



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 783 — Friday 6th September 2024

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome back to the new academic year! It has been a real delight to see the school burst into life in recent days with the start of the Autumn Term. The classrooms, corridors, recreation spaces and sports pitches have been a hive of activity and have resonated with the sound purposeful learning once more. The start of the year is all about settling in whether you are new to the school or in a new year group, there are fresh routines and expectations to get to grips with. In recent days important housekeeping has been addressed with a keen focus on our School Values and High Fives, and we have been thrilled to see how responsive our pupils have been. Particular mention must go to our new pupils across the school and those who have joined us in Year 3, they have embraced the new year with real commitment and have been well supported by their more experienced peers. As a school we recognise how important it is to feel a sense of belonging and the collective part we can all play in ensuring that this is afforded to every member of our community.

We have enjoyed welcoming a number of parents to our information evenings this week. Working in partnership is key to every child flourishing and has been an integral part of the school's approach since our inception. There has certainly been a lot of important detail shared, so we hope that the correspondence following these events will provide a useful reference tool in the coming weeks and months. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Form Teacher, ask a member of staff at pick up or drop off or contact the School Office. We are here to help and are on the journey together!

*Bill
Sawyer*

Photo of the Week:

We're back! Plenty to report on as we get back into the new school year.

Head's Challenge: A word I know, six letters it contains, remove one letter and 12 remains. What word is this?



Tes Schools Awards 2024

Winner

Independent
Prep School
of the Year



Welcome to Year 3

The children from 3B, 3J and 3P have made an impressive start to life 'up the hill' at the Prep School as they embark upon the next steps of their Yarm School journey.

They have quickly adapted to the routines and are enjoying making new friends, exploring their surroundings and most importantly having fun. There is much to look forward to with a trip to the Hancock Museum, a sporting fixture and visit to the PAA to listen to Cressida Cowell, the famous author of the 'How To Train Your Dragon' series (further details to follow.) Here are a few thoughts from the children of Year 3 so far.

Violet: "I loved doing spelling, I now can spell 'information' without having to think about it."

Finlay: "We did rugby in Games, it was brilliant."

Matthew: "Games was great, we practised rugby skills."

Heidi: "The best bit of Year 3 is hockey, we get to pass the ball."



Louie: "My favourite thing is rugby in Games, because it is good exercise."

Matilda: "I like the Prep School because the maths is good and we can use manipulatives to help us."

Poppy B: "I like playing hockey and being with friends. I love the lunches because at my old school I had packed lunches."

Dylan H: "I really like the Prep School and particularly Tag Rugby which is new to me. The Prep School is so much better than I thought it would be."

Lucian: "I like the Prep School because I have played the harp and it was fun playing a new instrument."

Jack B. "I've loved it so far, it has lovely opportunities - I couldn't wish for more!"

Poppy CW: "I love Prep because there are exciting things to do such as horse riding."

Florence: "Maths is really good at Prep because I like learning about numbers in different ways."

Welcome to Year 6

I have enjoyed the first few days of term and I know it will continue that way. I am really looking forward to the residential at the Lake District and the sports tour! I am also looking forward to being a Peer Mentor and helping others out!

Rosa W.

I have enjoyed Year 6 so far because I am a Peer Mentor and house captain. I will be running a stall in a few weeks for the Brunel charity day. My favourite lessons are games, PE and history.

Rory B.

I am looking forward to fencing club because I have never done fencing before.

Ben O.

So far what I have liked in Year Six are the teachers that teach me and the different students in my class.

Sandy O.

I am super excited for the Lake District residential, and English is my all time favourite topic!

Cooper W.

My favorite thing about Year 6 so far is history. The topic we are studying is Ancient Greece.

Fathe C.

I am looking forward to the Lakes residential.

Livvie C.

I am looking forward to all of the responsibilities, especially as School Captain, as I want to be a role model and an upstander for others.

Meadow E.

I can't wait to go on the Lake District trip.

Ben F.

I am looking forward to playing more sports fixtures and all of the other sporting opportunities.

Charlie M.



Summer works update

Whilst school has been quieter during the holidays, there has been much going on in terms of upgrades and developments to our facilities. As part of the new roof on B Block we have installed solar panels to the front and rear elevations of this building. This installation has been extended to the Hazel Andrews Building on all sections of the roof. In total we now have over 170 solar panels which gives us less reliance on the grid and a more sustainable approach to energy consumption. Internally the circulation spaces in B Block have received a full refurbishment and decoration which includes a new ceiling, LED lighting, fresh flooring, revamped music practice rooms and the creation of a wellness space for pupils.

In other areas we have replaced boundary fencing, aspects of the adventure trail, recarpeted the Astroturf on the quiet area and in the cricket nets. In addition to these projects there has been a whole host of regular maintenance tasks, IT upgrades, regulatory checks and tests. I am hugely grateful to our Capital Development manager, the Estates team, our cleaning staff and the IT team for their efforts in ensuring these projects were completed in time for the start of term.

Mr Sawyer

Peer Mentors

Our new crop of Year 6 Peer Mentors met for their first training session of the academic year last week. Among other things, they appointed their team leaders, worked together in their new teams and spoke about the roles and responsibilities they will take on over the course of the year.

The Peer Mentors Mission

- To be a role model around the school
- To help people who are sad
- To be impartial when pupils fall out
- To help sort out problems
- To help prevent bullying



Mr Stone



PE and Games News

The hockey (girls) and rugby (boys) seasons are off to a flying start, with the children taking part in their first lessons of the campaign.

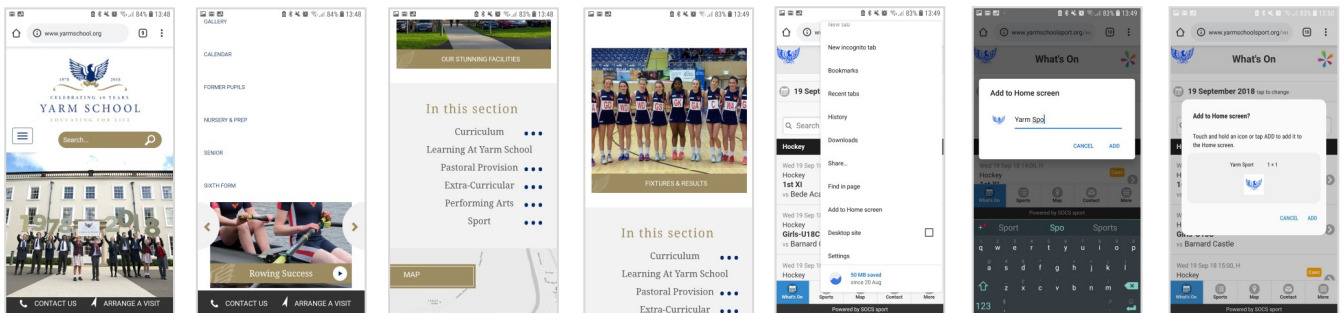
Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



How to set up Fixtures Pro on your Smartphone

It's how to find details of sports fixtures and team line-ups for the Prep School. It is also very easy to set up on your Apple or Android device. Please follow these instructions.

FOR ANDROID DEVICES:



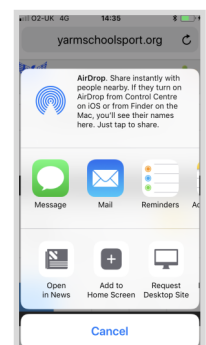
- | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------|--|
| <p>1. Access the Yarm School website via the browser on your device.</p> | <p>2. Click on 'Senior School' at the top of the page.</p> | <p>3. Click on 'Sport' which appears down the left-hand side.</p> | <p>4. Click on 'Fixtures and Results'.</p> | <p>5. In the top-right corner of the browser, click on the three dots, then click on 'Add to Home screen'.</p> | <p>6. Give the link a name.</p> | <p>7. Add to your phone home screen.</p> |
|--|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------|--|

FOR APPLE DEVICES:

Follow steps 1-4 above, then:

5) At the bottom of your phones screen drag your finger up and you have a square and arrow icon (photo left) and if you click this you can then see the icon that says 'Add to home screen'. Click this.

6) Congratulations! You are all set and on your phone screen you should see the Yarm School logo which is now your very own shortcut to team sheets etc.



Yarm Prep Bacculaureate

You will hopefully have seen the new **Yarm Prep Bacculaureate** booklets brought home this week with your child. The YPB is an opportunity for the children to:

- Develop new skills,
- Stretch themselves; and
- Recognise their talents and achievements.

Every child in the Prep School can do it! The overall aim is to encourage and recognise pupil involvement in their school, with a clear focus on our School Values. There are also elements of *Education for Social Responsibility* within the tasks set—all of which are age-appropriate and achievable based on the year group of each child.



What do the children need to do?

Each page of the YPB covers one of our School Values. On each page, a child needs to complete **four TASKS** and the **PROJECT**. These need to be dated and signed by a teacher. Form time will be used to do this. There are also lunchtime club on Tuesdays for children to do this with Mr Stone.

What are the tasks?

The tasks are based around each School Value and offer a mix of those that can be achieved in school and those that will need some support at home to complete. Some will be completed during day-to-day life at school (and at home!), so we are encouraging children to look for these first before exploring and tackling some of the more challenging tasks.

Four tasks need to be completed from the 7/8 under each School Value. They need to be dated and signed by a teacher.



What are the projects?

The projects are designed to promote the School Values. All your child has to do is record how they have demonstrated each value—on one side of A4 paper—and present it to their teacher or Mr Stone.

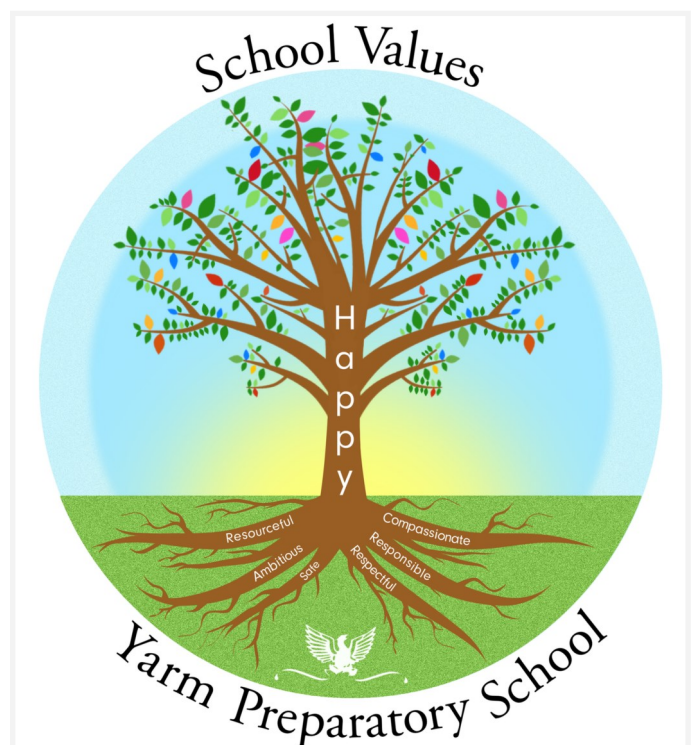
Some examples might include: demonstrating 'Safe' by producing a poster for Safer Internet Day; highlighting how they are being 'Resourceful' by drawing some diagrams of how an old item was fixed; or showing how they are 'Ambitious' by putting together a report and pictures of an assembly/event they took part in.

What do parents need to do?

- Discuss and share with your child what they are doing.
- Work with them to complete each of the projects (and sign them off!)
- Encourage your children to come along to the lunchtime clubs on Tuesdays.
- Make sure that the YPB booklet is kept safe and secure—both at home and at school!

DON'T FORGET TO COME ALONG TO THE LUNCHTIME CLUB EVERY TUESDAY!

Mr Stone



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

CEOP



The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) aims to keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online.

Parents, carers and children can report a concern about child sexual abuse or online exploitation to the CEOP Safety Centre.

ANY CHILD IN IMMEDIATE DANGER SHOULD ALWAYS CALL 999 FIRST.

You can contact CEOP by clicking on the logo on this page. This links to the CEOP website where you can report any concerns you may have. Alternatively, click www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/.

Mr Stone

Speech and Drama lessons

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

Mr Stone

WoLloW

Year 4 have had made an enthusiastic start to their German learning journey by looking at German traditions. They made their very own Schultüte or cone. Traditionally a cone is filled with treats and given to every school age German child to celebrate the start of a new academic year. Year 4 enjoyed creating their own cone and filling it with some German themed goodies.



Frau Arrol



D&T HELP!

Mrs Smith is collecting egg boxes and shoeboxes. If you have any, please could you bring them to school and leave them in the D&T room or on top of the lockers outside 5G. Thank you.

Mrs Smith

Holiday School Dates

- October 2024: - 21st—25th October (5 days)
- Christmas 2024: - 16th—20th December 2024
- Easter 2025: - 7th—11th April 2025
- Summer 2025: - 14th July—1st August 2025

YPSSC

PreLoved Uniform

Nursery, Pre Prep, Prep & Senior Uniform

PE and Games

See Listings on [Classlist](#) or
Email Us
YPSSC@Yarnschool.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!!

Tooled Up Education

We hope all our Tooled Up families and their children are settling back into school life and enjoying the transition to new years, new teachers, new stages and new challenges!

Is this your first school year as a Tooled Up member? Make sure you check out our new [Site Tour video](#) to get familiar with everything Tooled Up has to offer.

You can begin the new year by exploring our wealth of resources relating to transition [here](#), including our webinar series on getting children [nursery school-ready](#), [primary school-ready](#) and [senior school-ready](#). Download our [Settling In Journal](#) for older students beginning their senior journey.

Each September we all try to re-establish the routines and organisation skills that might have slipped over the summer break! The [Back to School Checklist](#) is a useful list to check equipment, and this [Weekly Planner](#) helps timetable homework. Our [Mindset Planner](#) offers teens a template for thinking through the ups and downs of each week, what went well, and where help might be needed in the days to come.

At Tooled Up we believe that talking is one of the foundations of a healthy family life. In this [podcast](#), Dr Kathy Weston talks to Dr Neil Mercer about the importance of oracy, and how parents can help in developing children's speaking and listening skills. And here is researcher Mishika Mehrotra's [podcast](#) on her work exploring the links between conversation and children's development.

One of the best times to chat to our children is around the dinner table. We love this video on [Dinnertime De-briefs](#) and the role that dinnertime conversations can play in boosting children's resilience, wellbeing and academic attainment. If you ever get stuck for conversation ideas, here are [65 Topics](#) to work your way through. We love to get even the youngest members of the family talking, and our [Questions for Bathtime](#) can help with that.

Of course, one important use for family talk is in wellbeing. Our [family audit template](#) provides plenty of prompts to get healthy and open discussions started, and you can read these tips on having [difficult conversations](#) at home.

The words that we use when talking to our children matter greatly. We spoke to the founders of the charity Words Matter in this [podcast](#), which explores the impact that verbal abuse can have on children and how we can use words to boost self-esteem and self-worth.. Dr Kathy Weston explores this theme further in this week's [Wednesday Wisdom](#).

The Tooled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could we do better?

We always value your feedback and want to ensure that we are giving you the resources that you need. Email us at research@tooledupeducation.com to let us know how we are doing!

A quick reminder As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPSII03 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help at support@tooledupeducation.com. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

Dr Kathy Weston

TOOLED UP[®]
BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES



While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES



Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH



While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS



Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING



Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT



Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS



There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE



Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY



Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP



The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, POCKET Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.08.2024

Coming Up

[You can find the Yarm School calendar for the Summer Term by clicking here](#)

SEPTEMBER 2024

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) U10/11 Rugby training with Durham (away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return) U11 Girls' Hockey v Queen Mary's (away; 2.15pm start, 4pm return) U10 Girls' Hockey v Queen Mary's (home; 2.15pm start)
Tue 17	Brunel Charity Day (details to follow) Year 4 trip to Bowes Museum New Parents' Pop Up Event (8-9am; Prep Hall) U8 Girls' Hockey workshop with Queen Mary's (away; 2.15pm start, 4pm return)
Wed 18	6L trip to Robin Hood's Bay (4.45pm return)
Thu 19	New Parents' Pop Up Event (8-9am; Prep Hall) 6H/6K trip to Robin Hood's Bay (4.45pm return) U9 Rugby v Durham School (away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)
Fri 20	U10/11 Rugby v Cundall & Terrington (away; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return) U10/11 Girls' Hockey v Durham School (home; 2.15pm start)
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 at Marske
Thu 26	European Day of Languages School Council
Fri 27	YPSSC Event (7-10pm; PAA)
Sat 28	Open Morning (9am-12noon) U10 Clegg Cup Rugby (at Barnard Castle)
Mon 30	Harvest collection begins today Collecting for Billingham & Stockton Foodbank

OCTOBER 2024

Tue 1	Curiosity Emporium (1pm) U8 Girls' Hockey Workshop with Cundall Manor
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(away; 2pm start, 3.45pm return)

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

Form Captains—Autumn '24

3B	Oliver Jones	Chloe Xue
3J	Meera Shah	Dylan Howell
3P	Poppy Carrick-Woods	Jamie Frost
4F	Annabelle Legg	Alex Zavora
4J	Aaron Younger	Dulcie Bell
4SU	Felicity Thompson	Joshua Adotey
5G	Annabelle Andrews	Henry Fenwick
5S	Dara Jafari	Francesca Smith
5W	Mana Hasegawa	Thomas Howard
6H	Isla Ryan	James Booth
6K	Dax Cullingford	Annabelle Cochrane
6L	Alice Whaite	Stan Dugdale
Arkwright	Daisy Callaghan	Cooper Willis
Brunel	Rory Brearey	Amaya Sanghera
Stephenson	Emily Quayle	Max Jolly
Telford	Jack Siebel	Olivia Tiew

School Captains for 2024/25:

Meadow Emadi, Angus Ferguson, Annalise Dixon, Thomas Maxey, Jack Askew and Manha Abdullah.

Peer Mentor Team Leaders for 2024/25:

Rosa Williams, Isla Ryan, Jack Morgan, Daisy Callaghan, Sophia Bundhoo, Henry Skidmore, Fliss Wade, Emily Quayle and Emily Booth.