



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 793—Friday 29th November 2024

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier, offering a glimpse into the vibrant activities of our pupils across the Prep School. School life is always diverse, with a rich blend of traditional values and modern, exciting opportunities that create an exceptional experience for our pupils at Yarm Prep. Whether it's honing debating skills to engage in constructive disagreements while exploring diverse perspectives, learning to code robots to boost problem-solving and creativity, or finding the resilience to complete a cross-country race, there's always something to learn and grow from. Every experience helps our pupils build confidence and a love of learning.

There has certainly been a newfound love for beatboxing this week, as we welcomed former UK Beatbox Championship Finalist, Danny Ladwa, to school for workshops with all classes. The pupils' reactions have been phenomenal, with everyone buzzing about the unique experience. Danny brought such a special energy to each session, sparking creativity and excitement in the pupils. Not only did the sessions enhance their musical skills, rhythm, and timing, but they also helped build confidence and foster collaboration. It's been a fantastic opportunity for them to explore new forms of expression, and we are so grateful to the Howell family for sponsoring the workshops.

Bill Sawyer

Head's Challenge: The one who has it does not keep it. What is it?



Tes Schools Awards 2024

Winner

Independent
Prep School
of the Year



Photo of the Week: Our VEX Robotics club have been busy in recent weeks preparing for some forthcoming competitions. Look inside for a sneak peak at what they have been up to.

Prep Debating Activity

A term's worth of practice came to fruition for our Prep Debating activity last week, when they took part in a debate in front of the Senior School Debating Society!

The topic of the debate was "Is it better to explore space or focus on solving problems on Earth first?", with the children split into two teams— the proposition and the opposition. Under the careful guidance of Apsara, Ellie and Gabriel, the group had spent the past activities sessions learning how to prepare their speech, using key debating skills such as rebuttals and rhetorical questions.

All six children who participated in the debate did so with both clarity and confidence. Mr Bridges from the Senior School was really impressed with how they moved around the floor to command the space in front of them, while our Speech and Drama teacher, Mrs Ham-Ying, was full of praise as the children spoke with confidence in front of so many new and unfamiliar faces.

The children were buzzing and, despite confessing to nerves, really enjoyed speaking in front of such an engaged audience. Well done to all who have participated in the activity this term. A special thank you too to Apsara and Ellie, both 6th Formers, who have excelled in leading the activity this term. A thank you too to Rishi from the 6th Form for chairing the debate with professionalism, and to all of the judges. We look forward to coming down to the Senior School next term to watch and judge one of their debates!

Mr Stone

Prep School's Galactic Debate: Space vs. Earth

Thursday afternoon, saw the Prep School hall come alive with spirited discussion as over 30 Sixth Form students packed into the venue, eager to witness, watch and judge the junior debating competition. The young debaters' arguments sparked heated discussion on the motion: 'This house believes that we should explore space before we fix the problems on Earth.'

The debate was captivating from start to finish, with the Proposition - consisting of Jake, Thomas, and Aditi. Launching their case with bold, futuristic arguments both ethical and economical. They urged the audience to consider humanity's long-term survival, emphasising that space exploration is not just about ambition but necessity. Aditi opened the debate with style, her enthusiastic delivery and crystal-clear projection drawing the audience in as she took the stage. Thomas followed with a more measured approach, carefully framing the argument for the economic benefits of space exploration including job creation and technological innovation. He also promoted the ethical debate about reducing climate impact by sending people to space. The final speaker from the proposition, Jake, armed with strong natural delivery, confidence and no notes, closed the case for the Proposition, leaving a very strong impression with a long speech including a crafty rebuttal point stating how we don't have to leave our loved ones behind.

The Opposition—Andrés, Jack, and Kaiden - met their challenge with precision and persuasiveness. Their eloquent arguments centered on the economic impracticality of space travel. Andrés cleverly highlighted the astronomical costs, which he said ranged from \$20 to \$50 million per person for orbital travel, money he felt could be better spent on improving earth today, though creation of more renewable electricity sources and charity work. Jack expanded on the social inequities the expenses could create, pointing out that only the wealthy might benefit from space travel, leaving the poor to battle with Earth's deteriorating environment. He demonstrated how this would increase the rich-poor divide further, slightly undermining the



propositions claim that it would benefit society long term. The final speaker of the debate was Kaiden. The standout performer delivered quick rebuttals and counterpoints with a rhetorical finesse and humour that engaged the audience. His adaptability during the debate, combined with a commanding presence and excellent debating technique, made his contributions especially memorable.

The judges posed challenging questions to both teams, intensifying the debate. The Proposition was asked to justify the significant costs associated with space exploration, Jake responded with confidence, arguing that the potential discovery of new resources may eventually make such ventures economically viable stating that with time the costs would reduce and it would be more accessible to all, like cars for example.

Meanwhile, the Opposition faced questions about alternative solutions to Earth's growing population. Andrés proposed exploring the potential of underwater homes, a creative and forward-thinking idea that captured the judges' attention, and demonstrated his knowledge, research and vision for the world.

Ultimately, given such strong performance from both sides the judges were faced with a difficult decision of whom to determine the winner. The debate was marked by moments of exceptional skill from both sides. The Proposition discussed the future of humanity, pointing to the scientific and technological advancements driven by space exploration painting an optimistic picture of innovation and opportunity, urging the audience to think big. On the alternative side of the coin, the Opposition provided a strong, grounded and pragmatic approach with memorable counterarguments, reminding everyone of the pressing need to address Earth's problems first, exhibiting their gratitude for the beautiful planet that we live on, with excellent points about the challenges of human colonialism and the dangers of alien encounters adding a creative spark to the discussion. A heartfelt thank you to all the debaters and especially to Ellie and Aspara for preparing and delivering such a high quality debate which all the sixth form were incredibly impressed with. We all hope that the prep debating society continue developing their skills and continue showcasing their intelligence, spontaneity and creativity for years to come.

While both teams demonstrated exceptional skill, it was the Opposition's precise rebuttals and cohesive teamwork that tipped the scales in their favour. Their ability to address the motion's complexities and deliver persuasive arguments with such composure secured their victory.

At the end of the day, it is worth mentioning how this debate was so much more than just an academic challenge, it was a demonstration of the power of young minds to think, to speak, and to explore with some of the most pressing questions of our time. The Prep School students showed that, regardless of whether their future lies among the stars or beneath the waves, it will undoubtedly be shaped by powerful voices like theirs, advocating for discussion, collaboration and communication.

We should take inspiration from the youth of today and feel empowered to use our voice for forces of good.

Rishi C. (Lower 6th)

Our Christmas Fundraising

By way of a reminder, please note the following three fundraising events over the last two weeks of term.

Thursday 5th December

Deadline for goods to be brought in for our Christmas Mission to support the CAUSE Foundation to be brought in. We would be grateful for it to be sent in without any wrapping paper and in a 'bag for life' where possible please. **Please check your child's planner/learning journey to see what item we would like you to bring in.** All donations go to families in need in our local area.

Friday 13th December

Christmas Jumper Day, in aid of Save the Children. Children to bring in £1 to wear a Christmas jumper of their choice.

Mental Elf Run for Stockton and Middlesbrough MIND. Elf ears are included! [We welcome donations via a Just Giving page which can be found here.](#) We welcomed Matt and Clare from Teesside MIND to assembly on Monday, who explained to the children how their fundraising efforts will go towards supporting people and their mental health in our local area.

Please give generously! We thank you for all of your support.



VEX Robotics

Our VEX Robotics club continues to go from strength and strength and, with competition season upon us in the new year, we thought it was time for the children to explain what they have been up to all term.

What is VEX?

Vex is where we code these robots that we make to enter a competition. In Yarm's group we make The Swish Bot. This year the robot is used to catapult some yellow balls into a goal or a window. You need to try to win. VEX club is so fun and I love it.

Amelie T.

Why I chose to do VEX:

I chose to do VEX because you get to build robots and control them which is really fun. It is a bit like Mario Kart but in real life. Also I chose it because we also get to build our robots - it is like Lego. I really enjoy this club.

Aditi K.

Why we like VEX:

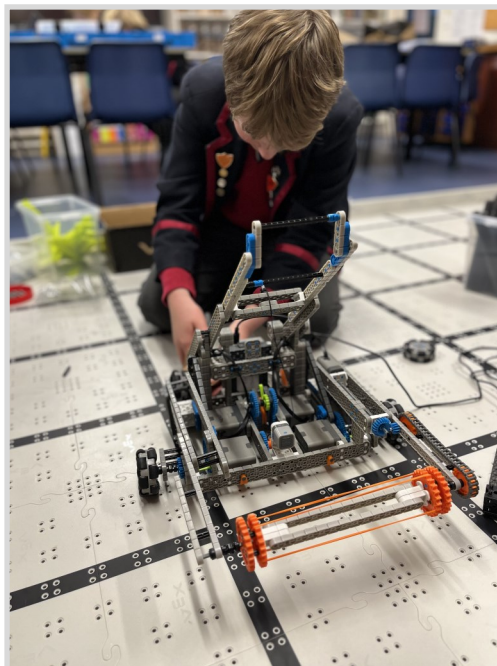
I like VEX because I really like building with Lego and VEX is like Lego. You also get to drive and code our robots. If we get all our robots done then we go to a competition and if we win that we go to a Telford competition if we win that completely then we go to LA! VEX is really fun and cool.

Felix M.

Last year, I really enjoyed coding for the "No driver round" where there is no driver for the robot and you run a code, which moves the whole robot automatically and picks up the blocks and puts them in the scoring box. We have these buttons which are called "Bumpers" and they were super helpful for sensing when the block was in the mouth of the robot.

This year, we have built a robot which picks up plush balls and flings them in the goals on the game board, unfortunately, we have not built the game board for this year yet. In the driving code, you need to use problem solving, for example we had a problem when we couldn't spin the fling motor, the cause was the two motors were spinning in opposite directions.

Jack S.



PE & Games News

It has been great to see the children's enjoyment and ambition in recent weeks. They have thrown themselves into the lessons and worked well with others interacting and encouraging throughout.

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



House Cross-Country

For the first time in many years we decided to reintroduce the House cross-country event to the sporting calendar. Every child took part and should be proud of their achievements. Cross-country is a test of character and helps build resilience.

The Year 3 and 4 children ran two laps of Green Lane which equaled 2km which was a real challenge for many. However we were pleased with a good number of children who were able to run without stopping. As a department we reintroduced the Aislaby 2.5km run for all Year 5 and 6 children. The children enjoyed the different surroundings and variety of change this run gave them. They supported one another and encouraged all to do their best for the House. It really was a sight to behold seeing 100 children run this course. The house with the lowest total were crowned champions of each year group and these were announced on the day. However when all four year groups were added these are the final standings.

1st	Stephenson	654
2nd	Arkwright	686
3rd	Brunel	770
4th	Telford	1068

Mrs Redhead-Sweeney



Christmas at the Prep School

By way of reminders, we are reprinting our Christmas letter—which was sent out last week—in the pages of the Flier in the run up to the festive season. **Anything vital or important will be written in red!**

Monday 2nd December

Reports will be released to parents at 4pm via the [parent portal](#). Details to follow.

The **Christmas Post Box** will be opened. It will be placed outside Mr Stone's office. Please may we ask the children to [write full names and forms](#) on envelopes to avoid any confusion.

Last Monday carousel activities sessions of the term.

The **Spring Term activities booking form** will be open for your children to select their activities.

All clubs and activities finish this week.

Wednesday 4th December

All children in Years 3 – 6 will stay behind after school for tea and preparation for our Carol Service.

All the children will remain at school on Tuesday for a light tea and will then be walked down to the Auditorium by the teaching staff. Doors will open from 4.40pm for guests. After the service, the children should be collected from the Senior School Sports Hall, where all families are welcome to join us for festive refreshments.

Pupils will not need to bring their bags home that evening and will collect their coats and blazers from the Senior School changing rooms after the event.

Please be aware that parking is limited at the Senior School and once the car park is full no further cars will be allowed to access the site, so do use the Prep School car park as well.

5.30pm – Prep School Carol Service in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium.

Thursday 5th December

Deadline for goods to be brought in for our Christmas Mission to support the CAUSE Foundation to be brought in. We would be grateful for it to be sent in without any wrapping paper and in a 'bag for life' where possible please.

Friday 6th December

Mrs Dunkley's dance groups will be performing in assembly. Parents of those performing are welcome to attend between 9.45 -10.10am in the Prep Hall.

The **Spring Term activities booking form will close at 9am** in the morning.

All clubs and activities will be finished by today. There are no clubs and activities running on any day the following week.

Monday 9th December

We will be beginning our annual '**Carols on the Gate**' during morning drop-offs from today. Please come along and join in! We will be collecting for *The Mustard Seed Project*.

Prep School Library Books - Please can **all** Prep library books be returned today unless agreed with your child's form teacher.

2pm – Some choristers will be singing carols to the residents of Middleton Hall Retirement Village. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week. After school care is available.

Tuesday 10th December

2.30pm – Year 3 Christmas Show in the Prep Hall. All Year 3 families are invited to attend either this performance or the 5.30pm show. The performance should finish by 3.15pm. Once finished, refreshments will be available.

[To book your tickets for this event please go to this form.](#)

Year 3 children will all stay behind after school for tea and preparation for their Christmas Show.

5.30pm – Year 3 Christmas Show in the Prep Hall. All Year 3 families are invited to attend either this or the 2.30pm performance. This performance should finish by 6.15pm. Once finished, refreshments will be available.

[To book your tickets for this event please go to this form.](#)

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week. After school care is available.

Wednesday 11th December

House General Knowledge Quiz will take place during the morning.

2pm – Some choristers will be singing carols to the residents of Park House Care Home, Stockton. Children will be back at school for 3.45pm collection.

Please send **any lost property** into school that does not belong to your child today.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week. After school care is available.

Thursday 12th December

Lost Property assembly will take place today, so please have one last look in rooms, bags, wash baskets, etc for any items that do not belong to your child! We endeavour to return as much as possible to the rightful owners.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week. After school care is available.

Friday 13th December

All school bags and kit bags to go home today please.

Christmas Jumper Day, in aid of Save the Children. Children to bring in £1 to wear a Christmas jumper of their choice.

During the school day, the children will enjoy their own carol service at Yarm Church.

Mental Elf Run for Stockton and Middlesbrough MIND. Elf ears are included. [We welcome donations via a Just Giving page which can be found here.](#)

School Christmas lunch!

At the end of term, we shall ensure that your child's locker is cleared of Christmas cards and that any coats, hats, gloves and scarves also find their way home to you.

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery finishes at 3pm; Reception-Y2 at 3.30pm; Prep as usual at 3.45pm this week.

Please ensure you have arranged for your child to be collected from school at 3.45pm. **There is no after school care on the last day of term.**

Monday 16th - Friday 20th December

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHOOL. If you would like your child to attend, please complete the form which will be emailed to you by Mr Simpson. This is always a much enjoyed and busy Holiday School and staffing and outings need to be arranged well in advance.

Mr Stone

Holiday School Dates

Christmas 2024: - 16th—20th December 2024

Easter 2025: - 7th—11th April 2025

Summer 2025: - 14th July—1st August 2025

Please contact Mr Simpson (holidayschool@yarmschool.org) should you require any further information regarding our Holiday Schools.

CEOP



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

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

ANY CHILD IN IMMEDIATE DANGER SHOULD ALWAYS CALL 999 FIRST.

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

Mr Stone

Coming Up at the PAA

[Les Misérables – Staged Concert \(40th Anniversary\) Live Stream](#)

Sunday 2nd February, 2pm and Wednesday 5th February, 7pm

Seen by over 120 million people worldwide, LES MISÉRABLES is undisputedly one of the world's most popular musicals. Now cinema audiences can experience



a unique encore of this incredible show to celebrate Les Misérables 40th Anniversary. Featuring a cast and orchestra of over 65 and including the songs I Dreamed A Dream, Bring Him Home, One Day More and On My Own this sensational staged concert is not to be missed.

[Rule The World](#)

Friday 14th February, 7.30pm

'Rule The World' have been recognised as the Number 1 Take That tribute act in the world.

The band have performed at many prestigious events



around the world. They've performed at a private party for 'Coldplay' and their management team featuring many celeb guests. They have also performed with the cast of ITV1's 'Emmerdale' and have been very fortunate to travel the world playing large outdoor festivals in Barcelona, Germany, Austria, Ireland and more.

[Space Cowboy](#)

Friday 21st February, 7.30pm

Space Cowboy –



The Ultimate Tribute to Jamiroquai, have been thrilling audiences all over the UK and Europe for more than decade.

Experienced musicians, amazing visuals and authentic outfits combine to produce a breath-taking show, featuring studio and live versions of such hits as Virtual Insanity, Cosmic Girl, Canned Heat, Deeper Underground and many more.

Uniform Reminders

Yarm School prides itself on the happy and harmonious sense of community that exists within the school and in which pupils wear a uniform with pride and a sense of ease because the same overall standards and expectations apply to all pupils and students. It is our belief that upholding a strict uniform policy supports our ethos of respect for all, regardless of background or personal beliefs and promotes cohesion within the school community.

We celebrate the diversity of the school community but also value the fact that by wearing a set school uniform for academic and extracurricular activities, all pupils are encouraged to participate fully and freely from the external pressures that society and culture at large can place on young people with regard to their appearance and image.

We politely request that all parents and pupils are aware of these and follow the uniform requirements set out by the school. This includes the wearing of school quilted winter coats only, correct footwear (smart, black school shoes—not trainer-type shoes) and no jewellery. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Prep Management Team.

Hair should be kept clear of the face, clean and tidy, neatly cut or shaped and of natural colour. Extreme styles, very short hair or streaked hair / obvious highlights or hair products (wax, gel etc.) are not acceptable. Long hair should be tied back with a suitable small fastener, school scrunchie or hair band. Hair bands (school style) may also be appropriate for shorter hair.

Mr Stone

Tooled Up Education

White Ribbon Day takes place on November 25th each year. It is a global activism campaign dedicated to preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG).

With 1 in 3 women globally, experiencing sexual or physical violence in their lifetimes, it's never been more important to ensure that young people can identify and talk about the subject.

Dr Lisa Sugiura, Associate Professor in Cybercrime and Gender at the University of Portsmouth, made this [video](#) for Tooled Up giving an overview of gendered violence and sharing the latest research. If you're new to the topic of VAWG, or would like more information, try this resource for [parents](#) before discussing some of the themes with your child.

In this [podcast](#), domestic violence education expert Professor David Gadd discusses the best ways for parents and schools to teach boys (and girls) about good relationships and explores the topic of consent and boundaries.

In the UK, this year's theme for White Ribbon Day is "It starts with men." It highlights the importance of ensuring we connect with the boys and young men in our lives to talk through issues of misogyny and masculinity.

These [40 Family Conversation Questions](#) on misogyny and positive masculinity are perfect for discussing this sensitive topic at home.

Many parents understand that misogynistic ideas are spread online, and are worried about what their children might encounter on social media or at school. This [webinar](#) from Ellie Softley of Everyone's Invited explores how misogynistic ideology, such as that found in incel forums, is making its way into the mainstream, and how we can encourage young people to think critically about what they see and hear.

From Tooled Up's recent Reaching Boys Early conference, watch Dr Stephen Burrell's webinar [Cultivating Care and Connection with Boys](#). Dr Burrell discusses how boys' ideas of masculinity develop, and promotes practical tips that parents can use to help boys resist harmful narratives about gender.

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

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

A quick reminder As a parent at a Tooled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Tooled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPS1103 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

Dr Kathy Weston



Gender-Based Violence:
What Parents Need To Know

TOOLED UP[®]
BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.11.2024

Coming Up

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

DECEMBER 2024

Mon 2	Clubs and activities finish this week No Year 3 swimming today Reports to parents
Tue 3	EYFS Nativity Performance (Prep Hall; 2.230pm) Nursery Information Event for new starters
Wed 4	Prep Carol Service (PAA; 5.30pm)
Thu 5	Pre-Prep Nativity (Prep Hall; 5pm) Deadline for CAUSE Christmas donations
Fri 6	Shawcross Band performing in school Dance assembly (Prep Hall; 9.50am) U11 Rugby v GSAL & QEGS (at GSAL; 2.15pm start, 4.30pm return)
Mon 9	Carols in the Care Home (Middleton Hall)
Tue 10	Year 3 Christmas Play to parents (Prep Hall; 5.30pm)
Wed 11	Carols in the Care Home (Park Rest, Stockton) House General Knowledge Quiz
Thu 12	Lost Property assembly
Fri 13	Carols at Yarm Church End of term assembly Mental Elf Festive Fun Run (for Stockton & Middlesbrough MIND) End of term at 3.45pm No after school care
Mon 16	Christmas Holiday School (until 20th December)

JANUARY 2025

Mon 6	SPRING TERM BEGINS Pupils return After School Care as normal
Wed 8	Peer Mentor training (5pm finish)
Mon 13	Spring Clubs and Activities begin Sustainability Week
Tue 14	Curiosity Emporium with Lord Wharton
Fri 17	Y6 Senior School assessments morning
Sat 18	Open Morning (9am-12noon)
Mon 20	House Chess begins
Tue 21	Primary Schools Singing Day (PAA)
Wed 22	School Council
Thu 23	U9 Football v Durham (home; 2pm start)
Fri 24	IAPS Netball (at Woodhouse Grove; 1pm start, 5pm return)
Mon 27	Year 6 Drama Week begins
Tue 28	U8 Netball Workshop with Cundall Manor (away; 1.45pm start, 3.45pm return)

Wed 29 Chinese New Year celebrations
Wear item of red—£1 donation to St Teresa's Hospice

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Half term begins	Friday, 18th October 2024 (after school)
Pupils return	Monday, 4th November 2024
Term ends	Friday, 13th December 2024 (after school; no after school care)

Spring Term 2025

Pupils return	Monday, 6th January 2025
Half term begins	Thursday, 20th February 2025 (after school)
INSET Day Friday	21st February 2025
Pupils return	Monday 3rd March 2025
Term ends Friday	4th April 2025 (after school)

Summer Term, 2025

Pupils return	Wednesday, 23rd April 2025
Bank Holiday	Monday, 5th May 2025
Half term begins	Thursday, 22nd May 2025 (after school)
Pupils return	Monday, 2nd June 2025
Term ends	Thursday, 3rd July 2025

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Oliver J.	Heidi H.
3J	Joy F.	Matilda M.
3P	Omran S.	Edith V.
4F	Louis G.	Alex Z.
4J	Zoeya A.	Max H.
4SU	Lucia RM.	Ahaana C.
5G	Azlan U.	Felix M.
5S	Francesca S.	Jude C.
5W	Shanvi P.	Thomas H.
6H	Bella M.	Isla R.
6K	Annabelle C.	Annabelle M.
6L	Livvie C.	Max J.

Head Teacher Award: Year 3—Arya J., Teddy J. Year 5—Wilbur M-S., Azlan U., Andres O. Year 6—Holly B., Stan D., Henry St., Rosa W., George S.