

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Welcome to the new school year, and a particular welcome to all new parents as you join the Yarm community. I hope that, after the summer break, all pupils have had a wonderful return to school and are ready to embrace the plethora of opportunities they have open to them here at Yarm. Certainly, I have been glad to welcome them all back and to note the enthusiasm and excitement around school.

I am enormously grateful to colleagues for their work over the summer in preparing the site, and to those who took pupils away on a variety of trips. Some exceptional experiences were clearly had, and there are a few glimpses of these in the photographs within, with more to be seen and read about in this year's School Magazine.

We have started the term with a bang, as ever, with new pupils engaged in induction days, the First Year doing brilliantly in their Discovery Day last weekend, the Sixth Form enjoying a start of term BBQ and the traditional and ever popular House Tug o' War competition last Friday - do read on for Dr Goodall's report. The weekend also saw our 1st XI girls hockey players in action, winning the tournament they entered in Nottingham and the U13 teams also

competing in a pre-season tournament - well done to all! Yarm itself was a cacophony of noise on Wednesday, with the Tour of Britain cycle race - accompanied by a cavalcade of police motorbikes and team support vehicles - roaring through the High Street and past the Senior and Pre-Prep sites. It was quite a spectacle, which a number of our pupils were lucky enough to see. In my start of Term assembly I reflected on the Olympic Games over the summer and the inspiration and example these athletes provide. I also looked ahead to the Paralympic Games, and the extraordinary story of former student Faye Rogers, who left Yarm in 2021 having competed in the GB Olympic trials as a Sixth Former,

but who suffered some serious injuries in a car crash soon after leaving school. Faye's story, from being told by doctors that competitive swimming was a thing of the past for her to winning the S10 100m Butterfly World Championship, was already inspiring enough, but we have been thrilled to see her crowned Paralympic champion this week, and the whole school has celebrated her success and been inspired by her example. We can all learn something from the grit, determination and resilience shown by Faye! With best wishes to all for the term ahead.

Dr Huw Williams



The Tour of Britain sped past our entrance gates on Wednesday!

INTER-HOUSE TUG O' WAR

As the last wisps of summer give way to the dews and mists of autumn our thoughts turn inevitably to the important matters of the new school term and, of course, the first inter-House battle of the year that was last Friday's Tug O'War. The Rope of War once again appeared, as if by magic, conjured from its guarded store to rest over the green soft carpet of the Piste where it would feel the strong sure grip of the next generation of proud students as they defend the honour of their House. It is unclear how long the competition has been held though it seems clear that 'centuries' may not be far off the mark. Neither is the age of Rope of War known, where it came from or what went before it. An occasion then which is perhaps more shrouded in mystery than any other Yarm tradition.

A rather uncertain start to the day had developed into a comfortably warm afternoon and, arguably the most perfect Tug O'Warring conditions for many years. In the first round, a rather hesitant start looked to set up a rather evenly matched battle. Aidan - under new supremo Miss Hodgson - soon found their rhythm and overcame a tasty looking Bede outfit with a convincing 2-0 victory. Reigning champions Oswald looked to be confident at retaining their title but faced a very hungry looking Cuthbert side

strengthened by the recent transfer of Mr Taylor. A much more even contest which looked set to go the distance went Cuthbert's way to set up an intriguing final.

In the final Miss Hodgson's Aidan outfit looked the stronger and held their ground against a dynamic Cuthbert squad. All seemed set for an epic contest until Cuthbert began to lose their footing allowing Aidan to score. Far from downhearted, Cuthbert were inspired and - against the slope - then managed to overcome Aidan to bring the score level. It has been many years since a three-pull final and it was anyone's guess who would prevail. Aidan's firepower was, however, too much for the well drilled Cuthbertians and Aidan did not take long to win the decider.

Well done to Aidan on their victory - bringing to an end the era of Oswald Tug O'War supremacy.

Then it was on to the highlight of the afternoon as the young and naive Lower Sixth looked to take on the experience and finesse of their Upper Sixth counterparts. Could this be the year that history was made? Sadly, Upper Sixth - despite their determination and resilience - looked unlikely victors and congratulations go once again to the Lower Sixth - maintaining a 46 year unbeaten record.

Thanks are due, once again, to Mrs Smith, Mr Matthewman and the Sodexo team for providing a splendid pre-match barbecue enjoyed by students and staff in the dining hall and sixth form area. Well done to everyone on their involvement in the competition, all bodes well for another year of exciting and good-natured inter-House rivalry. I hope everyone has enjoyed their first few days of Sixth Form and I wish the students every success as they settle into the new academic year.

Dr A Goodall



TEACHING STAFF UPDATE

We have a number of new staff in School, and we welcome them to our community and hope they have a happy time at Yarm. New teaching colleagues are: Mr Damian Brown (Mathematics and Physics); Mrs Toni Brown (Mathematics); Miss Lily Brown (Mathematics and Physics); Mr Dave Gratton (Economics and Business); Miss Hannah Guy (Psychology and Science) and Mr Ronnie Pawluk (Music).

Some colleagues have new or changed positions of responsibility within School. Mrs Amel Salashouri becomes the First Year Transition Assistant working with Mrs Gina Leary, the Head of First Year. Other Heads of Year are: Mrs Thania Troya, Head of Second Year; Mr Rob Ivey, Head of Third Year; Miss Emma Howell, Head of Fourth Year and Mrs Jen Waters, Head of Fifth Year.

Mr Mark Bridle is the new Head of Computing, Mr Rob Williams is Acting Head of Music and Mrs Kathryn Mclean is Acting Head of Psychology. Ms Helen Blakemore takes over from Mr Telfer as Oxbridge Coordinator.

TERM DATES 2024/25

Autumn Term, 2024

Preparation Day	Tuesday, 27th August 2024
New Pupil Induction Day	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)

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)

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SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCES

The long summer break can be an excellent time to secure work experience. This can have a range of benefits, whether that be enhancing a CV or perhaps getting a clearer insight into whether a career destination is appealing. Below are featured short reports from a number of those students who spent time exploring such opportunities.

Mr S Edwards

GSK, Barnard Castle

During the dates of 8-12th July I took part in a week of work experience at GSK Barnard Castle. It is a Bio-Pharma company employing over 1000 people. I had to apply and was selected to take part. On the first morning, I was in a group of 12 people aged 16-18, with an interest in STEM careers. Most were local but one student came from London to take part.

The week involved us being placed in random groups to complete a project to be presented at the end of week. We had to create, design and market a product for eczema. We listened to presentations from several different departments and heard about career

opportunities within the company.

For example, GSK has several competitive apprenticeships in a range of subjects including Chemistry and Engineering. We also toured the site and saw a fully automated block. We also got to see the on site fire station and were talked through the safety features which was very fascinating. The week was very insightful and interesting. It seems a great place to work and there are several STEM careers within it. We were presented with a Silver Industrial Cadets Award after successfully completing our week. I really enjoyed it and would highly recommend this programme.

Pippa Bashford, Lower Sixth

HM Treasury, Darlington

Over the summer I completed work experience with HM treasury (HMT) and the civil service for a week.

During the week, I spent two days in person at the Darlington Economic Campus (DEC) and the other three were done virtually. In the in person days, I learnt that DEC is one of the most unique buildings in the civil service as it houses 8 civil service departments all under one roof. All office spaces are shared meaning all these departments can work collaboratively together- something which is much less common with the civil service buildings in London.

I was fortunate enough to meet with many people who work within the



Pippa spent a week at GSK



Sophie and James visited RAF Leeming Bar during their work experience at HM Treasury

SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCES CONT.

Treasury both in person and online. In person I met with a large number of civil service workers for HMT in a 'speed mentoring' session as well as Beth Russell who is one of the second permanent secretaries in HMT.

Online I got to meet with James Bowler who is the permanent secretary at HMT, James Murray who is the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury whose main focus is on tax and lastly the Chancellor the Exchequer - Rachel Reeves.

During my week, I received many lectures and seminars about the different departments both in HMT as well as other civil service departments. One of the most interesting seminars for me was about international relations where we held our own mock G7 summit where we were given a country and had to argue our country's wording changes to a communique. Another highlight for me was a trip to RAF Leeming Bar where I learnt about the role that the Treasury plays in other governmental services. The week has taught me the huge role the treasury and civil service play in all our day to day lives and also how integral they are to the government of the time. I have also learnt about the vast and varying jobs that are available in the civil service.

James Muir, Upper Sixth

HM Treasury, Darlington

Over the summer holiday, I completed work experience at the Treasury's Darlington Economic Campus (DEC), which was split between two in-person days and three online days.

A definite highlight for me was visiting RAF Leeming. Learning about international cooperation and coordination between forces across the world was fascinating and I was surprised to learn that the base was a community of itself with its own school. Of course getting to see RAF pilots in action and going in a plane was an excellent bonus!

I also really enjoyed gaining insight into the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation. We completed a really interesting activity in which we were split into groups and had to decide how to sanction an aggressor, particularly focusing on the general economic impact to the area, and also to the affected livelihoods of employees.

However, the work experience wasn't just to inform, but also to provide valuable feedback to independent research. We had to complete an independent project and present it by the end of the work experience. We were paired with buddies who work at HMT - my buddy was a data scientist and analyst, so I also got to learn about her work in greater detail! I chose to research how having

quotas for women in political positions of power creates greater economic parity and presented this to a small group, who got to ask me questions on how I would implement this policy.

What surprised me the most over the work experience was the variety of jobs available in the Treasury - I absolutely associated the Treasury with "mathsy" roles, but since spending time in DEC I have learned more about the diversity of skills needed to work there. In particular, I found the policy focus teams to be the most intriguing, because they often deliberately employ people from different academic backgrounds to assess all angles of a problem/proposed solution. I was really interested to hear about devolution within the Treasury and governmental departments, which everyone within DEC seemed to be really supportive of, as it's creating new jobs within the NE.

I wholly enjoyed my time at the Treasury and would recommend this work experience to anyone who is interested in a career in economics or working within government.

Sophie Jewitt, Upper Sixth

POLITICS SOCIETY

The Politics Society with its new influx of Lower Sixth students reconvened on Friday for welcome drinks. An opportunity for the students across the two year groups to introduce one another, it also allowed for some reflection on the events in this next half term. Most of the lunchtime sessions are open to all pupils in the senior school and reminder notes will be given in registers. There is a diverse offering and pupils are encouraged to consider attending in order to stretch their thinking and interests. Below you can see a sample of some of the offerings this half term. If there are any questions please feel free to email se@yarmschool.org.

Mr S Edwards

Week 2	Fri 6th Sept 12:45 - 13:30 FT Evening Yarm	Sam Hardy Director of the Meridian Society Final Year Undergraduate in Chinese (SOAS) <i>'Nothing to fear? Towards a better understanding of China'</i> Lower Sixth Politics student dinner with Matt Vickers
Week 3	Tue 10th Sept 19:00 - 21:30 Stockton Arc	<i>'Wilding'</i> documentary with Q&A with Isabella Tree
Week 4	Fri 20th Sept 12:45 - 13:30	Dr Waitman Wade Beorn Associate Professor, History Department of Humanities <i>'The Holocaust, museums and public memory'</i>
Week 5	Tue 24th Sept 1100 - 1145 P3 (Pol 7.2) Fri 27th Sept 12:45 - 13:30 FT	Professor Andrew Blick King's College London, Director of The Constitution Society <i>'The UK constitution: From Magna Carta to today'</i> - live from Runnymede Kevin Wong Reader in Community Justice Associate Director Policy Evaluation and Research Unit Manchester Metropolitan University <i>'What does criminal justice look like?'</i>
Week 7	Thu 17th Oct 12:45 - 13:30 FT	Josh Harris Priest-in-Charge, The Guild Church for Workers at St Katharine Cree, Director, The Joseph Centre for Dignified Work, Chaplain to the Sheriff of London <i>'Streets paved with gold: ministering to the City of London'</i>
Half Term		Upper Sixth Study Trip to Albania

POST ELECTION VIEWS POLITICS STUDENT PODCAST

Whilst some may be relieved to see the end of the wall to wall coverage of UK's recent general election for keen 'politicos' like Sophie Jewitt and Ava Carter in the Upper Sixth their 'cool down' was to get together and produce their first podcast. We have [linked it here](#) for you to have a listen to as they reflect on the election result, the party strategies and aspects of voting behaviour. It has prompted the students to consider turning this into a more regular feature. Utilising some of the school facilities such as the recording studio in the Music School the plan is to produce a shorter politics-related podcast every few weeks. So listen out for their next instalment - they may yet be appearing in your Spotify playlist!

Mr S Edwards

ECON BUS SUPPORT

Our fabulous EconBus Departmental Support Upper Sixth students Apsara and Kyra would like to remind all members of the Lower Sixth that they are launching their Support Clinics from Monday 9th September. If you are studying Economics or Business and would like some help with new concepts, guidance on homework or support with exam technique, or even just advice on how to consolidate weekly and prepare for trackers they are full of wisdom and very happy to help and will be in B1 every Monday between 1.05 and 1.30pm. Please pop along and see them.

Miss C E Rhodes

SUMMER TRIPS

This summer has seen some wonderful trips take place, including Outdoor Ed adventures to Scotland and the Lakes, sailing in Greece, CCF camp, and a truly memorable Senior Boys' Sports Tour to South Africa - enjoy a selection of photos here and look out for reports in our School Magazine later this month.



NOTTINGHAM HOCKEY

The 1st XI hit the ground running with a tournament their first weekend back where the girls had an early start on Saturday meeting at 5am for a trip down to Nottingham Hockey Centre.

The team trained Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the lead up to the tournament and it showed with the team getting off to a great start with a 4-0 win against Nottingham High. This strong start carried on for the rest of the day with wins against Woodbridge School (3-0), Woldingham School (1-0) and a very impressive team performance and result against Dame Allans (5-0). This meant we earned our dough balls for the night and with the later start the next day everyone managed to get a bit of a lie in before starting again at 12:45pm on the Sunday.

We had 2 more pool games to play with the first game being against our toughest opposition Norwich School with them having 3 wins and a draw to their name. A win here would secure us a place in the final with one game to spare. The game started slow with the girls struggling to regain their touch from the day before and Norwich really up for the game having already had a game that morning were strong out of the gates. The girls stayed composed and slowly played their way into the game and found their form winning the game 2-0. The final group game saw us finish in style with a 3-1 win rotating players to make sure we had fresh legs for the final.

We finished the tournament the way we finished the day before with an excellent performance winning the game comfortably 3-0 and the team

claimed their first silverware of the year as the Nottingham Pre Season Champions.

Thank you to the staff who gave up their first weekend of the term to make this weekend possible.

Well done team!

Miss N Hodgson



GIRLS U13 PRE-SEASON HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

On Saturday 31st August the U13A and B teams had a pre-season tournament at MacMillan academy. There were 7 teams divided into 2 pools with then, the semi's, finals and play off positions up for grabs.

The standard of hockey was impressive for the beginning of the season across all teams, with many matches closely contested. Yarm B drew their first match and lost their second and Yarm A won one and lost two in their pool.

This put both Yarm teams through to the 5th and 6th play off positions against each other. Yarm A came away with 5th place but both teams played some great hockey and showed real grit and determination throughout the day.

This was a great way to start the season and we are excited to see what these teams can achieve this year.

Miss S Cottrell



Career Cluster Evening:

LANGUAGES CAREERS

Tues 17th September, 6pm - 8pm

Join us in the Friarage Theatre to explore the opportunities provided by studying or working with languages.

Discover the different pathways to your ideal career.

Suitable for 4th Year, 5th Year and Sixth Form students and parents.

Register to attend at:

<https://bit.ly/LanguagesCareerCluster>



SPORT WEEK

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

BANFF FILM FESTIVAL

Experience an unforgettable evening of thrilling adventure – up on the big screen!

The Banff Mountain Film Festival returns this autumn with the Blue Film Programme—a brand-new collection of short films filled with extreme journeys, untamed characters, and captivating cinematography! Join the world's top adventure filmmakers and thrill-seekers as they climb, ski, paddle, and ride into the wildest corners of the planet!

Saturday 14th September 2024, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



THE ROCKET MAN

Pack your bags, strap yourself in, zero hour 7.30pm, for a night like no other as we celebrate Sir Elton John!

Join us as The Rocket Man and our amazing live band take you down the Yellow Brick Road with two hours of glorious Elton hits, including, Saturday Night's Alright, Crocodile Rock, I Guess That's Why They Call it the Blues, Daniel, I'm Still Standing, Philadelphia Freedom, Your Song and many, many more.

Saturday 28th September 2024, 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)



AN EVENING WITH SIR GEOFF HURST - THE FAREWELL TOUR

Sir Geoff Hurst comes for one final farewell tour. He will talk amusingly about his illustrious WEST HAM and ENGLAND CAREER .

Sir Geoff made his name with club side West Ham United, with whom he made 499 league and cup appearances, scoring 248 goals. He was Player of the Year three times and won the F.A Cup with West Ham in 1964 and the European cup winners cup in 1965.



Sunday 29th September 2024, 7:45pm

[Book Online Here](#)

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Newsletter, 04.09.2024

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 Debriefs](#) 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](#).

Don't forget to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with all of our latest updates and resources. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).





Getting Children Nursery School-Ready



Getting Children Primary School-Ready



Getting Children Senior School-Ready



My "Settling In" Journal



Back To School Checklist



Get Organised: My Weekly Planner



Mindset Planner



Dr Neil Mercer: Oracy podcast



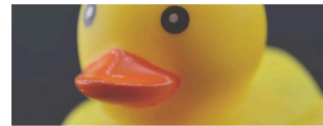
Dinnertime Conversation



Dinnertime Debriefs



65 Topics for Dinnertime Chat



Questions for Bathtime

Don't forget to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with all of our latest updates and resources. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

