



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 774 — Friday 3rd May 2024

### A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier. I am delighted to share with you the exciting news that we have been shortlisted in the prestigious TES Schools Awards 2024 (the Oscars of education!) in the Independent Prep School of the Year category. To be shortlisted as one of the top independent prep schools in the country is a superb achievement that we can all celebrate. It is a reflection on the collaboration, dedication, opportunities and outcomes that our pupils, staff, parents and partner schools work hard to achieve together.

In amongst the range of clubs, activities, fixtures and trips that are in full swing, it has been a real treat to have visiting experts join us in school and online. The chance to work with and hear from a diverse range of visiting experts really does enhance all aspects of school life. Our Arts Award pupils had the opportunity to meet local textile artist Lucy Storrs who shared how she creates stunning pieces using British wool and what a career as an artist entails. Our pupils enjoyed watching how Lucy creates her works through a live technique demonstration and are looking forward to creating a collaborative piece in the near future. Year 5 took part in our annual anti-racism workshop which was delivered by Show Racism the Red Card and kindly sponsored by the YPSSC. These particular workshops are always very enjoyable but carry an important message for our pupils that they are implored to carry forward and share. One evening this week a number of parents also joined others online for a Q&A webinar with Dr Kathy Weston which focused on building good online habits and digital resilience in our children. If you were unable to attend the webinar it is well worth viewing the recording which is available for the next few days and has been sent via email.

*Bill Sawyer*

**Head's Challenge:** I am as bright as sunshine on a warm day, I can never be sold or grow old. I am more precious than gold. What am I?



**Photo of the Week:** The cricket season is underway for boys and girls, with the U10/11 girls enjoying their first fixture of the season last Friday.

## Yarm Prep shortlisted for Best Independent Prep Award

Yarm Prep School has been shortlisted in the category of Independent Prep School of the Year in the 2023 Tes Schools Awards.

Dubbed the 'Oscars of education', the Tes Schools Awards celebrate the best of education across the UK recognising teachers and schools from UK state and independent schools, across early years settings, primary and secondary education.

The shortlist was compiled by a panel of notable judges, including school leaders and other educational experts. The schools and teachers they chose showcase the best educational practice across the sector across 21 award categories, covering all areas of school education.

Mr Bill Sawyer, Head of Yarm Prep, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been shortlisted for this prestigious national award for our school and our partnerships work. I am extremely proud of the pupils and teachers at Yarm who make our partnerships possible, as well as the schools and organisations we partner with.

"Since 2022, we have taken our activities on the road which has meant all our partner schools can access them regardless of budgetary or time constraints. Our VR workshops are led by Prep pupils and they relish the role of facilitator sharing their knowledge and teaching other pupils."

Headmaster, Dr Huw Williams, added "Yarm Prep is thriving, and positively shaping the lives of young people here at Yarm and beyond, through our outstanding provision within school and the impactful partnership programmes we coordinate and participate in. This recognition of staff and pupils at the Prep is richly deserved."



“

Children thoroughly enjoyed the VR session. So many of our children, will never have the opportunity to experience using this sort of technology. Children will go on to write an extended piece of writing from today's new learning. Lovely gentlemen who delivered the session. The digital leaders had lots of patience with the children...

”

Quote from partner school

Jon Severs, Editor of Tes Magazine said, "Congratulations to all the shortlisted entries - the standard was so high this year despite the challenges schools face. It is critical we celebrate excellence and share it widely so we can ensure that the fantastic work happening in education is properly recognised."

Winners will be announced on 21st June at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane, in London.



## Arts Award visiting artist - Lucy Storrs

Lucy visited the Arts Award children on Wednesday afternoon. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about art as a career option and the techniques Lucy uses to create her images. Lucy kindly did a demonstration of the wet felting technique and we plan to create a collaborative piece in the coming weeks, inspired by Lucy and her beautiful work. Thank you very much for visiting us, Lucy.

*Mrs Shepherd*





## Year 3 Making Rocks!

Year 3 have been making rocks this week! We shaved crayons and applied as much pressure as possible to form sedimentary rock, then heated the shavings and cooled to create Igneous rock and finally created metamorphic rock.

It was incredibly interesting to see how each are formed over time.

*Mr Pengilly*



## A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

IN AID OF DIABETES UK



TICKETS £5

THURSDAY 9TH MAY 2024 6:30 PM

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM, YARM SCHOOL

**DIABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

It was a pleasure to welcome former pupil Izzie to assembly this week, who spoke about a concert she is running (and some of our dancers are performing in) next week (see left). Tickets available from the PAA box office.



## 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

## Summer Key Events

Please note this is an abridged version of the email sent to all parents prior to the start of term. *Please keep an eye on it each week for updates, which will be written in red.*

**Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday; School closed**

**Tuesday 7th May - Class, U11 sports teams and music ensemble photographs**

Please can all children from N-Y6 come to school in the correct summer uniform today. Children involved in the sports and music photos will also need to bring in their games kit and musical instrument.

**Wednesday 8th May - Y4 Vindolanda residential**

Year 4 depart to Northumbria today. They will return by 4pm on Friday 10th May.

**Monday 13th May - Y5 Drama Week**

It will be Year 5's turn to enjoy their Drama Week, with a view to putting on a performance to parents. This will take place in the new hall on Friday 17th May at 4pm - full details will be sent to parents nearer the time.

**Wednesday 15th May - Preparation for Year 1 (for Reception parents)**

Parents of children in Reception are invited to a meeting to find out what Year 1 is like ahead of the new academic year. It takes place in the Studio Hall between 6-7pm. [Parents are asked to sign up for this by clicking here.](#)

**Monday 20th May - Y6 Lakes residential**

Year 6 depart for the Lake District today. They will return at 7pm on Thursday 23rd May.

**Tuesday 21st May - Y2 Edinburgh trip**

Full details of this trip will be sent to parents shortly.

**Thursday 23rd May - Half-term begins (after school)**

This is the last school day before half-term. Please note that [school is closed on Friday 24th May.](#)

As you will know, the second half of the Summer term is very busy indeed! We will send out key details closer to the time but in the meantime, here are a few dates for your diaries:

- **Monday 3rd June** - Pupils return to school.

- **Friday 7th June** - Dance Showcase (involving Y3-6 dancers).

- **Monday 10th June** - Y3 York residential departs (return on Tuesday 11th June).

- **Wednesday 12th June** - Induction Day for current Year 6 at the Senior School.

- **Thursday 13th June** - Prep Summer concert.

- **Friday 14th June** - Bring Your Dads to School (Pre-Prep).

- **Wednesday 19th June** - Nursery Sports Afternoon.

- **Friday 21st June** - Summer Fair (2-5pm - full details coming in early May).

- **Monday 24th June** - Prep Induction Morning (R-Y5).

- **Tuesday 25th June** - Open Afternoon (Y3-6).

- **Wednesday 26th June** - Pre-Prep Sports Morning; Y6 Pupils v Parents Sports.

- **Friday 28th June** - Prep Sports Day (Middlesbrough Sports Village); All clubs and activities finish today.

- **Monday 1st July** - Pre-Prep Celebration (5pm; PAA).

- **Wednesday 3rd July** - Prep Prize Giving (5.45pm; PAA); Nursery Celebration (2pm; Studio Hall).

- **Thursday 4th July** - End of term at 12 noon; no after school care.

Thank you as always for your support.

Mr Stone

## Show Racism the Red Card

It was great to welcome Demi from *Show Racism the Red Card*, as she delivered our annual Year 5 anti-racism workshops. Our thanks to the YPSSC for funding this vital activity for our children.



Mr Stone

I learnt that saying racist words is illegal and you can be fined or even serve jail time. I also learnt how not to make assumptions about people on the basis of their skin colour.



Jack A.

Yesterday I learnt that people shouldn't insult people because of their skin colour, nationality and religion we should respect



others. We are no different to others

Sandy O.

## Running Club



It was great so see so many enthusiastic faces turn up for running club during Wednesday activity! We shared our reasons as to wanting to join running club and then set some challenging goals for the club to achieve by the end of the academic year. After warming up, we set off and headed for the river loop. The children kept a brilliant pace and most importantly took it as an opportunity to catch up with their friends! What a great way to keep fit, look after our wellbeing and get out into the local community.

Miss Whitehouse and Mr Grundmann

## Y6 Stephenson Dance

Stephenson have worked so hard in dance activity during Monday's Carousel. They worked as a team, learned choreography and even made up their own routines! Great resilience, team work and enthusiasm was on display! [To view their finished dance routine, click here.](#)

Miss Whitehouse

## PE & Games News

Last Friday, the U10 and U11 Girls welcomed Pocklington School to a warm and sunny Yarm. This was the first fixture of the Summer term and for some was their first experience of cricket. Everyone that played showed a great attitude throughout, there was some accurate bowling that took



wickets, smart fielding that created runouts and impressive batting that resulted in many runs being scored! Well done all!

Mr Simpson

## Coming Up at the PAA

### Box of Tricks - Tom Rolfe

**Saturday 11th May 11am, 1pm and 3pm**

Join Yarm panto regular 'Tom Rolfe' for a brand new, fun packed show featuring hilarious magic, mind boggling balloon modelling, super dangerous juggling and maybe even a custard pie or two!

Running time approx. 45 mins.



### Temple of Delusion

**Saturday 1st June,**

**2.30pm** The stars of CBBC'S number one show "Danny and Mick" are embarking on a new adventure and theatre tour for 2024.

In a faraway land that time forgot, the ancient treasures, mysteries and magic of an old and forgotten civilisation lay in hiding for only the brave (and the mistaken) to find...!



And so it is that our hapless heroes set off on another adventure full of mistakes, pitfalls and danger! Guaranteed fun and thrills for all the family!

## Holiday School Dates

### Summer 2024:

15th July to 2nd August (15 days)

### October 2024:

21st—25th October (5 days)

### Christmas 2024:

16th—20th December 2024

### Easter 2025:

7th—11th April 2025

### Summer 2025:

14th July—1st August 2025



## Tooled Up Education

Tooled Up is for everyone. For parents, carers and all school staff, the parents of young children right through to those leaving home, Toolled Up is your 'one stop resource'.

**Mental Health Literacy.** Half of all mental health conditions are diagnosed before the age of 14, and 75% by the age of 24. We care deeply about these figures and about the actions we can take to improve children's outcomes. Learning and understanding more is key. Dip into our [webinars](#) hosted by clinicians who have everyday experience of working with children and young people. Enjoy this [summary](#) of proactive tips to apply within family life.

**Digital Life.** When should you buy your child a smartphone?

What [factors](#) should you consider? How do we support our children to navigate the digital world? Enjoy Dr Weston's [advice](#) on Raising a "Digital Detective": a child who is both discerning and self-protective. How can we help teens to [curate](#) their social media feeds so that positive body image is sustained rather than compromised?

**Life Challenges:** What does it mean to be resilient? This [video](#) explains the concept of resilience to primary-aged children. They can also benefit from our [activity](#) on reframing disappointment when things don't turn out as planned! Moving into the teenage years, try Dr Weston's [webinar](#) on "Raising A Resilient Teen" might prove helpful. Change is always coming! One change that many families will confront this year is a child moving into a new year group or setting. Change is coming (in the form of changing year groups or moves into new settings). Check out our programme of upcoming online talks on transition coming up in [June](#).

This is just a tiny sample of the resources available to you. If you can't find what you need on our platform, have a question pertaining to your family or want to suggest a new Toolled Up topic, simply use the [support](#) button and we will get back to you ASAP.

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.



The A-Z of Supporting  
Children's Mental Health



Buying Your Child A  
Smartphone

# TOOLED UP®

BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Can Learn from the OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2024

Each year, Ofcom – the UK's regulatory body for communications – produces an overview of children and parents' media experiences over the course of the previous year. At the time of writing, the latest of these reports, 'Children and parents: media use and attitudes 2024' has just been published, and we've plucked out some of its most thought-provoking findings regarding online safety.

## ONLINE LIVES

**99%**

of 8-17s  
had regular  
access to the  
internet

**65%**

of 13-17s  
prefer short videos  
to films and TV

**34%**

experienced  
harassment or  
bullying online

**11-18s**

felt more confident  
communicating online (71%)  
than in person (53%)

**87%**

of 8-17s  
felt pressure to be  
popular on social media

## SCREEN TIME

By children's age group, the percentage of parents who felt less able to manage their child's screentime were ...



## POPULAR PLATFORMS

Most used by  
children ...

Under-12s

YouTube  
**89%**

WhatsApp  
**37%**

TikTok  
**35%**

Snapchat  
**27%**

Instagram  
**22%**

Over-12s

YouTube  
**88%**

WhatsApp  
**82%**

TikTok  
**78%**

Snapchat  
**73%**

Instagram  
**69%**

## ONLINE GAMING

**68%** of children played  
video games online

Who did these children  
most commonly play with?

**74%**  
played with  
someone they know

**32%**  
played with  
strangers

## ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

**93%** 8-17s had at least one  
lesson about online safety

**93%** of children are aware of  
at least one thing they  
can do to stay safe online

**91%** children found these lessons  
useful

**78%** of 8-17s were aware of age  
restrictions for apps

**40%** admitted to faking  
their age to bypass  
these limits

## PARENTAL CONCERNS

The things that most commonly  
worry parents and carers about  
their child being online include ...

**77%** seeing  
age-inappropriate  
content

**70%** being harassed or  
bullied

**68%** seeing  
pro-self-harm  
content

**62%** having their data  
gathered by  
companies

**59%** being influenced  
by extreme views

**55%** having their  
reputation  
damaged

**51%** being pressured to  
spend money

## DEVICES MOST USED TO GO ONLINE

3-4s

**67%**  
use tablets

5-7s

**77%**  
use tablets

8-10s

**73%**  
use tablets

11-15s

**95%**  
use phones

15-17s

**97%**  
use phones

#WakeUp  
Wednesday®

The  
National  
College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/media-use-and-attitudes-report-2024](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/media-use-and-attitudes-report-2024)

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YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS:



# CASINO ROYALE

SUMMER BALL 2024

SATURDAY, JUN 15TH

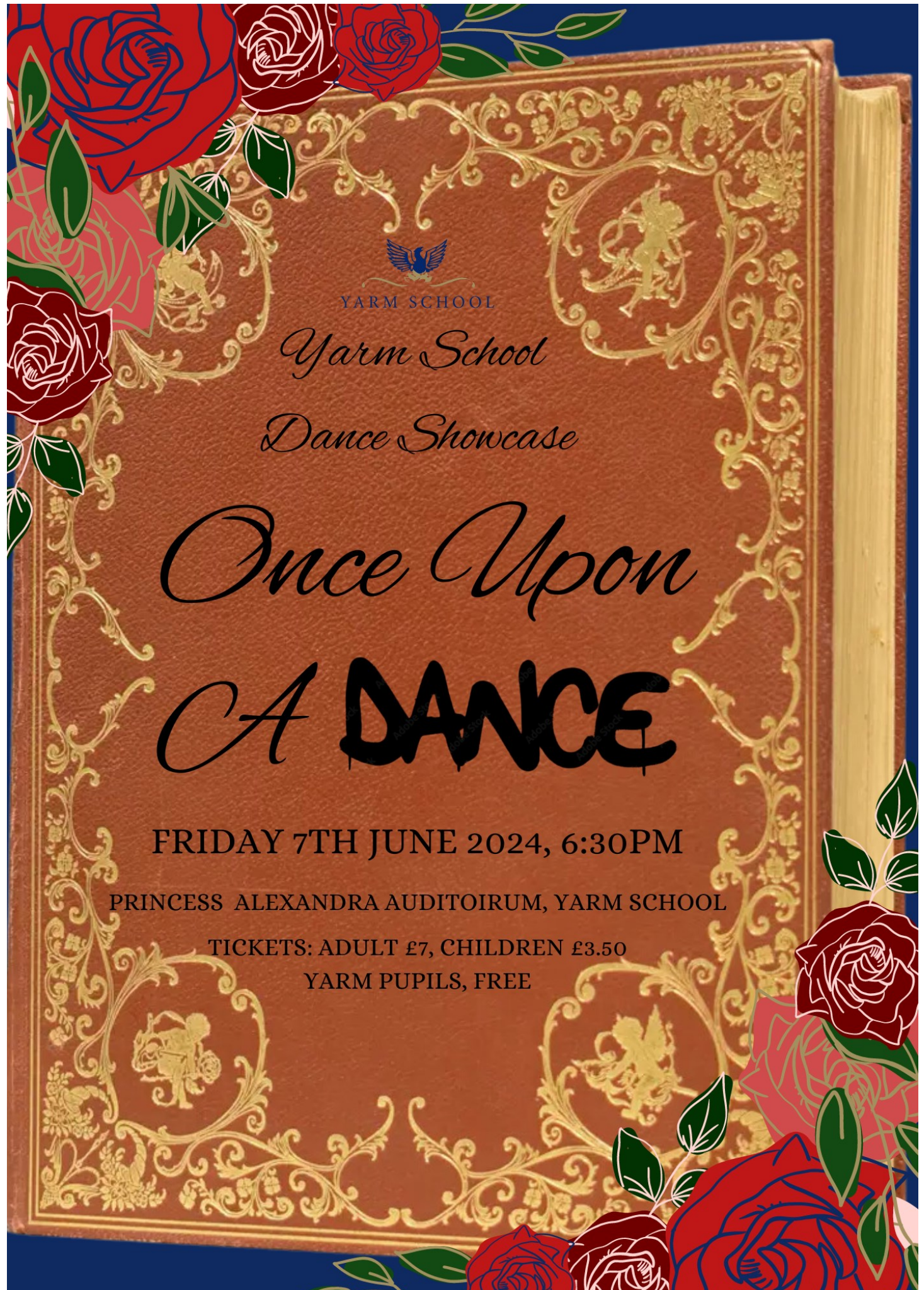
7PM - LATE

THE PAA

EARLY BIRD TICKETS JUST £75 FROM CLASSLIST









# Coming Up

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

## MAY 2024

Sun 5th	UK Chess Challenge Mega Final (PAA; 10am start, 5pm finish)
Mon 6th	<b>School closed; Bank Holiday</b>
Tue 7th	<b>Class photographs</b> Summer Fair launched to Year 6 pupils Y3 rocks talk with Emma Hilditch U8 Boys' Cricket v Cundall Manor (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) U8 Girls' Cricket v Cundall Manor (home; 2pm start) Summer Fair launched to Year 6 with mentors
Wed 8	Eco Club assembly <b>Year 4 Vindolanda residential departs</b>
Fri 10	Year 4 return from Vindolanda (4pm) U10/11 Girls' Cricket v Durham (away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return) U10/11 Boys' Cricket v DCSF (home; 2pm start)
Sat 11	<b>Open Morning</b> (9am-12noon)
Mon 13	Year 5 Drama Week commences Year 3 Activities Carousel 5 begins
Tue 14	<b>School Captains Day</b>
Wed 15	House assemblies Preparation for Y1 (meeting for Reception parents; 6pm)
Fri 17	Y5 Drama Week Performance (4.15pm) U11 Girls' Cricket v Red House (home; 2.15pm start) RD visit to Marske Beach
Mon 20	<b>Year 6 Lakes residential departs</b>
Tue 21	Yarm Clay Day (Partnerships event) Yarm Schools Quiz (Partnerships event) Year 3 Sports Afternoon (Partnerships event) <b>Year 2 trip to Edinburgh</b>
Wed 22	Digital Leaders visit to Yarm Primary
Thu 24	Year 4 Sports Afternoon (Partnerships event) <b>Y6 return from the Lakes (7pm)</b> <b>Half-term begins after school</b> After School Care as usual
Fri 24	<b>School closed</b>

## JUNE 2024

Mon 3	<b>Pupils return</b> Dance Showcase rehearsals (3-5pm)
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# Term Dates

## Summer Term 2024

Pupils Return	Monday 3rd June 2024
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Finish	Thursday 4th July 2024 At 12 noon (after school; no after school care)
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## 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)

## Summer Term, 2025

Pupils return	Wednesday, 23rd April 2025
Bank Holiday	Monday, 5th May 2025
Half term begins	Thursday, 22nd May 2025 (after school)
Pupils return	Monday, 2nd June 2025
Term ends	Thursday, 3rd July 2025 (after Prize Giving)

# Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	William D.	Ayah B.
3J	Joshua A.	Agam V.
3P	Jayden G.	Lucy A.
4F	Emily W.	Robert W.
4J	Jana A.	Jude C.
4S	Ziad S.	Sia S.
5G	Daisy C.	Max J.
5H	Felicity W.	Martha L.
5K	Jack S.	Ayaana K.
6H	Clemmie H.	Heidi K.
6L	Wahaj M.	Lolwa S.
6W	Laurel G.	Violet F.

## Head Teacher Awards:

**Year 6:** Eric PF., Sri R., Harrison C., Pradyoth K., William L., Flynn N., James A.

## Music Awards:

**Bronze:** Freddie B., Shanvi P., Zaviyar R.