Newsletter

No: 1375 | 10th May 2024

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

This week marks a transition in the academic year, and a change at school as our wonderful Fifth Year had the last lessons of their GCSEs followed by an enjoyable and emotional day of activities to mark this milestone and to reflect on their journey to this point. The positivity and camaraderie on show, and the pupils' mature approach to all activities demonstrated the very best of these fine young people. My thanks to the staff who worked hard to provide such a positive day, including the catering team for a delicious barbecue on the terrace, and also to the pupils for their terrific attitude. We wish them the very best of luck in their forthcoming GCSEs, which have now started in earnest. There are some lovely photos of the day in the newsletter.

Last Friday saw the Sports Awards Dinner celebrate a momentous year in sport for Yarm, with recognition of the hard work and success of our pupils, and of the staff who propel and inspire them to great things. Thanks to Amy Tinkler for sharing her thoughts on her journey through elite gymnastics, and now cheer, including Olympic success. Her message to seize opportunity and be unafraid in going for your goals will have resonated with and inspired our pupils. The recent successes of the Boat Club, reported on within, are a credit to these pupils, and our U13 boys hockey team are competing today in the National Finals - we keep our fingers crossed for them in the last stage of this competition.

Last night saw Izzie's amazing EPQ concert in the PAA entertain a delighted audience. Huge credit goes to Izzie for planning and delivering such a successful and enjoyable evening and for raising a serious sum of money for her chosen charity, Diabetes UK, in the process. Well done to Izzie and all who performed - from Prep Pupils, Senior Pupils and a Former Pupil - it was a wonderful concert.

There are details within of forthcoming events including the Art Department's GCSE and A Level viewing on 14th May, and - later the same evening - an excellent opportunity to hear from Dr Kathy Weston as we launch the Senior School's collaboration with Tooled Up Education.

Dr Huw Williams

Our 5th Year Leavers 2024 - more photos inside!

EXPLORING GAP YEARS

Perhaps the eventual arrival of sunshine on Tuesday lunchtime inspired students to think of overseas climes, but whatever the driver the Gap Year presentation was attended by over thirty students. Gap Years have never attracted large numbers of students from Yarm School, though those who have opted to have spoken about their many benefits. Our guest from Project Trust - an interesting Gap Year provider in that they are a charity rather than a commercial organisation - Claudia Bettson-Burdett began the talk speaking of her own route into her work; after a successful university career and training with a top corporate law firm, she swapped it for her current role, albeit with some significant adventures in between. Claudia began by sharing with the students the many benefits to be accrued from gap years - enhanced CVs, the development of highly marketable and desirable interpersonal skills and confidence, the accruing of responsibility, and not least, a breather in which to gain a sharper focus and insight into one's future plans.

Project Trust, now in its fifty-fifth year of operation, offers programmes for young people aged between 17-25, opening the door for mid-degree and post-degree opportunities. Their programmes are either 8 or 12 months in duration - significantly longer than many offerings in the gap year provider landscape. Their philosophy is very much around immersion and the development of skills, rather than a smash-and-grab approach to travel and volunteering. They have programmes in a diverse range of countries including Honduras, Ghana, Senegal, Malawi, China, Japan and Thailand, and whilst there are english-speaking countries available, they encourage the learning of a foreign language during the experience. Their offerings range from teaching of English as a second language and classroom assistant roles, to community and environmental development schemes. Pairs of volunteers would be sent to a project, again, in marked contrast to many providers who would have a whole group of students, again, they are seeking to foster greater immersion, responsibility and confidence through their arrangement. They also conduct a selection process that involves two weeks of training at their headquarters on the Hebridean Isle of Coll, and a second two-week visit at the end of the programme, with training in the acclimatisation of returning to the UK.

Project Trust is clearly an organisation with a well developed, carefully considered approach to gap years. Should anyone require further information, please do contact me or visit their website. They are hoping to attend our next biennial Career Convention scheduled for May 2025.

Mr S Edwards

KEEP IN TOUCH

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LinkedIn

X

Instagram

RAF OFFICER LIAISON VISIT

We also welcomed to Yarm School the new RAF Careers Engagement Officer for the North of England, Sgt Brian Tumilty. The RAF, as well as the British Army and Royal Navy, have been well represented at our careers events over the years, and will be in attendance at next year's Career Convention. Small numbers of former pupils from Yarm School have pursued careers in the services, with a number of pupils graduating out of Sandhurst for the Army, as well as several pupils taking up roles within the RAF. A broad mixture of pupils from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth gathered for this session, with their interests within the RAF ranging from the more obvious piloting roles, to those in engineering, medicine, police and intelligence. Brian, having himself served for over 23 years was able to give a very clear insight into life in the RAF, providing some marked contrasts with the Army and Navy, as well as discussing a variety of routes and opportunities that exist.

Further information about the variety of careers within the RAF can be found at their website. Students who wish for follow up meetings should contact me by email or drop in to chat.

Mr S Edwards

LIFE AFTER YARM...

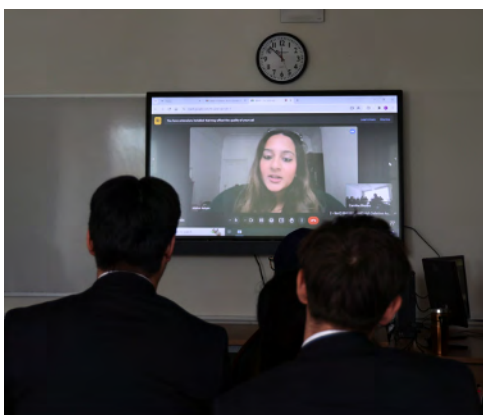
In the final FAME Working Lunch until after the Internal Exams we were delighted to welcome back - via Google Meet - former pupil Aislinn Kalyan. Aislinn left Yarm School in 2020, having secured an A* in Economics and she joined LSE to study Mathematics and Economics. Over the three years of her degree, she gained an interest in Investment Banking, attending multiple spring weeks and completing a summer internship at Goldman Sachs in M&A. She was also active in numerous societies, including Dance, the M&A group and the Restructuring Society. Upon graduating in 2023, she joined Goldman Sachs Investment Banking in the Healthcare M&A team.

Aislinn was enthusiastic, but also very candid, about the benefits and challenges of pursuing investment banking as a career. She was open about the remuneration and career progression opportunities, but also honest about the hours and the pressures of the job. It was evident that Aislinn had made the most of all of her opportunities and had made very effective use of networking and work experience. It was fabulous to hear her reference her Yarm experiences such as YA, dance and fundraising for the Halo Project, as having helped her to develop employability skills, and her advice to her audience of Sixth Formers was to make the most of opportunities!

We are very grateful to Aislinn for sharing her experiences of life after Yarm and having answered a lot of questions, and it was fabulous to see the familiar Econ and Bus faces joined by a growing number of those external to the department but keen to learn more about FAME careers.

We wish Aislinn well with her career, hope she stays in contact and it would be great to welcome her back in person next time!

Miss C E Rhodes



TOOLED UP EDUCATION PARENT LAUNCH TALK REMINDER

Further to the letter you received at the start of the week, please remember to sign up to the Tooled Up Education Parent Launch Talk on Tuesday 14th May, 7.15-8.15pm.

In this talk, Dr Kathy Weston, founder of Tooled Up Education and one of the nation's experts in parenting and parental engagement in children's lives will share a range of evidence-based ideas to support your child's mental health, academic and emotional resilience. Such "Tooled Up Tips" are derived from a vast digital platform that will be made freely available to our parent community following this important launch talk.

Our school is proud to become a 'Tooled Up Education School', giving families access to experts on topics such as children's healthy lifestyles, including sleep, managing exams, digital diets, academic thriving, family life and relationships. Join us for this online parent launch and we promise by the end of the talk you will feel excited about the potential of the Tooled Up platform to enrich your family life and help you feel holistically supported on your parenting journey.

Date: **Tuesday 14th May**,
Time: **7.15-8.15pm**

Registration link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7GgKXQr5RCieYU9F2-R2Sg

Click the link and register now to confirm your space.

Mrs A Kingsbury

TOOLED UP
BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

5TH YEAR LEAVERS 2024

MOVING ON UP

As we bid fond farewells and extend our thanks to EconBus Chairs Harry, Ollie, Arhana and Adhi, YA Student Facilitator Arhana and EconBus Peer Supporters Johnny and Molly, we would like to announce their replacements.

After much deliberation and debate we are delighted to announce the EconBus responsibility roles for the School Year 24/25 are:

EconBus Chairs - Alex Walton (Bus) and Finlay Carter (Bus)

EconBus Chairs - Sam Page (Econ) and Harvey Qin (Econ)

YA Student Facilitator - Ishita Pathare

EconBus Peer Support - Kyra Hyndman (Bus) and Apsara Naguleswaren (Econ)

I look forward to working alongside them over the coming months and they will soon be identifiable by their purple badges.

Miss C E Rhodes

THE HEAT IS ON...

The moment they were all waiting for has arrived... the mentors have met their mentees!

Excited Year 6 pupils were introduced to their equally excited Lower Sixth Business mentors. Tactics were talked, budgets balanced and plans plotted...

We are already looking forward to 21st June when we will see whose stalls will be standouts at the Prep Summer Fair!!

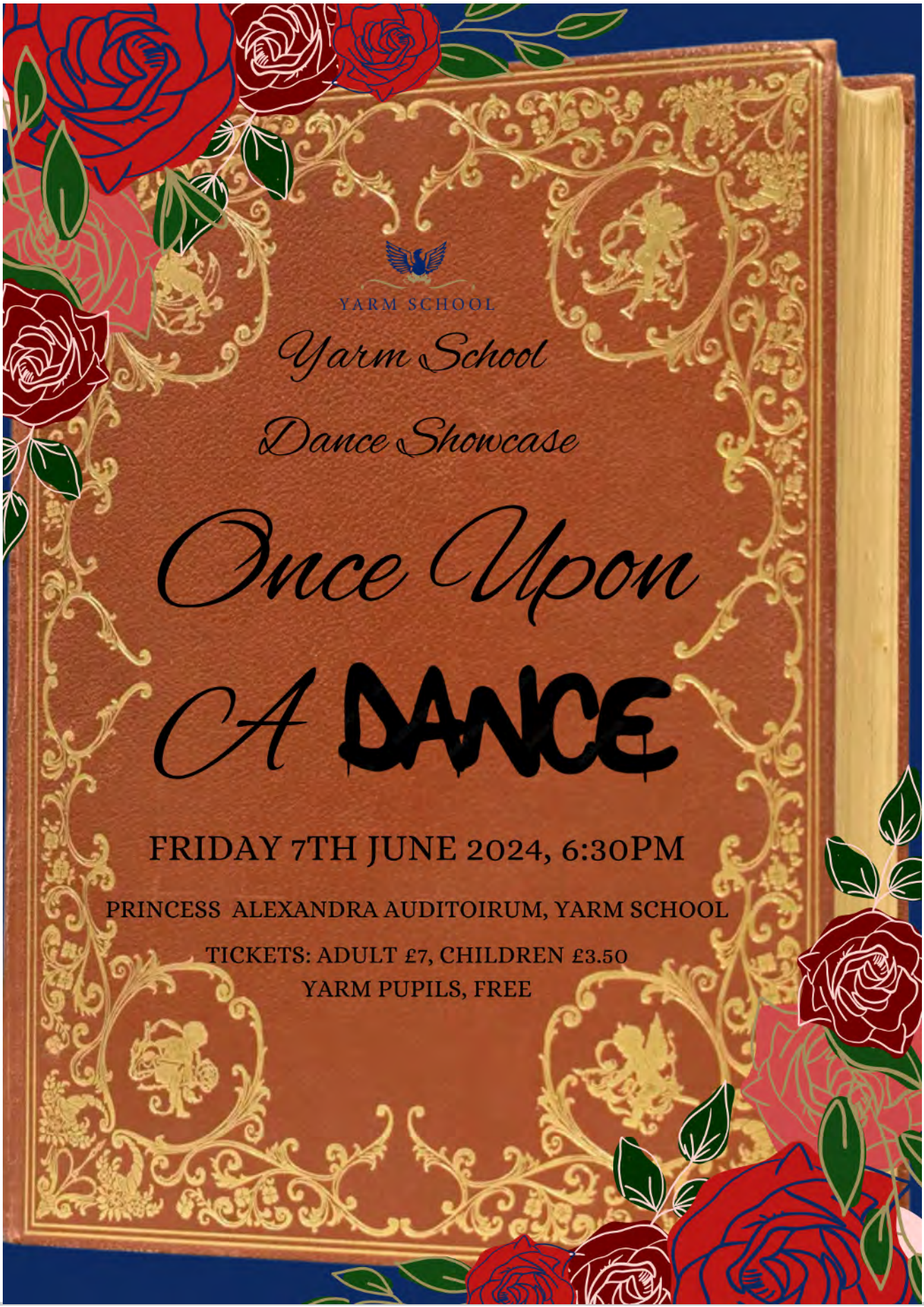
Miss C E Rhodes

HOCKEY CLUB SUCCESS FOR OSCAR AND MONTY

Congratulations to Oscar Lowes (Third Year) and Monty Proctor (Second Year) who have won the U14s Northern Supra Championship League with their Thirsk U14s hockey club. They have now qualified for the National Hockey Finals being held Sunday the 12th of May in Nottingham. Good luck boys!

YARM SCHOOL DANCE SHOWCASE

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



JUNIOR SCULLING REGATTA

On Monday, 6th May, YSBC athletes travelled to Dorney Lake, home of Eton College, to compete at this year's Junior Sculling Regatta. This was a 6-lane 2000-metre race and the perfect preparation three weeks away for National Schools. Our athletes got to go head-to-head with many of the top southern schools and clubs, giving them additional development and race experience as we head into the final preparation toward our National Championship. All of our athletes raced extremely well and came away with some excellent results, with highlights below.

With the highest place finish of the day, Archie Norton brought home the silver medal in the Mens J18 single scull. After winning the initial time trial, Archie set his goal of completing the final in under seven and a half minutes. With ideal race conditions and some fast scullers to race against, Archie set a PB in the single, finishing in 7:27, coming 2nd in the A final by one length.

The J14 boys' coxed quad of Jonah Jenney, Sam Buxton, Oscar Lane, Charlie Ashworth, and Seb Jafri was out for redemption after their 4th-place finish a few weeks early at the Junior Inter-Regional Championships. In the same vein as their last regatta, the boys finished 2nd in the initial time trials and set their sights on a cleaner, technically executed final. The boys brought home the bronze medal in an excellent back-and-forth race with Falcon Rowing.

The pressure was on for our J14 women's quad as Monday's event was the girl's first-ever side-by-side regatta. Turning up to a multi-lane race course, home of the London Olympics, to compete for over 2000 metres is no easy feat, let alone for their first-ever event. These girls raced with maturity and skill way beyond their age and experience. The crew of Lucy Oliver, Olivia Widridge, Zoe Wild, Bella Yang, and Aadit Kapoor finished 5th/16 in the initial time trial, making the A final, where they finished 6th overall.

Finally, our J16 boys Harry D'Ambrogio and Patrick Tulloch, were fired up and ready to set a personal best in the double scull. The initial time trial put them in 8th/24, landing them second-ranked in the B final. The boys had a solid first 1500 metres to the race and took 1st in the B final with a time of 7:12, a new personal best for these boys.

Mr T Kellett

SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can view them here.

YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS:

CASINO ROYALE

SUMMER BALL 2024

SATURDAY, JUN 15TH
7PM - LATE
THE PAA

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

THE RAT PACK

Take three great singers, add a dash of comedy and rousing camaraderie with a pinch of the greatest songs ever written and what do you get? A perfect night's entertainment with 'Rat Pack – Swingin' At The Sands!'

Friday 28th June, 7:30pm
Book Online Here

MILKSHAKE LIVE - ON HOLIDAY

Join your favourite Milkshake! friends on Holiday with Dora, Pip and Posey, Blue from Blues Clues and You! Milo, Milkshake! Monkey plus two of your Milkshake! presenters for an all-new adventure! We are also delighted to announce that NICKELODEON is adding TWO PAW PATROL CHARACTERS MARSHALL and CHASE into the show just for this year, prior to PAW PATROL doing a Stadium tour in 2025.

Sunday 21st July, 12pm and 3:30pm
Book Online Here

ANDRE RIEU'S 2024 MAASTRICHT CONCERT: POWER OF LOVE

From his picturesque hometown of Maastricht The King of the Waltz presents a must-see big screen spectacular. Accompanied by his world famous Johann Strauss Orchestra and a cast of hundreds this promises to be the music event of the summer by one of the world's most prolific artists.

Saturday 31st August, 7pm and Sunday 1st September, 3pm (LIVE STREAM)
Book Online Here

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 18+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING

Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This *does* mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS

The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST

Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS

At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES

If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS

Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS

Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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