It was a great experience and we have a lot to work on for Nationals.

Hannah Muzawazi, Fifth Year

## U14 NETBALL REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

On Saturday 3rd February the U14 netball team took part in the regional round of the England Netball National Schools Competition. We had qualified as winners of the county and were confident we could qualify for the national round if we worked as a team and put in strong performances.

Throughout the day, the defence dominated, the midcourt were unstoppable and the attack sunk goal after goal from all over the D. With dominating performances we sailed through the matches beating second place convincingly. We will travel to the National Finals on 17th March at



Oundle School and hope to beat the best ever place of 4th, which was made last year.

Amelie Sawyer, Third Year



## BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

The Banff Mountain Film Festival features a brand-new collection of short films filled with extreme journeys, untamed characters and captivating cinematography!

Join the world's top adventure filmmakers and thrill-seekers as they climb, ski, paddle and ride into the wildest corners of the planet!

Experience an unforgettable evening of thrilling adventure – up on the big screen!



**Saturday 24th February, 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)

## NT LIVE: THE MOTIVE AND THE CUE

Sam Mendes (The Lehman Trilogy) directs Mark Gatiss as John Gielgud and Johnny Flynn as Richard Burton in this fierce and funny new play.

1964: Richard Burton, newly married to Elizabeth Taylor, is to play the title role in an experimental new Broadway production of Hamlet under John Gielgud's exacting direction. But as rehearsals progress, two ages of theatre collide and the collaboration between actor and director soon threatens to unravel.



**Thursday 21st March, 7pm**  
(Live stream performance)

[Book Online Here](#)

## MERSEY BEATLES

The world's favourite Liverpool-born tribute to The Beatles celebrate the 60th anniversary of A Hard Day's Night.

The iconic 1964 album and movie perfectly captured the Fab Four at their pop peak.

And to mark the diamond anniversary, The Mersey Beatles will play the entire A Hard Day's Night album in full – followed by a hit-packed collection of Beatlemania classics.



**Friday 12th April, 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising; this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

### THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

### UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

### SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

### SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

### PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

### Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a security administrator and DSI, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the tranquillity of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



**NOS** National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday