YARM SCHOOL

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

School Information Pack

Yarm School

Yarm School was founded in 1978. Since then it has become the major educational success story in the North East and the School is now firmly established amongst the country's leading co-educational day schools. In addition to the Senior School, there is a Preparatory School, and a Pre-Prep which includes a Nursery. In total, there are about 1,100 pupils between the ages of 3 and 18 with 740 in the Senior School and a Sixth Form of just over 220.

Due to the rapid growth in pupil numbers and recent investment in facilities, this is an exciting time to be joining the school and contributing to its further success.

The Senior School comprises both period and modern buildings. This investment in the fabric of the school and an on-going commitment to state of the art technology ensures that teachers will have the best facilities and resources in which to work.

At the start of the 2011/12 academic year, a large classroom wing was opened along the banks of the river which enjoys beautiful views. It provides high quality accommodation for English, Learning Support, Modern Languages, Business Studies and Economics. There is a large dance studio and extensive PE/Sport facilities including a classroom and changing rooms. In May 2012 the centrepiece opened: the Princess Alexandra Auditorium - a stunning 750 seat auditorium with separate studio theatre and music performance suite. It also boasts a large Atrium with coffee bar and external terraces with views of the river and surrounding countryside. This facility won two RIBA design awards for excellence in 2013 and a Civic Awards Trust Commendation in 2014. A new £3m Music School was completed in 2015, together with a new boathouse and floodlit Astroturf.

There are five fully-equipped and networked computer rooms, each with inter-active whiteboards and flat screen PCs. Additionally there are laptops available for use around the School and interactive whiteboards in many classrooms. The Sixth Form has its own library, social area and workroom. The main school playing fields are on a separate site approximately one mile away, but on The Friarage campus the School boasts a synthetic all-weather playing surface, a second, flood-lit all-weather sports facility, sports hall, multi-gym, netball and basketball courts and rowing/other water sport facilities.

The Pre-Prep and Preparatory Schools have their own self-contained accommodation on a safe and equally delightful site. The Pre-Prep is housed in a modern purpose-built development, whilst the Preparatory School is located on the site of the original Yarm Grammar School (founded 1590; oldest building dated 1884).

The classrooms in the Pre-Prep were designed to enhance the EYFS philosophy of learning through exploration and play so they enjoy fantastic outside verandas to enable children to move easily between the classroom and the exciting landscaped play area and gardens.

In the Prep School there are specialist facilities for computing, design technology, art and music. A new science laboratory also provides excellent opportunities for hands-on exploratory learning. The School has its own, recently opened, floodlit Astroturf which is used for all sports, together with two new netball courts, three carpet cricket nets, an adventure trail and low level climbing wall which runs around the perimeter. It boasts ample outdoor space with friendly communal areas. All of this further enhances our ability to run extra sporting clubs, practices and fixtures all year.

At all ages pupils benefit from our woodland learning space which is nestled in the on-site woods. A timber yurt provides space for the outdoor education and eco school curriculum. With its delightful wooden veranda it provides a safe, yet exciting area full of outdoor resources for fieldwork.

Photo courtesy of Joe Cornish

Location

Yarm is a beautiful market town on the edge of the Teesside conurbation which enjoys easy access to both town and countryside, including the nearby North Yorkshire Moors, Yorkshire Dales and stunning coastline. Opportunities for outdoor pursuits and exploration of all kinds are many and varied. Similarly, the cities of Newcastle, York and Leeds are within close range and provide much in the way of arts and culture. With superb rail network links in the town itself and nearby, London is also only 2.5 hours away by direct train.

The Senior School is set in attractive and mature wooded grounds bordering the River Tees and just off Yarm High Street. The school is very much a part of the town, with pupils, staff and parents enjoying all that the buzzing High Street has to offer by means of shops and cafes. The Preparatory School and Pre-Prep are located on the opposite side of the road to the Senior School.

Ethos

Yarm School has a strong commitment to educating the whole child – 'educating for life'. We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities, both within and outside lessons, which help to foster inter-personal skills, confidence and build relationships. A Yarm School education is about far more than just academic achievement.

Each pupil is strongly encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities. There is a huge range of clubs and societies which meet either during the two timetabled Activity lessons, at lunch-time or after school on a regular basis. Over 50 activities take place each week, as diverse as Canoeing and Chess, Horseriding and Gardening.

Sport plays an important role in the life of the school, not just through the generous time provision for PE and Games lessons, but through the many opportunities to represent school teams in a diverse range of sports and at all ages. Facilities are superb and cater impressively for rugby, hockey, netball, rowing, tennis, cricket, rounders, athletics and general fitness.

At weekends and during the holidays there are frequent trips and expeditions, many of them adventurous. Outdoor education is a major part of life at Yarm School, and pupils can explore caves, climb mountains or traverse entire countries in canoes! We boast two full time, highly qualified members of staff whose sole remit is to provide these fantastic opportunities.

The school life of Yarm School pupils is varied, exciting, and fast-paced. There is never a dull moment as we embody our philosophy of 'educating for life'. Our teachers embrace the extra-curricular programme and enjoy the opportunity it affords them to pursue areas that interest them or indeed learn new skills themselves.

The performing arts are thriving at Yarm School. Music enhances the everyday life of the School. With outstanding facilities, such as the 750 seat Princess Alexandra Auditorium, the Studio Theatre, Dance Studio, Recital Room and the superb Music School we offer an extremely vibrant programme of concerts, recitals, plays, dance shows and musicals. Many cultural events which take place in the stunning Princess Alexandra Auditorium are open to the wider community and regularly attract audiences in the many hundreds.

Academic Life & Inspection

Academic standards are high across schools with examination results placing the School amongst the best in the region. We seek to instil a lifelong love of learning and develop an intellectual curiosity, whilst being proud of our broad curriculum. We believe strongly in the value of practical, hands-on learning, facilitated by our small class sizes and excellent facilities and resources. We actively promote questioning, independence and reflective thinking.

A-level Results 2015	Yarm School	North East	National Average
Percentage of A* grades	27.6%	6.6%	8.1%
Percentage of A*-A grades	56.8%	22.1%	25.8%
Percentage of A*-B grades	80.7%	48.8%	52.9%

GCSE Results 2015	Yarm School	North East	National Average
Percentage of A* grades	37%	4.9%	6.5%
Percentage of A*-A grades	66.1%	17.3%	20.5%
Percentage of A*-B grades	85%	38.5%	41.9%

Yarm School and Yarm Preparatory School were inspected by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate in December 2011. Both schools were rated 'excellent' in every aspect, a rare achievement (and the highest rating in ISI inspections). The EYFS setting was rated "outstanding". The reports are available on the school website (www.yarmschool.org).

Pastoral Care

There is a strong sense of community at Yarm School. We aim to provide a caring and safe environment in which each pupil is able to realise his or her full academic, social, cultural and sporting potential. Our values are based on respect for every member of the community, on thoughtfulness and on courtesy.

Every pupil has the right to look for happiness and security at school and we believe that it should combine high personal and social standards with a friendly atmosphere and mutual tolerance in which pupils of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, of all religious persuasions and of various levels of ability are welcome and supported.

We recognise that our pupils have various talents and differing rates of development and therefore attach great value to every achievement, however modest, which stems from their efforts. Therefore, we positively encourage an appreciation of, and respect for, the work of every member of our community.

The Schools each operate a 'house system' to promote friendships between pupils of different year groups, to offer opportunities for working as a team and to develop an even greater sense of belonging. A spirit of friendly rivalry exists between the Houses, rivalry which is given ample opportunity to manifest itself in a wide range of inter-house competitions. Students are encouraged to develop a sense of pride in their House, working not just for themselves but for others. Charity fundraising activities and trips out are also organised by the houses.

Benefits of teaching at Yarm School

We have a staff of highly qualified and enthusiastic teachers who first and foremost nurture the development of each child in our care.

The teaching staff comprises 52 full-time and 20 part-time staff in the Senior School; there are a further 21 full-time and 6 part-time teachers in the Preparatory School. In total, the School employs some 250 individuals, including a Finance Department, Estates Team, Secretaries and support staff.

The present Headmaster, appointed in 1999, is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC). The Head of the Preparatory School is a member of IAPS and also represents the School at HMC Junior Heads' meetings.

Yarm School has an exceptionally well-qualified and dedicated staff, many of whom are long-serving and whose own sons and daughters attend the school. This is made possible by the generous 60% teaching staff discount on school fees. Yarm and the surrounding area are most agreeable places to live and these factors all contribute to the low staff turnover.

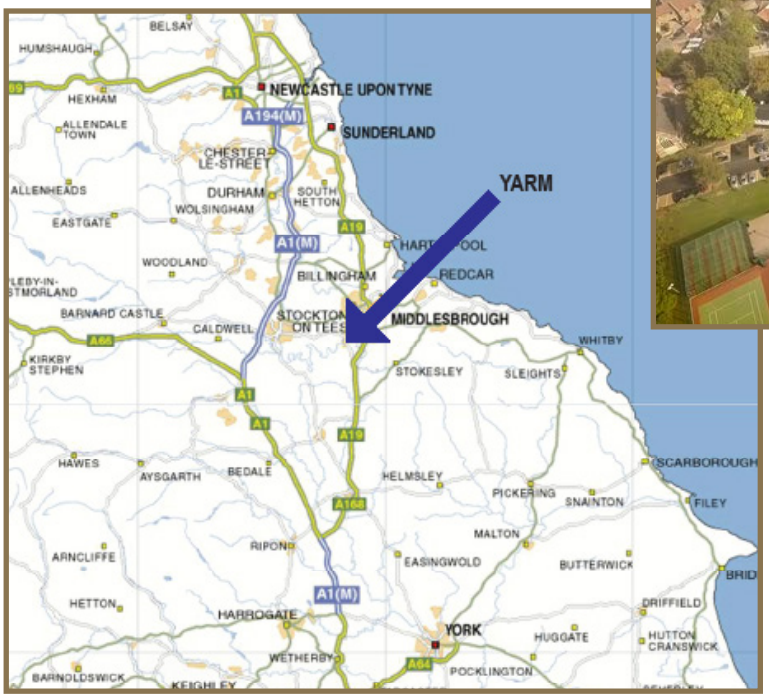
Teaching groups are considerably smaller than in the maintained sector, with classes typically being of around 20 pupils. The facilities, resources and positive ethos make for a particularly happy working and learning environment.

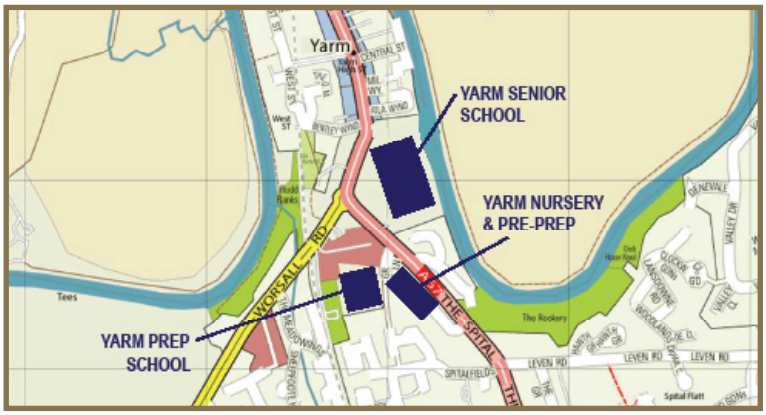
Teachers are paid at the national rate with point M6 enhanced by Yarm School Performance Related Pay (which is roughly equivalent in value to UPS3). School holidays are longer by about 3 weeks than those in the state sector. Free school meals during term-time are offered to teachers and are very popular and staff rooms have complimentary coffee/tea biscuits.

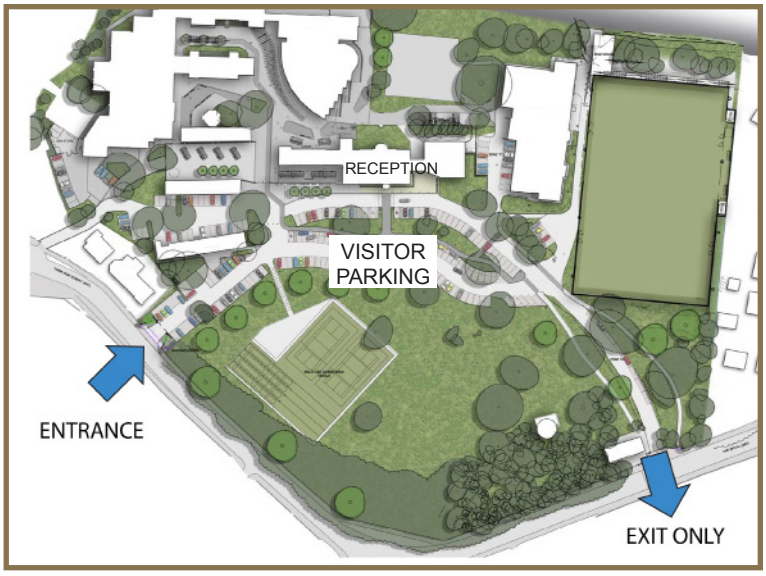
Many staff make use of the School's fitness suite and sports facilities.

There is ample, free parking on site.

How to find us







By road: From the South: take the slip road off the A1 at Disforth to the A168/A19 Northbound. From the A19, exit onto the A67 signposted 'Yarm'. Follow the road for 2 miles until you reach a roundabout with a petrol garage. Go straight across onto The Spital and carry on towards Yarm High Street. The Nursery and Pre-Prep, and Prep School are on the left opposite the Senior School exit. The Senior School entrance is on the right after the corner, just before the church.

From the North: using either the A19 South or A1 South, from both roads, follow signs for A66, Stockton and Darlington or Teesside. Follow the A66 to the junction signposted 'A135 Stockton & Yarm' and exit following this road into Yarm. The main entrance to the Senior School is on the left hand side just past the church. The Nursery and Pre-Prep, and Prep School are further along the Spital on the left hand side.

Parking: There is limited parking on the Prep School site. Visitor parking at the Senior School is available; it is a short walk to the Nursery and Pre-Prep, and Prep School. Visitor parking is clearly signposted. Please sign in at the Senior School Reception.

By Train: Darlington station is on the East Coast main line with frequent links to both Eaglescliffe and Yarm stations. Grand Central operates out of Eaglescliffe for links with London. Yarm and Eaglescliffe stations are fifteen/twenty minutes walk from the School or a short taxi journey.

Local Taxi Firms		Local Hotels	
Station Cars	01642 791991	Judges Hotel	01642 789000
Royal Cars	01642 666666	The Parkmore	01642 786815
Boro Cars	01642 222222	Claireville Hotel	01642 780378

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Yarm Preparatory School, Grammar School Lane, Yarm TS15 9ES (T: 01642 781447)
Yarm Senior School, The Friarage, Yarm TS15 9EJ (T: 01642 786023)

www.yarmschool.org