



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 782 — Friday 5th July 2024

A message from Mr Sawyer

As the academic year draws to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every member of our school community for their unwavering support and dedication. We are incredibly fortunate to collaborate with our parents, united in our goal to help each pupil reach their full potential. This spirit of partnership has been ingrained in Yarm School since its founding in 1978 and continues to thrive today. Prioritising the welfare and progress of each child is central to our mission at Yarm Prep School. I am immensely proud of the staff for their commitment to this goal, from teaching and administrative roles to estates and support staff. Their collective efforts have made this year a huge success. The pupils themselves are a testament to this dedication, showcasing their energy, enthusiasm for school life, positive nature, and eagerness to embrace opportunities.

I hope you enjoy the final newsletter of this academic year. It is a fitting celebration of our community's achievements and the vibrant life at Yarm Prep. Inside, you'll find fantastic photos and articles on Sports Day, the mock election, our quiz team's success, and the end-of-year assembly honours. As we embark on our own adventures and cherish time with our families this holiday, I want to express my gratitude to my family—Sarah, Amelie, and Wilf—for their unwavering love and support. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday and look forward to hearing about your adventures in the near future.

Bill Sawyer



Tes Schools Awards 2024

Winner

Independent
Prep School
of the Year



Photo of the Week:

A keenly contested Sports Day saw one house come out on top. But did they also win the annual house competition? Find out inside!



Head's Challenge:

I can fly but have no wings,
I can cry but have no eyes.
What am I?

Sports Day

Sports Day is always one of the highlights of the school year. With every child doing every event pitted against similar ability it gives every child the opportunity to compete across six events.

This year certainly did not disappoint for atmosphere and it was great to have the finish line packed with supporters throughout the morning. The track went in year group order with Year 3s starting proceedings brilliantly. The Year 5s and 6s began their competitions on the field with high jump, long jump and the throw all tightly contested. As the day went on results were announced and the leader flipped a number of times which kept momentum high. By the end of the day we had just the Year 6 relays and the whole school watched with trepidation and cheered the children on.

Congratulations to Stephenson who were presented with the trophy this year, Brunel were 2nd followed by Arkwright and Telford.

Highlights from the children are as follows;

Olivia - High jump was my favourite event.

Charlie - I loved the relays.

Lolwa - Cheering on the children.

Eric - Bean bag race was my favourite.

Thea- All the track events.

William - The bean bag race.

Fliss - Cheering everyone on.

Stan - 100m sprint.

Pradyoth - I enjoyed everything about sports day.

Flynn—I loved the 100m race.

Holly - Stephenson winning the House relay.

Jack—The high jump.

Isla - The bean bag race!

*Mrs Redhead-
Sweeney*



Prep Election

Weeks of campaigning came to a halt on Monday as Yarm Prep School went to the polls to vote in their own General Election.

An incredible turnout of 98.7% kept the poll clerks from 5G busy all day, with even Year 2 coming along to have their say. In the end, following an intense after school counting session led by Daisy Callaghan, Stan Dugdale and James Booth, there was a dominant winner with **Manha Abdullah (Golden Globes)** elected as the MP for Yarm Prep!

Manha collected an incredible 103 votes, more than twice those of the second placed **Bella Mitchell (Excellent Emojis)**. Hot on her tails was **Henry Stanley (Nitro; 45 votes)**, **Henry Skidmore (Purple Phoenix; 32)** and **Holly Birkin (Coral; 30)**.

5H must be congratulated for the intense, friendly election they fought, proving that politics is both exciting and can take place with dignity and purpose.

In terms of which party was officially which, please see below!

Mr Stone



National General Knowledge Championships

It was a case of so near, yet so far, for the Prep quiz teams again this year after an incredibly close finish to the National Schools final, organized by Quiz Club.

All three of our finalist teams were in the running during the disjointed final, which saw a delay of nearly four hours midway through the event due to technical difficulties at Quiz Club HQ! At that point, Team 2 (Edward Williams, Aditi Kumar, Jack Morgan and Brian Franks) were in joint 1st with Bishop Challoner School. A tricky final 11 questions during the second—afternoon—leg of the event saw them drop down to 9th at the end with 1675 points, which is a super achievement.

Team 1 (Hannah Mhando, Dara Jafari, Manha Abdullah and Benjamin Fulford) gave a good account of themselves throughout the competition as well, finishing in 8th with a fine 1715 points after a final round where they scored maximum points. In previous years, such a score would have been good enough for a podium finish!

Team 3 (Zoyaa Soni, Freddie Wilson, Olivia Tiew and Alex Prideaux) were incredibly lucky not to win. Going into the 'second half' in 7th, they only dropped 40 points over the rest of the competition to finish on 1835—a score that would have won the competition the previous two years! In the end though they had to settle for an impressive 3rd. However, following checks by the organisers that found one of the other teams had registered five players, Team 3 were promoted to 2nd spot, just 10 points behind winners KCS Wimbledon!

Well done to all of the children who took part—not just the 12 in the final, but also the eight who were knocked out in the semi-finals and all of the reserves who competed in the Yarm Schools Quiz. 2nd in the UK is our joint highest ever finish (tied with 2022), while three teams in the top 8 is unheard of! One day, it would be nice to win!

Mr Stone



Golden Globes—Conservative
Coral—Labour
Purple Phoenix—Liberal Democrat
Nitro—Reform
Excellent Emojis—Green

Pupil v Parents Sports

Last Wednesday the Y6 took part in the annual Parents v Pupils Sports Evening. This year we started off with a number of Sports Day races, where the children got to race against their adults, all of the races were exceptionally competitive. Following this everyone was able to take part in either Cricket, Netball or Tennis, the competitiveness continued. The event finished with the traditional BBQ. Well done to everyone that took part.

Mr Simpson



End of Year Assembly

Cricket colours – Ahmad Ifrahim, Pradyoth Karanam, Vedh Arcot, Rex White, Sri Rajaram; Ellie Atkins, Amelia Cheesman, Charlie Donnor-Broom, Sylvia Dugdale, Heidi Kingsbury, Rebecca Nicholson, Thea Speight, Emily Woolnough.

Athletics Colours – Emily Woolnough, Olivia Groves, Amelia Cheesman, Heidi Kingsbury, Thea Speight, Zara Paul, Harrison Covell, Ronav Gowda, Flynn Nunnery, Miles Page, Rex White.

Art Colours – Alice Scacco, Ollie Bridle, Noah Win Tin.

Dance Colours - Ella Leadbitter, Heidi Kingsbury, Anika Sunkavalli and Ettie Axtell.

Speech and Drama Colours - Noah Win Tin, Thea Speight, Erin Goh, Rebecca Nicholson, Anika Sunkavalli, Maisie Shuttleworth.

Prep Baccalaureate - Y3: Arian Ladhar, Jayden Gerrard, Harrison Vanek, Hannah Mhando, Genevieve Prideaux, Agam Vats, Edward Gildroy, Edie Thompson, Leah Roberts, Felicity Thompson, Dulcie Bell, Noah Speight, Hinako Yabuta, Zara Groves, Aaron Younger, Myla Gupta Bhalla, Nael Siddiqi; **Y4:** Isla Ladhar, Amelie Tailor, Dara Jafari; **Y5:** Annalise Dixon, Emily Quayle, Annabelle Merritt, Manha Abdullah; **Y6:** Alex Prideaux, Olivia Groves, Ollie Bridle, George Pike.

Digital Leaders - Jack Siebel, Manha Abdullah, Annalise Dixon, Emily Quayle, Thomas Maxey, Stan Dugdale, Jack Morgan, Martha Leary, Roland Morris, Sri Rajaram, Pradyoth Karanam, Alex Prideaux.

Knockout Chess winner - Dara Jafari (trophy); certificates to the last 16.

OVERALL Sports Day – 1st – **Stephenson**; Brunel, Arkwright, Telford.

Victor/Victrix - Rex White, Amelia Cheesman.

OVERALL House Cricket – 1st – **Brunel**; Stephenson, Arkwright, Telford.

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House Points THIS TERM - 1st – **Brunel** 4735 (avg 91.1 per pupil); 2nd - Arkwright 4498 (86.5); 3rd - Telford 3949 (75.9); 4th - Stephenson 3922 (72.6).

House competition winners this year: **Arkwright** - General Knowledge Quiz, Autumn House Points, STEAM Quiz, Boys' Hockey; **Brunel** - Girls' Hockey, Rugby, Typing, Chess, Spring House Points, Cricket (Boys), Summer House Points; **Stephenson** - Pancakes, Netball, Cricket (Girls), Sports Day; **Telford** - Coding.

OVERALL HOUSE STANDINGS:

4th - Telford 1737.5

3rd - Stephenson 2462

2nd - Arkwright 2649.5

1st - **BRUNEL 3300**

BRUNEL ARE THE OVERALL WINNING HOUSE OF 2023-2024!

The first time Brunel have won the House Competition since 2013! Only the second time Stephenson have NOT won in 10 years!

Music lessons

If your child is in Years 3-6 and is interested in taking part in individual peripatetic music lessons, [please fill in this form and Mr Gooding will get back to you.](#)

Mr Gooding

Titan Mouthguards

Our live order form is open for parents to book a mouthguard fitting session for their child at school, on **Friday 30th August** (second day back after the holidays). [To book a fitting for your child, please click on this link.](#)

Coming Up at the PAA

[Back to Bacharach - The Very Best of Burt Bacharach - Sunday 22nd September, 7.30pm](#)

Fall in love again with the timeless music of Burt Bacharach in this dazzling tribute to one of the 20th century's best-loved songwriters.



Magic Moments Orchestra, as Back To Bacharach takes you on a moving musical journey through some of the greatest masterpieces in the Bacharach songbook.

[One Night in Dublin - Saturday 12th October, 7.30pm](#)

For nearly 15 years Middi and his legendary 'Wild Murphys' have been playing Irish music to the masses and now they're bringing Murphys Pub to Yarm. Come and join in the craic as this award winning seven piece Irish band covers songs by the Pogues, The Dubliners, The Saw Doctors, Daniel O' Donnell,



YPSSC

PreLoved Uniform

Nursery, Pre Prep, Prep & Senior Uniform

PE and Games

See Listings on [Classlist](#) or
Email Us

YPSSC@Yarmschool.org

Donations of good condition, clean uniform and PE & Games items accepted all year. Kindly bag them and label them with 'YPSSC PreLoved Donations' and drop them at either Pre Prep, Prep or Senior School Reception.

Thank you!!

Flogging Molly, Dropkick Murphys, Van Morrison and many more, in their own unique and upbeat style.

[ROH Live: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland - Wednesday 16th October, 7.15pm and Sunday 20th October, 2pm](#)

At a garden party on a sunny afternoon, Alice is surprised to see her parents' friend Lewis Carroll transform into a white rabbit. When she follows him down a rabbit hole, events become curiouser and curiouser...



As Alice journeys through Wonderland, she encounters countless strange creatures. She's swept off her feet by the charming Knave of Hearts, who's on the run for stealing the tarts. Confusion piles upon confusion. Then Alice wakes with a start. Was it all a daydream?

Live stream production in the Friarage Theatre.

Butterwick Hospice Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our 'Wear an Item of Blue' fundraiser this week. A total of £246/18 was raised for Butterwick Hospice! Well done to Immy Clark for organising the event!



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

GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes lend themselves to unkind comments being shared freely, putting people down to make their peers laugh – often creating a vicious circle that encourages others to join in. Being bullied so publicly – in front of friends and acquaintances – can also amplify the hurt, embarrassment and anxiety that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: for instance, starting a new group, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one person doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss events that exclude them – for example, sharing photos from a day out that they didn't attend.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by a child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some apps have features that cause messages to disappear after they're viewed, so children may be unable to report something they've seen, as it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and video calls with a smaller group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat's content is private between those in the group, individual users can easily share material with others outside of the group, or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something a child intended as private becoming public is higher if there are strangers in the chat.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly towards everyone present. It's wise for young people to avoid sharing personal details and remember that they have no control over what others do with the material they send into the chat.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications they tend to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be 'pinged' with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. This is often highly distracting, and young people's fear of missing out (FOMO) can cause increased screen time as they try to keep up with the conversation.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave in this way. If the child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report that person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise that it's OK for children to simply leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure children understand the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school, or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their identity to gain a child's trust and serve their own ends – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure the child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and why they should never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of the group chat while disabling notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

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.



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Sources: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11-15/lets-talk-about/socialising-online/group-chats/> | <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

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Coming Up

You can find the Yarm School calendar for the Summer Term by clicking here

JULY 2024

Mon 15 Summer Holiday School begins

AUGUST 2024

Fri 2 Summer Holiday School finishes

Wed 28 Nursery Induction Afternoon (1-3.30pm)

Thu 29 **Autumn Term begins**

Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm

After School Care as usual

Peer Mentor training (3.45-4.45pm)

Fri 30 Titan moughtguard fittings

Nursery finishes at 3pm; R-Y2 at 3.15pm

After School Care as usual

SEPTEMBER 2024

Tue 3 Y3/4 Parents' Information Evening (6pm)

Wed 4 Individual photographs

Y5/6 Parents' Information Evening (6pm)

(includes Peat Rigg briefing for Y5 parents)

Thu 5 Nursery & Pre-Prep Parents' Info. Evening (6pm)

Fri 6 **Year 5 Peat Rigg residential begins**

YPSSC New Families BBQ (4-5.30pm)

Sun 8 Year 5 return from Peat Rigg (3pm approx.)

Mon 9 **Clubs and activities begin**

Prep Safety Week

Activities Carousel 1 begins (Y3-6)

YPSSC (6pm; Library)

Tue 10 New Parents' Pop Up Event (8-9am; Prep Hall)

Thu 12 New Parents' Pop Up Event (8-9am; Prep Hall)

Fri 13 Senior School Prize Giving (2pm)

Tue 17 Brunel Charity Day

Year 4 trip to Bowes Museum

New Parents' Pop Up Event (8-9am; Prep Hall)

Wed 18 Year 6 trip to Robin Hood's Bay (4.45pm return)

Thu 19 New Parents' Pop Up Event (8-9am; Prep Hall)

Year 6 trip to Robin Hood's Bay (4.45pm return)

Sat 21 Stokesley Show

Tue 24 Year 1 trip to Museum of Hartlepool

Year 3 trip to Great North Museum, Newcastle

NSPCC Stay Safe workshops for Y2, 5 & 6

Wed 25 NSPCC Stay Safe workshops for Y2, 5 & 6

Year 2 Beach Clean

Thu 26 School Council

Fri 27 YPSSC Event (7-10pm; PAA)

Sat 28 Open Morning (9am-12noon)

U10 Clegg Cup Rugby (at Barnard Castle)

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Preparation Day Tuesday, 27th August 2024
Wednesday, 28th August 2024

All pupils return Thursday, 29th August 2024
Half term begins Friday, 18th October 2024

(after school)

Pupils return Monday, 4th November 2024

Term ends Friday, 13th December 2024

(after school; no after school care)

Spring Term 2025

Pupils return Monday, 6th January 2025

Half term begins Thursday, 20th February 2025
(after school)

INSET Day Friday 21st February 2025

Pupils return Monday 3rd March 2025

Term ends Friday 4th April 2025 (after school)

Summer Term, 2025

Pupils return Wednesday, 23rd April 2025

Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May 2025

Half term begins Thursday, 22nd May 2025
(after school)

Pupils return Monday, 2nd June 2025

Term ends Thursday, 3rd July 2025

(after Prize Giving)

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3H	Lucia RM.	Felicity T.
3J	Zaviyar R.	Eliza S.
3P	Hamdan A.	Karunya G.
4F	Hattie P.	Harrison G.
4J	Bertie H.	Freddie W.
4S	Amani R.	Sia S.
5G	Ben F.	Thomas M.
5H	Rosa W.	Holly B.
5K	Cooper W.	Dax C.
6H	Alex P.	Ella L.
6L	Sylvia D.	Ollie B.
6W	Pradyoth K.	Aphelia S.