

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

We are in the midst of a flurry of creativity and artistic talent, and I have enjoyed watching two concerts this week - one of these at the Prep School. I am looking forward to the Fourth Year play this evening, the Spring Concert on Sunday and another of our 'Concert and Cake' series next week. Not to mention the Messiah, with about 100 pupils singing as part of a mass choir alongside the Black Dyke Band, on Saturday, 23rd March. This week, watching pupils from 7 - 17 years old taking the opportunity to perform in front of peers, parents, staff and members of our local community has been a huge pleasure, with a demonstrable sense of the journey that our pupils go on with support from their teachers over the course of their time at Yarm.

There are - as ever - some valuable updates on careers in the newsletter, and I am grateful to Mr Edwards and Miss Rhodes for their work in coordinating the forthcoming Career Cluster evening on Finance, Accounting, Management and Economics, which is for students from fourth year upwards and will offer a wonderful insight into the opportunities and routes into and through a career in this area. Details within for those who wish to attend.

Also, Mr Edwards links a helpful resource for those wanting to find out more about a career in Law.

Next week is Eco Week, and our Eco Society have been busy preparing a whole range of activities to drive the message home and engage pupils in understanding more about ways in which we can all make a difference. The School takes this seriously, with ground source and air source heating, LED lights, zero to landfill, Electric Vehicle charging points, building management systems, recycling points, and ongoing sustainability and eco initiatives in the pipeline. It is wonderful that we have pupils who consider these issues and care

enough to raise awareness and to make a difference.

Will McGee provides a fascinating explanation of the fantasy game Warhammer, we learn some teachers' favourite childhood books in a nod to World Book Day - the theme of our Upper School Assembly presentation yesterday. Sporting successes continue to amass - including great news for Will Ferguson who has been selected to play for England U18s in a four nations tournament! There are reports within celebrating success in rowing, netball and boys hockey; well done all.

Dr Huw Williams



Some of the fabulous musicians at the first Concert and Cake this week: the next Concert and Cake is March 13th at 5pm

THINKING ABOUT CAREERS IN LAW

Law remains a popular choice for students from Yarm School. Though it should be noted that the landscape of the profession has been shifted in a number of notable ways. Not least the routes into law now include the option of undertaking an apprenticeship. Several of the current Upper Sixth are pursuing this route with two of last year's leavers currently on Law apprenticeship programmes. This linked document, a [Parents Guide to Law](#) has been

prepared by the Success at Schools careers outfit, and contains a heap of useful information, whether you are familiar with careers in law, or feel yourself to be an outsider to the profession. It includes such information as degrees vs apprenticeships, the difference between solicitors and barristers, along with the required skills for working in law. I have posted this in the Year Group Google Classrooms, a vital source for information on

careers in all areas. For further information pupils may reach out to Mr Nick Lyle, the Career Ambassador for Law at Yarm School.

On a separate but related note, in a few weeks time, the Lower Sixth Politics students will engage in a remote session with Lady Hale, former President of the Supreme Court, the highest legal position in the land!

FORMER PUPIL VISIT - AMELIA COBURN



We were delighted to welcome back former pupil Amelia Coburn to school last week. Amelia left Yarm in 2016 after studying French, Spanish and Theatre Studies at A Level. She went on to study French, Spanish and Russian at the University of Nottingham, where she achieved a First Class degree. Not satisfied with

learning three languages, Amelia also opted to study ab initio Croatian and Serbian. She spoke to our budding linguists about her experience of languages at university, her year abroad in Mexico (Puebla), France and Russia as well as her current work. Whilst living in Paris, Amelia worked for a company where she translated scripts and this led to further career opportunities after she graduated. She continues to do freelance work for the same company, but has also started to create voice overs for them for Spanish, French and Russian documentaries. Amelia's passion and thirst for languages was obvious from the moment she started talking to students and it was great that she

was able to share such experiences with us. Students were keen to ask questions about Amelia's time at university and the opportunities that came from having a year abroad. Aside from her love of languages. Amelia is a very talented singer-songwriter and musician who has travelled the world with her music. She is currently promoting her album which will be released today and we wish her every success with that. We are very grateful to Amelia for taking the time out of her busy schedule to visit us and we hope to see her again soon in the MFL department!

Mrs B Addison

WORLD BOOK DAY

As part of our school's celebrations for World Book day, pupils in the Library Leaders activity have been preparing books for a 'Blind date with a book'. If you have trouble finding something to read- or perhaps just fancy something new- why not select one of our gift wrapped books over the course of the next week?

We also asked members of staff about their favourite children's books or those books that they felt that had had the greatest influence on them. Can you match the book to the member of staff?

Ms H Blakemore

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - C.S. Lewis	Mr Ivey
Guess How I Love You - Sam McBratney	Mrs Troya
Biblical stories including 'David and Goliath' and 'Noah's Ark'	Mrs Lodge
Carta a una maestra - Escuela de Barbiana Milani	Mr Williams
BFG - Roald Dahl	Ms Stebbings
The Lord of the Rings - J.R.R. Tolkien	Mrs Baines
Matilda - Roald Dahl	Kathryn Brearey

Career Cluster: FINANCE, ACCOUNTING, MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS

Tuesday 12th March, 6pm - 8pm

Join us in the PAA to find out more about working in Finance, Accounting, Management and Economics.

Discover the different pathways to your ideal career.

Suitable for 4th Year, 5th Year and Sixth Form students and parents.

Register to attend at:

<https://bit.ly/FAMECareerCluster>



YARM SCHOOL ECO WEEK TIMETABLE

Monday 11th - Friday 15th March 2024

Join in some of the activities happening during Eco Week...

Design a Poster

Design a poster to hang in the dining hall reminding people that they can ask for a small, medium or large portion to help reduce food wastage.

Email or give entries to Mrs Russell (emma.russell@yarmschool.org)

The winning poster will be hung in the dining hall and the winner will receive a £5 bistro voucher!

Eco quiz

Take part in eco quizzes during tutorial time.

Eco-football Fundraiser

An Eco-football tournament is happening on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th March at lunchtime on the astro. Come along and support the teams!

Make Clay Bee Feeders

Wednesday 13th March at 12.35pm in S55 with Dr. Harker.

Make Bird Feeders

Thursday 14th March at 12.50pm in S55 with Mrs McLean and Mrs Russell.

The Big Plastic Count

Help survey your plastic waste by signing up to tally your plastic waste for a week and send your data into the big plastic count to take part in this national survey.

thebigplasticcount.com/sign-up

In the Dining Hall:

Scrape your own plate to raise awareness of your food wastage.

Look out for meat-free Tuesday and Green Food Day!

YARM SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

SPRING CONCERT 1

**Sunday 10th March, 6.30pm
POP, SOUL & JAZZ**

Tickets are £6 and are available from www.thepaaonline.org
or by simply calling the box office on **(01642) 792587**

THE WILDCATS OF KILKENNY AT YARM SCHOOL

We have an exciting collaboration on the horizon which may well be of interest to you!

On Saturday 27th April, Yarm School pupils will be joining with Mike McGrother and his Wildcats of Kilkenny band for what promises to be an evening full of collaborative

energy and concluding with a full-on Wildcats set!

Tickets are on sale today!

Tickets can be purchased at £15 (£10 concessions) from the box office.

Mrs K Staggs

When: Saturday 27th April

Where: The PAA

Price: Adults £15, Concessions £10

Get your tickets from the Box Office or [online](#).

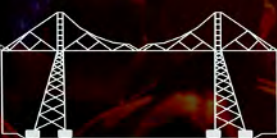
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL, 2024, 7.30PM

TICKETS: £15 & £10 (CONCESSIONS)

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THEPAAONLINE.ORG OR BY CALLING THE BOX OFFICE ON (01642) 792587




YARM SCHOOL
 EDUCATING FOR LIFE



**PRINCESS ALEXANDRA
 AUDITORIUM**

**THE
 WILDCATS
 OF
 KILKENNY**
 SINCE 1991

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE 2024 WESTMINSTER ELECTION?

Last Thursday members of the Lower Sixth Politics department were invited to watch a lecture at Newcastle University hosted by Pippa Crerar. Crerar, who is herself a graduate of Newcastle, is a journalist with an impressive history writing at both The Mirror and now The Guardian as the newspaper's political editor, and has been responsible for revealing some of the major political scandals of the last four years, such as Partygate and the Dominic Cummings Scandal. Throughout her lecture titled "General Election 2024: Is change really possible?" Crerar expertly laid out her understanding of Westminster Politics as it stands, inserting her own experiences of both former and present politicians to deliver an insightful and meticulous overview of the state of politics as we prepare for another General Election.

Crerar opened her lecture by analysing the decreasing authority of the Conservative Party after 14 years in power, pointing to the fragmentation of the party. Sunak's strength has been undermined by reports of leadership plotting from Kemi Badenoch, Suella Braverman, Penny Mordaunt, and indeed Liz Truss, who has recently spoken in a right-ring event in the USA, whose

elections, Crerar warned, could lead to greater polarisation in British politics. The journalist attributed the Conservative's 20 point deficit in the polls to Sunak's inconsistent image, declaring the Labour vote to be "soft": supported only as an alternative to voting for the Conservatives. Sunak's immediate promise to provide "stability" when he came to power in 2022, being followed a year later with promise of radical change, particularly to migration, has led to a confused public image, with voters unsure of his values, and deeming him weak as a result. Furthermore, Crerar said Labour campaigns were likely to revolve around Sunak's inability to meet his five pledges: it seems he will only have managed to halve inflation by the time an election rolls around.

Crerar then placed particular emphasis in her lecture on the possibility of a Labour Government after the next election. On the subject of Labour's leader Sir Keir Starmer, Crerar revealed that in conversation with Starmer is told by she was told that his main goal is to "win the election". Starmer was also, Crerar believed, conscious that the party could become too giddy or complacent as election buzz grows. Now there is, as Crerar mentioned, a large mountain to climb for Labour in

the next Westminster elections as for a majority of 1 seat Labour would need a 12% swing in the vote share, even higher than Blair's 10% in 1997. There is also the issue of the public feeling they don't know Starmer or his views such as the blunder on the £28 bn promise for environmental action, or the tight lip that Labour has on discussing possible policy, to some extent causing a feeling of apathy towards Starmer and Labour. However, as Crerar made sure to note Starmer was ruthless on his way to the top and has proven himself to be a leader that unites the Labour party. Close collaboration with Rachel Reeves, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, also shows a clear focus on the economy, the issue that most voters face today, and a relationship between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor similar to the style of Lord Cameron and his Chancellor George Osborne that was loved by voters involved in business. Crerar also mentioned Securenomics and economics policy that Starmer wants to pursue which would possibly be similar to Bidenomics in America, which has proven to be very successful. Starmer has also been clear on his desires to create a 20% private school VAT and scrap non-doms tax schemes along with a desire for the UK to have the highest

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE 2024 WESTMINSTER ELECTION?

Perhaps unsurprisingly due to the fact Crerar herself is from Edinburgh, Crerar took note of the opportunity for Labour to win back Scotland as a result of the SNP and Nicola Sturgeon implosion, a key way for Labour to win more votes, with Crerar overall having a very cautiously optimistic view on Labour's chances at the next election.

Although Crerar seemed hesitant to make any bold predictions, there were certainly a few for us to consider on leaving the lecture. Having already delivered a 2% tax cut on national insurance, Crerar claimed that the March 6th Budget

would include a further 1% cut, with inheritance tax cuts appearing in the Conservative manifesto next year. She also commented on Steve Back's prediction of a May election, called at the latest possible moment, suggesting that the Downing Street photographer, famous for his ability to snap confidential documents, may have seen more than Sunak would have intended. We certainly intend to keep an eye on these predictions! Overall, this was an engaging and insightful event in which members of the Politics department were able to get a glimpse inside not only the state of Parliamentary politics but also to see inside the mind of one of

the greatest investigative journalists of our time. With the election thought to be arriving soon this information will be vital in not only theorising the outcome of the soon approaching UK Election and our own personal A-level studies, but also in preparation of our own school election that takes place each time there is a General Election. And on a final note we would like to thank Mr Grimwood for attending and in particular Mr Edwards for organising the trip.

Sophie Jewitt & Eva Speight,
Upper Sixth

A GOOD SPRING CLEAN

To usher in the arrival of spring, the Community Action Group has been out and about in Yarm armed with litter pickers and black bags. Concentrating efforts on the local play parks, pupils were able to amass quite a collection of litter, leaving these valuable green areas much safer and more pleasant for the local residents.

The Community Action Group



WARHAMMER



I started Warhammer when I was nine, being inspired by the Warhammer club at the school I went to at the time. The models and their complexity made me want to do Warhammer myself. The first model I created was full of different colours since I thought having a very vivid colour scheme would work, turns out it's not as easy as it looks to paint a model. The main problem I see when painting a model is how to have an "eye for it", meaning that it's easy to just paint a model, but you also need

to find two compatible colours and make them contrast in the right ways. It also needs to be fun for you to do, otherwise you won't want to do it and do it well. Having a clear set of colours to use and a mental picture of the finished product is helpful. BUT there is also some skill – to it, you can usually get lessons at your local Warhammer shop. I didn't really like the idea of "lessons" at the time so I just let my painting skills evolve naturally from then on.

Warhammer is a "miniature wargame" where you collect, build, paint, play and if you want to, read. Warhammer also has different versions of it, for example: I play Warhammer 40,000 which is based in the 40th millenia where you can be ruthless space pirates, or mysterious robotic humanoids, or a hive mind bent on consuming the universe. Other extensions include Warhammer: Age of Sigmar, Warhammer: Kill Team and many more. Warhammer is a very complicated game to anyone who hasn't ever played it (or anyone who hasn't read the Core book, which comes with the starter sets). Warhammer was created in England by Rick Priestley, a British game designer, it is owned by Games Workshop, a British miniature wargame manufacturer based in Nottingham, founded in 1975 (one year after Dungeons and Dragons) and has been entertaining people for nearly fifty years!

Will McGee, First Year

WORLD BOOK DAY GAME - ANSWERS

We asked members of staff about their favourite children's books or those books that they felt that had had the greatest influence on them! Did you match them up correctly?

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis - Mrs Baines | Guess How Much I Love You, Sam McBratney - Ms Stebbings | Biblical stories including 'David and Goliath' and 'Noah's Ark' - Mr Ivey | Carta a una maestra- Escuela de Barbiana Milani - Mrs Troya | The BFG, Roald Dahl - Kathryn Brearey | The Lord of the Rings, J.R.R. Tolkien - Mr Williams | Matilda, Roald Dahl - Mrs Lodge.

Concert & Cake 2

Wednesday March 13th 2024 at 5pm

Tickets are £3 and are available from www.thepaaonline.org or by calling the box office on 01642 792587



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 or by calling the box office on (01642) 792587

Disney

Inspired

Recycled Garment Competition



Products will be worn
Tuesday 23th 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



JUNIOR INTER-REGIONAL TRIALS



A highlight of the year for junior rowers is the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta (JIRR), held at the National Watersports Centre, Nottingham. This is a competitive event between thirteen regions from England, Wales and Scotland. In order to race at this event, crews must qualify as the fastest crew in their category in their region.

On Saturday 24th February, twenty-nine pupils from Yarm Boat Club travelled to Leeds to compete at JIRR Trials. Racing was held over a total 2000 metres broken down into two 1000m pieces held in opposite directions.

Doubles across all age categories kicked off the morning of racing, with three crews from Yarm entered. The J16 double comprising Patrick

Tulloch and Harry D'Ambrogio had an excellent race winning their event by over a minute. Abby Stewart and Becca White competed in the WJ16 double coming second. Finally the J14 double, consisting of Jonah

Jenny and Oscar Lane, competed well in their first doubles race and successfully won their event by four seconds.

The afternoon involved racing in bigger boats with the majority of the boat club competing in this division. Both J16 & WJ16 coxless quads successfully navigated the course, winning their respective categories.

A timing difficulty after a tough race resulted in the J15 quad (Isaac Akowuah, Jack Maxey, Noah Vincent, Charlie Baines, & Oscar Galloway) having to face St Peter's, York, in a re-race at a later date. The crew to be sent to JIRR will be decided from this re-race. The J14 boys raced well to qualify their crew for JIRR, having won their event by

three seconds.

Unfortunately both the WJ14 and WJ15 quads missed out the qualification, however they raced competitively despite the lack of time together as crews.

In addition to these crews that have qualified through trails, Yarm will also field crews in the following events: WJ15 4+, J16 2- and two seats in the composite WJ16 eight.

My thanks go to all the coaches and athletes for a successful day of racing.



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

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

BOYS HOCKEY: YARM V ST PETERS



U13 A- St Peters 1-4 Yarm

Another Successful outing for the U13 boys. They traveled down to St Olives to take on the formidable St Peter's team. They started slowly, conceding a goal in the first half. Some sloppy defensive passing led to many chances which were confidently repelled by our keeper Jayden and they only managed to put one away out of many chances in the first half. At the half time whistle the team had their head down and their tail between its legs after a frankly appalling first half of hockey.

However Mr Ferguson did a rousing pep talk that put the fire back in the bellies of the team. They came back on a team transformed and quickly proved that they were not out of it yet. Within the first few minutes of the second half Wilf White, playing at centre forward, pushed one past the keeper into the net. Invigorated by this victory the team played with renewed hunger pressing hard and working for the team. This attitude soon paid off with Wilf scoring another to put us in front. Shortly after left mid Theo Scott hit a light reverse through the keeper's legs. Now confidently controlling the pitch and the play Yarm Succeeded in putting one more away before the full time whistle giving Yarm a 4-1 victory and Wilf the final ball in an astounding hat trick. In all a very eventful match with ups and downs

but a happy result.

Monty Proctor, Second Year

U13B- St Peters 2-1 Yarm

The game started well as Yarm were putting on the pressure on St. Peter's but they counter-attacked which led to a goal for St Peter's at the other end of the pitch. We continued to pile the pressure on them but that led to an exactly identical goal for St Peter's. Yarm were now going all out on the attack where Ayrton dribbled past a few players and slotted Hugo through who missed the first too but eventually scored a goal.

Good games lads.

Hugo Pallister, Second Year

OTHER RESULTS

U12A - Yarm 3-3 St Peters

U12B - Yarm 1-2 St Peters

INTERNATIONAL SPORT

Congratulations to Will Ferguson who will travel to France at Easter to play in a 4 Nations Tournament for England Under 18- the tournament will include matches against France, Belgium and Spain - we wish him well!

NETBALL: U14D V TEESSIDE HIGH B

The match started off without much action, as the ball was thrown from one side to the other, the first half resulted in no goals. The second half was much more interesting, with two goals being scored by both teams in the third quarter. However, the match ended with two great goals from Teesside High leaving the score as 2:4 to Teesside.

Sanjana Vasireddy, Third Year



BOYS HOCKEY: YARM V SILCOATES

U13A- Silcoates 0-8 Yarm

On Saturday the 2nd of March, yarm under 13s headed down to Wakefield to play silcoates, the final score ended up being 8:0 to yarm with Freddie Brikin scoring 2, Wilf white scoring 4, Monty Proctor 1 and Luke palmer 1, all in all the morning was very fun and a brilliant experience!

Rorke Anderson, Second Year



U13B- Silcoates 1-3 Yarm

This was such a great game the way we played the ball and how we were still up in high spirits during the heavy rain. This led to a great victory of 3-1 Yarm and goals scored by Tom Booth, Kit Foster.

Will Foster, Second Year



U12B- Silcoates 1-5 Yarm

This was a match that we went into with apprehension. However, as the game kicked off it was clear that this

would be a good match. In the first quarter of the game I was on the sidelines watching the team dominating on the pitch. We were on a roll in terms of possession and managed to get several chances that unfortunately didn't get the opening goal we wanted. This was due to a brilliant performance by the opposition's keeper. Shortly after I came onto the pitch, Will Oliver placed the ball in the goal superbly. This was the breakthrough we had needed. In a couple of minutes time, Yarm would strike again as Tom Ferguson made a superb pass resulting in me scoring another goal. Just after this though our referee (Mr Lyle), blew the whistle to signal the end of the first half. We were really happy about this result. And, after a motivational and encouraging team talk by Mr Lyle, we were ready to go again in the second half.

In the second half we had the front foot from the start. After some supreme efforts from all of the team, we started scoring. The next one was by George Routledge. An excellent finish and a great start to the second half. In ten minutes, a short corner was awarded to Yarm. In this corner I was honoured to take the shot. As Will Oliver neatly injected the ball, I stepped up to take the shot. This went into the bottom corner. Unfortunately, the next play led to a goal to Silcoates with smooth

passing. Up until then, we had started to slip in concentration but this blow woke us all up and we started to play like before. In the dying minutes of the game Ben White gathered the ball in at the "D" and struck the ball into the bottom corner. After a couple of minutes the final whistle blew and we went to shake hands with the opposition. This was a great result and everyone in the "B" team played very well and earned a well deserved victory.

Seth Tailor, First Year



OTHER RESULTS

U15- Yarm 1-2 Silcoates

U14- Yarm 4-1 Silcoates

BOYS HOCKEY: TEAM OF THE WEEK



EOS LIVE: PAINTING THE MODERN GARDEN: MONET TO MATISSE

Based on the sell-out show at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

Filmed and Directed by David Bickerstaff.

From the exhibition walls to the wonder and beauty of artists' gardens like Giverny and Seebüll, the film takes a magical and widely travelled journey to discover how different contemporaries of Monet built and cultivated modern gardens to explore expressive motifs, abstract color, decorative design and utopian ideas.

(live stream - Friarage Theatre)



Sunday 17th March, 2pm

[Book Online Here](#)

ROYAL NORTHERN SINFONIA - MOZART'S DISSONANCE QUARTET

Enjoy a cosy, friendly night of music with the string players of own Royal Northern Sinfonia. It's a brilliant chance to hear them work in a smaller group and in a more intimate setting. They're playing two quartets, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ghazaros Saryan, and Alexander Glazunov's Quintet. Alexander LOVED the cello so he added an extra one to the usual quartet line up.

Ghazaros Saryan String Quartet No.2

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart String Quartet No.19 'Dissonance'

Alexander Glazunov String Quartet



Tuesday 2nd April, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

GEORGE KO - THE MOON TOUR

Piano pioneer and Neo-impressionist George Ko (GKO) returns to perform a provocative exhibition of unconventional and virtuosic originals and film music.

Using classical virtuosity, improvisation, and styles across genres, GKO creates cinematic and kaleidoscopic compositions. Critics describe his music and performance as "performing wizardry, flowing yet bright, lively and heroic... with moments of nostalgia, reverie, and reflection. Steinway says "He's great for music... making classical music exciting and accessible for the masses."



Wednesday 17th April, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TEKKEN 8

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
16

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakens', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). Rival players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters: a useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as jiu-jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®