Politics students attend prestigious Cambridge University conference

Aran Banerjee and Jacob Slack were recently selected to attend the Rosalind Franklin Conference, hosted by Newnham College, Cambridge. They are currently studying Politics in Lower Sixth and considering applying to university to read PPE and Law respectively.

Mr. S. Edwards

During the Easter holidays, between 4th and 6th April, we travelled down to Cambridge in order to attend the renowned Rosalind Franklin Conference entitled 'Cyber-Security: Nothing to Hide, Nothing to Fear?' run by the McWhirter Foundation. The conference was held in Newnham College which was attended by Rosalind Franklin, a scientist integral in the discovery of DNA.

We arrived by evening train, and having settled into our rooms, we enjoyed dinner in the college followed by 'fun and games', which involved building towers out of marshmallows and spaghetti and prioritizing lunar survival equipment.

The following morning we spent in the town centre whilst waiting for the rest of the delegates to arrive. We then had a tour of Newnham and after a buffet lunch began the conference itself which comprised four lectures, two on the first day, two on the second. After each lecture the group of 80 students, selected from schools around the UK, were broken down into smaller 'syndicate groups' of 10 people allowing us to discuss the issues in greater depth.

The first lecture was delivered by Jessica Simor QC who is a barrister specialising in human rights and matters relating to the European Court of Human Rights. Jessica outlined to us the legal issues surrounding the potential human rights violations of large corporations collating our data and how the laws vary across the EU. The second lecture was given by Orla MacRae, Head of Private Sector Engagement, Cyber Security at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. She talked to us on how the government are (or are not) dealing with cyber-security, as well as the career opportunities within the ever-growing cyber security industry.

In the evening drinks at the Principal's Lodge were followed by a formal three course dinner in the college's main hall. The after dinner speaker was Wendy Tan-White, founder of Moonfruit and general partner at Entrepreneur First. She retold her story about how she became an entrepreneur and how Entrepreneur First assists companies at the start-up stage.

On the second day of lectures the first talk was given by DCC Peter Goodman who is Deputy Chief Constable for the East Midlands. He discussed the police's role in ensuring cyber security and how we ourselves can make ourselves safe online. The final lecture was given by Anna Fielder who is a consumer policy advocate and works for Privacy International. She outlined how exactly large corporation were both collating and using our data around the world and how some people have been combating infringements on our privacy.

After the final syndicate group meeting, we all gathered again for a panelist question session where the panelists were chosen from the students attending at random and the rest of the students had the opportunity to pose questions regarding cyber-security.

Overall the experience of this conference was extremely fulfilling as not only did we learn more about a topic that affects all of us so significantly in our daily lives, but the content of the conference facilitated the development of other skills such as debating, working as a team, and interacting with people you had never met before. We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Cambridge University and are glad that we got the opportunity to attend this fascinating conference.

Aran Banerjee and Jacob Slack (Lower Sixth)
Where can an Economics A-Level take you?

In the same week when the Upper Sixth have been encouraged, in a Friday Qi session, to maintain links with Yarm when they move on this summer, the Economics and Business department were delighted to welcome back one of our former pupils, from the class of 2006, for one of our very popular Working Lunches. Now a successful businessman, art dealer and gallery owner, Mr Harmer (who left Yarm in 2006, to read Economics at Newcastle university), regaled our Sixth Form students with a well prepared, fascinating and certainly eye-opening presentation, which described his life as an entrepreneur - both the ups and downs - and was full of words of wisdom, which were very well received by his entranced audience!

Many thanks to Mr Harmer for travelling up from London to give his talk.

Miss C E Rhodes

Show jumping success

Congratulations to Fourth Year Hannah Dawson and her pony Ellies Miss Chief who were victorious at the Pony Club Winter League show jumping championships at the Addington Manor Equestrian Centre in Buckinghamshire. It was an emotional occasion for Hannah as it was the final competition for the duo who have been together for the last two years. Hannah said “It’s overwhelming as I wanted to win, but I didn’t think we had a chance as we were up against so many!” Well done Hannah, what an excellent achievement.

Chess event

On Saturday 7th May between 9.45am - 3.15pm Yarm Prep School will be hosting the 'Megafinal' of the 'Urban Tees District of the UK Chess Challenge' for the first time. This event will find the best boy and girl chess players in this area in 12 different age groups. U7 to U18.

The best players then go onto the Northern Round 'Gigafinal' and then the final 'Terafinal' in Loughborough. It is the biggest chess competition in the world involving over 60000 players in GB. See http://www.delanceyukschoolschesschallenge.com/about.html

We are actively encouraging our senior school pupils to take part, and for an application form and/or further information please see Mr Rye or Mr Pointon.
Taking Lessons from Parliament

‘One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.’
- Plato

The Politics Department this week was delighted to welcome to Yarm School Gillian Bell, Regional Outreach Officer for the North East, from the Parliament’s Education Service. Centred around their commitment to ‘Inform, Engage, Empower’, the Education Service produces a phenomenal amount of resources to help explain the purpose and functioning of the UK Parliament. Whilst based in London the service also has three regional centres based in the south west, the north west and the north east of England. They are able to synthesise vast amounts of statistical evidence, research and parliamentary events, and present it intelligibly to young people, thus broadening their understanding and appreciation of the democratic processes within this country.

Gillian Bell led two separate classes on the topic of ‘parliament’. This is one of the topics studied in Lower Sixth by students, so they were well versed in advance of the meeting. The session explored a range of issues from the structure and function of parliament, to issues of election turnout, diversity of MPs in terms of profession, background and gender, as well challenges faced in further reform of the House of Lords.

For those who would like a 'less than 60 second' crash course in the work of parliament, please have a look at this link http://www.parliament.uk/education/teaching-resources-lesson-plans/how-parliament-works-60-secs/.

Mr. S. Edwards
The History Society

The History Society met this week to discuss the events from History that influenced Shakespeare’s writing. Historians argue that Shakespeare’s plays were modelled on contemporary events just as much as events from the past. Attendees looked at a few plays that were written to satirise the political events of the day, a very dangerous thing to do during the late years of Queen Elizabeth’s reign and the arrival of the first Stuart King on the English throne.

Beginning with *Richard II* (1597) we looked at how the disposal of elderly King Richard at the hands of Henry Bolingbroke, future King Henry VI, provoked a dangerous debate over the overthrowing of a legitimate King. Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603) was reaching her final years at the time of writing and the play partially influenced the Essex rebellion against the crown. On the eve of the rebellion the Earl of Essex paid actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company to perform the play to his associates in order to provide provocation for their attempt to seize power.

Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* played on the paranoia of London following the failed gunpowder plot of 1605. The role of the witches in persuading the central character to carry out the murder of the Scottish King Duncan reflected the obsession of the early Stuart monarchs with witchcraft. King James I (1603-1625) wrote a book about his deep belief in witchcraft in 1597 and was probably impressed with Shakespeare’s portrayal of the mysterious witches communicating with Macbeth through riddles and chants.

Finally, we discussed one of Shakespeare’s later plays *The Tempest*, probably influenced by the arrival of English colonialists at Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. The central character, Prospero, the deposed Duke of Milan, finds himself marooned on an island full of magic and strange creatures. Contemporaries view the play as being set in Shakespeare’s imagination of the “new world” of the America’s. The play’s themes of power and control possibly reflected Shakespeare’s thoughts on colonialism.

The History Society meets every Tuesday in H2. If you would like to give a short talk on a topic of historical interest please contact Mr Morrison.

Mr Morrison
Saturday 25th June 2016
Princess Alexandra Auditorium
7pm for 7.30pm - Carriage Midnight
Dress Code - Black Tie

Starter
Chippepa Stuffed Fire Roasted Red Pepper
Sausage, Mozzarella, Peppers, Onions, Balsamic, Baby leaf Salad

Main
Blackened Cajun Chicken
Vegetable Jambalaya, Creole Sauce

Dessert
La Bette Noire
Griotine, Crème Anglais

Vegetarian
Quorn Summer Gumbo stuffed Avocado
Vegetable Jambalaya, Creole Sauce

Coffee & Chocolates

Guests Names
__________________________________________  _______________________________________
__________________________________________  _______________________________________
__________________________________________  _______________________________________
__________________________________________  _______________________________________
__________________________________________  _______________________________________
__________________________________________  _______________________________________

Total number of tickets required at £40.00 per person ___
Total monies enclosed please make cheques payable to YSA £______
Number of vegetarian meals if required ___
Contact Name, Email, Number
__________________________________________

Tickets to be sent via - child’s name ______________________ tutor group ________

Please mark for the attention of Claire Grylls YSA and return to the Senior School Office, tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Unfortunately we are unable to issue refunds.
Celebrity chef, James Tanner, is to visit Yarm School next week. James, who owns four restaurants in Plymouth and the south of England with his brother Chris, and has appeared on TV shows including Ready, Steady, Cook, ITV Breakfast and Lorraine, will be helping prepare a special school lunch.

James has passion for sustainably-sourced, seasonal food, especially fish, and will be speaking to pupils about how to cook seafood and giving out some recipe ideas!

Parents and pupils are warmly invited to join us at 4pm to enjoy a Ready Steady Cook style cook-off which will see the Mr Dunn go head-to-head with Mr Sawyer. Both Heads will be recruiting pupil helpers before the event.

Tickets for the event are free of charge, but will be limited in number. Free light refreshments will be provided. Tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis and are available from the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior School offices. The event will finish by about 5pm.

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### Ready, Steady, Cook Event

**Thursday 28th April, 4pm**

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### Zingy Mini Fish Cakes by James Tanner

**Ingredients**

- 500g firm white fish (haddock, ling, hake or pollock)
- 1 diced chilli
- Zest and juice 1 lime
- 2 tbsp red curry paste
- 3 chopped spring onions
- 2 tbsp chopped coriander
- Sweet chilli sauce to serve

**Method**

1. Line a tray with cling film.
2. Add ingredients to a blender and pulse together to a puree (do not over-blend). With wet hands, shape mixture into small cakes approx. 4cm wide. Cover with cling film and leave in fridge to firm for 2 hours.
3. Heat a non-stick pan to high heat. Add the vegetable oil and seal fish cakes on both sides for 1 minute. Drain on a kitchen paper.
4. Serve with pot of sweet chilli sauce, lime wedges and a scatter of coriander leaves.

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A taster of what we have instore at the Ready, Steady, Cook event.....
First Year recounts

During a recent English assessment, our First Years were tasked with writing reports about events that happened last year. The teachers were very impressed with their efforts and keen that they be shared with a wider audience. So, over the next few weeks we will be featuring a number of their reports highlighting their superb grasp of report writing style. Here is the sixth of our featured reports.

Acting Extravaganza in the Auditorium

On the late night of 8th October, tension was at its climax backstage, as pupils gathered their nerves and prepared for the locally famous: Yarm School House Drama!

Two days before, each different house began to practise their one and only dress rehearsal: Bede and Cuthbert one night, Aidan and Oswald on the other, (as that was the order of line up on the night.)

Bede performed first, and put on a modern play with a twist on ‘Alice in Wonderland’ and they really wowed the audience. Three girls and a teacher began on stage: the three uniformed girls sat with their phones, entirely oblivious to what the teacher was trying to get at. Suddenly, a mysterious white rabbit hopped along. Surprisingly, the three girls followed it into a magical and mystical land full of dancing and singing flowers, mad men with massive hats, and grinning Cheshire cats. Furthermore, a large amount of crowd-chuckling comedy was incorporated into it, like hilarious wifi jokes.

Cuthbert followed, performing ‘James and the Giant Peach’ by Roald Dahl, and they fulfilled their expectations, making Dahl’s novel come to life with an extraordinary amount of giant insects, and stuck-up and irritating, fat and thin, Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker. The normal bugs lived in this regular peach, before it transformed into a rolling, edible wrecking ball and James (the nephew of the two despicable aunts) took them on an adventure through sky and seas withstanding the cloud-men and hungry seagulls. They travelled all the way through to the main land where they claimed stardom as bug celebrities, and as for James, he escaped his aunts forever!

After the short but pleasant interval, Oswald followed, acting “Lord of the Flies”. Everyone took a liking to the phrase “Kill, kill, kill the pig” This play was set during the Cold War when a handful of children were being evacuated. Their plane tragically crashed and they were left stranded on a desolate island in the middle of the sea. All of them began to argue and realise evil was on the island, yet didn’t realise that the evil was lurking within them. It was a performance of a savage story of sacrifice and survival. Oswald’s performance took the audience on a ride to see petty arguing, followed by primitive behaviour, which led onto vile murders.

Finally, Aidan finished the night off, performing the amazing ‘Jungle Book’, by Rudyard Kipling. A storyteller and a small group of curious children gathered round to read the ‘Jungle Book’. It described poor Mowgli the ‘man-cub’ who was being taken back home (to the man village) by Bagheera the feisty panther. The village was where he came from, all those years ago. The story is based on Mowgli’s adventure there, when he met beloved Baloo, ‘ssneaky’ Kaa, met the herd of military trained elephants, was tricked by cheeky monkeys that were led by King Louis, talked to the quartet of sassy vultures, and encountered Shere Kahn, the abominable and villainous tiger. Also, at a point in the play, lighting was used to give a jungle effect, and amazing face paint / stage make-up was used to give the animals their inhuman features. On top of all that, during the play, we heard the classic song ‘Bear Necessities’ … Twice!

To conclude the night, the judges had to decide a winner, and in my eyes it could have been anyone. During their important decision, Oswald and Aidan were backstage. In the audience, were Bede and Cuthbert- all with chattering teeth, quivering hands and shivering bodies with nerves. The judges arrived on the familiar stage, praising all of the houses for doing their best and putting all of their effort into the endless rehearsals. The moment came … Who’d win? Bede or Cuthbert or Oswald or Aidan? The judges announced… Aidan was the winner, and they claimed the award and sustained their title as House Drama champions!

Everyone involved deserved a well done: the pupils for showing commitment and skill, the teachers and the parents for their support, and especially the Sixth-formers for putting this amazing night together. Let’s hope next year’s event is just as entertaining!

Noah Bickenson
Sports scoreboard

Tennis

Tuesday 19th April 2016

Girls U15A V Red House  Won 6-0
Girls U13A v Red House  Won 6-0

Sports reports

Rugby Representation

Congratulations to Edward Anderson and Antun Wilson (pictured left) who both played superbly well for Newcastle Falcons U16 team in the recent National Academies Festival held over a week down at Wellington College. Both lads were in very good form, picked up man of the match nominations and pushed hard for national selection.

On the County scene, several boys have represented Durham U15’s in their recent matches against Cumbria and Northumberland. Well done to; Sam Douglass, Tom Fenwick, Henry Fulford and Femi Afolabi, all of whom made vital contributions in the teams winning matches.

Boys’ Hockey

As the hockey season draws to a close, several younger members of the senior school have represented Durham in the U12, U13, U14 and U15 JAC representative sides. The boys who have performed with great effort and skill are; James Beck and Tom Crack (U12), Freddie Dawson, Harry Walters, Matthew Chapman, Tom Hall, Mark Probets, Jack Norton, and Oliver Mehegan (U13). Sam Graham, Michael Chilvers, Tom Dixon, Matthew Beck and Oliver Marriott (U14). Sam Douglass, Harrison Downs and James Foster (U15).

Girls’ tennis

The U13’s opened their league campaign with an emphatic victory over Red House on Tuesday night. The team, consisting of Lily Spensley, Abby Scott, Amelia Richardson and Katie Dent, won their 4 singles sets and then the two doubles matches. It was great to see them play with confidence and I have high hopes that they can repeat the success of last year - being crowned county champions.

The U15’s had a tighter match with Leila Wilcock and Susie Dunn winning their singles matches 6-4 and 6-3. The 3rd and 4th players, Lucinda and Aditi, enjoyed 6-1 and 6-0 wins. In the doubles Leila and Susie won 6-2 and Lucinda and Aditi won 6-1. Both teams have a number of league games as well as friendlies, and there are lots of encouraging omens to take from last night.

All rounders teams started their campaigns this week with a block fixture away to Queen Mary’s and results will appear in the next newsletter.

A reminder that all results will appear on the website and you can find regular updates on twitter. Any cancellations will also go on both these platforms.

Sports Awards Dinner

The Sports Awards Dinner is tonight and a round up of all the winners will appear in next week’s newsletter.

Keep up to date on Twitter

Follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with all school and sports news.

@yarmschool  @YarmChemistry
@yarmgirlsgerms  @PAAuditorium
@YarmSeniorMusic  @yarmboysgames