

## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

As we approach the end of another superb term, in which our pupils have thrived and excelled across so many areas of school life, it is a pleasure to read this bumper edition of the newsletter and reflect on the successes and engagement of our students, and the support and dedication of the staff who enable such a rich tapestry of opportunity. In our end of term assembly yesterday, I was inspired and proud to journey through the achievements and contributions of our pupils this term on sports pitches, concert and drama stages, academic competitions, community projects, House events, fun, serious and impressive achievements from groups and individuals which painted a rich and impressive picture of the way Yarm School goes about things.

Last weekend's concert, Handel's *Messiah* with the Black Dyke Band and massed choirs, was quite simply the best school concert I have ever attended. I have been lucky to attend very many other exceptional concerts, individual and

group performances of all types - with Simmie's performance of 'Goodbyes' in our first Spring Concert being another example of a career highlight for me - but the numbers of people involved from varied parts of our school and wider community, the collective effort that had gone into preparing such an ambitious concert, the unbelievable musicality and brilliance of the Black Dyke Band, the leadership and inspiration of Katie Staggs in pulling it all together; this all came together to make it a quite magical evening.

Reports within from CCF, House Chess, Phab Club, Politics Society, poetry from first-third years, ceramics activity, enrichment lectures, Economics and business activities, National Reading Champions quiz and more gives plenty of reading material for a lazy afternoon during the Easter break, and should - I hope - offer a window into the busy life of the school.

Our new library is now fully functioning and - excitingly - the final book has been

placed back on the shelves. Please read more within. I am so grateful to our Librarians Mrs Mason and Mrs Dixon-Barker for their hard work in managing this huge project, and also to the Estates team for their support in moving the tonnes of books into storage and then back to the library. In a world where everything is moving to digital, there is something hugely valuable about actual books, and the space itself is a haven for calm reflection, purposeful work and - primarily - the joy of reading!

This term has arguably been one of our most successful ever, as further reports in this newsletter attest. Congratulations to all those pupils involved in netball, hockey, rugby, rowing, fencing, tennis and more, and thanks as ever to those staff who not only support and coordinate the programme, but who inspire our pupils at whatever stage of their sporting journey they are on.

Wishing all families a relaxing and happy Easter break.

Dr Huw Williams



The amazing performance of Handel's *Messiah* last weekend.

## CCF FIELD DAY - EXERCISE SPRING PHOENIX 2024

The CCF has spent the majority of this term preparing for their deployment on Exercise Spring Phoenix to Catterick Training Area last week. Monday night training has focused on weapon handling, navigation skills, radio voice procedure, first aid and basic fieldcraft.

25 cadets and four staff deployed from the school to the Feldom area of Catterick, on the Yorkshire Dales. Luckily, Mr Mist had ordered amazing weather! We arrived and did rehearsals on how to fire and manoeuvre as a section. We practised working in pairs and then fire teams, following the principle that no one moves until some else is firing to provide cover.

In the afternoon we faced the challenge of section attacks. After a swift lunch H-Hour was set for 1230. One Section led by Sergeant Grace Harbinson patrolled forward and before long made contact with an enemy position. They then laid down suppressing fire and were able to successfully manoeuvre and defeat the first enemy before attacking and fighting through the second. At this point the Section Commander of Two Section, Colour Sergeant Jennifer Chan, took a moment to formulate her plan before launching a rapid advance and attack on their first position which was also successful.

Over the course of the field day all cadets acquitted themselves really well, there were some excellent

demonstrations of leadership, teamwork and determination. On our return to school we enjoyed an excellent BBQ followed by two fantastic speeches by Grace and Jen reflecting on their experiences within the CCF.

Well done to all cadets and staff involved for their hard work on Field Day and this term. We have a very exciting summer term with coastering in Northumberland followed by a summer camp in July near York. Mr Taylor will be talking to prospective new cadets in Second Year soon.

Mr T Taylor

# YARM SCHOOL CCF - EXERCISE SPRING PHOENIX 2024





## POLITICS BOOK REVIEW: HOW DEMOCRACY ENDS - DAVID RUNCIMAN

In *How Democracy Ends* David

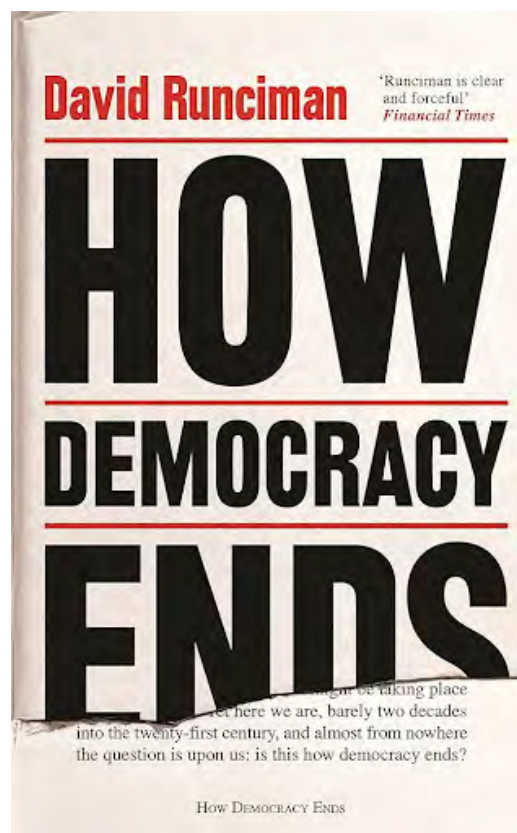
Runciman aims to open our eyes to the fact that although in the western world we consider democracy to be “sacrosanct”, each and every political system will ultimately have its demise - democracy included. He reminds us that history never directly repeats itself so we shouldn't necessarily expect the end of democracy to be a dramatic military takeover (the way in which democracy was overturned in Greece in 1967) and be blind to other possibilities which may unfold. We should instead consider that democracy will likely have a prolonged death, incited by one or all three of the factors Runciman explores: a “coup”, a “catastrophe” or a “technological takeover”.

Runciman is Professor of Politics at Cambridge University. He began to ponder the question of ‘How Democracy Ends’ after the election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States in 2017 and eventually released his ideas within this book the following year. Did Runciman believe that Trump was going to be the end of American democracy? No. He believes that American democracy and democracy as a whole will still survive for quite some time. However, he does believe that it has become middle aged, “its prime is past” and “we ought to acknowledge this”.

Runciman explores three potential pathways to the end of democracy. The first of which is a coup. He shows us that we shouldn't necessarily expect a violent ‘coup d'état’ like those that have occurred frequently within history - we should instead expect the coup to be less obvious. He explains coups can occur through the action of the executive themselves whether it's through election-day voting fraud, “executive aggrandisement” (when those already in power gradually chip away at democratic institutions without ever overturning them) or much more.

Secondly, he explains how a catastrophe can result in a democracy's demise, arguing that the potential catastrophic effects of worldwide events such as climate change, instead of leading to radical political change which we would expect the end of democracy to be, will conversely lead to unintentional political inaction. Democracy will gradually disintegrate as leaders are focused on problems larger than maintaining their country's democratic functions.

Runciman's final potential factor is a “technological takeover”. This section, although the name may suggest, does not argue that AI will overthrow humanity and our democratic institutions. It instead argues that



technology will evolve and the opportunity for technology to become intertwined with politics will appear. At this point, he claims that new political systems would emerge and democracy as we know it would no longer be needed.

I think the book is well-argued as Runciman not only addresses the potential factors for the downfall of democracy but he also challenges the problems that democracy currently imposes on our society: “kicking the can down the road is what democracies are best at.”

Christina Fagan, Lower Sixth

## CAREERS IN SCIENCE

Engineers like to solve problems. Careers in engineering are thus as broad as there are problems to fix. There are so many differing types of engineering and the fields continue to expand. This [document from Success in Schools](#) will help you to explore the skills involved in engineering careers, as well as some information about the routes into engineering, including apprenticeship as well as university pathways. For students wishing to explore their future plans further Mr Addison is our Career Ambassador for Engineering at Yarm School.

Mr S Edwards

## THE ECONOMICS OF GAMBLING

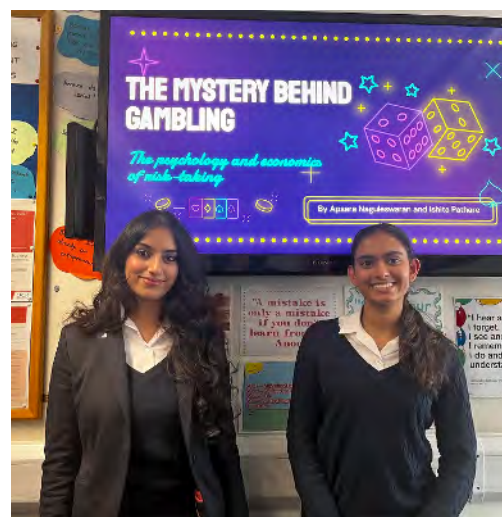
To confess or not to confess... The dilemma for members of the Sixth Form in attendance at EconBus Soc this week, when Apsara and Ishita invited their peers to experience Game Theory first hand!!

This however was just a small part of their engaging, well-researched and well-delivered presentation on the Economics of Gambling. As they examined what it is that encourages Gambling and explored ways to reduce the market failure of its over consumption. The audience was multi-disciplinary and enthusiastically voiced views

with the ensuing discussion only constrained by the bell!

Well done to Apsara and Ishita for challenging their peers!

Miss C E Rhodes



## FIFTH YEARS! ARE YOU... SIMPLY THE BEST? BETTER THAN ALL THE REST? BETTER THAN ANYONE? ANYONE YOU'VE EVER MET?

Can you lead?

Can you be creative?

Can you problem solve?

Can you think on your feet?

Can you stay calm?

Can you make decisions?

Can you manage your time?

Can you work in a team?

Can you manage people who don't pull their weight?

Can you resolve conflict?

Can you bounce back after failure?

Can you think of a charity which means something to you, and raise money to support it?

Can you pitch?

Can you justify your ideas?

Can you stand up for yourself?

Can you admit to being wrong?

Can you take calculated risks?

Can you have fun, whilst building the skills needed for UCAS, Apprenticeships and / or employability?

Can you compete?

Can you commit?

Are you in the Lower Sixth next year?

Can you be the 2025 Yarm Apprentice?

Well, don't just think it...

Don't just say it.....

PROVE IT!

Sign up for Yarm Apprentice - Tuesday Activities Autumn and Spring Terms 2024/25

Miss C E Rhodes



## HOUSE CHESS - FINALS

The House Chess competition concluded last week with two more tense matches, starting with Aidan vs Bede in the third/fourth place play-off. There were victories for Isla Close, Vinh Han and Ben Dempsey of Bede, and for Aryan Nalawade, Shola Afolabi and Keya Shah of Aidan, leaving the match tied at three boards each. First Years George Routledge and Shourjo Dasgupta played out a nail-biting decider which eventually ended up in a draw. The boards contested by older players are weighted more heavily, which means Aidan take the win and finish third,

leaving Bede in last place. Cuthbert, the reigning champions, were looking to extend their winning streak in the final but they faced a strong Oswald side looking to bounce back after finishing fourth last year. The match was played in good spirit in front of a good number of keen spectators, and it did not disappoint. A tight contest saw Monty Van Niekerk, Noah Coulman and Ajay Selvan win their boards for Oswald, with Harvey Qin, Aditya Paul and Adhi Dinakaran winning for Cuthbert. With the match delicately poised at 3-3, all eyes

turned to the Second Year board. Arthik Sutheswaran and Rishi Shenoy battled hard for half an hour before Rishi managed to promote his last pawn and execute a checkmate with just King and Queen. Victory for Oswald! Cuthbert finally defeated! Congratulations to the winning Oswald team, and well done to all the pupils and students who competed with skill and enthusiasm. Thank you to all those who came to watch and contributed to what was a great atmosphere.

Mr L Tucker





## CRATHORNE DAIRY FARM VISIT PHAB CLUB



This week, Phab Club hosted a session with a bit of a twist! We had Crathorne's Dairy Farm over to introduce two very gorgeous guests: Bella and Daisy, who both loved to munch on their seed snacks we were allowed to offer. All the guests were definitely a-moo-sed!

Alongside the very exciting interactions with the two visitors, the members had a wholesome time trying out the tractor. They were able to move the wheels and beep the horn! Some guests tried some delicious milkshakes provided by the farmers. We were also shown how to make fresh butter using milk from

the cows at the dairy farm before playing with the playground parachute, having some very sneaky mice in our game of cat and mouse! Many guests left saying the activities held this session had "made their day"! Thank you very much to the farmers from Crathorne's Dairy Farm for taking some time out of their busy day to introduce Bella and Daisy to the guests and for providing such entertaining activities for everyone.

Phab aims to provide these enjoyable and inclusive experiences to all members of our community so this session has truly been an eye opener

as to what we can do next! Make sure to look out for what Phab has to offer and help out whenever possible through suggestions or coming along to our sessions that occur once every fortnight! For further details, email Mrs Lodge at [Sophie.Lodge@yarmschool.org](mailto:Sophie.Lodge@yarmschool.org)

Monisha Ravichandran, Upper Sixth

## POLITICS STUDENTS IN CONVERSATION WITH FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT

In contrast to the United States Supreme Court it is rare for one of the UK justices to gain public prominence. The great exception to this is the public figure of the former President of the Supreme Court, Lady Brenda Hale. Politics students from Yarm have had various points of contact with her throughout her legal career, from here being a guest speaker of the Politics Society back when she had recently been appointed Deputy President, to another lovely meeting down at the University of York just a couple of years ago.

This week during a Politics lesson we dialled in to a session with Lady Hale. The Lower Sixth Politics students had submitted a raft of potential questions in advance of the meeting, exploring all manner of topics from her rise to prominence, her perspectives of the role and influence of the Supreme Court, including significant moments of friction with the government, though to considerations of the independence and neutrality of the court, as well as the famous 'Brenda agenda', namely her wish to get more women into senior roles within the judiciary.

The session began with the chief archivist from Parliament demonstrating documents related to the advance and contribution of women in the House of Lords, given that the event in part was designed to coincide with Women in Parliament celebrations, itself part of International Women's Day.

Baroness Hale drew on early formative lessons from her youth in North Yorkshire, losing her father early and seeing the subsequent challenges faced by her mother and sisters. She also paid tribute to the value of the humanities subjects she studied, providing as she argued a perfect preparation for a career in law. We

also heard an analysis of the role of the Supreme Court, not least in the arbitration of difficult points of law and matters of public interest. Baroness Hale was particularly interesting in her exposition about the unique status and power of the UK Supreme Court, a court that is unable to strike down legislation, in contrast to all other supreme courts around the world, though perhaps most curiously it is a power that the senior judiciary does not want - the democratically elected Parliament ought to remain the sole sovereign power.

Mr S Edwards





## KEY STAGE 3 POETRY

This half term, a number of classes have enjoyed poetry studies, exploring a range of poems, and using these as a springboard for debate, literary analysis and creative responses.

Here we share a range of responses, across Key Stage 3, that capture the innovation and originality that poetry can inspire. First Year have considered the notion of a 'Portable Paradise' and what this might embody. This invited a plethora of different keepsakes to be brought into class, including a cricket bat, the national flower for South Africa, and a fanous lantern that is used during Ramadan, to name just a few items.

Meanwhile, Second Year have used a study of T.S Eliot's 'Preludes' to consider the cityscapes that mean something to them, be that local cities - and in some cases stadiums, or settings further afield across the Atlantic Ocean, such as New York.

Lastly, Third Year have explored Simon Armitage's extended poem 'Out of the Blue' that was written to commemorate the fifth year anniversary of 9/11.

Mrs S Dugdale

### A Portable Paradise

My paradise is full of culture  
 Sprinkled out to glorify me.  
 It's flavoursome cuisine,  
 all laid out in front of me.  
 Now that's the smell of home.  
 And if I speak of my paradise  
 I preach of its people  
 Pink or Blue  
 Black or White  
 A little Rainbow Nation.  
 I dream of its creatures  
 calling to me in the night  
 telling me to 'stand proud'  
 Whether it's the serene springback  
 or hostile hippos  
 They all represent their land  
 as I represent mine.  
 They are all leaders, or in my own  
 words  
 Freedom Makers and Freedom  
 Fighters.  
 The same spirited wise words from  
 our Madiba and Sarafina.  
 They are saints to my people.

### My Paradise

known as the place of Gold  
 Can you see it?  
 Bathing itself in a never ending  
 spotlight  
 Gleaming in that shadowing light  
 It is a shield from the unknown.  
 As I drift into nature's great reserve  
 There are corners filled with  
 flowers.  
 There are corners shaped with  
 Proteas,  
 Illuminated by the birds of paradise  
 Are you there, entranced by the  
 sweet sounds?  
 And, if I were to be that Paradise,  
 I would be the mountain tops  
 segregating the lands  
 I would be the Khoisan languages  
 coming as one  
 Marching to the beat of my people  
 coming as one  
 Or the wildlife gathering as one  
 I would be my Paradise  
 A 'Rainbow Nation'.

Diwai Mawoko, First Year

### A Portable Paradise

Yes, if I speak of paradise  
 Then I don't speak of the blinding  
 white grains of sand.  
 Nor do I speak of deep blue skies  
 With the sun's rays at the back of  
 your neck.  
 I speak of the cool wind's breath.  
 Numb fingers and red ears.  
 The debris of the fire,  
 flying into the air.  
 Another log joins my plunder  
 as the piney smell waits in the air,  
 Greeting the snow as it trickles  
 down.  
 adding another layer to the frosty  
 blanket.  
 As I tug on the blanket.  
 I can feel the s'more crumbs fall,  
 As it submerges itself in the blanket  
 As the fluff of the marshmallow  
 meets my tongue  
 As the snow comes to a gentle stop,  
 So too does the day draw to its close.

Will McDonald, First Year



## KEY STAGE 3 POETRY - CONTINUED

**A Portable Paradise**

And if I speak of Paradise  
I speak of home  
No, not here  
but where frankincense meets myrrh  
on the burning coal.  
No, not here  
but where you can walk through  
centuries in one street.  
No, not here  
but where you can hear its anthem,  
perhaps not official  
but the cars and chaos deserve their  
credit.  
No, not here  
but where every fruit is sweeter,  
every light is brighter  
and every colour, more vibrant.  
No, not here,  
but where palms bearing dates meet  
the sky.  
No, not here.  
but where you can touch its soul  
before you are surrounded  
like dipping your toes in the water.  
And if I speak of paradise,  
I speak of home.  
No, not here  
but where you can feel the wind,  
while the air is still  
And on my street there was a mill.  
Maybe a spring next to it  
And I saw red hibiscus which  
befriended the white jasmine  
beside it, everyday as I left.  
And the cats with their almond  
shaped eyes  
And the days that sat on doors as  
they were missed and went bitter  
And words that went by the wind.  
And when I left  
the wind left me  
because now the air is still.  
Marawan Saad, First Year

**A Portable Paradise**

My paradise would be  
My boat glitching, talking back to me.  
Cold, damp, blistered hands  
Gripping onto the strained rope.  
Coastal sun with pink clouds  
The smell of briny freedom  
Salt drying my mouth  
Water buckling, churning  
Punching the hull  
Taut sail, licking over  
An excitement that is indescribable  
Adrenaline that blisters self-belief  
This is my paradise that I love  
Water is my freedom  
My thing.  
It is in the weather and all the seas  
and oceans  
And I can take it with me, wherever I  
go.

Henry Pugh, First Year

**Cityscape**

In a city where the light never dims,  
In the same streets he was constantly  
gazing at,  
A man wandered seeking more than  
what meets the eye,  
A quest for meaning under the neon  
sky.  
Through casinos and streets, he  
roamed alone,  
Among crowds and laughter, in a  
zone of his own.  
The lights blinded him, yet he could  
clearly see,  
The darkness lurking where light  
claimed to be.  
Each bulb and beam, a metaphor so  
stark.  
For the shadows hidden, in corners so  
dark.  
Where hope is a gamble, a daring  
farce.

Among the eccentricity,  
Something happened unexpectedly.  
An emptiness grew,  
A longing for meaning, pure and true.  
Finding darkness and not in the night,  
But in the overwhelming, ceaseless  
night.

Lucia Chahal, Second Year

**New York**

The winter sky turns over,  
Busy street lights and sirens are yet  
to come,  
Damaged drunk strangers begin to  
roam  
Ravaged by solitude.  
A golden glow rises,  
Above the skyscrapers and the  
clouds,  
Morning's ready,  
Fresh smells seize the air  
Salty street snacks grime.  
Busy workers walk  
Over the littered pavement  
You had such a vision of the city  
Yet, the city refused to answer all of  
your questions.  
One hundred stars leading to  
oblivion.  
Yet beneath the tourists attractions,  
Smoggy skies,  
Ash clouds of dust,  
A forever segregated society has  
begun to rust  
Yet, the city still awaits one thing  
Equality.

Archie Axtell, Second Year

## KEY STAGE 3 POETRY - CONTINUED

**Newcastle Falcons Stadium**

Silent, empty, open field  
 Seats as far as the eye can see  
 A vast expanse of verdant green  
 A haunting ring of desolation and  
 shattered dreams.  
 The once blank, sparse and vacant  
 stadium transforms.  
 Into an amphitheatre of  
 entertainment.  
 The floodlights ignite bathing the  
 pitch in their illuminating glow.  
 Anticipation of the contest to come.  
 Teams ready to go to battle like  
 gladiators.  
 The whistle blows to commence,  
 The beginning of jeopardy  
 Cauldron of emotions as the stadium  
 fills with steam.  
 The trace of sweat is tangible  
 And the heavy hammer of contact.  
 As the match concludes  
 the home stadium quietens in  
 disappointment  
 Loss enters the arena.  
 Dreams are crushed  
 And some made.

George Howlett, Second Year

**Urban Symphony**

In a bustling city, where dreams take  
 flight.  
 Skyscrapers reach for the heavens  
 shining bright.  
 Streets alive with the symphony of  
 sound  
 A vibrant tapestry of cultures can be  
 found.  
 The city breathes with an electric  
 pulse  
 where diversity thrives and stories  
 are untold.  
 From bustling markets to the neon  
 lights

a kaleidoscope of colours ignites.  
 Wander through the parks, where  
 nature finds its place,  
 Amidst the concrete jungle, a tranquil  
 embrace.  
 The rhythm of life, a constant ebb and  
 flow,  
 In this city that never sleeps, always a  
 show.  
 A city of dreams, where possibilities  
 abound.  
 Where ambitions soar and new paths  
 are found.  
 With every corner, a new adventure  
 awaits.  
 In this cityscape, where dreams and  
 reality collate.

Sofie Matlochova, Second Year

**The legacy of 9/11**

Everything changed. Nothing is safe.  
 The gash of clawing flames  
 still a gnawing, open-wound.  
 The sirens are ringing, ringing.  
 The truth is searing, stinging  
 Yet still I grip,  
 Though I tip and crumble,  
 My dulling force reduced to a mere  
 mumble.  
 A dwindling shirt of soft cotton,  
 Acting as a beacon of non-existent  
 hope.  
 Normality falls  
 The shirt now sagging, torn  
 Its purity lagging.  
 As the failing structure of my world  
 Rakes hot needles at my back.  
 My grip is slipping,  
 How could I have believed the white  
 of my shirt would have gone without  
 staining?  
 Corrupted by hatred,  
 Marked with peace.  
 Ash filled lungs,

Bloated and ripe;  
 Mould into the skeletal steel.  
 Gagged, as their stones plummet  
 Only to be sifted and alone.  
 Onlookers retch at the sight of the  
 fleshy cargo.  
 Fruitless.  
 Barren.  
 Violated.  
 Fragments of regularity  
 Ooze through the melting cages.  
 Necklaces, bracelets  
 A cricket ball  
 A photo of the kids on the day of their  
 graduation  
 A waxy rubic's cube,  
 Unfinished,  
 Robbed.  
 And a splattered dragon fruit,  
 Surrounded by the bitter-sweet  
 juices of its abuse.  
 The imprint of the collapse  
 Still grieves all.  
 No one can be sure who will be next  
 to fall.  
 For faith is fickle  
 And trust an illusion  
 the paranoia,  
 the hopeless desire  
 Infected the world through those  
 fires.  
 Minakshi Palat-Meethale, Third Year





## CERAMICS ACTIVITY

This term marks the second installment of ceramics activities. Students have been practicing their pinch pots and slab building to make cute momentos and decorations.

We have been fortunate to have only a few kiln casualties and have learnt a great deal about glaze chemistry (and how unpredictable the colours can be).

A new term brings with it new opportunities to join the club and get creative with mindful pottery on Thursdays!

Dr B Harker



## FORMER PUPIL SUCCESS

Former pupil Amelia Coburn stormed the UK charts with her debut album 'Between the Moon and the Milkman'.

The album reached the UK charts, including #7 in the Independent Album Breakers Chart, #23 in the Independent Album Chart, #21 in the Album Downloads Chart and #55 in the Official Album Sales Chart.

Amelia's songs have also had airplay on BBC Radio 2 Folk Show and BBC 6 Music.

Amelia commented, "I can't quite believe this dream of mine has become a reality: to create a record, put my voice and words out into the

world, to have people listen to them, and hopefully love them. I've come a long way since playing covers in my bedroom - 17 year old me would be so proud."

To buy / listen to Amelia's debut go to [ameliacoburn.co.uk](http://ameliacoburn.co.uk)

Congratulations Amelia!





## HANDEL'S MESSIAH: "ABSOLUTELY STUNNING!"

Singers from across Teesside united in song on Saturday evening to perform a bespoke arrangement of Handel's Messiah, accompanied by the world famous Black Dyke Band. The choir on stage included Yarm Prep choristers, Senior School choir members, staff, parents, former pupils, Yarm School Choral Society, Tees Valley Youth Choir and singers from our wider community (including singers from Shetland and Toronto).

Preparation for this concert has been an incredible community-based experience and a stupendous journey of joyous music-making. The sense of collaboration and feeling united through music has been tangible throughout the process, and after the performance we received some amazing feedback:

*"Brilliant performance. That famous chorus just blew me away. Incredible!"*

*"What an enjoyable evening we had last night. I have to admit that I felt quite tearful at the end. How wonderful to see the choirs of all ages singing together and the band were amazing. Bravo!"*

*"It was absolutely stunning. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole performance. Wonderful to see young singers being given a chance to perform in a concert of this calibre. Phenomenal!"*

*"It was such a privilege to be part of it and your hard work and vision in involving so many people in both the chorus and as soloists really paid off - what an experience for everyone & as you said 'a once in a lifetime opportunity'. The band were just amazing and played so sensitively and musically."*

*"I have never felt such excitement, energy and enjoyment in a performance."*

*"Awe inspiring performances all round which showcased wonderful talent, creativity and collaboration. "*





## FROM HEALTHCARE INEQUALITIES IN THE NORTH EAST TO POLAR EXPEDITIONS!

Tuesday evening's lecture, presented by consultant psychiatrist, Dr Venkatesh Muthukrishnan, was discussing healthcare inequalities in the north-east, one of the most deprived areas in the UK. In what was a very insightful and sobering talk, he opened with the quote from Michael Marmot's book 'The Health Gap': "Why treat people and send them back to the conditions that made them sick?". Dr Muthukrishnan clearly and concisely outlined the size and scope of the issue, before presenting possible ways forward, using examples and studies from one of the most poverty stricken states of India, that also is one of the best performing in terms of healthcare: Tamil Nadu. Dr Muthukrishnan was very impressed with the insightful

questions posed by members of the audience, from a whole range of ages. Looking ahead to next term, we have one more lecture this academic year, presented by Alex Hibbert. Alex holds the world record for the longest unsupported polar expedition in history, completing a 1374 mile expedition over 113 days, with no resupplies or physical support. In his lecture, he will be talking about some of his experiences. This will take place on Wednesday 24th April at 16:15, and as always, it would be lovely to see some of you there. Do email at [rcw@yarmschool.org](mailto:rcw@yarmschool.org) if you would like further information.

Guest speakers over the past couple of years have included local business leaders, university

lecturers and former pupils; a number of these have also been parents to current pupils. If you are interested in coming to present one of our enrichment lectures, I would love to hear from you, and please don't hesitate to get in contact with me!

Mr R Williams



### APPRENTICE STUDENT FACILITATOR

Thank you to Yarm Apprentice Student Facilitator Arhana Pradeep who, for the past two terms of YA, has acted as my Karren Brady, overseeing teams, observing meetings, advising on points, keeping students on task, feeding back queries and being amazingly insightful and contributive on the panel alongside myself and the various Lord Sugars. She has so impressed me! She has been

proactive and perceptive throughout the process and her involvement has been invaluable. She will be missed next year and I will be asking for her assistance in coming weeks in order to identify her replacement who will have big shoes to fill!! I really hope she will be willing and able to return as Lord Sugar herself in the not too distant future.

Miss C E Rhodes

### UNIFORM SHOP EASTER OPENING HOURS

During the Easter Holidays the Uniform Shop will be open on:

**Tuesdays and Thursdays  
12-4pm**

(Plus pre-booked appointments)

Call 01642 792588 to book an appointment.

## TELL ME MORE, TELL ME MORE...

The bell tolled (OK, well it did ring at the start of the lesson) for the final Boardroom of YA 2024.

With two Lord Sugars (whose reputations for exacting standards had gone ahead of them) to face, the three teams nervously awaited their Doom! (or maybe I should perhaps just say their opportunities to pitch.) First up was Jack, supported by Harvey, Sam and Lucy, who presented their customisable shampoo ELXR, with their catchy slogan "We know". Their market research was thorough, their website exacting and their design premium.

Ishita was next to pitch, with the aid of Kyra and Emily. Having extensively investigated the Swimmers Market it was evident they had identified a very specific target market and they had developed an "on location" poolside advert.

Evie and Nila were last to present. Evie having overseen the development of an inclusive shampoo accessible for those who were partially sighted, and having the unique USPs of braille on the bottle and a proportion of profits made going to charity.

In their guise as double Lord Sugars, Mr Newman and Mr Alexander grilled the teams, (ably assisted by CER and Arhana), and then they faced the unenviable task of making a

decision.

With Ishita's team named as runners up enjoying biscuits by way of reward, Jack's team were declared victorious and won the caramel muffin and hot chocolate treats. Evie was asked to bring her whole team back to the Boardroom and after, dare I say, a little interrogation and a lot of deliberation, both Will and Evie were fired.

The points are tallied below, but in the meantime thanks to Mr Newman and Mr Alexander for reviving their superb double act as plural Lord Sugar and setting such an excellent task.

Whilst as we draw to the end of the YA year, I must thank my superb facilitators Mr Menzies and Arhana Pradeep for their unstinting support and assistance throughout the process.

Miss C E Rhodes

Winning Team points allocated to Jack's Team

Runners Up Team points to Ishita's Team

Winning PM points went to Jack and Runner Up PM points to Ishita

Outstanding Apprentice Points per team on Task 6 (as awarded by Karren, Tim and Claude) were allocated to:

- on Winning Team - Harvey and Alex
- on Runners Up Team - Kyra
- on Losing Team - Evie & Nila

Outstanding Apprentice Points per team on Task 6 (as awarded by Peers) were allocated to

- on Winning Team - Jack & Alex
- on Runners Up Team - Oliver & Ishita
- on Losing Team - Nila & Henry





## NATIONAL READING CHAMPIONS QUIZ

On Wednesday 20th March, the annual National Reading Champions Quiz was held in the school library where Yarm School competed against 21 other schools from all around the North East of England. For our school we had two teams - one team of First Years, the other of Second Years (Team A and Team B) and we are proud to say that Team B came 2nd and Team A came 9th!

The quiz consisted of 8 rounds, all of them slightly different. For example, the first round consisted of matching a book and author to the correct

blurb, and in another you had to guess the book from a video acted out by the quizmaster, Mr Dilly, who brought a sense of humour to the morning with his top hat, polished off with a feather and goggles!

In preparation for the quiz, we attended a number of meetings in the school library to practise similar questions, kindly organised by Mrs Mason. This was an excellent team-building challenge and was a lot of fun too, something all of us will cherish and never forget!



We would both highly recommend this to anyone who loves books and reading.

Overall, it was really an enjoyable and amazing experience - a great way to spend our morning!

Izzy Barrass and Eliza Fellows,  
Second Year

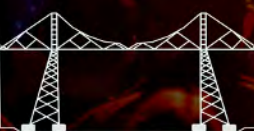
**SATURDAY 27TH APRIL, 2024, 7.30PM**

**TICKETS: £15 & £10 (CONCESSIONS)**

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT [THEPAAONLINE.ORG](http://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



## LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

We're very pleased to report that all the books are now finally back in the school library after the massive refurbishment project that has taken place over the last year!

The library has a stock of nearly 25,000 items and we started packing it in boxes after the Easter holidays and filled 258 boxes with non-fiction, 5 boxes with oversize books, 88 boxes with junior fiction, 36 boxes with senior fiction, and 28 boxes with picture books, jigsaw puzzles, games, dvds, miscellany, and, of course, the library teddy! As we packed, we also scanned every item's barcode – after all, you might as well do a stock check at the same time! And we also combined the stock from the main and sixth form libraries, as the new library is mainly one big space rather

than the two it was previously.

Throughout all this the library remained open to our users until 2 weeks before the end of term when the shelving started being dismantled and we moved into a classroom.

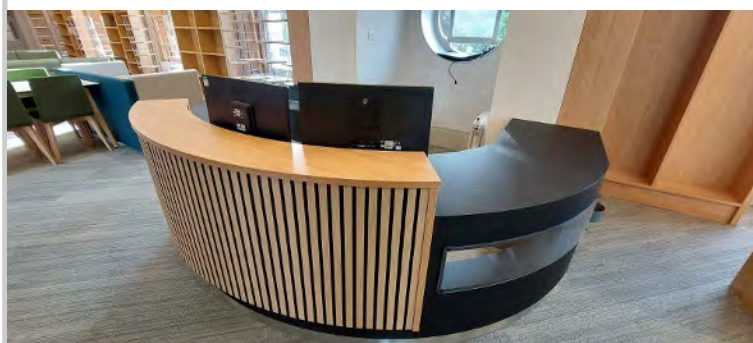
Unpacking the boxes once the library refurbishment work was completed in the autumn term, was slightly more challenging as the space is now configured quite differently and we had to decide the best way of arranging it – needless to say we've had to move some things more than once, and we needed extra shelves adding! But it is now looking really impressive and our pupils and



staff are enjoying using it.

Lots of people have helped us with packing and unpacking over the last year – thank you very much for your help. Particular thanks go to Mrs Jos Thompson, Mrs Blakemore and the Library Leaders activity group, and to Mr Liam Pereira who, being tall, has had the unenviable task of stocking the extremely high shelves that go right up to the ceiling!

Mrs D Mason





YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS:



# CASINO ROYALE

SUMMER BALL 2024

SATURDAY, JUN 15TH

7PM - LATE

THE PAA

LIVE MUSIC FROM THE BOURBON STREET BAND  
EARLY BIRD TICKETS JUST £75 FROM CLASSLIST





# Disney

# Inspired

## Recycled Garment Competition



Products will be worn  
Tuesday 23<sup>th</sup> April  
**Fashion Show**  
Senior School PAA - 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





## NETBALL NEWS

The netball season at Yarm has concluded and netball has broken yet more records for the 3rd year in a row! I am immensely proud, knowing that the girls have outdone themselves again and that I can share more records that have been broken by our amazing netball squads.

We continue to have over 200 girls choosing to commit their lunch and after school time to training and competing for school this year. This is a fantastic achievement and we are proud of all of the girls give up their time to continue to grow the reputation and standards of netball at our school.

### League

We entered a record number of teams into the Stockton Schools

Netball League. We are currently awaiting league results but after having many teams promoted last year, the girls have done a fantastic job of 'holding their own' in new, higher leagues and more importantly, have all thoroughly enjoyed the journey.

### National Cups

This year we entered the Sisters n Sport National Cup. This is a knockout cup where the regional parts of the country play off against each other; eventually leaving the regional winners to compete against each other to reach the final and be crowned National Cup champions.

All teams had a fantastic cup run this year. The U13, U15 and U16 teams all finished top 8 and the U12 team

reached the semi-finals.

### National Schools Competition

October saw the first round of our National Schools competition campaign, where our U14, U16 and U19 teams all competed and were successful in qualifying for the regional rounds, which were to be played in February. This gave the girls several months to gel together and really work at solidifying their teams. The girls were immediately enthused at the opportunity to compete at this level and the possibility of qualifying as one of the top schools in the country. The Regional rounds were largely successful, with both the U14 and U16 teams cementing their place in the 2024 National Schools Netball Finals in Peterborough as the



The U14 team and their supporters at the National Finals!



## NETBALL NEWS (CONT.)

number 1 teams in the North East. The girls knew that the hard work had to continue as they were about to compete against some of the best schools in the country.

The finals were an unmissable experience for the girls and one they would never forget. The teams competed in an all day long tournament, with many opposition players present who played at international level. The U16 team experienced wins and losses that brought valuable experience. Each and every girl stepped up in the finals and made themselves and our entire school proud by equalling the U16 record and achieving joint 13th place in the country.

Next it was the U14 who hugely exceeded the school record for any

age group last year, coming 4th place but...the girls were hungry for more. This squad had said goodbye to some of its older players and welcomed several new assets to the squad, from 3rd, 2nd and impressively 1st year. The girls went through second in their group and lost the semi-final by 1 goal to Putney High School, after leading the majority of the game by 2 goals. Next, the familiar battle of 3rd/4th place playoff, and the girls were determined not to miss out on that bronze medal this time around. I remember saying last year the girls were hungry for more and to watch this space. Well... we are all so proud to announce that the girls delivered on their promise and brought home the bronze medal, beating King's School Macclesfield a fantastic 18-8.

### Other Achievements

U12A winners of Shropshire netball cup tournament

U12B Shropshire netball tournament plate winners

U12B Shropshire netball tournament plate runners-up

### Netball honours

A huge congratulations to:

Ella Fitzgerald for gaining her 1st international cap for the Republic of Ireland U17 Netball Squad and the Euros earlier this month. Ella is only 13 years of age and impressively managed to achieve 100% shooting stats against the eventual tournament winners, England.







Miss L Hodgson





## GIRLS HOCKEY

Our local league competitions finished this term with the girls placing well in higher and/or older leagues

-  U12B came second in the U12A league
-  U112C came second in the U12B league
-  U12A are the U13A league champions
-  U13C are the U13B league champions
-  U13A/B came 4th in the U14 11-a-side league
-  U14 are the U16 league champions

Miss N Hodgson





## RUGBY NEWS

Although the focus of this term is 7s, the U15 team still had their 15 a-side Continental Tyres National Bowl competition. The team entered the latter stages of the competition after some great wins pre Christmas. They carried on in the same form against Ripon Grammar in January with a big win which then took them into the national ¼ final where they lost to the eventual winners from Reading.

On the 7s front, it has been another excellent season both at training and in tournaments regionally and nationally. The number of boys participating is high and competition

for places is fierce; training sessions have been hugely positive.

This hard work has transferred itself to game day and we once again have succeeded above expectations, regularly punching above our weight. We have played some brilliant 7s at times across the age groups. This season we have recorded wins against and finished ahead of the likes of; Merchiston Castle, Sedbergh, Barnard Castle, Durham, RGS Newcastle, Woodhouse Grove, Bradford Grammar to mention a few!

**Tournament success** (Despite the weather cancelling several events)

**U12** - Plate Winners at the NSB North East tournament

**U13** - Terrington Hall Cup Winners (North and Scotland)

- Plate Winners at North 7s Ampleforth

- Plate Winners at Young 7s North East

**U15** - Plate Winners Archer 7s North East

**U15** - North Invitational 7s Bronze Medal

**U16** - Group winners North 7s Woodhouse Grove





**RUGBY NEWS (CONTINUED)**

The season builds towards the Rosslyn Park National Schools' 7s which was once again the biggest

school rugby tournament in the world, with over 800 sides participating!

group matches against the likes of Whitgift



We had a really good year with some extremely good 7s being played and many good wins which drew the attention and praise of a good number of schools watching ;

U14's - scoring some great tries in all their

U16's - playing some of the best 7s ever seen by a Yarm team in recording wins against big established schools like Bryanston 33-10 and Watford Grammar 47-14

U13's - played 5 games, winning against the likes of Caterham, RGS Lancaster and schools from Wales, only loss was in the group decider 6-4 to RGS Worcester.

Mr C Webb

**YARM SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM OF THE SEASON**

2023/24

Alfie Arnold U14	George Routledge U12	Myles Burton U14	Sam Arnold U16/1st XV	Freddie Briston-Smith U14
Tom Burchall U16 / 1st XV	Jack Smith U13	Christian Boyes U13		
Oliver Blake U15	Harry Wildridge 1st XV	Matthew McCullagh 1st XV		
Wilf Sawyer U12	Olly Carr U15	Rorke Anderson U13	Jacob Rutter 1st XV	
Paddy Key U15	Harry Carter U16	James Callaghan U12		

**YARM SCHOOL RUGBY MOST IMPROVED TEAM OF THE SEASON**

2023/24

Harry Rodwell 1st XV	Sam Page 1st XV	Austin Elliott U13	Charlie Leggett U16	Deacon Hughes U15
Udham Chahal U12	Joel Buckley U14	Oliver Armstrong U12		
Dan Townsend 1st XV	Henry Bottomley U15	Alfie Insall U14		
Luke Elliott U14	Theo Scott U13	Alex Carter U16	Harvey Dawson U15	
Eddie Shakesheff U12	Ayrton Cant U13	Will Bromlley U16		



## CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Sabie Anderson and Nikhil Shouri who ran in the English Schools National Cross Country Championships on Saturday/Sunday 16th/17th March.

This is a massive achievement to make it to this stage in the competition progressing through school, district, county and regional rounds, well done to both.

Miss N Hodgson



**YARM SCHOOL BOYS HOCKEY TEAM OF THE SEASON**  
SEASON 2023 to 2024

**JULIE CRACK** U15

**JAMES CALLAGHAN** U12

**JAKE LEADER** U16

**JAKE LEADER** U16

**FENWICK MITCHELL** U12

**WILF SAWYER** U12

**WILL FERGUSON** 1st XI

**TIMMY TOLLY** 1st XI

**RORKE ANDERSON** U13

**DHRUV WADEHRA** U16

**MONTY PROCTOR** U13

**MAX MOWBRAY** 1st XI

**MYLES BROWN** U18

**HARRY BROTHWOOD** U14

**JOE ROBERTS** 1st XI

**MYLES BROWN** 1st XI

**OLLIE GRAY** U13

**MATTHEW ROBSON** U12

**JAMES MUIR** 1st XI

**YARM SCHOOL BOYS HOCKEY MOST IMPROVED TEAM OF THE SEASON**  
SEASON 2023 to 2024

**EDDIE SHAKESHEFF** U12

**JACK SEVERN** U12

**LUKE PALMER** U13

**SHOLA AFOLABI** U15

**MARSHALL PAGE** U15

**JACOB HARDY** U15

**BEN BARDGETT** U15

**SETH TAYLOR** U12

**OLLIE BEST** U18

**SAM MATTHEWS** U14

**BEN PUMPHREY** U13

**FREDDIE BIRKIN** U13

**EDDIE CARTER** 1st XI

**REHAN KRISHNA MOORTHY** U13

**THOMAS FERGUSON** U12

**MAX MILLINGTON** U15

**AADIT KAPOOR** U14

**JAYDON ZHANG** U13

**LUKE WALTON** U15



### YARM SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM OF THE SEASON 2023 - 2024



The roster is displayed on a netball court background with a blue and white color scheme. Each player's name and year level are shown next to a red and black netball jersey icon.

Libby Scott U13	Ella Fitzgerald U13		
Sienna Hyndman U14	Ava Holmes U14	Imogen Barker U12	Harlowe Bell U12
Amelia Hudson U15	Poppy De-Roché U15		
Freya Armstrong U15	Hannah Muzawazi U16	Lola Vasilou U16	Izzie Speight Senior
Estelle Orr Senior	Izzy Bottomley Senior		

### YARM SCHOOL NETBALL MOST IMPROVED TEAM OF THE SEASON 2023 - 2024



The roster is displayed on a netball court background with a blue and white color scheme. Each player's name and year level are shown next to a red and black netball jersey icon.

Beatrix Allcock U12	Mollie Subeson U12		
Annabelle Kyle U13	Charlotte Ferreira U13	Molly Raine U14	Charlotte Dawson U14
Gracie Rhodes-Hildreth U15	Kitty Illingsworth U15		
Naila Krishnamoorthy U15	Lily Arvanitis U16	Olivia Mitchell U16	Isobel Keetley Senior
Indeya Hewison Senior	Kayla Roberts Senior		

### YARM SCHOOL GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM OF THE SEASON SEASON 2023 to 2024



The roster is displayed on a hockey field background with a light blue and white color scheme. Each player's name and year level are shown next to a red hockey jersey icon.

Cody S U16	Ellie G U12	Zara K U12	
Anushri W U13	Lucy M U14		
Amelie S U14	Mara M U15	Eva L U15	Sophie H U16
Alice W U16	Scarlett C 1st XI	Estelle O 2nd XI	
Daisy N U12	Sophie M U13		

### YARM SCHOOL GIRLS HOCKEY MOST IMPROVED TEAM OF THE SEASON SEASON 2023 to 2024



The roster is displayed on a hockey field background with a light blue and white color scheme. Each player's name and year level are shown next to a red hockey jersey icon.

Gillian T U14	Dora B U12	Nona D U12	
Hannah D U13	Anna G U14		
Tilly P-H U15	Molly W U15	Pippa F U16	Olivia M U16
Rosie F 1st XI	Cara M 2nd XI	Akansha M U12	
Elizabeth A U13	Charlotte B U14		



## JUNIOR SKI TRIP

During February half term, the junior ski trip headed to Salzburger Sportwelt in Austria. A really good area offering several hundred kilometres of linked skiing, across the likes of Alpendorf, Wagrain and many more, which offered a great skiing experience for all abilities. It was awesome to see the development of all pupils during the week with them all skiing around the mountains and experiencing the ranges of snow conditions. The various villages in the area provided great opportunities for evening entertainment, including swimming, Austrian bowling, the luge toboggan and a quiz night.

It was a fantastic trip made all the better by the brilliant 'can do' attitude of all skiers who threw themselves into everything all week.

Look out for details of next year's trip.

Mr C Webb



## CHAKA - THE MUSIC OF CHAKA KHAN

Honouring the fabulous legendary singer and songwriter who has captivated audiences and inspired generations of singers for over five decades with her funk, soul, pop and dance hits, Chaka – The Music of Chaka Khan is the ultimate musical tribute celebrating an icon.

Friday 3rd May, 7.30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



## THE REAL THING

Best known for their legendary hits 'You To Me Are Everything', 'Can't Get By Without You' and 'Can You Feel the Force', as well as their ground-breaking 1977 song, 'Children of the Ghetto', The Real Thing remain Britain's most successful black group of all-time.

With special guest Ritchie Sampson from the multi-award winning group, Soul Kinda Wonderful.

Friday 24th May, 7.30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



## CIRQUE THE GREATEST SHOW

Returning for 2024 a brand new show!

Where Musical Theatre Meets Circus, It's time to step into the light. Escape with us for a night like no other, where we take you into a world where the very best of musical theatre showstoppers meets jaw-dropping circus spectacular. A world that explodes into colour as everyone's favourite West End and Broadway hits combine with breath-taking, amazing performances, incredible contortionists, and thrilling feats of agility and flair.



Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th May (Both) 3pm and 7pm

[Book Online Here](#)



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

### 1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE



Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

### 2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS



Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

### 3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS



Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

### 4 LISTEN ACTIVELY



When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

### 5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS



Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

### 6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries; this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

### 7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

### 8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS



Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here; you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

### 9 PROVIDE RESOURCES



It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

### 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

## Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®