



# The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 797—Friday 17th January 2025

## A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of the Phoenix Flier, giving you a snapshot of life at the Prep School. The recent cold spell has eased, and we are now able to fully enjoy our outdoor spaces again. With activities and clubs in full swing throughout the school, this has been a welcome change. It's fantastic to see our pupils actively participating in a broad range of opportunities during the Monday and Wednesday activity sessions, as well as through our before-school, lunchtime, and after-school extracurricular clubs.

With over 90 different activities offered each week, there truly is something for everyone. These clubs provide pupils with opportunities to develop both physical and mental skills. Sports and fitness sessions foster teamwork, discipline, and physical well-being, while creative clubs such as art and music promote self-expression and artistic growth. Activities like chess, maths workshops, and STEAM encourage problem-solving, critical thinking, and innovation. Moreover, social and leadership skills are nurtured through programs like debating and oracy skills, helping our pupils develop into well-rounded individuals. Be sure to check inside for more information about clubs with available spaces.

This weekend, we are excited to welcome current and prospective pupils and parents to our Open Morning. It's a fantastic opportunity for Year 2 pupils to experience some of the Prep School activities, while our older pupils serve as ambassadors, leading various tours. I am confident that both staff and students will make this event a resounding success.

*Bill Sawyer*

### Head's Challenge:

My needle points, but it doesn't sew. What am I?

### Photo of the Week:

A fantastic first netball club back, working on passing and moving. Everyone worked really well as a team.



**Tes Schools Awards 2024**

**Winner**

Independent  
Prep School  
of the Year



## Arkwright Enterprise Activity

On Monday 13th January, the children in the Year 6 Arkwright Enterprise Activity were treated to a most informative and interesting presentation by Mark Willis (Cooper's dad!) about being an entrepreneur.

Mr Willis who is the Operations Director, at Thorp Precast Limited, spoke about how his company makes precast concrete facades to help large building projects save time, maximise quality and reduce risk.

The highlight of his presentation was when Mr Willis demonstrated how concrete's tensile strength could be massively increased by adding miniscule lengths of brass coated steel fibre into the

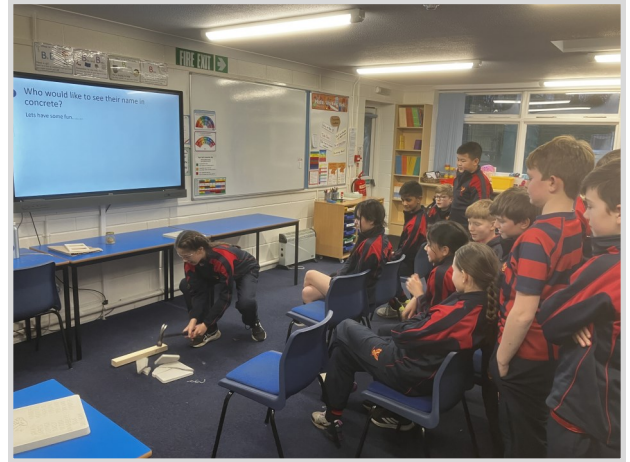
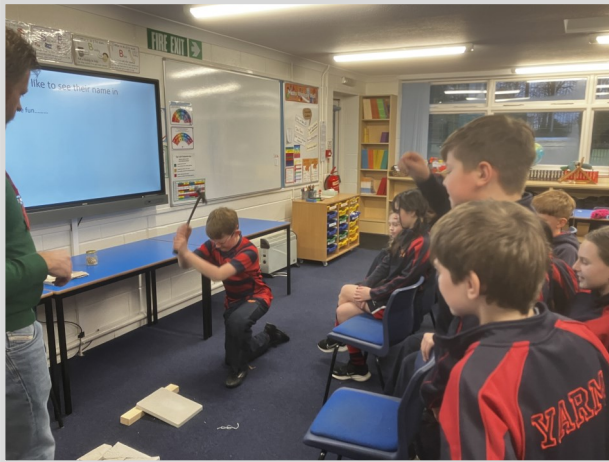
concrete mix. Mr Willis brought in a small concrete slab (with all the names of the Year 6 children in

Arkwright

on it) and even the strongest hammer blow aimed directly onto the concrete could not break it!

Thank you Mr Willis for coming to talk to us and inspiring us to be engineers and entrepreneurs in the future. We never knew concrete could be this interesting!

Mr Grundmann



## School and Club Sports

It is great to see so many of our pupils attending local clubs and we highly recommend joining one to aid learning further.

### Netball

[The link here](#) gives you clubs in the North East, contacts, training venues and exact timings for each age group.

**Grangetown** coach Michelle runs a U8/9 training session for Yarm pupils on Thursdays 3.55pm-4.55pm at school, as well as a host of age group teams. For further info email: [grangetownnc@hotmail.com](mailto:grangetownnc@hotmail.com)

**Headlanders Netball Club** in Darlington where Mrs Jolly coaches. Contact [dheadlanders@outlook.com](mailto:dheadlanders@outlook.com) for further details re. Wednesday night training. [https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonHeadlanders/?locale=en_GB)

### Tennis and Squash

**Yarm Squash Club and Yarm Tennis Club**—<https://yarmsquashclub.co.uk/>, <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/yarmtennisclub>

# Curiosity Emporium

Tuesday 14th January saw the spring term's first Curiosity Emporium and what a way to commence a new term! Lord Wharton of Yarm joined us for a Google Meet session on how important our oracy skills are. We heard first hand accounts of how he adapts his vocabulary and formality for different audiences and learnt that confidence and articulation really are essential skills for success. He also challenged the children to consider how their audience might receive what is being said. The children were enthusiastic, engaged and certainly had a lot to takeaway and put into practice!

*Mrs Simpson*

During curiosity emporium on Tuesday 14th January, we had the amazing opportunity to meet Lord Wharton. Lord Wharton was elected MP for Yarm in 2010 at 26 years old. He was also elected in 2015. Whilst on zoom call with Lord Wharton, he gave us tips on public speaking. Some of us felt like we were confident about public speaking, whereas others felt differently about talking in front of large audiences. He mentioned some key things for speaking in front of an audience, such as recognising who you are talking to, since the vast majority of children may notice a difference from how they speak to friends to how they speak to teachers. He also stated that it is very important to be clear and punctual when you are speaking, so your audience can understand clearly what you are saying. In addition to this, he talked about how it is crucial to speak at a steady pace. One of his other tips was not to give your audience too much information, as it can be overwhelming and difficult to remember. We questioned Lord Wharton who he thought was the best public speaker out of the past Prime Ministers. In his opinion, he shared that he thought Tony Blair was the best at persuasive speaking, David Cameron was good at sharing the key points of his argument and Boris Johnson was thought fondly of by the public and was known for his humorous speeches!

I'm sure that many of us thoroughly enjoyed the chance to meet the MP of Yarm and would love to do something similar again!

*Imogen C.*



## Spring Term Captains 2025

	Captain	Vice-Captain
3B	Dora Mansouri	Sebastian Tailby
3J	Poppy Bobin	Tupell'e Morris
3P	Aria Tiew	Rupert Nunnery
4F	Faye Michie	Jayden Gerrard
4J	Harrison Vanek	Bertie Beckerlegge
4SU	Austen Freeman	Edward Gildroy
5G	Paari Muthukrishnan	Beatrice Tailby
5S	Ziad Salim	Ralph Ellis
5W	Ted Howlett	Jana Alzahrani
6H	Ben O'Hare	Fathe Chahal
6K	Clara Freeman	Bryan Pinto
6L	Ayaana Kansal	Wilfie Bobin
<b>Arkwright</b>	Sophia Bundhoo	Will Garratt
<b>Brunel</b>	Annabelle Merritt	Henry Skidmore
<b>Stephenson</b>	Rosa Williams	Evelyn Carter
<b>Telford</b>	Bella Mitchell	Imogen Clark

## CEOP



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

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

**ANY CHILD IN IMMEDIATE DANGER SHOULD ALWAYS CALL 999 FIRST.**

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

Mr Stone

## Uniform Reminders

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

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

## PreLoved Uniform

Nursery, Pre Prep, Prep & Senior Uniform

PE and Games

See Listings on [Classlist](#) or  
Email Us  
[YPSSC@Yarmschool.org](mailto:YPSSC@Yarmschool.org)

Donations of good condition, clean uniform and PE & Games items accepted all year. Kindly bag them and label them with 'YPSSC PreLoved Donations' and drop them at either Pre Prep, Prep or Senior School Reception.

people with regard to their appearance and image.

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

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

Mr Stone

## Holiday Club Dates

**Easter 2025:** - 7th—11th April 2025

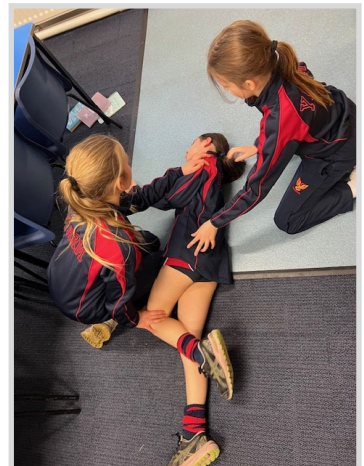
**Summer 2025:** - 14th July—1st August 2025

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

## Year 6 Health & Happiness

Year 6 Brunellians have been learning some important first aid skills this week, with the support of Mrs Wheatley and Resusci Annie! This was part of their Health and Happiness carousel activity, which takes place every Monday and explores many other areas too.

Mrs Hart



## Clubs and Activities

We also have some spaces in the following after school clubs:

**TUESDAY:** Year 3 Silver Stories, Years 3-4 Biography Club, Years 4-6 Music Theory, Years 5-6 Winter Cricket Training

**WEDNESDAY:** All Years Philosophy, Years 4-6 Chess for Fun

**THURSDAY:** Years 3-4 Netball, Years 5-6 Drama\*

**FRIDAY:** Years 3-4 Street Dance\*

*Clubs marked with an \* incur a cost to parents.*

If your child is interested in joining any of these clubs, [please email me](#).

Mr Stone

## Coming Up at the PAA

### The Craziest

#### Showman—

Saturday 22nd  
February at  
2pm

In the latest high energy adventure, “The superstars of slapstick”, CBBC’s favourite and brightest comedy Stars Danny & Mick bring their particular brand of lunacy to the show, causing chaos on stage and bringing screams of laughter from the whole family.



### An Audience with a Cricketing Legend Sir Alastair

#### Cook—Monday

24th February at  
7.45pm

Hosted by Ex England cricketer and England cricket

selector Geoff Miller. England's second highest test run scorer of all time Alastair played in 161 test matches scoring 12,472 runs.

Alastair scored a century on his test debut, made 175 catches and captained England in one of their most successful periods of English cricket becoming the number one ranked test cricket team in the world.



### Banff Mountain Film Festival—Thursday 27th

February at 7.30pm

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of thrilling adventure on the big screen!

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is back with a brand-new line-up of captivating

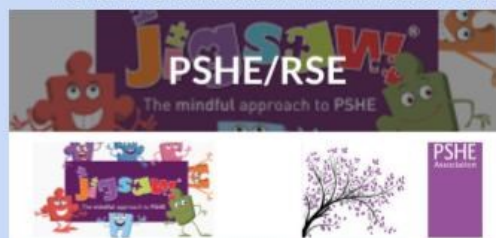
short films packed with extreme journeys, intriguing characters and stunning cinematography. Join the world's top outdoor filmmakers and adventurers as they climb, ski, paddle, run and ride through the wildest corners of the planet!



<https://bit.ly/yarmcurriculum>

Click here to access the latest

Parent Curriculum Information Site



Recent updates include a new PSHE/RSE page and the spring term Prep Homework Menus

## Tooled Up Education

Happy New Year! At Toolled Up we're thrilled to be beginning 2025 with you, and to share in the excitement and determination of getting energised, setting goals, and helping children succeed.

These Toolled Up resources can help make 2025 a fruitful year!

The [2025 Goal Setting Planner](#) is a fun way to help children set achievable goals. These goals could be anything from new things they'd like to try, to saving pocket money for that special something.

For teens preparing for exams in the summer, it's never too early to get organised and the [2025 Exam Planner](#) can help.

Procrastination is something that can affect children and adults alike - we can often need to get lots done but somehow never quite do it! Find ideas to stay on-task and productive with these [Simple Strategies to Beat Procrastination](#).

Lots of us think about health and nutrition at the start of a new year. It's important for children to have a healthy attitude towards food and their bodies and we have several resources to support this. Dietitian Paola Falcoski's expert tips on [Helping Children Develop a Healthy Relationship with Food](#) will show you how to help children feel more involved in their own food choices.

For older children and teens [Dr Idz on Debunking Health and Fitness Myths](#) is great to share or watch together. We know that many young people's ideas about diet and their bodies come from social media, and this webinar explores the truth behind those narratives.

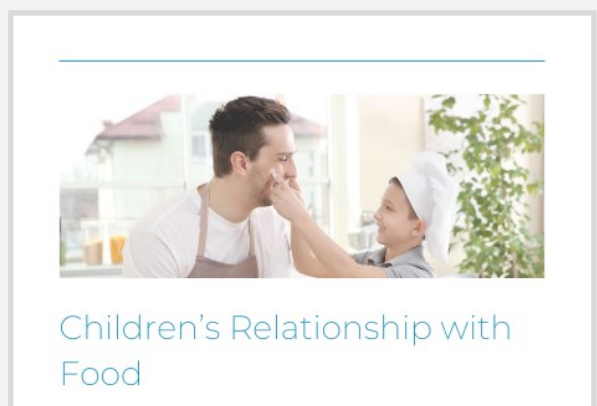
The Toolled Up library is already packed with almost 350 evidence-based resources, including interviews with over 80 leading experts from around the world. But, it's your library and we want to know how else we can help you? What new resources would you like to see? Which ones do you love? What could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

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

### A quick reminder :

As a parent at a Toolled Up school, you have full unlimited access to the Toolled Up library. If you have not created your account yet, click [here to register for an account](#). It takes less than 2 minutes to enter your details and unique school PIN: YPSII03 and if you need assistance, we are always happy to help. If you already have an account and you have forgotten your password, then simply click on any of the resource links above, click "Lost your password" and follow the instructions.

*Dr Kathy Weston*



# TOOLED UP<sup>®</sup>

BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

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

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# TIKTOK



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

## BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

## IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS



With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

## MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

## ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app; that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

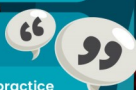


Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

### BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS



If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.01.2025

# Coming Up

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

## JANUARY 2025

- Sat 18** Open Morning (9am-12noon)
- Mon 20** House Chess begins
- Tue 21** Primary Schools Singing Day (PAA)
- Wed 22** School Council
- Thu 23** U9 Football v Durham (home; 2pm start)
- Fri 24** IAPS Netball  
(at Woodhouse Grove; 1pm start, 5pm return)
- Mon 27** Year 6 Drama Week begins
- Tue 28** U8 Netball Workshop with Cundall Manor  
(away; 1.45pm start, 3.45pm return)
- Wed 29** Chinese New Year celebrations  
Wear item of red—£1 donation to St Teresa’s Hospice  
House Chess—Matchday 3
- Fri 31** Year 6 Drama Week Performance (4.15pm)  
U10 Netball v Queen Mary’s (home, 2pm start)  
U10 Football v Durham (home; 2pm start)

## FEBRUARY 2025

- Mon 3** Activities Carousel 3 begins (for Y4-6)
- Tue 4** National Schools Quiz Championships  
Opening round; online; 10am-11am)
- Wed 5** Prep Duologues launched
- Thu 6** U9 Netball v Durham School  
(away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return)  
U9 Football Festival at NSB  
(away; 1.30pm start, 4.30pm return)
- Fri 7** U10/11 Netball v Pocklington (home; 2pm start)  
U10/11 Hockey v Pocklington  
(away; 2pm start, 4.45pm return)  
First Lego League (Sunderland; times TBC)
- Mon 10** Internet Safety Week  
Internet Safety Workshop  
(Partnerships event; 10am-2.30pm)  
Y3 Stephenson/Telford swimming starts  
YPSSC meeting (Library; 6pm)
- Tue 11** Dentistry assemblies  
Y3 Silver Stories trip to Middleton Hall  
(5pm return)
- Wed 12** Internet Safety event for parents  
(Prep Hall; 4pm)  
NEJS Football & Netball
- Thu 13** Year 3 trip to Arbeia Roman Fort
- Fri 14** STEAM Week launch assembly  
U11 Girls’ County Hockey (details TBC)

U10/11 Hockey v Cundall Manor  
(away; 2pm start, 4.30pm return)

Pre-Prep trip to Shildon

**Sat 15** UK Chess Challenge—School Round  
(Prep Hall; 9.45am-2pm)

**Mon 17** **STEAM WEEK**  
House Coding begins  
No Y3 Swimming today  
No activities this week; clubs as normal

# Term Dates

## Spring Term 2025

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

## Summer Term, 2025

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

# Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Abeer A.	Sebastian T.
3J	Eila G.	Ava M.
3P	Albert L.	Edith V.
4F	William D.	Myla GB.
4J	Zara G.	Noah S.
4SU	Eliza S.	Joshua A.
5G	Paari M.	Annabelle A.
5S	Sia S.	Francesca S.
5W	Edith G.	Armani R.
6H	Amaya S.	Bella M.
6K	Georgina P.	Bryan P.
6L	Darcey B.	Alice W.