

## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Last weekend saw our busy and successful Open Morning and we welcomed a large number of families to Yarm to look around and explore the School. Everyone pulls together to ensure our visitors get a rich and enjoyable visit, and I am grateful to staff for their time and enthusiasm. Our pupils volunteer their time to come and represent the School, with a huge turnout in departments, as tour guides and representing a variety of activities - this commitment is testament to the strength of our community and the pride our pupils have in their school; thank you to them all.

Another thing happening on Open Morning was House Drama rehearsals, and having watched the performances in a stunning night of theatrical entertainment last night, I can say that every moment of rehearsal was well worth it. From the Sixth Formers who wrote, produced and directed the show to the army of performers - lead characters and company performers alike - each pupil played their part to provide highly entertaining, engrossing and hilarious performances. Like last weekend, mass participation was

clear, with more than 200 pupils involved on the night in one way or another. Many congratulations to all, to Edward, Charlotte and Thomas for their individual awards, to Aidan for their winning performance of Shrek, to Mrs Charlton and staff involved in technical and backstage support, and to our judges for their careful deliberation!

The newsletter brings, as ever, a colourful and detailed summary of some great activities and events, including our Eco Reps on a beach clean with Pre-Prep, Outdoor Ed adventurers on Sutton Bank, Star Linguists recognised on the European

Day of Languages, Politics students on the political coal face, Former pupil visits and EconBus news, Yarm Apprentice, Edward and James in Artists' Corner, hockey talent academy success, and the increasing popularity of hockey seeing a 3rd XI for the first time.

We are looking forward to seeing Former Pupils in Newcastle on the 11th October - please let them know, if you know any! More details on our Alumni website, [www.yarmalumni.org](http://www.yarmalumni.org)

Dr Huw Williams



Eco Reps joined Prep School pupils for a beach clean

## ECO SCHOOLS: BEACH CLEAN AT MARSKE

Last week, a group of Senior School Eco reps, joined by the excited Year 2 pupils from the Pre-Prep School, spent a beautiful sunny morning at Marske Beach for a meaningful beach clean. As we walked along the shore, bags in hand, we talked to the younger students about the serious impact litter has on our environment; how plastic, in particular, harms wildlife and pollutes our oceans. They listened closely, eyes wide with curiosity and concern, as we

explained the importance of keeping our beaches and natural spaces clean. We found a rock at the beach that says 'Don't trash our beach', a simple gesture made by someone to remind others to keep the shore clean. By the time we finished, the group had gathered five full bags of rubbish, most of it plastic waste. It was a small but significant effort, made even more special by the bright enthusiasm of the younger students, who left with a deeper understanding

of how their actions can help protect the planet. Together, we made a visible difference, and it was a day that reminded us all how important it is to raise awareness about the harmful effects of littering. Why not consider joining a beach clean yourself to help protect our environment and keep our beaches beautiful?

Harriet Jackson, Upper Sixth



## SUTTON BANK MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Outdoor Education Department's second trip of the year for new First Year pupils headed to Sutton Bank Bikes for a day of off-road biking.

Gathering at the shop in dry conditions, we grabbed our hire bikes for the day and completed a number of laps of the skills loop to get used to the brakes and full range of gears.

From here we headed off on our ride for the day. Initially tackling the green route, the group were able to practice the 'ready' position and let the bike flow underneath them as we rode over the bumps and berms through the forest on the first part of the trail.

From the green route we branched off

on to the blue route, heading across the fields which were in fantastically dry condition, as we headed towards the edge of the bank. After a quick lunch stop the group then advanced on to the red route, descending through fields and through Boltby Forest as we tackled the biggest hillclimb of the day - the Chomp Challenge! Every rider who successfully makes it up the hill without walking was awarded a chomp.

After our afternoon break at High Paradise Farm, we headed back along the road, rejoined the blue route on the Cleveland Way, and

cruised our final section along the top of the bank back to the visitor centre and bike shop.

There was then a quick chance to have a go on the pump track for those who wanted to.

Well done to all First Year pupils who took part and many thanks to Miss Street for joining us again on a fabulous, adventurous day out.

Mr A Mathers



## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The past week has been busy for the Modern Languages Department! Thursday 26 September was the European Day of Languages and we celebrated with several events in school. A group of our Sixth Form linguists led an assembly on Monday in which members of the school community who speak more than one language presented their favourite expressions in other languages. This was followed by a languages themed lunch on Thursday, where pupils were encouraged to ask for their meal in French, German or Spanish. Another group of Sixth Formers led an assembly in the Prep School, discussing their languages journey, encouraging pupils to get involved with languages, and finally teaching them some interesting words in

French, German and Spanish. We also ran competitions for First and Second Year to make a poster on the importance of language learning and to present a joke in a foreign language respectively. The winners were as follows:

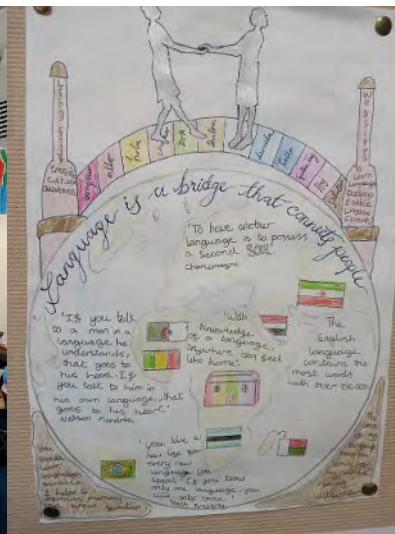
- First Year Winner: Ben Price
- First Year Runner Up: Sylvia Dugdale
- Second Year Winner: Dora Bonner
- Second Year Runner Up: Audrey Miller

Jack Pritchard in Upper Sixth also gave a presentation to pupils in the Prep School about Medieval Germany and castles. This was to fulfil his course with UK-German Connection, which saw him spend two weeks in Germany last summer, including a visit to Nuremberg.



Finally, we are proud to have announced our first Star Linguists in Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Year. These have been awarded both for achievement and effort in modern languages. Congratulations to all!

	French		German		Spanish	
Second	Oliver Xie	Joe Williamson	Rehan Krishnamoorthy	Anirudh Ginagunta	Wilf Sawyer	Akansha Mendis
Third Year	Freddie Birkin	Ella Fitzgerald	Dihain Madapathage Don	Holly Cromack	Abdul Alao	Arthana Pradeep
Fourth Year	Jake Wheatley	Freddie	Olivia Fatah		Lucy Oliver	
Fifth Year	Lydia Waddington		Isaac Akowuah		Siri Puthuraya	



## POLITICS U6 STUDENTS ATTEND CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE



You will not have escaped the news of the party conferences, and whilst for some of you, this might seem like more than enough politics after the recent general election, for the Politics students it is essential material for aspects of their course. Despite changing in the operation of the Conservative Party Conference, now not setting a separate provision for students, we were delighted to gain access to this insightful peep behind the curtain at such a critical juncture in the fortunes of the party.

The students' day began in the labyrinthine structure of the International Convention Centre, diving into a range of fringe meetings hosted by members of the party, think tanks and representatives from the non-governmental sector. There were also a good number of 'commercial' stands to attend, ranging from political lobbying outfits and media companies, through to the charity sector, as well as the main focus of the Conference - stands supporting the rival bids for the leadership of the party. There

were 'no leak' coffee cups, foam hands, and plenty of t-shirts to hand.

After lunch the main hall was filled with around 3,000 guests to listen to two of the party leadership candidates, Robert Jenrick and James Cleverly, who were interviewed separately in an hour-long drill down into their past, present and future. The students certainly gained insight into the enthusiasm and appetite of the party membership through their reactions to the event. There were many incidental meetings around the convention centre, bumping into the likes of Matt Vickers MP, as well as prominent political journalists.

I am very appreciative to the staff at CCHQ for facilitating this generous opportunity for the students.

Mr S Edwards

## FORTHCOMING CAREERS EVENT: CAREER CLUSTER IN COMPUTER



We are delighted to be able to announce the next Career Cluster event. Following on the heels of the last event focusing on Languages, we will be turning the spotlight on the expansive and expanding field of

computer science. The date for this will be Monday 18th November from 1800 to 2000. The format for the evening will follow previous cluster events and will include panel discussions with industry experts, current undergraduates and current students. The event will be open to all those interested in this exciting field of study, training and employment, and is targeted chiefly at those in Fourth Year up to Upper Sixth. Further details will be released in due

course, but please [register your interest and intention to attend by completing this short form](#). And, as mentioned last week, I am very keen to hear from anyone who feels they might be interested in contributing to this event from their own professional perspective - thank you to those who have already responded.

Mr S Edwards

[se@yarmschool.org](mailto:se@yarmschool.org)

## 'WHAT DOES CRIMINAL JUSTICE LOOK LIKE?' KEVIN WONG SPEAKS WITH THE POLITICS SOCIETY



We were delighted to speak with Kevin Wong from Manchester Metropolitan University on Friday. Kevin is a Reader in Community Justice, as well as working as the Associate Director of the Policy Evaluation and Research Unit at the university. This places him in a great position to be able to explain the nature and challenges within the criminal justice system, the role of prisons, as well as the critical nature of the probation service in the UK. Our guest has a wealth of experience pulling from the research of his colleagues and wider academic community, as well as being able to

assess and evaluate the impact of governmental policy on these crucial areas of civic infrastructure. There was a lengthy spell of questions and discussion focusing on such themes as the actual roles of prisons in the twenty first century, the value of international comparisons of penal systems, the current measures of early release, as well as the value of 'big ideas' in trying to find an optimal solution to the challenges of the system. It was an area of public life that so many will have opinions on without necessarily having the insight or understanding to evidence those positions, so Kevin's expertise was illuminating. He also talked convincingly about the probation service being the often overlooked, much neglected, but ultimately essential 'Cinderella' service, in terms of how integral it was to post-release outcomes. We are most appreciative to Kevin for sharing his time and thoughts with the students, as well as the students of Eggescliffe School, linked up to us by a remote link.

Mr S Edwards

## ECONBUS SOC: PERSUASIVE MARKETING



When is persuasive marketing manipulative? How is marketing used now and in the past to influence the behaviour of consumers? In a well researched, and superbly delivered presentation Christina explored how cigarettes were promoted in the past and how vapes have been marketed with framed wording, careful colour choices and more, in recent times. She also explored the use of music in McDonalds and H&M and expanded on the IKEA effect (one of Miss Rhodes's favourites biases!) She opened our eyes to a range of issues in a presentation apt for Behavioural Economics, Marketing and Psychology. We are grateful to Christina for being generous with her time, to the wonderfully receptive and enthusiastic audience of Sixth Form attendees and I am delighted to be hearing from other students who were inspired by her talk and are now keen to present!

Miss C Rhodes

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## HEAD BOY HEADS BACK!

Another Friday and another Working Lunch, as well as a chance for a former pupil to show off his old stomping ground to his wife and to impress her with the quality of Yarm School Lunches!

Having left Yarm in 2011 after A Levels including Economics and having been Head

Boy, Jack went onto work in audit at PwC. He gained his ACCA qualification, before eventually spending 6 years with Pets at Home Plc as Head of Accounting and Reporting for their Vet division. During COVID, he started his own venture and with his wife and became a franchisee north of the border - a competitive socialising venue in Glasgow,



including Axe Throwing, Mini Golf, Augmented Reality Darts and plenty more - before selling it in 2023. Now a father he is back in the North East working for Crafters Companion, a crafting business founded by Sara Davies where he is the financial controller. In an informative and enlightening and honest presentation Jack contrasted his different roles, gave a steer on the different

accounting qualifications and went on to answer a plethora of questions. It was lovely to catch up with Jack, to meet his wife and to reminisce about the days of Economics in the huts! We are grateful for his generosity of time and know that he will stay in touch with the school and the department.

Miss C Rhodes

## KEEPING IT REAL...

This week we were delighted to welcome back Kelly Heward, Yarm School's Finance Manager for another fascinating and riveting insight into the external influences faced by the Finance Department of the school. With applied examples relating to covid, VAT, the minimum wage, interest rates, AI and more it was very apparent that no business function

can operate in a bubble! Students were keen to pose questions and Mrs Heward was happy to elaborate and bring to life the concepts they have covered in the classroom.

We are really grateful for the ongoing support of EconBus from the wider school community.

Miss C E Rhodes



## YARM APPRENTICE: THE FIRST BOARDROOM

The first Boardroom of YA 24/25 was a tense affair. Megan's Team Phoenix pitched first, with Subteam Manager George and Fin and Nancy ably assisting the delivery. They proposed a mocktail for alumni named Passion for Life to relate to the school's Mission Statement Educating for Life. Having devised a flame coloured ombre fizzy drink, consisting of passionfruit and raspberry infused with lemon, they topped it with froth and a rice paper Yarm School logo topper.

Emphasising sustainability and the use of glass bottles, and referencing their detailed market research and effective use of the Open Morning for sampling, they gave a slick pitch.

Next up, after a few delays, were Noah's Fizzy Phoenix. Subteam Manager Olivia crisis managed whilst Ryan and Pippa assisted with the presentation. Their mocktail Remifizz, named to link to reminiscing, contained fresh lime, strawberry and mint, and had a dark blue ribbon with a Yarm related question attached. An effective presentation was given, before both teams faced the questions of Lord Sugar (in the form of Mrs Parker) and Karren Brady (aka Miss Rhodes).

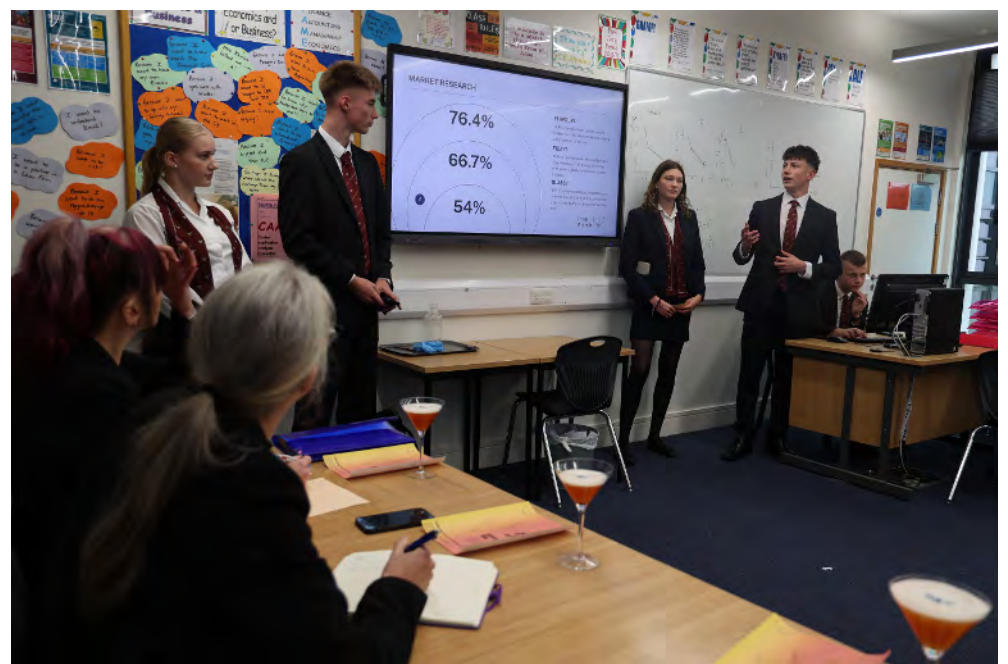
Both teams were complimented on their efforts but there could only really be one winning team on the day and Team Phoenix were declared victorious and invited to dine on milkshakes and cheesecake

(with dietary alternatives of course available). Noah brought Olivia, Ryan and Santosh back into the Board Room and Noah and Santosh were both fired!

YA task winning points were awarded to Team Phoenix, winning PM and Subteam Manager points to Megan and George. Karren and Tim bonus points for contribution to task went to Megan and Olivia, whilst Peer Outstanding Apprentice on Task points went to Olivia and Nancy.

We are grateful to Mrs Parker for generously giving her time to set and judge the task and hope that there is scope for a future roll out of Passion for Life at future alumni events.

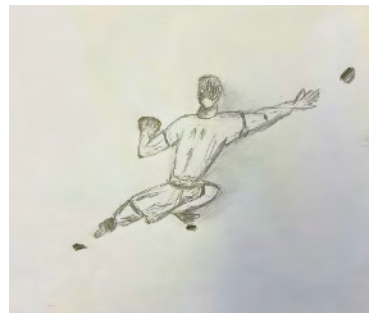
Miss C E Rhodes





## ARTISTS' CORNER

I have drawn this because one of my favourite hobbies is climbing and besides your feet doing all the technique your hands are another key part. So I took inspiration to draw two drawings of hands, one (the one that I have shared) being a climber's hand shown as the main part of the sketch. I started off drawing this piece wondering whether I should erase part of the shading on the hand to represent chalk which you would use for grip, but I decided that I should just sketch a plain hand pointed at the viewer. The second picture (not shown) is a hand clenching a hold with only its fingertips. With both of those

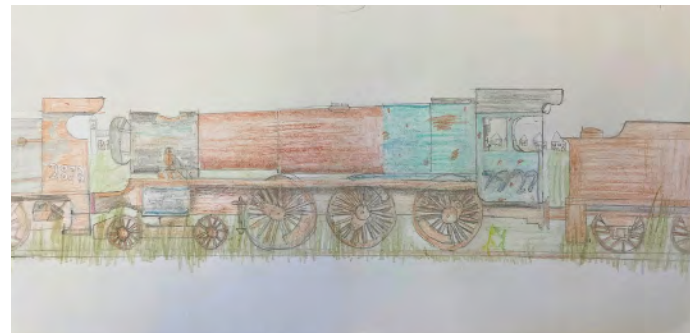


pictures side by side on my wall they both complement each other. Overall I am pleased with the result but regret not doing it on paper to get a smooth finish and instead doing it on a canvas.

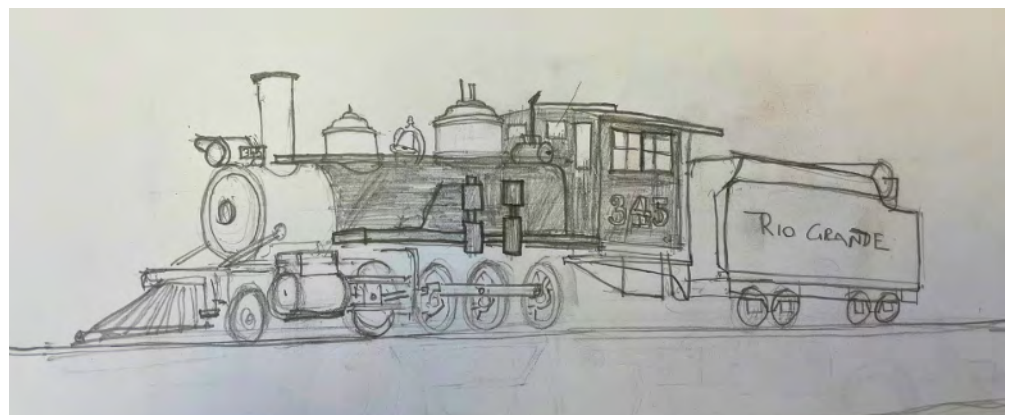
James Armstrong, First Year

I am so proud that my artwork has been chosen to be included in this week's newsletter.

My love of trains and all things steam powered began when I was very young. It started when my father bought me a box set of the original Thomas the Tank engine books and I was fascinated by the hand drawn illustrations of the characters. This then inspired my interest in train and steam art and with the help of my dad and grandad I have been drawing steam trains ever since. My favourite artist is called Terence Cuneo who is famed for his scenes of railways and a very hard to spot mouse in every painting. You never know, one day, I may be as good as him with the help of Yarm School.



Edward Pennett, First Year



CONCERT & CAKE 1 - MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER, 5PM



CONCERT & CAKE 2 - TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER, 5PM

Yarm School Music Department presents:



## TALENT ACADEMY SUCCESS



Sophie Hall, Mara Morrison and Lucy Mitchell have all been selected to attend the Durham Talent Academy. This is part of the England Hockey Pathway and a great opportunity for the girls to take that next step towards an age group trial or selection.

Miss N Hodgson

## SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online.

You can [view them here](#).

## A RECORD FOR GIRLS HOCKEY IN SENIOR GAMES

This year marks the first time we have had over 50 girls opt into playing hockey during senior games sessions. This had led to the formation of a 3rd XI and a full fixture card for all three teams for the rest of the season. Fabulous to see so many girls enjoying their hockey and I look forward to the rest of the season with this enthusiastic and talented group.

Miss N Hodgson



## ASTRONOMY TALKS – THE SCALE OF THE UNIVERSE

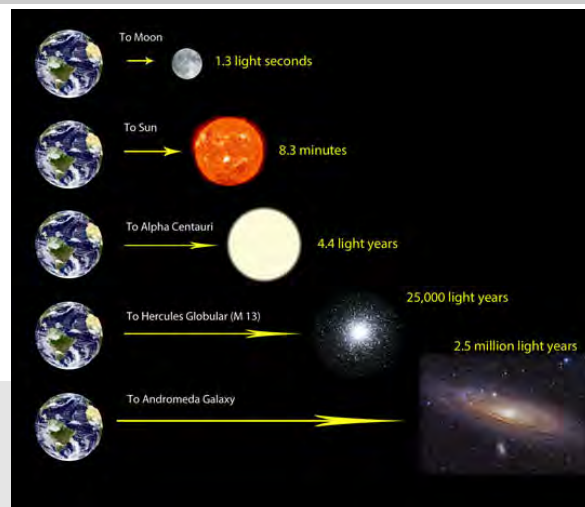
The Scale of the Universe – how big is the universe and how far can we see with our most powerful telescopes. We will discuss how far away objects are that we see in the night sky – from the moon, to the most distant galaxies.

We will also explain how these distances were deduced. No previous knowledge of astronomy or science is required.

More dates available on the website as this is a series.

**Tuesday 15th October 2024, 7:00pm**

[Book Online Here](#)



## GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY (LIVE STEAM)

Written and directed by celebrated playwright Conor McPherson and featuring Tony Award-winning orchestrations by Simon Hale.

Girl From The North Country reimagines 20 legendary songs of Bob Dylan as they've never been heard before, including "Forever Young," "All Along The Watchtower," "Hurricane," and "Like A Rolling Stone." It's 1934 in Duluth, Minnesota. We meet a group of wayward travellers whose lives intersect in a guesthouse filled with music, life and hope.



**Saturday 23rd 2024, 7pm & Sunday 24th November 2024, 2pm**

[Book Online Here](#)

## THE NICK ROSS ORCHESTRA: THE GLENN MILLER AND RAT PACK ERA

The lights soften, the mood settles. An audience waits for that first moment of sound. The Big Band is poised, relaxed, but with eyes anxious for the lead. And then, as if giving body to an echo, the murmured notes of 'Moonlight Serenade'... and the night, it seems, is suddenly full and timeless.

There are those who watch and listen who tap a shy finger to the melodies, others who follow with a silent foot-beat, still others who murmur softly through the lyrics, and those who simply permit a fleeting smile.

But common to all are memories. Recapture the sounds of a bygone era as the Nick Ross Orchestra presents 'an unmissable evening of music and song' – the Classic Big Band Sound of the 1940s and 50s.



**Saturday 18th January 2025, 7:30pm**

[Book Online Here](#)

## Newsletter, 25.09.2024

This Friday it's **World Teacher Day**, so here at Tooled Up we're thinking about how to support our children at school and making the most of the parent-teacher relationship.

The season of Parents' Evenings is coming up for many families, so how can that conversation between parents and teachers be a fruitful one? This resource covers [30 Things You Might Say To Teachers At Parents' Evenings](#), with plenty of ideas to keep conversations positive and constructive. Partnership between teacher and parent gives children the best possible chance of thriving.

As parents, we will always be our children's first teacher so this is the perfect week to reflect on what we are doing at home to cultivate [intellectual curiosity](#), to inspire [dialogue](#) and to develop our children's [thinking skills](#). No matter what subject they are learning about in school, parents can complement that learning by showing a general interest and asking their children to teach them something!

Sustaining motivation for learning is something many parents are interested in. One way to do this is to consider how we praise our children. This [podcast](#) with Neuroscientist, Paul Howard-Jones describes *effective* praise as focusing on a child's perseverance rather than their *performance*. He also suggests taking your child aback with your praise. If the feedback that you offer feels novel or surprising, it is more likely to be motivating.

October is going to be a busy season of webinars for Tooled Up parents! Always check the [Events page](#) on our site to see what is coming up.

Parents interested in learning more **smartphone-free childhoods** can enjoy this [webinar](#) on the 9th October. For those interested in research on **gaming** and its impact on teen wellbeing, tune into this [webinar](#) with Professor Paul Etchells on 14th October.

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](#).





Things To Say At Parents' Evenings



Cultivating Children's Curiosity



Topics For Dinnertime Chat



Developing Children's Thinking Skills



Motivating Learning



Smartphone-Free Childhood Webinar



The Truth About Gaming

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](#).



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat, a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't, meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

## DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

## BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

## POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

## COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

### REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

### CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat)