



# The Phoenix Flier

## The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 804 — Friday 14th March 2025

### A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this edition of The Phoenix Flier, which provides a round-up of recent events at the Prep School. Last Friday's Prep Disco was a tremendous success, with pupils dancing the night away. From the very first beat, it was clear they had "the moves like Jagger," bringing the energy and excitement we've come to expect. The atmosphere was a little more refined at our recent informal music concert, where many young musicians experienced performing in front of an audience for the first time. It was wonderful to see them building confidence and resilience while demonstrating their developing skills—valuable qualities that extend far beyond music and can be applied to other areas of life, regardless of age. Meanwhile, as you'll see in the following pages, we are proud to celebrate the success of our more experienced performers, who recently achieved outstanding results at the highly competitive Harrogate Festival. Their accomplishments certainly highlight that dedication and hard work pay off.

The school has felt somewhat quieter this week with Year 5 away on their residential trip to London, where they are soaking up the delights of the Big Smoke and exploring aspects of their recent Tudor studies in history by visiting the Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament. With a riverboat trip along the Thames, a few West End shows, and much more, there are plenty of opportunities for personal growth and the creation of treasured memories. My sincere thanks go to the staff for organising such an ambitious and enriching trip. I look forward to hearing all about it upon their return.

*Bill  
Sawyer*

### Head's Challenge:

What do cows  
drink that you put  
in tea?

### Photo of the Week:

World  
Book Day gave the  
children (and  
staff!) another  
opportunity to  
dress up for a  
special occasion!



**Tes Schools Awards 2024**

**Winner**

Independent  
Prep School  
of the Year





# World Book Day

World Book Day 2025 was a huge success, as children celebrated reading throughout the school. With the theme this year being 'Read Your Way', the pupils in Year 6 visited the children in Pre-Prep to share their favourite stories and celebrate 'Reading Their Way'. Year 3 read a childhood favourite of Dear Zoo and rewrote it by creating their own version to share with Nursery.

The day culminated with our Reading Cafe in the Hazel Andrews' hall, where families from across the school came together to celebrate 'Reading Your Way'. It was wonderful to see so many attend to share books from the Scholastic Book Fair as well as other familiar picture books and texts.

Thank you for making World Book Day 2025 a memorable experience for all.

*Mr Pengilley*



## WBD Book Cover Competition

The winners from the World Book Day book cover competition were as follows:

Y2 - Miesha Abdullah

Y3 - Isabelle Fraser

Y4 - Connie Bowers

Y5 - Freddie Bonner

Y6 - Connie Bowers

Each winner received a £5 voucher to spend at the book fair.

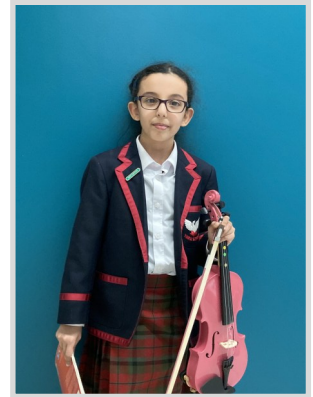
*Mr Pengilley*



# Spring Concert

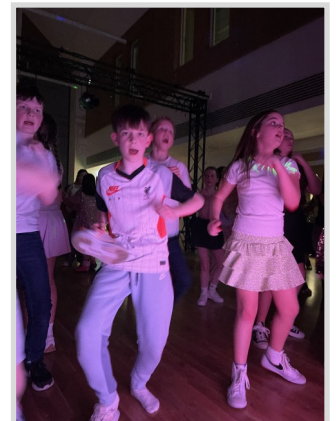
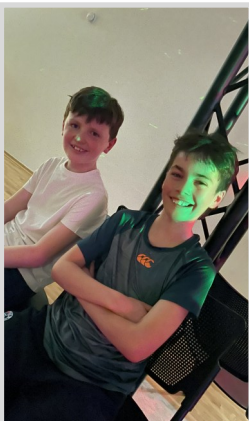
This term's Spring concert was a special event; almost everybody performing a solo was doing so for this first time this year or for the first time ever. Everybody performed beautifully and our soloists were supplemented by the choir, orchestra, guitar groups, string group and recorder ensemble. Performance opportunities like this are precious and it is lovely to see so much potential coming through.

*Mr Gooding*





# Prep Disco





# Year 5 in London

A few images from the Year 5 London residential. A more in-depth report will appear in next week's edition of the Flier.





# PE and Games News

## Year 3 Swimming

Stephenson and Telford have thrown themselves into their swimming lessons. The groups are working on technique and water confidence. It has been great to see their skills build week on week and we look forward to seeing their further progress.



Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



## U11 Hockey v Barnard Castle

The U11 Boys entertained Barnard Castle school in three matches of hockey. All games were highly competitive, with the Yarm boys continuing their development and understanding of the game. There were a number of well worked goals on all pitches as well as several goal line clearances.

It is great to see all of the boys enjoy their hockey and continue to take all of their learning from lessons into game situations.

Mr Simpson

## School and Club Sports

It is great to see so many of our pupils attending local clubs and we highly recommend joining one to aid learning further.

### Cricket

Yarm Cricket Club—<https://yarmcc.play-cricket.com/home>

Stockton Cricket Club—[www.stocktoncricketclub.co.uk](http://www.stocktoncricketclub.co.uk)

Norton Cricket Club—<https://norton.play-cricket.com/Teams>

### Tennis and Squash

Yarm Squash Club and Yarm Tennis Club—<https://yarmsquashclub.co.uk/>, <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/yarmtennisclub>

### Netball

[The link here](#) gives you clubs in the North East, contacts, training venues and exact timings for each age group.

Grangetown coach Michelle runs a U8/9 training session for Yarm pupils on Thursdays 3.55pm-4.55pm at school, as well as a host of age group teams. For further info email: [grangetownnc@hotmail.com](mailto:grangetownnc@hotmail.com)

Headlanders Netball Club in Darlington where Mrs Jolly coaches. Contact [dheadlanders@outlook.com](mailto:dheadlanders@outlook.com) for further details.

Wednesday night training. [https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en_GB)



## CEOP



The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) aims to keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online.

Parents, carers and children can report a concern about child sexual abuse or online exploitation to the CEOP Safety Centre.

**ANY CHILD IN IMMEDIATE DANGER SHOULD ALWAYS CALL 999 FIRST.**

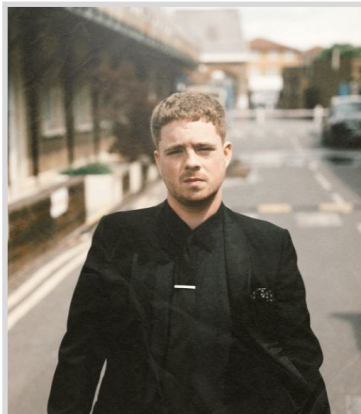
You can contact CEOP by clicking on the logo on this page. This links to the CEOP website where you can report any concerns you may have. Alternatively, click [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/).

Mr Stone

## Coming Up at the PAA

**Tom Ball - Spotlight;**  
**Wednesday 16th**  
**April, 7.30pm**

Tom Ball shot to fame on Britain's Got Talent, with Simon Cowell telling him he was 'simply sensational', and Amanda Holden saying he was among the best she'd ever seen. Following the release of his debut album, Curtain Call, Tom is embarking on his first major UK tour.



**Sleeping Beauty—Monday 21st April, 2pm and**  
**Tuesday 22nd April, 1pm and 6.30pm**

Join us for a spellbinding journey "Sleeping Beauty," presented by Tom Rolfe Productions! Follow the tale of Princess Beauty, a kind-hearted royal destined for greatness.



**Dave Finnegan's Commitments—Sunday 11th May,**

**7.30pm**



Dave Finnegan's Commitments – As seen in the hit Hollywood Film. Direct from the hit Hollywood Film "The Commitments", the man who has fronted the touring band for the last ten years, is here with his sensational show and his own 8-piece band behind him, performing all the hits from the film and much more.

## Yarm Cricket Club Girls Team

The next block of the Yarm Cricket Club girls indoor coaching starts on Saturday 15th March. This will then be followed by sessions on the following dates/times:

Mar 15/22/29, Apr 5/12

Times 1:30-3pm

Venue: Conyers School

Cost £47

Following the 5 weeks, training will switch to outdoors and players can sign up to the Teamo app to join Yarm CC, who play in the North Yorkshire/South Durham League.

Coach Chris Gibbons has entered an Under 12 team into the softball league, and there will be a number of games across the season.

There is also an opportunity for those mums interested in women's softball with a team entered into a Hundred competition.

Mrs Birkin

## Music News

Yarm pupils had a very successful weekend at Harrogate festival, which is the largest competitive music festival in the region. Miss Paterson and Mrs Bury have spent weeks preparing their pupils, who have all worked very hard and they are both extremely proud of them.

All the children were praised for their musicality with some remarkable results, especially given the ages of these pupils.

Lever Harp Elementary (Grades 1-3)

1st place Kaycee Wu (distinction)

3rd place Felix Maredia (commendation)



Harp duet (open)

1st place Felix Maredia & Kaycee Wu (distinction)

Harp Ensemble (open)

1st place Yarm School Harp Ensemble (distinction)

Piano Solo (Y7 & under)

1st place Kaycee Wu (distinction)

3rd place Louis Guan (distinction)

Kaycee also gained a distinction mark in the Y9 & under class.

Baroque & Classical Piano Solo (Y13 & under)

2nd place Kaiden Guan (commendation)

Romantic Piano Solo (Y13 & under)

1st place Kaiden Guan (distinction)

Modern Piano Solo (Y13 & under)

3rd place Kaiden Guan (distinction)

Congratulations to all these young performers, who once again have represented Yarm School so well.

## Face Time

In Speech and Drama, we learn to read and say words aloud with expression - the emotion they describe. It brings them to life!



Some of us are more expressive than others and that is quite fine – but it is a good thing to be aware of our facial expressions and body language when we communicate with our voices. Speech and Drama teaches self-awareness and encourages positive development in our communication skills.

Thank you for all your interesting adjectives and their synonyms to describe our Face Time expression last month!

Here are some of your examples: happy, joyful, excited, thrilled.

Now try these more sophisticated

adjectives: overjoyed, delighted, ecstatic, gleeful.

Well done, George. Your face and body language tell the story all by themselves.

This month, three other amazing speakers have volunteered to showcase their skills.



I think the best adjective to describe their expression is:

Delighted!

### Face Time 3

What is George's face and body language telling us this week?

How many interesting adjectives can you think of to describe his expression?



Let's see who can make the longest list or find some sophisticated or unusual word choices to describe George's Face Time.

Mrs Ham-Ying

## Holiday Club Dates

**Easter 2025:** - 7th—11th April 2025

**Summer 2025:** - 14th July—1st August 2025

[Please contact Mr Simpson for information.](#)

### Reduce- Reuse- Recycle



## New Pre-Loved Uniform Shed!

YPSSC are excited to announce our Pre-Loved Uniform Shed is officially up and running!

**We are located near to the entrance for Nursery on the Pre Prep site.**



**We provide & Collect Pre-Loved Uniform**

**Summer- Winter – PE – Games – Accessories**

**Nursery, Pre-Prep, Prep, Senior & Sixth Form**

Come and have a browse-The shed will be manned periodically throughout the week by volunteers and enquiries can still be sent by email or **classlist**.

[ypssc@yarmschool.org](mailto:ypssc@yarmschool.org)

[Ypssc.co.uk](http://Ypssc.co.uk)



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).

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

## What Parents &amp; Educators Need to Know about

## SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

## PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

## MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

## SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## Advice for Parents &amp; Educators

## UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

## BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

## FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

## ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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## Tooled Up Education

Numeracy and literacy sit at the heart of learning for all our children. Parents, carers and teachers alike are sensitive to the difficulties that may be experienced in these two areas.

Whilst many of us understand that dyslexia affects reading and writing skills, you may not be familiar with dyscalculia which is a difficulty with counting, number patterns and mathematical concepts. To raise recognition of this condition that occurs in around 1 in 20 people, Dyscalculia Awareness Day took place last week.

If you are worried that a child in your care may have dyscalculia or dyslexia or are looking to build on your understanding of these conditions, Tooled Up has a number of resources that can help.

A useful introduction to dyscalculia and advice on supporting your child can be found in our webinar with Professor Jo Van Herwegen who discusses the [Myths and Truths about Dyscalculia](#).

To explore the science behind dyslexia, its causes, impacts and to bust some myths watch our webinar [Understanding Dyslexia](#) with Dr Rebecca Gordon, associate professor of cognitive psychology at University College London.

For children with special educational needs, we have created [All About Me: My Learning Profile](#) which provides a template to encourage them to identify their strengths, sticking points and the things that help them to learn more effectively. This activity can be completed in school or at home and then be shared with teachers so that they can offer optimal support to the individual.

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The Tooled 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!

### A quick reminder :

As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled 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: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

*Dr Kathy Weston*

**TOOLED UP®**  
**BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS**



# Coming Up

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

## MARCH 2025

Mon 17	Neurodiversity Celebration Week LCM examinations week <b>Parents Evening (4-6pm)</b> No after school clubs run by form teachers this week
Tue 18	<b>Parents Evening (4-6pm)</b>
Wed 19	Year 6 Sports Tour— <a href="#">Zoom Meeting for Parents</a> (sign up by clicking on the link) Peter Knutsford (wildlife photographer) visit
Thu 20	U9 Netball v Durham School (home; 2.15pm start)
Fri 21	U10/11 Netball v Durham School (away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return) U10 Hockey v Ashville (away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return) U11 Hockey v Ashville (home; 2pm start)
Mon 24	Clubs and activities finish this week (except for Year 3 swimming) ABRSM examinations
Tue 25	Year 2 Silver Stories visit to Middleton Hall Prep Duologues performance (Prep Hall; 4pm) National Schools Quiz semi-final (10am)
Thu 27	U11 Sports tour departs
Fri 28	Sports tour returns
Mon 31	Last Y3 swimming of the term House assemblies

## APRIL 2025

Tue 1	School Eid celebrations Show Racism the Red Card workshops for Y5 House Paper Planes competition
Wed 2	Choristers visiting Park Rest Care Home Lost Property assembly
Thu 3	Dance assembly for parents (9.50am)
Fri 4	End of term No after school care today
Mon 7	Easter Holiday Club begins
Fri 11	Easter Holiday Club finishes
Wed 23	<b>Summer Term begins; pupils return</b>
Thu 24	<a href="#">Y4 Vindolanda Trip—Zoom for Parents</a> (4pm)
Mon 28	Clubs and Activities begin YPSSC AGM (Library; 5.30pm) Knockout Chess begins
Wed 30	School Council (Lab; 1pm)

## MAY 2025

Thu 1	Pre-Prep Poetry Competition Junior Maths Challenge
Fri 2	LAMDA examinations (all day)

# Term Dates

## 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 (after Prize Giving)	Thursday, 3rd July 2025

## Autumn Term, 2025

Preparation Day 1	Tuesday, 26th August 2025
Preparation Day 2	Wednesday, 27th August 2025
All Pupils Return	Thursday, 28th August 2025
Half Term Begins	Friday, 17th October 2025 (after school)
Pupils Return	Monday, 3rd November 2025
Finish	Friday, 12th December 2025 (after school)

# Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Wilfred M.	Kobi B.
3J	Ava M.	Honey C.
3P	Hugo B.	Jamie F.
4F	Jayden G.	Kathryn F.
4J	Max H.	Lucy A.
4SU	Harris K.	Theodore C.
5G	Beatrice T.	Azlan U.
5S	Ralph K.	Ailee H.
5W	Jana A.	Amani R.
6H	Ben O.	Kaiden G.
6K	Georgina P.	Logan M.
6L	Angus F.	Emily B.

## Head Teacher Awards:

**Year 5:** Ted H.  
**Year 6:** Thomas M. Jack S.