



The Phoenix Flier

The Yarm Preparatory School Newsletter

Issue 800 — Friday 7th February 2025

A message from Mr Sawyer

Welcome to this week's edition of The Phoenix Flier! It's been another exciting week of activities and accomplishments across the school, with a particular spotlight on the recent House Chess Competition. Stephenson House triumphed this year, but the real victory lies in the wider benefits that chess offers our pupils. As part of Year 3's Monday activity lessons, all pupils are taught chess and have the chance to develop essential skills such as strategic thinking, problem-solving, and resilience—skills that carry over into many aspects of their learning and personal growth. Chess teaches patience and planning, whether pupils are navigating a match or working through academic challenges, and it's wonderful to see these qualities blossoming in our learners. House competitions in general remain a vibrant part of school life, from general knowledge quizzes to sports, and soon, possibly even House singing! These contests inspire teamwork, perseverance, and friendly rivalry, all of which foster character development and help prepare pupils for the challenges ahead of them.

We're excited to invite you to our Internet Safety event on Wednesday, 12th February at 4pm in the Prep Hall. Organised by our brilliant Digital Leaders, the event will feature an engaging debate on whether children under 14 should have smartphones, alongside entertaining drama sketches and insightful presentations on online safety. You'll also have the opportunity to visit our online safety marketplace, where you can explore apps, tools, and strategies to help keep your children safe in today's digital world. We look forward to seeing you there!

Bill Sawyer

Head's

Challenge: Two people were playing chess and they both won. How is this possible?

Photo of the

Week: The House Chess concluded with one of the most exciting finishes of any house competition in recent years. Who won? Read more inside.



Tes Schools Awards 2024

Winner

Independent
Prep School
of the Year



House Chess—Round Three

This year's House Chess Championship took a very dramatic turn in the third and final set of fixtures, which, after the smoke of battle had finally cleared, saw three teams sharing first place, with the title being decided only on 'wins scored' (think 'goals scored', for those in need of a football analogy!).

Arkwright, who looked to be out of the race for top honours after a defeat in the earlier rounds, crushed an under-strength and dispirited Telford side, who clearly felt there was little to play for after their poor start to the event.

Captain Henry Stanley, veteran Rory Fitzgerald and the very loyal Felicity Thompson all scored points for Telford, but, as a team, they were heavily outgunned. Captain Paari Muthukrishnan set the example, as always, and his win was matched by Jayden Wang, William Garratt, Bea Tailby, Zoyaa Soni and Kathryn Frost. Noah Speight was the top scorer in the match, with one win and one draw.

The final score was Arkwright 7.5, Telford 2.5.

Meanwhile, the match between Stephenson and Brunel was the most dramatic of all.

It was close for a very long time, but then Stephenson moved up a gear to power their way to a 13.5-7.5 victory.

Captain Fathe Chahal won two games for Brunel and his example was followed by Scarlett Yang, Monty Bowen, Austin Oman, Agam Vats and Harrison Vanek, all of whom picked important points.

However, Stephenson had victory on their minds. They also had Dara Jafari on their side; he won four games out of four. Ziad Salim, Max Hollingsworth, Freddie Bonner, Edward Williams and Sandy Omar all won important points too.

However, we can single out Stan Dugdale, who won two games, as the star of the show, because it was his captaincy which made all of the difference throughout the three tough rounds of the 2025 House Chess Championship and this is his best chess achievement to date.

The big victory meant that Stephenson became the champions on the aforementioned 'points scored' tiebreaker, narrowly ahead of 2024 champions Brunel and Arkwright respectively. Telford finished in fourth place.

Well played everyone and congratulations to Stephenson, who have now won the House Chess Championship seven times since the start of the event, back in 1994.

Mr Marsh



Free Chess Webinars with Mr Marsh!

Mr Marsh is delivering a weekly series of FREE chess webinars for children aged 7-13. Places are limited for these worldwide events. Click on the link/image below for further details!



Sign Language Club

Last Thursday, Sign Language Club proudly shared their knowledge of signing with the Prep School. In the assembly the children spoke about: the importance of using your face and body language when signing, why people use BSL (British Sign Language) and how to mouth the words when you say them. Everyone in the club helped those attending the assembly to sign the alphabet and learn simple greetings. To close Sign Language Club sang and signed Katy Perry's *Roar*.

Mrs Barton



Year 3 Humanities

For our humanities this week Year 3 investigated how the Roman army were so successful during their invasion of Britain. The children thoroughly enjoyed forming their own legions and Celtic tribes to prove how 'the wedge' and 'the tortoise' were so important in Roman battle successes. Mrs Barton, Mr Pengilly and Mrs Jones took on the roles of commanders seriously and barked Latin commandments to demonstrate the importance of discipline and professionalism. The children particularly enjoyed forming 'the tortoise' and defending themselves from barbaric 'missiles'.

Mr Pengilly



Internet Safety Event for Parents - 4pm, Wednesday 12th February

You are invited to our internet safety event, aimed at parents to coincide with Safer Internet Day, on Wednesday 12th February. The event will take place in the Prep Hall, commencing at 4pm and finishing around 5pm. The event has been put together by our Digital Leaders and will feature a range of activities for you to enjoy and find out about, including:

- Our Debating club will be participating in a debate entitled, "*This house believes children under 14 should be allowed to have smartphones.*"
- Some of our Digital Leaders will be performing short drama sketches that focus on online safety matters.
- Digital Leaders will also be presenting on topics such as age-appropriate apps they use and how to stay safe on them.
- The event will conclude with an online safety 'marketplace', where Digital Leaders (and some parents/staff) will be setting up stalls for you to come along and find out about topics such as: *Pinwheel phones, Kids Lock app, Smartphone Free Childhood, staying safe on Roblox, etc.*

The event is open to all parents and we hope many of you will take this opportunity to come along and find out from the children themselves how they are being proactive in their online environments.

[If you are able to come along, please let us know via this quick and easy form by Monday 10th February.](#)

Mr Stone

PE and Games News

Under 10 Netball v Queen Mary's

The Year 5 girls all played in the netball fixtures v Queen Mary's last Friday down at the Senior School. Individual highlights included:

Beatrice: I enjoyed how it was fair for all players with everyone involved and encouraging each other.

Hattie: It was lovely that Queen Mary's lent us a player as we had two girls absent for the fixture. This helped us play with 7 on our court.

Sia: In our game we mixed up with QM which worked really well.

Annabelle: The game was great and the team spirit was fantastic!

Amelie: I enjoyed playing three different positions in our game.

Aditi: I enjoyed Mrs Jolly's team talk as we played so much better after that and scored lots of goals.

Georgie: It was my first game as GA and the girls were so supportive of me throughout the match.

Players of the Matches: Mrs Jolly chose Amani for her efforts in defence. Mrs Croslegh chose Amelie who was encouraging to all throughout. Mrs Redhead-Sweeney selected Sia who was excellent as Centre.



Mrs Redhead-Sweeney

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

Headlanders Netball Club in Darlington where Mrs Jolly coaches. Contact dheadlanders@outlook.com for further details re. Wednesday night training. 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>

Hockey

Stockton Hockey Club - Junior training takes place Monday nights on the Yarm Sc senior astro 5.30pm-6.30pm <https://www.stocktonhockeyclub.co.uk/teams/team/11741808>

Stokesley Girls Hockey—This takes place on Wednesdays 5.30pm-6.30pm on the Yarm Sc senior astro 5.30pm-6.30pm <https://www.stokesleyhockeyclub.com/>

Norton Hockey Club—Junior training starts again on Sunday 24th Sept at Norton astro. 10.30am-12pm. <https://www.nortonhockeyclub.co.uk/>

Rugby

Stockton Rugby Club who train at Stockton CC - <https://stocktonrugby.co.uk/minis/under-11/>

Yarm Rugby Club - <https://yarm.rfu.club/teams>

Darlington Mowden RFC - <https://www.mowdenpark.com/>

Darlington RFC - <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/darlingtonrfc/>

CEOP



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

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

ANY CHILD IN IMMEDIATE DANGER SHOULD ALWAYS CALL 999 FIRST.

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

Mr Stone

YPSSC

We are running a competition to give our new uniform shed a name! To enter, use one of the suggestion boxes on Mrs Banham’s or Mrs White’s desks, or [fill in the Google Form here](#). The best names selected by the committee will go forward to a vote!

Get those thinking caps on!

YPSSC

Art Competition

art 2025 – “Reflect” or “Reflection”

We would love to see lots of entries for this year’s exciting competition.

This year’s theme has been chosen by IAPS Art Subject Advisor, Charlotte Bell - Head of Art & form tutor at Caterham Prep. Charlotte has chosen this year’s theme to be “Reflect” or “Reflection”.

The theme

Children are encouraged to consider this theme broadly; examples include, but are not limited to:

- A reflection in a mirror or shiny surface.

- A reflection on water.
- Reflecting on the past year or a significant event.
- Reflecting on a current global issue.

Children can work in a range of media - painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, sculpture - as long as it links to this year’s theme.

The winners of each category will be invited to attend an awards evening in London where the winner’s artwork will be displayed and their prize awarded.

The deadline is Friday 28th March 2025. Please see Mrs Shepherd for help with ideas and resources and to submit entries.

Mrs Shepherd

Holiday Club Dates

Easter 2025: - 7th—11th April 2025

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



Reduce- Reuse- Recycle

New Pre-Loved Uniform Shed!

YPSSC are excited to announce our Pre-Loved Uniform Shed is officially up and running!

We are located near to the entrance for Nursery on the Pre Prep site.



We provide & Collect Pre-Loved Uniform

Summer- Winter – PE – Games – Accessories

Nursery, Pre-Prep, Prep, Senior & Sixth Form

Come and have a browse-The shed will be manned periodically throughout the week by volunteers and enquiries can still be sent by email or **classlist**.

ypssc@yarmschool.org

Ypssc.co.uk

Year 6 Arkwright Carousel

Arkwright have started their Health and Happiness activity by creating their own Classroom Agreements. A brilliant collaborative start.

Mrs Hart



Clubs and Activities

Sounds of Springsteen—Thursday 10th April,

7.30pm

Experience the pure rock 'n' roll euphoria of Bruce Springsteen as this outstanding show brings his iconic sound to life, taking you on a musical journey through the incredible catalogue, from Greetings from Asbury Park to 2020's Ghosts via the legendary hits Born in the USA and Born to Run.



Get ready to experience the legacy of The Boss and rock the night away!

Sleeping Beauty - Monday 21st April, 2pm and

Tuesday

22nd April,

1pm and

6.30pm

Starring Linda Lusardi, join us for a

spellbinding journey "Sleeping Beauty," presented by Tom Rolfe Productions! Follow the tale of Princess Beauty, a kind-hearted royal destined for greatness.



Boro

Legends,

Paul Merson

and Andy

Townsend -

Hosted by

Hayley

McQueen—Friday 27th June, 7.30pm

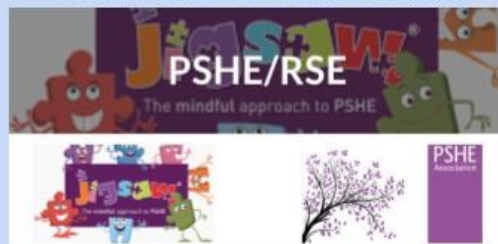
Two Middlesbrough legends are coming to talk about their time at Middlesbrough FC and also their action-packed football careers.

Starring Paul Merson and Andy Townsend as they discuss all things football, dressing room/training ground stories, managers, fall outs and everything you wanted to know about playing for a successful football club.



<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

The digital world has much to offer in terms of learning, resources and building relationships, but we all know it has a darker side too.

Safer Internet Day 2025 on February 11th is a global initiative that encourages individuals, schools, and organisations to engage in discussion about protecting personal information, combating cyberbullying, and fostering responsible internet use. It aims to help users of all ages make informed choices in order to navigate the online world safely.

At Tooled Up we've always delved deep into the research on internet safety, and our plethora of resources cover every angle from parental controls and social media, to deepfakes and doxing.

[Digital Risks and Harms: Fresh Insights](#) shares the latest research on how children use the internet, and the harms they can be exposed to. In this webinar, Professor Aiman El Asam guides us through the results of the Cybersurvey, an ongoing piece of research with young people in the UK reporting on their online experiences.

There are a number of downloadable resources included in [Raising a Child in the Digital Age](#) that encourage parents to consider what a healthy online life looks like, and the role that the internet plays in children's lives as they grow up.

If your child has access to a device, should you try to control what they view? Researcher Dr Maria Stoilova of the London School of Economics joined us for this fascinating podcast on the [Pros and Cons of Parental Controls](#).

Finally, this popular webinar asks [What Exactly is a Smartphone-Free Childhood?](#) Dr Kathy Weston discusses important questions about screen time and the rationale behind delaying children's transition into the online world.

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

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

A quick reminder :

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

Dr Kathy Weston

TOOLED UP[®]
BECAUSE EVIDENCE MATTERS

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

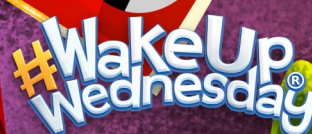
Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

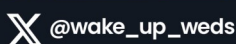
Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.02.2025

Coming Up

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

FEBRUARY 2025

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 ***NEW*** Year 4 trip to Hopetown
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 Sildon ***NEW*** Year 5 trip to Hopetown
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
Tue 18	***NEW*** Year 3 trip to Hopetown
Wed 19	Riding and Golf activities/clubs as normal ***NEW*** Year 6 trip to Hopetown Year 5 London Trip—Zoom for Parents (4pm)
Thu 20	Half-term begins (after school) After School Care as normal
Fri 21	School closed (Staff INSET)

MARCH 2025

Mon 3	Pupils return Rare Diseases Day (bring in £1 to wear jeans)
Tue 4	School Council Curiosity Emporium (1pm; Mrs Hercock) House Pancake Races U8 Football Workshop with Durham (away; 2pm start, 4pm return)
Wed 5	Informal Concert (Prep Hall; 4pm)
Thu 6	World Book Day (dressing up day!) U11 Girls' In2Hockey (TBC) World Book Day Reading Café (after school)

Fri 7	Prep Red Nose Disco (Prep Hall; 6-7.30pm) Bring Your Mothers/Grandmothers to Pre-Prep U10 Hockey v Barnard Castle (away; 2pm start, 4.15pm return) U10/11 Netball v Red House (home; 2pm start) U11 Hockey v Barnard Castle (home; 2pm start)
Mon 10	Year 4 Drama Week commences
Tue 11	Year 5 London trip departs U8 Netball v Queen Mary's (home; 2pm start)
Wed 12	Year 4 trip to EDF Teesmouth Centre
Thu 13	NE Area U11 Girls' Hockey Finals (details TBC)
Fri 14	Year 5 return from London

Term Dates

Spring Term 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 (after Prize Giving)	Thursday, 3rd July 2025

Celebration Assembly

	Values	Endeavour
3B	Ada A.	Oliver J.
3J	Lucien S.	Yunoske I.
3P	Poppy C-W.	William A.
4F	Hannah M.	Edie T.
4J	Nael S.	India B.
4SU	Lily S.	Karunya G.
5G	Freddie W.	Felix M.
5S	Sia S.	Isla L.
5W	Thomas H.	Jana A.
6H	Annalise D.	Cooper W.
6K	Dax C.	Elliott E.
6L	Ben F.	Augusta M.

Head Teacher Award:

Year 3: Wilf M., Ada A., Sebastian T.

Year 6: Holly B., Ayaana K.