

## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

I was moved last night by the impact of our pupils' contributions to the Memento event coordinated by Mr McGrother, which saw a large number of guests come together to sing and reminisce, with the power of music helping old and young share experiences and enjoy a fun and creative evening. I watched a guest called Rita light up and join in when some pupils (beautifully) sang Danny Boy, with her carers moved to tears to see the energy and engagement that the music inspired in her. At the end, she encapsulated the mood of the event, telling me how special it had been. A wonderful, uplifting evening - well done to all pupils involved, and a big thank you to staff who supported the event.

It's been a week of emotions, because on Wednesday I was drawn into the emotional rollercoaster that is *Goodnight Mr Tom*, performed wonderfully by a cast of talented Fourth Year pupils in a packed Studio Theatre in the PAA. A sell-out run over three nights, with a matinee for some Prep Pupils as part of their drama week, is just rewards for the cast and crew who have worked hard to bring to life the harrowing challenges (and life-changing friendships) of evacuation and the

grim reality of life in London during the war.

The newsletter contains powerful words from Arthana, introduced by Mrs Dugdale, on cancel culture in a letter to our MP - written as an academic exercise, but eloquently shining light on an important topic. Our Debating team did the school proud in the latest round of the ESU competition with a report of their exploits within. There are updates from EconBus, Careers and Politics Society, and the Fourth Year's study skills afternoon which supports pupils to learn 'how to learn' effectively. Alex's drawings grace Artists' Corner this week.

The spotlight on sporting success falls on boys' hockey this week with a range of match reports and some very impressive progress - including to the North Finals for the 1st XI and 2nd in the North for the U12s, and we have enjoyed congratulating our girls' teams in assemblies as they've collected medals and trophies from recent successes to acclaim from their peers. Congratulations also go to Ella, who represented Ireland in their U17s netball team at a recent tournament and played every match - quite an achievement.

Dr Huw Williams



Our Fourth Year pupils delivered an exceptional performance of *Goodnight Mister Tom*!

## YARM SCHOOL DEBATERS IMPRESS AT ESU REGIONAL FINALS

On Monday, 10th March, Yarm School's debating team travelled to Queen Mary's for the English-Speaking Union (ESU) Regional Finals. The venue - a grand, Grade I-listed Palladian Revival house - provided an atmospheric backdrop to the evening's intellectual battles. Greeted with warmth and hospitality (and the school dog, Winnie) our team settled into the historic surroundings, the crackling fire lending an air of quiet intensity to the occasion.

Having navigated their way through two formidable home rounds, where they contended with a combined team from Queen Mary's and Hermitage Academy, as well as Ripon Grammar, our debaters arrived well-prepared. Throughout the competition, the team - comprising Eleanor, Gabe, Sophie, Nila, Rishi, Adam, and Daniel - had dedicated themselves to weekly workshops organised by Mr. Bridges, refining their rhetorical craft, deepening their research, and honing their ability to respond dynamically to scrutiny.

For the evening's debate, Yarm School took the proposition side on the motion: "This House would fine sports teams for violence perpetuated by their fans."

Eleanor commanded the lectern with unwavering confidence, presenting the central case with clarity and force. She framed the debate with precision, demonstrating how financial penalties could act as an effective

deterrent against disorderly conduct. Poised and meticulous, she left no doubt about her ability to carve out compelling arguments—an orator with the makings of a barrister.

Building on this foundation, Gabe dissected the real-world implications of club accountability, arguing for a layered approach that combined financial repercussions with reputational and competitive consequences. Having worked on refining his closing remarks in previous rounds, he executed them flawlessly on the night.

Closing for the team, Rishi responded deftly to audience challenges, synthesising key arguments while underscoring the moral imperative of club responsibility. Her delivery balanced composure with conviction and pathos, ensuring that the proposition's case remained sharp and resonant until the final word.

Though only one team could advance to the national finals - ultimately, St. Aidan's Church of England High School - it was a night of triumph in its own right.

Every speaker, every researcher, every strategist had played a role in propelling Yarm School to this prestigious stage. Mr. Bridges

and I could not have been prouder of the team's dedication, eloquence, and intellectual agility. To have reached this level is no small feat, and each student should take pride in the progress they have made, not just as debaters, but as thinkers, researchers, and advocates. With so much Lower Sixth talent on display in the team as well, we look forward to next year's competition with optimism and ambition.

Ms A Breslin



## A LETTER ON 'CANCEL CULTURE'

If you could ban one thing, what might it be? Grapefruits, private doctors, sports scholarships at prestigious schools, TikTok, black pudding - these are just a few of the suggestions offered by 3.1 in their response to Caitlin Moran's article in 'The Times' on the merits of banning homework. Having explored the wit and craft with which Moran convinces readers to her view, 3.1 set to work on their own letter to a local MP. We haven't posted this letter on 'cancel culture' to Mr Vickers, the conservative MP for Stockton West, but did think it needed to be shared more widely.

Mrs S Dugdale



Dear Mr Vickers,

Would you be willing to live in a world where expressing even an iota of dissent would lead to public shaming?

I imagine not: as a politician, your key ethos should be to encourage question and inquiry. The corrosive nature of cancel culture is virulent in our society, and infects the lives of people each and every day. The more we act as bystanders to this issue, the more we allow this dilemma to spread, the more we prevent progress in our society.

The very phenomena of "cancelling" someone does not foster benefits for anyone, be it the "victim" or the "perpetrator". This toxic method of social media "activism" often escalates into bullying - the person being cancelled becomes consumed by feelings of isolation and anxiety, with no one to turn to. Neither friends, nor family. No one.

Beyond the negative outcomes of cancelling on the ostensibly "problematic" person, the mental health of the canceller is also at risk of deterioration. An initial false sense of morality and justice for the canceller is replaced by a sinister obsession with elevating their social status and defending their reputation. This utter disregard for other people can lead to families being destroyed, relationships decimated and communities scarred beyond repair.

Although someone could have the correct intentions behind cancelling another, this action brings a scarce amount of reform, and cannot be considered a form of activism. Activism is battling for equality, rights and an enhanced sense of prosperity - cancel culture is a futile excuse for harassment and ostracisation. The generation that seemingly uses social media the most are opposed to cancel culture too: 59% of Gen Z view it negatively. Furthermore, cancel culture spurs on a regression back to primitive, flawed structures inherent to society. The systematic exclusion of contentious views and intolerance for counter arguments eerily reflects back to a period of totalitarianism under Joseph Stalin.

The threat is imminent.

If we do not pose sanctions on those reinforcing cancel culture, we risk forcing society back into decades we never want to explore again. Back to times of bloodshed, violence and hostility. Despite this, cancel culture can provide marginalised people (like those failed by the justice system) a voice. Power is shared more evenly amongst people and allows for those hidden in the shadows to emerge and advocate for what is right, without being ignored or ridiculed.

However, is this worth the inevitable harm cancel culture incites? Is this worth families being destroyed, relationships decimated and communities scarred beyond repair?

I think not.

Now is the time for action. Now is the time to ban cancel culture before it threatens to tear society apart. Now is the time.

Yours sincerely,

Arthana Pradeep, Third Year



## POLITICS SOCIETY SPRING 2025

The Politics Society meets every week of term and offers a speaker of significance for the pupils. Most of the sessions are open to all Senior School pupils with advance notice going out in morning tutorial messages. Pupils are welcome to attend and are encouraged to explore the diverse range of topics under exploration.

Mr S Edwards

<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Thu 13th Mar</b> All Day Leeds	<b>U6 Revision Conference</b> White Rose Centre
	<b>Fri 14th Mar</b> 12:45 - 13:30 FT	<b>Chris Cooke</b> Mayor of Middlesbrough <i>'The purpose and powers of a mayor'</i>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Thu 27th Mar</b> 14:00 - 14:45 Remote from House of Lords	<b>Lady Doreen Lawrence OBE</b> Founder of the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation <i>'Peer, campaigner, activist, mother'</i>
	<b>Fri 28th Mar</b> 12:45 - 13:30 FT	<b>Dr Anna Barker</b> Associate Professor in Criminal Justice & Criminology School of Law, Faculty of Social Science, University of Leeds <i>'Parklife: Security and fear of crime - understanding risk in public spaces'</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Thur 3rd Apr</b> 12:45 - 13:30 FT	<b>Dr Haian Dukhan</b> Lecturer in Politics & International Relations Department of Law, Policing and Investigation, University of Teesside <i>'The Fall of the Syrian Regime: Causes and Challenges'</i>

## FAME AFTER YARM - PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR

This week we were delighted to welcome back another staunch supporter of the EconBus department Daniel Orlopp (class of 2020) for a FAME Working Lunch. Daniel was happy to again share his experiences of applying for and securing a degree apprenticeship, as well as contrasting his experiences of working in both the private and public sector. He was

generous with his advice to his 16/17 year old self and, as always, we are grateful to Daniel for his ongoing assistance to both EconBus and more generally to the Careers department. We hope we will welcome him back again in the not too distant future as our students always gain so much from his insights.

Miss C Rhodes



## YARM APPRENTICE TASK 5: WALK THIS WAY....

Another trip to the Prep but this time it was our intrepid Yarm Apprentice Project Managers who led their chosen team mates to undertake intense primary market research with their very enthusiastic Year Four interviewees.

Teams reconvened back at the Senior School post investigations to further plan their Vindolanda resources. We are really grateful to Mrs Jolly and her class for their generous assistance.

Miss C Rhodes



## FOURTH YEAR STUDY SKILLS AFTERNOON



This week, Fourth Year took part in a wide range of study skills workshops designed to support their independent study. These sessions explored many topics including how to create effective notes, practical strategies for managing exam stress and the best way to plan revision. Pupils also had the opportunity to explore online tools and apps for learning, as well as active revision strategies to boost retention and recall of learned information such as brain dumps, mind maps and flashcards. We would encourage all pupils to share what they learned with you and to commit to getting into good study habits by practicing these skills at home.

Mrs E Bridle



## CANDLE CONFERENCE

On Thursday 6th March, the Lower Sixth RPE students attended the Candle Conference at St Peter's School in York, where they heard popular A Level lecturer Dr Peter Vardy speak on a range of topics. The subjects of these lectures included: The Bible, where the Bible's status as the Truth and the word of God was debated, the distinctiveness of Christian Ethics, Will I Survive my Death, and Jesus and Marx. The conference finished with a debate giving the pupils to interact with A Level students from other schools and to put forward their arguments. The students found the day very enjoyable and informative and the conference was immensely helpful as revision and preparing them for future topics.

Mr N Lyle



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## PAA HOST OPERA STARS

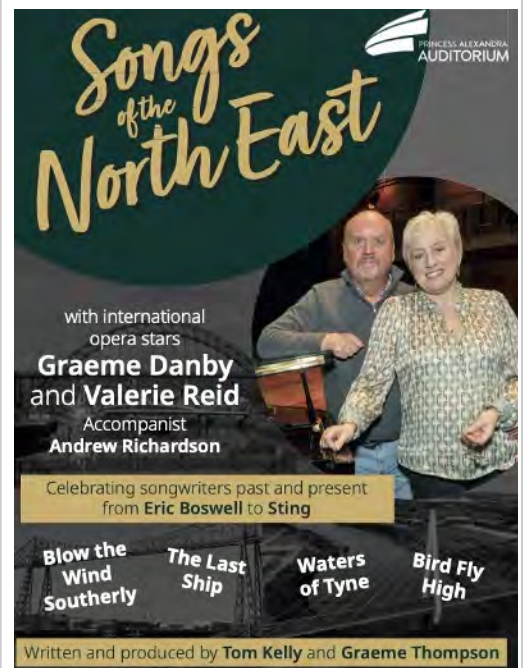
International opera stars Graeme Danby and Valerie Reid are coming to the PAA with their celebration of the music of the North East.

A glorious evening of music and the stories behind classics including Blow the Wind Southerly, Waters of Tyne and The Keel Row, songs by Mark Knopfler (Sailing to Philadelphia), Elton John (Deep into the Ground from Billy Elliott), and Sting (The Last Ship) as well as favourites from Eric Boswell (The Girl from the Northland, Bird Fly High) and Joe Wilson (Sally Wheatley).

A unique opportunity to sit back and enjoy singers more usually seen on the great concert and opera stages of the world, and a homecoming for North East born renowned bass Graeme and his mezzo soprano wife Valerie.

The show is on Tuesday 29th April and tickets are £24 each.

Tickets available online at <https://bit.ly/SongsNEPAA25> or from the box office on 01642 792587.



## ARTISTS' CORNER

I have drawn some of the characters from my stories, which I write. The girl sat on the wall is Avery and the sailor characters are (clockwise top left to bottom left) Corah, Theo, Rudi and Robbie. Drawing these characters really helps me develop my ideas for my stories.

Alex Prideaux, First Year



## U12 FINISH RUNNERS-UP AT NORTH TOURNAMENT

The U12 hockey team put in a superb performance at the North

Tournament, securing second place after an impressive run of results.

The group stage saw Yarm start strongly with a 3-0 win over Bolton

School before facing St Peter's, a team they had beaten the night before.

Under pressure to repeat their success, the team delivered once again with a 3-1 victory. Their final group game against Calday Grange was a tactical encounter, knowing that a draw would be enough to avoid tournament hosts King's Chester in the semi-finals. After falling 2-1 behind, Yarm battled back to secure a 2-2 draw and progress as group runners-up.

In the semi-final, Yarm faced RGS Newcastle, a side they had already

beaten in the county round. Despite an early setback, going 1-0 down, the team responded brilliantly, playing some of their best hockey of the day to earn a 3-1 victory and a place in the final.

The final against King's Chester was always going to be a tough challenge, with the hosts having won every game without conceding a single goal. An uncharacteristic start saw Yarm fall 3-0 behind, but the team showed great resilience, regrouping for a much-improved second half. Despite their efforts, King's Chester proved too strong, and the final score was 5-0.

There were some outstanding individual performances throughout the day. Rex White and Miles Page led the team's attack as top scorers, while

Lewis Dargue was a commanding presence in defence. His defensive partner, Ronav Gowda, grew in confidence and delivered a series of excellent performances as the tournament progressed.

Finishing as runners-up in such a competitive tournament is a fantastic achievement, and the whole squad should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

Mr J Alexander



## SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).



## MORE BOYS HOCKEY

### 1st Team Progress Through National Quarter Finals

#### Yarm 5-2 Altrincham Grammar

Yarm avenged a 2-0 defeat last year against the same opposition to progress through to a North Final (last 8 Nationally) which will be played at home. Many of the squad have had their heads elsewhere recently as they came off study leave to play this game 4pm on a Friday evening.

Yarm were very much focused in the warm up and dominated the early exchanges with Timmy Foley scoring a ridiculous above the head volley as he pounced on a rebound off the keeper. Will Ferguson quickly followed this up with a trademark drive into the circle to unleash a reverse hit into the bottom corner- with the game under control, Yarm came into the half time break full of confidence.

Whether it was over-confidence or Altrincham stepped up, things unravelled very quickly as the away team converted 2 short corners to level the scores. Yarm looked a bit disorganised and lost their shape however, Will Ferguson was about to demonstrate his England pedigree as he took the game by the scruff of the neck. He slotted a drag flick from a short corner before scoring a ridiculous top corner open stick hit leaving the watching crowd to wonder 'How did he do that?'. Finally,

he converted another well taken reverse stick taking his tally to 4 and his team into the quarter finals.

The team knows they will need to play better next round but given the challenges of getting this game played during study leave, the boys can be pleased with themselves.

Mr G Ferguson

### Scarborough Block Saturday 8th March

It was a really successful morning for Yarm as we completed a full sweep of victories against Scarborough College who have heavily invested in their sports programme in recent years- results are here with a few choice match reports below...

#### HOME

U14- Yarm 7-1 Scarborough

U15- Yarm 6- 2 Scarborough

#### AWAY

U12A- Scarborough 2-5 Yarm

U12B- Scarborough 2-11 Yarm

U13A- Scarborough 0-1 Yarm

U13B- Scarborough 0-4 Yarm

### Match Reports

#### U13B: Scarborough 0-4 Yarm

The game started strong with a high pass which gave us the first goal of the game, rebounding from Dylan Bowers' hit and Jack Severn tapping it through the keeper legs to make the score 1:0 this gave the team a boost and for the next 5 minutes we were fighting for the ball and we made

some good tackles and we were through! Before we knew it we were 2 goals ahead, thanks to Fletcher Cummins and his beautiful hit! The next half of the first half was difficult because we were able to snatch another two goals making us comfortably in the lead! After a successful first half we were confident but as we started we were equally matched and we fought for every ball but unfortunately despite our best efforts we were not able to score! This being the case full time ended with the score of 4:0. Overall the fixture was a great success and was a great experience and we have improved a lot.

Ethan Cowley , Second Year

#### U12B: Scarborough 2-11 Yarm

Our team travelled to Scarborough hoping for a good result having worked hard on our match play in the last few games. It was a bright sunny spring morning and we were delighted to get out on the pitch and play again.

We played well as a team creating numerous goal opportunities which were not wasted! There was lots of excitement and enjoyment in the match and we were delighted to come away with a decisive victory (11-2)!

We hope to continue to thrive and work as a team in our next match and keep improving our skills and match play!

Thomas O'Hare, First Year



# *It's Only the 70s*



## **Spring Music Concert**

Sunday 30th March

The Princess Alexandra Auditorium

Tickets £6

Tickets from [www.thepaaonline.org](http://www.thepaaonline.org)  
or the Box Office





# YARM CAREER CONVENTION 2025



Thurs, 1st May



6:30pm



Yarm School



All welcome!

Find out more at:

[yarmschool.org/career-convention-2025](https://yarmschool.org/career-convention-2025)



**YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**  
**GLASTYARMBURY**  
**ANNUAL SUMMER BALL**

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**LIVE** *Music*

**FOOD-DRINKS-DANCING**

*PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM,  
ATRIUM & TERRACE, YARM SCHOOL*

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**ROCK FESTIVAL**

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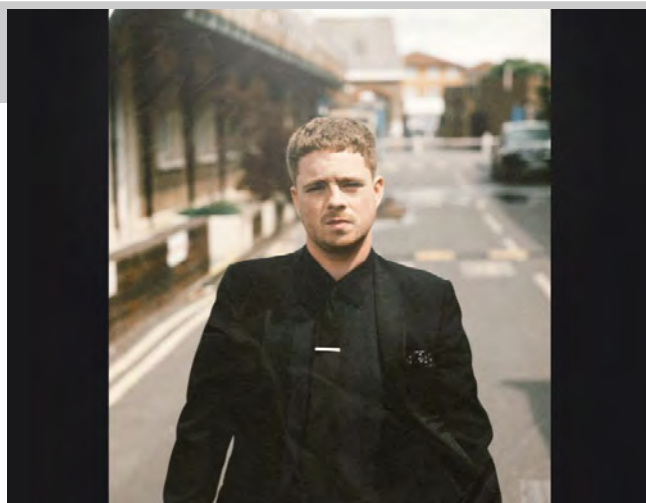
**14 JUNE**  
**2025**

**SAVE**  
**THE DATE**



## TOM BALL - SPOTLIGHT

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.



**Wednesday 16th April, 7.30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)

## SLEEPING BEAUTY

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.



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

[Book Online Here](#)

## DAVE FINNEGAN'S COMMITMENTS

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.



**Sunday 11th May, 7.30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
7

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

### ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

### MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

### ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

### SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

### PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

### TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

### Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



## Newsletter, 12.03.2025

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.



Myths and Truths about  
Dyscalculia



Understanding Dyslexia



All About Me: My Learning  
Profile

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](#).

