



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 805 — Friday 21st March 2025

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to another edition of the Phoenix Flier, giving you a glimpse into life at Yarm Prep School! This week has brought glorious sunshine, with signs of Spring sprouting everywhere—from fresh buds and new growth in the foliage around our site, to the familiar sight of blazers and jumpers being cast aside as pupils bask in the rays during break times. Our children certainly make the most of their leisure time, and they learn so much through it too! From engineering and design adventures in the Tinker Shed, games of giant chess, table tennis tournaments, and house football, to climbing on the adventure trail, creative games and drama productions in the quiet area, and peaceful reading in the Library—there's something for everyone. These opportunities for free play are rich in learning, promoting creativity, collaboration, and independence.

This week, during Neurodiversity Week, we've taken great joy in reflecting on and celebrating what makes each one of us unique. We recognise that every individual brings special talents and abilities to our school community. Every child has a place to belong at Yarm Prep and we value the vibrancy that we all bring to our community. It has been truly inspiring to hear from Senior School pupils about their experiences and to learn more about how we can support one another with compassion and respect.

Many congratulations must go to our sports teams in recent weeks who have enjoyed competing on a range of levels. Fixtures have been hotly contested and played in the right spirit whilst our U11 girls and boys have been taking part in high level tournaments. I hope you enjoy reading about their success in this week's and future editions. They have certainly done us proud!

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge:

You have 9 identical-looking coins, but one of them is slightly heavier. Using a balance scale and just two weighings, how can you find the heavier coin?

Photo of the

Week: Year 5 had a fantastic time in London last week, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



Tes Schools Awards 2024

Winner

Independent
Prep School
of the Year



Year 5 London Residential

My most treasured memory of the London trip was the Tower of London. I thought it was amazing to see all the features that King Henry used, like the armoury that the horses had, seeing the prison and all the people that got beheaded, and seeing the ravens too.

Annabelle A.

The London Eye was the best bit of the trip because it was a once in a lifetime experience. The open top bus tour was also an incredible time because all of the sights were breathtaking in the night. For dinner, we went to Byron Burger which had the best burgers and also we got to spend a lot of time with our friends.

Ralph E.

I loved the London trip and I had a really good time. And my favourite part was being with my friends and watching Wicked but also the London Eye. I liked being with my friends because they were kind and supportive. I loved Wicked because I had never seen it before and I had never been to the London Eye.

Shanvi P.

My favourite part of the London trip was the Lion King at the theatre because of all of the fantastic costumes. The costume I loved the most was the elephant because its detail was amazing. I also really enjoyed The London Eye, you could see everything!

Atticus WT.

I liked the open-top bus tour because you could see all the amazing sights of London at night.

I also enjoyed the London Eye because you could see the incredible views of London at incredible heights. Also, I really liked the open-top bus tour because we got to see all the incredible buildings and sights.

Elizabeth H.

My most memorable and fun moment was Wicked as I loved all of the songs and the acting as it was really clever as there were so many things and props they added to make it seem so magical. The surroundings were really nice as well, I was with all of my friends and we had really good seats.

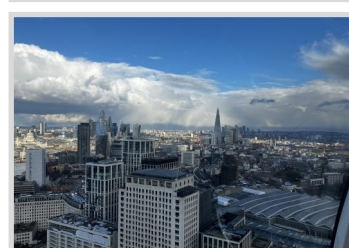
I found I knew lots of the words to the songs, but as we were not allowed to sing out loud I sang in my head but even still it was good fun. It definitely inspired me to carry on with my passion of acting and made me want to do even more musical theatre and drama at school.

Overall, I can definitely say that it was the best part of my London trip for me at least even if not for everyone else.

Amelie T.

One of my favourite things about London was the Lion King because it was funny and a very good show. I also liked the London Eye. There were some amazing views. The Houses of Parliament were cool because we learnt a lot and the Tower of London was good too because there were loads of exhibits. I thought the open top bus tour was amazing because we got to see London with all of its lights.

Bertie H.



I really enjoyed London but I think that my favourite moment would have to be Wicked, because it was so wonderful and I felt really connected to what happened on the stage.

Emily W.

My favourite moment on the London trip was the British Museum because we got to take loads of really good photos and we got to embrace the art from other countries and not just ours. I found it very interesting because each exhibit was different in its own unique way. I found the museum amazing.

Felix M.

One of my favorite memories from London was the open top bus tour. This was because the lights in London were mesmerising especially the lights on the landmarks. Although it was a bit cold, we also saw many stunning sights on the tour. While we were on the bus, Mr Stone played fun games with us. The beautiful buildings were towering over us as we rode across London. Additionally, we also took beautiful pictures all along the tour.

Sia S.

My most memorable moment of the London trip was sitting with Andrés at the Pizza Express because we enjoyed a nice meal together.

Azlan U.

One of my favourite parts in London was the Wicked theatre show because I have never seen it before and it was amazing.

Also, I really enjoyed the open top bus tour because we got to see all of the incredible buildings and sites. Another thing I liked was the London Eye because you could see the whole of London from the sky and there was a beautiful view.

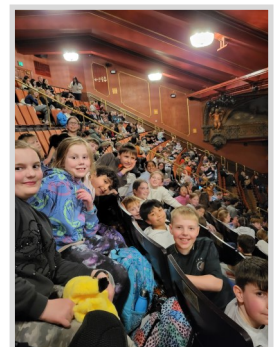
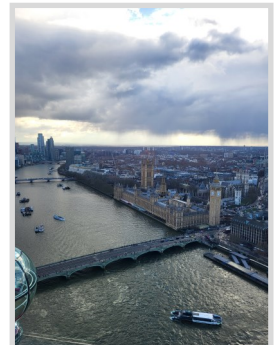
Isla L.

The good thing about going to London was the London Eye because it was really cool that you could pretty much see the whole of London once you were at the top of it and it was just amazing.

Ralph K.

The most enjoyable and fun moment on the London trip was The Lion King and Wicked because I loved all the songs and sitting with my friends. I enjoyed this with my friends more because it wasn't just me and I could share my experiences in the moment with other people.

The people were so young acting and it inspired me to carry on with my acting and it



was overall the BEST!

Hattie P.

My most treasured part of the London trip was either the London Eye or Wicked because I was with my friends and had an amazing time and laughed all the way through. Luckily I was with the best teachers I could ever imagine and I am so grateful that they planned this and spent their time coming on the London trip with us. On the London Eye you could see everything with the amazing height and views such as Big Ben! At Wicked there was lots of action and you could tell they put a lot of time and effort into putting on the show for us.

Freddie B.

My most enjoyable moment for me was the Tower of London because I loved learning about where Anne Boleyn was beheaded and how they used to torture people to make them speak about plots. I remember that we learnt that the prisoners scribbled messages on the wall while they were being imprisoned. One of the torture methods we saw was where you were tied to the long wooden wheels and they moved and stretched the body. There was one where you were hung from a metal beam for days and your feet would not touch the ground. This would put pressure on your arms. We also saw the crown jewels and discussed which was our favourite crown. Mine was Queen Camilla's crown.

Beatrice T.

My favourite part of the London trip was when we went on the open top bus tour. To see the city at night was amazing. You could see many famous buildings and it was fascinating how many skyscrapers there were.

Scarlett Y.

My favourite bit about London was the bus tour. It was so fun, especially seeing all the famous places I have learnt about before.

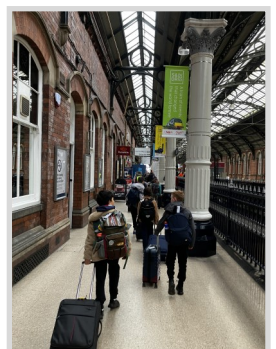
Robert W.

The most adventurous thing in the London trip was when we went on the London Eye because you could see everything from a sky-high view and the Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre because it was amazing.

Emma W.

I really had a brilliant time in London. My favourite bit in London was Wicked because the magic I have dreamed of came to life and made me believe in magic.

Mana H.



Year 4 Drama Week

Year 4 immersed themselves in the world of World War II through drama, stepping into the shoes of evacuees and exploring the challenges faced by children during this time. Through a range of activities, they developed key drama skills such as teamwork, creativity, and performance, bringing history to life. The pupils have had a fantastic time, fully embracing their roles and gaining a deeper understanding of the past. To round off an exciting week, they enjoyed watching the Fourth Year (Senior School) production of *Goodnight Mr Tom*, which provided an inspiring and fitting end to our drama-filled journey.

Well done, Year 4, for your enthusiasm and dedication!

Mrs Jolly



PE and Games News

Year 3 Netball with Queen Mary's

The Year 3 girls had a lovely workshop alongside Queen Mary's last week. Their highlights included:

Edith—I loved run the gauntlet.

Ada—I liked all the running around.

Rae—I loved playing all the games and doing the 3 cheers.

Poppy—My highlight was end ball and I enjoyed making a friend from Queen Mary's.

Clemmie—I enjoyed playing golden girl.

Florence—I loved run the gauntlet best

Eila—Golden child was my favourite.

Annabelle—I really enjoyed end ball.

Heidi—I loved all the shooting and feel I have really improved this skill.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

NEJS U11 Boys' Hockey Tournament

Friday saw the U11s attend the NEJS Hockey tournament. On what was a beautiful day the boys performed extremely well, beating everyone in their group without conceding a goal. As we progressed into the semi finals we met the eventual winners who won on shuffles. While disappointed with the result the boys can hold their heads high with the wonderful effort and attitude they demonstrated throughout the day. Well done.

Mr Underwood

NEJS U11 Girls' Hockey Tournament

The under 11s girls travelled to Maiden Castle last week to compete in the North-East hockey competition. As we travelled to the competition, we were excited but also a little nervous because we really wanted to win. Our first match was against Newcastle High School For Girls. We came out of that match with a score of 0-0 and we were frustrated as we had all felt that we could have won. We were determined to play even better in our next match. The next match played was against Dame Allan's, the score after that match was a triumph for Yarm coming out with a 1-0 win. We were beginning to gain confidence and having a positive approach to our games. Following that we played a number of matches and we won all of these including a 7-0 v Longridge, 2-0 v RGS and 2-0 v Barnard castle. We were incredibly proud that we had not even conceded a single goal and we had won the tournament, no mean feat! This is the first time in over 5 years we have qualified for the North finals. Finally, I want to thank all the teachers that umpired and coached us through the tournament and to our players that got Yarm a satisfying result.

Georgina P.



Free Chess Webinars with Mr Marsh!

Mr Marsh is delivering a weekly series of FREE chess webinars for children aged 7-13. Places are limited for these worldwide events. Click on the link/image below for further details!



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/.

Mr Stone

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

This week is 'Neurodiversity Celebration Week' which was founded by Siena Castellon MBE in 2018. She made the decision to celebrate being neurodiverse because of her personal experiences.

Siena said, "I founded Neurodiversity Celebration Week in 2018 because I wanted to change the way learning differences are perceived. As a teenager who is autistic and has ADHD, dyslexia, and dyspraxia, my experience has been that people often focus on the challenges of neurological diversity. I wanted to change the narrative and create a balanced view which focuses equally on our talents and strengths."

Siena realised that there was not enough information for her to access about neurodiversity as it was mainly aimed at adults and, therefore, she decided to change this and created her own website for children. Siena is now a best selling author and has spoken in Parliamentary cross committee meetings and won awards for her campaigns.

Facts About Neurodiversity

- No two neurodiverse people are the same and will all have different profiles
- Although we talk about specific neuro differences such as Autism and Dyslexia, the reality is that these can co-occur
- Every neurodivergent individual has a unique pattern of strengths and challenges
- We tend to operate on an approach to diagnosis and

labels which can mean that quite often the focus is on the challenges rather than the many strengths and talents of neurodivergent individuals

- It is important that a person-centred approach is taken by tailoring strategies to each individual
- It is also important to harness the strengths and talents of neurodivergent individuals, this helps to build confidence and self-esteem, and ensures individuals are given the opportunity to flourish in their day-to-day lives

Assembly

On Monday, Mrs Jones spoke in assembly about neurodiversity describing how important it is that we all understand that there are challenges in being neurodiverse, but it is also important to realise that there are many positives for example, creativity, spatial awareness and problem solving to name but a few.

Two pupils came up to the Prep School from the Senior School and described their experiences of being neurodiverse and how that has impacted on their lives. Sam who is in L6 talked about being autistic and how he has been supported in school to overcome his challenges. Wilf, a Year 9, discussed dyslexia and the strategies he has adopted to help him learn. It was a pleasure to listen to both pupils who spoke with confidence and were well prepared for our assembly. Thank you so much for giving up your time to share your experiences and to Mrs Kingsbury and Mrs Bridle for helping with logistics.

The assembly ended with reference to two of our School Values: Compassion and Respect and how we should all be understanding of everybody in our community and always support each other with kindness and patience.

Mrs Jones

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 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

Coming Up at the PAA

The Sounds of Springsteen— Thursday 10th April, 7.30pm

Experience the pure rock 'n' roll euphoria of Bruce

Springsteen as this outstanding show brings his iconic sound to life, taking you on a musical journey through the incredible catalogue, from Greetings from Asbury Park to 2020's Ghosts via the legendary hits Born in the USA and Born to Run.



Mersey Beatles—Saturday 24th May, 7.30pm

The Mersey Beatles have been rocking sold-out shows around the globe since 1999 with their truly

authentic and widely acclaimed celebration of John, Paul, George and Ringo. The band – who clocked up more than 600 appearances in a 10-year residency at Liverpool's legendary Cavern Club – brilliantly exude the inner and outer spirit of the original Fab Four.



Adele the Candlelight Concert—24th July, 8pm

Join us for an unforgettable evening in a stunning and illuminated setting by candlelight that

beautifully enhances the timeless music of Adele. Talented tribute artist Natalie Black will perform Adele's greatest hits, delivering the emotion, soul and captivating presence of her iconic sound.



Year 6 Telford Enterprise

On Monday 17th March the Year 6 children in Telford taking part in the Enterprise Carousel activity were delighted to welcome Graeme Dixon who is the Group Financial Controller

of the Port of Tyne and is also Annalise's dad!



He gave a fascinating and most informative presentation about his work and certainly convinced us all that being an accountant is an exciting and varied career to go into. Thank you Mr Dixon for giving up your time and giving us the opportunity to learn so much about your typical day at work and what goes on at the Port of Tyne.

Mr Grundmann

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
Ypssc.co.uk

Holiday Club Dates

Easter 2025: - 7th—11th April 2025

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

To sign your child up for the Easter Holiday Club, please fill in the form here.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMERS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some gaming streamers will stick to family-friendly titles, but others will play more violent games that tend to be more popular. Non-gaming streamers could, in theory, discuss just about anything, and some streamers will often stream in revealing outfits.



NEGATIVE INFLUENCES

While things have improved, streamers are often paid by companies to promote products, and this isn't always stated explicitly. While it's unlikely these goods will be harmful to your child, some streamers and influencers have engaged (knowingly or not) in scams in the past.



FINANCIAL HARM

Streamers will often have donation buttons on their screens for users to submit money. What can start as small amounts can quickly spiral as streamers engage with paying viewers more often, potentially leading to financial issues.



UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Influencers often showcase how glamorous their lives are, making some users feel as though they are lesser. However, it's important to stress that, in many ways, this is an act, or at the very least, not common. Logan Paul, who has been successful as a streamer and influencer, has a Pokemon card worth \$5 million, but this is atypical of anyone working in the medium.



MISINFORMATION

Streamers are, in many ways, just like us - and they can get things wrong or reel off an opinion without having thought about it. Some can simply say awful things to get a rise out of viewers or to sway them to their side of a hot topic.



ADDICTION AND SCREEN TIME

If your child is watching a lot of a particular streamer, it can be just as damaging to their social life as playing too many video games.



Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN HOW STREAMING WORKS

For a younger viewer, being a streamer or influencer seems aspirational, but it involves a lot of work and no small degree of good fortune. Streamers are often managed and unable to speak freely due to sponsors, and influencers are just that - influencing young minds, for better or for worse.



CHECK OUT STREAMING PLATFORMS

While Twitch was the de facto streaming service for years, YouTube has gained popularity, too. Then there are Kick and Rumble, which have grown in popularity with moves for big-name streamers - despite many being dogged by controversy.



DO NOT LOG PAYMENT INFORMATION

Streamers can reward donations with additional content, on-camera "shout outs" and more. If you're unsure about who or what your child is watching, consider avoiding linking payment information. This is especially notable with Twitch, which is owned by Amazon and therefore has some crossover.



SET SCREEN TIME LIMITS

You can set screentime limits for mobile apps on iOS and Google, but with other platforms like a PC it may be more difficult to keep tabs. Consider checking in regularly to ensure your children aren't watching content they shouldn't be.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of the Daily Star, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

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

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Tooled Up Education

This week on 20th March, we celebrate UN International Day of Happiness. The day recognises the importance and relevance of happiness as a goal and it also seeks to encourage equitable economic growth that promotes the wellbeing of all peoples.

So much of what we do as adults in the lives of children is aimed at promoting their happiness, but we also know it isn't always easy to achieve or sustain.

Happiness is linked to cognitive flexibility, which is a learned skill. Tooled Up has a number of resources to help you to support your child's wellbeing and emotional literacy so that they can reflect and work on their own happiness.

A great place to start for children of all ages is for them to consider the different aspects of their wellbeing. Our [Happiness Checklist](#) activity will help them identify the positives and any gaps where things could be better.

For teenagers, [My Wellbeing Journal](#) provides a tool to encourage reflection on experiences and achievements in order to build resilience. Completed over a two-week period, the activity helps children to develop and maintain a positive mindset and improve wellbeing.

The [A-Z of Tooled Up Tips for Supporting Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) showcases 26 evidence based key tips. The resource includes links to a host of webinars, podcasts and activities available on the Tooled Up platform to help in everyday family life.

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 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: YPSII03 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



A-Z of Wellbeing Tips

TOOLED UP®

BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

Coming Up

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

MARCH 2025

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	Summer Term begins; pupils return Peer Mentor training (3.45-4.45pm)
Thu 24	Y4 Vindolanda Trip—Zoom for Parents (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) U10/11 Boys' and Girls' Cricket v RGS Newcastle (home; 2pm start)
Sun 4	UK Chess Challenge Mega Final (PAA; 10am-5pm)
Mon 5	School closed; Bank Holiday
Tue 6	Class Photographs Curiosity Emporium (Library; 1pm) Reception trip to Highfield Care Home U8 Girls' Cricket v Queen Mary's (away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)
Wed 7	Year 4 Vindolanda residential departs

Thu 8	Yarm/NESF STEM Day (TBC)
Fri 9	Yarm/NESF STEM Day (TBC)
Year 4 return from Vindolanda	
U10/11 Girls' Cricket v Durham School (home; 2.15pm start)	

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	Finley H.	Dora M.
3J	Zuri R.	Jemima T.
3P	Omran S.	Azaan S.
4F	Faye M.	Buddy T.
4J	Raheem A.	Aaron Y.
4SU	Connie B.	Karunya G.
5G	-	-
5S	-	-
5W	-	-
6H	Evelyn C.	Isla R.
6K	Emily Q.	Thomas M.
6L	Wilfie B.	Jack M.

Head Teacher Awards:

Year 3—Sebastian T.,
Year 4—India B.
Year 6—Emily B., Augusta M.