



YARM SCHOOL
EDUCATING FOR LIFE



SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT 2024

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INTRODUCTION



*Dr Huw Williams,
Headmaster, and Mr Bill
Sawyer, Head of Prep
School, celebrate our Tes
Schools Award*

Yarm School was founded to provide academic excellence and a holistic education for our pupils. We greatly value our community and we are firmly committed to improving the lives of people in the Tees Valley.

At Yarm, we lay the foundations for every child to thrive in school and beyond. An essential aspect of our work is to nurture a sense of responsibility, fostering respect and kindness in our pupils. But above all, we cultivate compassion – a deep empathy within each child for their peers, for their community and for the wider world. In our school, children don't just learn; they grow into thoughtful, caring individuals who contribute positively to society, understanding the value of service. Our commitment to these values led to the Prep School being awarded the TES Independent Preparatory School of the Year award in 2024, with particular reference made to the power and impact of our partnerships programme as a force for good within our community.

In the pioneering spirit of our original governors, we continue to forge meaningful links and partnerships with a huge range of individuals and organisations to support positive outcomes for all. We enjoy working with businesses of all sizes, community groups, charities, schools, and academic institutions. Combining resources and expertise helps us achieve far more than we could hope to do independently and working together creates valuable opportunities in a complex and ever-changing world. Our focus is on building collaborative and lasting relationships founded on trust and a shared vision for mutually beneficial outcomes.

We hope you enjoy reading about the tremendous impact of our work at Yarm, and we extend our thanks to all those who have contributed to and supported our endeavours.

Dr Huw Williams,
Headmaster

Mr Bill Sawyer,
Head of Prep School

We believe firmly in our Mission: Educating For Life. We know that an excellent education can and does lead to individual and shared success beyond the time spent at school. Our vision is to make a sustained and meaningful impact, encompassing and developing:

- Personal growth: supporting individuals through experiences and expectations that positively shape their outlook on the world;
- Collaboration: forging strong and lasting partnerships with individuals and organisations to make meaningful change;
- Diversity: seeking to impact and engage with as wide a range of people as possible;
- Service: recognising the importance of contributing positively to others for the good of all;
- Responsibility: understanding the significance of environmental sustainability and having the the knowledge and skills needed to become conscientious stewards of our natural world.

We believe in the power of collaborating with each of our stakeholders to maximise the strength of the school community, forging and enhancing strong relationships with parents, employees, governors, former pupils, businesses, charities, and other schools for the benefit of all.

We believe in making a profound difference in our local and regional community: we have the skills, capacity and drive to make a difference for individuals across the Tees Valley. Working together to empower and inspire children and adults alike, we change lives for the better.

OUR VISION

WIDENING ACCESS



Our means-tested bursaries have a transformative impact on young people and we are proud to support many local children who could not otherwise access a Yarm School education.

We provide **100%+** Bursaries for care-experienced and vulnerable children, as one of the first Independent Day Schools working alongside Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation.

48 children benefit from means-tested bursary support.

Our average bursary award is **73%** of Senior School fees.

17 children received financial support for non-fee related items essential to their education at Yarm (for example school coach fares, school lunches and school trips).

15 children benefited from music scholarships, and a further **17** children benefited from music awards.

(all figures from the 2023/24 academic year)

“

Were it not for the Scholarship, I would have never been able to consider Yarm School as an option; I am extremely grateful to have been given that chance.”


Jonny Walker, Data Scientist at Lloyds Bank, Former Pupil (2014),
Joint Ogden Trust and Yarm School Sixth Form Scholarship

“I will forever be grateful for the opportunities I had at Yarm School. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Yarm taught me the importance of being more than just a student with good grades, a lesson I carry with me today as I balance my responsibilities as a second-year medical student with my role as president of the African Caribbean Society.

Valerie Fiamavle, Medical Student at Queen's University Belfast,
Former Pupil (2023), Yarm School Sixth Form Scholarship

”

PARTNERSHIPS IN NUMBERS 23/24

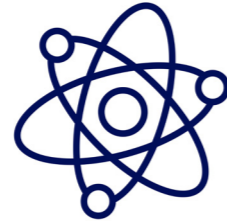
OVER participating in

3000
children

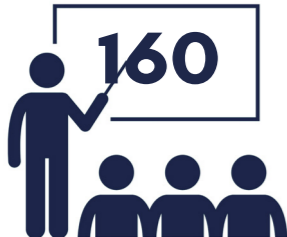

7500
hours of
partnership
activities

12

STEM Industry leaders
delivered workshops
on our STEM Days
(in collaboration with the
North East STEM Foundation)

Over **700** children attended
Dr Craig's Physics Roadshow




160
delegates
representing
universities,
businesses
and career
opportunities
at our Career
Convention



charity and
community events
hosted at the
Princess Alexandra
Auditorium


39
schools partnered with
across 13 projects

£21,000

raised by our Parents' Associations for charity

7

Children's Author
Visits



1000+

visitors to Careers Events



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

SCHOOL PARTNERS

We are delighted that our relationships with schools in our local area continue to thrive with a huge range of collaborative projects taking place.

Our Primary School partnership programme has been developed to suit the needs of local schools. We remain agile and adaptable to alleviating the budgetary and time pressures that many schools are under, meaning we go out to visit schools where transport costs to come to us are restrictive, we plan according to their timescale, and we ensure projects provide opportunities beyond the National Curriculum to extend and inspire pupils.

Our partnership work covers areas that are sometimes under-resourced, and projects include Clay Workshops, Virtual Reality Sessions, Internet Safety, Programming with Micro:Bits, Woodland Sessions, Sports Afternoons, Team Quizzes, Author Visits and more. Activities can take many shapes depending on the individual school need; we have single show format visits delivered in school halls, like our Physics Roadshow, smaller interactive workshops delivered over several weeks to enable maximum participation, such as our VR workshops, and full days on-site at Yarm School where we can offer space and facilities, such as our Singing Days, STEM days and Internet Safety Workshops.

Everyone involved in our partnerships – the teachers and pupils from partner schools and the teachers and pupils from Yarm School – are overwhelmingly positive about their experiences. Teachers value the opportunity to work together in new settings and with different pupils, while pupils from all schools are proud to be involved and learn new skills. Pupils develop resourcefulness and respect for each other through the experience of working in diverse groups to solve problems; for example on Singing Day they mix in a range of groups to develop collaborative performances, and on Sports Afternoons they are in mixed groups as they explore new sports such as fencing. Not only do our Prep pupils take part in partnership projects with local schools, our Year 6 Digital Leaders actually run workshops throughout the year in our partner schools, developing leadership and teamwork skills in the process.

We enjoy collaborating with our partner schools and their staff, developing skills and knowledge together. During the Primary Singing Day we share a CPD workshop for teachers with music as their specialism, in our Coding Masterclasses our Yarm teacher works alongside the class teacher who then builds on the project, and where our clay sessions are delivered by Yarm teachers, they work alongside the class teacher sharing experience and techniques for mutual benefit.



“

The children were all engaged, working with clay to a level beyond my expectations. It is wonderful for the children to be part of a group project which will become part of the local area's development.”

Mrs Bennison, Teacher, Egglecliffe CE Primary School

CAREERS PARTNERS

We are proud to work with local secondary schools and local, regional and national business and education institutions to inspire young people from across the Tees Valley.

All our career events are built on the desire to share the very best information, advice and guidance with the very widest audience. Our careers provision is continuously adapting to the demands of the education and training sectors, as well as the employment market.

We are proud to offer a large biennial Career Convention open to all students 14-19, which in 2023 welcomed over 160 delegates from universities, training providers and workplaces and over 1000 young people. We host regular 'Career Cluster' events, which focus on particular career areas and involve discussions and

questions with experienced leaders, mid-level practitioners, and those who are training or just entering the career area. These events are attended by students throughout the region.

Our careers provision also includes the opportunity for potential medicine, dentistry and veterinary science students from partner schools to access our ultimate multiple mini interview guide, which includes information, training and mock MMIs.

In 2023 we collaborated on a new work experience programme with HM Treasury and other government departments at the Darlington Economic Campus, which saw enthusiastic Sixth Form students from Yarm and our partner state school take part in a range of activities designed to prepare them for the workplace.



COMMUNITY & CHARITY PARTNERS

Working within our local community to foster and maintain impactful relationships is very important to us.

Our Music Department enjoys close and varied connections locally and in the wider Tees Valley area. We work with local musician and community engineer, Mike McGrother, to offer a musical experience and collective remembering-through-song at our 'Memento' sing-a-long events. These are afternoons or evenings where those living with dementia, their carers and supporters, as well as anyone from the community who wishes to join us, come together at school to sing. Care homes arrange for groups to attend and we also welcome individuals, couples and other small groups. Pupils and staff from Yarm School perform and take part alongside Mike. Everyone involved enthuses about the benefits of these sessions, which provide older members of the community with connection and the opportunity to hear live music and engage with young people. For those living with dementia, music can be a powerful and positive link with memories and personal connections. Our pupils learn patience and respect from performing and interacting with the public, and find the hugely positive atmosphere incredibly rewarding.

We share music with the community in other diverse ways, for example through our open invitation to our Community Christmas Concerts, our Primary Singing Days, Prep choristers visiting local care and retirement homes, our carolling contribution to Vision25's Christmas Party, and through our Choral Society community choir.

We are proud to connect with local community groups in many other ways. Along with national charity PHAB, we run a fortnightly club for local young people with and without disabilities. This is a tremendous success and enjoyed both by club members who are school pupils, and those who are guests.

We enjoy a great relationship with businesses on our local High Street and have collaborated on Christmas art projects that see pupils' artwork creating festive shop window displays. The annual 'Yarm Apprentice' Business competition for students involves collaboration with High Street and other local businesses, as tasks involve anything from setting new cafe menu items to proposing an office well-being programme. Our Combined Cadet Force are the main uniformed contingent at the town's annual remembrance parade, which sees over 1000 members of the public pay their respects. Our 'Silver Stories' project sees Middleton Hall Retirement Village link with pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 who enjoy sharing stories with residents in regular online video chats, with residents occasionally visiting school and pupils occasionally visiting the retirement village. Our spacious Princess Alexandra Auditorium is offered for numerous community events such as the Stockton Borough Council's Dementia Friendly Business Awards, the Tees Valley Business Club, local Dance Schools' Shows, the Tees Valley Youth Choir, and Police Awards events. We have recently formalised our partnership with Yarm Rugby club with an agreement for them to use some of our rugby fields as their match pitches for many years to come, and we are delighted to work with other

local sports clubs and organisations which use our facilities.

We work with local charities Yarm Wellness and Sprouts to provide hands-on support such as painting a mural in the wellness centre and donating food parcels to Sprouts, as well as raising money to go directly towards the charities' work. Our Prep School supports the Billingham & Stockton Foodbank for their Harvest Festival, and collects Christmas 'bags' for the Middlesbrough-based CAUSE Foundation. We work with charities further afield such as The Meserani Project in Tanzania (with pupils contributing in person on school trips to support the charity's work) and The Mustard Seed Project in Kenya, in addition to contributing to disaster relief funds including the UNICEF's Children's Emergency Fund and the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). Our Prep School has long-standing

links to local charity The David Ashwell Foundation for whom they raise money each year (alongside House charities that are chosen annually). These mutually beneficial partnerships teach our pupils the values of compassion and service which are core Yarm School values, and part of our aim in 'educating for life'. Parents also connect the school to charity and community partners through our two Parents' Associations (YPSSC and YSA), with both groups raising substantial funds for local charities like NeoAngels, South Cleveland Heart Fund, and Cardiac Risk in the Young, as well as smaller amounts throughout the year.



“

The club is inclusive and encouraging, I have been delighted to see my daughter's confidence and independence develop there. I only have to say that we are going to Phab Club to see the smile on her face!

Julie Fenton, Parent of Phab attendee

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION



CASE STUDY: PRIMARY STEM DAYS

Yarm Prep School hosted Primary STEM workshops in collaboration with the North East STEM Foundation.

We welcomed 10 local schools as over 500 North East pupils delved into the fascinating world of STEM with industry leaders Tekmar Group, Hitachi, Filtronic, Tracerco, Waterman Aspen, Tridonic Uk Limited, VEX Robotics, Sir Robert McAlpine, CPI, Jacobs, AESC, and Esh Group, alongside subject specialists from Yarm Prep School and visiting expert Andrew Stogdale.

Children had great fun expanding their understanding of STEM with activities including welding with chocolate, locating hidden sources of radiation, programming games, constructing miniature wind turbines and so much more.

“ *Our Business Ambassadors are usually in high demand for events or to come to schools to talk about STEM careers. I felt like this event was of a suitable magnitude we could engage with many schools simultaneously. I personally feel like this is a “winning formula” and would be very keen to support another event like this.*

Adam Tuff, Tracerco

“ *A fantastic two days hosted by Yarm Prep School. The North East STEM Foundation were delighted to be able to fund the transport costs for schools to attend these events.*

Michelle Henderson,
North East STEM Foundation

“ *It opened the eyes of our children to the real life applications of STEM. It inspired some of our pupils to consider careers in STEM. It was helpful that some of the engineers were female as this had a positive impact on our girls’ aspirations to become engineers.*

Mr Drake, Teacher,
Kirklevington Primary School

CASE STUDY: MEMENTO JUKEBOX

Our third Memento event was held off-site in the garden of The Black Bull in the High Street, welcoming families and individuals young and old for an intergenerational Saturday session of sing-a-long fun.

The dementia-inclusive event was centred around poems, stories and memories from local people, and the music that moved them. Attendees enjoyed a variety of individual and group performances connecting us to the shared memories and offering a supportive environment for those affected by dementia. The musical experience took us through every emotion - from sorrow and tears to joy and laughter - and even saw some impromptu dancing!

“ *It was excellent to see younger people working with older people and the talent that they have got!*”
Nick, Attendee

“ *I love coming along to the Yarm School's Memento Events - there is a wonderful atmosphere with people from all generations singing, dancing and clapping along together to the music, with smiles on all their faces.*”
Margaret, Attendee

“ *Today has been absolutely great, seeing everyone coming here and enjoying themselves and it's been fantastic listening to the singing and the young instrumentalists in particular.*”
Del, Attendee

“ *You can really see the joy and the happiness it brings to people.*”
Jack, Yarm Prep School





CASE STUDY: CAREER EVENINGS

The latest in our regular schedule of Career Cluster events focused on Finance, Accounting, Management and Economics careers. The aim of the evening was to explore careers in these fields, hearing from practitioners at various levels from a range of specialisms, and answering questions from the attendees. Panellists included former pupils, friends of the school and local business people who were shaping their own careers in this area. We welcomed attendees from across the region primarily from Fifth Year (Year 11) upwards, alongside some keen younger pupils.

The event was split into three sessions, beginning with a panel of experienced individuals who shared the depth and breadth of their experience across the

spectrum of finance related careers. Session two panellists discussed how they got started in the industry and their pathway so far, while the final panel consisted of those embarking on their first steps who were able to detail how to prepare and apply for different courses as well as discuss the types of qualifications available.

Attendees took the opportunity to ask many questions of the panels, with the most returned-to topic being the respective merits of traditional university degree courses and apprenticeships. They also had the opportunity to network and ask questions informally with the panellists after the event.

“It was really interesting to hear the questions to the panelists after discussing potential career paths and how they ended in their roles.”

Lower Sixth Student,
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College

“Most useful were the talks about university vs degree apprenticeships and what employers and students thought about both.”

Lower Sixth Student,
Conyers School

“The information on apprenticeships was really useful and interesting.”

Lower Sixth Student,
Egglescliffe School and Sixth Form

CASE STUDY: PHAB CLUB

Phab Club, which is aimed at 11 to 18-year-olds, is our fortnightly club where disabled and non-disabled children come together to socialise, have fun and build friendships. We offer a range of activities such as arts and crafts, board games and table tennis, as well as seasonal parties and special visits. Parents and guardians are able to enjoy a coffee in the school's Atrium with stunning views of the River Tees, while their children have fun with a group of Fourth and Fifth Year pupils and members of Yarm staff.

Recently we welcomed Crathorne Farm Dairy to our Phab Club session. To the delight of everyone attending, dairy cows Daisy and Dolly made an appearance and very much enjoyed being petted and fed. Mr Dugdale, whose farm is just 4 miles from the school, brought a large tractor, and young people took turns climbing into the cab to try out the lights and horn. There was the opportunity to try delicious milkshakes made from the cows' milk, and to have a go at making butter too! The visit was an enormous success and left everyone with very special memories as they shared in the excitement and fun of the farm.

“ Phab has such an amazing impact on the guests that come, their parents and everyone involved. I've loved being a part of Phab club at Yarm and particularly enjoyed getting to know the guests - while playing table tennis and colouring!”

Evie Severn,
Upper Sixth Pupil, Yarm School

“ He [my son] has had lots of encouragement and support from the staff and pupils who have volunteered their time and effort to make sure Liam gets the best out of the time spent there. Phab Club have introduced new experiences to him - for example bringing the cows in where he was able to pet them, and also to taste the milk!”

Diane Drummond,
Parent of Phab attendee



SUSTAINABILITY



***“It was wonderful to see how completing your Environmental Review helped to raise the level of awareness in your school and your Action Plan shows that your Eco-Committee has carefully considered how they can involve their entire school in their planned Eco-Schools’ activities to achieve maximum impacts and raise awareness amongst their school community.*”**

Green Flag Award assessors, Summer 2024

Senior School Eco Club celebrate their Green Flag Award



Yarm understand our collective responsibility in terms of the environmental impact of all we do, and prioritising sustainability forms part of our strategic vision.

We are proud to be a ‘zero to landfill’ school, recycling all waste we generate in different ways. We have ground source heat pumps in our Riverside and Auditorium areas and an air source heat pump has been installed at the Hazel Andrews Building at Prep School, with all our buildings insulated to maximise heating efficiency. 181 solar panels adorn the roofs at Prep School, providing clean energy. We are excited to be installing a monitoring system with these, to allow pupils and staff to engage with energy generation and consumption. We employ initiatives such as a water management system in our lavatories to minimise waste, are working through replacing old energy-inefficient lights with new LED lighting and installed EV charging points in our new Prep car park.

2024 has seen us commission a new sustainability report to further highlight recommendations for us to implement, and we make all reasonable efforts to ensure that current and future developments are designed with sustainability and environmental impact as a core focus.

Our Senior School is a seven-times Eco Schools Green Flag Award winner, with the latest award having been bestowed with Distinction. Environmental consciousness is deeply embedded in our school’s ethos, and this year the Eco Team have promoted many initiatives. These included encouraging pupils and parents to cut carbon emissions in various ways (one of which was an anti-idling campaign), a deep dive into the sustainability of real and artificial Christmas trees, and an eco-fashion show.

Our Prep School have also been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag with Distinction. The Eco Committee planted a copse of native British trees on the site, co-ordinated litter picking at Marske beach, and created bug hotels to improve biodiversity on the school grounds.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

We make a significant economic impact and we strive to support the local economy as both an employer and consumer.

£24.8M

contributed to the UK GDP per year

£13.6M

contributed to the GDP of the local area

£7M

UK tax is contributed by the school's activities

£7.5M

savings generated for the UK taxpayer as a result of pupils attending Yarm School instead of taking a free state funded place

(Data from research commissioned by the Independent Schools Council (ISC) and carried out by Oxford Economics.)

We support hundreds of jobs:

277

locally

541

UK wide

78%

of employees live within 10 miles of our school



LOOKING FORWARD

We are delighted that our Primary School partnership programme continues to thrive with an increasing number of additional schools wishing to partner with Yarm after they hear about our work.

We plan to continue going out to local schools, and we also have a new space – our new Prep School Hall, opened January 2024 – that will allow for diversification of the current programme. A new and exciting project has been developed in conjunction with Stockton Borough Council's support that will see our clay workshops going out to over 30 schools in the next two years: the 'You & I' Community Clay Project will see over 1000 pupils' clay figures feature in an outdoor art installation when the Stockton riverside redevelopment is completed in summer 2026. Plans are in place to include further CPD offers for staff and strategic relationships with organisations that can help support teachers in the local area. A link with the North East STEM Foundation has been established and will help remove budgetary constraints around transport for local schools so they can attend STEM events on site.

Our partnerships with community organisations and charities are growing as we forge new links with organisations and strive to deepen those we already have. We are excited to extend our strong relationships with local community groups and charities as we introduce our House Volunteering week in June, which will see pupils supported to give service in our local area. With the construction of our new Prep School Hall we have been able to offer space for organisations like community interest company Power of Women to hold workshops for young people, and we will continue to share this resource with those who can utilise it for the benefit of all.

We continue to strive to create meaningful connections with a diverse array of individuals and organisations. By widening and deepening our collaborations with businesses, community groups, charities, schools, and academic institutions, we will foster relationships built on trust and a shared vision, driving positive and mutually beneficial outcomes for all.



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