



Newsletter

No: 1408 | 25th April 2025

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

I hope you had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been a pleasure to see the school full of energy once again as pupils return with purpose and enthusiasm for the term ahead.

This week, we share reflections from the winners of this year's Yarm Apprentice challenge and celebrate the impressive total raised for charity through their efforts. We hear also about a spirited table tennis tournament in aid of Phab Club. The YSA's

wonderful 'Glastyarmbury' Summer Ball is fast approaching - do make the most of the final chance to secure Earlybird tickets. We are very much looking forward to the Career Convention on Thursday 1st May at 6.30pm, which offers a valuable opportunity for pupils from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth, and their parents, to meet a wide range of professionals, universities and training institutions and explore possible next steps.

The musical calendar is also brimming: Yarm Choral Society will be performing at Yarm Parish Church on Wednesday 30th April, and our ever-popular Concert and Cake returns on Wednesday 14th May. In Art, there will be an opportunity to view the impressive GCSE and A Level collections on Tuesday 13th May.

Wishing everyone a rewarding and purposeful start to the term.

Dr Huw Williams



Highlights from some great Outdoor Ed and YSBC trips during the Easter holiday!

GET YOUR GLASTYARMBURY TICKETS NOW!

Our wonderful Glastyarmbury Summer Ball returns this year! Tickets for this event - which include a three course meal and live music from 'Still into You' - are at the amazing **early bird price of £65pp only until midnight on 1st May!** [Get yours from this link now!](#)

We're proud to announce that this year's Ball is supporting the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

The Foundation funds projects that directly benefit cancer patients from across North East England and Cumbria – and which also contribute significantly to international research into the disease. Find out more at: sirbobbyrobsonfoundation.org.uk.



IT'S DEFINITELY NOT ALL ABOUT THE MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

It's not all about the money, however, we are very proud that the Yarm Apprentices have raised a fantastic £1132 for good causes, whilst enjoying competing in the competition, honing their own employability skills, and applying their classroom learning of Economics and Business.

The breakdown is as follows

£105.48 Yarm Wellness Centre

£340.97 The Teesside Charity

£548.05 Tees Family Foundation

£137.50 Music School

Once again thanks to the students and everyone who has supported them in helping so many fabulous causes.

Miss C Rhodes

ARE YOU... SIMPLY THE BEST?

Can you lead?

Can you be creative?

Can you problem solve?

Can you think on your feet?

Can you stay calm?

Can you make decisions?

Can you manage your time?

Can you work in a team?

Can you manage people who don't pull their weight?

Can you resolve conflict?

Can you bounce back after failure?

Can you name a charity which means something to you, and raise money to support it?

Can you pitch?

Can you justify your ideas?

Can you stand up for yourself?

Can you admit to being wrong?

Can you take calculated risks?

Can you have fun, whilst building the skills needed for UCAS,

Apprenticeships, Internships and / or employability?

Can you compete?

Can you commit?

Are you in the Lower Sixth next year?

Can you be the CER's 2026 Yarm Apprentice?

Well,

Don't just think it...

Don't just say it.....

Don't just claim it....

PROVE IT!

Sign up for Yarm Apprentice - Tuesday Activities - Autumn and Spring Terms 25/26

Miss C Rhodes

PHAB CLUB TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Hannah, Muskaan, Ria, Paras, Rahul and Mo hosted the Phab Club table tennis tournament.

The winners were Wei Chang, Lucia and Eliza, Haider and finally Sam and Joe. Thank you to everyone that took part.

Hannah Muzawazi, Lower Sixth



YARM CAREER CONVENTION 2025



Thurs, 1st May



6:30pm



Yarm School

An amazing opportunity for all
4th Year, 5th Year and Sixth Form students!

60+ professions

28 universities and training providers

Click here to find out more:
yarmschool.org/career-convention-2025



THE ONLY WAY IS UP....

Reflections.....The words of the YA Winners last September.. Before the Tasks began...

Sum yourself up in no more than 10 words

"I am organised and love sport and I also love to talk with others", Olivia

"I am a teamplayer and kind to everyone", Ria

Why should you be the winner of YA 2025?

"Whilst completing my Textiles and Art coursework I came across many problems, however I always worked to find a solution. I try to always make sure everyone is involved and comfortable in activities and find myself often supporting my friends", Olivia

"I am open minded and a team player. But also ready to take charge when necessary to bring the team to victory", Ria

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"Taking on my dad's business, with a family who are happy and healthy", Olivia

"Hopefully working in an area of Finance", Ria

Miss C Rhodes

REFLECTIONS ON YA 25 BY THE JOINT WINNERS... IN THEIR WORDS

Ria Gulve

"I found Yarm Apprentice to be not only an exciting and memorable experience, but also an incredibly valuable one. Each task brought new challenges, encouraging us to draw on a range of both strong and soft skills. My favourite task was the Christmas Fair, a Yarm Apprentice tradition, which gave us an amazing opportunity to sell our products and engage directly with customers. I also really enjoyed creating an activity booklet for the Year 4 Vindolanda trip, where I was able to prove myself as Project Manager. The task allowed me to bring together ideas from both my team and the Year 4 pupils, turning those ideas into a physical resource that will be used on their school trip. Throughout the process, I developed my teamwork and presentation skills, which I know will be useful in the future. I learned how to collaborate effectively, listen to a range of perspectives, and make collective group decisions. It also boosted my confidence in presenting, helping me communicate ideas clearly whilst engaging the audience."

AND

Olivia Mitchell

"Taking part in the Yarm Apprentice has been an incredibly valuable experience that's helped me grow in confidence, creativity, and

communication. Each task pushed me outside of my comfort zone, allowing me to discover strengths I didn't know I had.

One of the biggest things I've developed is the ability to present professionally. Throughout the process, I had the opportunity to pitch ideas to key members of the school and local community, which helped me become more confident in how I speak and carry myself. I've also improved my ability to think creatively—whether it was designing a smoothie collaboration or creating materials for younger students, I learned how to bring ideas to life in a way that connects with others.

Teamwork was another key part of the experience. Working closely with my peers and guest judges taught me how to communicate clearly, listen actively, and take on board others perspectives. Even when things didn't go to plan early on, I learned how to handle setbacks and keep moving forward, which made our later successes feel even more rewarding.

Above all, this experience has taught me how to turn challenges into opportunities for growth. I now feel much more prepared to take on new projects, work with different types of people, and adapt to whatever comes my way."

Miss C Rhodes



GALLERY VIEWING

GCSE & A LEVEL ART

**TUESDAY
13TH MAY,
4-7PM**

You are warmly invited to Yarm School to view the 2025 summer GCSE & A Level collections.

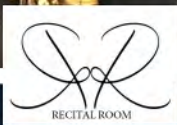
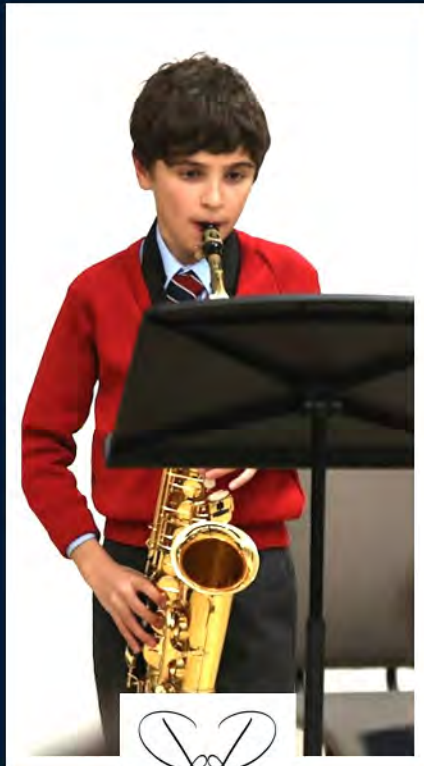
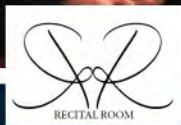
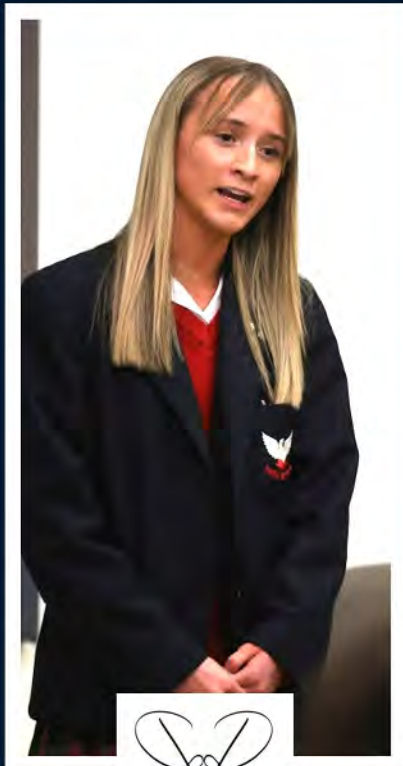
Take in over 100 fantastic pieces of artwork displaying a wide range of styles and techniques.

Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine whilst viewing the artwork.

**GCSE:
RECITAL ROOM**

**A LEVEL:
ART ATTIC STUDIO**

Yarm School Music Department presents:



Concert & Cake 4

Wednesday 14th May 2025, 5pm



Tickets are £3.50 and are available from www.thepaaonline.org or by calling into the School box office or by calling them on 01642 792587

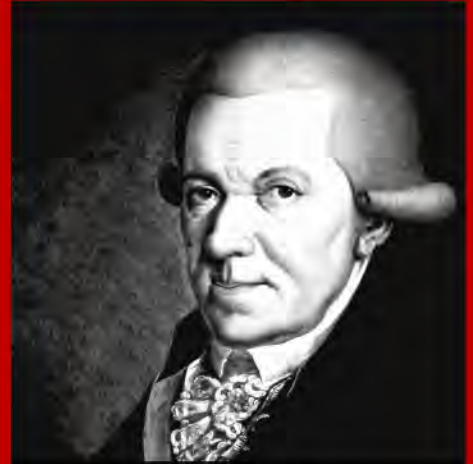
Yarm Choral Society and Soloists from Yarm School present:



Mozart
1756-1791



Schubert
1797-1828



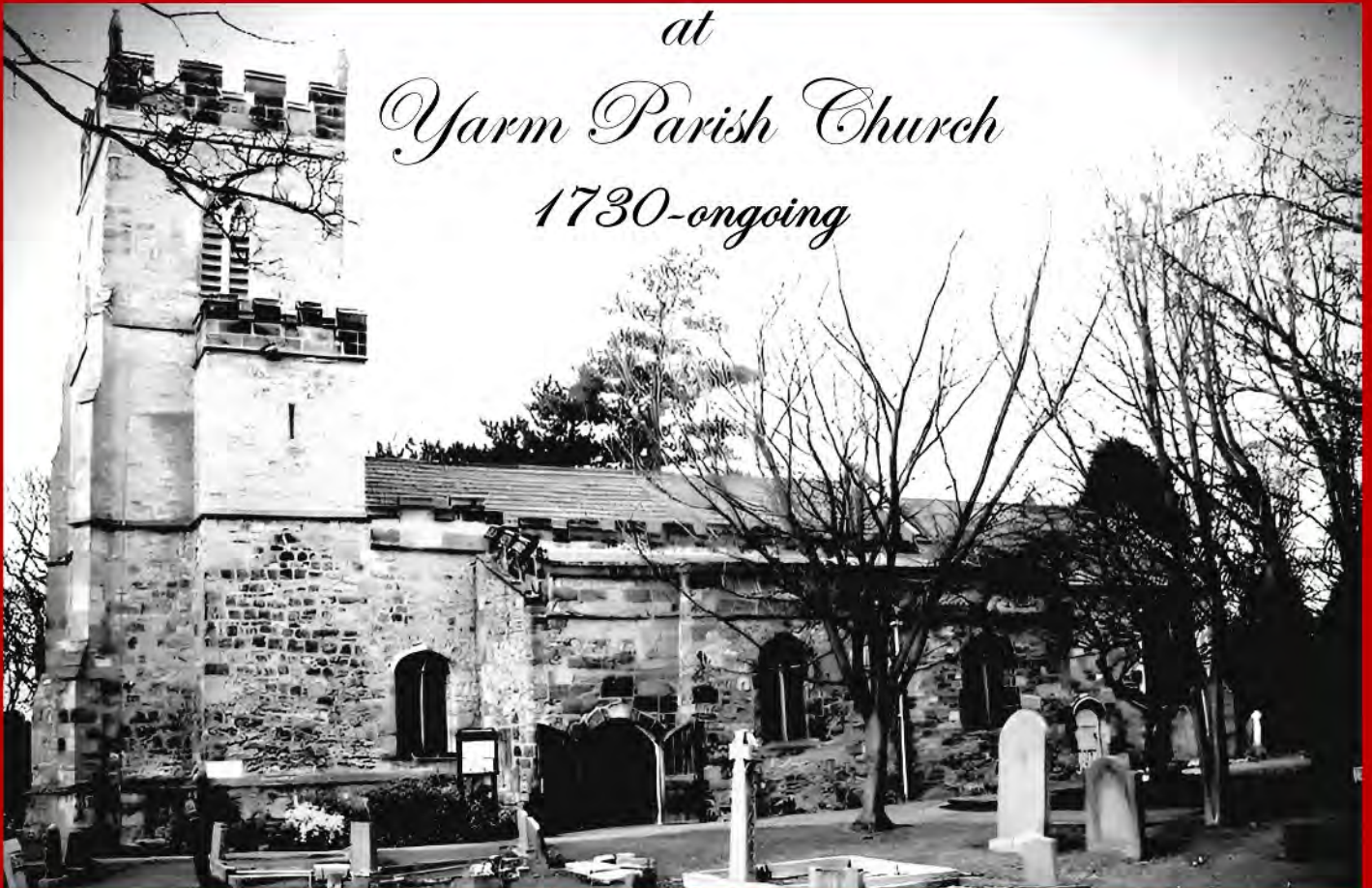
Haydn
1732-1809

A Classical Collection

Wednesday 30th April, 7.30pm

at

Yarm Parish Church
1730-ongoing



Tickets are £8 and are available “on the door” on the evening of the event. Proceeds from this event will help us raise money for the upkeep and maintenance of this 295 year old building

Refreshments will be available from Café Magdalene pre-concert and at the interval.

BONNIE AND CLYDE (LIVE STREAM)

Starring Tony-Nominee Jeremy Jordan and Olivier-Nominee Frances Mayli McCann, this award-winning production (including Best New Musical – What's On Stage Awards 2023) re-tells the unbelievable true story of America's most infamous couple, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow.



Friday 2nd May, 7pm and Sunday 4th May, 2pm

[Book Online Here](#)

DAVE FINNEGAN'S COMMITMENTS

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 2025, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

MAGIC OF SCIENCE

Fusing the mystery of magic with wondrous and miraculous feats of science.

Hang on to your seats and experience a non-stop action packed interactive magical science show with experiments and magic that will capture the imagination.

Join Top Secret as they go on a High Voltage Adventure!!!

Top Secret is a fast moving colourful magical science show filled with mystery, suspense, and lots and lots of mess!



Tuesday 27th May 2025, 11am and 3pm

[Book Online Here](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

You have been gifted annual access to the **Tooled Up Education Platform**, designed to provide you with holistic parenting resources throughout your child's educational journey at their school.

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TOOLED UP



1 We are the village.

Behind the platform, is a research team that is passionate about helping and supporting you and your family. We always say, *'it takes a village to raise a child'* and we mean it. Whatever you need, whatever you want us to research for you, we are one email away.



6 We run online conferences too.

All Toolled Up members are able to attend our live, online conferences and watch them back in their own time. In 2023, we ran conferences on autism, ADHD and the Early Years.



2 We pride ourselves on our responsiveness.

Try us out. Register your free account and then send a 'parenting support' question via our site. See what comes back! If we don't have a resource already to signpost you to, we will create one for you.



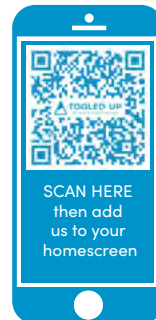
7 Life can be uncertain, but you can count on us to help.

We are here for you and welcome all questions. Turn this page over to see what other Toolled Up parents have asked us recently. Use the 'get support' button on our site to get in touch!



3 We are famous for our mental health resources, but we do so much more!

Our platform contains hundreds of resources designed to promote early intervention and ward off mental distress, but guess what? Our platform also contains hundreds of resources on learning, resilience, sport, digital technology and just anything going on in family life! No need for Google.



8 You can keep us in your pocket!

We have optimised our website for mobile devices.



4 We believe there is a manual for parenting.

We believe that the available research evidence can guide us all as parents towards what is optimal when bringing up children. We look to that research and engage with academics all over the world to locate the golden nuggets that busy, loving, aspirational parents need to 'try and apply' in parenting to good effect.



9 Whatever your child is interested in, interests us.

Perhaps your child is passionate about fossils, hockey, chess, Minecraft or swimming? Perhaps older children are considering university places, jobs or alternatives to both. Whatever their pathway to greatness, if there is anything we can do to support *you to support them*, tell us about it!



5 You're in good company.

Our weekly newsletter, [Wednesday Wisdom](#) is read by over 10,000 parents and teachers every week but only Toolled Up registered parents can unlock the toolbox at the end of each newsletter. [Register](#) your account and then take a peek at any edition.



10 We are open 24/7, 365 days of the year.

When schools shut for the holidays, our research team remains open to help you get any information that you need and to signpost you to information or resources that can assist you.



TOOLED UP
BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

QUESTIONS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

You will find evidence-based answers to these and many more questions in our online resource library of videos, podcasts, interviews, quick tips, downloadable pdfs, and activities that can be used within the classroom and at home.

My five year old won't ever listen. What am I doing wrong?

Are superfoods beneficial for children?

Are there any support resources for siblings of children with eating disorders?

My child is deaf. Are there any organisations out there that can support us as a family as she journeys through school?

I am worried about sending my child on a residential trip, what advice do you have?

Can you give me some information on how to support my fussy eater?

Our child has just lost their uncle, what should we do to say to help them with this loss? They were very close.

Do you have any resources on diabetes?

Can you help us with 11+ preparation? Any revision tips?

My son is dyslexic. Can you do a webinar on what I can do to support him?

What is the best way to motivate a teen?

Is TikTok safe for under 12s?

How does Snapchat work?

How can I support my child as we move countries?

My child is being bullied over her hair. What can I do to stop hating herself?

What happens when a child visits a clinical psychologist?

Can you please answer a list of questions on ADHD medication?

My son is scared to go to the dentist. What can we do?

What stress management tips are there for busy parents juggling jobs and family life?

How can I help my teen become a good bystander to poor behaviour?

Any tips on getting my child to sleep at night?

Can you create a resource to help my daughter aspire in sport?

Do you have any packing lists for family holidays?

How should I talk to my primary-age child about sex and relationships?

How can I help my teen be more resilient?

My daughter has a seafood allergy, can we hear from an expert on this?

What should I be feeding my child on sports' day to help their performance?

My child seems in a very dark mood. Should I be worried?