

# Newsletter

No: 1374 | 3rd May 2024

# **HEADMASTER'S WELCOME**

Having written last week about Yarm being recognised in the Community Impact Award shortlist for the Northern Echo's BusinessIQ award, it is lovely to share the news with you hot off the press - that the Prep School has been shortlisted in the prestigious TES Schools Awards (the Oscars of education!) in the Independent Prep School of the Year category. Many congratulations to all my colleagues at the Prep School for this recognition of their hard work and the wonderful things being done for our pupils and in our community. Our most recent community event was the exhilarating collaboration with the Wildcats of Kilkenny, which saw a packed PAA enjoy the combined musical talents of Yarm pupils alongside the wonderful Infant

Hercules, joining the Wildcats for a riotous evening of uplifting music. Thank you to all involved in setting this up, in particular to Mr McGrother, and congratulations to our pupils for their superb contributions.

I am pleased to inform parents that we are teaming up with Tooled Up Education, with whom the Prep have worked for some time, to provide a

expert advice and guidance for parents and for the school on a range of topics related to supporting children and adolescents. This will provide many opportunities for parents; there are more details within, including the first webinar for Yarm parents from Dr Kathy Weston on 14th May. I encourage you to attend.

Our most recent enrichment lecture saw polar explorer Alex Hibbert share his passion for exploration and adventure with our pupils - his visit is written up below alongside reports of trips, Former Pupil visits, sporting reports and results and other

range of evidence based, practical and activities over the last busy week at School. We look ahead to an exciting evening of music and dance on the 9th May, the GCSE and A Level Art viewing on 14th May, the whole school Dance Showcase on 7th June and the YSA Summer Ball on June 15th, details for each event are given within.

**Dr Huw Williams** 

# **Tes Schools Awards 2024** Shortlisted Independent Prep School of the Year



Taking to the runway at our fantastic Textiles Fashion Show last week!

## CAVING AND CLIMBING IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES



On Friday the 26th of April, we all headed down to the Outdoor Ed stores after school and set off to the campsite. When we arrived, we set up our tents whilst Mr Mathers was hard at work making our tea of sausages, mash and veggies. Then, when everything was ready, we sat down to eat our tea, which was delicious! Afterwards, we played a quick game of hide and seek in the dark before getting ready for bed.

The next day, we woke up to the sound of bacon sizzling, ready for the day. It was perfect weather for climbing, so we headed down to Twistleton Scar, harnesses and helmets at the ready. Rick, our instructor, set up three ropes for us to climb, which we all did in our groups of three or four. We all took turns in climbing, belaying and backing up so everyone had a go at everything. Later on in the day, another two trickier climbs were set up, which we had a go at. We also encountered a friendly dog named Bramble. Then, after our hard day's work of climbing (and dog stroking!!!) we got back onto the bus and went back to the campsite, where we all helped chop up the vegetables for the spaghetti bolognese, which was delicious! After tea, we fitted our caving suits and onesies (which consisted of rainbow frogs,

sheep and all sorts!!!) and took them to our tents, ready for the next day. We had a game of frisbee before getting into our tents to go to sleep. On Sunday morning we woke up bright and early and put on our caving suits. Again, we had our breakfast cooked by the staff to boost our energy, ready for a day of climbing. As trip as they are fun, you get to learn it was our last day, we had to put down all of the tents and do a thorough litter pick of the field, and then left for the cave. We soon

arrived at the Valley Entrance and slid into the cave, which was full of excitement, scrambling around - and water!!! Everyone really enjoyed the first cave, but it did come to the point where we were ready for our lunch. which we ate on the bus. We then scrambled into another cave, which involved countless challenges, such as the slot, the cheese press, baptistry crawl, the double shuffle pool, a few climbs and scrambling up a waterfall. When we got back to the bus, we changed into some dry, warm clothes and then went back to school. Overall, this trip was an amazing experience and I would highly recommend going on an Outdoor Ed something new, make new friends and have a great time!

Eliza Fellows, Second Year



## NEWS

# DOCTOR, DOCTOR...

The penultimate EconBus Soc overseen by our Upper Sixth Chairs, saw Miriam and Kayla examine the difference between Healthcare provision in the UK, USA and Australia. They contrasted the models of provision and funding in a well researched and well applied presentation, before happily answering a plethora of probing questions from staff and students alike. We are grateful to them for enlightening us and really appreciate their generosity of time at such a busy point of the school year.

We now look forward (with an air of sadness) to Harry, Ollie, Arhana and Adhi's final EconBus Soc in two weeks time!



Miss C E Rhodes

# TOOLED UP EDUCATION

We are excited to tell you that Yarm Senior School has subscribed to become a 'Tooled Up School', which means that you will soon have access to a digital platform containing the most up-to-date, evidence-based tips that will enable your children to thrive.

#### What you will be getting

Extensive research by academics all over the world has uncovered approaches to raising children that help them to thrive. The founder, Dr Kathy Weston, and her team, have collated the best and most up to date research and translated them into practical tips for you to apply. You will find short videos, podcasts, webinars, activities and tip sheets covering:

- Mental health protecting and sustaining children's positive mental health;
- Digital Life teaching safe and positive engagement with the digital world;
- Learning what you can be doing at home to help teens thrive at school;
- Managing emotions the best approaches to challenging behaviour;
- Family life and relationships –

investing in good quality relationships at home to help teens thrive in other areas of their life;

 Aspiration – motivating children to aim high and supporting them on their journey.

To launch the school's subscription to the site, we are holding a 1 hour webinar including a live Q and A session with Dr Weston on **Tuesday**, **14th May at 7.15pm**. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend: please look out for further details via email.

# TOOLED UP® BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

# LAW DEGREE APPRENTICE RETURNS TO SHARE ADVICE



As part of the ongoing series of Careers advice presentations last week we welcomed back Charles Rowell. Leaving Yarm School last summer Charles shifted from applying for Politics and International Relations at university to going straight into a law degree apprenticeship. This year Charles has thus been combining his training and work at Watson Woodhouse Solicitors with time spent fortnightly attending classes at Northumbria University, a university with a very high reputation for its Law Department. Charles is also given every Wednesday to devote to his studies. The rest of the week he is immersed in legal training and to date has been exposed to a diverse range of aspects of the company's work, already working independently on cases. Charles was able to give insightful advice and information to current aspiring law students, answering a variety of questions about the process of

research, application, interview and training.

With a salary and no debts to pay Charles has also enjoyed keeping in contact with other former pupils attending nearby universities, even if he has had to stump up for a few rounds of drinks given his preferable financial situation!

Charles also generously contributed to our Law Career Cluster event earlier in the year. He has generously offered to guide and advise any future applicants looking to pursue a law degree apprenticeship. We wish Charles well and thank him for his time and effort during this visit.

Mr S Edwards

# SPREADING THE WORD...FAME

#### **ONE Term, TWO Challenges**

Lots to play for....This week saw the keen L6 FAME students set their two challenges...

1) Share their wisdom aka Mentor a team of Year 6 pupils

2) Share their passion aka widen awareness of aspects of Finance, Accounting, Management or Economics with the school community. They will develop their employability skills of problem solving, team work, leadership, empathy, resilience, creativity and time management, whilst competing against each other... Next week the mentors will meet their Prep teams for the first time, but in the meantime the Times'ing Team, the Art Squad and the Dream Team have started to plan and develop their "traffic stopping" displays!!

# NO MOW MAY

Since 1930 the UK has lost 97% of its British wildflower meadows. To save precious pollinators and plants, the Eco School are partaking in and advertising for 'No Mow May': a movement which allows new wild plants to grow and flourish in the lawn, this May, without being mowed. When lawns are left to grow, biodiversity in the lawn blossoms and the problem of pollution in the environment is tackled. Even if a small portion of your lawn remains unmowed, a big difference can still be made! So, why not give it a try this year?

Please may participants send photos of their lawn at the end of May to <u>ejr@yarmschool.org</u>, <u>Gina.Leary@yarmschool.org</u>, <u>ktm@yarmschool.org</u>.

Eco Schools Team

Miss C E Rhodes

#### 3rd May 2024

#### **ALEX HIBBERT, POLAR EXPLORER**



On Wednesday 24th April, polar explorer Alex Hibbert visited us during our games session. Alex Hibbert holds the record for the longest unsupported journey in any polar region; he is highly experienced, studying wolves and their behaviours having set off at 21 years old on his first expedition, and highly ambitious - having aimed to break a record on his first expedition, with one companion on the adventure.

Alex began by recalling memories, and knew that, from a very young age, he wanted to be a specialised explorer - not someone who was a 'jack of all trades', in a sense, but he wanted to be the best in his chosen field (polar expeditions during winter). We saw a different side to him than what I had read on paper (or resilience and he handled that should I say, screen?). During his time studying a Biological Sciences degree at the University of Oxford, he recounted that he had always 'been

interested in the side of biology with big teeth'. Alex's humour had contributed greatly to our informal, but highly informative talk. He furthered his studies in biology by in North America, sharing memories of having to replace shoelaces daily, as the wold cubs would tear them out. After his academic success, Alex joined the Royal Marines for a brief period, before leaving to go on his first expedition.

At just 21 years old, Alex and his teammate George had successfully acquired sponsorship for their first expedition - to the Antarctic. This, however, was short-lived, as their funding was pulled. Alex spoke of rejection by applying for multiple grants to allow for an expedition a little closer to home - polar Greenland. The duo set off cross

Greenland, having been dropped off by a helicopter (charged at £800 a minute) for 70 days to reach one end, and 40 days for the journey back. The journey back was shorter as the pair had buried food supplies along the way. Unfortunately, as they had only recorded the GPS coordinates, without marking the ground where they buried it, they were out of rations during their last week of travel. Alex gained valuable experience and resilience from his first expedition.

We were able to try on some of his equipment whilst he informed us of better suited materials for different uses, waterproofing, and insulation, as well as the modification of his bought equipment. He discussed the absorbency of nylon vs polyurethane, and why a goose-down coat is more suitable for polar expeditions (goose-down clumps up in contact with water, as I'm sure most of us would have experienced with British weather). His bright orange survival suit was completely waterproof, allowing him to cross channels of cold water between cracked sea-ice. The modification of his equipment allows for both his comfort and makes his kit more ergonomic and tailored to the harsh polar biome. He adds extra fabric to his mittens, cold fingers due to the wind entering at his wrists, creating an additional layer of insulation with wolverine fur

# ALEX HIBBERT, POLAR EXPLORER...CONTINUED

velcroed to his coat, and swapping out open-cell for closed-cell foam liners. Alex is highly resourceful, taking tent poles to the maximum length of his sledge for more efficient tent set up - at which we were able to



try out at the end of the session. To protect against strong winds, they used snow to build a 6ft wall before setting up camp.

Alex spoke of his expeditions - it was a highly exciting and interesting session, and I would have loved to spend more time listening to his stories. Alex values experience, and encourages us to gain experience to become better. The brief time we spent with Alex was both highly motivational and inspirational.

Jennifer Chan, Upper Sixth

# **WORKING LUNCH - FORMER PUPIL VISIT**

Another Friday and another chance to catch-up with one of our fabulous FPs. This week we were delighted to welcome back Matthew Heathcote (Class of 2022), who secured A\*s in Economics, History and Biology in his A Levels at Yarm and is currently studying BSc Economics at the University of Nottingham. Matthew had already been back for a WL in January of 2023 when he spoke of his hopes, (inspired in fact by another WL he had enjoyed in his own Yarm days) of studying abroad and so this week was a chance for him to recount his achievements and adventures. Having successfully applied for a very competitive

opportunity to spend a semester overseas, he enthused about his months at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Matthew gave an informative, comprehensive and well delivered presentation and happily answered the plethora of

questions the Sixth Form and Miss Rhodes bombarded him with. Matthew was preparing to return to Nottingham for his end of Second Year exams, and we wish him every success with these and the remainder of his time at University. We are grateful to him for inspiring our students and hope that they will see the value of the opportunity he expounded on.

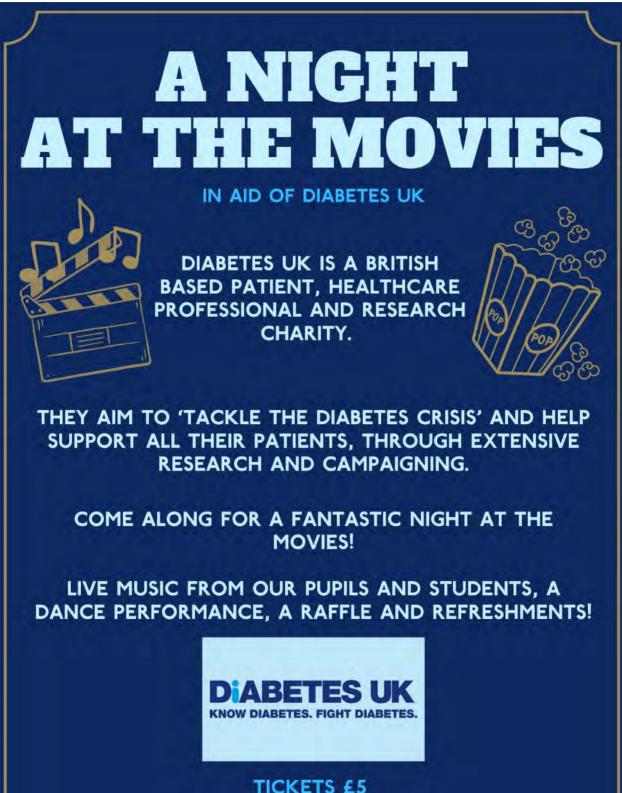
Miss C E Rhodes



# IZZIE'S EPQ IN AID OF DIABETES UK

Go Fund Me - <u>https://gofund.me/83a05c7a</u>

Book tickets: https://www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/movies-izziesepq/

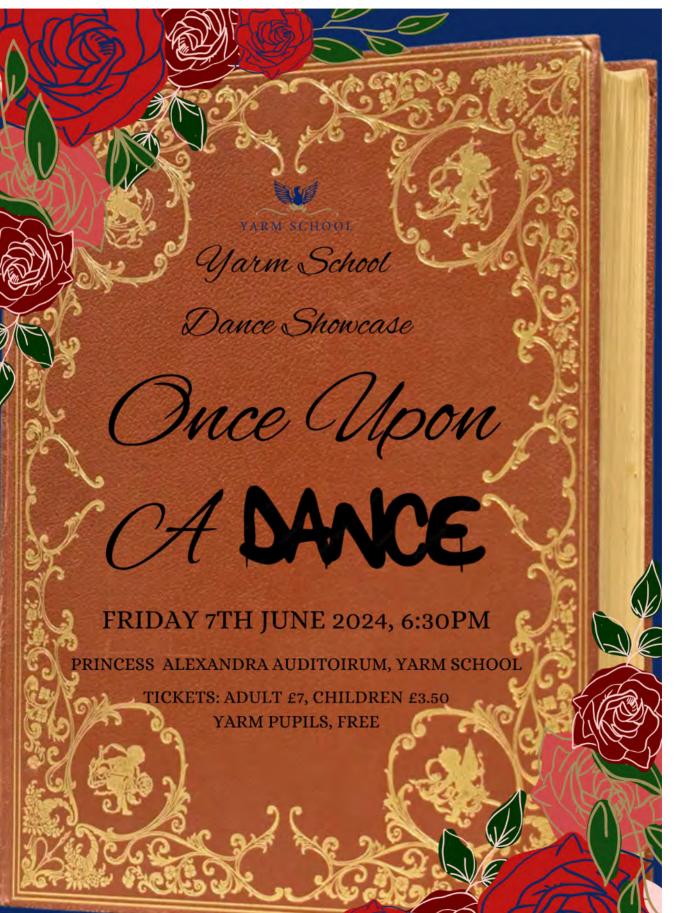


THURSDAY 9TH MAY 2024 6:30 PM

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM, YARM SCHOOL

# YARM SCHOOL DANCE SHOWCASE

Book tickets: <u>https://www.thepaaonline.org/whats-on/once-upon-a-dance-dance-showcase/</u>



# LOWER 6TH BIOLOGY FIELDWORK TRIP - FSC BLENCATHRA



chambers with freshwater shrimp to identify their preferred environment. In the afternoon, the group headed up into Blencathra moors to study conservation and succession. Back at the centre, students

Lower Sixth biologists travelled to the Lake District last weekend for a 3 day residential fieldwork trip. They had the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of fieldwork techniques and put them into practice whilst out in the stunning Lake District National Park. During the Friday afternoon session, students were taught the basic principles of sampling - using quadrats to estimate populations of different grass species and the importance of representative data collection. Saturday was a full day of fieldwork - starting bright and early, the group headed out to St John's Beck down in the valley to learn about freshwater sampling - the students had the opportunity to complete required practical 10 - using choice

learnt about Mark Release Recapture and had the opportunity to use this technique to estimate the pond snail population size in the centre's pond. Students also set Longworth traps overnight on Friday and Saturday in an attempt to survey the small mammal population. On Saturday morning, students were delighted to have captured some mice in their Longworth traps. On Sunday morning, despite a lack of success trapping any small mammals, the group headed back to the river to complete their own investigations using the wide variety of techniques they had learnt the day before. It was a jam packed few days in the field- thank

chambers withyou to FSC Blencathra for theirfreshwater shrimp tohospitality and to the staff at theidentify their preferredcentre for their expertise.

Mr T Newman



# **KEEP IN TOUCH**



Facebook





LinkedIn

Instagram

#### **NEWS**

#### 3rd May 2024

# **TEXTILES FASHION SHOW 2024**

Last week we took part in the 2024 fashion show. This was a great opportunity to show off our Fourth Year GCSE work. The Fourth Year had created individual masks and garments which enhanced us to learn in detail garment design, pattern making and production. The different themes throughout the other year groups were Eco and Disney. The PAA was filled with an amazing supportive crowd who really made our fears of going up on stage disappear. The accomplished Fifth Year GCSE and A-Level work was also on show. But of course none of this would have been possible without the best, Mrs Jackson! Scarlett Craddy & Charlotte Maund, Fourth Year



This Easter I spent a week with the National Youth Choir (15-18), where I joined 110 other singers for an intensive course. As well as singing sectionals, there was also an opportunity to have individual coaching sessions and a range of lessons that expanded our musical knowledge. In seven days, we learned a total of 11 songs off by heart, and concluded the week brilliant opportunity. with a concert in Coventry Cathedral. I was inspired to spend

### NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR

time with so many great singers, and particularly our amazing conductor Greg Beardsell who pushed all of us to achieve our absolute best. I would encourage any aspiring singers to give it a go and audition because even in the audition itself, the staff were lovely and welcoming and you never know till you try! It is such a

Natasha Cunningham, Lower



# **ENRICHMENT LECTURE - ALEX HIBBERT**

Following a very hands-on and practical workshop with a group of outdoor ed students. Alex came to speak to a wider audience about his travels in the polar regions. After a brief introduction and overview of his record-breaking expedition, 'The Long twenty unruly sled-dogs, and along Haul', Alex spoke at length about the planning and preparation that went into his next expedition: trekking from Qaanaaq, in the unforgiving region of Avanerriag - the home of the glaciers in the Avanerriag region. polar eskimos - to the North Pole along the frozen sea ice in the arctic winter. Unfortunately, the evening before they were due to depart, they received the terrible news that a storm had broken much of the sea ice up. This would have made the trek far too treacherous, and if the risk to life and limb wasn't enough, the thought of a £6.5 million rescue operation (should they find themselves in trouble) made the planned expedition unviable. After much deliberation, rather than going home, the group of four got permission from the local

community to stay amongst them, and pull the full team of dogs out of the learn how to drive a dog sled. The group of intrepid explorers managed to purchase twenty sled-dogs and set about trying to drive them. These proved to be with the language barriers, this led to a very steep learning curve! After much practice, the group decided to explore the various frozen fjords and What followed was an amazing re-telling of his experiences. Hearing about the risks of exploring the area, from rifts in the sea-ice suddenly appearing (the only way across is to swim!), to navigating the risks of camping in polar bear country (they can actively prey on humans at this time in the year!) was truly incredible. Towards the end of the expedition, Alex shared how he saw one of the sleds disappear into a hidden gap in the ice, falling into the ocean. In an amazing feat of bravery, the team on that particular sled had manage to

ocean from under the ice. and had managed to stay with the sled, bobbing up and down in the frigid sea, allowing the rest of the team to rescue them.

Alex spoke with such confidence, warmth and humour, with all in the audience hanging on his every word. It was an outstanding and rare opportunity to hear and learn about what was an amazing expedition. I don't think anyone left without a feeling of inspiration and awe about what Alex had achieved. This was the final enrichment lecture of this academic year. We have had a very varied and exciting roster of speakers, from polar explorations to

archaeology and weird and wonderful bacteria. As I plan for next year's lecture programme, I am always keen to hear from people who would like to come and deliver a talk - please do email me at rcw@varmschool.org if you would like to get involved.

Mr R Williams

# **PWC BELFAST DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS**



Congratulations to Ollie in Upper Sixth who has been accepted onto the PwC Degree Apprenticeship! Read more from Ollie:

I'm thrilled to be accepted on to the programme and I'm looking forward to the PwC Degree Apprenticeship in Belfast. The program is the business management degree apprenticeship and will last for four years. I'll be working four days a week and dedicating one day to university studies. I am enthusiastic about this opportunity and grateful that my hard work has paid off.

Ollie Best, Upper Sixth

### **EASTER ROWING CAMP & JIRR**

Over the last week of the Easter holidays, members of the Yarm School Boat Club traveled down to King's School Ely for a hard week of training in preparation for the major summer races to come. Access to a long, straight stretch of water, home to the boat race-winning Cambridge University, provided an excellent opportunity for our crews to develop speed for the upcoming 2000m events. Along with physical and technical development on the water, the camp also welcomed Tom Hills of Hills Nutrition and Helen Davis of Think, Believe, Perform to share their knowledge on sports nutrition and sport psychology giving our athletes more tools in their preparation for competition.

Upon returning from Ely, 24 members of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th year immediately plunged into the summer races, proudly representing Yorkshire at this year's Junior Inter-Regional Regatta. Competing against the top crews from each of the 13 UK regions over a 1500 m course, our 6 crews and 2 athletes in a composite J16 women's eight showcased their early season strength. With 3 crews making it to the A finals and 2 B final victories, our athletes' performances were nothing short of impressive.

Men's J16 double, of Harry D'Ambrogio and Patrick Tulloch, and Men's J14 coxed guad of Jonah Jenney, Sam Buxton, Oscar Lane, Charlie Ashworth & Seb Jafri, lead the performance for the school narrowly missing out on medals finishing 4th in some exciting A Finals. Rishi Chawla and Sally Matthews also made the A final in the composite J16 women's eight with Leeds Rowing Club, St Peter's School, and York City Rowing Club. The girls rowed for the first time together on race day and finished 6th.

Our J15 men's and women's crew came to life during the afternoon racing and won their B finals. The men's J15 coxed quad was made up of Charlie Baines, Issac Akowuah, Noah Vincent, Jack Maxey & Oscar Galloway, and the women's J15 coxed four consisted of Darcey Allcock, Isabella Turnbull, Charlotte Maund, Sophie Winnard and Anya Kansal. J16 boys Shehab Saad and Sam Pritchard learned to row the pair for this event after the February half-term; the boys gave it everything and finished 10th. Finally, our J16 girls' quad had one of the day's most exciting races. The crew of Abby Stewart, Rishi Chawla, Poppy Bell, and Rebecca White finished 3rd in the B final in a close finish that saw the top three boats separated by only 0.74 seconds over a 5-and-a-half minute race.

Congratulations to all the crews who represented both Yorkshire and Yarm School extremely well, helping team Yorkshire finish 9th overall, their highest finish position over the last several years.

Mr T Kellett





#### SPORT

#### 3rd May 2024

### DURHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Monday, eight Yarm School golfers travelled to Beamish Golf Club to compete in the Durham County Schools Golf Championships. This was the first time that the school had entered into the competition and the team were excited to test their skills against the county's best junior golfers. The course proved a challenging one, with rolling narrow fairways and difficult greens guarded by trees and bunkers - a real test considering most of the team had not played the course before. Congratulations to Sophia Rudd who won the Girls Best Nett score and came third overall having shot a very respectable 80. In the Boy's competition, James Muir posted 85 followed by Matthew McCullagh, Tom Graham, Aidan Robinson, Ollie Best, Ben Bardgett and Ben Hunt. Well done to everyone - here's to next year!

Mr T Newman





# NATIONAL FINAL FOR MR ALEXANDER



JOSH ALEXANDER (20)

#### PLAYER FOCUS

Name: Josh Alexander Position: Forward Age: 31

Sponsored by Kookaburra. Josh has taken on the responsibility for coaching the team this year in addition to playing in the forward line. Loves a whiteboard. Josh has been coaching in the successful Yarm School hockey programme since moving to the North East eight years ago.

@kookaburrahockey @yarmschool



f @ 🕑 @stokesleyhc

Congratulations and good luck to Mr Alexander who will be competing in the England Hockey T3 club championship final this weekend!

The finals will take place at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London and Stokesley HC will take on West Bridgeford.

### **SPORT WEEK AHEAD**

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can view them here.



# **GCSE &** A LEVEL ART

TUESDAY 14TH MAY, 4-7PM

You are warmly invited to Yarm School to view the 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 ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

# OYALE SUMMERBALL 2024 SATURDAY, JUN 15TH

LIVE MUSIC FROM THE BOURBON STREET BAND EARLY BIRD TICKETS JUST £75 FROM CLASSLIST EARLY BIRD TICKETS CLOSE ON 15TH MAY 2024



7PM - LATE

THE PAA

# **BOX OF TRICKS - TOM ROLFE**

Join Yarm panto regular 'Tom Rolfe' for a brand new, fun packed show featuring hilarious magic, mind boggling balloon modelling, super dangerous juggling and maybe even a custard pie or two!

Running time approx. 45 mins.



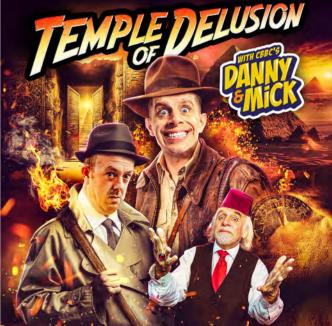
Saturday 11th May 11am, 1pm and 3pm Book Online Here

# **TEMPLE OF DELUSION**

The stars of CBBC'S number one show "Danny and Mick" are embarking on a new adventure and theatre tour for 2024.

In a faraway land that time forgot, the ancient treasures, mysteries and magic of an old and forgotten civilisation lay in hiding for only the brave (and the mistaken) to find...!

And so it is that our hapless heroes set off on another adventure full of mistakes, pitfalls and danger! Guaranteed fun and thrills for all the family!



Saturday 1st June, 2:30pm Book Online Here

