

HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Yesterday we had our end of term assembly, where we celebrated so many highlights of the term that, for the first time, I failed to get to the end. After presenting pupils with their well-deserved full colours, we mentioned everything from our chemists getting to the national finals of the 'Top of the Bench' competition in Cardiff and our physicists' outstanding results in the British Physics Olympiad, to our Eco Week and Culture Week, both led by pupils wanting to raise awareness, make a difference and share fun and experiences for all. Our musicians' efforts and contributions were acknowledged, and we were treated to some outstanding performances, enjoyed by all, from the Wind Ensemble and Soul Band who performed at last weekend's super Spring Concert. We remembered outstanding year group drama productions from the Fourth Year and Sixth Form, congratulated pupils who had competed in the national reading champions quiz, debating competitions and debating society,

poets whose work has been accepted for publication, politics podcasters and fashion show participants. We reflected on the Community Action Group's busy term, PHAB club's efforts with disabled friends who join us every fortnight and Memento's impact on those who join us for our dementia friendly singalongs. We heard about the new Phoenix Society's first term, Yarm Apprentice and EconBus Soc, Politics society's guest speakers, CCF's adventurous activities and pupils on Outdoor Ed trips and expeditions. We were amazed by the collective might of our pupils' sporting exploits, efforts and successes in rugby sevens, girls hockey, boys hockey, netball, rowing, tennis, cross country and fencing. It really has been a terrific sporting term. I just snuck in the results - hot off the press - of the House Bake Off competition before it was time to head out for waiting transport home, and with a few highlights still to explore, which can wait until next term!

I have apologised before in the newsletter (notably to colleagues in the English Department) for unwieldy and unreasonably long paragraphs. In this case, however, I hope the somewhat indulgent length of the previous paragraph gives readers a sense of the range of things there are to celebrate. These many highlights do not happen, of course, without endless hours of organisation and commitment from staff, whose contributions I want to acknowledge and celebrate here: thank you to them all for making the school such a vibrant and exciting place for our pupils!

This lengthy edition of the newsletter explores a number of these highlights in greater depth, and I'm grateful to all our contributors, including Bea, whose beautiful watercolour graces Artists' Corner this week. Time to get a cup of tea, put your feet up and dive into some highlights of a wonderful term!

Dr Huw Williams



Congratulations to all involved in the Spring Concert last weekend! More photos inside.

GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

On Thursday afternoon the Upper Sixth geographers embarked on a trip in the sun to Yarm town centre to investigate our local hazard-flood risk. We started off at the town hall looking at the 2m flood height from 1771 and then walked over to Flood Cottage where the height is also marked. We then walked down to the river to look at the flood gates and the current replacements and improvements occurring. We also spoke about soft engineering methods such as signs

and flood warnings on social media as well as the importance of the Canal and Rivers trust and Environment Agency on reducing flood risk. The walk concluded with a look at the river banks where willow spiling and coir (a coconut husk) has been placed on the banks to prevent erosion. Overall, the trip was insightful and enjoyable, providing important names and numbers for our upcoming A levels.

James Muir, Upper Sixth



UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop is open for pre-booked appointments only over the Easter holidays and the Summer Term.

Please call 01642 792588 or email uniformshop@yarmschool.org to make an appointment.

MONEY TALKS...



Whilst many students express enthusiasm in pursuing a career in finance, how many have understanding of financial markets, beyond what is covered in the classroom? Well, Tom, Srujan and George sought to rectify misunderstandings and raise awareness, and opted to present to their peers from within and beyond the department on the interesting topic of, "private equity versus public markets".

We are grateful to the three of them for their enthusiasm and can I take this time to thank all those who have presented this term and of course the fabulous four EconBus Soc Chairs who have put together such a superb and varied programme.

EconBus Soc will take a short break whilst the department increases the number of support clinics as we get closer to the external examinations, but we look forward to the Pink Squad farewell Soc Session on Friday 2nd May, before the new squad (soon to be announced) launch their new bespoke programme in the not too distant future!

Miss C Rhodes

THE SENIOR DEBATE TEAM'S ANNUAL DINNER



Last Friday, the Senior Debate Team gathered at the stately Crathorne Hall for their highly anticipated Annual Formal Dinner. With meticulous organisation by Eve, every detail was in place - name cards carefully arranged, an air of elegance permeating the hall, and an atmosphere befitting an evening of high-calibre debate. Everyone arrived dressed to impress, setting the stage for an intellectually charged night.

The evening opened with a motion guaranteed to ignite discussion: This House supports censorship of the arts and literature. From the outset, students grappled with complex moral dilemmas. Should Mein Kampf be accessible on a public bookshelf? Could censorship prevent literature from being weaponised by despots or protect impressionable minds from harmful ideologies? Yet, counterarguments surfaced - wasn't literature a force for change, a means of ensuring history is neither erased nor rewritten in Orwellian fashion? The debate soon expanded beyond

literature, delving into the legitimacy of humour rooted in racism, homophobia, and xenophobia. Was this a matter of 'PC policing' or societal responsibility? The discussion was fierce, punctuated by a particularly entertaining exchange between Mr Edwards and Mr Bridges, as Mr Edwards recounted how Dungeons & Dragons was once deemed too subversive for schools - an ironic example of flawed censorship at the expense of Mr Bridges' beloved Tuesday activity session.

Following the main course, the motion turned to culture: This House believes Barbie is a feminist figure. The debate proved both impassioned and insightful. Students dissected Barbie's evolution beyond a plastic icon, questioning whether she was a genuine symbol of empowerment or merely a commercialised dream built for profit. The Barbie movie's parallels with Malorie Blackman's Noughts & Crosses were explored, highlighting how its matriarchal world served as a



THE SENIOR DEBATE TEAM'S ANNUAL DINNER (CONT.)

mirror to systemic gender inequality rather than a utopia. Was Barbie an emblem of inspiration, or was she an unattainable ideal peddled under the guise of progress?

After dessert, Eleanor delivered a gracious speech reflecting on her tenure as President, acknowledging the dedication of her outreach team (Apsara, Ellie, and Gabe), her secretary, Eve, and the teachers who supported the society. Mr Bridges praised Eleanor's leadership, commending her ability to foster debate, increase engagement, and steer the team from the front with

passion and poise.

With anticipation high, the new committee was announced: Anya was elected Social Secretary, Zaara as Outreach Officer, and, in the closest presidential vote in history, Adam emerged victorious, with Rishi taking on the newly established role of Vice President. Their leadership promises an exciting year ahead, filled with rigorous, spirited debate.

The evening concluded with the much-anticipated awards: 2025 House Champions (Anya, Sophie, and Elsa), Researcher of the Year (Adam),

Emergency Debater of the Year (Sam C), Team Spirit (Dan), Notable Newcomer (Isaac), and Advocate of the Year (Eleanor).

The evening brimmed with sharp arguments, incisive wit, dry humour, and thought-provoking discussions, all set against a backdrop of well-earned celebrations of individual and team achievements. As the night drew to a close, one sentiment prevailed... perhaps such an occasion should be more than just an annual affair.

Ms A Breslin

TOP OF THE BENCH - NATIONAL FINALS

Another successful campaign in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition saw Yarm reach the national finals for the third year in a row. Our enthusiastic young Chemists emerged victorious from the regional round in November and were

invited to Cardiff University for the chance to be crowned UK champions. The team included Manvi Lall, Adam Paul, Edie Redhead-Sweeney and Diviyan Thayalan - who was a late replacement for Zohan Wadia who couldn't attend the Cardiff finale. A

gruelling day started at 4:45am for the long journey to southern Wales. Fuelled by refreshments including freshly made Welsh cakes the team confidently tackled the first round quizzes and were feeling confident at the lunch break.

Unfortunately things didn't go quite as well in the practical round during the afternoon. The team were left to rue a couple of mistakes along the way as the chance to be crowned champions slipped past. However, a great day was had by all.

Whilst not placed in the top six schools overall it is still a very impressive achievement to reach the national final and the team can be proud of their excellent achievement.

Mr E Baker



NOT JUST AN A LEVEL - A WAY OF LIFE - THE WORLD OF ECONBUS

When pondering on the past term it was evident just how busy EconBus have been...

Thank you to the Pink Squad who will soon be handing over to a new team (yet to be appointed) - but have continued to be a fabulous asset to the department, supporting a multitude of initiatives and generally promoting EconBus.

Harvey and Sam have excelled as Econ Chairs, as have Alex and Finlay as Business Chairs, ensuring a wide array of EconBus Soc talks from within and beyond the department. Topics this term have included, influencer marketing, ethics, the real motivation of sportsmen, the economics of the Labour Gov, footballer pay, options post 18, economics of reality tv, economics of streaming and private equity v public markets (ie how to get rich) - thank you to all who presented!

Ishita has been a wonderful YA student facilitator, calm and insightful she has grown into the role. And of course after 5 tasks Yarm Apprentice has reached its conclusion. This term teams have developed a new smoothie for Hobo, and Vindolanda resources for the Year 4s as well as raising money for new Wellness Centre events. The points are now being tallied and we look forward to formally presenting the YA trophy and outstanding contribution certificates in an

assembly after the Easter break. We are already looking forward with much anticipation to our Summer Term FAME activity (with Prep Business Mentoring as part of the process) and I hope to see a good number of the current Fifth Year filling out YA application forms next Autumn Term!!

Meanwhile Kyra and Apsara have provided a well attended weekly clinic for the Lower Sixth, offering much guidance and reinforcement to the younger year.

The FAME Working Lunches have provided students with a broad array of aspirational talks. After 10 of the FAME "class of 2024" began the term by returning to offer advice on life after Yarm at uni and at work, we continued to hear from many of our older FPs in both live and Google Meet Working Lunches. These included a ex senior partner from PwC on a new career path, an Economics apprentice with the treasury (who has been to No 11), a business development economic adviser, a fashion house studio assistant, a financial adviser, a global communications manager for Jo Malone, a marketing and events planner based on Oxford Street. And we contrasted university and apprenticeship paths, with many of our students having also heard from our FP Ollie Best (Belfast PwC degree apprentice) at the Apprenticeship Careers Cluster

earlier in the term. Whilst the northern rep for the MPC of the Bank of England also visited the department to explain more about interest rate adjustments and how decisions are made in reality.

Furthermore of course "Cluster Club" and "Grattons Graphs" have both become the lunchtime destinations for the keen and committed every Tuesday and Thursday. (Some students and staff do allegedly occasionally leave the EconBus corridor!!)

Thank you to students and of course departmental colleagues.

Miss C Rhodes



THIS TERM'S MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

This term has been a particularly eventful one for music at our school, with a range of performances and achievements that have demonstrated the talent, commitment, and enthusiasm of our students.

Concert & Cake 3

Our popular Concert & Cake series continued with its third instalment, once again selling out. The evening featured a variety of impressive performances, offering both participants and listeners a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

A Royal Performance

A group of our singers had the honour of performing in Central Square, Middlesbrough, during the visit of the King and Queen. This was a truly special occasion and an unforgettable experience for all involved.

Joint Gig with The Wildcats of Kilkenny

In an exciting collaboration, our girls' choir, school of skiffle, soul band, and other vocalists joined The Wildcats of Kilkenny for a packed-out performance in the PAA. The event had a fantastic atmosphere and was a great experience for our students.

Memento: St Patrick's Day Special

As part of our Memento series, we held a St Patrick's Day event designed for those living with dementia. The performances were filled with warmth and energy, making for a moving and uplifting occasion, reinforcing the power of music to bring people together.

Great North Big Band Festival

Our participation in the Great North Big Band Festival was a great success. The band won the Best Programme award, while individual students also received special recognition: Luke Pemberton was named Outstanding Soloist, and Esther Lane received an Adjudicator's Award for her exceptional vocals.



THIS TERM'S MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

Spring Concert

This year's Spring Concert celebrated music from the 1970s, with around 120 pupils performing a mix of solo and ensemble pieces. The variety and breadth of musical talent on display made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Exam Success

A total of 48 pupils sat ABRSM and LCM exams this term, with 29 distinctions, 14 merits, and 5 passes—an excellent set of results reflecting their hard work and dedication.

It has been a busy and rewarding term for our musicians. Well done and thank you to all the students, staff, and supporters who made these events possible.

Mr R Williams



YARM APPRENTICE: THE WINNER ANNOUNCED

After two terms, 25 competitors, 5 tasks (plus two subtasks), 5 Lord Sugars, and some fantastic challenges including designing a Mocktail suitable for Yarm School's future anniversary, competing to sell raffle tickets, manning and running a stall at the YSA Christmas Fair, adding value to a bag of Boyes miscellany, proposing a new activity for the Yarm Wellness Centre (funded by the YA) developing new menu items for "Hobo" (including a smoothie which some of you may have bought) and developing resources for pupils in Year 4 at Prep to go to the Vindolanda residential. YA for the 24/25 season has reached its conclusion!

Money has been raised for The Teesside Charity, Tees Family Foundation, the Yarm Wellness Centre as well as our own Music School.

I am delighted to announce... Drum Roll...

The JOINT Winners of Yarm Apprentice 2025 are Olivia Mitchell and Ria Gulve.

The Peer Voted Awards are as follows:

Outstanding Leader - Megan Hull

Outstanding Team Player - Ria Gulve

Outstanding Creativity - Olivia Mitchell

Massive thanks must go to my "Tims" (this tests if you watch that other version of the Apprentice on the TV), AKA Mr Menzies and Ishita Pathare. They have been my extra eyes and ears, sounding boards and support throughout the process.

And of course massive thanks also to all my amazing Lord Sugars this year namely, Alison Parker (Marketing), Elaine Dodds (Former Parent and formerly of the YSA), Lucy Bonnard-Spence (Owner of Hobo), Cheryl Scollay (Chair of Yarm Wellness) and Gavin Stone (Deputy Head of Yarm Prep).

I am so so proud of the commitment and involvement all competitors showed..

Peer voted as Outstanding Leader, Megan Hull has shared her thoughts on Yarm Apprentice:

"I really enjoyed taking part in Yarm Apprentice and feel I gained some invaluable skills during this activity. Perhaps most notably, I now feel much more confident in sharing my ideas and presenting in front of an audience, as well as discovering an ability to think fast and react to questions posed by the judges."

Thanks to Ishita Pathare from Upper Sixth who has been an outstanding Student Facilitator this year for Yarm Apprentice (as part of the EconBus "pink squad"). She has grown into the role, and has had insightful observations, averted issues, been proactive and has been a formidable force in the Boardroom asking probing questions. She has truly been a reliable and dependable right-hand woman throughout the whole 24/25 process. I will miss her commitment, but will be asking for her assistance one last time as she will assist in selecting her successor, who will have big shoes to fill! I look forward to seeing her return in a different role in the future!

Miss C Rhodes



YARM APPRENTICE FEEDBACK

What did you think of Yarm Apprentice?

The 2025 contestants shared their thoughts after YA 25.

- I enjoyed it a lot.
- Unique and new experience, allowed me to work on my communication and leadership skills.
- I enjoyed the activity.
- It was useful for developing my skill sets.
- It's a good way to develop teamwork skills and it encourages initiative.
- It's amazing - it helps you develop skills you would never normally do!
- It was very fun and very interesting
- I enjoyed it as it helps improve teamwork.
- Very full on - more work outside of the activity!
- Useful.
- Taught me to push for success.
- An invaluable experience.
- It was really fun.
- Could be quite stressful at times, but also very informative and educational.
- It has helped me develop my organisation skills.
- I enjoyed it.
- At times very hard and overwhelming, but I am happy I took part as it taught me a lot.
- I've enjoyed it as I've put myself out of my comfort zone.
- It's helped me develop a range of

leadership, teamwork and speaking skills.

- Improved my marketing and business skills.
- Very fun.
- The pitching experience was really useful.
- Really enjoyed this activity as very different to anything I've ever done before.
- Liked working with people I never usually would.
- I liked taking part in pitches.
- Enjoyed coming up with ideas and helping execute them.

Was the YA what you expected?

- I had no idea what to expect so it was a nice surprise.
- More formal than I expected.
- The tasks were more interesting than I assumed they would be.
- Yes, but I didn't know that there would be different Lord Sugars.
- Yes, it was similar to what I had heard from the year above.
- It has been well publicised in the past so I knew what to expect.
- It has been more intense than I expected and has taken more time and effort but it has been worth it for the experience.
- Yes, but there was more work than I thought.
- Yes and no, I didn't realise how much time I would need to put in.
- Yes, but I didn't expect the Boardroom to be as tense.
- Mostly yes, but I didn't know what

to expect about the Boardroom.

- More difficult than I expected.
- I didn't expect people to get fired - but I loved that!

What did you particularly enjoy?

- The creativity, the winning, the diversity of the tasks and working with different people.
- Working with friends.
- Coming up with ideas.
- Demonstrating leadership and professionalism.
- Thinking in different ways.
- The realism of the tasks set by real life successful Lord Sugars.
- The freedom with the tasks.
- The creative side.
- Interacting with the public.
- Team discussions.
- Working in teams.
- The Boardrooms.
- Leading a team.
- Getting to work with the local community.
- Pitching.
- Problem solving.
- The 2 part tasks.
- Working collaboratively and speaking to different people wouldn't normally.
- Making money for charity.
- Having to think on the spot.
- Selling!
- The good feeling and prizes when winning a task.
- The tense atmosphere in the Boardroom.

YARM APPRENTICE FEEDBACK (CONT.)

Would you recommend this activity to the current 5th Year? Why?

- Yes, it helped me gain confidence speaking in pitches.
- I would 100% recommend this activity to everyone.
- Yes, as it's a once in a lifetime experience.
- Yes as you develop managerial skills.
- It gave me employability skills.
- It taught me valuable lessons for the real world.
- It was a good way to develop teamwork and leadership skills.
- It's a good way to develop communication skills in a fun way.
- It helps you gain knowledge of business.
- If they enjoy business, then yes!
- Yes, if you are willing to work hard and gain experiences, if not no!
- Very useful for interview responses.
- Yes, if you are going to put in the time.
- Yes, just give it a go.
- Yes, it may be helpful for someone wanting to do Business / Economics in the future.
- Very interesting, can help to get yourself out there and put yourself in roles you wouldn't normally do.
- Yes as it develops presentation skills.
- Yes it's enjoyable!

Miss C Rhodes

ARTISTS' CORNER



This beautiful watercolour painting was produced by Bea Maredia in Second Year. She is a keen horse rider and this was inspired by her love of horses.

Mrs G Thompson

GEOGRAPHY AFTER YARM

On Monday a number of our Upper Sixth pupils who are headed off to study Geography, or related degrees kindly shared with us information about their courses. We heard about the journey that led each of them to their respective courses, which are geography, sustainability, environmental management and agricultural science.

We are very grateful to Austin, Eve, Florrie and Matthew for their insightful and interesting presentation; their enthusiasm was palpable and we look forward to them coming

back to visit Geog Soc next year with updates on 'Geography after Yarm'.

Mrs K Baines



HOUSE BAKE-OFF: A DELICIOUS SUCCESS!

The much-anticipated Inter-House Bake-Off has once again showcased the incredible talent and creativity of our students. This year's competition was fierce, with a spectacular array of cakes, pastries, and baked delights impressing our panel of judges.

A huge congratulations goes to Lucy de la Motte from Lower Sixth Cuthbert, who was crowned Overall Winner by a clear margin. Her exceptional baking skills and attention to detail set her apart in a field of outstanding competitors. In a fantastic display of talent across the year groups, Josie Williams (First Year) and Amarah Kaur (Fourth Year), both from Aidan House, secured joint second place with their impressive entries.

Beyond the individual accolades, the competition also contributed to the overall House Points tally. This year, it was Aidan House that emerged victorious, accumulating the most points from the competition. The final standings were:

	Aidan	Bede	Cuthbert	Oswald
Total	26	16	14	10

A massive well done to all participants for their hard work, enthusiasm, and, of course, their delicious bakes. Whether winning a prize or simply taking part, everyone contributed to making this event a sweet success!

We look forward to next year's Bake-Off—time to start planning those winning recipes!

Mr J Alexander



FAME AFTER YARM



"Not everyone has their life mapped out at 16" AND "Everything happens for a reason"!

These were two key messages shared by Former Pupil Gemma Thompson when she returned to Yarm for the first time since departing at eighteen, for a FAME Working Lunch. Despite the competition of a hockey fixture and a Politics talk, we had a full room, of EconBus and beyond, keen to hear the words of wisdom of Gemma.

After GCSEs at Yarm which included Business, Gemma opted for A Levels in Art, Textiles and Business and initially planned on going to Uni in London. Results day didn't quite go to plan, and Gemma found herself working at eighteen, but this made

her more driven to succeed. Determined to make the most of opportunities she refocused and achieved a 1st Class Marketing degree from Teesside University, before launching her career in Marketing and Events at the University itself. Her next adventure took her to London, where she joined Lawton Communications Group (LCG).

LCG is a vibrant parent company overseeing a mix of incredible agencies - a Social Media and Influencer Agency, a Marketing Agency, a Culture Consultancy, and a Senior Leadership Development Agency. In her role, she works across all these agencies in a Project Management position, while continuing to organise events and assist with marketing activities. She

is based on Oxford Street and it is very evident how much she enjoys her role.

Gemma was keen to emphasise that she didn't get to where she is now by following a "picture-perfect career path". She was keen to emphasise that it is absolutely okay if career plans and life don't go according to plan! It is all about embracing unexpected detours, learning from setbacks, and staying open to new opportunities as this can still lead you to exactly where you're meant to be.

Gemma advised her audience to stay on top of their work and not leave it to the last minute, as she admitted that by learning to be more organised she has become more successful, but she was wonderfully honest, open and keen to help others learn from her experiences.

Miss Rhodes and Ms Stebbings both enjoyed catching up with their former pupil before the Working Lunch, and we are very proud of all she has achieved thus far and appreciative of her candour and of her reaching out to come back and support the school.

We will follow her career path with interest and know that she will be back again for future events.

Miss C Rhodes

HOUSE CHESS 2025

	Played	Won	Lost	GD	Points
Oswald	3	3	0	+9	6
Cuthbert	3	1	2	+1	2
Bede	3	1	2	-4	2
Aidan	3	1	2	-6	2



The annual House Chess tournament took place this term, with Oswald looking to retain their title and Cuthbert still hurting from losing their long unbeaten run.

The format of matches remains unchanged; a total of seven boards contested by players in each year group in a best-of-7 match. However, this year's competition adopted a "round-robin" format with each team playing every other team, meaning more matches and more chess than in previous years.

The first round of matches were contested in the first half of term, and saw Cuthbert and Oswald record convincing victories over Aidan and Bede, respectively, both by a scoreline of 5.5 boards to 1.5.

The second round of matches included a repeat of last year's final, between Oswald and Cuthbert, widely believed to be the two favourites to win this year's competition. Oswald proved too strong and ran out 4.5 - 2.5 winners, leaving them well placed to defend their title. Aidan recorded a close 4 - 3 victory over Bede to give themselves an outside chance of

becoming champions heading into the final round of fixtures.

Oswald headed into their final match knowing that any victory over Aidan would see their name engraved on the trophy. An impressive 5 - 2 victory confirmed Oswald as champions for the second year in a row. The final match of the competition was more important for Bede as they fought to avoid finishing last place for the second year running. Bede did manage to beat Cuthbert by 4 boards to 3, leaving Aidan, Bede and Cuthbert on equal points separated only by game difference.

Congratulations to the winning Oswald team: Kavan Sidhu, Monty Van Niekerk, Eric Ding, Adam Paul, Frankie Parker, Ajay Selvan and Sai Sidaginamale, and in particular to Monty and Eric who won every game they played. They will certainly be the team to beat next year!

Well done to all the players who competed and thank you to those who came to watch and support their House.

Mr L Tucker



NETBALL NATIONAL WINNERS!



At the beginning of the season, if someone had told us we would be standing on the highest podium at Nationals, we might have laughed. The odds were not in our favour. The team was fragmented, missing key players, and adjusting to a new dynamic. We were a squad of individuals rather than a collective force, searching for synergy on the court.

But over time, something changed. We trained with relentless intensity, sharpening our tactics and strengthening our bonds. Twice a week, we drilled our formations, refined our set plays, and battled against the U16 squad in training matches that tested every fibre of our resilience. Off the court, we pored over game strategies, ensuring that every player knew their role. Every pass, every pivot,

every leap into the air had to be second nature. By the time Regionals arrived in February, we were no longer a team in formation—we were a force to be reckoned with. We dominated, conceding barely any goals, our attack seamless, our defence unshakable. We left with confidence and a clear goal: Nationals on March 22nd.

When the day arrived, we knew the challenge ahead. Our first match was against the tournament favourites, Brighton College. The opening half was brutal—we trailed by three points at the break. But then, something shifted. We clawed our way back, possession by possession, pass by pass. With a single minute remaining, the match hung in the balance. A critical turnover. A conversion. A goal. We edged past

them by two points. Victory.

Our next few matches went by in a blur of movement and precision, our confidence growing with every win. Then came Scarisbrick Hall. Their play was aggressive, physical, unrelenting. By half time, we were trailing 7–3. But we knew how to adapt. We shut out the noise, focused on our structure, and played our own game. Slowly, meticulously, we closed the gap. A last-minute goal levelled the score at 8–8. It wasn't a win, but it was enough.

The final group match should have been routine, but adrenaline and exhaustion played their part. We were distracted, unfocused, caught up in the euphoria of our last game. And we paid the price. Mistakes crept in, and we let the opposition dictate the pace. A two-point loss. A bitter lesson. Yet, by the smallest of

NETBALL NATIONAL WINNERS (CONT.)

margins—goal difference—we secured our place in the semi-finals.

Determined to correct our errors, we went into the semis with renewed focus. Our play was sharp, our defence ruthless, our shooting clinical. A six-point win. The final awaited us. And, as if scripted for maximum drama, we would face Brighton once again.

The opening half saw us in control, executing every play with precision. But Brighton, unwilling to fall twice to the same team, fought back. By

the final whistle, the scoreboard read 12–12. Extra time. Two minutes each way. The pressure was suffocating. As the first two minutes elapsed, we found ourselves trailing by one. Then, in the dying moments of the second period, Brighton made a devastating error—an untouched centre pass. We seized the moment, converted it, and scored off our own centre. 14–12. The final whistle blew. The impossible had been achieved.

We were national champions.

A season that began in uncertainty ended in triumph... not through luck, nor by chance, but through grit, strategy, and an unbreakable belief in each other. The journey to the top was anything but easy, but in the end, we stood there together, holding the trophy, knowing we had earned every second of that moment.

Ella Fitzgerald (Captain),
and Libby Scott (Vice-Captain),
both Third Year



BOYS' HOCKEY: ALMOST BUT NOT QUITE

U18 National Semi Final: Friday 28th March

Yarm 1-3 Magdalen College School

After hosting and defeating Sedbergh, Calday Grange, and Altrincham Grammar- the U18s then hosted King's Chester and produced a remarkable performance beating them 10-4 to set up a home National Final against Magdalen College School, Oxford. Magdalen had reached the National Tier 1 final 2 years previously at U16s so it was going to be a tough one.

Yarm once again produced a sterling effort going 1-0 up and producing a string of great chances. Will Ferguson showed some great skill

down the left hand side and sent in a fierce reverse stick cross which got deflected into his own net by a Magdalen player. Will went close 5 minutes later when another reverse went whistling past the top left hand corner of the goal. However, Magdalen eventually found their stride and caused big problems with the ariels into their forwards- Yarm struggled to adapt and went down to an outstanding short corner routine to make the half time score 1-1.

The 2nd half game play changed very quickly as the away team added another- this meant Yarm shifted to a back 3 which looked like it might provide the attacking outlets we

were looking for. Max Mowbray was once again superb dribbling through the middle and almost scored on a number of occasions. Matthew White hit the post and Will Ferguson also went close with some great saves. Unfortunately it was not to be as the Oxford team scored another to put the tie out of reach.

The Yarm boys ultimately gave everything for the cause in an excellent semi-final and on another the day the result would have been very different. What an amazing school team, they have been fantastic ambassadors for Yarm for many years and will be missed.

Mr G Ferguson



FENCING COMPETITION

On Saturday 29th March, Sam Stone and I competed at the York Open Tournament. It was a tough competition with most of the fencers having previously represented GB. Unfortunately, I aggravated a pre-existing injury in one of my earlier fights, leading me to struggle for the majority of the competition. Despite this, it was still an enjoyable experience, with us having some cheerful conversations with the other competitors. It was bittersweet as this was my last competition representing Yarm School Fencing Club.

Carys McNeill-Ritchie, Upper Sixth

Having only done fencing for around 6 months, I had no clue what to expect with this being my first competition. However, as soon as I got there, I was so glad that I was doing it. Going against people who had been fencing for years and were not holding back, although challenging, I could gain experience against some really difficult opponents. I did also win a few bouts but that didn't matter to me as much as the experience and being able to learn from it. The toughest part was definitely during the poules as in mine there were 3 left handed fencers, which was

incredibly unlucky, but again, I was able to learn from this, despite being beaten by 2 of them. What's more, Carys being there to help out and be supportive was definitely one of the best parts of the day. And though I'm not quite sure how, in the middle of a bout my foil's handle just kind of fell to pieces, which was definitely memorable to say the least.

Sam Stone, Lower Sixth



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BOYS' HOCKEY

Pocklington Block Fixture**Saturday 29th March****U15- Yarm 3-1 Pocklington****U14- Yarm 2-0 Pocklington****Under 12 A- Pocklington 2-6 Yarm**

To start the game off, Ahmad Ifrahim scored the first goal in a shuffle as well as Phoenix Emadi scoring the second goal from a shuffle. The next two goals were by Lewis Dargue, one from open play and the other from a shuffle.

Followed by Ahmad assisting Thomas O'Hare who scored the next as he got the ball in the box and neatly put the ball in the bottom right corner. Vihaan made an amazing save from the opposite team's shuffle. This was surely the best save of the game.

In the start of the second half, a great pass from Lewis put Ahmad one on one with the Keeper. He gently scooped the ball over the keeper's head and made it six nil.

Due to fatigue Yarm let two goals in, this was unlucky as the team played great from start to finish as well as Yarm never giving up.

Joseph Austin, First Year

Under 13B- Pocklington 0-3 Yarm

Yarm started off strong, taking most of the possession and featuring some great passing from Charlie Millman in defence to Tom in attack and the same with Ross Grimbley and Auden Ashwell. An early goal put Yarm in a strong position followed by multiple chances but all of them saved by

Pocklington's keeper making some excellent saves including many dives to stop some great attempts at goal by the Yarm strikers. Pocklington made some runs up the pitch but Ross and Charlie's excellent tackling gave them no opportunities in the D. Later on, Mykhailo found himself in front of their keeper and quickly slotted it in the corner. Half-time was called and after a quick team talk we started again with some great passing and many chances for Yarm. Ben White took a shot at goal and despite the keeper's best efforts, the ball ended up rolling along the net and out. After a chat with the Pocklington keeper, it

was confirmed a goal. In the 3:0 position, Yarm were feeling comfortable and we had many opportunities, mostly from great passing in lines up the pitch to our strikers. In the last play the ball was in Pocklington's D and after numerous saves, there was annoyance from the Yarm team with the ball very close to the goal and no chance to reach the net. We finished off victorious and after shaking hands with the team and congratulating their keeper, we enjoyed some rest on the bus back to Yarm.

Auden Ashwell, Second Year



BOYS HOCKEY

U13A- Pocklington 5-2 Yarm

Yarm got off to a great start with most of the possession and a positive mindset. Unfortunately we conceded first from an extremely unlucky mistake. Their first shot was on target but saved by the keeper (Sid), the rebound went straight to the opposition for a tap-in. Nevertheless, Yarm kept their composure and played some brilliant hockey resulting in an equaliser from Jack - slotted into the bottom corner! In

quick succession, Jack scored another goal to put us up 2-1 just before half-time. A motivational team talk from Mr Ferguson left us determined to finish the last match of the season on a high. Upon the start of the second half, Pocklington restarted the match aggressively and within thirty seconds they had equalised. Much to Yarms dismay, everything went downhill. Pocklington was the stronger team, both mentally and physically. They ripped through our defence much too easily and left our keeper isolated that

lead to another goal. The opposition then won a shuffle which they converted. Although we battled on, we were all tired and there was just one sub being rotated every couple of minutes. To finish the match, Pocklington slotted another goal home. Although it was a difficult loss, the Yarm team can hold their heads up high as a result of an amazing season of high quality hockey. Well done boys!

Seth Tailor, Second Year

BOYS' HOCKEY TEAMS OF THE SEASON



GIRLS' TEAMS OF THE SEASON

YARM SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM OF THE SEASON
2024 - 2025

Amelia Cheesman U12	Heidi Kingsbury U12		
Imogen Barker U13	Violet Mitchell U13	Phoebe Arvanitis U14	Ella Fitzgerald U14
Libby Scott U14	Lucy Mitchell U15		
Sienna Hyndman U15	Poppy De-Roché U16	Amelia Hudson U16	Izzie Speight Senior
Estelle Orr Senior	Lola Vasiliou Senior		

YARM SCHOOL NETBALL MOST IMPROVED TEAM OF THE SEASON
2024 - 2025

Kaira Nalawade U12	Thea Speight U12		
Diwai Mawoko U13	Nikita Suryadevara U13	Katie Cheesman U14	Rosie Cook U14
Molly Raine U15	Bella Yang U15		
Naila Krishnamoorthy U16	Lydia Waddington U16	Gracie Rhodes - Hildreth U16	Olivia Mitchell Senior
Sophie Hall Senior	Lily Arvanitis Senior		

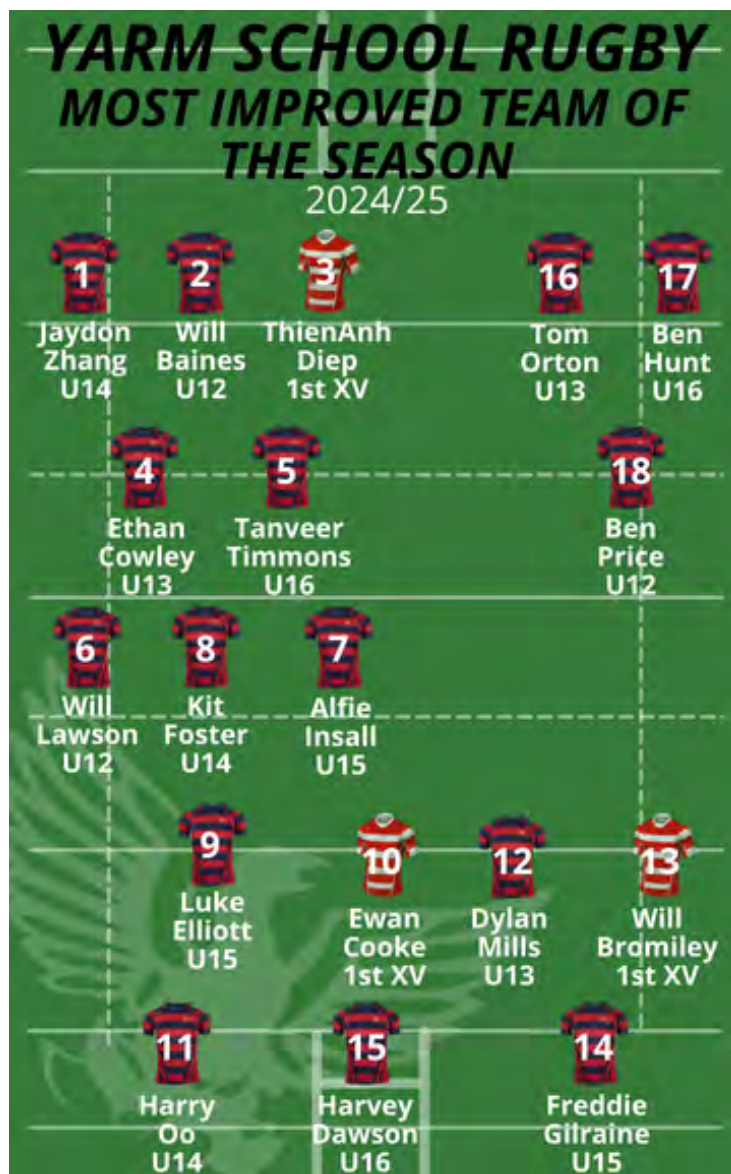
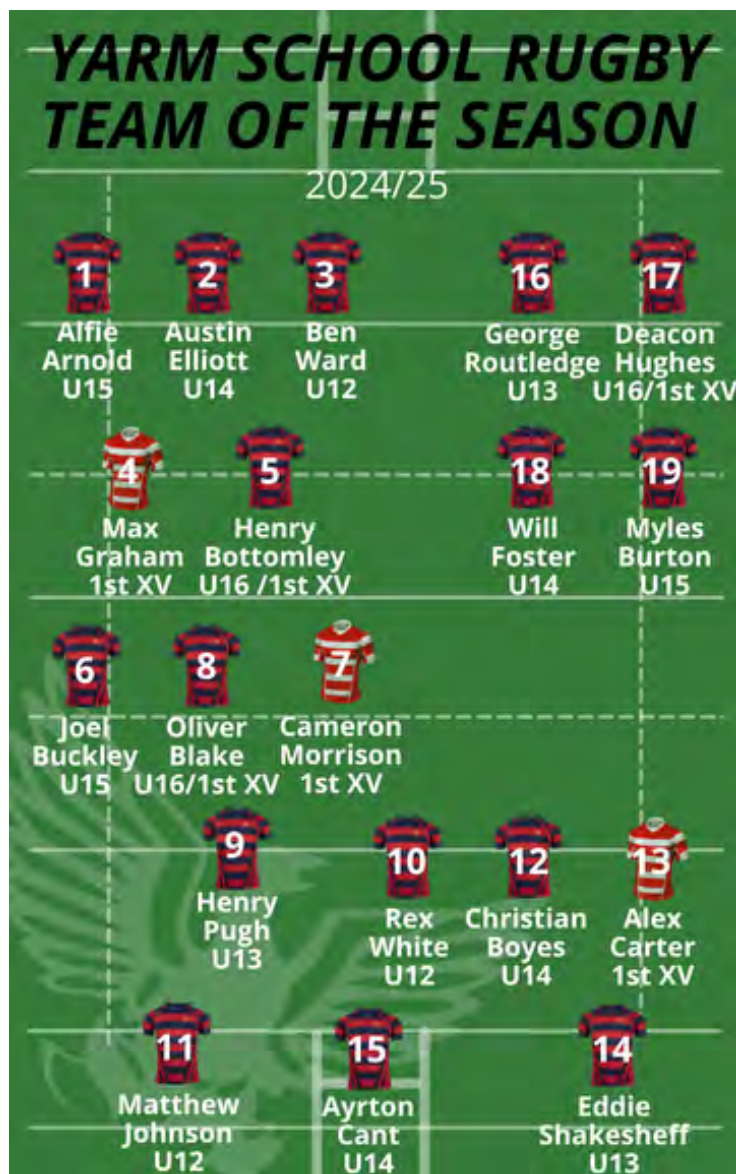
YARM SCHOOL GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM OF THE SEASON
SEASON 2024 to 2025

HEIDI KINGSBURY U12	SOPHIE THOMPSON U12		
TILLY PALLET-HOME 1ST XI	MARA MORRISON 1ST XI	ROSIE COOK U14	
ROSIE FERGUSON U14	LUCY MITCHELL U15	ZOE WILD U15	PIPPA FERGUSON 1ST XI
DAISY NEWTON U13	FLORENCE ILLINGSWORTH U12	ELLIE GATES U13	LOUISA PALMER U13
PHOEBE ARVANITIS U14	SOPHIE HALL 1ST XI	CHARLOTTE BANKS U15	
ZARA KELL U13	SOPHIA RUDD 1ST XI	REBECCA NICHOLSON U12	

YARM SCHOOL GIRLS HOCKEY MOST IMPROVED TEAM OF THE SEASON
SEASON 2024 to 2025

TANI ODUBIYI U13	OLIVIA GROVES U12		
MILLIE HASWELL 1ST XI	ANNA GRIMBLEY U15	ISABELLA BROWN 2ND XI	
AMARAH KAUR U15	MOLLY WHITE 2ND XI	KATIE MELVIN 2ND XI	AMELIA ZAMAN U15
CLAUDIA PATRICK U14	EMMA ARNOLD U13	SYLVIA DUGDALE U12	PIPPA JAFRI U13
TILLY BOBIN U12	EMMA SCOTT U14	VIOLET ELLISON U13	YASMEEN SALIM U12
CARA McMURRAY 1ST XI	GILLIAN TEOH U15	ALEX PRIDEAUX U12	

RUGBY TEAM OF THE SEASON



RUGBY 7S SUCCESSES

Tournament success;

U12 - Plate Winners at the DA North East tournament

U13 - Runners Up at the Terrington Hall Cup (North and Scotland)

U14 - Cup Winners at the Durham County Tournament (6 games)

U16 - Runners up Durham County Cup tournament (6 games)

U18 - Bowl Winners at the NSB North East tournament

Well done!



RUGBY 7S PHOTOS



YARM CAREER CONVENTION 2025



Thurs, 1st May



6:30pm



Yarm School

An amazing
opportunity for all
4th Year, 5th Year and
Sixth Form students!

60+ professions
28 universities and training providers

Find out more at:
yarmschool.org/career-convention-2025



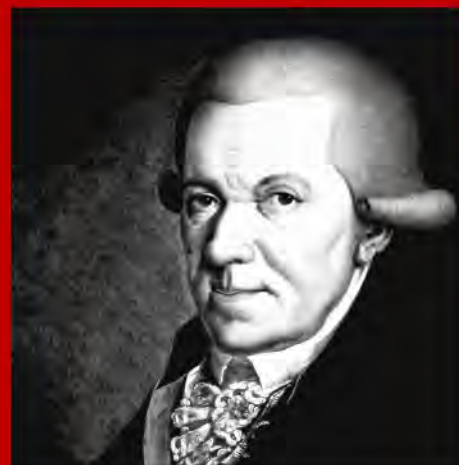
Yarm Choral Society and Soloists from Yarm School present:



Mozart
1756-1791



Schubert
1797-1828



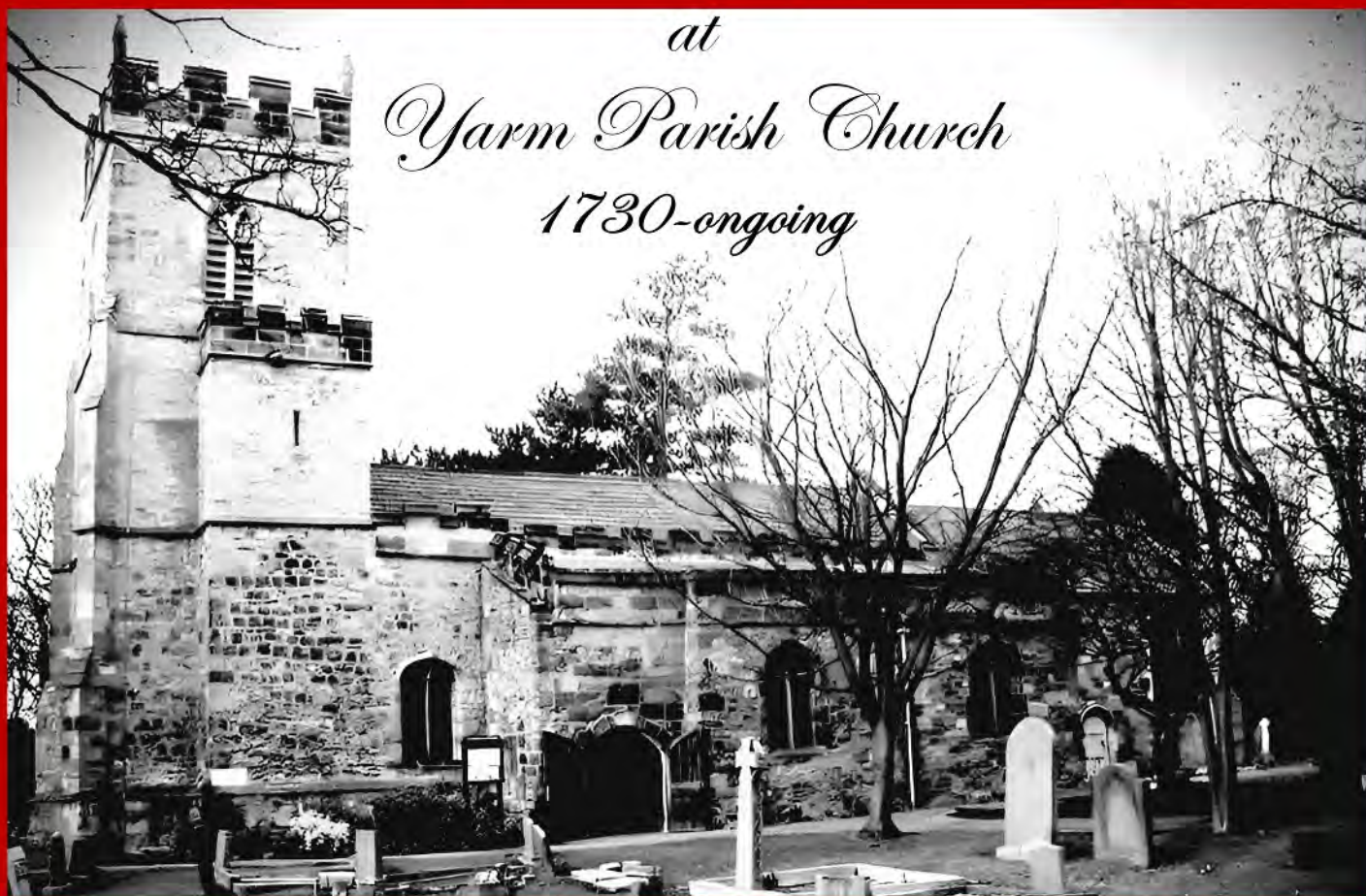
Haydn
1732-1809

A Classical Collection

Wednesday 30th April, 7.30pm

at

Yarm Parish Church
1730-ongoing



Tickets are £8 and are available “on the door” on the evening of the event. Proceeds from this event will help us raise money for the upkeep and maintenance of this 295 year old building

Refreshments will be available from Café Magdalene pre-concert and at the interval.

YARM SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
GLASTYARMBURY
ANNUAL SUMMER BALL

LIVE *Music*

FOOD-DRINKS-DANCING

*PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AUDITORIUM,
ATRIUM & TERRACE, YARM SCHOOL*

MUSIC FESTIVAL

14 JUNE
2025

BUY TICKETS
FROM CLASSLIST OR AT
[BIT.LY/GLASTYARMBURY2025](https://bit.ly/GLASTYARMBURY2025)



LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS

Dig out your sparkles and dancing shoes, and indulge yourself for over two hours of music with the girls, as we celebrate the music of ABBA, Chaka Khan, Beyoncé, LaBelle, Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, Shania Twain, Sister Sledge, The Bangles, Alanis Morissette, Lady Gaga and so much more!



Saturday 10th May, 7.30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE

Fusing the mystery of magic with wondrous and miraculous feats of science.

Hang on to your seats and experience a non-stop action packed interactive magical science show with experiments and magic that will capture the imagination.

New for 2025!



Tuesday 27th May, 11am and 3pm

[Book Online Here](#)

ROB LAMBERTI - PRESENTS PERFECTLY GEORGE

Returning to Yarm in 2025!

Featuring the incredible voice of Rob Lamberti, this show has wowed audiences around the country and Europe and lifted them to their feet, in a dynamic show that tactfully and appropriately celebrates the career of one of the most gifted performers of a generation. From Wham! all the way through to the diverse eras of George's hugely successful solo career, including timeless hits like 'Careless Whisper', 'Faith', 'I'm Your Man', 'Club Tropicana', and so many more, the show tells the story of George Michael in the vast repertoire of songs that made him an icon to so many.



Friday 5th September, 7.30pm

[Book Online Here](#)

Yarm School Online Safety Hub

The Power of Internet Filtering for Online Safety

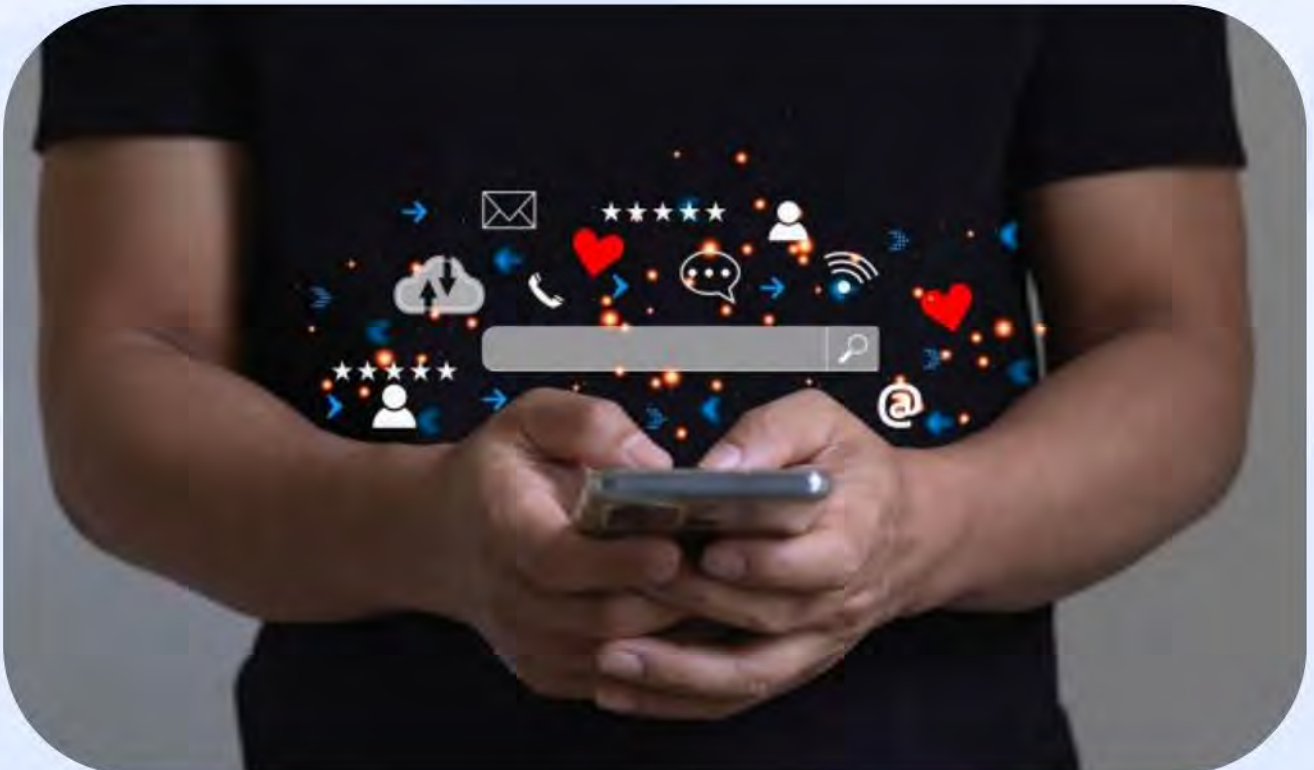
#1

Internet filtering is used to control access to online content. It is implemented through software that scans websites and blocks restricted or inappropriate content.

#2

There are many benefits including protecting children from online dangers, limiting distracting content, blocking pop-ups and other ads, and managing online interactions, but it's not a one-size-fits-all solution.

[Click here to read the full article by Child Wellbeing Specialist, Teodora Pavkovic](#)



Newsletter, 02.04.2025

If you have children of any age sitting exams in the coming months, you'll know that whilst they are an opportunity for enormous accomplishment and pride, they may also bring feelings of pressure and anxiety for students and families alike.

Whether your child is taking SATs, entrance, public or music exams or even competing in sports trials, good preparation, alongside an active approach to managing anxiety is incredibly important for helping them reach their potential.

Exams won't ever be totally free of stress, but Tooled Up has plenty of resources to help you support your child and make the process as positive as possible.

Dr Kathy Weston's video on [Managing Exam Stress](#) is packed with **practical**, tried-and-tested **tips to support teenage students** through exam season. It includes **advice on how to talk about exams** with your child, the **revision habits** to encourage and the **importance of nutrition and sleep**.

For younger children, you can **find quick, simple tips** in the video [Supporting Exam Performance for Parents of Younger Children](#). It offers **examination preparation advice** and also aids **planning for exam day** itself.

One of the **key jobs for parents** in **exam season** is to **manage anxiety: their child's and their own!** These [Resources to Reduce Exam Anxiety for Parents and Teens](#) will show you everything **Tooled Up has to offer to manage stress**.

Finally, the [Smart Reviser](#) is one of our most **popular resources**. It's **filled with evidence-based advice** and suggestions **for effective revision**, perfect for helping your child build good habits to use their study time in the most positive way.



Managing Exam Stress



Supporting Exam Performance



Resources to Reduce Exam Anxiety



Smart Reviser

REMINDER: to register for our webinar Adolescence on Netflix, Action Points for Parents and Staff taking place on 23rd April 2025, click [here](#)

Remember to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with all of our latest updates and resources. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).