

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

I was delighted to listen to the captivating performances of our musicians in this week's Concert and Cake, with a range of genres and instruments played by pupils from First Year to Upper Sixth. Gaining this experience in a relatively informal and entirely friendly and supportive environment builds confidence and a sense of accomplishment and enjoyment evident from the performers. Pupils have been active and busy in games, too, and the reports in this newsletter give a great summary of some outstanding results and collective endeavour in rugby, hockey, netball and swimming - well done to all involved, and to our rowers who were also out in force in Manchester last weekend with some terrific results.

Our pupils contribute to this week's newsletter in a range of ways, including some of the aforementioned sports reports, but also with some excellent creative writing from the First Year, some artwork, a book review, society reports and more. Read on for reports on trips and varied other goings on which typify a busy week at Yarm and for a bumper update from the Music Department, with Mr Williams offering a tantalising

glimpse into some exciting festive plans for the whole community - do read on and set aside the dates for the singing christmas tree!

Parents and pupils are asked to consider contributing to the Christmas shoe box appeal and the book collection being coordinated by the Community Action Group; we will gratefully receive any contributions towards these initiatives and the charities we are supporting.

In assembly this week I spoke to the pupils about flourishing, having recently heard from an academic at Harvard about evidence-informed ways to promote this in schools. I was pleased to note that many of the key areas were already being actively promoted here at Yarm, given our

approach to education in the broadest sense, and our determination to put community and service at the heart of what we do. However, I challenged the pupils to be conscious of the things they can do, with little or no resources required, to improve their chances of flourishing.

Half term offers them all a chance to get into the outdoors and notice, to feel grateful for the things they have, to engage in sport and activity, to give their time to others and offer acts of kindness and generosity, to make the most of their friendships and even to spend time with friends without screens... I hope everyone has a restful and productive fortnight.

Dr Huw Williams



First Year pupils enjoy a caving experience!

CCF DRILL COURSE REPORT

Over the last weekend I went on an army cadet drill instructors course with Cleveland army cadets. Over the weekend I was taught cane drill, rifle drill, how to plan a drill lesson, as well as actually taking drill. It was all in all a strenuous but worthwhile course. I'm incredibly grateful I was able to go on the course and graduate as not only a CDI but completely 4 star qualified, putting me in good stead with the master cadet course coming up over the half term holidays.

To my surprise I was also issued a Paystick with my name engraved by the Major of C company which really made me put my cane drill to use! Over all, it was a weekend worth having and I can't wait to get the new intake of cadets ready for remembrance.

CSgt Grace Harbinson



ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR THE AUTUMN 24 BUDGET?



Have you ever pondered the desirability of a meat tax? No? Well neither, until this week, had very many of the 34 students in attendance at a fascinating and thought provoking EconBus Soc.

Megan Hull bravely stepped up to be the first Lower Sixth presenter and she has certainly set the bar high!

She explored the justification for emulating countries such as Germany in imposing a tax on meat on both climate and health grounds, and she considered other options to reduce consumption of a good with seemingly many negative externalities but yet still perceived

as a necessity by many and a key primary sector product generating income and employment.

Megan captured our imaginations and her attention to detail and use of statistical evidence was superb, as was her ability to cope calmly with the plethora of questions posed by the audience.

We are really grateful to Megan for giving us "food for thought", and would encourage other Lower Sixth members interested in presenting individually or in groups to speak to our EconBus Soc Chairs.

Miss C Rhodes

THE BARE BONES OF BUSINESS

A small group of very keen Econs and friends got to grips with the very basics of Business on Tuesday lunchtime in a new session on "Managing Management" - Keen to widen their awareness they battled

through structures, smart objectives and hurtled through an introduction to accounting. All in the space of 25 minutes.... to enhance their education for life...

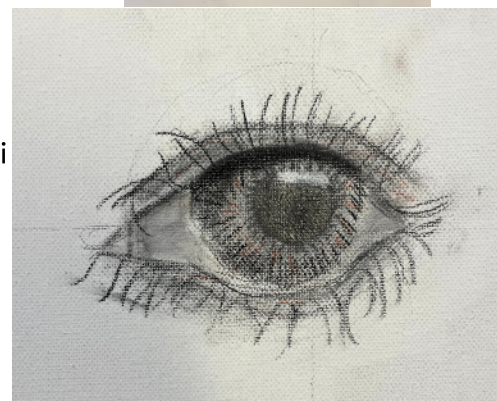
Miss C Rhodes

ARTISTS' CORNER

I went to a creative art workshop which focused on painting a landscape and it helped me focus on a different aspect of art as I normally like sketching. I had to listen to some steps and embrace what she said making sure that I tried to be as precise as possible. I was really proud of what I had achieved. I also drew the tiger at the same workshop using a different style of technique, charcoal!

I had an amazing time. The detail was immaculate in the one she was doing. I tried my hardest and I felt delighted with the result. I drew the eye as I felt quite bored at home. The amount of detail in the eye made me think hard and carefully on how I was going to approach this task. I wanted to add more detail and I regretted adding in the brown, nevertheless I loved it!

Anika Sunkavalli



COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP - CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

In the week straight after half term, the Community Action Group will be raising funds in order to buy presents for the Love in a Box shoebox appeal. There will be a stall in the Dovecote at lunchtime all week, with Bonfire Night related crafts, foods and activities.

Organised by Yorkshire charity Children in Distress, last year the

Love in a Box initiative reached over 4,000 vulnerable children and families in Romania, delivering essential items, toys, and confections packed in beautifully decorated shoeboxes.

Please do bring some money to support this initiative. Alternatively, if you would like to bring in items for the boxes, gifts could include small

toys, toiletries, gloves/scarves/hats, drawing materials and balloons.

Ms H Blakemore



BOOK COLLECTION

Yarm School's Community Action group is again collecting children's books on behalf of Just Be a Child- a charity that sends second hand books to schools in Kenya in order to establish community libraries.

Donation boxes will be placed in reception in the Prep or Senior School, the Prep School library and E3.

Please bring your books to school in the two weeks after half term- with a deadline of Friday 15th November.

Thank you!

Community Action Group



UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop is open:

Tuesdays and Thursdays
between 10am and 3pm
in the half term holidays.

Career Cluster Evening:

COMPUTER SCIENCE CAREERS

Mon 18th November, 6pm - 8pm

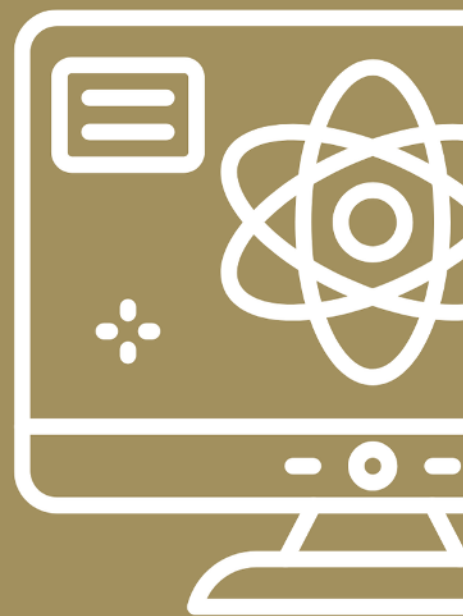
Join us to explore the opportunities provided by studying or working in Computer Science.

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/CompSciCareerCluster>



POLITICS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR VISIT TO ALBANIA WITH ALBANIAN GUEST



On Friday lunchtime members of the Politics Society met with local Teesside resident and Albanian national, Lirim Gecaj. Organised by his friend and colleague, Yarm parent, Steve Cochrane, whose son Oliver is in Upper Sixth. In October half term a group of the Upper Sixth Politics students are set to head off to Tirana, Albania for their Politics study tour, so this proved to be an especially timely occasion to gain some pre-trip insight into life in Albania.

Lirim explained the circumstances of his early childhood, born just a few years before the death of Albania dictator, Enver Hoxha, and thus growing up in some of the turbulent years as the country sought to transition to a democratic and

capitalist state. He shared tales of the restrictions of freedom of movement as a child, the presence of village state spies, but contrasted this with the high state of child care that existed under the old regime. An economic collapse of the banking system, a growing disparity between rich and poor, and spiralling unemployment, led Lirim to leave Albania, travelling with his uncle on foot for six days to Greece. Here as a young adult he worked in various capacities within the hospitality sector, first sweeping the grounds of a hotel, then becoming a waiter, a job in which he swiftly saw the need to learn English. He shared an amusing tale of a more challenging English lesson when trying to decipher the

accent of a Geordie couple requesting simply a bottle of water in a Thompson hotel in Thessaloniki.

Life eventually led Lirim to a marriage to an English woman and a family of children who have now grown up in Teesside. He shared further tales of the hospitality of Albanians, the unfair press attention given to Albanians due to migration issues, and the many changes that he has seen in Albania and the capital city Tirana in recent years. Tellingly when asked about what he most missed about Albania, Lirim replied, 'I miss everything. Ask any Albanian, whatever their reason for leaving, and they will tell you the same. I miss my childhood, my parents, my brothers and sisters, I miss home. Wherever you go in the world, home will always be home!' We thank Lirim for his generous visit and sharing his experiences with us, and we wish him and his family all the very best in the future.

Mr S Edwards

PHAB CLUB FUNDRAISING

Our Phab team put together a tombola with a chance to win Halloween goodies, as well as doing a 'keepie uppie' football competition to make money for the club.

If you know anyone who might be interested in coming to Phab Club then please ask them to get in touch with sophie.lodge@yarmschool.org.



TWO AWARDS FOR ERIN

Congratulations to Erin Goh, First Year, who won two awards at the recent National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) North Youth Performance Awards 2024.

Erin was part of the excellent, multi-award winning Crash Bang Wallop (CBW) Youth Theatre production Les Misérables School Edition. Erin won the Regional Youth Coordinator's Award for Best Individual and the District's Commendation Award for her role as Gavroche.

Well done Erin!



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COMING LIVE FROM THE CAPITAL



This week we were joined over Google Meet by former pupil (and CER's former tutee) Helen Danjoux (class of 2018).

Since leaving Yarm in 2018 Helen has completed an undergraduate degree in Economics, and a postgraduate degree in International Business. She enthused over her time at Birmingham and gave an honest and reassuring appraisal of studying Economics at university without

having studied Maths at A Level. Post university, Helen enjoyed a year of part-time work and travel, before starting her career as a management consultant at Deloitte in September 2023. Over Helen's first year at Deloitte she has been focussed primarily on public sector clients, specifically within technology advisory and data analysis.

Helen gave a real insight into what a

management consultant does, and expounded on the career prospects for both school leavers and graduates within Deloitte. It was interesting and pleasing to hear how much control she has over her career path but equally how much support and guidance is available within the organisation.

We are really grateful to Helen for being so honest and open with us and for giving genuine insight into her role.

We wish her continued success for the future and we know she will stay in contact as we reassured her that, as with all of our departmental and FAME students, she remains part of the EconBus Dep for life!

Miss CE Rhodes



CHRISTMAS INDOOR MARKET

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 10AM - 4PM

ADULTS £4, CHILDREN FREE, PAY ON THE DOOR

Santa's Grotto • Rudolph Rodeo • Children's Games
Food & Drinks • Craft Stalls • Unique Gifts

ORGANISED BY THE YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Yarm School Music Department presents:



Concert & Cake 2
Tuesday 5th November 2024
at 5pm

TICKETS ARE £3.50 AND ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

www.thepaaonline.org or by calling the box office on (01642) 792587

ANYONE FOR PÉTANQUE?

With talk of the legacy of the paralympics a big sporting conversation of the Games in Paris this summer, few may know that the popular game of boules or pétanque was itself devised to accommodate the disability needs of Jules Lenoir. A prominent player of boules, or more accurately jeu provençal, a version that required a short run up, Jules became confined to a wheelchair. This led to friends, Ernest and Joseph Pitiot, inventing an adaptation of the game in the southern friend town of La Ciotat, whereby players would stay rooted to the spot, or pès (pieds) tanqués, whilst throwing. Now this is the dominant version of the sport that



culminates in a world championship in France each summer. The game is played with either one, two or three players on each team, and can lead to the development of a phenomenal level of skill. One of the many activities on offer at Yarm les pétanquistes meet every Thursday activity slot, consisting of a mixture of students from First Year to Upper Sixth.



Mr S Edwards

DEBATING A FOUR-DAY WEEK

This week in debate, we prepared for the esteemed English-Speaking Union tournament that will be taking place after the half-term. The motion, "This house supports the implementation of a four-day school week," sparked lively discussions amongst the debaters as they organised into groups to explore various arguments and points to raise against the other team.

On the proposition, Dan and Rishi received praise for their insightful responses to points of information from the audience and the judges' questions. Opposing them, Eleanor and Sophie presented a strong case



against the four-day week, articulating their arguments with clarity and confidence.

Both teams demonstrated exceptional preparation and skill, setting a promising foundation for the ESU competition. After careful

consideration, the judges awarded victory to the opposition today. We look forward to seeing both teams' performance for the real deal - watch this space for that result when the time comes!

Nila Baska, Upper Sixth

UNVEILING THE MAGIC AND HORROR OF ANGELA CARTER'S 'THE COMPANY OF WOLVES'

This stage adaptation of 'The Company of Wolves', co-created by Theresa Heskins and Vicki Amedume, is a spellbinding weaving of imaginative staging, evocative soundscapes, and spectacular acrobatics to bring to life Angela Carter's iconic horror story. Tightly wound, this adaptation conveys the core of Carter's articulation of fear, desire, and transformation, while bringing into view many of the rich textures of the original narrative.

Set against the background of a dark, midwinter night, foreboding fills the air as a young girl ventures to her grandmother's home. A haunting howl echoing through the forest-the wolf-continuous murmurings by townsfolk speak of bloodthirsty beasts lurking in the dark. But Little Red Riding Hood, with a carving knife clutched in one small fist and an unyielding will, resists those terrors in a dangerous game of wits in both seduction and survival. In Carter's original story, the journey is full of metaphor-a rite of passage where innocence must confront its malicious awakening to the nettles and snares of maturity.

The Unique Staging

The format of theatre-in-the-round in this production puts on full view the intimate and claustrophobic space and ratchets up the tension.

Performers surround the audience using microphones; the echoing of



their voice further immerses the audience into the performance and surrounds the viewers in the story voiced by them. The staging choice is new and amplifies suspense, but also supports the ideas of entrapment and vulnerability brought out through the play. However, in written words, Carter uses language to build a picture in the mind of the reader, especially when evoking that hauntingly strange essence of the story.

A Multilayered Story

Carter's story, first published as part of the collection 'The Bloody Chamber', defied conventional storytelling structures. Likewise, there is no fixed pattern or structure to the editing in this production. The script incorporates sections from Carter's radio play and her short story, adopting a fluidity of narrative beyond conventions in storytelling. As the directors say, it lives between spoken word, circus, and theatre, celebrating Carter's spirit of resistance to convention in narrative. This blending of forms also speaks to



the rich intertextuality at play in the original story, calling to mind a range of fairy tales and folklore while questioning their moral baselines.

Thematic Depth and Symbolism

There is, of course, much symbolism, from the recurring line "Don't stray off the path" that Red debates on her journey away from societal expectations to greater personal autonomy. The poignancy of the intergenerational relationship between Red and her grandmother is captured in tender moments, such as when Granny knits a red ball of wool, thus colluding with Red's transition into womanhood. This relationship, in the source story, is at once a source of guidance and a mirror to patriarchal structures that bind women.

Aerial acrobatics heighten the dramatisation of desire and danger as characters navigate space filled with metaphoric and physical obstacles. The wolves, ghostly and ethereal, never speak for themselves; voices come through choral echoes, which draws them as predators and

ANGELA CARTER'S 'THE COMPANY OF WOLVES' CONT.

misunderstood figures. This gives another layer of complexity to the calls for nuanced use, which Carter had in store for the wolf as a symbol of the wild, primaeval instincts inside humanity.

The Duality of Characters

The play explores complexities in the nature of its characters, especially in how the relationship between Red and the wolf becomes one of choice rather than destiny. First, the huntsman is brought on stage as a protector and later as a betrayer, as he is seen chopping off the wolf's paw, which contains a human hand. This dissolves conventions of hunter versus prey and begs the question of who, in fact, the monsters are. This duality is reflected in such features as the motives of the characters and

their inner conflicts, which makes the research of human nature so rich in Carter's story.

The poignancy of the moment when Red says to the wolf, "I am nobody's meat," is a realisation of power.

Tenderness and threat in her interaction with the wolf beg questions about agency and transformation leading to a dramatic climax where defiance has led to a profundity in the shift in the balance of power. For Carter, this confrontation is a turning point that really signifies the awakening of feminine strength against patriarchal oppression.

In conclusion, the stage adaptation of 'The Company of Wolves' is a radical rewriting of the classic tale, interweaving fear, femininity, and the

ambivalences of transformation. Its inventive staging and multi-layered symbolism make the performance one that looks back to the original work by Carter but at the same time opens the very relevant themes of agency and identity to contemporary audiences.

As Red makes her way through the dark woods, she personifies the struggle of so many women in their right to autonomy against a world filled with dangers and desires. The production did well in balancing the magic and terror present in Carter's story, inviting the audience to question our own fears and desires in light of a world that demands our conformity.

Jasmine Larner Atkinson, Lower Sixth

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

The UK Mathematics Trust competitions have got off to a flying start this year with a record breaking 70 pupils in Fifth Year to Upper Sixth taking part in the Senior Maths Challenge at the beginning of November. They enjoyed 90 minutes of challenging Mathematics and achieved some fantastic results. Over 87% of the entries resulted in certificates with 23 Bronze, 24 Silver and 14 Gold. All the Gold winners also got through to the next round of the competition, the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo. We had Gold

winners right across the three year groups, a particularly impressive achievement for pupils in Fifth Year for whom this was their first taste of the senior competition.

Abdelrahman Ellidir also continued his impressive performance in UKMT challenges, achieving full marks in the challenge and qualifying for round 1 of the British

Mathematics Olympiad. Good luck to all those in the next round and well done to everyone.

Dr K Barnett



WHEN THE SOLDIERS CAME...



This half term, First Year have been exploring Zana Fraillon's protest novel 'The Bone Sparrow' that explores the atrocities that have afflicted the Rohingya community.

Fraillon's novel is endorsed by Amnesty International and aims to raise awareness of the many communities around the world that are victims of war, genocide, discrimination and the complexities that thwart migration.

As part of this work, 1.4 have been developing their creative writing, re-creating the experience of characters, such as Subhi and Eli. We have explored the scope of our language choices to immerse the reader in the tragedy that affects too many around the world. The memoir 'A Long Way Gone, which recounts the story of a child soldier in Sierra Leone, has deepened our appreciation of global conflict and the 300,000 child soldiers forced to fight senseless wars.

We thought we would share some

excerpts that make for powerful reading. Happy reading. If you have not done so, you may wish to read 'Bone Sparrow' by Zana Fraillon over the holidays!

Mrs Dugdale and 1.4

"...But that was before.

Before the soldiers came. My village is not a paradise anymore. It's not a paradise of wonder. Not anymore.

When the soldiers came, the spirits hid. When the soldiers came, they ravaged the land. When the soldiers came, the village's features became distorted. When the soldiers came, they said they would help.

When the soldiers came, our future was as good as dead.

Ba was killed. That's when the flames of tension hissed, spat, then roared as all hell broke loose. Innocence fled blindly into the battleground.

nNw Ma is gone. All I could do was hide the awful sight from Dusha.

Armed with a notebook and a reed brush with ink, accompanied by an eight year old girl, we fled Myanmar.

The world is not rich and beautiful anymore."

Luna Park

"The oldest people of our village (or the wrinkles, as we called them) would tell us stories of how Myanmar came to be. How the mountains grew like beanstalks reaching for the skies.

How the coffee and banana farms grew just to feed us. How the lake dug its own path from the sea, and that's how our people came.

Travellers from far, far away arrived, and saw the potential food and built. They made a family, building day and night....

The busy chatter stopped. The clang of pots and pans came to a halt. The birds became silent...Pounding through the once calm air. A wave of caution sent running....

I once had a lesson at school that we learnt, if the soldiers came, run before they cage us in. Grab what you can, run quickly, don't blink. Don't let them see. Don't let them know...

I ignored my teacher's voice. It didn't matter to me, the soldiers will get me one day. In a matter of days, the mountains had crumbled into barbed wire...

As I stood there, Polly and Mum in each hand, the sun melancholy and dim, golden no more, left us in

WHEN THE SOLDIERS CAME... (CONT.)

darkness.”

Alaia Dawson-Lyon

“As the pounding of spices stopped, mothers gathered their children. I was perplexed.

“...My answer came in the form of something cold and hard. A gunshot. It caused a cacophony of noise in the village as nesting birds hid their young. I held my worn torn teddy a little tighter. Finally, they came into view.

Men barked orders viciously to child soldiers, who looked so innocent in their ill fitting uniform. When those barbaric men trampled on our crops, it was like they trampled on our

freedom. Somehow, the terror on the faces of those children who had had their childhoods robbed haunted me. Helmets weighed them down; oversized boots; and enormous weapons of war. And barbed wire that stared into our hearts as they opened fire.”

Joey Pritchard

“...The patter of childrens’ play came to a sudden standstill. The choir of song birds ceased their melodies; calm crushed by the pounding of harsh, hefty boots. As the men arrived, the paddy fields wilted. The honey coloured sky, that would stretch into the horizon, quickly

became a burnt, barren war zone.

The moon revealed her silver face, and whispered to the sun to flee. He retreated, golden no more, leaving us in darkness. We couldn’t play with the shadows. We couldn’t dance through the nights. Not now. Not then. Not ever?

Like imprisoned animals, we were robbed of our liberty. the once picturesque mountains, now covering beneath the force of the Tatmadaw. The souls of the trees, the heart of the hills, the eyes of the valley, all hoping, begging, pleading for refuge.”

Olivia Groves

MED DEN SOC: THE EFFECT OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS ON HEALTH

I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to present in MedDen Soc this week. Reading Michael Marmot’s ‘The Health Gap’ recently, opened my eyes to the influential role that socio-economic factors play in affecting the health of an individual. Interested in this topic, I decided to explore these ideas in a presentation to my fellow aspiring medics. In my presentation, I highlighted how one’s position in a social hierarchy, or on a social gradient, impacts their ability to adapt their lifestyle choices. Relating this to the role of healthcare providers, I explained how it is harder to practise preventive medicine,

medical practice which aims to implement lifestyle changes to prevent disease development, with some patients compared to others: due to different patients’ roles and responsibilities in their personal life. Therefore revealing the need to be empathetic to all patients’ conditions, as healthcare providers may not see what is ‘going on behind the scenes’. Following on from last week’s Situational Judgement Test (SJT) practice, we used the themes of



empathy, justice and patient-centred care explored in the presentation to help answer some challenging questions!

Ameen Khunda

HALF-TERM ROUND-UP: MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

As we approach the end of a busy and exciting half-term, it's the perfect time to reflect on the many wonderful achievements of our talented pupils, particularly in the realm of music. From dazzling performances at various school events to memorable trips beyond the classroom, there has been lots going on.

We began the term with Oscar and Amelie showcasing their exceptional talents at the New Parents' Social Event for our Prep and Pre-Prep schools. Their performance not only impressed our new families but also set a high standard for the term ahead. The dynamic duo didn't stop there—they were also invited to perform at the Tees Valley Business Club event, where they once again wowed the audience with their remarkable musicality and poise. Both events highlighted the dedication and talent of our young musicians.

The Upper Sixth band, '3 Down', took the spotlight at Senior Prize Giving, where their energetic and polished performance added a fantastic flair to the evening. Their set was the perfect complement to the ceremony, and they received enthusiastic praise from both students and staff. The band continues to go from strength to strength and I look forward to seeing them perform later this term.

Our music scholars were equally impressive at Open Morning,



delivering performances that left prospective parents and students in awe. Their dedication to their craft was clear, as they filled the music-school with music that was both technically accomplished and beautifully emotive.

One of the highlights for our GCSE music pupils was a trip to see *Wicked* at the Sunderland Empire. This brilliant production provided not only an entertaining experience but also an invaluable educational opportunity for students to gain fresh new insights into one of their set works. The trip has already sparked discussions in the classroom about musical composition, staging, and performance dynamics, giving our pupils inspiration for their own future work.

This week, we capped off the half-term with the first Concert and Cake of the year. It featured stunning performances from pupils across all year groups, from the First Year right up to the Upper Sixth. The range of talent on display was truly

remarkable, and it was a delight to see so many pupils performing with such confidence and passion. The combination of beautiful music and delicious cake made for a wonderful celebration of all the hard work our pupils have put in this half-term.

We are also incredibly proud of Second Year pupil Akansha Mendis, who successfully auditioned for the National Youth Harp Orchestra over the summer. Akansha recently performed in her first concert with the senior orchestra last Sunday and "loved every minute" of it. Positioned confidently in the front row, she shone in her debut performance, which is all the more impressive given that she only joined the orchestra in September. Despite having a sizeable pile of parts to learn in a short time, Akansha has managed it with dedication and skill. The concert was part of the orchestra's combined rehearsal day and featured visiting musicians from Camerata Gold, Conservatório Regional do Algarve Maria Campina, making it a truly

HALF-TERM ROUND-UP: MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

special event. Akansha's achievement is a testament to her hard work and passion for music, and we look forward to seeing her continue to flourish in this prestigious ensemble. As we look ahead to the rest of the academic year, we are excited to see what further musical achievements

lie in store. The choir and soul band are rehearsing hard for our whole-school Act of Remembrance, and Choral Society are busy preparing to sing Choral Evensong at Newcastle Cathedral on Friday 8th November. Additionally, we have the second of our Concert and Cake

events on Tuesday 5th November, with tickets available on the PAA website. We congratulate all of our performers on a fantastic term of music-making and look forward to the exciting performances yet to come.

Mr R Williams

THE SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE COMES TO YARM



Last week, Mike McGrother spent time with our First Year pupils during their music lessons, discussing his work as a community musician and the importance of music in bringing people together. He also spoke about ways they can get involved in using music to make a positive impact on the community, sharing his passion and inspiring our young musicians.

We are now excited to invite all pupils to take part in a special festive event led by Mike, our Music Partnerships Coordinator. Many of you may know Mike as the frontman of The Wildcats of Kilkenny, but he's also renowned for his incredible work across Teesside as a 'community engineer',

using music to unite people. At Yarm, Mike combines these talents to create fantastic opportunities for our pupils to engage in meaningful musical adventures.

Mike is keen to involve as many pupils as possible in a wonderful event on Sunday 1st December, where Yarm High Street will be led into the Christmas season. This year will see the return of the much-loved 'Singing Christmas Tree,' which was a huge success in 2018, along with a special Memento Event earlier in the day for local residents living with dementia. Mike is forming a community choir ensemble for the occasion, and it really is an event for everyone—no auditions required! There will be several rehearsals for those interested, and we'd love to see many of our pupils and their families get involved.

Rehearsals for pupils will take place at lunchtimes from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm on Fridays, 15th, 22nd, and 29th November. There will also be a one-off rehearsal for all participants—including family members—on Friday 29th November, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm in the Friarage Theatre. We encourage participants to attend as many rehearsals as possible, with the Friday evening rehearsal being especially important.

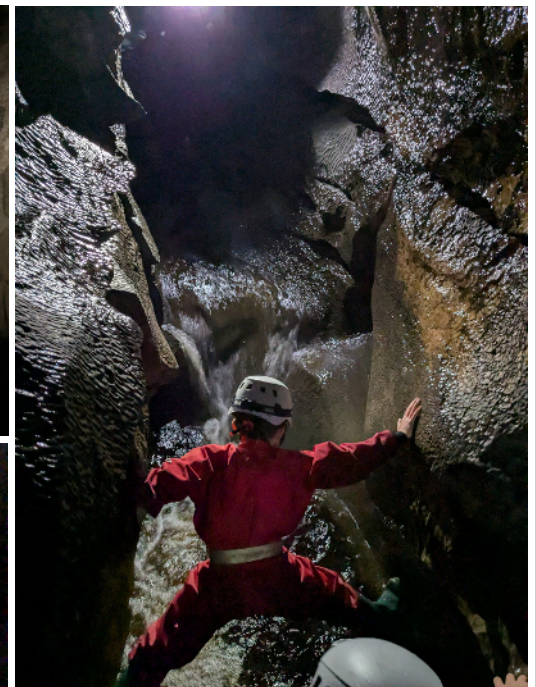
This is a wonderful opportunity for your child—and your entire family—to be part of a memorable, festive event for the community. If you'd like to take part, please [complete this form](#) by Friday 25th October. The Memento Event will be held at Yarm School from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, followed by a break before we gather on Yarm High Street at 3:30 pm. The event will conclude by 5:00 pm. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

Mr R Williams

FIRST YEAR CAVING EXPERIENCE

On Sunday 13th October, 9 adventurous First Year pupils went out to the Yorkshire Dales for an exciting caving experience. Mr Mathers, Miss Street and Mr Brown were prepared and raring to go as well! There was a fairly long journey there, with lots of windy roads, but eventually we arrived and hurried into our under layers and over suits, ready for the challenges yet to face. After sharing the bags around, talking about sheep and staring down at Alum Pot cave, we were presented with a choice: would we choose the easy way in, or the tighter, more difficult entrance? Our instructor, Graham, asked everyone. Despite being a bit wary, we all decided to take the hard route. We hopped over the stile and wiggled down into the watery mouth of the cave...

Lots of people were feeling excited, but nervous at this point. Would the cave collapse? Would we get completely stuck and have to be rescued? Of course it was highly unlikely any of that would actually happen. We faced our fears and leant over to walk the first part of the cave. A few metres or so, and we were on our hands and knees, with water running by the side of our faces. Graham stopped to have a short chat, but we were going again in a few minutes, anticipating more slippery rocks and compact spaces. Our first obstacle was the slot, which meant



lowering ourselves down carefully and helping the next person to do so too. Right after this was the famous 'Cheesepruss' which was optional, but most (certainly all the children!) decided to give it a go. A wide but low space which required you to grip your hands and push with your feet - no one got stuck! After that was a brief descent on a rope, guided by Graham.

After the 'Cheesepruss', we went on a bit further and looked at part of the cave where you could see some daylight. A short climb with guidance from Graham (again) led us up back to the start of the 'Cheesepruss'. There, we ate a quick snack - mainly chocolate - to give us a boost for the rest of the time in the cave. We headed off in a different direction in which we encountered many pools of deep water. This was where we did the

FIRST YEAR CAVING (CONT.)

double shuffle and if we fell in here we would be swimming! This being a popular cave, we came across some other teams of people braving the obstacles like us! We plodded on, gripping the limestone tightly over water. Graham told us interesting facts about the longest and deepest caves. He also told us about Stalactites and that we needed to avoid the temptation of touching the drips of water on them because that causes them to stop growing. More wiggly manoeuvres and we came up to our last few squeezes. The first

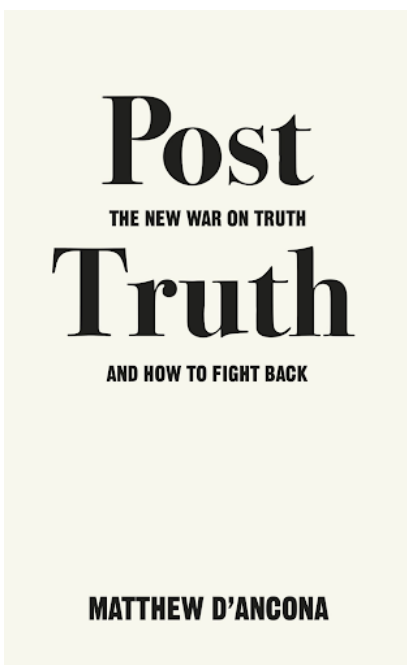
short one went round and back to where we came from; we had to make sure to turn right otherwise falling into the water we would go, unless Mr Mathers happened to catch us. The longer and more difficult squeeze ended in the cave wall and you had to do a miniature skydive, where Graham was there to catch you - unless you happened to be Miss Street who ended up on the wet, mucky ground! Nearing the end of our experience, we hurried back, coming to terms with a gushing waterfall and soaking wellies.

Our eyes hit the daylight and we stared in astonishment at the brightness of the sky, even though it was quite cloudy! With our hats and gloves on, we made our way down the hill back to the minibus. Once there, we got dry and changed into warm, casual clothes, ate some lunch and we were shortly heading off home proud and exhausted. All in all it was a great day, and an experience we will remember for a long time to come - thanks to Mr Mathers and his team!

Rebecca Nicholson, First

POLITICS BOOK REVIEW

POST TRUTH: THE NEW WAR ON TRUTH AND HOW TO FIGHT BACK - MATTHEW D'ANCONA



The truth doesn't mean anything anymore. It's quite a depressing view, yet it is an essential argument that journalist Matthew d'Ancona seeks to explore in his book 'Post Truth: The

New War on Truth and How to Fight Back'.

With the ever-growing flourishment of the internet and it becoming a new form of political media compared to the traditional newspaper publications and televised programs, it's become a worrying source of misinformation and opinion that really has no limits. And with the many elections across this year, such as the UK one that has already passed and the yet to come American election, perhaps it's time for another look at the growing presence of 'post-truth' in our modern lives. After all, 'Post Truth: The New War on Truth and How to Fight Back' was published in 2017, and a couple of times while

reading I felt like I could only say: "if only you knew how bad it got". If that's proof of anything, it's that a book alone can't solve this issue, but only together we can.

It seems almost paradoxical that in an increasingly democratic world, with representation broadening and voices getting heard more frequently, that people seem to be growing more adverse and sceptical towards fact.

While I would never say no to a healthy dose of scepticism, is denying the valuable research of medical professionals in the midst of a health crisis in favour of theories (take your pick of any anti-vaccine theory) really a 'healthy' dose of scepticism?

D'Ancona argues that post-truth is

POLITICS BOOK REVIEW (CONT.)

the art of the lie, and the art of emotions over facts, and that has wilted the climate of truth and research to create an atmosphere where misinformation and unproven theories seem like a normal part of our interconnected and technological world. D'Ancona's example of reaction to the MMR vaccine supposedly causing autism in children seems almost tiny in comparison to much of the Covid misinformation and denial of other vaccines that has occurred since; mostly due to the increasing importance of the online world as a place for information. Emotions, and consequently opinions, appeal more to people because we naturally look for agreement and validation when confused, concerned or worried - and while perhaps not intentionally manipulating, social media and the wider ability to say and have those opinions seen does build a person into a bubble of information and agreement. If a person has an opinion that disagrees with your own, isn't it easy to just hide away now more than ever before?

A big part of the post-truth world, if we see it as such, is that facts are just hard to understand, hard to visualise. D'Ancona uses the example of the Brexit campaign to explain why facts alone, despite it being a natural part of how we make our decisions, can't actually sway people. Remain, if we keep with the example of Brexit, fought a statistical battle, piling up

numbers on top of fact on top of more numbers, whereas Dominic Cummings put the focus on public grievances. The idea of £3 million for the NHS was a hopeful idea, so what if it wasn't true in the end? It caught people's attention, and that is the job of post-truth. What politics has increasingly come to understand is that it is stories that simply cut through the confusing discourse of fact-based battles and, instead of the most evaluated side winning, the side that shouts the loudest wins. One doesn't need to stay on Twitter (X, if we're being pedantic) for too long before the far-right of American politics creeps its way into what you were seeing. Trump is sometimes labelled as the cause of the post-truth phenomenon, but he is more so a culmination of its rapid growth since even the early twentieth century; his politics, his media presence and his support base are all built around the idea of post-truth, cynicism and general distrust. It's understandable to see why it, and similar politics across the world, have managed to reach people's hearts - but does that emotional connection overrule the need for fact? Is this just the way politics is moving?

Is it all inevitable?

So why care? D'Ancona, after all, wrote 'Post Truth: The New War on Truth and How to Fight Back' to, as the name suggests, fight back.

Post-truth has only grown in the

seven years since, internet media consumption is a part of everyone's lives now and misinformation has become more crafty and manipulative than ever before with the use of Artificial Intelligence. It seems, on paper, that post-truth has already won the battle. Yet, post-truth is built only upon complacency and a complacency that makes mendacity the normalcy of life; post-truth is still fightable if we can find the balance between fact and emotion. As easy as it is to stick within your internet bubble for your daily update on the world, try to seek out a traditional news source like the BBC for that update - you don't need to become an expert in whatever you look at, but contemplate where that knowledge fits in with your opinion. If you're feeling brave: seek out some more sources, start a conversation or even add some extra knowledge and facts onto a post you see around online. Or if you want the quieter option: read 'Post Truth: The New War on Truth and How to Fight Back' by Matthew d'Ancona - I've only skimmed the surface of the book by pulling out the politics, but d'Ancona delves into the history and philosophy behind post-truth and how it has affected people on a broader scale.

The truth still exists, but it is up to us to find that truth for ourselves. Truth isn't meaningless.

Ava Carter, Upper Sixth

UNDER 13S NORTH EAST TOUCH RUGBY TOURNAMENT AT ST PETER'S SCHOOL

Match Day Recap

What an exhilarating day for YARM! Our players displayed incredible teamwork and determination across multiple matches, showcasing their skills and passion for the game.

Match Results

The day kicked off with Yarm securing a solid 2-1 victory over their opponents, thanks to standout performances from Mohsin, who scored both tries. Following this, our team faced St Peter's Navy, resulting in a tense 2-2 draw, with contributions from Mohsin and Zacharya.

In the match against Ampleforth Black, Yarm faced a tough challenge and ended with a 4-1 loss, though Mohsin added to his tally. However, the spirit remained high, leading to a thrilling 4-3 win against St Peter's Navy, where Tom shone brightly with three tries, supported by one from Zacharya.

The day concluded with a dominant 8-3 win against Barney, featuring impressive performances from Mohsin, Tom, Zacharya, Arvind, and Rehan.

Final Standings

At the end of the day, the standings reflected the hard work of our players:

1st Place: Ampleforth Black

2nd Place: Yarm

3rd Place: St Peter's Navy

Player Highlights

Mohsin was a key player, scoring multiple tries throughout the day. Tom also made a significant impact, particularly with his three tries against St Peter's Navy. The energy and enthusiasm displayed by all players were great, showcasing our team's potential.

Kieran Singh & Nathaniel Greenwell



SPORT WEEK AHEAD

The weeks ahead are now available online. You can [view them here](#).

GREAT RESULTS FROM OUR SWIMMING SQUAD

On October 8th, five teams from Yarm School's swimming squad competed in the Regional round of the ESSA Team Relay Championships at The Grammar School at Leeds, delivering exceptional performances. The swimmers showcased their talent in both the freestyle and medley relays, earning an impressive haul of medals.

Yarm's Senior Boys led the charge, winning two gold medals in the freestyle and medley relays. The Junior Boys also secured a gold in the freestyle and a silver in the medley, narrowly missing out on the top spot by a fraction of a second. The Senior Girls put in a stellar effort, bringing home two silver medals in both events.

Outstanding individual performances included Harry's blistering 26.91 in the Intermediate Boys' freestyle relay, Luke's 26.94 butterfly leg in the Senior Boys' gold-medal-winning medley, and Alice's rapid 35.24 freestyle leg in the Junior Girls' medley.

Final results saw the Junior Boys taking 1st place in freestyle and 2nd in medley, the Senior Boys

sweeping both relays, and the Senior Girls coming 2nd in both events. The Junior Girls and Intermediate Boys also put up strong showings.

We eagerly await the announcement next week to see if any of our teams have qualified for the National Finals in Birmingham. Well done to all the swimmers on their excellent performances.



U14 NETBALL

Previously the U14 girls netball team played the county rounds in the lead up to school nationals. The team spirit was high throughout the whole morning and we went in determined to win the tournament and get the best results we could. Throughout the morning the girls played amazing with great turnovers, shots and working the ball through the court. We took all the coaches points that were given and put it into game play. We tried many different combinations and each girl played

fabulous and gave it their all. The team collectively learned a lot from the tournament and benefited from the experience. Overall we placed 1st in the tournament after going unbeaten all day, scoring 135 goals with a goal difference of 119! We are ready to work hard to achieve the same success at regional rounds in February, hoping to go into the next tournament even better than we left this one.

Ella Fitzgerald



U18 NETBALL

On Thursday the 15th of October the U18 netball team headed to Ripon Grammar School to play in the first round of the plate in the SNS competition. The team put forward a really impressive display of teamwork and skill with all players taking the court. The defence was strong and took opportunities for intercepts and created endless opportunities for the attackers. Our mid-court players made sure there were smooth transitions through the

court while also keeping it quick and efficient.

The shooters had great form and even when the attacking didn't go to plan they fought to get the ball back. Overall it was a fantastic performance from everyone and we finished with an incredible score of 41-21, OPOM



went to Lola Vasilou who had an outstanding performance playing in GA and GS.

Estelle Orr (1st VII Netball Captain)

U14 IN T2 YORKSHIRE & NORTH EAST HOCKEY FINALS



On Tuesday last week our U14s travelled to Durham University to compete in the T2 Yorkshire and North East Area Hockey Finals. The girls qualified for this through their county tournament win back in September and they carried this form on into this tournament beating Barnard Castle, Durham School and drawing against Dame Allans which meant they now progress to the T2 Yorkshire and North East Hockey Finals after half term. This is the first time this group of players have made it past this point of the competition, well done team!

Miss N Hodgson

YARM SCHOOL RUGBY TEAM OF THE MONTH

October

1 Jaydon Zhang U14	2 Joseph Austin U12	3 Kit Foster U14	16 Christian Boyes U14	17 Patrick Roberts 1st XV
4 Max Graham 1st XV	5 Matthew Johnson U12	18 Joel Buckley U15	19 Phoenix Emadi U12	
6 Henry Bottomley 1st XV	8 Jack Smith U14	7 Austin Elliot U14		
	9 Wilf Sawyer U13	10 Henry Pugh U13	12 Nick Clements 1st XV	13 Rex White U12
11 Fletcher Cummins U13	15 Fenwick Mitchell U13	14 Alex Carter 1st XV		

BILLY BILLINGHAM

Billy Billingham MBE QCBis as tough as they come. Chief Instructor on Channel 4's SAS: Who Dares Wins, Paratrooper, decorated SAS leader, and a bodyguard to Hollywood superstars, Billy has seen extreme combat and gruelling missions aplenty. Spend an extraordinary evening with him, as he shares his incredible, inspirational story.



Thursday 24th October 2024 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

THE ELO SHOW (2024 TOUR)

The World's Greatest tribute to Jeff Lynne and E.L.O are back on the road in 2024 with a stunning new stage production, featuring a band of amazing musicians complimented by a female string section and playing hit after hit from ELO's vast back catalogue.

Don't miss out on this fantastic night of nostalgia and classic tunes.



Saturday 26th October 2024 7:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

WIZARD OF OZ

Take a stroll down the yellow brick road this October half term as Tom Rolfe Productions proudly present everyone's favourite pantomime story The Wizard of Oz live on stage.

Expect dazzling scenery, beautiful costumes, hilarious comedy and much more! So what are you waiting for book your tickets, click your heels together and join Dorothy, Lion, Tinman and Scarecrow for the ultimate half term treat!



Sunday 27th October 2024 2:30pm, 6:30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

CHECK IN WITH YOUR FRIENDS

If one of your friends doesn't seem OK, checking in on them can make a huge difference. One in every five children struggles with their mental health, so let's make sure we support each other through any difficult times.

**BE A GOOD
LISTENER**

**ASK HOW
YOU CAN
HELP**

**SHOW
EMPATHY**

**SEND A
NICE
MESSAGE**

BE KIND

**★ BE ★
SUPPORTIVE**

**IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT A FRIEND
TELL A
TRUSTED
ADULT**

**I SAW THIS AND
THOUGHT OF YOU!**

**WANTED TO LET YOU
KNOW I'M THINKING
OF YOU!**

**I'M HERE WHEN YOU
NEED ME.**

**MISSED YOU AT
SCHOOL TODAY.
EVERYTHING OK?**

NOS
**National
Online
Safety®**
#WakeUpWednesday

Newsletter, 16.10.2024

So much of daily life and routine in our families is based around food, from quick bowls of cereal in the morning, to snacks concealed in school bags, to quick dinners before evening sports, to leisurely meals where we sit and reconnect as a family. Tooled Up has always drawn on the wide body of research about food and nutrition, and we have many resources about the importance of healthy eating and mealtimes, and the nutrition that young people need for success in school, sport and beyond.

Of course, food can often be a fraught subject for parents. This recent article with dietitian Paola Falcoski is full of advice on helping children develop a [Healthy Relationship with Food](#), from ways to ease the pressure on mealtimes to working with children's individual tastes and preferences. One important foundation in this relationship – and a common topic from Tooled Up parents – is the [Importance of Breakfast](#). Read dietitian Ananjee Kohli's advice on starting the day in the most nutritious way.

For parents of fussy eaters, mealtimes can be a source of frustration and stress. Ananjee's [advice](#) for parents of fussy eaters will provide reassurance and practical tips, brilliantly complemented by her advice on [Introducing Children to New Foods](#).

A more severe issue that families face is allergies. Professor Adam Fox is a leading paediatric allergy expert, and in this [webinar](#) he answers many of the most common concerns from parents about allergies, including those to foods such as nuts and dairy.

When children are busy inside and outside of school with clubs and sports, and when the pressure of academic work increases, do you know the best foods that will keep them charged up and ready to succeed? This advice on [Nutrition and Exams](#) will help you keep children full of energy for the stressful exam period, and try our guidance on [Nutrition for Young Athletes](#).

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](#).





Developing A Healthy Relationship With Food



The Importance of Breakfast



How to Help Fussy Eaters



How To Introduce Children To New Foods



All About Allergies With Adam Fox



Nutrition And Exams



Nutrition For Young Athletes

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