

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

I had a thoroughly enjoyable time last weekend, supporting a selection of things that our pupils were involved in. Early morning hockey at school, chatting to our rugby players over lunch, who had hosted Pocklington at Green Lane, then on to Durham for the wonderful races reported on within made up my Saturday - well done to all those who represented the school on the river for the first time. Sunday morning saw our CCF cadets, staff and Laura (playing the Last Post) make a wonderful contribution to the town's Remembrance Parade, including Captain Taylor, our Contingent Commander, reading the names of the fallen as the wreaths were laid at the memorial. It was a privilege to see our pupils varied and impressive involvement in activities on the weekend, and I know that others were

involved in other activities such as the textiles trip and more.

This week has continued in busy fashion, with pupils involved in House Assemblies, considering anti-bullying week in Tutorial time (as explained by Mrs Gratton within), performing in a wonderful ensembles concert in the parish church, representing the school in sports fixtures, engaging in House Debate competitions and much more. Many pupil achievements and contributions are celebrated in the newsletter, including Effie's orchestral success, winning Economics poems, big questions from the debating society, Charlie's wonderful work in the artists' corner, Jodie's fascinating book review, Simone's EconBus soc talk review, Charlotte's DofE expedition highlights, Upper Sixth Theatre Studies play review and a forward look to the Fifth

Year Play! If you have time over the weekend, I recommend a careful read.

This weekend sees the much anticipated return of the YSA's fantastic Christmas Indoor Market, and I hope many people will come along to support the event, and perhaps to get ahead with some Christmas shopping (assuming, like me, you haven't started yet...) and have a thoroughly enjoyable visit. There is a lot going on, and I am so grateful to the YSA, colleagues, pupils and parents who are volunteering their time, or who have donated a tombola prize, to make the event a great success. Please encourage friends and family to come and explore the stalls or to visit Santa's grotto, among other festive treats; I look forward to seeing you there.

Dr Huw Williams



Yarm School Association



CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

Saturday 19th November,
10am - 4pm, Yarm School
£2 Adults, Children free, Pay on the door

Rudolph Rodeo
Children's Games,
Santa's Grotto!

Craft Stalls,
Gift Ideas,
Food & Drink

Don't forget to bring cash as some stalls (including Yarm Apprentice stalls) do not have contactless payment!

'REACH OUT' - NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Every November, schools throughout the United Kingdom take part in Anti-Bullying Week. This is an opportunity to spotlight bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. Anti-Bullying Week 2022 is this week Monday 14th to Friday 18th November and this year has the theme 'Reach Out'.

This week pupils and students in all year groups have been discussing bullying during tutorial time and considering ways in which they can support each other. They have also been discussing how we can ensure there is an anti-bullying culture within school. The topic of bullying is also covered throughout the year in assemblies and in SPaCE lessons.

As a parent or carer, you are a vital piece of the puzzle in tackling bullying. You have a unique role to play in guiding and supporting your child through their school years and there are many positive steps you can take to help keep your child safe from bullying and harm.

Kidscape have released information for parents about how to support their child with bullying which can be accessed in the link below;

[KIDSCAPE RESOURCE FOR PARENTS](#)

Please do ask your son/daughter about what they have talked about during tutorial time this week. We have looked at the different types of bullying and reminded pupils of the

impact on those being bullied. We have also looked at the importance of not being a 'bystander' by making sure we support each other and tell someone if it is going on so that it can be dealt with and stopped.

PHYSICAL includes hitting, kicking, tripping, pushing or purposefully damaging or moving other people's property.



VERBAL Includes name-calling, threatening, teasing, saying nasty or rude things to someone or about someone to others.



PSYCHOLOGICAL Includes spreading lies about someone, playing nasty jokes or excluding people from a group either in school at break or online in group chats.



ONLINE Includes hurtful comments / messages / posts, excluding on purpose, spreading nasty gossip and imitating others online.



If as a parent your child tells you about bullying behaviour either towards them or another pupil in school, please do encourage them to speak to either their Tutor / Associate Tutor, Head of Year or Mrs Gratton / Dr Goodall. We need all pupils to 'reach out' and let us know. Telling someone about others being mean to a pupil is not being a 'snake' or a 'grass': it is IMPORTANT in helping us stop it from continuing,

and this week we will also be talking about this aspect of supporting each other with all year groups.

Finally, **excluding others** at break, online and outside of school is also a form of bullying and can have a real impact on a person who feels suddenly left out and isolated. At Christmas time, things like 'Secret Santa' in school can be done insensitively and make people feel isolated and we are encouraging pupils instead to contribute to their House Giving Week initiatives for those less fortunate and struggling this Christmas. Last year, this was a great success and we are sure this year will be the same.

As a parent, if you notice that suddenly your son or daughter is not including someone that they normally would have been friendly with, do speak to them about this. One of the most important things when dealing with bullying is to get pupils to reflect and put themselves in the shoes of the other person. Often with a reminder of this and some thought and consideration given to the impact of actions, kind behaviour returns and positive learning takes place.

Mrs K Gratton

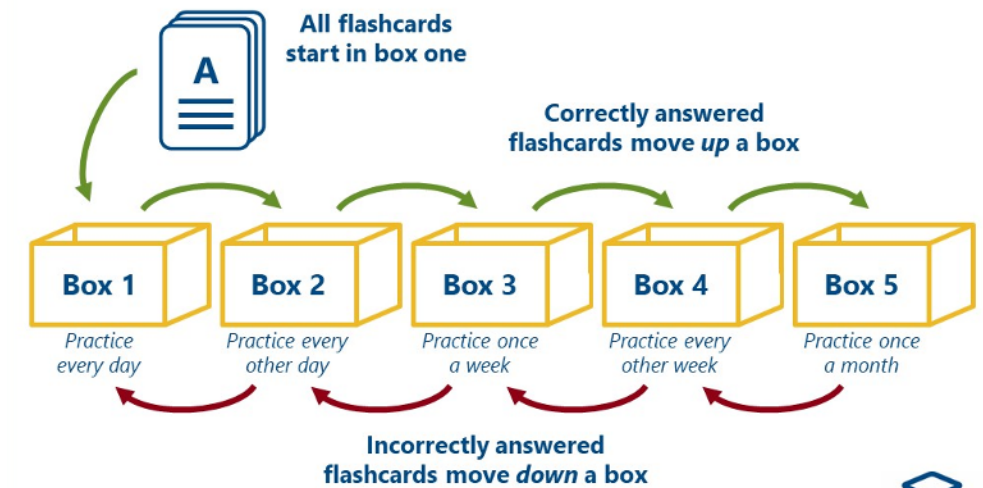


#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

FOURTH YEAR STUDY SKILLS: USING FLASHCARDS

It's important that all our pupils practise different ways to consolidate and retain their learning. Lots of them love to create flashcards, but once they've made them, what do they do with them? It's important to revisit flashcards regularly, with a system in place to make sure they are being used effectively.

The Leitner system works really well. Committing to using this system can



make a huge difference in how much information pupils retain.

More information about the Leitner system can be found [here](#).

Mrs E Bridle

SIXTH FORM PERFORMANCE OF LOCKED IN OURSELVES

Upper Sixth Theatre Studies students Amy Willis, Jasmine Murphy, Ella Brent, Laura Cunningham, and Elise Wilcock devised a moving piece of theatre about women in prison, and performed it to live audiences last week.

"Locked In Ourselves" explores powerful themes around responsibility, dealing with the consequences of one's actions, and the law. It featured outstanding performances from the five actors, who not only gave us thought-provoking monologues, but also conveyed complex and intense emotion via the beautifully choreographed dance sections of the piece.



FIFTH YEAR PLAY - TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Fifth Year pupils are performing two fantastic one act plays this year. Book now to watch these superb productions, on stage Wed 23rd, Thurs 24th and Fri 25th November.

Tickets are £5 each, free to staff and students. [Book your seat online here.](#)

Act 1 – Tracks

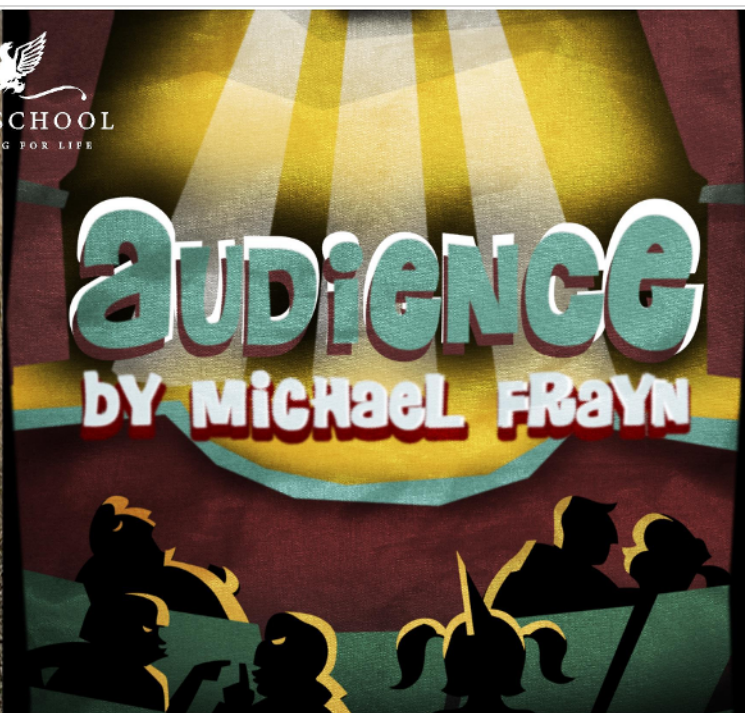
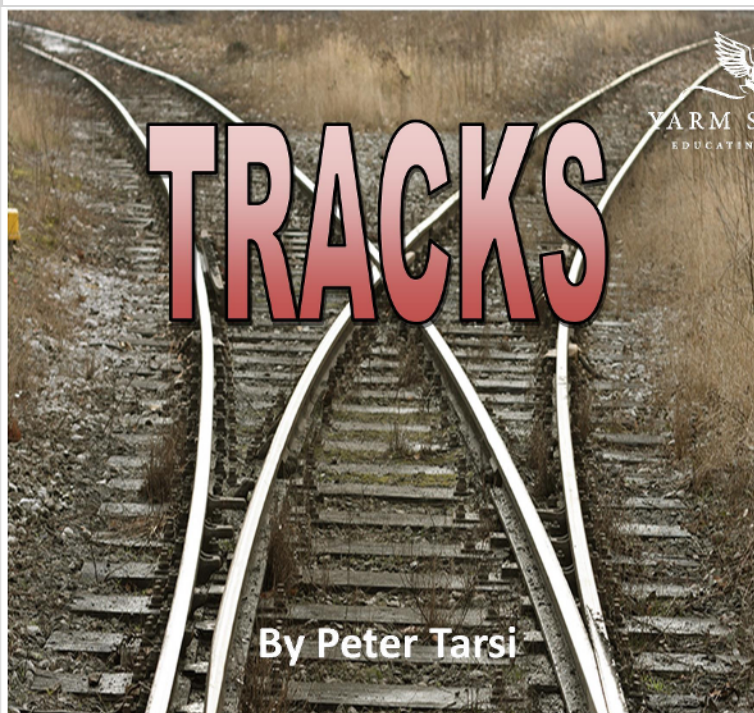
A group of strangers meet in a dirty subway station. They arrived with limited personal belongings, their watches have stopped and they all claim to be in different cities. Soon they learn there is no way out of the station, and the unfortunate truth is

told to them: they are all dead. Since subway stations have two sides, they reason the train leaving from one platform must be bound for heaven, while the train leaving from the other platform must be bound for hell. But which platform are they on? They reflect upon their lives, recalling and confessing past deeds of which they are not proud, hoping to figure out which platform is which. The arrival of someone from the other platform only complicates matters, and the answer remains unclear. As the subway train finally approaches, they must decide whether to stay and ponder their actions further, or to

have faith and climb aboard to their final destination.

Act 2 – Audience

From the writer of 'Noises Off' and 'Donkey Years' comes 'Audience'; a classic Michael Frayn comedy. Set in a theatre auditorium, the play charts an audience's hilarious journey through the show they are watching. Together with useless ushers, late comes and a man who cant stop laughing, even when it's not funny! And all with the writer of the play present! Originally starring Stephen Fry, this is a 'laugh a minute gem not to be missed!'



Yarm School 5th Year Drama present an evening of two one act plays!

Wednesday 23rd November to Friday 25th November @ 7pm

Studio Theatre

Adults £5, Staff and Students FOC

TAJIKISTAN CALLING!

There is a lot of wrangling in our own country about the quality of the press; too much partisanship, undue influence of the politicians, a lack of plurality, and the shadow of 'fake news'. All of this was thrown into relief on Friday when the Politics Society connected in a live video call with a journalist and human rights defender in Tajikistan.

Our guest operates in an almost unimaginable atmosphere of government control and repression. Her presentation took us through the history of the years of transition from the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 to the early years of independence, but of those times of fragility and democratic immaturity that led to a renewed clamping down on freedoms in her country. The country has now fallen from being mid-table in terms of Freedom of Expression as ranked by Journalists Without Borders to now being ranked at 151st in the world. The country's President Emomali Rahmon has been in power since 1994 and has firmly established a state with sham elections and all power held in the hands of his own family. In 2016 a law was passed which protects Rahmon and his family from prosecution for the whole of their lives. In 2016 a law was also passed making insulting the Leader of the Nation in the mass media, social media or elsewhere punishable by five years

imprisonment. In this political context the government has created a false sense of unity through the textbook manoeuvre of promoting the notion of 'enemies within'; the targets of this has been an exaggerated sense of the threat of internal terrorism, combined with a clampdown on journalists and their reports.

Adding to this challenge of the oppression of the state, is a populace with limited access to the internet and a daily feed of state-controlled media, within difficult economic circumstances, which results in there being very little support for the campaigning work of journalists who seek to expose the exploitation of the President. The propaganda machine is effective.

The result of all of this has seen journalists frequently arrested, tortured, having false confessions extracted, and being sentenced to lengthy prison sentences. Our guest shared with us accounts of colleagues who have befallen this fate. The position of journalists has become most precarious; twenty journalists are currently in prison and about one hundred have escaped to exile in Europe and the United States. Others, like our guest, write anonymously for foreign media. Other than arrests, journalists and other human rights defenders face threats, harassment,

blackmail and intimidation against themselves and their families. Our guest referenced her disappointment that in a recent meeting on November 8 2022 in Egypt, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz met with President Emomali Rahmon but there was no mention whatsoever of the human rights situation in Tajikistan.

It certainly felt like one of the more challenging international contexts that the Politics Society had learn from, and positive change may be decades away, but through the commitment, tenacity and presence of the likes of our guest, abuses are being recorded, accountability is being enforced and therein lies the hope for a better future.

Mr S Edwards



Tajik journalist, Komyor Mirzoev, sentenced to ten years imprisonment for offending the state

'LEST WE FORGET': REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year on Sunday 13th November the CCF took part in the Town's annual Remembrance event on the High Street.

The parade was led this year by Lieutenant Adam Bridges, with WO2 Graham Mist, Lieutenant Dan Spence and Miss Breslin coordinating the rear. The Cadet Force standard was carried by Cadet Colour Sergeant Jakob Stussi and the wreath was laid on behalf of the school by Cadet Lance Corporal Grace Harbinson.

All cadets on parade were a credit to the school. Having spent two weeks rehearsing, the drill was smart, in

time and reflective. It is one of the most important things the Cadets do on an annual basis and we are proud of each and every one of them for conducting themselves in such a sincere manner.

Captain Taylor



WHAT DO BUSINESS, PSYCHOLOGY AND CLASSICS HAVE IN COMMON?

Simone Sharma was keen to tell us!

It is not yet Christmas but already the first of our fabulous Lower Sixth cohort, Simone, stepped up to share her thoughts with the EconBus Soc. In an incredibly well researched and confidently delivered presentation she examined who makes decisions - companies or consumers. She linked marketing, psychology and classics, in a far reaching talk which reflected on propaganda from Roman times, considered why the cheapest products in supermarkets are placed at a very low level, considered the power of scents and even why KFC have vegan options. The audience

were left pondering whether they really do have free will!

Thank you to Simone for proving how well her A Levels complement each other and setting a standard for the rest of her year to emulate.

Miss C Rhodes



CONGRATS TO EFFIE!

Many congratulations to First Year pupil Effie Peacock, who has gained a place in the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain.

An enormously talented cellist and double bassist, Effie went through a gruelling audition process on cello and was delighted to be offered a place. Following in her mother's footsteps, Effie auditioned for the National Children's Orchestra back in August. The audition comprised of two contrasting grade 7 pieces, (one fast and one slow) plus orchestral excerpts. She was delighted to have been selected to play in the under 13 national orchestra where she will attend two 9 day residential courses, one in Pools, Dorset, and one in Blackpool, working with leading music tutors and conductors.

Congratulations, Effie, this is an incredible achievement!

Mrs K Staggs



ECONOMICS POETRY

Drum Roll!

We are delighted to announce the winners of this year's Economics Poetry Competition. Judged by an independent adjudicator, the joint winners are Lower Sixth students Jacob Rutter and Adhithyan Dinakaran who read out their winning entries to their peers....

Miss C Rhodes

FoP Haikus

Land:

Natural, yields income,
Of which people can dispose,
Trees, crops, fossil fuels,

Labour:

All human output,
Of production processes,
Amount to this FoP,

Capital:

All that is produced,
Or which has man-made means to,
Dosh, cars, doors, many more,

Enterprise:

Entrepreneurs' game,
Joins land, labour, capital,
While taking a risk,

by **Adhithyan Dinakaran**

GOLD D OF E EXPEDITION ADVENTURE

Former pupil, Charlotte Wood, has sent me an extract from her amazing ventures a few weeks ago in which she had quite an adventure for her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition section, travelling independently with other like minded adventurous teenagers.

"Over the two weeks spent on this volunteer project in Zimbabwe I took part in many activities. I mainly helped with the horses, mucking out,



feeding, grooming and exercising the horses, however I was also able to extend to other wildlife also. I assisted with cleaning out the elephant bomas and taking them for a walk around the African bush. As well as this I helped with feeding the lions and cleaning their enclosure as well as taking part in wildlife counts around the park, looking at the populations of each animal and the location that they spend the most time in."

Gold Participants in our Lower and Upper Sixth should already be considering their own ventures, which could be equally adventurous or (in most cases) closer to home.

The criteria can be found on [this link](#) on the DofE website.

Mrs J Guest

The key principles of supply and demand

The types of market, free and command

Smith's idea of the invisible hand
Enterprise a risk in search of reward
- perhaps a grand?

A social science, studying human behaviour

Economic goods are scarce resources

Their best uses we aim to find

To satisfy infinite wants with no remorse

Division of labour a way of improving FoPs

Firms make choices to come out tops

One of these is risking demotivation
Beware the danger of specialisation
Each economic agent has a different aim

Maximising wage, for workers, is the name of the game

Governments try to balance society's utility through changes in policy

These changes impact millions, whether fiscal or monetary

Clearly, there's a lot going on

The world we live in is all about Econ

by **Jacob Rutter**

DEBATE: WOULD RATIONING BENEFIT THE WORLD AND SHOULD UNIVERSITY BE FREE?

This week, in debate society Mr Bridges proposed a "one on one" debating format with one member from each team going up against an opponent talking one of the two motions decided by the teams themselves.

The first motion of "This house would reintroduce rationing" had Evie from Agree to Disagree on the proposition and Ava (Masterson) from Ultimate Shannerz on the opposition. Evie opened with a strong argument on the benefits to the environment that rationing would bring by reducing consumption and therefore there would be less strain on industries. Evie also stressed it would not be like in the world wars where starvation would be an issue, but aiming for a healthier planet avoiding obesity.

Ava's argument rebutted Evie's point on health by tackling the issue that different people have different needs that the government would have to arrange, costing them too much. She also pointed out how rationing would amplify eating disorders which in her team's opinion is a larger threat than obesity as it doesn't have a surgical solution. Ava also stressed that food wastage is the real issue and should be focused on, not food rationing as it could cause more separation in society.

Evie on the proposition firstly faced

the question "How do you propose presuming what people should eat doesn't cause disorders?" to which she replied the benefit of rationing is to improve general health and wellbeing whilst preventing fatal consequences such as death. She was then asked about how she proposed rationing would be enforced to which she explained the government would enforce and display the positives of the law leading to a majority agreeing.

Ava was then asked why she opposed guaranteeing those who are dependent on food banks from having food, to which she replied that the government should fund school meals over having to invest in research to conduct rationing. This was conflicted by the questioner explaining how the research conducted in WW2 is still valid and so research is unnecessary. Ava was then asked about the validity of a statistic she used in her argument, claiming eating disorders are a larger threat than obesity. She was asked whether her statistic considered other issues that are linked to obesity, to which Ava replied explaining how there is no direct causation between obesity and the issues mentioned as well as saying eating disorders cause more suffering due to the damage it has on mental health.

After considering the strengths of

both sides, the judge Mr Bridges had to conclude that Ava from Ultimate Shannerz took the win due to the strength of her question responses.

For the second debate of the session Will from Team Vici and Ava (Campbell) from Team Arguably the Best took on the motion "This house would make university free in Britain". Will on the proposition set out his argument clearly explaining the value of an education being unrightfully unallowed for everyone. He explained how lower society is hindered by the horrifying tuition costs of university, raising the point that if primary and secondary education has a free alternative then why shouldn't university be. Will also went on to express how university fees scare people away from getting the education needed for the jobs that the country needs, ending his argument with free university being a win-win situation.

Ava on the opposition began by rebutting a brief point Will made with regards to fully paid education during the pandemic where full services were unavailable, to which she expressed as a time of emergency which is no longer the case. She then went on to point out how making university free would take away from primary and secondary education's funding as well as requiring a lot more money that younger schools need due to the

DEBATE (CONT.)

complexity of university courses. Ava then went on to explain how university loans are not much of an issue as payments are spread out over 10 years in small amounts, closing the opposition's argument with the fact that university is higher education and therefore a choice, not a necessity.

The proposition faced an opposing view of student loan payments being fair as higher earners are therefore able to pay it back to which Will responded saying that not everyone is in a situation where they get a higher paid job post higher education. Will was then faced with a question about

the quality of a degree reducing if it were accessible to everyone to which he responded with countries like Germany which has some top universities that are free with a great reputation.

Ava then faced questions about the opposition's argument starting with the benefits universities would have if all the teachers were trained under government rules. Ava replied explaining how this investment in training would take away from public school as well as taking control over qualifications. She then faced a question with regards to the suffering mental health of university students

due to the financial pressure to which Ava replied that university is a choice not an obligation and there are still plenty of jobs that do not need a degree.

After a close battle between both sides, the judge changed his mind last minute giving the victory to Ava on Arguably the best as Will had some unclarity in his answers to questions, thus concluding another entertaining and engaging session of senior debate, with preparations for the house debating competition underway.

Simone Sharma, Lower Sixth

ARTISTS' CORNER

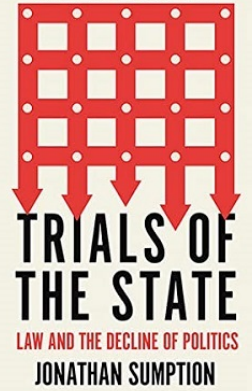
This week it's Charlie Bernard in Third Year whose artwork we are showcasing in the Artists' Corner. Charlie created these drawings and painting were in his own time. If anyone else wants to share their creations please pass them on to Ms Stebbings, Mrs Thompson, Miss Street or Miss Jenyns.

Ms E Stebbings



POLITICS BOOK REVIEW - THE TRIALS OF THE STATE: LAW AND THE DECLINE OF POLITICS BY JONATHAN SUMPTION

BASED ON THE BBC REITH LECTURE SERIES



Former Supreme Court Justice Jonathan Sumption explores the consequences of a lack of effective politicians leading to a rise in the dependency on the court. And yet, he argues, there is a price to be paid for passing these problems onto the judiciary - after all judicial legislation in the UK lacks legitimacy, and it is this essential legitimacy that makes us a political community.

In the first chapter, titled 'Laws Expanding Empire' Sumption explores the increasing dependency of our population on the law. He measures such a cultural and political change through the growth of the legal profession in the last fifty years as well as people's misinterpretation of 'the rule of law' to mean a legal solution for every problem. Lord Sumption makes the case that some issues should not be judicially resolved, but rather left to the hands of politicians in a democratic decision-making process. His writing is concise with clarity and precision, and yet he seems unable to provide a solution for what he describes as our failing political system (the ultimate driver of an increasing dependency on the law).

Sumption cites two cases in particular:

The first is the Charlie Gard case in 2017 when doctors made the difficult decision to terminate life support machines of a critically ill

boy and his parents, understandably, wanted to take him to the United States where there was an (albeit low) chance of a new treatment. The court was asked to adjudicate, ruling to allow the life support to be turned off and not to allow the boy to be taken to the United States. Sumption seems concerned that the parents' decision over their child was 'nationalised' at the expense of the individual rights of parents.

The second is the issue of abortion in the United States which has been allowed since the Supreme Court Ruling of *Roe v Wade* (1973). He again argues that abortion is a moral issue, better adjudicated by politicians than judges (as it was in Britain with the Abortion Act in 1967). He argues that judicial decisions on such sensitive moral issues are not necessarily better than those of elected representatives and have distinctly less legitimacy, and many can see the recent implications of this due to the process of the overturning of such a ruling earlier this year.

The next two chapters highlight his views against a written constitution for the UK as well as why human rights law should stop evolving, particularly in the Strasbourg Court. He argues for our withdrawal from the European Convention of Human Rights and its replacement with a more domestic approach, despite

suggesting only pages earlier that certain powers/changes to the judiciary lack legitimacy

because it doesn't reflect the people's interests. I would argue that a withdrawal from the Convention would lack a similar legitimacy when it comes to public support. It seems that after his retirement, Sumption's cautions about the worrying stirrings of social and political discontent seem to cause an 'over correction' not in tune with current desires. It appears that Lord Sumption underestimates the value of human rights law in legitimising political outcomes in a democracy.

In the chapter titled: "In Praise of Politics", Sumption seems to commence a defence of representative politics and insinuates that referenda are poor decision-making mechanisms. He continues rather eloquently, stating that majoritarian decision-making is only enough to authorise state action, it is not enough to make them legitimate.

Overall, whilst the undeniably concise quality of these series of essays are one of the major advantages, they can also play a part in the downfall, as it leaves you with the hope of more detail.

Jodie Hegab, Upper Sixth

PLENTY OF ACTION AT BOSTON AND DURHAM HEADS

Three members of Yarm School Boat Club represented the school at the GB U19 Early Identification trials at Boston in Lincolnshire. Cordelia Deering, Harriet White and Will Woodhead took part in the first of several trial events with the hope of being selected for GB next summer. All three were competing over a 5km stretch of the River Witham against the best scullers in the country. We now have to wait and see if they will be invited to a Christmas Training Camp or have to prove themselves again in the second trial in February.

Meanwhile, other members of the Boat Club were eagerly participating in Durham Long Distance Sculls and Small Boats Head. For some of our Junior 14 rowers this was their first race and they were all very excited. The course was 1800m upstream from Counts House to Durham ARC. The only trouble with this event is maneuvering sculling boats through Elvet Bridge, a narrow-arched bridge halfway along the course. The area around the bridge is a favourite spot for spectators to watch crews attempt to go through without stopping... unfortunately this does not always happen which makes for an exciting event.

In Division 1, this event was the last of a series of six held around the region on consecutive weekends. The Women's Junior 16 coxless quad of Libby Laverick, Cecily Deering, Sophie Jewitt And Emily Nicholson

sculled very well to win their event against a formidable field.

The Women's Junior 15 coxed quad of Lydia Wain (cox) , Jenny Atkinson, Abby Stewart, Isabella Jeavons and Amirah Mohammed also won their event in style.

The afternoon saw two divisions of the Small Boats Head run with results from both being amalgamated to give the overall winners. Again our Women's Junior 16 double scull of Emily Nicholson and Eve Gray battled their way up the course to take the win – a second great win of the day for Emily Nicholson.

Shehab Saad and Patrick Tulloch combined in the Junior 15 double sculls to take the fourth win of the day. But, not everyone can be a winner. However, taking part in a competition for the first time will be a memory that stays with a lot of our younger rowers and for others, competing against other regional crews makes all the training worthwhile.

Mrs A Lund



NETBALL

We got off to a good start against Ian Ramsey, with a 1-0 scoreline in the first quarter. In the second quarter, we scored another goal, however they did too, bringing the score to 2-1 to us. In the next quarter, we scored 4 more excellent goals, and the opposing team sadly could not score in this quarter. This brought the score to 6-1 to us. After the third quarter, we were beginning to get tired. Nonetheless, we carried on and tried our best. In the last quarter, the opposing team unexpectedly made a comeback and scored 5 very quick goals. Unfortunately, we became a bit frantic so we couldn't score making the overall score 6-6. Everyone made an amazing effort in all areas: defence, attack and shooting. Well done to everyone who played in this match, including the umpires.

Written by Christina Lin

P.O.M Christina Lin



NATIONAL NETBALL

Congratulations to Izzie Speight and Estelle Orr who were selected for the U17 2022-23 Scotland long squad after a gruelling trial process. Both Izzie and Estelle attended a training camp during half term, and the playing squad will be selected in January.



Lily Harte represented Ireland at the Europe Netball U17 Challenge in Gibraltar, where they came second! The squad played teams from Gibraltar, the Isle of Man, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates. Lily captained two of the matches and lead the Emeralds in the final match against UAE - Congratulations Lily!



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

In this classic tale we follow Mole, who ventures forth from the comfort of his underground home to explore the outside world.

Suitable for children and families of all ages, this version will be adapted by NTC and performed in our usual fast paced, physical style with live music, song, plenty of laughs and uplifting and joyous moments.



Sunday 27th November 2022, 2:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE

Join our presenters as they dive deep into the world of science and look at how science shapes the modern world we live in with a few loud bangs along the way!

Expect 20ft LIQUID NITROGEN clouds, exploding OXYGEN & HYDROGEN balloons, FIRE TORNADOS, HYDROGEN bottle rockets, ignited METHANE and even a self-built Hovercraft!

100% Educational. 200% Entertaining. 300% Explosive. 400% Fun.

Tuesday 21st February 2023, 2:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)



MY STORY – PAUL MERSON

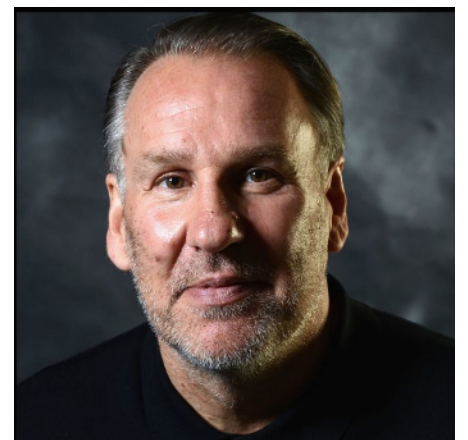
On Friday 12th May 2023 we will play host to an evening with one of Football's most famous and much loved characters Paul Merson.

Following Paul's 2011 BBC Documentary, he will speak openly about his battles with addiction and depression throughout his hugely successful career both on and off the pitch with host for the evening, Middlesbrough Football Club legend and former Hartlepool United Manager, Craig Hignett.

VIP Package available - see website for more details.

Friday 12th May 2023, 8:00pm

[Book Online Here](#)



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE II

The Call of Duty (CoD) series is a worldwide gaming phenomenon, with millions of copies sold every year. While 2021's release, Vanguard, wasn't quite as well received, this latest entry – Modern Warfare II – has so far proved a massive commercial success. A sequel to the recent Modern Warfare reboot (and not to be confused with the original Modern Warfare 2, from back in 2009), the game is an online shooter which features – unsurprisingly – extreme violence, rendered in realistic graphics. Amid the explosions and political nature of the plot, there's much for parents to be aware of.

AGE RATING

PEGI
18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

Like most of its predecessors in the franchise, Modern Warfare II carries an 18 age rating from PEGI (the Pan-European Gaming Information system, which assesses games' content for suitability). This means players will encounter – according to PEGI's wording – depictions of "gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters".

OFFENSIVE CHAT & MESSAGING

Most CoD players are likely to spend the majority of their time on Modern Warfare II in online multiplayer mode. This entails competing against – or cooperating with – strangers on the online battlefield. The fast-paced, cut-throat world of CoD means that communication through the game's voice chat and direct messages often turns heated and aggressive, which may upset younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Modern Warfare II follows the 'battle pass' model of games like Fortnite. For a fee – usually around £10 – each 'season' (every three months or so), players will be invited to complete extra challenges to earn new weapons and equipment. Different tiers of battle pass (costing more money) enable them to achieve this more quickly, while items can also be purchased from the in-game store.

POLITICAL SENSITIVITY

Previous CoD games have been accused of attempting to "rewrite history": failing to correctly attribute alleged war crimes to the US military, for example. The semi-fictional version of history presented on screen can cause players to misunderstand past conflicts and the real reasons they took place. This could lead to young people developing a distorted, inaccurate view of world politics.

AN ADDICTIVE EXPERIENCE

Multiplayer mode in Call of Duty titles revolves around levelling up your character to unlock new weapons, abilities and equipment. The process is designed so that it doesn't take too long to see an improvement, and the feeling of making meaningful progress can keep players hooked for hours. It's easy for gamers of any age to lose track of time, but younger ones are especially susceptible.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESPECT THE AGE RATING

Based on accurately recreating combat situations, Call of Duty games are unflinching in their portrayal of war. Limbs are shot off and explosions send gore flying, while the previous Modern Warfare featured a lengthy interrogation and torture sequence. With Modern Warfare II offering the same style of brutal realism, it's worth reiterating that the PEGI 18 age rating is there for a reason.

CLOSE OFF COMMUNICATION

Unless they're playing with their real-life friends, it may be worth closing communication channels if your child plays Modern Warfare II. There's less of a team focus than in many other online combat games and therefore no real need to interact with strangers. Call of Duty fans can be intensely competitive, so even a single action by your child could provoke a barrage of abuse from strangers.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

If your child is likely to be tempted by buying that 'must-have' weapon or item, consider removing your bank details from the console or computer to prevent indiscriminate spending – and an unwelcome bill. Pre-paid cards could be an option for in-game purchases, allowing you to control how much your child can spend in advance – and helping them learn the basics of budgeting.

TRY OTHER MODES

If it seems that your child only ever plays Modern Warfare II in multiplayer, you could try out the Spec Ops mode with them – formulating strategies while enjoying each other's company. You could also play multiplayer together, taking it in turns to ensure regular breaks. Another alternative is the game's campaign mode, featuring bespoke missions and scenarios which follow an overarching plot.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



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Sources: <https://peginfo.what-do-the-labels-mean> <https://www.augame.net/call-of-duty-modern-warfare-accused-of-rewriting-history-to-blame-russia-for-controversial-war-crimes>