

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

It could be viewed as an understatement to claim that this has been a rather busy week, with a huge amount going on in school as we welcomed to school a team of seven inspectors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate. I am very grateful to parents for your engagement with this experience via the questionnaires completed at the beginning of the week, and similarly to pupils for engaging so purposefully with the inspectors and sharing their views and experiences of school life, as well as their pride in the school and their general enthusiasm. My colleagues have worked hard to help the whole inspection run smoothly, and I am very grateful to them. As is the nature of these things, we will not get final outcomes or commentary for a number of weeks, but I will update parents in due course when there is more to share.

The newsletter contains a review of the wonderful Bede House Concert which took place before half term, which I have mentioned in a previous newsletter, and which raised a terrific amount of money for Diabetes UK. We are looking forward to next week's [Fourth Year play - Goodnight Mr Tom](#) - which threatens to be a very quick sellout show.

Community Action Group have been busy working with Yarm Wellness, as reported within, and our Financial Times Advocates Megan and Noah give their insights into the fascinating programme. World Book Day was on Thursday and provides a fantastic opportunity to focus on reading for pleasure, as detailed below. Two Wills provide artwork for this week's Artists' Corner - well done to them! Assemblies this week have seen pupil presentations on kindness and on international women's day, as well as

a stunning piece of music from Effie, news of a charity attempt at the Great North Run from some Sixth Form students and presentation of various medals and trophies in hockey and rugby sevens after some recent success. This weekend sees many of our Lower Sixth students on site for a leadership day, which is always a fun and valuable opportunity to explore leadership, teamwork and other important 'soft skills'.

Dr Huw Williams



On your marks! Our House Pancake Race saw some very competitive flipping from pupils across the year groups on Tuesday.

BEDE CHARITY CONCERT

Bede House hosted a charity concert in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium on Tuesday 18th February in order to raise funds for Diabetes UK - the nominated House Charity for 2024-25. The theme for the concert was Bede House presents: The Greatest Charity Show. Therefore it was only appropriate for the concert to open with a bang as a choir made up of volunteers from all year groups in the House belted out "The Greatest Show". This was then followed by the velvety, mellow tones of Smooth Operator performed by Liv Gosney and Amelie Godfrey. The rest of the concert was made up of a range of performances including ensembles, soloists and drama duologues and monologues.

Highlights included a faithful reconstruction of a scene from Wicked by Alex Prideaux and Francesca Foster, a moving rendition of "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again" by Anoushka Paul and an energetic performance of Aladdin's "Friend Like Me" from Erin Goh and Rebecca Nicholson. A charity raffle was held during the interval with a range of prizes donated from parents and local Yarm businesses including Yarm Studios, Danby Wynd Nails, Lucy Pittaway Gallery and Merritts Solicitors. The evening culminated with a powerful rendition of "Life is Highway" from Pixar's Cars by student group Three Down. The

combined total raised through ticket sales, the raffle and a retiring collection came to over £857 and we have more fundraising events to come.

My thanks goes to all those who attended, the staff who gave up their time to support the concert, the PAA staff, whose work on staging, sound and lighting gave the concert an epic atmosphere, and all the performers, who I wish I could mention individually here. You were all fantastic and we could not have raised this sum without you.

Mr N Lyle, Head of Bede House



WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

World Book Day provides a fantastic opportunity to focus on reading for pleasure, supporting children's autonomy in text choice, and embedding a habit of reading that brings a wide range of benefits.

Reading for pleasure can help grow empathy

Enjoying books and discovering new perspectives within the pages of a story can be a great way to introduce children and young adults to a range of experiences and viewpoints. The more they read, the more likely they are to be exposed to new narratives which can help them develop empathy.



A love of reading can build confidence

In fact, recent research showed that 26.0% of children and young people who read in their free time at least once a month said it helps them to be confident.

Reading for enjoyment can spark imagination...
...and provide escape as well as inspire creativity.

Reading can expand horizons

A book can enable discovery of new worlds, allow pupils to meet new people and learn about the past. This can be through non-fiction books and autobiographies, or books and magazines exploring historical events or figures.

Reading for pleasure can support your child's learning

Recent research from the National Literacy Trust has revealed that twice as many children and young people who enjoy reading in their free time have above average reading skills than those who don't enjoy it (34.2% vs 15.7%) - reading skills which will support them in their school journeys and beyond.

How much should my child read a day?

As children get older, they are also more likely to have higher demands on their own time in terms of homework, sports, activities or simply spending time with friends. Finding ways to make reading fun, fit it into your day-to-day routine and not becoming stressed or overly caught up with the length of time your child spends reading will help build a manageable habit and grow a love of reading, rather than it feeling like a chore. Audiobooks and podcasts can be a great way to immerse children in the joy of books while they are on the go, which alleviates the pressure to carve out more time.

Grow a love of reading

Pupils at Yarm have access to a fantastic library, and are encouraged to develop a reading habit in their English lessons. What you are doing as parents and carers at home has a significant impact on your child too. So why not grab a text to help celebrate World Book Day?

THE FT SCHOOLS ADVOCATE PROGRAMME

The Financial Times Schools advocate programme has come to an end for the 24/25 year. Well done to Megan Hull and Noah Barron (Lower Sixth) for being two of the 335 advocates from 42 different countries. The successful programme has involved 167 events run and 196 pieces of content being made by advocates who have enhanced their employability skills in the process.

This is what Megan and Noah have had to say about the programme and what they have gained from engaging with it and completing it...

Megan - I really enjoyed taking part

in such an insightful programme; I was able to connect with like-minded students from schools across the globe and gain invaluable insight into the world of finance during exclusive talks hosted by senior members of the FT. Our tasks were largely creative, yet also encouraged us to engage with peers and practise some public speaking on behalf of the FT.

Noah - I greatly enjoyed taking part in the program. The tasks were well organised and enjoyably challenging and the skills I learned will no doubt come in useful in future opportunities.

Hopefully we will also be successful in having Lower Sixth students selected for the programme in 25/26.

Miss C E Rhodes



Yarm School present:



**Memento
Dementia Friendly**

St. Patrick's Sing-a-long

**THURSDAY 13TH MARCH
YARM SCHOOL
5PM - 6.30PM**

Book places via
memento@yarmschool.org



yarmschool.org/memento-march-25

YARM SCHOOL

Memento
Dementia Friendly Sing-a-long

**THE WILDCATS OF KILKENNY & YARM SCHOOL
PRESENT:**



THINGIMIJIG!
A ST PADDY'S WEEKEND SHINDIG

**SATURDAY 15TH MARCH,
19:30PM**

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM

Join us for family friendly St Paddy's weekend musical madness with Teesside's favourite Irish-ish band!

THE WILDCATS OF KILKENNY
WITH SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCES FROM
YARM SCHOOL, MIDDLESBROUGH

YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE

ARTISTS' CORNER

Will Baines (First Year) brought his sketchbook into school to show me all of his lovely art work. Here are just a couple of his favourite drawings.

Fantastic imagination Will, well done!

Mrs G Thompson



Thank you to Will McGee (Second Year) for another innovative piece for Artists' Corner!

Ms E Stebbings

CAG PLANTERS 2025

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul." — Luther Burbank

This half term, the Community Action group have continued with their work with Yarm Wellness Centre. Pupils have been painting and decorating planters for the garden and have enjoyed the opportunity to get creative!

Ms Blakemore



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

CAREER CONVENTION 2025

DATE

01.05.2025

TIME

6:30pm



YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

JANIS JOPLIN THE MUSICAL - LIVE STREAM

This multi award-winning show captured recently at the Sadler's Wells Peacock Theatre is an extraordinary musical journey paying homage to Janis Joplin and her biggest musical influences. Like a comet that burns far too brightly to last, Janis Joplin exploded onto the music scene in 1967 and, almost overnight, became the queen of rock & roll. The unmistakable voice, filled with raw emotion and tinged with Southern Comfort, made her a must-see headliner from Monterey to Woodstock.



Thursday 13th March, 7pm and Sunday 16th March, 2pm

[Book Online Here](#)

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR LIVE ARENA TOUR (2012)

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock classic Jesus Christ Superstar returns to its roots with this sensational performance filmed in the UK during the Live Arena Tour.

An incredible cast including Tim Minchin as Judas Iscariot, Melanie Chisholm as Mary Magdalene, Chris Moyles as King Herod and Ben Forster as Jesus Christ, perform hit songs including "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Gethsemane," "Heaven on Their Minds," "Everything's Alright," "King Herod's Song" and "Superstar" in an exciting and contemporary interpretation.



Friday 14th March, 7pm and Saturday 15th March, 2pm

[Book Online Here](#)

THE WRONG TROUSERS: WALLACE AND GROMIT LIVE, WITH THE EVERREADY BAND

Experience The Wrong Trousers Like Never Before!

Join us for a truly unique evening as the EverReady Band brings Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers to life with a live brass band performance.

This family favourite film, renowned for its charm and wit, will be accompanied by the exhilarating sounds of a live brass ensemble, along with an unforgettable selection of family film music.



Sunday 13th April, 2.30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

Yarm School Online Safety Hub

Blocking Inappropriate Content with Qustodio

#1

The internet can expose children to inappropriate content. Social media algorithms and search engines can increase this risk.

#2

Parents can mitigate this risk by using in-app privacy settings, teaching safe browsing habits, and enabling safe search options.

#3

For further protection, parents can use Qustodio to filter content, block websites and apps, and supervise their child's online activity.

[Click here to watch the short video / read the full article by child wellbeing specialist, Teodora Pavkovic](#)



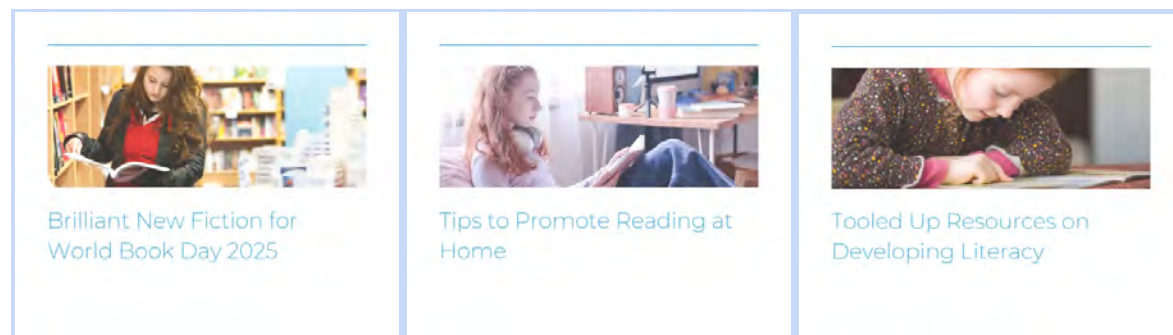
This week, many Tooled Up schools will celebrate World Book Day 2025. Whether dressing up as a favourite character, learning new words, enjoying online readings or taking extra time to share best loved books, this is a great opportunity for children to be excited about becoming enthusiastic readers.

Research shows that having a **wide reading habit** can bring many **benefits** for children. **Reading** for pleasure **is associated with better outcomes at school, improved wellbeing** and enhances skills such as **empathy**. So it's no surprise that here at Tooled Up we're passionate advocates for reading and literacy.

If you'd like some **inspiration for your next library or bookshop trip**, or you want help choosing up-to-date titles visit: [Brilliant New Fiction for World Book Day 2025](#). **This resource includes book suggestions for children of all ages from five years to older teens.**

Some children need help and encouragement **to become regular readers. Find advice** for making reading a more central part of family life in [Ten Tips to Promote Reading at Home](#).

For **younger children, set them on the path to becoming confident, proficient readers** with these [Tooled Up Resources on Developing Literacy](#).



Remember to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with all of our latest updates and resources. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

