



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 806 — Friday 28th March 2025

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this edition of the Phoenix Flier, showcasing another highly successful and action-packed week at the Prep School. From national finals in Netball and the Schools Quiz competition to our Arts Award students diligently building their portfolios, the week has been filled with stories of ambition, resilience, and dedication. Our debaters have been inspired by their older peers in the Senior School, while Year 4 scientists have been exploring the wonders of sound, developing their investigative skills. The energy within the school is contagious, with pupils wholeheartedly embracing the learning opportunities before them. I'm incredibly proud of both their efforts and the dedication of our staff.

A particular highlight this week was the Prep School Duologue, where ambition shone brightly on stage. Congratulations to everyone involved for their courage, entertainment, stagecraft, and creative use of sound and lighting. We have a wealth of talent in the school, and it was certainly on display this year—well done to all who took part!

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: You have a matchstick. Without lighting it, breaking it, or using any tools, how can you make the matchstick disappear?



Tes Schools Awards 2024

Winner

Independent
Prep School
of the Year



Photo of the

Week: It was a pleasure to welcome wildlife photographer, Peter Nutsford, last week. Full details inside.

IAPS Netball National Finals

We travelled down with 9 girls to the National netball finals on Tuesday 18th March. Daunted slightly by the distance to Dorset the group left in good spirits though. With a couple of injuries in recent weeks we 'shuffled the pack' and had 7 players with two fantastic cheerleaders for the group. To reach National finals the girls had to finish top at the qualifier in January beating competition from Leeds, Wakefield, Manchester, Newcastle as well as our local area. It really was tough knocking so many netball schools out to reach the Nationals but we also knew we would be up against it as this was another step up. The journey took over 7 hours and the girls enjoyed a music playlist from Miss Whitehouse to keep them upbeat. The hotel in Poole was lovely and the reception we received from 3 Yarm families who were also staying there, was a real boost as we drove into the car park! Thank you for being our biggest cheerleaders.

Before we left on Wednesday, after a superb breakfast, we watched the video Miss Whitehouse and Mrs Jolly had orchestrated and the girls were so moved and we all really felt the support of the school community with us. The video really motivated the girls to do the school, themselves and their families proud! I am glad I packed tissues at this point. We drove the short journey to Bryanston School and the driveway up to the School felt as long as the drive on Tuesday! What a fantastic setting to host the National final.

Nerves and trepidation were high, and the warm up and rotations (decided beforehand by Mrs Jolly) took shape as Mrs Crosslegh began to put the girls through their paces.

The first two games were tough against Heath Mount (situated east of Luton) and Downsends (near Epsom). But the girls began to improve and grow in confidence finishing the 3rd pool game with a fabulous 3-3 draw against Putney High, a school who always perform well at National across all year groups. Evelyn held her nerve to score the goal that gave us a deserved draw. As we played our last pool game v Taunton (Somerset) we went into it with belief and at 3-3 at half time the rotations meant we had height at either end of the court. Manha and Holly were exceptional and drove the ball forwards for the team to score 3 second half goals. With a 6-3 victory we were in very good spirits. We then broke for a much deserved break and food for energy.

After a long break of one and a half hours (probably too long of a break) we knew we had reached the second round of the day as we entered the plate competition. Tough opposition awaited in the form of Yateley Manor (between Aldershot and Bracknell) and if we lost we were out. With the rotations set we couldn't tweak the system and in the first half we struggled with a mismatch in height in particular. They seemed to have five very tall players on court and this helped them dominate at times. With a final score of 2-10 we walked off the court knowing we had given absolutely everything and all could hold our heads high.

Throughout the day Georgina worked hard to create turnovers, Imogen provided options throughout the court and Annie gave the team a calmness with her consistency. Sophia defended really well and restricted the opposition to ball in their shooting circle. The girls were disappointed with the final match but as staff we were all so proud of them for getting to the Nationals which is the first time in 5 years we have achieved this. They really are a special bunch of



girls. To finish 15th in the entire country is a wonderful achievement.

Special mention to Bella and Daisy who were both injured leading to the Nationals but played an instrumental part in getting the team there! Daisy has helped me write this report as well!

As the only northern school we were proud to put 'the north' and Yarm on the sporting map once again.

I want to thank the numerous families who came down to support the girls, cheering them on throughout. Having support from so many made the day even more special and we hope the round trip of 650 miles was worth it for them as it was for us as staff.

Finally, I want to thank Mrs Jolly, with us in spirit and in our ears as we imagined her screaming support from Yarm, Mrs Crosslegh for her super netball knowledge and Miss Whitehouse for her fantastic support to me throughout. I just hope her heart rate has now come down to a normal bpm.

National netball team 2025: we will never forget you and we thank you for the memories that will last a lifetime.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney and Daisy C.



PE & Games News

Under 11 Boys' In2Hockey Finals

Having progressed to the final round the U11 boys found themselves facing the best teams in the North-East and Yorkshire. RGS, Cundall and Pocklington stood in the way to victory. Unfortunately, after a slow start we lost 1-0 to Pocklington and Drew 1-1 with Cundall. The teams were very evenly balanced, which meant the final result could go either way. We saved our best performance till the end beating RGS (the eventual winners) 3-1. A super effort from all involved. The boys can be proud of their endeavours. Well done.

Mr Underwood

Girls' Hockey fixtures v Durham School

We have had another very busy week with all Year 4, 5 & 6s playing fixtures against Durham School. On Thursday the 4s enjoyed a very sunny afternoon down at the Senior School playing against Durham and Queen Mary's. All girls had a good run out and enjoyed the afternoon down at the Paddock courts. On Friday it was the turn of our 5s & 6s who all travelled to Durham School for the final block Friday fixture. We selected five teams so alongside Durham there was over 80 children playing netball which was a sight to behold.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

Under 11 Boys' Hockey v Ashville

Last Friday the U11 boys welcomed Ashville to Yarm. Both teams played some fantastic Hockey, with a number of well worked goals being scored, using the skills that they have learnt in Games lessons. The skills in attack were supported well, by some resolute defending. It was great to see all of the boys show great teamwork throughout and we look forward to seeing them continue their development in the fixtures with Sedbergh and Stonyhurst as part of the Y6 Sports Tour.

Mr Simpson



Prep Debaters Go to Senior Debating!

Last Thursday, Prep debating club went to the Senior School to watch the Senior School debate. The motion was 'This house believes that we should bring woolly mammoths back to life.'

Some points from the proposition were that it would help the environment by bringing back tundra and stop climate change, that it would help make other animals come back to life, and would help stop species that are about to be extinct not be extinct. Some points from the opposition were that it would be a waste of resources and money, we should finish world problems before starting more, and we didn't know how the woolly mammoth would act.

It was really exciting to be able to see the seniors take part in a debate and take notes of what we could use in our debates. We were also able to see what it is like if we want to do debating in the Senior School when we are older. I would love to do this when I am in Senior School. It looks amazing.

Thank you to Mr Bridges for allowing us to join their debate, and to Gabriel, Eleanor and Apsara, who continue to work with us in our Wednesday afternoon activity.

Jack M.



Peter Nutsford Visit

The Prep School enjoyed a fascinating visit from wildlife photographer Peter Nutsford. Peter told the children all about visiting mountain gorillas and life in Kenya. He also shared his photographs of various herbivores and carnivores found in the areas he has visited. Everyone was delighted to look at Kenyan artefacts including: necklaces, warrior masks, hand bands, a special stool/pillow and blanket.

Mrs Barton

I enjoyed learning about the volcano and 45 letter named illness. *Jamie F.*

I loved learning about how dangerous some animals could be. *Poppy CW.*

I liked to learn about the elephants, how they learned to drink. *Yunoske I.*

I learned that most carnivores hunt at night. *Ada A.*

I liked learning about the giraffes. Their necks are so strong and their tongues are so thick they don't get the thorns from the acacia trees. *Lucian S.*

We had a wonderful wildlife visitor chat with us about the ravenous animals and the wonders of wildlife in our wondrous world. There were lots of fun and interactive parts to the talk, ranging from the mountain gorillas to dangerous volcanoes. *Harrison V.*

I think the wildlife talk was amazing with many interesting facts about the volcano and the mountain gorillas. Some bits were also very funny like the video of the small gorilla swinging around the silverback male. Thank you to Peter and the teachers. *Edward G.*



Year 4 Science

In our science lessons this week, Year 4 have been learning about how sounds are made and how they travel. We have learnt that sound is a form of energy and louder sounds have more energy and bigger vibrations.

We have looked at how sound travels through air and compared it with how sounds travel through solids. We acted out being particles in the air and demonstrated how they lose energy as the sound fades.

Mrs Smith



Year 6 Arts Award

Our Year 6 Arts Award pupils have been hard at work recently as they look to complete their portfolios. We hope to share more of their work with you in the coming weeks.

Mrs Shepherd



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

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 29, Apr 5/12

Times 1:30-3pm

Venue: Conyers School

Cost £47

Following the final few 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.

Yarm CC

Quiz Team Reach National Final

Yarm Prep Team 1 dominated their semi-final of the National Schools Quiz Competition, winning it by scoring an incredible 1975 points out of a possible 2000! The team, comprising of

Thomas Maxey (who scored the highest individual score in the whole semi-final), Aditi Kumar, Edward Williams and Jack Bridle, led from start to finish and are now guaranteed a spot in the final, with the venue (and whether it is online or in person) yet to be determined.

All four of our teams performed incredibly well, with each of them finishing in the top 8. In fact, at the midway point, Yarm Prep occupied the top four positions! The turning point was a question about the year Operation Barbarossa took place (1942), which saw Team 1 pull out further in front of all of the other teams.

Another question that really filtered out the challenging pack asked "What does Hertz measure?" (answer—frequency). In the end, Team 3 (Isabelle Fraser, Genevieve Prideaux, Scarlett Yang and Kaiden Guan) finished 5th with 1815 points (just 25 points off of a guaranteed place in the final. Team 4 (Louis Smith, Harrison Vanek, Freddie Wilson and Rory Brearey) came 7th with 1800 points and Team 2 (Jamie Frost, Hannah Mhando, Robert Wormald and Olivia Tiew) came home in 8th with 1780.

Overall, all four teams can be incredibly proud of their efforts and how they pushed each other on. Even if this is the end of the road for some of the teams, the knowledge and teamwork on show was exemplary. Well done everyone!

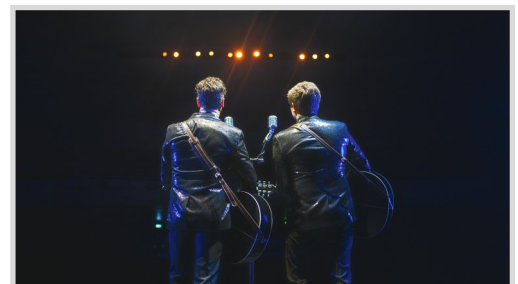
Mr Stone

Coming Up at the PAA

Walk Right Back—Saturday 17th May, 7.30pm

Immerse yourself in a wave of pure rock and roll nostalgia with Walk Right Back!

Presented by the creators of That'll Be The Day, this show recounts the tale of those two Kentucky boys who created unparalleled vocal magic – The Everly Brothers.



The Legend of Barry White - Let the Music Play—Thursday 17th July, 7.30pm

The only UK touring show dedicated to the maestro and legend, Barry White! Direct from the USA, a critically- acclaimed revue featuring the incredible



vocalist William Hicks also known as “the big man with the big voice” 100 million records sold, 20 gold and 10 platinum singles – the world loves Barry White and Barry White loved the world.

Dinosaur Adventure Live—Tuesday 31st July, 2pm and 4.30pm

When a satellite tasked with controlling the island's weather



systems malfunctions, chaos erupts. The island's tropical climate spirals leading to one big JURASSIC STORM. If not stopped, it will erase all existence of the island... forever! The mission: find the code hidden deep within the island, reboot the satellite and save the Dinosaurs before it's too late.

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.

YPSSC

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

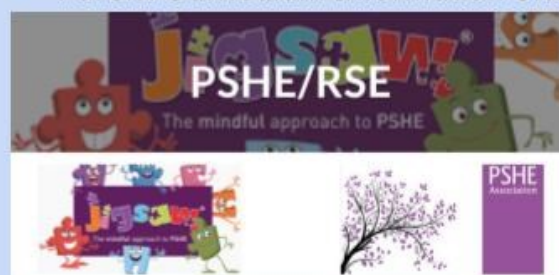
Ypssc.co.uk



<https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum>

Click here to access the latest

Parent Curriculum Information Site



Recent updates include a new PSHE/RSE page and the spring term Prep Homework Menus

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS

If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:



Universal, suitable for all ages



Parental Guidance required



Suitable for people aged 12 and over



Suitable for people aged 12 and over; anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult



Suitable for people aged 15 and over



Suitable for people aged 18 and over



Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:



PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info

Tooled Up Education

We understand many parents and schools are currently navigating concerns sparked by the themes highlighted in Netflix's series *Adolescence*.

At Tooled Up, we are committed to supporting parents and carers when it comes to the issues raised in the programme and have a host of resources on topics including misogyny, incel culture, social media and the rise of violence against women and girls.

If you worry about information on TikTok, listen to our podcast [Misogynistic Content on TikTok](#), which explores how incel ideology covertly proliferates on mainstream social media and what parents might do to counter this.

Every parent has heard of Andrew Tate, the self-confessed misogynist whose videos have been viewed billions of times. Our webinar [Andrew Tate and Toxic Influencers: A Guide](#) looks at his methodologies and appeal and examines what can be done to mitigate the risk that exposure to this type of material can bring.

For access to all Tooled Up resources on themes raised in *Adolescence* click [Netflix's Adolescence: Related Resources in Tooled Up](#) where we have collated a *comprehensive list to support you*.

IMPORTANT: UPCOMING WEBINAR

[Adolescence on Netflix - Action Points for Parents and Staff: 23rd April, 19:00 BST](#)

Join Dr Kathy Weston for this interactive session reflecting on essential lessons, key takeaways, and the practical actions that parents and educators can implement on the issues raised by Netflix's *Adolescence* series.

There will also be a Q&A at the end of the session.

To register click here: [Adolescence on Netflix: Action Points for Parents and Staff](#)

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: 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.

TOOLED UP®
BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

Solution to previous Head's Challenge: Divide the 9 coins into 3 groups of 3 coins each and weigh two groups against each other. If the two groups balance, the heavier coin is in the third group; if one group is heavier, the heavier coin is in that group. Then, weigh any two coins from the heavier group—if one is heavier, that's the coin; if they balance, the unweighed coin is the heavier one.

Coming Up

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

MARCH 2025

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

Fri 9 **Year 4 return from Vindolanda**
U10/11 Girls' Cricket v Durham School
(home; 2.15pm start)

Sat 10 **Open Morning (9am-12noon)**

Mon 12 Year 5 Drama Week
Food Council (1pm)
Arkwright Charity Day
Activities Carousel 4 begins (Y4-6)

Whole School Photograph (9am)

Tue 13 School Captains Day
Summer Fair prep begins for Year 6
Reception trip to Highfield Care Home

Wed 14 Year 6 Heart Workshops (Science Lab)

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 Thursday, 3rd July 2025
(after Prize Giving)

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	Violet T.	Abeer A.
3J	Teddy J.	Eila G.
3P	Julia W.	Rae B.
4F	Lucy D.	Edie T.
4J	Zoeya A.	Gowri P.
4SU	Leah R.	Jayden W.
5G	Austin O.	Atticus WT.
5S	Dara J.	Harrison G.
5W	Robert W.	Edith G.
6H	Sandy O.	Jake S.
6K	Manha A.	Henry Sk.
6L	Alice W.	Zara M.

Head Teacher Awards:

Year 3—Omran S., Jack B.

Year 6—Darcey B.

Millionaire Readers—Bryan P., Jake S.