



YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

MAGAZINE

2023/2024

**TEAMWORK
& TENACITY**

ANOTHER YEAR OF AMAZING
ADVENTURES TOGETHER





YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

A year of incredible achievements

It is my great pleasure to present a year in the life of Yarm School: our pupils, staff, parents, former pupils and our wider community; the trips, competitions, fixtures and events; our departments, societies, clubs and community partnerships, all combining through collective endeavour, ambitious determination and with a shared vision to deliver our mission, Educating for Life.

There is so much to celebrate this year, much of which can be explored in detail in the pages of

this magazine. Our A level students secured strong grades and are heading to exciting destinations; we will miss them. Our Fifth Year pupils achieved the School's best ever public examination results - congratulations to them. The School reached the National Finals in a number of sports and age groups, with the 'icing on the cake' seeing our U16 girls become T3 National Champions in Hockey and also come third nationally at Netball, whilst our rowers qualified for Henley Royal Regatta for the first time since 2014.

On stage, we saw Cinderella the musical wow our PAA audience, and also enjoyed Lord of the Flies, the Merchant of Venice, Duologues, Dance Showcase, Fashion Showcase and much more. The calendar of Music was extraordinary, with an astonishing range, depth and breadth of talent and musicality on show, not least from our whole community and the

Black Dyke Band performing Handel's Messiah, through our music partnerships - notably Memento where our pupils support those living with Dementia and their families - and from our Former Pupils as they joyfully celebrated Katie Staggs' hugely influential time as Director of Music - we will miss her greatly.

National success at Debating, in Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Biology, Computer Science and general knowledge went hand in hand with pupils completing Duke of Edinburgh Awards and YBACC, setting out on adventures near and far on a rich array of trips and expeditions and investing time in their futures through careers events - generously supported by Governors and Former Pupils - and, as is clear from exam results, with plenty of old fashioned hard graft!

We were thrilled and delighted when the Prep School won TES's coveted award 'Prep School of the Year'. Judges noted the fantastic partnerships with our local community; this has been an area of growth and focus for the whole school. This award was made possible

by the hard work of all Prep staff, and this is reflected throughout the School: it is the commitment of staff at Yarm that enables such wonderful opportunities for our pupils and I am so proud to lead such a talented and dedicated team of colleagues: I offer them all my sincere thanks. To those who leave us this year, we are grateful for all they have done and offer our best wishes for the future.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's magazine as much as I have: it is a rich reminder of a vintage year and I am grateful to all those who contributed the words and pictures which provide us all with insight and memories.

As the irrepressible rhythm of the academic calendar tips us towards another school year, I think all of us at Yarm can afford to look back with gratitude and pride and face the future with confidence and excitement!

Dr Huw Williams
Headmaster



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Thanks to Yarm School staff, parents and pupils who have contributed to this year's magazine.
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CINDERELLA

The cast of *Cinderella* delighted audiences with four enchanted evenings of song, dance and storytelling in January, with escape to the fairytale world of fairy godmothers, pumpkin carriages, stepmothers and happily ever after being a welcome tonic to the cold, wet winter weather outside.

Although the fairytale theme may have been reminiscent of our production of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* in 2022, Rodgers and Hammerstein tell the story of *Cinderella* in a rather more classic idiom, with a surging orchestral score fit for the 1950s Broadway stage,

under the expert direction of Mrs Staggs and Mr McIntyre.

On stage, the love-struck couple at the centre of the plot were sensitively brought to life by Esther Lane and Oscar Shaw as Cinderella and her handsome prince, supported by an ensemble of enormously talented performers. Sophie Jewitt and Luke Pemberton were the very model of regal poise, as the King and Queen, while Cody Staggs's Lionel provided a witty foil for the Prince. Meanwhile, in Cinderella's household, Piya Nag, Natasha Cunningham and Zaara Soni absolutely revelled in their characters' awfulness as the heroine's

step-family. Opening and closing proceedings, the vital infusion of magic came from Izzie Speight, as the Fairy Godmother, affirming for performers and audience alike that 'There is Music in You'.

The company - playing villagers, ball-guests, mice, horses, pumpkins and more - included performers drawn from across all year-groups who threw themselves with gusto into singing and dancing, with Mrs Dunkley's carefully choreographed full-company sequences filling the stage with life and movement. With a dedicated team of staff and pupils backstage supporting in make-up, costuming, light, sound and staging,

the show was - as always - a real team effort. *Cinderella* was sponsored by our friends at Active Chartered Financial Planners and Cleveland Land Services which allowed such a large scale production. At the heart of it all, though, lay Mrs Trevor's creative vision. We were tremendously lucky to have her with us in the Biology Department at just the right time for her to share her expertise in musical theatre with us as well!

Mr D Boddy







MUSIC REVIEW

“No-one can whistle a symphony; it takes a whole orchestra to play it.”

H. E. Luccock

The past year has been a musical tour de force and, as the departing Director of Music, I have spent the start of the summer break reflecting on what has made this year’s performances so powerful, so impactful and so fulfilling. Pupils, students, staff, parents, former pupils and members of our ever-widening friends from our local community united, moved and empowered through music; how good is that? In the words of Henry Ford “Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success” and we as a musical community embody that sense of working successfully towards a common goal.

There have been nearly 50 musical performances and experiences this year. Whilst following a regular pattern of events, every year is different and, as you read through our schedule of performances, there has been a diverse array of musical opportunities involving an increasing

number of pupils, some of whom have never experienced the immersive power of musical involvement before:

- The honour for our string players of performing with international pianist and composer, Gerardo Rodrigues (who returns to Yarm in October 2024).
- Choral Society’s performance of Brahms’ *Requiem* in Stockton Parish Church, accompanied so superbly by teachers Alison Gill and Rob Williams, with former pupil Anna Dias as the stunning soprano soloist and complemented beautifully by talented instrumentalists from Prep and Senior School.
- The sheer joy of our Community Christmas Concerts involving hundreds on stage sharing the wonder of Christmas with the local community through music and impromptu dance moves.
- Our Memento Christmas sing-along, uniting all parts of our school community in providing an

opportunity for all to sing together within a dementia friendly environment.

- Performances and services in Yarm’s churches and a special choral evensong in Ripon Cathedral in addition to a beautifully observed Act of Remembrance in School.
- The talent on stage, in the pit and behind the scenes, working tirelessly to create the joyous spectacle that was Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Cinderella*
- A pop, soul and jazz concert for Mother’s Day with a moving tribute to Lawrie Dryden, appreciated beyond measure by Lawrie’s mum and all others present.
- A superb evening of classical (and rock fusion) concertos and arias where teamwork was key with pupils and staff sensitively and maturely accompanying the accomplished soloists.
- An ambitious and electric performance of Handel’s *Messiah*, with the world-leading Black Dyke Band and a choir of hundreds involving

Mr Gooding’s Prep choristers, Senior School pupils, staff, former pupils, parents, choral society, members of Tees Valley Youth Choir and Middlesbrough Cathedral Choir and a host of singers from the area (and as far afield as Canada) and a group of young soloists including current and former pupils and young talent from the local area, all energised by the challenge of such an exciting musical collaboration.

- BRAACK, School of Skiffle and Secret Choir taking the stage with Mike McGrother and the Wildcats of Kilkenny alongside Infant Hercules and a host of pupils, students and staff in a life-affirming evening of feel good musical energy with a poignant interjection of stillness afforded by the talents of our senior girls’ vocal quartet performing *Danny Boy*.
- The poignancy of the Leavers’ Service and farewell concert.
- A school family well and truly united through



music with pupils and former pupils leaving their hearts on the stage as one in an extraordinary concert abundant with inspirational talent.

■ The realisation of an ambition to extend the Dovecote Concert into a veritable feast of community engagement through music and message.

■ An end of term Lower School Prize Giving project, made possible with Mr McIntyre's extraordinary gifts, with staff and younger pupils coming together for feel-good fun with a collaborative recording of *Shine* with hundreds of singers and instrumentalists recorded, complemented by the filming of movement, performance work, acrobatics and many top hats and School steps (those who know, know the relevance) to emulate aspects of the Take That official video and combined with 60 plus instrumentalists performing live along with the film on the prize giving stage.

These meaningful moments are ones to cherish. As a community we have achieved a musical identity for the School which will self-perpetuate and flourish. With music at the heart of the School's and wider community's identity, the heart of the School will beat stronger and louder. No one person can whistle that symphony, but we sure can "sound together" (the derivation of the word "symphony") and let our hearts beat as one, united through musical engagement.

I should like to thank all the staff, pupils and students for all their support. We record our heartfelt thanks to two instrumental teachers, Mr Halford and Mr Harbottle who have left Yarm this year. They have both been excellent teachers and have contributed so much to the musical lives of our young people. It is with a heavy heart that we say farewell to two long standing and dedicated teachers in the department, Mrs Bury and

Mr Haigh. Both dedicated teachers and wonderful musicians, they have given so much musical insight to our young musicians and have enjoyed a phased retirement over the past seven years. I have valued their wisdom, their support and their musicianship and wish them both a very happy, fulfilling and richly deserved retirement. Yarm School is a place with an enormous heart, enriched by incredible staff and young people. It has been a privilege to be part of such a talented and committed music department and I know that the School's musical community is, and will continue to be, a veritable force for good.

Mrs K Staggs





MUSIC REVIEW



List of Events 2023-2024:

- Choir performances at Senior Prize Giving
- Background music at YSA socials
- Music Scholar performances at Open Morning
- Brahms' *Requiem* performed by Choral Society along with talented young instrumentalists at Stockton Parish Church
- Act of Remembrance at School with poignant music provided by the choir and chamber choir
- Senior School string players perform with international pianist and composer Gerardo Rodrigues
- Rock School Showcase
- Busking at the Christmas Fair
- BRAACK take the stage at the Sixth Form Christmas dinner

- Hundreds of singers and instrumentalists on stage at 2 sell-out Community Christmas Concerts
- Memento, a festive dementia-friendly singalong with School of Skiffle, Secret Choir and soloists.
- Performances in End of Term Assembly
- 2 Services of 9 Lessons and Carols in Yarm Parish Church
- 4 Performances of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*
- 3 Concert and Cake performances during the Spring and Summer terms
- Big Band perform in the North East Jazz Festival with Chloe Godfrey awarded the standout soloist award for outstanding improvisations
- The Harp Ensemble perform in and win the ensemble class in the Harrogate Music Festival

- A Level Recital performance
- Spring Concert 1 - An evening of Pop, Soul and Jazz on Mothering Sunday
- Spring Concert 2 - Concertos and Arias Concert featuring talented soloists performing in a variety of genres accompanied by instrumental ensemble
- Vocal masterclass with bass singer (and soloist in the *Messiah*) Ben Noble
- Massed performance of Handel's *Messiah* with the Black Dyke Band, a choir of 240 and talented young soloists from the area, including School students Natasha Cunningham and James Waine and former pupils Anna Dias and Laura Watson
- Performances in End of Term Assembly
- Easter Service including powerful choir musical performances

- Yarm School join with The Wildcats of Kilkenny
- A cappella vocal group perform at the Dementia Awards
- *Izzie's Night at the Movies* EPQ concert
- Leavers' Service in Yarm Methodist Church
- Leavers' Dinner featuring BRAACK
- Students perform at a secret wedding!
- Choral Society *Musical Memories* at Yarm Parish Church
- United Through Music, Yarm former and current pupils, and the Headmaster, join for a day of inspirational music-making, concluding with an extraordinary performance
- Upper Sixth Leavers' Concert



■ Dovecote Festival Weekend:
 ● Community recording of *Forever Young* with Infant Hercules joined by members of the School community, choral society and performed in conjunction with MacMillan Cancer. Instrumental track created by Andrew McIntyre and event led by “community engineer” Mike McGrother
 ● Shanty Stroll with Mike and Infant Hercules through Yarm, raising funds for the local branch of the Samaritans
 ● Memento “Juke Box” sing-along and sharing of stories led by Mike in the Black Bull featuring School of Skiffle, senior singers with solo slots from saxophonist James Muir, cellist Effie Peacock and crooner Oscar Shaw and moving memories shared by those who have lost loved ones to dementia
 ● Big Band masterclass led by international jazz guitarist and composer Mike Walker with Tees Valley Jazz Collective and Conyers Jazz Band in conjunction with Jazz North and Arts Council England

■ Recording and filming of *Take That’s Shine* involving pupils and staff
 ■ Performance of *Shine* at Lower School Prize-Giving with over 60 live instrumentalists (pupils and staff) and 3rd Year vocal soloists performing with the video as an end of term celebration of musical collaboration

Congratulations to:

■ All pupils and students who have achieved excellent results in ABRSM, LCM and Rock School exams this year. A special congratulations to Izzie Speight for achieving her LCM Musical Theatre Diploma and to all those invited to perform at the ABRSM High Achievers concerts in recognition of their excellent results across the Stockton area.

■ All pupils who have performed in music festivals this year, learning so much from performing in front of others and acting upon valuable feedback given. Special congratulations to class winners in the Saltburn and Harrogate Music Festivals and to Naila Krishnamoorthy who reached the Musician of the Year final in the Harrogate Music Festival - a huge achievement!
 ■ All pupils and students involved in Tees Valley Youth Orchestra and Tees Valley Youth Choir. In their final year of School, Jennifer Chan had the honour of leading Tees Valley Youth Orchestra and Morven Hawthorne sang arias accompanied by TVYO in prestigious concerts at home and abroad.
 ■ Anoushka Paul for gaining a place on the prestigious Samling Academy for classical singers, performing in the Glasshouse and to Morven Hawthorne for her place in the Young Musicians’

Programme at the Glasshouse.
 ■ Cody Staggs for performing with the RAFAC National Concert Band
 ■ Natasha Cunningham, Morven Hawthorne and James Waive for singing in the outstanding National Youth Choir of Great Britain
 ■ Effie Peacock for performing with the National Children’s Orchestra of Great Britain and for gaining a full mark Distinction in her Grade 8 cello exam.





A YEAR OF DRAMA

What a fantastic year of Drama we have had this year; one of the strongest I've seen in my 6 years as Head of Drama.

I have loved every minute of working with these talented pupils, seeing the progression from First Year up to Sixth Form. Watching Prep School pupils make the jump from their drama weeks into Senior School drama events has been equally rewarding.

Starting Drama at a young age is key. As we all get older, we become more inhibited, self-critical, and less spontaneous. If we can keep these skills, they help to create imaginative and exciting performers. Keith Johnston, the groundbreaking Canadian Drama Practitioner spent his whole career working with adult performers on improvisation work to re-develop these lost skills. Working with him in 2005 was a real eye-opener. He said "Good improvisors can always be good actors, but good actors can't always be good improvisors".

As I step down from my role as Head of Drama to focus on the Auditorium, I will miss working with the children but am proud of the

increased exposure to drama now available for children from Prep right through to Senior School.

Our year began with a stellar House Drama contest, one of the closest I recall, with all four Houses in strong contention. Oswald kicked off with a creative version of *Alice in Wonderland*. Their clever use of set and props ensured a smooth, dynamic performance. The direction was superb, and the ensemble worked seamlessly together—a strong start!

Cuthbert followed with *Ghostbusters*, which was full

of energy and comic moments. The script had some really nice additions to it, incorporating Yarm School. It is always tricky taking a film script and translating it to stage, and the cast did really well with this!

After the interval we had a stylised and creative take on *The Twilight Zone*. I was really impressed with the direction. The cast's greyscale costumes and face paint created a unique, captivating atmosphere—a brave and creative choice.

Bede closed with *Hotel Transylvania*, a fast-paced ensemble piece.

It was very well put together and directed. The script additions aided the transitions and enabled the story to flow. This was an excellent example of how to adapt a film to be performed on stage. This was a worthy winner of House Drama 2023, though all entries were outstanding and could have won!

This year's Fifth Year play was an impressive production of *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr Gilbert's staging was simple but very effective, the use of projections kept the scenes moving fluidly, enhancing the storytelling and comedic moments. The cast, a mix of seasoned and new performers, handled the props and complex script with professionalism, bringing the language to life. An excellent all-round show!

In February, the Upper Sixth performed *Departures* by John Godber in the Friarage Theatre - a first for us to perform in this space. The space suited the play perfectly! The script is very wordy and repetitive, and the cast coped admirably with a tricky text.





Their characterisation was excellent, and they really excelled in both comic and dramatic moments. The relationships between the characters shone through and were very believable! The double casting added an extra layer of challenge, but the cast rose to the occasion with different pupils playing different characters on different nights. I was very proud of the cast tackling such a tricky play in a very short space of time, with a fantastic end result. Despite one cast member's illness, their performances were funny, moving, and engaging.

March brought us *Lord of the Flies* from the Fourth Years. A classic text with a really creative twist. The opening was very contemporary, set to music with a repetitive movement piece. This was a clever way to set the scene of the plane crash. The cast delivered strong, energetic performances. The Fourth Year play is always a challenge as it's their first full play in Senior School. Early line learning is crucial, and while some were tighter

than others, everyone did a great job. I'm excited to see their future performances in the Fifth Year.

The year concluded with two excellent Duologue contests, showcasing standout performances. The performers chose a diverse range of genres and styles, with some really exciting and imaginative choices. It is always great to see the student-led performances, like duologues, as you get some real insight into the performers' personalities. This year's Junior

winners Shourjo and Vihaan did an excellent job with a challenging script. Congratulations too to our Intermediate and Senior Duologue winners, James and Isaac (*All my Sons*) and Esther and Lauren (*Romeo and Juliet*), Both well deserved winners!

It's been a fun-filled and exciting year of Drama at Yarm School. I hope you've enjoyed watching the shows as much as we've enjoyed rehearsing and performing them.

Mr D Brookes





YARM SCHOOL
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A YEAR OF DRAMA





THE STORY

The dance department has had a fantastic year, marked by increasing participation, growing talent, and boundless enthusiasm. Our dance pupils engaged in various activities, including school holiday dance workshops, weekly private lessons, Sixth Form games, and they also enjoyed dance incorporated into their PE lessons.

Throughout the year our pupils explored and mastered a diverse array of dance styles. From commercial and jazz to contemporary, lyrical, street, and Bollywood, students honed their technique and performance skills during their weekly lessons.

First to Third Year pupils dance as part of their PE lessons with lessons based on dance styles, dance in film and *Strictly Come Dancing*. Pupils showcased their creativity by choreographing their routines for the end of term assessment.

GCSE Fifth Year dancers

choreographed their own solos to a very high standard working on a range of skills and their performance. Fourth Year dancers have worked diligently towards their performance at the end of the year.

Dancers took to the stage in this year's DT Fashion Show. They opened the Fashion Show with energy, elegance and confidence as they performed an exciting dance based on Disney songs. They performed choreography to *Be our Guest*, *Arabian Nights* and *Friend Like Me*. Well done to all dancers involved!

This year the musical, *Cinderella*, included several dance numbers. After months of rehearsals all the hard work paid off. The cast's commitment, ambition, and dedication culminated in a series of incredible performances on stage, leaving the audience in awe.

This year saw 170 pupils from Year Three to Upper

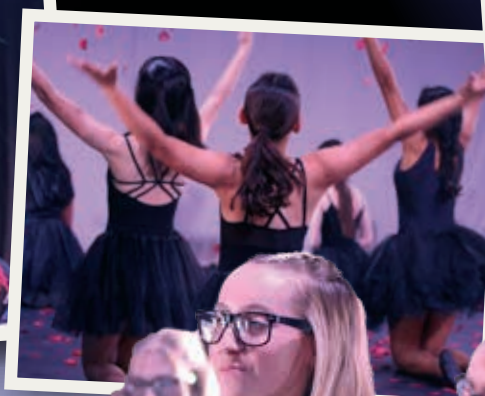
Sixth take to the stage in *Once Upon a Dance* Showcase 2024. The evening was filled with magic and adventure as dancers performed routines inspired by fairy tale stories, celebrating a year's worth of effort with energy, confidence, and flair.

Mrs J Dunkley



OF DANCE

“The dance pupils at Yarm School every lesson continue to challenge and push themselves and always have so much energy and enthusiasm. There is a genuine love of dance which is evident not only in the big showcases and performances but in the everyday life of the school. I love seeing the fun, dedication and enjoyment the pupils have in their dance lessons. Well done for another fantastic year!”





Phab Club

We have had an exciting and successful second year of Yarm School's Phab Club. The club has hosted a variety of engaging and memorable visitors. These included Anvesaka Yoga, where the Phab members got involved with hula hooping and meditation, a visit from a very friendly therapy dog, and of course Father Christmas at our Phab Christmas party, with members singing Christmas songs together and embellishing Christmas decorations. The Community Action Group joined Phab and led a brilliant arts and craft session in November which sparked creativity among our members. In March, Crathorne Dairy Farm joined Phab Club

and brought along a tractor, which Phab members could sit in, as well as stroking the calves, making butter and having milkshakes; it was a fantastic session!

Our dedicated Phab Club team has worked tirelessly to organise fundraising events, ensuring the continued success of the club. They organised a spooky treasure hunt around school and sold Halloween shaped cookies in October, and at Christmas they organised the selling and delivery of candy canes with messages to pupils and teachers. In February, pupils sold roses, keyrings and love potions as part of their Valentine's fundraiser.

The pupils who volunteer at Phab Club have shown kindness, respect and empathy each session and have enjoyed the responsibility of caring for and socialising with the disabled young people who attend. Members' parents have enjoyed meeting each other and socialising over cups of tea, and we were delighted to invite members and their families to see the school's production of *Cinderella*.

We hope to see the Phab Club grow even bigger next year, so that even more people can benefit from this wonderful community initiative.

Mrs S Lodge





TAKING ACTION

The projects that we have focused on this year have been as diverse and as interesting as usual! In the first few weeks of the year, we put the finishing touches to the murals that we had sketched and painted in the vestibule of the Yarm Wellness Centre. We were very proud of the finished product and hope that the murals are enjoyed by members of the wider community.

The beginning of the Autumn Term was marked by two significant natural

disasters on the world stage. The first was a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the Marrakech-Safi region of Turkey; over 300,000 people were impacted, with buildings and homes being destroyed and a death toll of approximately 3,000. A day after Morocco's earthquake, news broke of floods ravaging through eastern Libya. At least 11,300 people were killed and more than 50,000 people were displaced from their homes.

Motivated to help, pupils organised and ran a food stall and donated a significant amount to UNICEF's Children's Emergency Fund, created to protect children from conflict, disasters and disease and, wherever possible, to keep them in education.

As Christmas approached, we were delighted to volunteer at the school's Phab Club, organising mug decorating, popcorn threading and numerous other crafts for the club's members. We followed this with a half term's volunteering at the Prep School. Students really loved working with the

Year 3 pupils and gained so much from listening to pupils read and assisting with Art or DT lessons. For many of our older students, it was a great opportunity to see the new developments on the school site, as well as spotting some of their former teachers!

This year, pupils have proved very keen to communicate our projects to the wider school community. This was particularly successful in our recent collection for Beauty Banks, a grass-roots group committed to ending hygiene poverty. Following an impassioned speech in assembly, we were thrilled with the number of toiletries we managed to collect and donate for this very worthwhile cause. In addition to our fundraising and volunteering, this year we have continued with regular litter-picking in Yarm town centre and green spaces. Pupils have also written cards and letters for the charity Post Pals, a volunteer-run charity we have supported in previous years that helps 'Post a Smile on a Sick Child's

Face' by sending cards, letters, emails, and little gifts to seriously ill children and their siblings in the UK.

As we neared the end of the Spring Term, we continued in our bid to raise funds for worthwhile causes. Organising a series of Easter activities - guess the number of eggs in a jar, an Easter egg colouring competition and an Easter-themed sweet stall - we were able to donate to Cancer Research, a very significant charity to one of our members. At the end of the term, we also said 'goodbye' to three long term members of the Community Action group - Jennifer, Jenifer and Louis. We wish them every success as they move on to university and college and thank them for their many years of hard work and commitment. We would also like to thank everyone in school who has offered us their support this year. We are looking forward to 2024/2025!

Community Action Group





Aidan

House Captains 2023/4:

Maisy Bailey, Sara Banerjee, Lucy Fletcher, Miles Holland, Arhana Pradeep and Kayla Roberts

House Captains 2024/5:

Eleanor Madden, Emily Nicholson, Esther Lane, Natasha Cunningham, Oskar Studholme and Will Ferguson

House Charity:

Versus Arthritis

Awards: Sports Day Champions

Bede

House Captains 2023/4:

Chloe Godfrey, Zaina Islam, Nathan May and Harry Rodwell

House Captains 2024/5:

Adam Addison, Laura Burns, Estelle Orr and Izzie Speight

House Charity:

Teesside Hospice

Awards: House Drama Champions

Cuthbert

House Captains 2023/4:

Erin Scott, Freddie Butler, Brooke Young, James Heward, Morven Hawthorne and Emma Foster

House Captains 2024/5:

Harvey Qin, Indeya Hewison, Lucy Bardgett, Cecily Deering, Eve Hudson and Daniel Townsend

House Charity:

Army Benevolent Fund

Awards: House Bake Off Champions and House Quiz Winners

Oswald

House Captains 2023/4:

Oscar Buckley, Alfie King, Abbi Macgregor and Hannah Stewart

House Captains 2024/5:

Grace Harbinson, Carys McNeill-Ritchie, Samuel Page, Ishita Pathare and Jack Van Niekerk

House Charity:

The Great North Air Ambulance Service

Awards: House Chess Champions

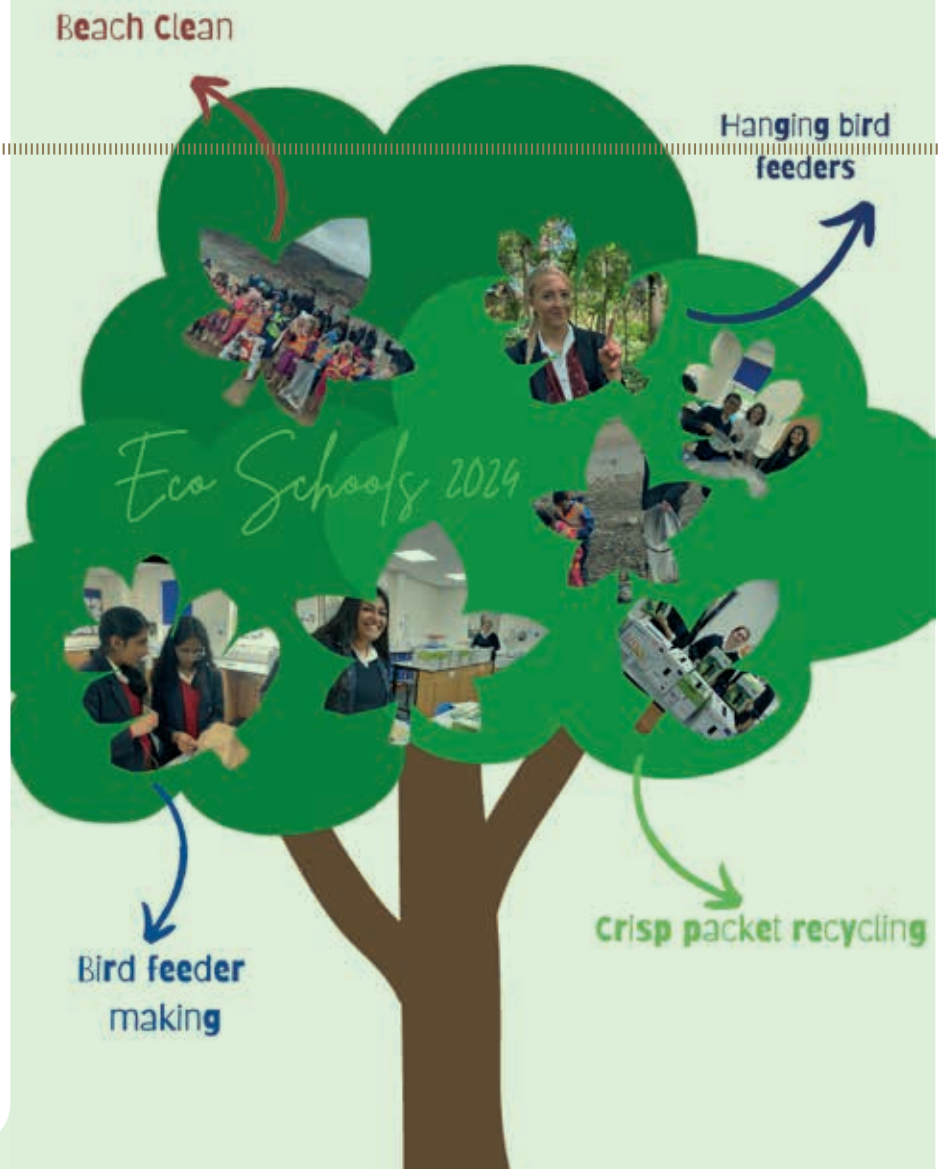
Following on from our Giving and Fundraising Weeks earlier in the year, the Houses focused on community in the Summer Term, with a number of different activities taking place. We had 24 Third Year pupils assisting with the Prep School STEM week, acting as 'Science Magnets' to each accompany a small group of local primary school children. Our House Bake Off winners baked a number of delicious cakes for the Catering Staff as a thank you. A willing and committed group of very helpful First and Second Year pupils helped Mrs Kingsbury clear the locker areas and collect any lost property, and finally, a group of Bede volunteers visited Layfield Primary School to help their pupils with their reading.



Aidan / Bede / Cuthbert / Oswald



We have achieved our 7th Green Flag Award with Distinction and we have covered a range of projects to raise awareness about sustainability.



GREEN FLAG SUCCESS

Environmental consciousness is deeply embedded in our school's ethos.

In the Autumn Term we launched our anti-idling campaign in which we have been encouraging parents to cut their car emissions and improve air quality around the school, by turning off their engines when waiting to pick up their children in the car park.

We encouraged people to take an active role in cutting their carbon, with the Lower School tutor groups having tutorials provided by our peer support mentors. A range of suggestions were put forward to help pupils to cut carbon emissions such

as going meat-free for a day, lowering the heating by 1°C for a week, and replacing baths with 4-minute showers.

In our efforts to foster community involvement and social responsibility, we partnered with Nite Lite charity in Middlesbrough for a crisp packet collection campaign. We collected over 1,000 crisp packets. This initiative promoted recycling, as crisp packets are typically non-recyclable, thereby preventing environmental harm.

As Christmas approached, some of our team created tutorials to educate the school about an eco-friendly holiday season. They explored whether real or

artificial Christmas trees are more sustainable, concluding that a fake tree becomes more eco-friendly after ten years of use, while a real tree, if potted or properly recycled, is also beneficial for the environment.

During our Eco-Week in March, we expanded our eco-awareness efforts with a variety of activities, to inform our student body how to be more eco-friendly. We had a meat-free day, and organised two beach cleanups at Redcar with many pupils ranging from First Year to Sixth Form helping Year 2 pupils from Prep School. We also engaged in plate scraping to minimise food waste and raise

awareness about food waste. We held fundraising events including a fruit smoothie bike which was very popular, a football tournament with every year group participating, and a staff versus Sixth Form netball game, which was thoroughly enjoyed. Other activities included the creation of bird and bee feeders, and we had our incredible Disney-themed eco-fashion show. These initiatives aim to inspire our school community to adopt more eco-friendly lifestyles. As a school we prioritise eco-friendliness and ensure that our school remains sustainable.

The Eco-Schools Team

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

The Second Year pupils travelled to beautiful Bassenthwaite for their Outdoor Adventure during the last full week of the Summer Term. An action-packed three days saw the pupils go sailing on Bassenthwaite Lake, mountain bike at Whinlatter Forest, ghyll scramble in Stoneycroft Ghyll, and journey up Skiddaw to camp at Britain's highest hostel, Skiddaw House.

The week kicked off with bright, sunny skies, setting a perfect backdrop for Aidan and Bede to dive headfirst into their adventures. They showcased teamwork and determination as they navigated the blue route on

mountain bikes, offering each other support, and paired up in dinghies for some exhilarating downwind sailing. The climb up Skiddaw may have been challenging, hot and sweaty, but groups were greeted with fantastic weather and sunsets up at Skiddaw House for their mountain camp.

The latter half of the week saw Cuthbert and Oswald facing more formidable weather conditions. Thursday brought relentless rain and gusts of wind. Despite this weather, the groups still managed to go rock climbing, sail on the lake, and tackle the slides and jumps in the ghyll.

Their resilience shone through as they donned their waterproofs without one negative comment and tackled the elements even when far from perfect. Well done to all!

This was another hugely successful week with keen, enthusiastic and polite pupils who will be ready to go for next year's Third Year Journey. My thanks go to all the accompanying staff on the trip for all their assistance as well as Mr Morrison on his last trip as Head of Second Year.

Mr A Mathers





Routing through RIPON

The Third Year pupils embarked on an exhilarating four-day outdoor journey in Ripon, navigating a challenging circular route by foot, canoe, and bike. Building on the outdoor education skills honed in First and Second Year, this adventure gave pupils increased responsibility and independence within their small groups.

This allowed them to relish their own successes and develop problem-solving skills when things didn't go quite as planned.

The focus of the Third Year Journey is on travelling through the great outdoors, with pupils moving from one campsite to the next and being organised enough that all their equipment comes with them too!

Along the way the pupils were trained in expedition skills for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and completed their practice expedition.

One of the highlights was a day of cycling that took them along both road and off-road cycle paths, passing through the historic Fountains Abbey for the essential ice cream stop. Canoeing on Ripon Canal from the heart of the city out to our campsite was another great experience.

Throughout the trip, pupils collaborated within their teams to pack, navigate

and cook successfully for all four days, as well as showing their resilience when the cycling got tough and the canoeing got wet!

A very busy and successful trip with our pupils showing their excellent determination, resilience and teamworking skills. Bronze D of E qualifying expedition is the next step - good luck to all.

My thanks again to all the staff who gave up their time to assist in some way on a very busy trip.

Mr A Mathers



FANTASTIC FONTAINEBLEAU



A keen contingent headed out to France over the Easter holidays to visit the mecca of outdoor bouldering in the Forest of Fontainebleau.

Comprising mostly Second and Third Year pupils, the team set their sights on conquering the yellow and orange circuits over the week.

The journey to Fontainebleau was smooth, taking the group through the UK, under the Channel, and across northern France. Their first alfresco dinner in a picturesque French village was enjoyed in warm evening sunshine. However, the arrival at camp coincided with a dramatic thunderstorm, making for a rather soggy start to the week as they pitched their tents in the fading light.

Starting off at familiar venues such as Cul de Chien, Sabots and Saint-Germain the team progressed well,

beginning on the white and yellow circuits and spending most of the time working their way through an entire circuit. As confidence grew throughout the week, we returned to popular venues such as Canche and Canon as well as revisiting different venues that we hadn't been to in a few years: Beauvais and Cailleau.

A smaller group enabled us to spend lots of time on the rock in the sunshine, which was perfect for enhancing individual climbing abilities. Many pupils, along with staff members, successfully tackled challenging blue routes and we enjoyed a warm sunny week with a

number of barbecues.

My thanks go to Miss Street and Mr Tucker for accompanying the trip again this year.

Mr A Mathers





YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE



An Outdoor Education

Another busy and exciting year unfolded in the Outdoor Education department. As usual, we kicked off with our popular 'Introduction to...' days, including biking, rock climbing, and caving. These days provide First Year pupils with a taste of the activities we offer throughout the year, catering to all ages and abilities. Even if they've never tried an activity before, pupils can dive in and perhaps discover a lifelong passion!

Later in the term, First and Second Year pupils had their first taste of a residential

experience by taking part in the Dales Weekend, a weekend of hiking and caving from a comfortable bunkhouse deep in the Yorkshire Dales. This year saw snowy weather on the Saturday night, leading to a truly awesome hike in the snow on the Sunday. The Autumn Term also saw another Scottish Canoe Classic expedition as a small group of Fourth Year to Sixth Form pupils journeyed to Loch Awe for a long weekend of open canoeing and camping on islands and in castles.

The Spring Term is our term

of winter activities, with two Winter Walks to the Lake District and two weekends to Scotland with different Winter Mountaineering teams. The Easter holidays brought about our Fontainebleau rock climbing trip and our first Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition of the year. The Outdoor Education department also supported the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expeditions in April.

Summer Term is always our busiest with the Third Year Journey, Second Year Adventure, Cumbria Camp for First Year pupils, and the

Wild Places expedition for a small number of Second Year pupils to North West Scotland for a long week of exploring the mountains, beaches and lochs up in the far north!

A fantastically busy year offering lots of outdoor education opportunities to pupils and students across the school. It could not be possible without the support of accompanying teaching staff, so my thanks goes out to you all for helping out in all the different ways you do to make these trips happen.

Mr A Mathers

WINTER WEEKENDS

This year our Outdoor Education calendar featured two exciting Winter Mountaineering weekends - the February weekend was so popular that we organised a second one in March. These weekends were based in the Cairngorm National Park in Scotland, in order to build on the skills of summer hill walking trips, as well as the Winter Walk day trips offered to pupils in First to Fourth Year.

Driving up north after school one evening, the group settled into their comfortable bunkhouse for the long weekend, which comprised three hill days in the mountains. After fitting winter boots, crampons, and ice axes on the first morning, the group headed to one of the Northern Corries from the Cairngorm Mountain car park. Throughout the first mountain day, students were taught how to move safely in the hills with

ice axes and crampons. They slowly got used to walking up, down, zigzagging, and across snow slopes. Good footwork and effective use of winter boots and ice axes are key skills in winter mountaineering, but learning how to stop oneself in case of a slide is equally important.

After a lot of learning on day one, day two allowed students to put these skills into practice on a mountain journey, taking in the three peaks of the Northern Corries, finishing on Cairn Gorm, a Scottish Munro.

Day three involved a choice of activities where students could lead themselves in a self-guided navigation walk from the mountain car park, or tackle some easy climbs set up by Mark on a patch of ice to enable students to practise using crampons on real ice and with two axes.

This included easy ice climbing using the front points of their crampons. As always, both these weekends were stand out residential in our yearly calendar allowing our pupils

to experience frontier adventure in a winter setting. My thanks to Miss Street for accompanying both weekends this year.

Mr A Mathers





YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Combined Cadet Force

The CCF has had another busy and very successful year.

Autumn Term:

In October, eight senior cadets took part in Exercise Black Rat, a challenging event that tested their skills across various activities. The night exercise, which involved navigation in the dark, was particularly intense. The cadets performed admirably, securing a respectable mid-table position.

This exercise highlighted their resilience and ability to work under pressure.

On 4th November, ten cadets braved grim weather for an action-packed day at Adrenalin, an outdoor activity centre in North Yorkshire. The day started with paintballing, featuring intense matches like capturing the gas jug and defending a village.

Despite the rain, the cadets' enthusiasm never waned. The obstacle course that followed was a true test of camaraderie, with cadets jumping over walls, crawling through mud, and falling into freezing ditches. This day showcased the teamwork and spirit of the CCF group.

On 12th November, Yarm School CCF participated in the annual Remembrance Sunday Commemoration. After rehearsals, the cadets paraded through the High Street and took part in the service at the war memorial. This year, Lieutenant A. Bridges led the parade, with Jennifer Chan carrying the Cadet Force standard and Grace Harbinson laying the wreath on behalf of the school. The cadets were impeccably turned out, reflecting the school's dedication to honouring military traditions.

On 29th November, the CCF had their termly Field Day at Munster Barracks in Catterick, where we met the Royal Lancers. This regiment, formed in 2015 by merging

two historic units, offered us a glimpse into their rich heritage. The day began with an introduction to Lance Drill, the only unit in the British Army still practising this tradition. Our instructor, Corporal James Lowe (J-Lo), had recently participated in the King's coronation.

Next, we had an advanced medical lesson covering Basic Life Support (BLS), cannulation, and injury management. This session highlighted the critical role of medical skills in military operations. After lunch, we moved to weapons familiarisation, handling an array of firepower, from the Glock 19 pistol to the 338 Sniper Rifle. The highlight of the day was climbing aboard the Warrior Infantry Armoured Fighting Vehicle, exploring its systems and understanding its battlefield role. The cadets were so impressed that they jokingly requested a tank for the CCF.

Overall, it was a fantastic day that deepened our understanding of military





Yarm School CCF



life and the Royal Lancers' operations. Our thanks go to the Royal Lancers for hosting us and providing such a valuable experience.

Spring Term:

The CCF spent the majority of the term preparing for Exercise Spring Phoenix, held in the Catterick Training Area. Training sessions focused on weapon handling, navigation skills, radio voice procedure, first aid, and basic fieldcraft.

In March, 25 cadets and four staff deployed to the Feldom area in the Yorkshire Dales. The day started with rehearsals on fire and manoeuvre tactics. Cadets practised working in pairs and fire teams, emphasising that no one moves without cover fire. The afternoon featured challenging section attacks. Sergeant Grace Harbinson's

section successfully manoeuvred and defeated enemy positions, showcasing excellent leadership and teamwork. Upon returning to school, the cadets enjoyed a well-deserved BBQ, followed by speeches from Grace and Jennifer reflecting on their CCF experiences. During the Spring Term, Grace also had the opportunity to attend and successfully complete the CyberFirst Defenders Course at the home of the Royal Signals in Blandford.

Summer Term:

During the term, the cadets embarked on an adventure training package in Northumberland in May, which included overnight camping and a history tour around Bamburgh. Although coastering was planned, high sea swells led

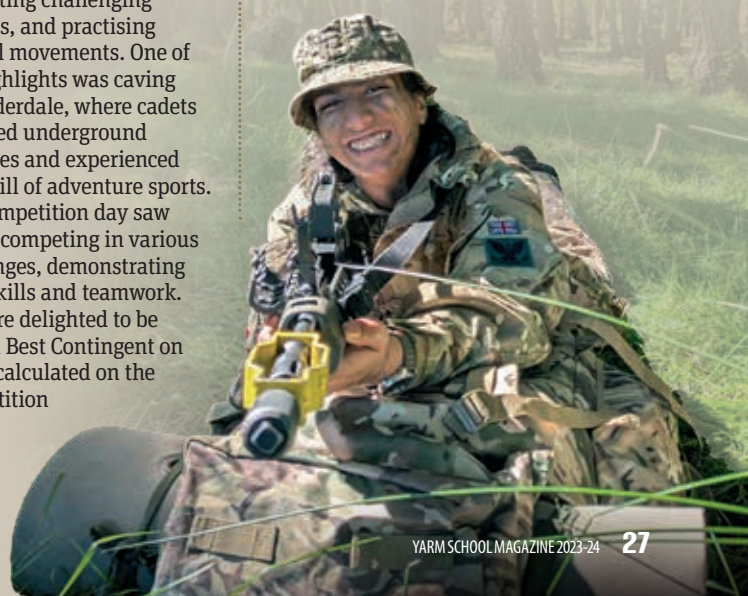
to an alternative schedule where cadets engaged in surfing, bodyboarding, and tag archery. Parade nights throughout the term concentrated on preparing for the upcoming summer camp, with a focus on fieldcraft and weapons training.

The annual camp at Strensall included a variety of activities that tested and honed the cadets' skills. A fieldcraft exercise involved setting up ambushes, navigating challenging terrains, and practising tactical movements. One of the highlights was caving in Nidderdale, where cadets explored underground passages and experienced the thrill of adventure sports. The competition day saw cadets competing in various challenges, demonstrating their skills and teamwork. We were delighted to be named Best Contingent on Camp calculated on the competition

day over the Field Gun, Obstacle Course, Archery and Command Task! Overall, it was a fantastic camp, and well done to all involved given the inclement weather at times.

With a successful year behind us, the CCF looks forward to welcoming new cadets in September. Thank you as ever to the staff involved with the cadets.

Mr Tim Taylor



Bringing home the Awards

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme continues to thrive with 55 Third Year pupils enrolling onto the Bronze Award. The pupils are progressing towards completing the 4 sections of the scheme: Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Expedition.

The recent Third Year Journey provided valuable expedition training preparing pupils for their assessed expedition. For the volunteering section, popular options include supporting the learning and development of younger children, working in charity shops and foodbanks, and contributing to Phab Club. Many of our pupils use the opportunities that they are afforded by being pupils at Yarm to complete their physical section, with rowing proving particularly popular. This is closely followed by personal fitness and team games like Hockey. For the skills section, playing a musical instrument, enhancing personal sporting performance and cooking/baking have been common choices. This past year we have had 3 successful qualifying expedition

weekends, some which were very hot and others where pupils had to battle with driving rain and flurries of sleet and snow. Despite these climatic challenges, the pupils showed great resilience and as teams pushed through to reach their goal.

Seven Upper Sixth students have achieved their Gold Award over the past year and a number of participants are near to completion with the remaining sections to be concluded this summer. Additionally, 29 pupils have completed their Bronze DofE Award this year and a significant number are close to finishing.

The DofE award is still a popular option with the pupils, with many recognising the benefits of this personalised development programme and the self-discovery it promotes. For many, this is a starting point that will mould their future outlook and actions through the experiences afforded by the scheme and which clearly connects with the school's motto of 'Educating for Life'.

Mr A Monk



Aiming high

The YBACC (Yarm School Baccalaureate) celebrates the involvement of Lower School pupils in a range of extra-curricular activities. The YBACC is arranged into 5 sections; Sport, Culture, Outdoor Education, Community Service and Independent Learning. Pupils can achieve the YBACC award when they complete the 5 sections. Pupils can also achieve the Distinction award when they complete extra challenges in 3 of the 5 sections. Pupils are required to exhibit organisational skills in order to complete the award, as they have to log their achievements in a booklet and approach the relevant members of staff in order to achieve signatures, in a similar fashion to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

During the course of this year the following pupils achieved their YBACC at award level;

Second Year

Thomas Pritchard
Eliza Fellows
Waleed Ahsan
Edie Redhead-Sweeney
Harry Kyle
Zohan Wadia
Claudia Patrick
Rishi Shenoy
Annabelle Kyle
Nethuki Mudduwa

The pupils have challenged themselves with their involvement in various activities such as; the Second Year Independent Learning Project, the Second Year Outdoor Adventure, school sport, academic societies and school music concerts, including the Dovecote Festival. I know that many of those listed above are already working towards completing their Distinction.

A number of First Year pupils have also made excellent progress with their award since they joined the school in September. Dora Bonner has completed her Culture award and Shourjo Dasgupta has completed his Culture award and Community Service award. Both have engaged with a range of cultural activities such as subject societies. Dora and Shourjo are already underway with the completion of their independent learning projects and are hoping to produce projects combining research across 3 academic subjects.

I have been very impressed with the way the pupils have expressed their skills and interests through the completion of various sections.

I am looking forward to awarding some more certificates for the completion of sections and reviewing pupil progress in their independent projects during the next academic year.

Mr A Morrison



JUNIOR SKI TRIP

During February half term, the Junior Ski Trip headed to Salzburger Sportwelt in Austria. It is a really good area offering several hundred kilometres of linked skiing, across the likes of Alpendorf, Wagrain and many more.

We were thrilled to have a group of enthusiastic pupils on the trip. All were eager to either master skiing for the first time, refine their skills or push themselves with more advanced techniques.

The positivity amongst the group was amazing and it was awesome to see the development of all pupils during the week with them all skiing around the mountains and experiencing a wide range of snow conditions. Thrills, spills, skills and lots of laughs,

the whole group had such a great time away. The talk at meal times was always about the day on the slopes and what they had accomplished. We were looked after very well by the hotel owners, and the various villages in the area provided great opportunities for evening entertainment, including swimming, Austrian bowling, the luge toboggan and a quiz night.

It was a fantastic trip made all the better by the brilliant 'can do' attitude of all skiers who threw themselves into everything all week. Huge credit to all the pupils who made it such an enjoyable week and thanks must go to the staff and instructors for enabling it all to happen.

Mr C Webb



SENIOR SKI TRIP ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

As the festive season approached, excitement was in the air for our Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Form students. In the week before Christmas, they traded textbooks for skis and headed to the breathtaking Austrian Alps, a true winter wonderland where adventure awaited at every turn.

We headed to the resort of Salzburger Sportwelt and we arrived on the Saturday afternoon greeted with pristine snow conditions, setting the stage for a brilliant week. Whether novices or seasoned skiers, every student embraced the challenge, with even first-timers confidently navigating red runs by the end of the week.

The sense of progress and accomplishment was palpable every evening when



discussions of how fast, how far and how steep they'd skied filled the dining room. A shout out to the beginners who made it onto the red slopes by day 3 - no easy feat!

The adventure didn't end on the mountain. Our students

had the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Austrian culture with a visit to the world-renowned Salzburg Christmas markets. Amidst twinkling lights and festive cheer, they practised their German, bartered for handmade crafts, and savoured traditional treats. It was a cultural immersion that enriched their experience, making the trip as educational as it was exhilarating. We also enjoyed other apres-ski experiences such as bowling and swimming - all adding to the experience which was enjoyed by all. Here's to next year!

Mr T Newman





Loving Lefkada



The Greece Sailing Trip is one of the popular trips run by the school which this year had 31 pupils attending supported by 7 staff. The trip involves flying to the Greek Island of Lefkada (a small island in the Ionian Sea to the southeast of Corfu) and staying at the Nikiana Beach Club where the pupils learn to sail and experience a range of other watersports activities.

On arriving in Greece, it was clear that like last year they were experiencing a mini heatwave. For the whole week, the daily temperature was 35C plus with clear blue skies.

Each morning, pupils started with a hearty Greek style breakfast before organising themselves for their watersports session. The wind this year was predominantly from the north and it gradually built in strength over the morning to provide a steady cooling wind for the pupils to develop their sailing skills. The afternoon's wind was more

confusing in that the sea breeze that develops due to the heating effects of the sun was opposing the prevailing wind and creating an unstable wind in both direction and strength. These were much more challenging conditions. As any experienced sailor will tell you, assuming that you have the measure of the weather is a foolish endeavour and nature is good at reminding you of your folly. One afternoon session saw the wind intensify, forcing pupils to practice their capsize drills and learn the importance of not underestimating nature. When the wind became too much, joyrides on the Catamarans were a safe option to experience the exhilaration of speed.

Aside from sailing, pupils enjoyed paddleboarding, sit-on-top kayaking, and windsurfing. Paddleboarding was particularly popular with various games and challenges. These sessions often included a stop at Zorba's beach cafe for refreshments. Windsurfing tested the pupils' patience and perseverance in the heat, with some mastering the basics.

Pupils found shade in the intense midday sun and engaged in various activities, such as ball games, darts, and card games. Some embraced the local custom of a siesta in their air-conditioned rooms before the afternoon sessions.

The evenings were occupied with a variety of events. A popular one was visiting Lefkas, the major town of Lefkada.

This was a popular trip with our avid shoppers and offered a chance to experience a small piece of Greek culture. On another evening we had a quiz which was followed by watching the Euro's semi-final between England and the Netherlands. This was a tense and noisy affair with the England performance continuing to test our patience, but eventually coming through as winners to meet Spain in the final. The 'Instructor Challenge' evening gave our students a chance to operate as a team and demonstrate their design skills in the construction of a model sailboat that they would race across the pool. Resources for the construction of the craft were obtained through the team demonstrating their knowledge by answering a variety of questions. There was a fair amount of gamesmanship being exhibited and a number of interesting designs were produced with varying levels of success.

The final day of watersports features the 'Watersport Olympics' in the morning followed by the 'Sailing Regatta' in the afternoon.

Pupils competed in teams across five events, including a pico hull race, a rigging challenge, a balance test on paddleboards, a sit-on-top kayak relay, and a spanner recovery competition in the pool. Trying to run along the length of a sequence of 5 paddleboards without

falling off was much harder than it looked with only a few making the full distance and many dramatic entries into the water. Some staff ventured out to have a go at this fun challenge, but ambition clearly outweighed ability for their attempts. The sit-on-top kayak relay brought out the competitive nature of our pupils. Interpretation of the rules differed from team to team and it became an aquatic version of the Hare and Tortoise (or should I say turtle) race where the slow and steady performers came through to win.

The regatta saw some pupils competing that were clearly 'in it to win it' and others just went out in overmanned boats having fun and trying to look good

Ben Hardy, a novice sailor, won the student race, with Oliver Blake and the team of Pixie Port and Freya Cowley taking second and third places, respectively.

The Nikiana Beach Club typically does not host school groups, but Yarm School has become a notable exception. The exemplary conduct of our pupils consistently impressed other holidaymakers staying in the resort, including one who took the time to write to the Headmaster.

Lastly, I want to thank the attending staff for all of their hard work and the support they gave to the students whilst on the trip as it could not go ahead without them.

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Mr A Monk



THE A LEVEL GALLERY



Izzi Williamson



Izzi Williamson



Izzi Williamson



Sophie Berbari



Sophie Berbari



Sophie Berbari

THE GCSE GALLERY



Abby Daisy Stewart



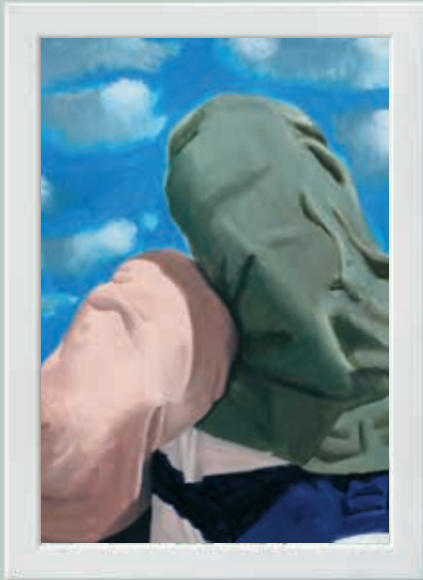
Amirah Mohammed



Anna Wright



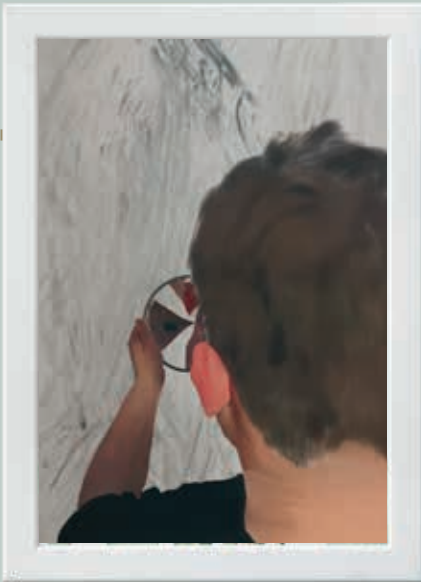
Benjamin Win Tin



Brooke Allick



Charlotte Richardson



Cody Staggs



Pippa Bashford



Noah Filer



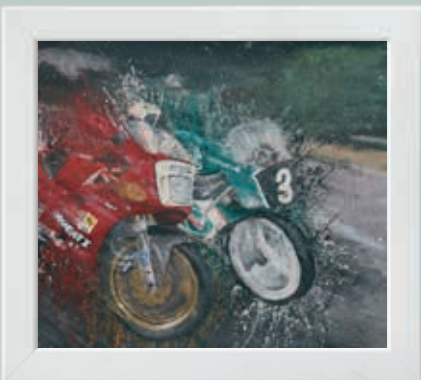
Lily Arvanitis



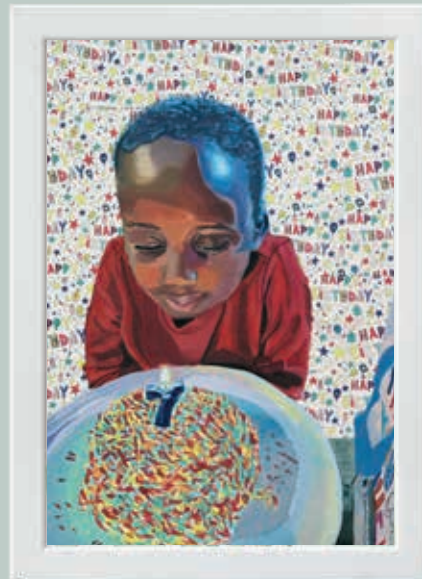
Evie Stoker



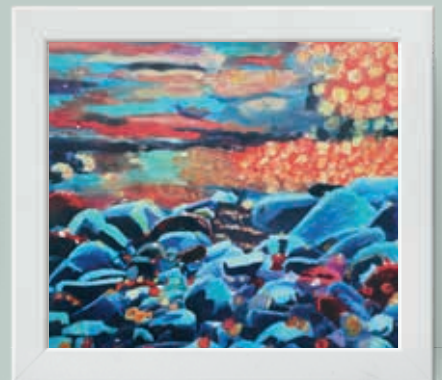
Sally Matthews



Joshua Davison



Hannah Muzawazi



Sophia Lin

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

This year in Design & Technology has proved to be a busy one with lots of students taking an interest in Engineering and the overall design opportunities on offer.

This year has seen both the Fifth Year and Upper Sixth designers making the most of the workshop and CAD suites to progress their design ideas to the next level. Pupils have experimented with different resin options, welding and fabricating as well as expanding their traditional woodwork and metalworking skills. The students took full advantage of what we could offer them and pushed the limits of designing and making.

The GCSE pupils had their work cut out with their ambitious designs. It has been fantastic to see the level of detail and quality that this year's

group has produced. A special mention has to be made to Poppy Bell and Alex Carter for their complex projects; Poppy with the sectional Console Unit and Alex with his floating Tensegrity Table. The pupils have spent considerable time on their projects and I am pleased with the results they have achieved.

Our departing Upper Sixth designers will be sadly missed and the workshop will be a much quieter place without them. They have worked extremely hard and I would personally like to congratulate them on their hard work and dedication. This year has seen the pupils take huge risks in design and challenge themselves

at the highest levels. Harry Rodwell, after countless hours in the workshop, achieved his goal of creating an electric-powered drift trike from a child's BMX - something he had great fun testing on the hard court. We wish them all the best for the future.

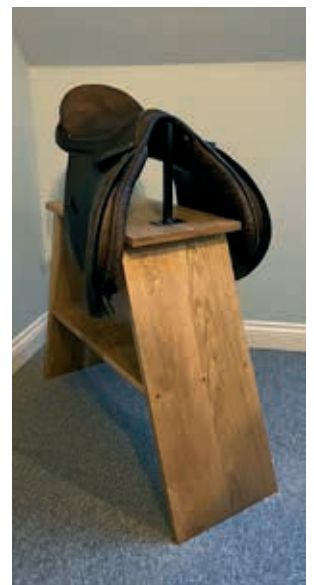
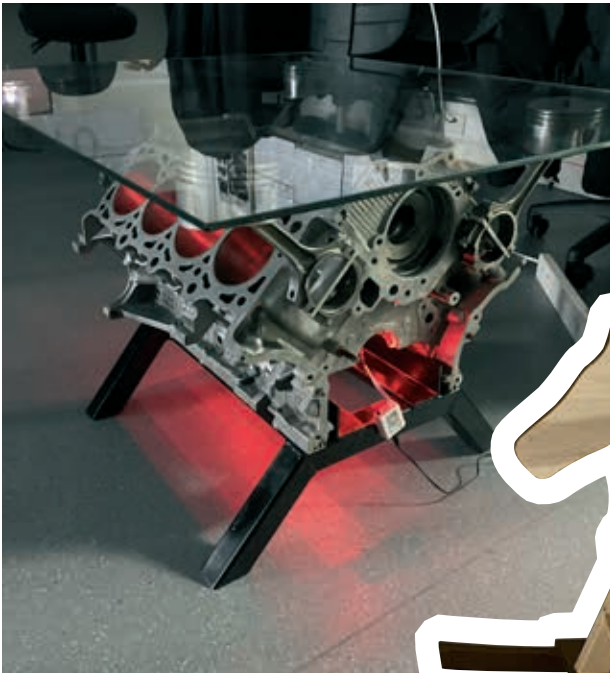
The Lower School Design Technology curriculum has continued to see adaptation and change as it goes through a new era of DT and the pupils enjoy a large breadth of challenge and creativity. As a department we want the pupils to enjoy all aspects of DT and learn new skills that will help them as they face new problems in the ever-changing world we live in today. As designers,

we encourage our pupils to think positively and explore their creative side. The Lower School have seen new changes to their projects with the introduction of Lego Robotics as well as new CAD software in Onshape and the use of 3D printers.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to the pupils who have worked hard in DT this year and really shown the strength and ability we have as a school, also a big thank you to the staff in the Department who have made it possible.

Mr D Spence





FASHION SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA

Audiences were dazzled by all the stunning creations displayed at the annual Fashion Show. Pupils from across the Senior School showcased a diverse array of designs, including eco-friendly garments, toiles, masks, Disney-themed looks, and GCSE and A Level projects.

Following the energetic opening, performed by Prep and Senior dancers, pupils took to the stage to model their garments. They displayed poise and confidence as they presented their creations to an audience of 250 parents and peers; an amazing and supportive crowd who really helped dispel pupils' nerves.

The fashion show offered a fantastic platform to highlight the beautiful designs our pupils created under the guidance and support of Mrs Jackson.



AMAZING TEXTILES

Upper and Lower Sixth came together for our annual Textiles residential trip. The purpose of the trip was to gather research, with the aim to expand our knowledge on designers, today's market, and society, to ensure we create a final product that is fit for the current marketplace.

We began our trip with a visit to the Design Museum, taking particular interest in their 'REBEL' exhibition, which celebrates 30 years of fashion in London and how that has impacted fashion globally. Next, we travelled to The V&A where we took in the 'DIVA' exhibition, which showcased the power and creativity behind the world's most iconic performances, aiming to redefine the term 'diva'. These two museums allowed us to gain both modern and cultural inspiration, which will aid us moving forward in our own designing process in terms of colour, pattern and decoration. We then moved onto

Harrods, to expand our knowledge of the high-end market, paying close attention to haute-couture fashion designed by world famous designers.

On Saturday, we ventured to The Textiles Museum, where they were showcasing a fantastic exhibition surrounding propaganda, and how fashion can be used to portray political messages. Finally, we headed to Oxford Street, to continue furthering our understanding of a modern market, enabling us to explore today's trends so we can create an up-to-date garment as we move forward into the designing process.

It was a fantastic and enlightening trip, and we were all eager to take everything we learnt back into the classroom with us. Thank you to Mrs Jackson and Mrs Wright for organising such a wonderful, jam-packed trip!

Megan Kewley, Lower Sixth



TALKING THE TALK

OUR DEBATING SOCIETY HAS A YEAR WORTH TALKING ABOUT

It has been another excellent year for Yarm School Debating Society, with the headline being our highest ever result in a national debating competition. This was a challenging competition, and we had to win two initial heats (one of which we hosted in the fabulous new library) in order to progress to the Regional Final in Leeds. Morven Hawthorne reports on that round:

“Simmi, Brooke, Sara, James and I had the opportunity to take part in the regional ESU finals. It was an exciting evening full of many different styles and approaches to the art of debate. Hosted by Allerton Grange School, we got a warm welcome as part of a group of six schools who had made it to this stage. We debated against Malton School on the motion ‘This House would have a Compulsory National DNA Database’. Arguing for the motion, Brooke opened in her typical calm and collected manner, proposing that medical benefits outweigh any issues

on privacy which could be raised. Malton challenged this, arguing that the threat of our data being lost, sold or stolen would be too great, yet this was well rebutted by James. James argued for the greater justice which could be served by the DNA database and, although Malton attempted to counter this with an argument about the state of our prison systems, James effectively shut this down by showing that reform of the prison system is a separate issue.

In the debating format, audience questions follow the initial four speeches, and a range of challenging ideas were raised from the floor. Finally for Yarm, Simmi made a confident summary of the whole debate and answered all the audience’s thoughts with great skill. She approached the opposition’s arguments with intellectual honesty, and dismantled their key objections methodically.

We were thrilled to learn we got through to the national finals! When getting feedback it was commented that it was our teamwork and integrity

which swayed their decision, as well as our confident delivery with minimal reliance on notes or reading.”

Following this success, the team progressed to the National Finals in Mayfair, London, and took on a fascinating topic: “This House regrets Voluntourism Culture”. The judges’ decision came and the team were disappointed - second place in their group, meaning they would not progress to the very final one-on-one debate. Nevertheless, this puts Yarm Debaters in the top four schools nationally, as well as undisputed Regional Champions - so well done, team!

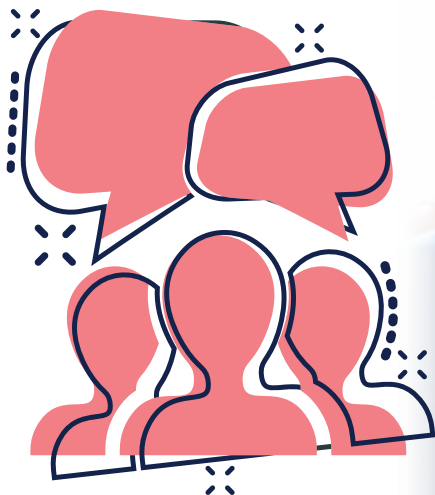
We entered the Debating Matters Champions Competition, in Durham at the end of the Summer Term. Our Lower Sixth debaters took centre stage and won every debate to get through to the final. The team of Dan, Sophie, Nila, Gabriel and Apsara performed amazingly in the final, winning the competition as well as being awarded individual prizes.

Nila won the best debater of the day while Sophie took commended individual prize and Eleanor got the honourable mention prize. An outstanding performance and some of the best debating seen from Yarm students!

As I write, the YSDS is preparing for its third annual Society Meal, this time arranged by Piya Nag and to be hosted at Wynyard Hall. I am sure it will prove, as ever, to be an evening of lively debate and good company, and thank you to Piya for organising.

A big thank you must go to James Waine, our outgoing President for the academic year 23/24. He has led the society with calm, patience, ambition and good humour. He has been the driving force behind our entering the ESU competition, and he will be missed. His successor is Eleanor Madden; we wish you the best of luck!

Mr A Bridges





FLUENT IN SUCCESS

The Modern Languages Department celebrated this year after being awarded a prestigious International Award, recognising the work the department does with international partners and institutions to bring languages learning to life in our school.

At the end of September, we enjoyed celebrating the European Day of Languages. This was marked in a range of ways - in First and Second Year, we implemented our popular joke and poster competition, with pupils needing to either produce a poster including a joke in a foreign language, or one explaining why learning languages is so important. Pupils and staff also came

together to prepare and deliver an excellent assembly in front of the whole school, during which not one word of English was spoken - a feat I don't think many schools can claim to have achieved!

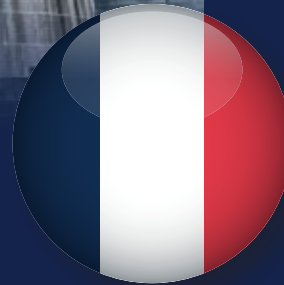
We have benefited this year from the phenomenal work put in by our French Modern Languages Assistant, Antoine Aubert. Antoine came to us from Strasbourg for a year, interrupting his studies in order to spend some time living in the North East of England. He primarily took on the task of supporting our exam students with their speaking practice, and through this work he has inspired and enthused them by giving them the opportunity to practise

their French with a native speaker. Antoine took to this task like a fish to water (as the French say). Antoine is a capable linguist and a strong teacher, and he will be missed by the pupils he has taught and his colleagues.

This year also saw the tenth year of service from Mrs Bettina Dufton in the Modern Languages Department. Mrs Dufton works with pupils from Fourth Year up to Sixth Form, tirelessly helping them to improve their speaking and general cultural awareness of German (with a particular focus on Switzerland!). She has also helped Fourth and Fifth Year pupils with French speaking. We have seen strong results in speaking tests in recent years and

believe this is largely a result of the individual practice all pupils get through our language assistants.

Throughout the year, the Languages Department has run successful trips and continued our long-running cooperation with our partner schools across Europe. In December, Mr Bridges, Miss Street and Antoine took our Sixth Form French linguists over to Normandy to spend a week with their partners in a Catholic Sixth Form in Bernay. We were hosted marvellously, with excellent food, full integration into the school day, and many cultural trips besides. Mr Bridges was particularly impressed by the level of French demonstrated on the trip, with our Yarm



students sounding practically fluent by the end of the week.

In March, 29 French students made the return trip from Normandy to Yarm; this was their first visit to us since pre-Covid, and it was an absolute pleasure to see so many French students welcomed into lessons. The French students were enthusiastic participants, and even supported International Week in the Prep School by giving a presentation on their home region, as well as a simple language lesson to Year 6 pupils. There were many tears and fond farewells at the end of this week, and we look forward to going to visit our partners again next December.

During October half term, a small number of Fourth and

Fifth Year pupils travelled to the South of Spain for a five day Language and Culture trip. They took part in a paella demonstration evening where they watched how to make this famous dish before making their own. On the second day they visited La Alhambra and the cathedral in Granada and then travelled to Malaga for day three. They visited the Picasso museum as well as the Roman Theatre and Gibralfaro Castle. The next day they went to Seville where they had a guided tour of the city followed by a visit to the cathedral and Giralda. The pupils were outstanding from start to finish, and were a real credit to the school. A big thank you to Mrs Troya and

Mrs Mason for accompanying the pupils on the trip.

In September we saw the successful launch of the exciting First Year Carousel in languages. Our intrepid First Year linguists have taken the challenge of four different languages head on, alternating each week between two pairs of languages (with Latin included). They have covered topics such as personal

information, family, home life, weather and local area, and have approached this with much enthusiasm. They reflected sensibly on the choice of which two languages to take as they move forward, and we look forward to seeing this year group's language careers develop.

Mr A Bridges

German Christmas Market Trip



We normally make this trip every two years with First and Second Year, but with high demand last year and pupils in current Fourth Year having missed out on the chance to experience the German Christmas Markets owing to Covid restrictions, we were delighted to be able to run the trip again. Travel was smooth in both directions, with ferry check in much quicker than last year and the Eurotunnel proving straightforward on the way back. The weather smiled on us too, with calm seas!

We stayed for the first time in the A&O hostel in Cologne Neumarkt. This was comfortable, with a nice relaxation area in reception, plus we were able to use a meeting room to hold our traditional last night quiz. Being centrally located helped on the first full day as we could simply walk into the city, giving coach driver Gary a well-earned day off.

As usual we began at the Lindt Chocolate Museum, which did very well financially out of the pupils this year! We then spent some time

exploring the Christmas Markets at the Hafen, Cologne Cathedral and Heumarkt. It was very busy this year, owing to it being a Sunday and the fine weather. We then made our way to our Rhine boat cruise and Christmas music concert. Sadly, the boat could not sail owing to the high river level, but we still enjoyed the festive music and visit from St Nicholas. The river current was so strong that the boat actually swayed a little even from a static moored position! Finally for day one, we went Ten-pin

bowling at a local venue.

On day two, we spent the morning in the Cologne Zoo before heading to Aachen to sample the traditional Christmas markets there. The weather was cooler but it was much less crowded.

Thank you to the pupils for taking part in good spirit and their good conduct, and also the accompanying staff Mr Lee, Dr Hallam and Mr Tomlinson for all their help.

.....
Mr T Fellows

A WARM WELCOME

In April, we received guests from our partner school in Werther, Germany. Both days, twenty German pupils were paired with volunteer hosts from Third and Fourth Year and accompanied them in lessons to gain a flavour of life in our school. All pupils enjoyed the experience and were intrigued to discuss the similarities and differences between our two schools and countries. Pupils learning German also benefited from some authentic speaking and listening practice, both with the German pupils and their teachers. The German group stayed in Newcastle for a week and made visits to local sites of interest including Lindisfarne, Beamish, York and Castle Howard. Yarm School's link with the Evangelisches Gymnasium Werther dates back to the 1980s and we look forward to continuing it!

.....
Mr T Fellows



German success

Jack Pritchard (Lower Sixth) was awarded a place on the UK German Connection Pupil Programme. This is a two-week summer holiday programme run and funded by the German Educational Exchange Service (Pädagogischer Austauschdienst). Competition for places on the programme was strong, and Jack had to complete an essay in German and submit written work to win the place. He will participate in the course with other students from around the globe, as well as working with German students. This is a brilliant opportunity and previous participants from Yarm School have thoroughly enjoyed and

benefited from the programme.

Jack was also named as a winner of the Sheffield University German Translation Competition. Jack had to translate into English a passage from the novella 'Contrapunctus' by Michael Götting - a story which sheds unsparing light on the lives of Indigo, Rutha-Pong, Habibi and Oludah - four Afro-Germans, who, at the turn of the century in Berlin, come to terms with the colonial remnants of the city, their relationships and the racist tendencies of German society. Jack won a gift voucher and the chance to take part in an online translation workshop. Gut gemacht, Jack!



Independent Learning

The Second Year ILP (Independent Learning Project) and Outdoor Adventure week provides a week off timetable for our Second Years to engage in hands-on learning and skill development.

Art & Drama

This year saw the very first Second Year ILP day trip that was focused on Art & Drama. The groups spent half the day taking part in an art workshop at the Laing Art Gallery and then swapped to do a performance workshop at the Newcastle Theatre Royal.

We hope that this experience will encourage more pupils to venture into either a theatre or a gallery, both of which are a part of the world's rich cultural heritage. Huge thanks to the YSA whose generous funding supported these trips.

Business & Design Technology

Tasked with researching, devising, producing a prototype for and pitching a board game - in the space of a single day - our Second Year pupils worked tirelessly.

They were challenged to self manage and allocate their tasks, and staff coordinators were very impressed by pupil progress through both days. Judges had some tough decisions to make!!



Outstanding pupils on the day were: Ben Simpson, Monty Proctor and Katie Cheesman. Well done! Thanks also to the Sixth Form helpers and to the staff who supported and those who were judges.

Extending their interests

The Extension, Culture, Enrichment, and Learning course provides students in Sixth Form with the opportunity to explore an interest in depth via the Extended Project Qualification, as well as learning about how to learn, to research, present ideas, to argue, and to evaluate.

This year saw some superb projects submitted by Upper Sixth students. Especially notable amongst the artefacts were an outstanding charity event planned and hosted by Cassie Woodier, a compelling lecture by Simone Sharma, a sword(!) by Nathan May, and a wonderful textiles project by Ella Smith. There were also many outstanding essays submitted; while too numerous to mention them all here, the exploration of the limitations of UK rail in this century by James Waive made for fascinating reading. Lower Sixth students

engaged in a debate exploring the benefits and problems of a hypothetical reclassification of alcohol as a class B drug, as well as researching a question of their choice and presenting to their peers in class. There are excellent projects underway, some already completed, in Lower Sixth including the successful charity concert organised by Izzie Speight, and the impressive production directed and produced by Natasha Cunningham.

The highlight of the week, for B7PDP at least, remains the legendary Quiz of the Week,

organised and written by Dr Goodall. As competition ramped up, preparation for this weekly feast raised awareness of the wider world. BBC News webmasters must have wondered what the uptick in traffic was every Wednesday lunchtime!

This year the Schools' Challenge Quiz senior competition was open to students from Fifth Year to Upper Sixth. Our team of Akash Chakrabarti, Sam Corbishley, Tom Graham, Jacob Rutter, and Noah Filer took on a University

Challenge style quiz, held via Google Meet.

We lost our first round under dubious circumstances, with technical difficulties hindering us. Disappointment turned to elation though as a new Plate competition brought the team back together. Yarm convincingly defeated Exeter School 510 : 330 and Grey Coat Hospital 460 : 120 to reach the finals for the first time in my years of organising our team for this competition. Narrowly defeated in the quarter final by King Edwards' School Birmingham, our quiz team deserve much praise for their outstanding general knowledge, quick-draw buzzer pressing, and calm patience shown while various technical issues on our opponents' end were ironed out... Special mention goes to Sam, who answered the most questions correctly overall.

Dr P Prideaux





Future planning

We've had another characteristically busy year in the Careers Department in terms of the opportunities for pupils to plan and prepare for their future.

A popular Career Cluster event in Law brought together a range of guest speakers both in person and remote.

The Upper Sixth Mock Interview Evening was delivered with all Upper Sixth students being interviewed in a single evening involving a huge number of external guests as interviewers, as well as pre interview training from an external expert.

The MMIs evening this year involved all Medic, Dental and Veterinary applications undergoing a high speed, round robin style of interviewing. The invitation to participate was extended to applicants from some of the neighbouring schools.

We also hosted a diverse range of visiting professionals for lunchtime and after school talks, with a special summer term programme of talks about universities,

apprenticeships, the RAF and British Army, engineering, nursing, law, and so much more.

Off-site visits were made to a number of locations including hospitals, a GSK Early Years visit to Barnard Castle, as well as two visits to Draken Europe at Teesside Airport. There was also a special visit to Teesside University for those members of the Lower Sixth exploring careers in the creative industries.

Many pupils also engaged in meaningful work experience and placement opportunities throughout the year.

Careers opportunities continue to develop and expand in terms of the breadth and depth of the offerings. Interpreted in the widest sense of the word, careers is about decisions and the need to access the best information and guidance. I would like to thank all my colleagues, teachers and tutors, for their continued support of the pupils in this realm.

Mr S Edwards



ELECTION EXPERIENCE



As the dust settles on the General Election we reflect back on our own Yarm School Mock Election.

- Four weeks of campaigning from the five political parties
- Teams comprised of pupils across the year groups
- Four weekly hustings discussing the economy, defence and foreign policy, housing, education, welfare, transport, environment
- A special hustings at the Prep School

- An assembly presenting the 'candidates' to the school
- Guest speakers to work with the individual teams
- A 'Youth Hustings' with the actual candidates from Stockton West with students from Yarm, Eggescliffe and Conyers schools
- A long day of voting across the entire senior school including all pupils and staff
- The support of election organiser professional, Mrs Sue Bridges

■ A final declaration of the outcome at the Dovecote

Our congratulations to Oskar Studholme in the Lower Sixth for leading the Conservative Party to victory. And well done to all candidates, their teams and supporters, and all pupils for such an enthusiastic and well supported campaign.

Mr S Edwards





Excelling in English

The 2023-24 academic year got off to an auspicious start for the English Department with some stellar exam results.

Over 40% of our 2023 English Language GCSE results were awarded a Grade 9, and 57% of our A Level pupils achieved an A or A*. While I would like to congratulate all of our pupils on their wonderful results, Abi Saddington is worth a special mention: she was awarded full marks and commended by OCR as one of the top A Level English Literature candidates in the entire country.

Our wonderful librarians, Mrs Mason and Miss Dixon-Barker, work tirelessly to support the pupils. As well as welcoming us to our wonderfully refurbished library (it really is a fabulous space that deserves even more use by the whole student body), they enter our pupils into the annual National Reading Champions quiz. This year, our Second Year team finished 2nd in the North East heat. Congratulations to Izzy Barrass, Claudia Patrick, Lucia Chahal, Eliza Fellows, and Edie Redhead-Sweeney.

At the lower end of the school, all of our First Year

pupils enjoyed a talk from A F Steadman, author of the *Skandar* series. It is always inspiring for the pupils to meet a professional writer (especially one with a multi-million pound book deal!), hear about their sources of inspiration and get copies of their books signed.

Higher up the school, Lower Sixth English students enjoyed a visit to the wonderful Brontë Parsonage Museum, engaging in a workshop on *Jane Eyre*, a lecture and a guided walk of the Brontës' Haworth. They have also formed a lively new Reading Group, meeting once a week to read ambitiously beyond the A Level syllabus, enjoyed a lecture from academic Jane Ford on writer Vernon Lee and are looking forward to attending a production of *Hamlet* over the summer.

Speaking of theatre visits, Mrs Dugdale continues to do wonderful work enriching the cultural lives of our students. This year, she has taken her Key Stage Three

Reading Group to Northern Stage to see *A Song for Ella Grey* and her Upper Sixth students 'on the culture bus' to Manchester for *The Bloody Chamber* and Edinburgh for an adaptation of *Dracula* entitled *Mina's Reckoning*. Mrs Dugdale also hosted our annual Carnegie Tea - this year with Conyers and Macmillan Academy - where pupils met to discuss the books shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal.

I was thrilled that seventeen Fifth Year pupils appeared in an excellent production of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* back in November, and know that they enjoyed a wonderfully atmospheric night in the theatre watching a one-man show, *Shylock*, performed by Gareth Armstrong.

Sadly, Miss Agerbaek has now left us after a year of maternity cover. She led the fourth edition of our department magazine, *The Dovecote*, to successful publication and we will miss her creativity and enthusiasm. I'd like to place on record my thanks to her for her hard work and wish her all the very best for the future.

Mr L Gilbert



AWESOME ALGEBRA

It's been a super year for new faces in the Maths Department. In September we welcomed Dr Rea and Mrs Beer. Dr Rea impressed us all with his intricate knowledge of Algebraic topology. He took charge of some of Mrs Perks' and Mr Taylor's pupils whilst they enjoyed time with their respective newborns. Mrs Beer's quirky, enthusiastic manner has been a huge success - it's like she's been with us all along - eating, sleeping and breathing all things mathematical. Along the way we've had the pleasure of cameo appearances from Mr Cullen and Mr Lamb. Sadly we now bid farewell to Mr Taylor after an amazing 10 years. The pupils will greatly miss his passion for mathematics and

the confidence they gained from his lessons. We also say farewell to Dr Rea with his impressive Latek skills and love of Italian cuisine and welcome back Miss Perks. Mr Bridle takes on the mantle of Head of Computing but we're pleased to say he'll still be on the books for some maths too. I'm also excited to announce the arrival of Mr Damian Brown, Mrs Toni Brown, and Miss Lily Brown (none are related!) for some exciting times ahead.

Our exam year groups have shown incredible dedication this year with a fantastic work ethic from the outgoing Fifth Year. Impressive take up at A Level this year means that we have a record number of classes and are greatly looking forward to developing their

mathematical curiosity.

Dedication to extra-curricular maths by our pupils and staff has been the best to date. We have had incredible attendance at Monday maths clinics with average attendance being 21 (up to 44) pupils each Monday. We have had 109 different pupils attending over the year with 556 hours of maths supported by our enthusiastic team. Mrs Gray has been busy supporting progress for First to Fifth Year on a Wednesday lunchtime offering support to nearly 50 different pupils with attendance at 218 student sessions as of Easter! We thank her for such unwavering support for our pupils. The mentoring programme continued to be a fantastic success with 23 Fifth Years engaging regularly for support from their Sixth Form Mentors.

Maths Camp was once again the central feature to the

Maths calendar this year. Just after Pi day in March, 57 Upper Sixth students embraced over 16 hours of A Level maths in the shadows of the North Yorkshire Moors at Carlton. Our students had great fun toasting marshmallows on Mr Skirving's roaring fire as well as enjoying a variety of entertaining card games. The cobwebs were well and truly blasted with a Saturday afternoon stroll across the top of the Moors from Lordstones.

A sincere thanks to the support of an incredible department to whom I am immensely grateful for their ability to go above and beyond. Thank you to Mr Addison who has joined my side as second in charge of Maths as well as Mr Skirving, Mr Bell, Dr Barnett, Mrs Perks, Mr Bridle, Mrs Beer and Dr Rea.

We will miss the spirit and determination of our leavers and, as ever, will welcome them back for visits in the years to come. Special mentions to Adhithyan Dinakaran, Ankith Rangan and Keya Shah for their excellent choice in University Maths based subjects.

Mr D Yates



2024 UKMT

Yarm School has had another very successful year in the UK Mathematics Trust Challenges. We had 256 first round entries across the three age groups and achieved a total of 76 Bronze certificates, 71 Silver certificates and 57 Gold certificates which means that 80% of entries resulted in a certificate; an impressive achievement. The pupils really enjoyed puzzling their way through tough problem solving challenges and developing their mathematical resilience.

Lots of pupils also progressed to the follow on rounds with 38 pupils taking part in the Kangaroo competitions and 10 Olympiad entries. There were some outstanding results in

these competitions with Keya Shah, Sophie Jewitt, Apsara Naguleswaran, Kayla Roberts and Sara Banerjee all achieving a Distinction in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls way back in September. Keya also achieved a Distinction in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 following on from a great result in the Senior Maths Challenge. Patrick Winters and Abdelrahman Ellidir qualified for both the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 following the Senior Maths Challenge and the Maclaurin Olympiad following the Intermediate Maths Challenge and achieved at least a Merit in both competitions. The stand out result of the year was Abdelrahman Ellidir who topped a very successful year in the UKMT competitions by achieving the highest result

in the North East of England in the Maclaurin Olympiad. Very well done to all for these outstanding results.

The department was also delighted to hear of the return of the in-person Team Maths Challenge competition and Mr Skirving took four pupils from Second and Third Year to High Tunstall College of Science in May to compete. Diviyani Thayalan, Pratyush

Partha, Christina Lin and Sanju Vasireddy worked hard to prepare for the competition and acquitted themselves very well coming second to the host school by only a couple of marks.

We look forward to more puzzling and success next year!

Dr K Barnett



Talent and Dedication

Pupils' dedication, passion, and commitment has led to outstanding results and unprecedented competition success in Computing this year. We began the year on a high note, with nearly 50% of our pupils achieving Grade 8 or 9 in their 2023 GCSE Computer Science examinations.

Our pupils eagerly embraced the opportunity to participate in various national competitions. In the prestigious Bebras Challenge, 209 Yarm School pupils competed against over 300,000 pupils from across the country. A remarkable 51 of our pupils ranked among the top 10% nationally, earning them a coveted invitation to participate in the renowned Oxford University Computing

Challenge. Congratulations to Anirudh Ginagunta, Sophie Pritchard, Robert Qin, Patrick Winters and Oskar Studholme who were Best in School in the Junior, Intermediate, Senior, and Elite categories. Patrick Winters secured first place in the Senior category for the North Yorkshire region, surpassing an impressive pool of several hundred competitors.

The journey continued as 28 Yarm School pupils tested their skills against more than 21,000 pupils nationwide in the Oxford University Computing Challenge. Arshia Arora and Avanish Batra earned a Merit, while Abdelrahman Ellidir and Patrick Winters achieved a well-deserved Distinction. Patrick Winters secured joint first place by scoring a phenomenal 68

out of 68 points. Patrick's exceptional performance led him to qualify for the National Final in the Senior category, where he secured an impressive fourth place, scoring 73 out of 80 points in the face of gruelling programming challenges.

Our pupils have engaged in various extracurricular activities, including coding clubs, game design projects, and Lego robotics workshops. These initiatives have provided them with hands-on experience and practical skills, further enhancing their understanding and passion for computing. One of the highlights of the year was the participation in the preparatory stages of the BAFTA Young Games Designer Competition, where pupils collaborated with peers and industry experts to learn

how to create, develop and present their new game idea. This activity not only showcased their technical skills but also highlighted their ability to think creatively and work under pressure.

We are looking forward to launching A Level Computer Science from September. We also plan to introduce guest lectures from industry experts, advanced coding workshops, and opportunities for pupils to participate in international competitions.

Thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive parents who have played a crucial role in nurturing and guiding our pupils. As I pass the Head of Department reins over to Mr Bridle, I am excited to see what the future holds.

Mr P Collins

HOUSE CHESS 2024

The annual House Chess competition again saw teams of 7 consisting of one player from each year group going head-to-head against their peers in best-of-7 matches. The fixtures took place in the Friarage Theatre over lunchtime allowing spectators to attend and watch the action unfold.

Bede took on Cuthbert in the first semi-final, a repeat of last year's final, with Cuthbert again winning a close match by 4 boards to 3. Jack Severn from First Year won a 70-minute-long decider! Oswald overpowered Aidan in the other semi-final with a convincing 5-2 victory.

Aidan edged Bede in another close contest to

finish 3rd. Both teams have some talented players so will be aiming for an improved performance next year.

Cuthbert have dominated the competition in recent years but faced a strong Oswald side in the final. With the match delicately poised at 3-3. Second Year pupils Arthik Sutheswaran and Rishi Shenoy battled hard for half an hour before Rishi managed to checkmate his opponent and win the trophy for Oswald!

Congratulations to the Oswald team: Monty Van Niekerk, Rishi Shenoy, Noah Coulman, Frankie Parker, Ajay Selvan, Sai Sidaginamale and Ammar Soni.

Mr L Tucker



FANTASTIC PHYSICS



Superb Chemists

The Chemistry Department continues to nurture superb young scientists. Alongside excellent public examination results our chemists are making a mark in national competitions as well.

In March, Yarm's team of young chemists made the journey to Edinburgh Napier University for the Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench Competition National Finals. Representing Yarm against the other 30 regional champions from around Great Britain and Northern Ireland were Ajay Selvan, Patrick Ward, Christina Lin and Sophie Pritchard.

The team completed written and practical challenges based around the theme of "Water", which were assessed by members of the Royal Society of Chemistry and staff from Napier University.

When the results were announced our team was delighted to be awarded 4th place overall. This was a fantastic result. To be ranked fourth out of the hundreds of schools who entered the competition is an incredible achievement. Every secondary school in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is invited to take part and to even reach the finals is superb. To finish in 4th place shows the brilliance of our pupils, the quality of their scientific skills and their determination to succeed.

Upper Sixth students competed in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Chemistry Olympiad and achieved some extremely impressive results during the Spring Term. Students in the Lower Sixth also took part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge during the Summer Term and despite some extremely difficult questions, they performed exceptionally well.

We're looking forward to another extremely positive year next year.

Mr E Baker

It has been a busy and successful year in Physics. In November, our A Level students had the opportunity to learn more about degree level Physics and cutting edge research on organic LEDs from guest speaker Dr Marc Etherington. Pupils and students from Fourth Year and above have had the chance to participate in various competitions for the British Physics Olympiad (BPhO).

Our Upper Sixth took part in the Senior Challenge; this competition pits students against some of the hardest problems at this level. Sam Millman, Reuben Peat, Ankiith Rangan, Keya Shah, and James Waine all earned the prestigious certificate of merit, with Reuben awarded the best in school.

The Lower Sixth BPhO Challenge saw Jack Pritchard, Harvey Qin, Oskar Studholme, and Yusuf Syed earning silver certificates; Oskar was best in school.

The Intermediate BPhO Challenge for Fifth Years saw thirty pupils tackle a demanding paper. There were four Gold certificates (Charlie Leggett, Matthew Leggett, Cameron Morrison, and Ajay Selvan), awarded only to the top 9% of entries, with six others missing out by just one mark. There were a fantastic fifteen silver certificates too. Charlie and Matthew were tied for best in school.

The BPhO Practical Challenge sets competitors a problem brief to investigate, which pupils explore independently and write up into a scientific paper. This year, teams investigated the motion of a falling slinky spring. The Junior competition (Fourth and Fifth Year) was won by Ajay Selvan and Avanish Batra, who showed outstanding data quality and A Level standard analysis. The Senior competition (Sixth Form) was won by Gabriel Swati and Anand Raviprakash, who left no stone unturned in their report, including excellent attempts to justify the observations with known physical laws. The other entries to this competition were also strong; it is never an easy decision to pick the entries that will be sent to BPhO to represent

the school in the national competition, which is judged later in the summer.

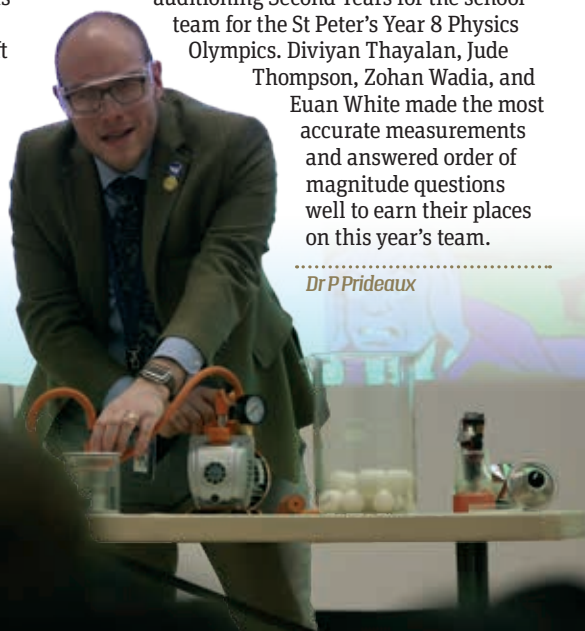
GCSE and A Level classes enjoyed Physics Fest, a month of Physics highlights from all corners of the web shared on Google Classroom over the Christmas period. Dr Goodall's Weird Physics activity saw students learning about relativity and quantum interference, while the Engineering activity had students design and make bridges, tuned instruments, cranes, and clinometers, as well as solving fiendishly difficult geometric problems. Who knew that similar triangles were so useful?

Second Year pupils all independently researched an object in space, made a poster about their findings, and presented it to their classes. There was superb creativity on display, from drawings to models, as well as courage - standing up in front of their peers is not an easy thing to do but it is a valuable experience for any future scientist. Many pieces of work are now on display around the department. Special mention goes to Bea Conner-Tunley for her individual paintings of the Sun and planets of the solar system.

Miss Gamble organised a trip to Hartlepool nuclear power station for Upper Sixth in the spring; the students were amazed by the scale of the machinery and asked excellent questions during their tour of the facility. Dr Craig has once again been out and about with our Physics Primary Roadshow, visiting primary schools around Teesside including our own Prep School. The show explores matter with a series of exciting demonstrations and mind bending facts. Mr Burns has been auditioning Second Years for the school team for the St Peter's Year 8 Physics Olympics. Diviyan Thayalan, Jude

Thompson, Zohan Wadia, and Euan White made the most accurate measurements and answered order of magnitude questions well to earn their places on this year's team.

Dr P Prideaux



California

One year in the making and with an unusual combination of Upper Sixth Politics and Biology A Level students, the October half term saw the successful realisation of a fascinating study tour to California.

The trip involved nineteen students and four members of staff, covering around 1200 miles over ten action-packed days!

Highlights

- We visited four university campuses and seven research institutes, engaging in twelve meetings with experts, and had two spells of volunteering.
- We cycled along the LA River, paddled on the San Joaquin River, peddled swan pedalos and walked through beaver ponds.

- We had an exchange with a Sequoyah high school, hiked a wildlife preserve in Los Angeles, and explored a pumpkin field in Half Moon Bay.

- We had multiple sightings of humpback whales in Monterey Bay, visited the elephant seals at San Simeon, and met a collection of 64,000 preserved Mexican birds at Occidental College.

- We toured beaches, the agricultural heartlands of the Central Valley, and strolled amongst the splendour of Yosemite National Park,

- watched the sunset at Venice Beach, drove along Sunset Boulevard and the Hollywood Hills.

- We learned about sustainable tourism, the habitation habits of woodland mammals, the perils of ocean warming on marine mammals and the unknowns of deep sea oceanography.

- We studied the conservation efforts along the LA River, the botanical wisdom of native communities, the politics of water in the western states and the extent of concealed oil drilling in Southern California.

- We now know about the evolutionary adaptations of hummingbirds, the water depleting powers of non-native wisteria, as well as how noisy a marching band can be at a college football game.

The visit demonstrated the real world synergy between science and the social sciences, set in the context of exploring ecology and environmental stewardship.

Mr S Edwards



Dreamin'!



Politics Society

2023-24

This was another year full of diverse offerings for the Politics students, as well as many other students who came along to the events. We welcomed many guests to school, and we have also continued to commit to exposing students to the riches of public lectures around the region. We also enjoyed a number of other visits, not least a groundbreaking ten day visit to California for an Upper Sixth study trip (see p48).

Mr S Edwards

External events

- Lower Sixth dinner with Matt Vickers, Stockton South Member of Parliament
- Upper Sixth visit to Conservative Party Conference, Manchester
- Upper Sixth Politics-Biology Study Trip to California, USA
- Upper Sixth Politics Revision Conference, Manchester



Guest speakers

- Professor Vanessa Toulmin, Research Director of the National Fairground and Circus Archive & Chair of the Morecambe Winter Gardens Preservation Trust *'Why does the seaside matter?'*
- Professor Alastair Bonnett, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University - *'The politics and geography of nostalgia and memory'*
- Dr Vicki Pugh, Centre for Alternative Technology, York St. John University *'Building towards a more sustainable future'*
- Dr Elsa Devienne, History & American Studies, Northumbria University *'The Sand Rush: the environment and American beach culture'*
- David Benyon, Founder and Editor of the 'Political Risk Podcast' *'Why podcast? Exploring voices in geopolitical risk'*
- Dr Małgorzata Jakimów, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University - *'What does it mean to be a Chinese citizen?'*

- Dr Haiyan Dukhan, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Teesside University - *'Understanding the conflict in Syria and its global reach'*
- Lord Balfe, Life Peer in the House of Lords *'Trade Unions to Foreign Affairs: My time in the Upper House'*
- Dr Alicia Hayes, Wilberforce Institute, University of Hull *'Modern Slavery: Towards a better understanding of causes and solutions'*
- Joe Dancey, Labour Party candidate for Stockton West *'A journey towards Westminster: Days in the life of a parliamentary candidate'*
- Nadiya, India-based award-winning human rights campaigner and researcher *'Advocating for women's rights in Kashmir as a video activist'*
- Robert, Kenya-based journalist, editor, campaigner, activist *'Protecting press freedom and advocating for journalists in East Africa'*

- Marilou, Philippines-based protector of environmental laws and human rights, *'How to secure environmental, social and economic justice'*
- Baroness Brenda Hale, Former President of the Supreme Court *'A life in public service: from the Supreme Court to the Lords'*
- Daniel Callaghan, Liberal Democrat Candidate for Richmond & Northallerton *'Contesting an election against Rishi Sunak'*
- The Rt Hon Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT, Former Secretary General of NATO Defence Lecture: *'Can we manage a very dangerous world?'*
- Pippa Crerar, Political Editor, The Guardian *'General Election 2024: Is change really possible?'*
- Kate Adie, journalist and broadcaster *'Understanding adoption in Britain'*

*External lecture





LONDON POLITICS VISIT

Each year the senior Politics students visit London for a deeper understanding of the reach of their subject. This year due to the proximity of the General Election we had to forego our regular visit to Conservative Campaign HQ as they were under complete lockdown. But the timing added to the atmosphere and insights at other sites.

This year we visited....

- The House of Commons and House of Lords, strangely deserted at this time, we were able to access all areas and take our places in the benches of both houses.
- The Supreme Court afforded us a visit to both courts and also a chance for the students to rest in the chairs of the Supreme Court Justices.

- Whitehall, site of government departments and the working place of numerous former Politics students working in the Civil Service.
- The offices of The Telegraph with former pupil, Rachel Duffy. Rachel is now in her second year working at the paper after studying History and Politics at Warwick.
- Centrepont youth homelessness charity where we had discussions with their policy and lobbying teams, learning how they build alliances for key decision-makers.
- A political walking talk of the East End visiting everything from the building where Stalin stayed in London, Kray twin sites, and the 'university of the East End' namely the Whitechapel Library.

■ We also found time to squeeze in a number of churches in the City, not least St Katharine Cree with its involvement in London's low paid and migrant communities, as well as the intriguing London Mithraeum.

Mr S Edwards



“The world of the future is in our making. Tomorrow is now.”
Eleanor Roosevelt

History: Learning, Exploring, and Reflection

The History Department has enjoyed another productive and eventful year, filled with both in-depth classroom studies and enriching extracurricular activities.

First Year pupils enjoyed our new thematic curriculum, examining the profound effects of conflict and religion on society. The course journeyed through significant historical periods, starting with Alfred the Great and the Vikings, and proceeded to cover major events such as the Reformation, the English Civil War, and the impact of Total War in the 20th century. A highlight for many was retracing the route taken by Royalist soldiers during the 1643

Battle of Yarm, providing a tangible connection to the English Civil War.

Second Year pupils have focused on transformative global revolutions. They began by looking at where ideas of individuals rights and government social contract began in the Enlightenment.

They then explored key global changes brought about by the American, French and Haitian Revolutions. This was followed by a study of the Industrial Revolution in Britain and its impact on society. The year ended with an in depth focus on the Russian Revolution and the makings of the Cold War.

Third Year pupils delved into the complexities of the 20th century, analysing the impacts of the World Wars, the Suffragette Movement, and the contributions of colonial soldiers as well as the process of decolonisation.

Beyond the classroom, it has been a very busy year indeed!

In November, the History Society held its annual dinner at Blackfriars Medieval Banquet Hall, themed ‘The History of Exploration’ to mark the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook’s Antarctic crossing. Presidents of the society delivered presentations on a range of explorers, including Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta, Zheng He, Hernán Cortés, Bungaree, James Cook, Gertrude Bell, and Wilfred Thesinger. Discussions highlighted the explorers’ impacts and raised ethical questions about exploration.

Later in November, Fifth Year pupils visited York to examine the impact of the Norman Conquest. The trip included tours of York Minster, Clifford’s Tower, and the Yorkshire Museum and Gardens, enhancing their understanding of this transformative historical era.

January saw Lower Sixth attend a Holocaust Memorial Day event at Durham Cathedral, featuring speeches by Judge Rob Rinder MBE and psychologist Dr Bernie Graham, emphasising the importance of remembering past atrocities to prevent future genocides.

During the Easter break, Sixth Form historians embarked on a trip to Northern Ireland, focusing on the Troubles. Highlights included tours of Crumlin Road Prison, Belfast’s murals, and the Free Derry Museum, providing a sobering reflection on the Troubles’ legacy. The visit also included trips to the Titanic Museum, and a talk by Professor Fearghal McGarry at Queen’s University, Belfast, about the Easter



Rising of 1916. Despite severely inclement weather, students also visited Giant’s Causeway and were blown away both by the wind and the natural beauty.

In June, the Lower Sixth debated against Conyers in an inter-school history debate, proposing the motion “This House believes that the rise of dictators in the 20th century was primarily a result of socioeconomic instability rather than personal ambitions.” Fourth Year pupils also enjoyed a trip to Durham Cathedral, exploring its historic environment and Medieval significance.

Overall, it has been a busy and successful year for the History Department. We look forward to continuing our exploration of the past and its enduring impact on our world next year.

Mr T Taylor

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERIENCES

This year has been another amazing year for the Geography Department. The Junior Geography Society launched two exciting overseas trips, the first to The Bay of Naples in Italy, that happened in the Easter holidays, and the second to Iceland, scheduled for October 2024. Both trips have proven to be very popular with 30 Lower School pupils going on the Italy trip and 50 Upper School pupils signing up for Iceland.

After arriving in Italy after an all night journey, we had a fantastic few days visiting Herculaneum, where we explored ancient settlements and Italian culture. We climbed Mount Vesuvius where we learned about volcanoes and tectonic processes, and visited Pompeii for a guided tour and

discovered the ancient city that was famously destroyed in a volcanic eruption. Additionally, we spent a fabulous day visiting the stunning Island of Capri, with its breathtaking coastline full of geographical features, and made a few stops for some gelato!

The pupils got together and put bids forward for a range of geographical experiences and opportunities outside of the curriculum. One of the highlights was receiving funding from the YSA to buy a drone and a range of geographically based board games. This has given a number of pupils the opportunity to explore the world from a different viewpoint and develop their GIS skills. Over the next year these amazing resources will be incorporated into the fun sessions the Geography

Society runs each week. It's been great to see a wide range of pupils develop a love for Geography and we are really looking forward to visiting Iceland later this year and launching more exciting opportunities in the future.

Mr R Ivey



Religion and Cultures

It has been another busy and exciting year in the RPE department, and we've had a number of trips and visits.

Our Fifth Year Religious Studies pupils had the opportunity to visit the Hindu ISKCON temple and Newcastle Cathedral in February. In the ISKCON temple, the morning was spent with a Hindu priest; she talked about her life, religion and culture and the pupils had a chance to ask their own questions about Hindu beliefs and practices. The pupils were also introduced to different instruments, as music is a fundamental part of Hindu Vaishnava worship.

After lunch, the pupils observed and participated in a Eucharist ceremony at the Cathedral, before having the opportunity to ask the Dean of the Cathedral some inquisitive questions which helped them with the GCSE course; the pupils discussed life after death, human sexuality, evil and suffering and faith in God.

The Sixth Form Religious Studies A Level students had a fantastic opportunity to see the matinee performance of *Life of Pi* in Newcastle, which delved into relevant themes on the curriculum. The show explored ideas of faith, existence and the intersection between spirituality and reality, which made for interesting discussions back in the classroom. Students further enriched their understanding of topics in their A Level course when they attended the annual Candle Conference hosted by leading philosopher Dr Peter Vardy in York. The conference was immensely helpful, both as revision and for wider learning outside of the classroom.

Dr Vardy was able to offer a new perspective on core topics such as The Nature of God, Liberation Theology, Christianity in relation to other religions, and Secularism. In addition, he gave some advice on exam technique.

The RPE Department created resources for the Holocaust Memorial Day that were discussed in tutor time in First, Second and Third Year and some Lower Sixth pupils joined with the History Department to attend a moving Holocaust Event at Durham University with a talk from Judge Rob Rinder MBE. In March, we welcomed a visit from the Tees Valley Community Church with a visiting Christian group from Texas, who carried out sessions on Christian beliefs and practices to various year groups. Pupils were given the opportunity for discussion and debate on a variety of different topics in Christianity.

Several pupils in Third Year contributed to the RPE and History joint essay writing

competition 'Cogito', where pupils wrote essays on the title 'How far has morality changed over time?' There were some brilliant essays on this topic with three winners: Jesse Bissett Brown, Mahanya Podalakur and Constance Deering, who wrote detailed, insightful responses to this question. They were awarded with Amazon vouchers for their efforts. The Fifth Year were also given the opportunity to trial and give their feedback on GCSE Religious Studies resources for BBC bitesize. Some pupils this year have also bravely sought to attempt the Termly Challenges for RPE and many pupils of all year groups put forward their entries for the RPE journal Reflections on the theme 'Beyond the World'.

The year culminated in an exciting Interfaith Day in June for First Year pupils, with local faith leaders visiting school and leading interactive sessions to each teaching group.

Mrs S Lodge



ROAMING AROUND ROME

La dolce vita and political intrigue. Not an episode of Inspector Montalbano, but a trip to the eternal city for our Lower and Upper Sixth Classicists. Our group enjoyed a journey through the ages in the cool, November air and gained much knowledge and insight on their course content. Highlights included:

- A visit to monuments built for, or commissioned by, the first emperor, Augustus, including the Altar of Peace, his mausoleum and the Pantheon
- A guided tour of the various Roman fora - the heart of ancient Rome
- A magical tour under the stars through the undercroft and the arena of the Colosseum
- Walking tours through the top sights of Rome, including the beautiful Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain and the Monument to Vittorio Emanuele II
- Appreciation of early mediaeval religious buildings of Rome, such as the Basilica of Santa Prassede
- Learning about Italian cinema through a brief stop at the Cinecitta and various film locations
- Admiring world-class art work and decoration at the Vatican Museum
- Exploring the port of Ancient Rome at Ostia Antica - one of the best preserved towns from the Roman period
- Pasta, in particular spaghetti alla carbonara, and pizza
- Gelato!

My thanks to Mr Stephen Edwards, our cognoscento and cicerone, for accompanying the trip.

Mr H Lee



Religion, Philosophy & Ethics / Classics



Glorious Greece

For a gloriously and unusually sunny week in November, a group of twenty-three Fourth and Fifth Year classicists got to see some of the archaeological highlights of Greece, in a whistle-stop tour that took in Athens, Olympia, Mycenae and more.

A painfully early 2am start at school was the start of the best part of a full day of travelling, getting us to Athens in time to have a walk towards Plaka at the foot of the Parthenon and refresh ourselves with the local ice cream. The following day was the true start of our tour, beginning with a blustery climb to the top of the Acropolis (RIP, Mr Lee's hat), led by our hugely knowledgeable and expert guide, Effie, who would stay with us for the whole trip. We walked the route of the Panathenaic Procession, admired the Parthenon up close, and looked down from above at the theatre of Dionysus. In the afternoon, after some great local lunch (and more ice cream) we got to see inside the Acropolis Museum, and see as full a presentation of the Parthenon marbles as you will find anywhere – an amazing opportunity to see these artefacts, that we had talked about so much in class, in the place of their making. Off we then headed for our next stop, Delphi.

In Delphi we admired the circular tholos temple of Athena Pronaia, and purified ourselves at the Castalian Spring, before working our way up the winding path to the temple of Apollo (no prophetic trances were entered into that day), and we explored the museum on the site, including its gem, the Delphic Charioteer, one of the few surviving original Greek bronze statues. From there we grabbed lunch at a Greek service station (the name does not do justice to the quality of the food!) and crossed the gulf of Corinth by boat, before heading down into the Peloponnese, ready to start our next day in Olympia.

There we explored the site of the original Olympic Games – the olive

crown for winning the sprint in the original Stadium went to Isaac. We saw what remains of the Temple of Zeus, once home to the gold and ivory statue that was one of the wonders of the ancient world, and its 12 carved metopes that tell the story of the labours of Heracles. A long cross-country drive through the afternoon took us to Tolon, where an evening paddle in the sea was our treat, but not before stopping off at the spectacular Theatre of Epidauros, an vast ancient theatre so well designed that those in the back rows can clearly hear a speaker down below.

The next day was all about the Bronze Age, as we explored the remains of the ancient citadels of Mycenae and Tiryns. Again, this was a real treat to be able to put into context something that we had studied so much in class, to see something so incredibly ancient, and even to 'gaze upon the face of Agamemnon!' (not really). One final drive took us over the Corinth Canal and back to Athens, tracing the coast road that Theseus supposedly cleared of bandits – and no one got kicked into the sea and got eaten by a giant crab.

Our final day in Athens, we were able to finish off our trip with an essential visit to the Archaeological Museum, where we were able to check off practically every source from the textbook, and actually for real this time 'gaze upon the face of Agamemnon!' (if you believe Heinrich Schliemann). Seeing these objects in person made it so much easier to get a sense of the scale of them, as well as see some of the incredible details.

From there, it was simply a case of heading home – which like everything else went very smoothly, thanks to Mr Lee's expert organising. Enormous thanks to Mr Lee for putting the trip together, and to Mrs Beer for coming along.

Mr J Hall



YARM APPRENTICE

Another amazing year in Economics and Business! Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support the department.

Having just appointed Alex, Finlay, Sam and Harvey as EconBus Soc Chairs for the new school year, Ishita as Yarm Apprentice facilitator and Kyra and Apsara as Peer Support Leads, we look forward to another exciting year in EconBus in 24/25.

Miss C Rhodes

After two terms, 22 competitors, 6 tasks (plus one subtask), pitch training from Darlington Building Society, 8 Lords Sugar, and some fantastic challenges including designing a Wellbeing Package for a Law Firm, competing to sell raffle tickets, manning and running a stall at the YSA Christmas Fair, designing Alumni merchandise, adding value to a bag of Boyes

miscellany, developing a "5 minutes craft" Vlog for EYFS children and branding and marketing a new shampoo... Yarm Apprentice for the 23/24 season reached its conclusion!

£1095.75 was raised for fabulous causes including Shelter, Save the Children, Breast Cancer Now, Young Minds and our own Music School. The Winner of Yarm Apprentice 2024 was declared to be Jack Van Niekerk and

the Runner up was Ishita Pathare (who was also Peer Voted as Outstanding Leader 2024). The other Peer Voted Awards were awarded as follows: Outstanding Team Player 2024 - Alex Walton, and Outstanding Creativity 2024 - Olivia Miller & Oliver Ayton. Student Facilitator Arhana Pradeep was commended for being Karen Brady throughout the year!

FAME AND THE FAIR

The FAME (Finance, Accounting, Management and Economics) activity gave the Lower Sixth the opportunity to Business Mentor and spread the good word of EconBus, as they supported the Prep Year 6 pupils in planning their Summer Fair stalls and presentations. The eleven mentors thoroughly enjoyed their weekly sessions at Prep, advising online and of course assisting with crisis management and setting up on the day itself. The winning mentors Indeya, Kyra and Harvey were subsequently able to enjoy a celebratory lunch at the Prep School with the winning teams. The FAME activity also included a sub task, with three teams pitched against each other to develop their own visual displays to widen subject awareness and literally halt corridor traffic. All the boards were fabulous, but there had to be a winning team and The Art Squad comprised of Liv, Olly & Jitha were declared victorious.



ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS SOCIETY

Under the Chairmanship of Adhi and Arhana (Economics) and Harry and Ollie (Business) the EconBus Soc continued to expand and thrive, boasting many presenters and growing in attendance.

Adhi and Arhana gave us an Introduction to Economics, Monisha examined the Skincare Industry, Ankith and Adhi looked at the Economics of Gaming and Maddie and Harriet explored the financial implications of Scientology. Izzy and Abbi looked at the Economics and Business of Tennis, whilst Sam and Nathan considered the Economics of Acting. Ammar and Syed evaluated the socioeconomic impacts of the NHS, before James and Sam explained their role as Financial Times ambassadors. The Economics of the Railways

was deliberated by James, whilst Harvey told tales of Crypto, and Apsara and Ishita discussed the Economics of Risk-Taking and Gambling. Simone contemplated how competition is used by businesses, before Freddie gave us a linguistic challenge by presenting on French culinary tourism in French (with subtitles for those of us who are relearning with Duolingo). Nathan and Rayan enlightened us on the Business of Automobile Modification, before Benji and Gaurav contemplated the Economics of Football. Erin and Maisy explored Stress in the Workplace, Will reflected on the Business of Scams, and Annabel and Evie contemplated the growth of Women's Football. Cryptocurrency was once again debated by Harry, whilst

Sara considered Sustainability and Kyra, Lexie and Cara looked into the Business of Fast Fashion. Miriam and Kayla compared the UK, American and Australian models of health provision, before our Chairs finished the year and their tenure with a competitive quiz!

Molly and Johnny supported the department's clinics by running their own peer support sessions on Wednesday lunchtimes for the year below. Grill Club sparked debates on the value of life, the value of Economics and the value of monetary policy. Cluster Club made a resurgence post-Christmas, and there was an inverse correlation between the number of weeks until exams and the number of Economics students in attendance, keen to solidify their knowledge.



Lunch works!

Friday lunchtimes became busier and busier with the Working Lunches programme. One lunchtime saw in excess of seventy Sixth Form students and staff listening to a panel of fourteen speakers ... It was cosy!

We welcomed back Former Pupils and other friends of the school to share their experiences and offer advice to their 17-year-old selves.

■ **James Knox** discussed his journey with the Yorkshire Dales Meat Company.

■ **Laura Marriott** provided insights into her career in auditing.

■ **Oliver Bourke** explored the role of a financial planner.

■ **Ben Bradley** shared how his Northumbria degree opened doors to multiple promotions within GSK.

■ **Josh Littler** talked about the opportunities within EY and the apprenticeship route.

■ **Alex Lucas** offered a glimpse into life at a business start-up.

■ **Millie McCormack** highlighted the benefits of PwC and the apprenticeship she completed.

■ **Hannah Carey** discussed public sector roles and project management.

■ **Daniel Moore** shared his experiences working in a global family business.

■ **Finlay Gilraine** travelled from Belfast to offer advice on securing a degree apprenticeship.

■ **Katie Anderson** explained the intricacies of Management Consultancy.

■ **Matthew Walker** relayed his experiences of studying abroad and training in Investment Management.

■ **Jamie Pender** endorsed the Treasury Degree Apprenticeship scheme, which will see him qualify as a professional economist.

■ **Michael Lister** described his role on the London Trading Floor.

■ **Matthew Heathcote** recommended securing an overseas placement to enhance your CV, talking about his semester in Canada.

■ **Aislinn Kalyan** discussed how studying at LSE led her to a role at Goldman Sachs.

■ **Matthew Bonavia** illustrated how it's possible to combine accountancy with a passion for music.

Additionally, we were delighted to hear from Teesside entrepreneurs Maaz Rahman, Jonathan Gold, and Gary Giles, who shared their personal experiences and insights with our students.

We welcomed back the Class of 2023 (AKA the Economics and Friends Cartel) who gave wonderful first hand advice on the first year of University, Spring Weeks and Apprenticeships.

Miss C Rhodes





“Molo”
“Suid-Afrika het ‘n plek in ons harte”
(in Afrikaans) or “UMzantsi Afrika
unendawo ezintliziyweni zeth” (in Xhosa).*

*South Africa has a place in our hearts.

AFRICAN ADVENTURES



In July, the Senior Boys’ Sports Tour embarked on an unforgettable 15-day journey to South Africa, and what an incredible experience it was.

From the Langa Township, where we met the residents who welcomed us into their homes (and we conversed in Xhosa - a language with 18 different click sounds for consonants) and where we all learned about the struggles during the apartheid and oppression, to the stunning landscape of the Kwantu Game Reserve where we encountered Africa’s wildlife. The tour had it all, taking in everything that was on offer in: Stellenbosch, Cape Town, The Garden Route, Mossel Bay, Jeffrey’s Bay, Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg.

The trip was also packed with activities, two England U20 International matches (v SA and Ireland) on their way to being crowned World Champions, flying down over 2km of zip lining, karting, V&A waterfront, bowling, exploring Seal Island, visiting Gold (an immersive African restaurant

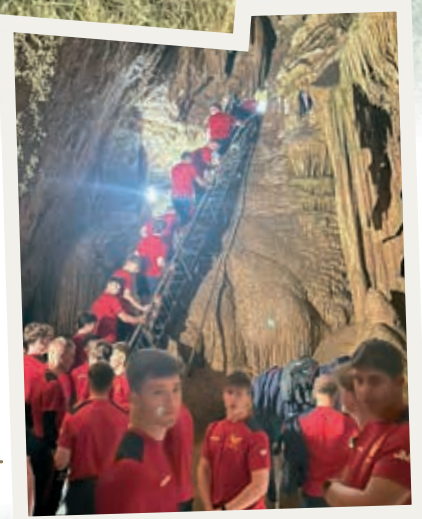
and show), surfing off the coast of Cape Town, visiting Table Mountain, going deep underground in the Cango Caves, visiting the ostrich farm (neck massages), whale watching (with breaches, dolphins and penguins), going to the amazing game reserve with roaring lions, eating red soldier termites (minty) and finally visiting Loftus Versfeld stadium.

We also played rugby and hockey matches against local schools. Rugby matches against Whistling Wheels RFC, Bridgton HS (an experience we will never forget - we were the first English sports team to ever play there) and Nico Malan, hockey matches at DFMalan, Punt High School (best setting ever) and Greenwood Bay School. We did it all.

The boys immersed themselves in everything on offer during the tour; from

the matches on the sports fields and excursions, to the traditions and lifestyles of our hosts. It was a true pleasure and they were a tremendous group to spend time with. Lekker.

Mr C Webb





“The South Africa tour will forever have a place in my heart. Although we faced heavy rain for the majority of the first week in Cape Town, we still managed to have an amazing experience. The rain was a positive for many things, especially the zip-lining which was immense (Gabe being saved by the instructor). The activities and excursions we took part in were fantastic. It would be very tough to choose my favourite part of the 2 weeks away, but I’ll list some of my favourites. These include, the safaris in Kwantu- where my truck managed to follow 2 male lions for 20 minutes or so as well as witnessing a herd of elephants walk right in front of us, whilst Mr Ivey’s truck was nowhere to be seen. Whale watching was another highlight of the trip down at Jeffrey’s Bay, where we as a group were able to catch sight of 2 breaches at once!

Watching England defeat both Ireland and South Africa, during the U20s World Rugby Championship was another memorable moment of the trip. The team then went on to beat France in the final, unlike our football team which caused a big upset to some of the tour party, including myself. The result was quickly forgotten as we were having the time of our lives. One moment of the trip that stands out was our second rugby game on tour, against Bridgton High School, Oudtshoorn. We didn’t realise that the entire area would turn up to watch our game, with approximately 2000 people screaming and chanting for the whole 80 minutes. After the game, a large amount of the crowd stayed behind to meet us. There was plenty of dancing, selfies, kids shaking our hands, girls asking for our social media accounts... and even some of the lads got their boots signed! It was an absolute pleasure to take part in and witness as captain.

A big shout out to our tour doctor and former pupil, Mo Mustafa, who flew all the way from Perth to come and help us out throughout the tour. He was a massive help to all the boys and memorably had to stitch Finn Davies’ eyebrow on the move to ensure he could play in the hockey game later that day!

All in all I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff who had to put up with us on the trip and those who helped organise it. It certainly made tons of memories that will stay with me forever.”

Sam Arnold

South Africa Tour



“The sports tour to South Africa has left me with memories I will never forget. From playing rugby in front of thousands to zip lining in the pouring rain there have been almost too many highlights to name.

My favourite moment was our rugby match against Bridgeton High School where the whole town came to watch. I will never forget that hour after the game spent on the pitch with all the players and fans, we were treated like celebrities.

The sports tour was about so much more than just playing sports fixtures; it was about how sport can connect two teams from completely different backgrounds with such different life experiences (as well as eating a lot of bobotie). A massive thank you to Mr Webb and everyone else who worked so hard on creating a tour experience of a lifetime.”

James Muir



“The tour was a once in a lifetime trip from start to finish. We did things most people will never get to experience in a place not many people will get to see. Overall it has been my favourite experience since I’ve been at Yarm School and I’ll remember it for years to come.”

Alex Bromiley



ROWING REWARDS

The 2023-24 season was an exciting new chapter for me and the YSBC.

Throughout the autumn and winter months, the boat club faced consistent challenges as flooded rivers nationwide led to the cancellation of numerous races. Despite these disruptions, the exceptional management of the Tees allowed our athletes to maintain a consistent training schedule on the water. This preparation set the stage for our team's highly successful spring and summer racing season.

In March, our boat club participated in the National Junior Scullers Head on Dorney Lake, marking our first major event of the year. A group of forty pupils from the Third Year upwards made the journey

south to compete against some of the top crews in the country. All our pupils raced in quads, and our performance on the London Olympic course was remarkable. Notably, our J18 boys' quad, comprising Archie Norton, Harry Wildridge, Sai Sidaginamale, and Patrick Tulloch, finished in an impressive 6th place among 39 other crews. The day revolved around the 11th place, as many of our junior athletes strived to break into the top ten. Our J15 & J14 boys' quad, and the J14 girls' quad all crossed the finish line in 11th place in events with over 50 entries.

Over the Easter break, the dedicated members of the Boat Club embarked on a week-long journey to King's School Ely for rigorous training in anticipation of the crucial summer races. Nestled amidst scenic surroundings, they had the privilege of utilising a lengthy and unobstructed

waterway, the very same one frequented by the boat race-winning crew of Cambridge University. This invaluable experience gave our crews the ideal setting to hone their speed and prowess in preparation for the challenging 2000m events.

Following their return from Ely, 24 members from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Year eagerly participated in the first summer race, proudly representing Yorkshire at the prestigious Junior Inter-Regional Regatta. Facing off against the top crews from all 13 UK regions over a challenging 1500m course, our six crews and two athletes in a composite J16 women's eight showcased their remarkable early season form. The standout performances included three crews advancing to the A finals and securing two B final victories.

Notable mentions go to the Men's J16 double of Harry D'Ambrogio and Patrick Tulloch and the Men's J14 coxed quad of Jonah Jenney, Sam Buxton, Oscar Lane, Charlie Ashworth, and Seb Jafri, whose exceptional efforts propelled the school's overall performance. Despite narrowly missing out on medals, both crews put on thrilling displays in the A Finals, finishing in an impressive 4th place.

As the rest of the school went on break for half term, our rowers travelled south for the National Schools' Regatta held at Dorney Lake. This championship is considered the top event for junior rowing in the UK, bringing together the best schools and clubs for a national competition.





After eight months of intense training, our rowers were ready to put their dedication and skills to the test at this significant event, which was undoubtedly the highlight of the year. Our junior crews (Third and Fourth Year pupils) began the competition on Friday. Six crews participated in the race, with a coxed quad competing for the men's and women's J15 squad and four coxed quads from the J14 men's and women's squad. The J14 crews raced across six lanes over 1000 metres, testing athletes' power, technique, and determination. These highly competitive short races attract over 45 crews in each event. All crews began racing in a time trial format, with the top 24 crews moving into respective A-D finals with six boats across.

The J14 1st quad, comprising talented rowers Charlie Ashworth, Sam Buxton, Oscar Lane, Jonah Jenney, and Seb Jafri, delivered an exceptional performance. We had great confidence in our crew's abilities going into the regatta, especially following our impressive 4th place finish at JIRR and 3rd place at

the Junior Sculling Regatta a few weeks earlier. The boys learned valuable lessons from the early season races and continued to develop and prepare for the national championship. The A final provided one of the day's most thrilling moments, with only a 0.58-second margin separating 2nd and 4th place. The team executed their sprint perfectly, crossing the finish line with their bowball ahead of the competition, securing the silver medal just 3 seconds behind Henley Rowing Club.

Over the weekend, our six senior crews participated in a challenging 2000-metre race that spanned eight lanes. The boats, varying from single to quad, all demonstrated exceptional skill in the preliminary time trials, earning spots in the finals. In the championship single scull for senior boys, Archie Norton secured a commendable 2nd place in the B final, while the championship girls' quad achieved an impressive 6th place in the B final. The second girls' quad also performed excellently, finishing 4th in the A final. Patrick Tulloch and Harry D'Ambrogio

showcased their prowess by making it to the A final and securing a respectable 6th place in the J16 double.

The 191st Durham Regatta marked the final team event of the year for the boat club, and it ended on a high note. Despite the challenging weather conditions, the team displayed their skill and determination, securing an impressive 12 wins over the weekend. They emerged as the most successful junior team at the regatta, achieving more wins than any other school or junior club. These victories are a testament to their hard work and dedication, as they competed in multiple rounds, covering a distance of over 700 metres and participating in a busy weekend of racing across four divisions.

In a thrilling culmination to the school year, our senior rowers encountered their most daunting challenge yet. In their unwavering pursuit of securing a spot in the renowned Henley Royal Regatta, YSBC fielded a men's and women's quad for the qualifying event. Both teams navigated the Henley course, and after more than a decade of just falling short, the senior

boys etched their names into history as the first crew from Yarm to earn a coveted spot in the regatta since 2014. With outstanding performances, Archie Norton, Harry Wildridge, Sai Sidaginamale, and Patrick Tulloch achieved a truly remarkable feat, bringing immense pride to the students, the boat club, and the school.

Looking back on this year, our talented athletes have accomplished outstanding achievements, including winning national medals, successfully qualifying for the prestigious Henley regatta, showcasing their dominance at the local level, and experiencing a high level of involvement and enthusiasm from our pupils. The boat club is thriving and poised for a successful and prosperous future that I am grateful to be part of.

Mr T Kellett



HOCKEY STARS

Thank you to the staff for making this historic season possible. This year, we achieved several milestones, including our first England trialist, Mara Morrison, our first appearance at a National Indoor Finals and our first National title with the U16s winning the England Hockey T3 Nationals!

Our local league results were outstanding:

- U12Bs placed 2nd in the U12A league
- U112Cs placed 2nd in the U12B league
- U12As are the U13A league champions
- U13Cs are the U13B league champions
- U13A/Bs placed 4th in the U14 11-a-side league
- U14s are the U16 league champions

Our oldest and youngest teams have had very pleasing years. Our U12s had a great year, finishing 2nd in the Ewart Cup held at Barnard Castle and the U12A team finished 3rd in the U13 County Tournament. Our senior teams also performed well, with notable performances in the Newcastle pre-season tournament and the 1st team finishing 4th in Nottingham.

This year, we excelled in

both the England Hockey Nationals and ISHC National Cup competitions. Our U13s played determined hockey, qualifying for the Area Finals at Durham University, though their journey ended there.

Our U14s had an outstanding year, becoming the England Hockey T2 finals. In the U14 T2 National Schools Championship in Nottingham, we faced tough opponents. Prior Park School was our first game where we lost 2-1. The next match against Emanuel School was also a tough game and the girls worked very hard for a 1-1 draw. The third game was against King Edward, Southampton and top of the group. Yarm girls demonstrated some excellent passing and movement skills and our defence was strong all the way through the game but unfortunately the score ended 1-0 to King Edward.

In the 5th/6th place playoff against Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Yarm won 3-1 with goals from Olivia Wildridge, Emma White, and Charlotte Banks. This victory secured them 5th position in the country. Congratulations to the team for their hard work and determination!

The U15s entered the ISHC with high hopes. They won 3-0 against Dame Allans School, then struggled but won 4-1 in extra time against Barnard Castle. They beat GSAL 2-1 in penalty flicks, with Izzy McGlade saving two penalties, Mara Morrison and Lucy Mitchell scored with their flicks after each scoring in normal time as well. In the last 16, they defeated Sedbergh 2-0 and The King's School, Chester 1-0 to reach the finals.

The finals day came the day after the U14 and U16 National Finals and this showed. The semi-final was too much, and the team lost to Wellington College, leading to a 3rd/4th place playoff. Despite dominating in the 3rd/4th place game, the girls couldn't convert their chances, leading to penalty flicks. Izzy McGlade saved two, and Mara Morrison and Tilly Pallent-Home scored to win bronze. Congratulations to everyone for finishing as the 3rd best U15 independent school team in the country!

As mentioned earlier, this is Yarm's debut year qualifying for the Indoor National Finals.

Our U16 squad, comprising Third, Fourth, and Fifth Years, surpassed expectations at the regional tournament with their dominant performance. The National Finals in Derby began with an early start, and despite tough competition, the team fought admirably, often losing by narrow margins. They coped exceptionally well at this high level of play. Congratulations to the team on this remarkable achievement!

Again our U16s qualified for the England Hockey T3 finals after being crowned County, Area and North East and Yorkshire Champions. The team faced The Abbey School in their first match, a nervy affair where despite solid defence, they couldn't quite link up, resulting in a 0-0 draw. Against group leaders Haileybury, Captain Sophie Hall volleyed in a goal after 7 minutes, and Pippa Ferguson doubled the lead in the second half for a 2-0 victory. A win in our last group game, against Croydon High, would secure top of the group and a spot in the final.





The game could not have started any better with Mara Morrison taking on their defence and scoring a lovely reverse flick after 5 minutes, she then added to her tally just after half-time to make it 2-0. In the final against Sevenoaks, the defence continued to be solid with Cody Staggs, Poppy Faulkner, Sophia Rudd and Katie Melvin giving the rest of the team the security and confidence to play expansive attacking hockey. In front of them our wide players Tilly Pallent-Home, Eva Leadbitter, Lucy de la Motte, Sabie Anderson, Pippa Ferguson, Olivia Mitchell and Naila Krishnamoorthy put the opposition under immense pressure allowing our midfield to win the ball back with relative ease. Alice Ward, Sophie Hall and Mara Morrison distributed beautifully through the pitch to find our high players Amelia Hudson and Summer Hyndman who scored after just 3 minutes. Mara Morrison scored a hatrick winning the tournament top goal scorer award. The game ended 4-1 and Yarm were crowned National Champions. An amazing achievement for this team after four/five years of hard work and dedication through morning, after school, holidays practices and games.

Well done to everyone involved in hockey this term I am immensely proud of every single one of you!



Representative honours

Talent Academy
 ■ Sophie Hall
 ■ Mara Morrison
 Talent Academy Long Squad
 ■ Pippa Ferguson
 ■ Lucy Mitchell
 County Hockey
 ■ Amélie Kingsbury
 ■ Beatrix Allcock
 ■ Beatriz Garcia Alvarez
 ■ Daisy Newton
 ■ Ellie Gates
 ■ Kiki Fletcher
 ■ Louisa Palmer
 ■ Zara Kell
 ■ Aisling Timmons
 ■ Anushri Wadehra
 ■ Charlotte Fenwick
 ■ Emma Scott
 ■ Imogen Mulgrew
 ■ Isla Close
 ■ Katie Cheesman
 ■ Rosie Ferguson
 ■ Amelie Sawyer
 ■ Charlotte Banks
 ■ Lucy Mitchell
 ■ Zoe Wild
 ■ Amelia Hudson
 ■ Eva Leadbitter
 ■ Gracie Rhodes-Hildreth
 ■ Isobel McGlade
 ■ Jemima Fleming
 ■ Molly White
 ■ Naila Krishnamoorthy
 ■ Sabie Anderson
 ■ Tilly Pallent-Home
 ■ Cody Staggs
 ■ Emma Foster
 ■ Izzie Speight
 ■ Jasmine Scollay
 ■ Lexie Townsley
 ■ Miriam Akowuah
 ■ Pippa Ferguson
 ■ Poppy Faulkner
 ■ Scarlett Carton
 ■ Sophia Rudd
 ■ Harriet Jackson

GIRLS' HOCKEY HOLLAND 2023

During the October half term our U14 and U13 girls' hockey teams travelled to Holland for their 2023 Hockey Tour. Departing Yarm school at 3am, the early start was brightened by Anna's mum's cupcakes. The trip was packed with activities, including pro coaching sessions that honed our skills for the week's matches. Our free time included bowling, mini golf, shopping, a visit to the Van Gogh museum, a day at the theme park, and a canal tour of Amsterdam.

Highlights of the trip were winning our last match, dining at the pancake house, and making friends with the girls from the other teams. Competing against strong opponents was a valuable learning experience. Throughout the week our team bonded which improved our relationships on and off the pitch. We competed against many incredible teams during our tour, though our favourite team was probably HCS.

We'd like to thank our teachers for running a fantastic trip and creating a great atmosphere for us. So thank you to Miss Hodgson, Mrs Howell, Mrs Gratton and Miss Hodgson. We thoroughly enjoyed it and are grateful for the opportunity.

Caitlin Anderson, Third Year





Hockey HIGHLIGHTS

It has been another amazing year of boys' hockey! They have played a total of 109 outdoor matches winning 85, drawing 9 and losing only 15 which includes our B teams now taking on other schools' A teams. The boys have travelled all over the country, from Edinburgh for the senior tour to London for the National Indoor Finals.

Indoor Hockey Success at the North East Finals

The U14s started slowly, drawing both of their group games and sneaking through the group on goals scored. They then overcame GSAL 4-1 in the semi-finals and secured a 3-0 victory against RGS in the final to take the title!

The U16s comfortably qualified for the semi-finals, where they faced Scarborough College. Despite going 2-0 down, captain Jake Leader scored a hat-trick to secure a comeback victory. Cameron Morrison was the stand-out performer in the final as he took Bradford's England player out of the game through some highly disciplined man marking. We won comfortably 4-1.

The U18s were outstanding throughout their tournament! They played Scarborough College in their first group game, which at times felt like an international match as many of their boys come from Germany or Spain, but Yarm won 4-1. They followed this with a 4-2 victory over QEGS

and an 11-3 triumph against GSAL, featuring a James McGeer hat-trick. Led by captain Joe Roberts, Yarm won the final 4-0 against an experienced Hallcross securing their place in the National Hockey Finals. Will Ferguson was superb throughout and scored an amazing 13 goals across the 4 games played!

Indoor Hockey National Finals

At the National Finals, The U16s faced tough competition, losing 4-1 to both St George's and Repton, teams known for their top clubs and international recruits. A disappointing loss to Southampton followed where a poor start saw us fall behind and we never recovered. The boys saved their best hockey for the final 7/8th place play off game against Katharine Lady Berkeley's School. We went 3 goals ahead before eventually drawing 4-4 to claim joint 7th place.

The Under 18 tournament was very frustrating. The boys looked amazing against Ipswich and quickly went up 2-0 before the game unravelled with some tough-to-take umpiring decisions that led to us losing 3-2. We dominated Southampton (who boasted 3 England Internationals) but somehow lost the game 2-1 before comfortably beating Dean Close to finish 3rd in the group - it was a tournament of what could have been and the boys

finished a highly respectable 6th best team in the country.

Outdoor Hockey

The U12s showcased their potential by winning the county title to then qualify for the North Final at Leeds University. They advanced to the final with wins over Sandbach, Scarborough, and King's Macclesfield, then a 1-0 semi-final victory against RGS. In the final we played King's Chester (who seem to be our perennial rivals across the age groups) and although Yarm gave a good account of themselves, they lost 2-0 to a well drilled opposition to finish 2nd in the North.

The U15 team got knocked out of the ISHC Cup by a really strong Scarborough College in the opening round which meant they competed in the plate competition. After strong results against RGS, Bradford Grammar and Rugby School the boys competed in the National Plate Finals at the Nottingham Hockey Centre. After a disappointing loss in the opening game, Yarm went on to win their 2nd group game before a 3rd/4th place play-off against Repton which resulted in a magnificent 3-0 win with goals from Olly Carr and Olly Mowbray.

The U16 team quite often get merged into the senior group so play fewer games. However, they had a notable run in the England Hockey Cup as they beat RGS, St Peter's and Calday Grange to book a place in

the National Quarter Final v Manchester Grammar School. Unfortunately this was a step too far as the Manchester side were very strong and came out eventual winners.

We were extremely proud at the senior end as for the first time in the school's history we were able to field 3 senior boys teams as 54 boys opted into senior hockey. This meant our 2nd XI played 1st XI at other schools and our 3rd XI played 2nd teams - more often than not coming out with positive results.

It was a season of almost from our 1st XI - they have played in many competitive fixtures as other schools have strengthened. With a win against Stewart's Melville and a 4-4 draw v Scottish Champions on the Edinburgh Tour, expectations were high. They battled to two National Quarter Finals but lost at Solihull in the ISHC Competition and suffered a 2-1 defeat to Altrincham Grammar.

A New School Record

The U13 boys reached the National Hockey Finals in Nottingham by winning the Northumberland/Durham title in January and triumphing in the Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire tournament in March. They beat St Peter's York to represent the North East at the Nationals.

At the finals, Yarm defeated Hall Grove 2-1, with an opening goal from Wilf White



BARCELONA JUNIOR BOYS SPORTS TOUR 2023

Fifty boys from Second and Third Year travelled to Barcelona in October half term to compete in hockey and rugby fixtures, explore the city and experience some of the major attractions in and around Barcelona.

The boys were a real credit to the school and competed in their sports with enthusiasm. They also looked the part thanks to the generous sponsorship of Queensway Dental & Orthodontist and Maxwell Stephens Recruitment.

■ Day 1 - Staying near the beach, we travelled to Camp Nou for a tour, trained on the beach 'Top Gun style', and played hockey against Bordeaux and Iluro, the U14A

lost despite a good game and the U14B and U13s drew their games 2-2. We ended the day celebrating two birthdays.

■ Day 2 - The day started with a city tour followed by another rugby session on the beach. We then travelled to the Athletic Terrassa Hockey Club for two tough but enjoyable games..

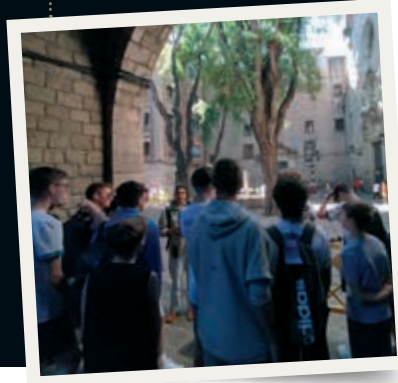
■ Day 3 - We toured the Olympic Museum, bartered at La Ramblas before going to the Olympic Stadium to see Barcelona beat Shakhtar Donetsk 2-1 in the Champions League.

■ Day 4 - PortAventura Theme Park was our destination for the final day followed by our rugby fixtures.

The Second Year boys drew 17-17 in a really exciting affair but the Third Year team faced tough competition.

A big thanks to Mr Shanahan, Mr Skirving, Mr Ivey and Mr Lyle for giving up their time during the half term break to staff the tour.

Mr G Ferguson



and captain Rorke Anderson stepped up with a magnificent Argie strike from the top of the circle. They then beat St Faith's 3-0, with goals from Ollie Gray, Monty Proctor, and Luke Palmer. The most impressive victory was a 2-1 win against Whitgift, the top hockey school, featuring superb goals by Ollie Gray and Monty Proctor. Despite losing to Warwick School in the final, the boys set a new school record by finishing as the 2nd

best team in the country. As always, such an incredible season cannot be achieved without the considerable dedication and expertise of the hockey coaching staff. A big thanks to Mr Skirving, Mr Alexander, Mr Glen, Mr Lyle, Mr Cummins and Miss Hodgson for all of their efforts.

Mr G Ferguson



Hockey honours

■ 52 players have represented Durham County.

■ Ben Pumphrey, Rorke Anderson, Ollie Gray, Jaydon Zhang, Wilf White, Matthew Robson, and Monty Proctor have been selected to represent the North East.

■ Oscar Thomas, Jude Crack, Dhruv Wadhra and Jake Leader remain part of the Durham University Talent Academy Squad.

■ Other boys have chosen to go the club route and are playing at a very high level with Timmy Foley, Max Mowbray, Myles Brown, Jake Leader and Joe Roberts all playing in the Men's North Regional League (one below National).

■ Will Ferguson has cemented a place in Durham University's First XI in the National North Conference League and is the first Yarm pupil to be selected for England U18 making appearances against Ireland, Belgium, Spain and France so far this year.

Boys' Hockey



Boys' Hockey: Most improved

Eddie Shakesheff U12	Jack Severn U12		
Luke Palmer U13	Shola Afolabi U15	Marshall Page U15	
Jacob Hardy U15	Ben Bardgett U15	Seth Taylor U12	Ollie Best U18
Sam Matthews U14	Ben Pumphrey U13	Freddie Birkin U13	Eddie Carter 1st XI
Rehan Krishnamoorthy U13	Thomas Ferguson U12	Max Millington U15	
Aadit Kapoor U14	Jaydon Zhang U13	Luke Walton U15	

Boys' Hockey: Team of the Season

Jude Crack U15	James Callaghan U12		
Ollie Carr U15	Jake Leader U16	Fenwick Mitchell U12	
Wilf Sawyer U12	Will Ferguson 1st XI	Timmy Foley 1st XI	Rorke Anderson U13
Dhruv Wadhra U16	Monty Proctor U13	Max Mowbray 1st XI	Eddie Carter U18
Harry Brothwood U14	Joe Roberts 1st XI	Myles Brown 1st XI	Ollie Gray U13
Matthew Robson U12	James Muir 1st XI		



3 times as nice for for netball

Could it be possible that Yarm netball has broken yet more records for the 3rd year in a row? ABSOLUTELY!

I write this article with immense pride, knowing that the girls have outdone themselves yet again. I am thrilled to share the details of even more records broken by our incredible netball squads.

We continue to have over 200 girls choosing to commit their lunch times, break times and after-school hours to training and competing for school. This is a fantastic achievement and a huge factor in girls' success.

League

We entered a record number of teams into the Stockton Schools' Netball League and after having many teams promoted last year, the girls have done a fantastic job of 'holding their own' in new, higher leagues, including the U12A team, who came 2nd in the U13 league behind our U13B team. Most importantly all girls have thoroughly enjoyed the journey.

National Cups

This year we entered the Sisters 'n' Sport National Cup. This is a knockout cup where regions play off against each other; eventually leaving the winners to compete against each other to reach the final and be crowned National Cup champions.

All teams had a fantastic cup run this year. The U13, U15 and U16 teams all finished top 16 nationally and the U12 team finished top 8.

National Schools' Competition

October saw the first round of our National Schools' campaign, where our U14, U16 and U19 teams all competed against strong schools in the county and were successful in qualifying for the regional rounds, which were to be played later in February. This gave the girls several months to gel together and really work at solidifying their teams. The girls were immediately enthused at the opportunity to compete at this level and the possibility of qualifying as one of the top schools in the country.

The regional rounds were largely successful, with both the U14 and U16 teams cementing their place in the finals in Peterborough as the number 1 teams in the North East. The girls knew that the hard work must continue as they were about to compete against some of the best schools in the country.

The finals were an unmissable experience for the girls and one they would never forget. The teams competed in an all day long tournament, with many players present who played at international level. The U16 team experienced wins and losses that brought valuable experience. Each and every girl stepped up in the finals and made not only themselves but our entire school proud by equalling the U16 record and achieving joint 13th place in the country.





Next it was the U14 team. Last year they hugely exceeded the school record for any age group, coming 4th place, but the girls were hungry for more and set their sights on improving on this. The squad had said goodbye to some of its older players and welcomed several new assets to the squad, from Third, Second and impressively First Year.

The girls went through second in their group and lost the semi final by 1 goal to Putney High School, after leading the majority of the game by 2 goals. Up came the recently familiar battle of 3rd/4th place playoff and the girls were determined not to miss out on that bronze medal this time around. We are all so proud to announce that the girls delivered on their promise and brought home the bronze medal, beating King's School Macclesfield a fantastic 18-8.

Miss L Hodgson

Netball Honours

A huge congratulations to: Ella Fitzgerald for gaining her 1st international cap for the Republic of Ireland U17 Netball Squad and the Euros. Ella is only 13 years of age and impressively managed to achieve 100% shooting stats against the eventual tournament winners, England.





RUGBY ROUND UP

This year has been a remarkable one for rugby, with an impressive number of boys participating and demonstrating an exceptional level of commitment and enthusiasm, even through one of the worst weather spells in memory. Despite this, rugby thrived with nine teams across all the age groups, each showcasing positive attitudes, great attacking prowess and solid defence.

The games have been well-attended, with a large number of spectators who were not only impressed by the high quality of rugby but also by the spirit and enjoyment displayed by the players.

Every team has worked hard in training and produced good rugby in matches. Notably, the U15 team entered the latter stages of the 15 a-side Continental Tyres National Bowl competition after some great wins pre Christmas. They carried on in the same form against Ripon Grammar in January with a big win which then took them into the national quarter final where they lost to the eventual winners from Reading.

Noticeable wins this season were recorded against the likes of: Durham, Pocklington, Mount St Mary's, Ashville, Scarborough, NSB, Hill House and many others across both cup and friendly block fixtures.

This season has also been outstanding for Rugby 7s at both training and in tournaments, with high participation rates and fierce competition for places. This hard work has translated to game day and we, once again, have succeeded above expectations. This season we have recorded wins against and finished ahead of the likes of; Merchiston Castle, Sedbergh, Barnard Castle, Durham, RGS Newcastle, Woodhouse Grove, Bradford Grammar to mention a few!

Tournament successes:

- U12 - Plate Winners at the NSB North East tournament George Routledge
- U13 - Terrington Hall Cup Winners (North and Scotland) Jack Smith
- Plate Winners at North 7s Ampleforth
- Plate Winners at Young 7s North East

- U15 - Plate Winners Archer 7s North East Oli Blake
- U15 - North Invitational 7s Bronze medal winners (no actual medals)
- U16 - Group winners North 7s Woodhouse Grove

The season always builds towards the Rosslyn Park National Schools' 7s which is the biggest school rugby tournament in the world with over 800 sides participating!

We had a really good year with some extremely good 7s being played and many good wins which drew the attention and praise of a good number of schools watching. The U14s scored some great tries in all their group matches against the likes of Whitgift. The U16 team played some of the best 7s ever seen by a Yarm team. They recorded wins against big established schools like Bryanston 33-10 and Watford Grammar 47-14.





The U13s played 5 games, winning against the likes of Caterham, RGS Lancaster and schools from Wales, the only loss was in the group decider 6-4 to RGS Worcester.

Representative Honours

- Newcastle Falcons Academy U18: Harry Wildridge
- Durham County U18: Jacob Rutter
- Scottish Exiles U17 Assessment Group: Cameron Morrison
- Scottish Exiles U17: Sam Arnold

England Rugby Developing Player Programme:

- Sam Lane
- Alfie Arnold
- Myles Burton
- Henry Bottomley
- Oliver Blake
- Sam Arnold
- Tom Burchall
- Cameron Morrison



Yarm School Rugby: Most improved

Harry Rodwell 1st XV	Sam Page 1st XV	Austin Elliot U13	Charlie Leggett U16	Deacon Hughes U15
Udham Chahal U12	Joel Buckley U14	Oliver Armstrong U12		
Dan Townsend 1st XV	Henry Bottomley U15	Alfie Insall U14		
Luke Elliot U14	Theo Scott U13	Alex Carter U16	Harvey Dawson U15	
Eddie Shakesheff U12	Ayrton Cant U13	Will Bromiley U16		

Yarm School Rugby: Team of the year

Alfie Arnold U14	George Routledge U12	Myles Burton U14	Sam Arnold U16/1st XV	Freddie Bristol-Smith U14
Tom Burchall U16/1st XV	Jack Smith U13	Christian Boyes U13		
Oliver Blake U15	Harry Wildridge 1st XV	Matthew McCullagh 1st XV		
Wilf Sawyer U12	Olly Carr U15	Rorke Anderson U13	Jacob Rutter 1st XV	
Paddy Key U15	Harry Carter U16	James Callaghan U12		

ATHLETICS

Despite our exam week clashing with the Stockton Schools Champions we competed in the local league. Adverse weather cancelled a number of matches this year which led to a single fixture to reach the league finals. Despite strong performances from Molly White in the 100m and Ava Holmes in the long jump, the girls narrowly missed out on reaching the finals with tight losses to Teesside High. Both boys' teams (U13 and U15) progressed through to the league final which was held at the end of the Summer Term.

The U13 boys had a much depleted team due to a school residential and pupil illness. Nevertheless we still fielded a team and it was to the boys credit that they still finished as runners up to Conyers

by only 2 points meaning a full strength squad should have won the event for us. Special mention must go to Rorke Anderson (Shot), Ollie Gray (Discus), Luke Palmer (Discus) and Abdul Alao (1500m) who all won their respective events.

The U15 boys had a really strong squad and were captained by Henry Bottomley and Deacon Hughes. The boys finished high up the rankings in most events, a win in the relay and individual wins from Paddy Key (Shot), Mustafa El-Sherif (Discus & Javelin) and Will Gwynne-Jones/Ollie Mowbray (Long Jump tied). The boys achieved a comfortable points lead beating both Conyers and Egglecliffe.

Mr G Ferguson



CROSS COUNTRY

This term's cross country season culminated in an impressive display at the Stockton Schools Cross Country Championship, following the initial inter-House races held in October.

Inter-House cross country winners were James Callaghan, Kiki Fletcher, Tobias Hatfield, Rosie Cook, Nikhil Shouri, Lucy Oliver, Oliver Blake and Gracie Rhodes-Hildreth. Overall, Aidan House were crowned champions.

Held at Preston Park, the Stockton Schools Championship saw incredible individual achievements. Congratulations to James Callaghan, Kiki Fletcher, and Sabie Anderson for winning their respective races and becoming Stockton Schools Cross Country Champions.

In terms of the team competitions, the boys triumphed in the Under 16 competition and came 3rd in the Under 14 and Under 12 events. The girls' team dominated their competition by winning all three team events, a testament to their hard work and determination.

Our 12 qualifiers competed at the County Cross Country Championships for Stockton District under challenging, wet conditions. Seven out of these twelve runners advanced to the next round to compete for Cleveland, with hopes of reaching the English Schools Cross Country Finals. Well done everyone.

A special congratulations to Sabie Anderson and Nikhil Shouri for their remarkable performances at the English Schools



Nationals Cross Country Championships in March. Their advancement through school, district, county, and regional rounds to reach this stage is a monumental achievement. For Sabie, this is the second year in a row that she has reached this stage. Well done to both.

Miss N Hodgson



Tennis



The tennis courts were full throughout the summer term at Yarm School, with our teams showcasing their skills and recording impressive victories against local schools. The highlight of the season was once again the annual Independent Schools' Tennis Championships held at Eton College

Independent Schools' Tennis Championships

Day 1

The U19 team faced a challenging start with two tough matches against New Hall. Johnny Carr and Tom Graham won the first set comfortably, but New Hall fought back to take the second set, forcing a tiebreak. Yarm won the tiebreak 10-7. Meanwhile, Jacob Rutter and Marcus Walters played some excellent tennis but came up against tough opposition to narrowly get beaten.

With the score tied at 1-1 in matches, the U19 boys then played a one set shootout. Johnny and Marcus paired up but despite a valiant effort, lost 6-2, moving into the plate competition on Day 2.

The U15 pairs of Olly Carr & Ben Bardgett and Jude Crack & Ollie Mowbray won 3 of their 5 games, earning them seeds in the plate competition on Day 2. Yasmin Shawgi and Charlotte Banks, our U15 girls pairing, won 2 of their matches, positioning them well for the Sunday plate competition.

Day 2

The day started early with the U19 girls, Sophia Rudd and Grace Armanios, facing some strong opposition. They lost to Queenswood but managed to beat a strong Reed's pair and also won against St Margaret's, finishing 3rd out of 5 in their group.

They progressed to the plate box which they played in the afternoon but did not progress out of the group. Nonetheless, their performance was promising, especially as they competed in the U19 category as U16s.

Meanwhile, the U15 boys excelled in their plate round robin, advancing to the knockout stages on Day 3 - a really good achievement. The U15 girls faced strong opposition, managing to win a match in their plate round robin but they needed to win all 4 in order to progress, marking the end of their tournament.

Day 3

The U13 boys kicked off their competition with Ben Pumphrey and Oliver Xie as number 1 and Austin Elliott and Theo Carey at number 2. Ben and Ollie had a tough

group, which resulted in a tie - placing 4th based on game difference and qualifying for the plate competition. Austin and Theo battled well and played some great points but placed 5th in their group. On Tuesday they also were in action in their plate competition facing yet another strong group of schools. They both performed well, gaining valuable experience for future tournaments.

The U15 boys reached the last 16 of the plate, into its knockout stages. Both pairs played some excellent tennis but their tournament came to an end, Olly and Ben losing to a powerful Whitgift pair, whilst Jude and Ollie fought valiantly against Eastbourne.

Mr C Webb



BOYS' CRICKET HIGHLIGHTS

The Yarm School cricket team has concluded another exciting and challenging season, despite the immensely frustrating weather leading to cancelled and postponed matches. This season has been one of growth and determination, with the young year groups showing remarkable resilience and skill across all formats.

Performance Summary

- Team of the Season: U12
 - Total Matches Played: 13
 - Wins: 7
 - Losses: 1
 - Ties/No Results: 5
 - Performance of the Season: Ankith Rangan
- This goes to Ankith for his 68* batting performance against the MCC.

The season started with the 1st XI and U17 being entered into the prestigious HMC & U17 cricket paper competition.

The U12 and U15 were entered into the Durham Schools' Cup Competitions with great performances by the U12 especially with a win against Barnard Castle School. Friendly fixtures against Durham School and NSB were also arranged, with the U15 winning at South Northumberland and the U12 team putting 15 against Durham School, again before the rain and weather dampened proceedings. The season finished off with the U15 playing against Cleveland Schools and the 1st XI playing against the MCC at Yarm School.

Thank you for being part of our journey this season. We look forward to seeing you all again next year, as we aim for even greater success and some better weather.

Mr L Shanahan



GIRLS' CRICKET

The girls' cricket season was also hampered by the weather, but we managed to play some games. There have been some wins and losses but all have been played with energy and joy.

We recently participated in the U15 and U13 Durham County Cricket Tournaments with six teams in total. The girls had an exhilarating day filled with competitive cricket. All our teams played lovely cricket with one of our U15 teams finishing 2nd overall and one of our U13 teams finishing 3rd place overall, a fantastic achievement. Throughout the tournaments, the girls displayed immense enjoyment and team spirit.

The Ampleforth Tournament saw Yarm participating with great enthusiasm and determination. Despite the final results, the day was marked by excellent team spirit and enjoyment for all the players.

The girls' positive attitude and camaraderie were evident throughout the tournament and despite the outcomes, their resilience and enjoyment of the game shone through, making the Ampleforth Tournament a memorable experience for all involved.

Our last tournament of the year saw the U12 girls travel to Hill House, Doncaster to participate in their annual U13 hard ball tournament. This was always going to be a tough task with our U13 players missing due to their Second Year Adventure but the girls rose to the challenge and stunned even themselves with a win in their first game! The day was a success with all the girls improving throughout the day.

We hope for better weather next year to allow for more cricket action. Bring on Summer 2025!

Miss N Hodgson



YARM SCHOOL SHINES AT NATIONAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Yarm School once again showcased its exceptional talent by qualifying for the English Schools Swimming Association National Team Championship Finals, held for the first time in Birmingham this year.

Outstanding Performance by Senior Girls

Initially a reserve qualifier for the freestyle relay, our Senior Girls team was offered a spot to compete and they made the most of it, finishing an impressive 20th overall. This marks a significant improvement from their qualifying position. In the medley relay, they placed 15th, achieving several

personal best times along the way. Given that over 140 teams participated in the competition nationwide, this is a remarkable accomplishment.

Senior Boys Delivering Personal Bests

Our Senior Boys also demonstrated their impressive talent. They finished 9th in the medley relay, narrowly missing the final by just 0.07 seconds, yet improving their qualifying position by five places. All four swimmers posted personal best times, highlighting their phenomenal effort. In the freestyle relay, the team finished 21st, with a mere 3 seconds separating 8th to 21st place. Competing against the

very best in the country, both teams did a fantastic job and made Yarm School proud. This year's achievements in the pool reflect the dedication and hard work of our swimmers and their respective coaches at their home clubs. Special mention to Toma Saha and Archie Norton who have been a part of the team since 2022 and have been instrumental in helping to organise the team whilst also competing and playing a big part in our success. Here's to another successful year in the pool for Yarm School!

Mr T Newman



Fencing Club Success

The Fencing Club has gone from strength to strength this year with record numbers attending club nights every Friday and an increasing number of fencers going to competitions near and far. Ava Carter, Mae Kempster, Hatim Khan, Adam Paul, Oscar Lane, Zach Armstrong, Finn Tulloch, Athena Davies and Tiger Chahal all went to their first school competitions this year - congratulations to all!

A special mention has to go to our leaving Upper Sixth members who have been in the Fencing Club since they were in First Year: Sam Croslegh, Ben Desics and Jennifer Chan. They, along with Lower Sixth student Spyke Marshall-Burnell, gave this year an incredible start by winning an inter-school

invitational competition at Woodhouse Grove School bringing home the club's first gold medals, the culmination of six years of dedication, passion and resilience.

Jennifer has been our long-serving club captain and has been an excellent ambassador and organiser for the club over the last four years and I am extremely grateful for all the hard work she has put in over that time. She passes on the captaincy to Carys McNeill-Ritchie in Lower Sixth who has already shown her tenacity, drive and determination to lead the club into another great year next year.

The Golden Glove award, presented to a member of the club who has displayed a consistently positive attitude

and dedication to the club over the year, was given to Carys as recognition for the amazing year of helpful, positive and inclusive contribution to club nights she has given week after week.

Well done to all the fencers who have attended the club this year and I look forward to the next chapter with more competitions and personal victories to come!

Dr T Craig





SPORTS DAY

1st

Aidan
6314 points

2nd

Bede
6310 points

3rd

Oswald
6124 points

4th

Cuthbert
6068 points





Yarm School Association

The Yarm School Association (YSA), made up of passionate volunteer parents, has had another remarkable year of events and fundraising. Our small but committed team works tirelessly to organise events for parents and the school community, fostering connections and raising funds that benefit pupils and support local charities.

This year, the YSA proudly contributed to the enhancement of the school's facilities and opportunities through the following contributions:

- **Art Department:** Display boards for the GCSE Art exhibition.
- **Student Activities:** Dungeons and Dragons kits and a pond with plants for the eco club and gardening activity.
- **Geography Department:** A drone for GIS and aerial photography, and various board games.
- **Workshops:** Drama and Art workshops for skill development.
- **Foreign Language Resources:** Online subscriptions to foreign language newspapers.
- **Digital strategy:** OWL video conferencing software
- **Learning skills department:** Resources and games to support pupils to build social skills and confidence.

- **Outdoor Education:** A new camping trailer for outdoor education trips.

- **Fencing Department:** Additional equipment for the electric fencing to support the growing club.

- **Gym refurbishment:** Contributions made towards the new gym, which was unveiled at the start of the academic year.

We introduced the Classlist app to promote our events, connect with the parent community, and facilitate communication amongst parents. Despite a few initial glitches (apologies for the flood of notifications!), we hope to use this platform to strengthen the school community and enhance event accessibility.

The academic year kicked off with the new First Year parents' tea, where we warmly welcomed new parents, some of whom have since joined our committee. The autumn event in the Basement Bar was a fun-filled evening featuring musical bingo and a Mexican-themed buffet. The Christmas Indoor Market was another resounding success, hosting 74 stallholders selling crafts, gifts, food, and drinks, alongside school-run stalls and Santa's grotto.

In the spring, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with an Irish-inspired loaded jacket potato menu, enticing our wonderful parents to the

dance floor with music from the Counterfeit Celts. The events calendar culminated in the annual YSA summer charity ball at the fabulous PAA. The Casino Royale-themed event set the tone for a glamorous evening of casino table games, a delicious three-course meal, and music by the Bourbon Street Band, who returned by popular demand after last year's success. The charity auction, supported by local business match funding, raised just over £4000 for Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents and staff who made this evening possible, allowing us to support this wonderful charity!

This year, we bid farewell to our long-standing Chair, Amanda Stephen, who stepped down after seven years of dedicated service. We also saw Lisa Willis step down as Vice Chair and Louise Mitchell as Secretary, though Louise continues to be an active YSA member. We are deeply grateful for their tireless efforts and look forward to their continued presence at future events.

Newly elected roles include Claire Abbas as Chair, Kieran Feighery as Vice Chair, Max Patrick as Secretary, and the re-election of Dave Stewart as Treasurer.

We have welcomed new faces at our monthly meetings, but our committee still needs more parent support to continue running events. Whether you can offer an hour here and there or take a more active role, your involvement is invaluable. Monthly meetings are held at the school, and details about volunteer opportunities and events are available on Classlist. We welcome offers of help, donations for auctions or raffles, and any suggestions at ysa@yarmschool.org.

We eagerly anticipate seeing you at our events and continuing to build a strong, supportive school community together.

Claire Abbas and the YSA committee

LASTING MEMORIES

We celebrated the end of lessons for our Fifth Year with a joyful celebration of the pupils' achievements over their five years at Yarm Senior School.

The day started with some inspiring words from the Headmaster and Mrs Gratton, celebrating all that the year group had achieved over the years and what they could look forward to in the future. The pupils then received their 'Class of 2024' hoodies and signed their Yarm School notebooks before enjoying a barbecue on the terrace in beautiful sunshine.

In the afternoon the year group, tutors, associate tutors and pastoral staff all went out for an afternoon of team sports on the astro and it was lovely to have some sun and for everyone to get involved. Pupils enjoyed 5-a-side football, rounders and the traditional inter-house tug of war!

To round off the day the whole year group met in the Friarage Theatre for the annual Fifth Year Oscars led by Mr Ivey, a chance for some closing speeches, awards and fun certificates. The day ended with a wonderful video montage of photos put together by Mr Thompson recalling all the amazing things the pupils had participated in since First Year. These included; sporting events, drama, music, outdoor education trips, sports tours, house drama, year group plays, charity and house events and other fun memories.

The year group has been amazing and have taken every opportunity offered by the school and should be proud of what they have achieved - including our best ever GCSE results - and who they have become. We are really proud of them and look forward to seeing what they achieve in their future studies.



A SPECIAL DAY FOR UPPER SIXTH

Monday, 13th May marked the final formal lessons for the Upper Sixth students before they embarked on their A Level examinations.



The last two years of Sixth Form studies really have flown by and, as always, this was a poignant day. Dressed in their buttonholes and posing for photographs, it was the end of their second, seventh, or for the students who joined in Nursery 1, sixteenth year at Yarm School. Continuing a tradition, yearbooks were filled with heartfelt messages from classmates and teachers, and there was a strong sense of camaraderie among this wonderful group of young men and women.

We are grateful to Yarm Methodist Church - which recently celebrated the 260th anniversary of John Wesley first preaching there - for, once again, allowing us to use this beautiful space for our Leavers' Service, and we

were delighted that so many parents were able to join the students for the occasion. We welcomed Professor Ann MacLarnon, Master of Hatfield College in Durham, as our guest speaker and heard some beautiful music sung by the choir and by our leavers. We thank Mrs Staggs, Mr Williams and the members of the choir for making this a really special occasion. Thank you to the School Captains for their readings and to Mr Boddy for leading the service.

Then it was back to school for a delicious buffet courtesy of our excellent Sodexo colleagues, some family photographs, the issuing of the hoodies and then away into the sunny afternoon.

The Leavers' Dinner is always full of emotion and full of memories of the years

at Yarm but at the same time full of joy as the students enjoy this celebration of the time spent together and look forward to what their school days have prepared them for. This is perhaps the last time that the students will be together although I do hope that many will return for our Senior Prize Giving in September.

As ever, the students (and staff) turned on the style as they dressed to the nines for the occasion. The Auditorium was transformed with elegant decoration and a fitting venue for this most sophisticated of events. The Sodexo team served a delicious meal as we all appreciated the photographs of the students'

younger days and we were treated to heartfelt good wishes from teachers past and present. Our outgoing School Captains, Kitty and Jacob, summed up the mood of the evening and we all enjoyed hearing again the hopes and dreams of the students when they were in First Year. We are particularly blessed this year with the wonderful BRAACK who put on a typically professional set and got the whole year dancing in enthusiastic style. We will miss their music!

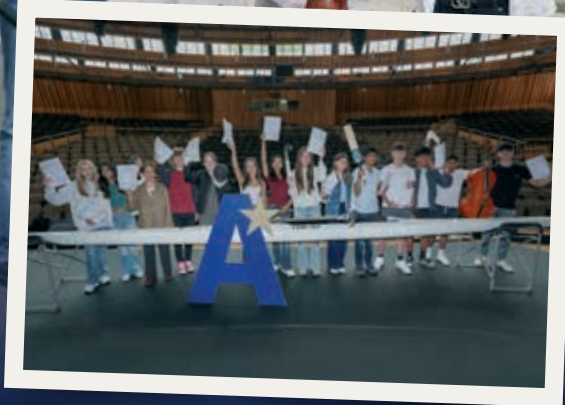
I wish the Leavers every success; they are a supremely talented bunch who undoubtedly have a bright future ahead.

Dr A Goodall





PUPILS PERFORM A LEVEL ABOVE



We were delighted to celebrate our pupils and students' results over the summer. 2024 was a year for eclipsing regional and national averages, and breaking school examination records. This year's results, have yet again, positioned Yarm as the leading academic school in Teesside and County Durham.

At A Level 30% of students achieved three or more A*-A grades with nine students securing three or more of the very highest A* grades.

The extraordinary nine students accumulated 32 A* grades between them. These students have not only excelled academically but have also fully embraced the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer at Yarm.

One student has been recognised as one of the highest performers in the country in her English Literature examinations.

Alongside the traditional A level subjects, students can also complete an Extended Project Qualification which is highly regarded by universities. At Yarm, the majority of students choose to carry out an independent project to obtain the

qualification and in 2024 61% achieved A*/A grades. Three students achieved full marks.

Students secured places at a wide range of highly competitive courses and destinations, with six students achieving places at Oxford or Cambridge Universities this year. They will be heading to study a wide range of subjects: engineering, medicine, classics, chemistry and German.

Popular courses for Yarm students include Engineering with over 18% of the cohort going on to read an engineering degree. Medicine and Business courses remain popular choices with more students opting to study Psychology this year.

Newcastle University has been popular this year with eighteen students choosing to study there and remain in the North East, other popular destinations include Durham, York and Nottingham. One pupil is heading further afield to the USA to study at Brigham Young University.

At GCSE, we celebrated our best ever GCSE examination results with 54% of all grades awarded being the top 9-8 grades (A*), with a third of all grades at grade 9.

Yarm surpassed the national average number of grade 9s by more than 6 times. Yarm pupils got more than four times the national average for grades 9-8. The national average was 12.1% compared to our 54% of grades 9-8 (A*). In the North East 17.8% of all GCSE grades were a 7 or higher compared to Yarm's 75% – again more than four times higher.

More than 21% of the cohort (27 pupils) gained a straight set of 9/8 grades with 15 pupils achieving the impressive feat of 10 or more grade 9s.

One pupil was recognised as one of the top performers in the country in his OCR Computer Science exam.

This year's pupils have broken Yarm's GCSE records by beating the top grades achieved in examinations in previous years but have also performed impressively outside the classroom. The 2024 GCSE cohort has also excelled in a wide range of extracurricular activities, showcasing their talents on national stages in sports, music, and drama.

We encourage every pupil to

be the best they can be, only in the classroom, but on the stage, sports field or in the varied clubs and activities on offer at the School. Pupils at Yarm balance both academic and extracurricular success at Yarm and help pupils develop 'soft' skills that are not only highly sought after by universities and employers, but prepare our pupils for challenges beyond school. Encapsulating the School's ethos 'Educating for Life.'

These outstanding results reflect the determination and ambition of our pupils. Furthermore, they are also a strong affirmation of the quality of teaching and support given to pupils at Yarm.

We are extremely proud of all our pupils and students and wish them the very best for their bright futures.



School Officers 2024 – 2025

Captains of School



Annabel Lacy



Oscar Shaw

Vice Captains



Nila Basker



Sophie Jewitt



James Muir



Evie Severn



Gabriel Swati

Prefect Appointments

Aidan House		Bede House		Cuthbert House		Oswald House	
Nila Baskar	SVC	Adam Addison	BHC	Lucy Bardgett	CVC	Alex Bromiley	PSMP
Emily Clarke		Haider Ali	PSMP	Austin Bridle		Ava Carter	PSMP
Ollie Cochrane	PSMP	Emily Banks		Akash Chakrabarti		Sienna Chambers	
Natasha Cunningham	AHC	Hannah Bettinson	PSMP	Rachel Dale		Christina Fagan	
Will Ferguson	AHC & PSMP	Laura Burns	BHC	Cecily Deering	CVC & PSMP	Grace Harbinson	OHC & PSMP
Yaseen Hegab		Teddy Fleming		Indeya Hewison	CHC	Katie Hunt	PSMP
Esther Lane	AHC	Harriet Jackson		Eve Hudson	CVC	Samaira Kumar	
Pearl Lightwood	PSMP	Vedhika Janakiraman	PSMP	Kyra Hyndman	PSMP	Carys McNeill-Ritchie	OHC
Lauren Macdonald		Amy Lewis	PSMP	Sophie Jewitt	SVC	Samuel Page	OHC
Eleanor Madden	AHC	Cara McMurray	PSMP	Ameen Khunda	PSMP	Ishita Pathare	OHC
Apsara Naguleswaran		Jitha Mtopo		Sophia Kilkerrri	PSMP	Naeha Rajaram	PSMP
Emily Nicholson	AHC	James Muir	SVC	Annabel Lacy	SC	Nora Sahoo	
Matthew Parker		Estelle Orr	BHC	Eleanor Lamb		Sai Sidaginamale	PSMP
Eve Pearson		Anoushka Paul	PSMP	Will Lewis		Isabelle Swallow	
Eva Speight	PSMP AHC	Oscar Shaw	SC	Jude Ntainjua	PSMP	Yusuf Syed	
Oskar Studholme		Izzie Speight	BHC	Harvey Qin	CHC	Florrie Tompkins	
		Gabriel Swati	SVC	Anand Raviprakash		Jack Van Niekerk	OHC
		Lexie Townsley		Evie Severn	SVC & PSMP	Ellen Willis	PSMP
				Francesca Silverwood		Lucy Woodhouse	
				Daniel Townsend	CVC & PSMP		

Key:

SC = School Captain SVC = School Vice Captain
 AHC = Aidan House Captain BHC = Bede House Captain
 CHC = Cuthbert House Captain CVC = Cuthbert Vice Captain
 OHC = Oswald House Captain PSMP = Peer Support Mentor Prefect



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EDUCATING FOR LIFE

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