



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 772 — Friday 29th March 2024

### A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to the final Phoenix Flier for the Spring Term, which has been an adventure from start to finish. In the last few months, we have enjoyed landmark moments for the School, such as the opening of the Hazel Andrews building, and continued to see our pupils engaged in all manner of endeavours. This edition showcases the final few days of term and reflects the breadth of opportunity, excitement of school life, and the collaboration that we encourage at all ages.

Last weekend saw a stunning performance of The Messiah by a 200-strong community choir and the world-famous Black Dyke Band in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium. Our Prep choristers tackled the repertoire with gusto and relished the experience. The concert was a complete triumph and will be remembered for a long time to come. Another school venue, The Hazel Andrews building, played host last week to a display of much talent too in the form of the Prep Duologues. Now in its fourth iteration, this competition keeps getting better and better. It is brilliant to see our pupils embrace such opportunities, which develop confidence and creativity. Hearty congratulations and thanks to everyone involved for making these wonderful events possible.

The holiday period will, I hope, present us all with the chance to relax and recharge. I thank all of the staff for their efforts to support, inspire, and challenge our pupils this term. Thank you to all parents for working in partnership with us. I would also like to thank my wife Sarah and children Amelie and Wilf for their support and love; it is an anchor. I look forward to the Summer Term, which will be another adventure for us all!

*Bill Sawyer*

**Head's Challenge:** What is easy to lift but hard to throw?



**Photo of the Week:** Find out about our Year 6 sports tour to the north-west of England on page 2 of the Flier this week.

## Year 6 Sports Tour

On 21st March, 56 Y6 children embarked on the annual Sports Tour, this year we visited the North West of England.

Our first destination was the Bowes Museum at Barnard Caste, where the children took part in a workshop with local artists. The workshops focused on either flipbook work or self portraits. Following the conclusion of the workshops the children had the opportunity to explore the museum.

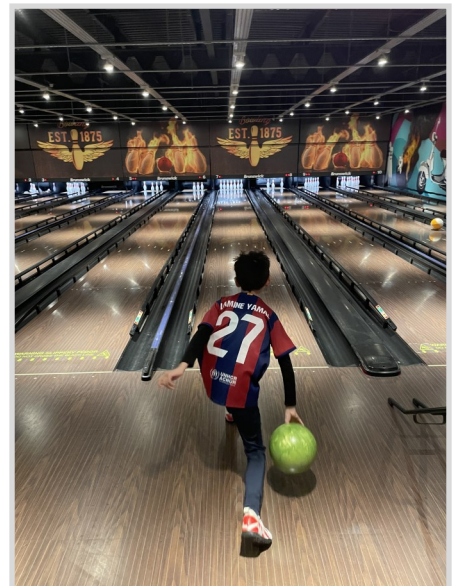
We then made the short journey to Sedbergh Prep School to play our first fixture of the tour. The weather was not very pleasant, but everyone gave their all, with the boys showing great skill in their hockey fixture, with the girls putting on a fine display in their Netball games.



Once we had travelled to the hotel and checked in, we travelled to Morecambe for some ten pin bowling, where there were some fine performances on the lanes.

Following this, everyone on tour was suitably tired and went straight to bed.

The next morning the children enjoyed their unlimited Premier Inn Breakfast, I have never seen so much food on children's plates! Our next destination was once again Morecambe, this time for the bright lights of the arcades, where many tokens were won and prizes were claimed.



Our final destination was the spectacular Scarisbrick School. for our second and final



fixture. The girls continued with netball and worked well as a team scoring many goals, whereas the boys played football this time. They also scored some good goals and the goalkeepers made many quality saves.

Following on from the conclusion of this fixture, we made the journey back to Yarm. All of the children were a joy to take on tour and I hope that they have made memories for life!

*Mr Simpson*

The sports tour was amazing. We met lots of new friends at the schools (Sedbergh and Scarisbrick). The schools were very kind; they had really good food and so did the Premier Inn. We played games at both schools, football and hockey for the boys and netball for the girls. Overall the sports tour was one of the best residentials we have done so far.

*Violet F.*

The sports tour was a great success. Although the weather on day one was not great we still played a brilliant match of hockey, finishing with a draw 0-0. Afterwards we enjoyed a hot dinner and a wonderful time bowling. The next day was just as fun with the sun shining and sadly a loss for Yarm. All in all a successful trip.

*Harry H.*

I really enjoyed the sports tour. My favourite bit was playing the hockey and football matches, but it was all fun.

*Flynn N.*

I really enjoyed the sports tour and I met many new friends at the different schools that we visited. The food was delicious at the schools and the Premier Inn. It was a great opportunity to play netball with the different schools (Sedbergh and Scarisbrick Hall). Although on some days the weather wasn't amazing, we still had a great time playing netball.

Lastly, we were treated to playing games in the arcades! Overall, it was amazing and it was one of the best trips I have been to so far.

*Ettie A.*



## Year 5 Bug Hotels



Many thanks to Yarm DIY for their donation of wooden pallets for our children to turn into bug hotels. We would be grateful for further donations of pallets for the next academic year, if anyone can help, please could you let Mrs Smith know: [elizabeth.smith@yarmschool.org](mailto:elizabeth.smith@yarmschool.org)

# Prep Duologues

54 children took part in the fourth annual Prep Duologues competition last week, a record entry. There was a vast array of performances, ranging from scenes from West End musicals to self-penned sketches, via classic British comedy. It was incredibly difficult for our two judges—Miss Topcheva and Mr Davies—to pick a top three in the two categories, such was the depth of talent and confidence on stage displayed.

Our thanks to Mr Brookes, the Senior School Head of Drama, for working with all of the children to put together their acts.

*Mr Stone*



## Year 3/4 Duologues:

**1st**

Genevieve Prideaux & Felicity Thompson

*Wicked*

**2nd**

Aditi Kumar & Elizabeth Hedges

*The Little Mermaid*

**3rd**

Shanvi Pahikaran & Amelie Tailor

*I Didn't Mean to Kill Her!*

## Year 5/6 Duologues:

**1st**

Manha Abdullah & Rosa Williams

*Drop the Cow!*

**2nd**

Erin Goh & Olivia Groves

*The Space Search*

**3rd**

Stan Dugdale & Kaiden Guan

*Funny Piano Scene*

## Messiah



Saturday evening was a new departure for our Senior Choir. Along with singers from Senior School, Choral Society and Tees Valley Youth Choir they formed a choir of 200 to sing Handel's Messiah, accompanied by the world famous Black Dyke Band, all under the baton of our own Mrs Katie Staggs.

The children had been working hard all term to prepare some very challenging choruses and sang this masterpiece from 1742 with conviction and commitment throughout. The thunderous and frequent applause bore witness to a truly special and joyful evening, which will live long in everyone's memory.

*Mr Gooding*

## Drawing from the Heart

Year 6 artists in our 'Drawing from the Heart' activity have completed their beautiful pieces of art, which they can now take home.

They have based their work on capturing animals or characters that they have a real interest in using specialist drawing pens.

Here are some examples of the amazing work that has been completed.

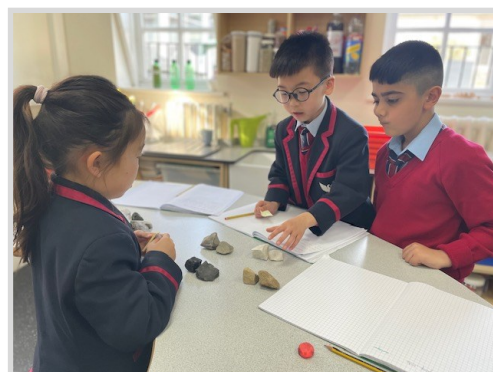
*Mrs Donoghue*



## Year 3 Science

Year 3 have started their new topic on rocks today. We discussed our favourite finds and then compared each one. We then investigated their hardness and marked them out of ten.

Mr Pengilley



## Year 3 reading to Nursery

Year 3 read their favourite preschool books as part of our World Book Day celebrations. Afterwards, they wrote a story in the style of their favourite author. We were invited to Nursery to share our creations with the children on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr Pengilley



## Farewell and Good Luck

We bid farewell to members of staff who are taking on new roles after the Easter holiday. Mrs Kirk will be embarking on a new adventure in the world of concept design, Miss Walker is taking up a post at Casterton (Sedbergh Prep) where she will join her partner, and Mrs Trehwitt is moving to take up a boarding post at Queen Ethelburga's. We thank our colleagues for their service to the school and wish them every success in their new roles.

## Parent Zone

Our Digital Schools membership gives you FREE access to Parent Zone's Parent Lounge with:

- Online training;
- Expert advice and information on all things digital;
- Access to a free help service for all of your tech questions.



To get started, go to: <https://parentzone.org.uk/parents/discover-parent-lounge>

- Click on ENTER PARENT LOUNGE
- Click on the pink ADD TO CART button
- On the next page click CHECKOUT. You'll be asked to enter your email address.

On the next page you will need to enter the coupon code YarmSchool to ensure you have free access. Please click ADD COUPON once the code has been entered. The code gives you a 100% discount.

I cannot recommend the Parent Zone service highly enough. In this day and age, when we are teaching the children how to be good online citizens and how to stay safe online, it is imperative that parents are in the loop too. Parent Zone offers this support.

## Useful Online Safety Information for Parents

These links were shared with parents who attended our internet safety talk this week. They are free to access. Please also delve into the magnificent range of resources available on Tooled Up Education, which you can find full details of later in this edition.

Social networks made for children: [www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids](http://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids)

Age appropriate apps for children and young people: [www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/child-friendly-apps-your-children-will-enjoy](http://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/child-friendly-apps-your-children-will-enjoy)

Gaming: what's appropriate for your child? (PEGI ratings): [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child)

Personal information: a guide for parents and carers: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-to-personal-information2](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-to-personal-information2)

Social media top tips <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-top-tips-cards>

A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/ukcis-social-media-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Online contact and staying safe: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/online-contact-and-staying-safe](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/online-contact-and-staying-safe)

In-game chat: what parents and carers need to know: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/in-game-chat](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/in-game-chat)

Social networks made for children: [www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids](http://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids)

Is your child ready for social media: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media)

Social media privacy guides: [www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media](http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media)

What is sexual grooming: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-sexual-grooming](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-sexual-grooming)

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PRIATE C<sup>18</sup>NTENT

## WHERE IS IT FOUND?

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

### GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

### STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

### ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

**CAN WE HAVE A CHAT?**



to stay  
child has



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.12.2021

## Music lessons

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, [please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you.](#)

Mr Gooding

## Darkroom Photography

Lighting, photography, developing and printing all by Darkroom Photography Club - and no manipulation for the media to worry about!

Mr Gooding



## YPSSC PreLoved Uniform



We have a huge and varied stock of preloved uniform available.

Boys & Girls Blazers  
Coats & Cagoules  
Hats  
Summer uniform  
Winter Uniform  
Games Kit Items  
PE kit Items

From Nursery through to Year 6.

Prices start from £1!

If you are looking to add to your uniform wardrobe or simply want a few spares, visit our website [www.ypssc.co.uk](http://www.ypssc.co.uk) or scan the QR code below to complete a stock check/order form.

All clean and reusable donations of outgrown uniform are welcome too- just bag them up and either pass them on to a committee member or drop them off at Prep reception.



Thank you!

## International Week

We will have a full round-up of our International Week after Easter.



## Tooled Up Education Webinar— EXCLUSIVELY for Yarm Parents! Tuesday 30th April—7-8pm

Tooled Up Education & Yarm School Present Ask Me Anything: A Q&A Session with Dr Kathy Weston on Children's Use of Digital Technology

In this informal session, Kathy will answer any questions relating to parents' experience of digital parenting. What do you worry about? What would you like to know more about? What parenting questions keep you awake at night? What conversations with your children do you need to have and need advice about? Is there a right time to buy a child a phone? What are the best ways to ensure our children grow up to be great digital citizens? How do we protect them from the impact of social media? Do we need to worry about screen time? Don't miss out on this fantastic and dynamic session.

Please note: you must have a current Tooled Up Education account to attend this webinar.

[If you are already a member, click here to register for the webinar.](#)

In order to set up your account navigate to <https://members.tooledupeducation.com/sign-up>

Enter your name, email address and Yarm School's unique PIN number YPS1103 when prompted

- Follow the link in your email to verify your account and start using the site
- In future, you can just enter your email address to gain instant access.

## Tooled Up Education

As Easter approaches, many of us are heading for a break from the daily routine of school and into some welcome family time, hopefully with some better weather and a chance to recharge ahead of the long summer term, exams, sports days and more! At Toolled Up we want to help you adjust to the change of pace and make the most of the spring break.

Our [School Holiday Planner](#) is a great way to kick things off by giving everyone in the family the chance to contribute and suggest activities. While you're making plans, find out about the importance of fun for child development in this [podcast](#) by Dr Mimi Tatlow-Golden of The Open University. Our [Holiday Manifesto](#) will prompt a useful discussion about making the most of family time.

Call us optimistic but one nice thing about having a break at this time of year is the promise of better weather! There's no better time to get out into nature and our list of [75 Things To Do Outside](#) offers plenty of suggestions for curious and active young minds. If you're lucky enough to get to the coast, our Beach Science activities for [primary](#) [aged](#) and [teenage](#) children will get them paddling into rockpools and learning at the same time. This is also a great time for a safety refresher from our [Water Safety](#) resource. If you're going abroad, remember our packing checklists for [children](#) and [adults](#) and avoid nasty surprises on arrival!

When your family time finally reaches its end, and you gear up for a return to normality, don't forget our [list](#) of things to talk about before school returns, which will help you and your children get into the right mindset before stepping back through the school gates.

Our programme of live events continues throughout the Spring!

[When Children and Young People Struggle to Attend School - How Schools and Parents Can Work Together](#): April 19th, 10:30am GMT

Panel discussion on attendance with Ellie Costello, director of [Square Peg](#), and educational psychologist Dr Jerrica Holder.

[Reaching Girls Early: Proactive Approaches for Mental Health, Appearance Anxiety and Body Dissatisfaction](#): April 26th, 09:30am GMT

Online conference with a panel of expert speakers on boosting girls' wellbeing and achievement.

The Toolled 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](mailto:research@tooledupeducation.com) to let us know how we are doing!

As a parent at a Toolled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Toolled 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: YPSII03 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at [support@tooledupeducation.com](mailto: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.

**TOOLED UP®**  
BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS:



# CASINO ROYALE

SUMMER BALL 2024

SATURDAY, JUN 15TH

7PM - LATE

THE PAA

EARLY BIRD TICKETS JUST £75 FROM CLASSLIST



# Coming Up

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

## APRIL 2024

**Tue 2** Easter Holiday School  
(until Friday 5th April)

**Thursday 18th April - Summer term begins**  
*Pupils return on Thursday 18th. Please note: Nursery finishes at 3pm, Reception - Year 2 at 3.15pm and all other year groups at 3.45pm for the first two days back. After school care is available and the form to be completed was sent out last week. All After School Care will be located in the Pre-Prep from 4pm from the first day back, rather than at the Prep.*

*Also on Thursday 18th April we will be celebrating Eid. We would like to invite every child who will be celebrating Eid to attend school in traditional dress on this date. Every other child is invited to wear an item of green with their normal school uniform on this day as we celebrate this important festival. We will also be enjoying a special lunch on this day to mark the occasion.*

**Thu 18** Summer term begins; pupils return  
Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm  
School Eid celebrations

**Fri 19** Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm

**Mon 22** Clubs and activities begin

**Tue 23** Senior School Fashion Show  
(involves some Prep dancers; 6-7pm)

**Wed 24** School Council  
Show Racism the Red Card—Y5 workshops  
Y4 Vindolanda—Zoom for parents (4pm)

**Thu 25** Y6 Junior Maths Challenge (selected pupils)

**Fri 26** LAMDA speech and drama examinations  
U10/11 Boys' Cricket v Pocklington  
(away; 2.15pm start, 5pm return)  
U10/11 Girls' Cricket v Pocklington  
(home; 2pm start)

**Mon 29** Knockout Chess begins  
Last Y3 swimming of the year  
Activities Carousel 4 (Y4-6) begins  
YPSSC AGM (Prep Hall; 5.30pm)

**Tue 30** Dr Kathy Weston—Zoom webinar for parents  
(7-8pm)

**MAY 2024**

**Wed 1** Informal Concert (Prep Hall; 4pm)  
Year 4 trip see Boy at the Back of the Class  
(Newcastle Theatre Royal)  
PHAB Club assembly

**Tue 2** U9 Boys' Cricket v Dame Allan's  
(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

# Term Dates

## 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
All pupils return	Thursday, 29th August 2024
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)

# Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	India B.	Edward G.
3J	Nael S.	Zaviyar R.
3P	Edie P.	Ned F.
4F	Alice J.	Edith G.
4J	Ailee H.	Andres O.
4S	Azlan U.	Freddie B.
5G	Daisy C.	Imogen C.
5H	Rosa W.	Manha A.
5K	Cooper W.	Will G.
6H	Sports Tour	Sports Tour
6L	Sports Tour	Sports Tour
6W	Sports Tour	Sports Tour

## Head Teacher Awards:

**Year 5:** Henry Sk.

## Music Awards:

**Gold:** Daisy C. **Silver:** Cooper W., Thomas M. **Bronze:** Hannah M.