



ST. AIDAN'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



Prospectus 2017

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HIGH SCHOOL





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Welcome to St. Aidan's

The school was founded in 1968 as a small secondary school with just over 600 students – today it is a thriving community of near 2000 students aged 11 – 19, regularly being ranked among the top comprehensive schools in the country. It converted to Academy status in 2011 and set up a Multi Academy Trust with local primary schools in March 2015. St. Aidan's was also awarded Teaching Status in August 2015.

The foundation is a Church of England one, but the school is well known for its ecumenical stance and welcomes children from all Christian denominations at eleven plus. St. Aidan's also allocates places to students of other major faiths each year contributing to a vibrant and religiously diverse community. At Sixth Form level this is evidenced by our Association with St. John Fisher Catholic High School which brings together students from both schools, as well as a significant number from other local secondary schools. The Association celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013 and with over 1,000 students is the largest school-based Sixth Form in the country.

Academically the school stands for excellence. In the most recent GCSE examinations, 86.3% of Year 11 achieved at least a Grade C in English, 80.5% at least in Mathematics and 85% at least 2 Cs or above in Science. 51% of the Year group achieved the English Baccalaureate standard (at least a Grade C in English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Foreign Languages and either History or Geography). Of all entries at GCSE 87% were at A*-C.

At Advanced Level, 54% of the results achieved in the comprehensive Associated Sixth Form were A*-B with over 93% of students obtaining places at either their first or second choice University. In 2016, 10 students obtained places at Oxford or Cambridge Colleges with a significant number of students taking up places on competitive courses at the top universities in the country.

However, St. Aidan's never loses sight of its essential inclusivity and we have an excellent reputation for supporting Special Educational Need students of all abilities who flourish in this school.

The extra-curricular programme that exists within the school is outstanding. The Music and Drama departments have a national reputation. Excellence in a variety of competitive sports at all ages is achieved and outdoor education including the Bronze and Gold Award on the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, is at the forefront of what is offered to all students. In addition there are a variety of trips to national, European and worldwide destinations that take place each year which support students in their learning as well as all round education.

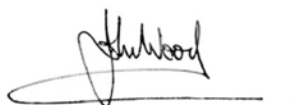
Clearly, given the foundation of the school, St. Aidan's places particular emphasis on high quality Religious Studies and Christian assemblies. The way in which the school is organised and run, as well the relationship between the students themselves and their teachers, is based on the Christian ethos that pervades every aspect of the school life. Religious Studies enjoys high status within the St. Aidan's curriculum with students studying the subject up to GCSE level achieving results that are among the best in the country. At the same time, much of our personal, social and citizenship programme is delivered under the Religious Studies umbrella with highly qualified staff bringing their expertise and experience to consideration of complex issues.

Assemblies have a clear Christian focus and are genuine acts of worship. The twice-weekly Eucharist in the school chapel also enables students to experience and respect the corporate life of the Christian community. The school has a Worship Co-ordinator who organises celebrations of major festivals, as well as a Lay Chaplain who is at the forefront of supporting students in their Christian/social development. A 'thought for the day' is an important feature of school life and Christian Union groups meet on a regular basis. The St. Aidan's worship band, Aidan's Flame, is a hugely valued part of our community.

All students are aware of the privileges they have and therefore also their responsibility to support those not as fortunate as themselves. Following the Biblical teaching in Luke 12:48 "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded." Support for local, national and international charities is an integral part of the school life.

We welcome your interest in St. Aidan's Church of England High School and warmly invite you to visit us at any time. Appointments can be made through the school reception on the number indicated within the Prospectus.

I look forward to meeting with you.



John Wood, Headteacher



Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust

On 1st March 2015 St. Aidan's formed a Multi Academy Trust with Richard Taylor Church of England Primary School – Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust. During 2016 we were joined by St. Peter's Church of England Primary School, Pannal Primary School and Oatlands Infant School and it is anticipated that the Multi Academy Trust will steadily grow over the forthcoming months with other primary schools currently going through the conversion process.

The Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust is a vehicle for collaboration between the schools involved, all of which have ambitious plans for their development together.

Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance

St. Aidan's works closely with St. John Fisher as the lead schools for the Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance. Introduced in 2011, Teaching Schools have to have been previously judged as 'outstanding' by Ofsted. The Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance works with partner schools to ensure high quality school-led initial teacher training, professional development opportunities for teachers at all stages of their career and to provide support for schools across the region.

The Yorkshire Teaching School Alliance aims to 'Connect, Learn, Grow' and this informs the partnerships formed with other schools (twenty across the region), Local Authorities and the Anglican and Catholic Dioceses.



Meeting the Needs of All

St. Aidan's places great emphasis on tailoring learning to meet the needs of all. As a result, students of all abilities flourish at our school.

Student grouping

Students at St. Aidan's are not placed in streams or bands, but are grouped in setted or mixed-ability groups according to the pattern that best supports learning in each subject.

On arrival in Year 7, students are placed in a mixed-ability form group that remains their pastoral unit until they are 16. Setting by ability is introduced early in Year 7 for Mathematics and for some English classes for 'catch up' purposes. Setting in Year 8 includes Geography, History, Modern Languages, Religious Studies and Science. In Years 10 and 11 students are setted in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, and in other subject groups according to course or option choices and ability.

Learning Support

Our Learning Support department works in close partnership with parents and staff to ensure that each student, regardless of academic or physical difficulties, is able to make excellent progress in and enjoy every aspect of school life.

Students who need additional intervention to help them access the curriculum are identified early in Year 7. Teaching Assistants provide support within the classroom, often working with others in the class as well as their designated student to encourage integration and independence. Some students are withdrawn from a particular class to receive additional tuition individually or in small groups for English, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Religious Studies and Science.

The Learning Support department looks at the development of the whole child, as well as their academic achievement, and as such there is a growing emphasis on life skills and independent living. We have our own kitchen where students have the opportunity to develop a range of cooking skills and to plan menus and shop for food. On a morning there is a 'Get Organised Club' for those students who need a little extra support and a lunchtime homework club is offered for those wishing to receive further help with homework tasks. We also run a lunchtime games club where students can have access to computer games and board games which is staffed by Teaching Assistants.

Gifted and talented students

The remarkably high number of St. Aidan's students who achieve A* or A at GCSE and A Level is testament to our success in enabling gifted and talented students to achieve their full potential. All staff ensure that able students are stretched and challenged across the curriculum. In addition, enrichment experiences and activities offered through the extended curriculum are particularly suitable and challenging for gifted and talented students.





The Curriculum

The aim of the curriculum at St. Aidan's is to develop the knowledge, skills and values each student will need to become a fully capable individual who can contribute generously to the life of society. We believe that whilst classroom teaching is an important part of this, the curriculum at St. Aidan's goes far beyond to include experiences on trips, in clubs and activities and in life all around the school.

Key stage 3

In key stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) all students follow separate courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Geography, History, ICT, Modern Languages, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Technology.

Science is taught as an integrated course in Years 7 and 8, and then as separate subjects – Biology, Chemistry and Physics – from Year 9.

All students begin French in Year 7, before taking up the study of an additional language (German or Spanish) in Years 8 and 9.

Key stage 4

In key stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) students work towards a maximum of 11 subjects at GCSE. Most students take full GCSEs in English and English Literature; Mathematics; Biology, Chemistry and Physics (or Co-ordinated Science); a Modern Language and Religious Studies.

They then choose three further GCSEs from Fine Art, Art Graphics, Business Studies, Dance, Drama, Food Technology, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, ICT, Media Studies, a second Modern Language, Music, Physical Education, Product Design and Textiles Technology. This pattern of choice ensures students follow a broad and balanced curriculum.

A vocational course certificated by the ASDAN Youth Award Scheme can be taken to replace some modern language courses. A Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA) ICT course is also available at the same level.

All students follow a core element of PE throughout key stage 4.

Assessment and reporting

The school places a strong emphasis on monitoring students' progress. Subject teachers constantly assess and monitor each individual with the aim of improving achievement.

Parents receive progress and effort assessments using the St. Aidan's CODE for learning as well as an annual report on their child's progress in all subject areas. In addition, they are invited to an annual parents' evening and can contact the school at any time if they have concerns about their child's work.



Subject Areas

Art

At key stage 3 students learn a variety of artistic techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, 3-D and Photoshop. Students increase their image awareness by learning about the power and principles of design to help them navigate an increasingly image conscious culture. Our aim is to promote creative thought and foster learning through a combination of cultural awareness/artist/designer knowledge combined with creative problem solving through self-navigation and experimentation.

At GCSE we offer courses in Fine Art and Graphic Communication. We also offer these subjects at A Level with the additional option of Photography. Our standards are extremely high and we take a pride in both our facilities and the diversity of work produced. We exhibit students work on our school's walls and use it as an aspirational force for students. Art work is often entered for external competitions and exhibitions. In 2014 we submitted ten pieces of students work for the National Students Art Exhibition and all the work was selected for exhibition in the Mall Galleries in London. In the last 2 years we have had students selected by the Royal British Academy as RBA scholars, only 20 students in the country are selected for these nationally. The Art education we provide at St. Aidan's has provided the stepping stone for many students to form their careers in a multitude of creative industries, many of whom remain in contact and come back to talk with our students about their journey in higher art education/ industry.



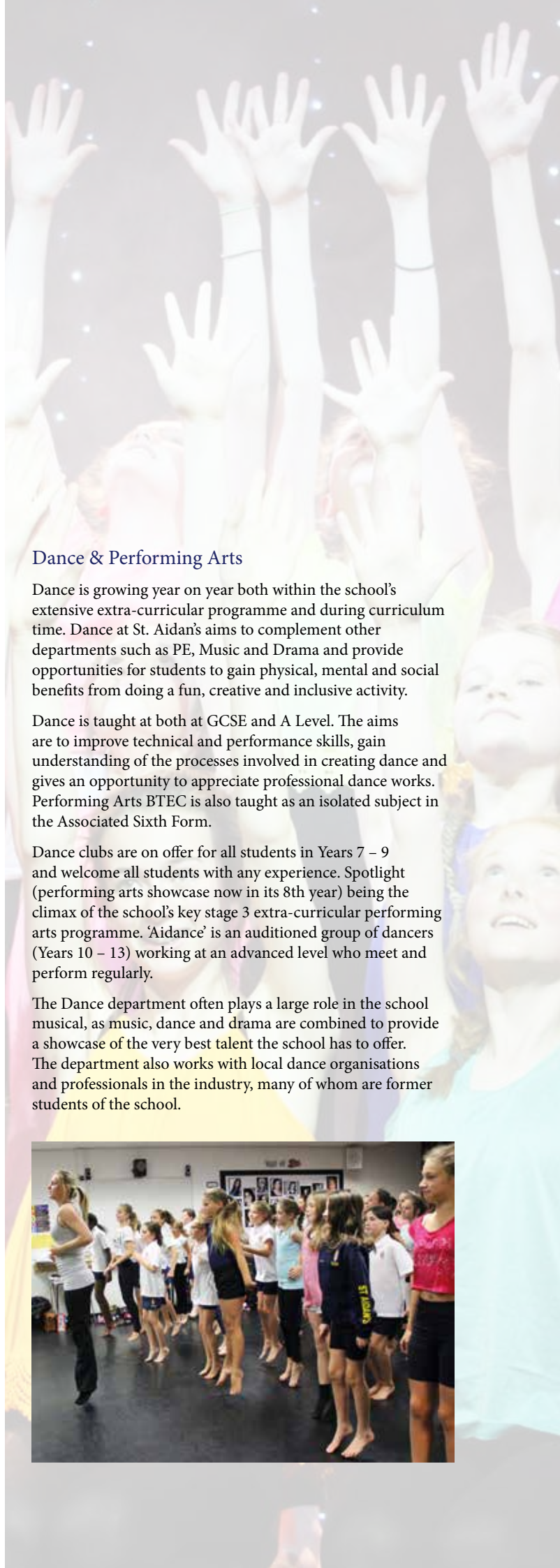
Dance & Performing Arts

Dance is growing year on year both within the school's extensive extra-curricular programme and during curriculum time. Dance at St. Aidan's aims to complement other departments such as PE, Music and Drama and provide opportunities for students to gain physical, mental and social benefits from doing a fun, creative and inclusive activity.

Dance is taught at both at GCSE and A Level. The aims are to improve technical and performance skills, gain understanding of the processes involved in creating dance and gives an opportunity to appreciate professional dance works. Performing Arts BTEC is also taught as an isolated subject in the Associated Sixth Form.

Dance clubs are on offer for all students in Years 7 – 9 and welcome all students with any experience. Spotlight (performing arts showcase now in its 8th year) being the climax of the school's key stage 3 extra-curricular performing arts programme. 'Aidance' is an auditioned group of dancers (Years 10 – 13) working at an advanced level who meet and perform regularly.

The Dance department often plays a large role in the school musical, as music, dance and drama are combined to provide a showcase of the very best talent the school has to offer. The department also works with local dance organisations and professionals in the industry, many of whom are former students of the school.





Drama

In Years 7 – 9 Drama is taught within the English curriculum. Pupils have the option of studying the subject at GCSE and A Level and both courses are hugely popular, exploring a wide range of plays and theatrical styles in a practical, dynamic and interactive way. Experience of live theatre is an essential part of examination Drama and a rich range of trips are organised every year to theatres across the country, encouraging an appreciation of an extensive variety of performance styles and genres.

Both the GCSE and A Level Drama courses develop skills sought by universities and employers, including self-management and self-awareness, collaboration and respect for others, problem solving and analysis, communication and literacy.

Economics & Business Studies

The Economics and Business Studies department aims to enhance students' personal skills and develop informed attitudes in relation to business enterprise, the economy and the world of work. In Years 10 and 11 they can choose to take GCSE Business: a lively and topical course which provides students with the opportunity to understand what the economy is and how it works alongside learning about the processes of setting up a business and understanding the success factors for being an entrepreneur. In the Associated Sixth Form, A Levels in Economics, Business and Applied Business are both extremely popular and rewarding. Examination results are excellent and many students go on to study subjects in this area at university.

English

The English department aims to ensure that all students develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening to the highest possible levels, promoting an enquiring and lively interest in all aspects of the subject. The staff cultivate an approach which is supportive, enabling students to be questioning and searching, respecting the opinions of others whilst also being able to articulate their own ideas.

Key stage 3 students study a comprehensive range of fiction, plays (including Shakespeare), poetry, media texts and non-fiction. They are taught to write in a variety of styles and develop research skills and wider reading through regular supervised use of the library. In Years 10 and 11 students work towards GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. They study a 19th century novel, a Shakespeare play, modern drama/prose, poetry, non-fiction material and a range of fictional extracts from 20th and 21st century. GCSE writing tasks require well-crafted narrative and descriptive skills and the ability to put forward a carefully constructed argument. Teachers continue to encourage wider reading by referring students to the suggested reading lists in the library and on the website. Some students also choose to study GCSE Media Studies.

All three subjects are popular at A Level. Beyond the classroom, students throughout the school take part in creative writing workshops, clubs and residential experiences. Other highlights of the year include National Poetry Day, World Book Day, the Battle of the Books quiz, spelling competitions and the Year 7 public speaking competition.





Geography

Through studying Geography, students develop knowledge, skills and understanding that will help them grow up in an increasingly complex world. Geography covers a wide range of topics between Year 7 and Year 13, from hazardous events to globalisation, from natural landforms to superpowers and from development to environmental issues. Geography also develops a range of highly desirable transferable skills that include research, enquiry, analysis, evaluation and decision making.

Classwork is supported by fieldwork whenever possible and this forms an important and stimulating part of our curriculum. The department run a range of visits including Malham, Holderness, Sorrento and Iceland. Geography is a very popular option at GCSE and A Level, examination results are excellent and for a number of students their Geography studies continue to university.

History

The aim of the History department is to excite and enthuse students about exploring the past. As they develop historical understanding, they grasp the shape of the past and gain an informed insight into the present.

After starting Year 7 with a brief look at the Romans and a re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings, key stage 3 students proceed through a tour of the second millennium AD, with the Medieval Realms, English Civil War, slavery and the horrors of Auschwitz and Hiroshima. At GCSE, students follow the AQA specification, ranging from a history of medicine, Elizabethan England and Germany from the Kaiser to Hitler. Sixth form students can choose A Levels in History, Ancient History, and Government and Politics. All three are extremely popular and many students go on to study related courses at university.



ICT/Computing

The ICT department aims to develop e-confident learners who can use ICT as a tool for finding things out, developing ideas, making things happen and exchanging and sharing information.

Key stage 3 students follow a fascinating hands-on course that covers office applications, new media (such as video and animation), programming and safe and effective use of the internet. At the same time, students gain experience and knowledge through using ICT in other areas of the curriculum, for example to help with monitoring experiments in Science and composition in Music. In Years 10 and 11, students can study for a full GCSE in either ICT or Computing, with both courses developing both an in-depth knowledge and practical skills in the subject area. The school also offers the Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA) ICT course, which provides a more vocational focus. In the Associated Sixth Form, students can opt for an A Level in Applied ICT or Computer Science.

Mathematics

The Mathematics department aims to build on the skills that students have acquired at primary level and to develop individuals' mathematical ability progressively. As well as teaching fundamental techniques, there is a focus on developing logical thinking, problem-solving ability and an understanding of how Mathematics relates to everyday life. The department provides students with opportunities to enter national competitions, enjoy the pleasures of Mathematics itself and be aware of its crucial importance in providing many career opportunities.



Modern Languages

Students begin French in Year 7 before taking up the study of an additional language (German or Spanish) in Years 8 and 9. All students take a GCSE in a modern language with some choosing to take two. The school has state-of-the-art facilities for teaching languages. GCSE and A Level students benefit from new language experiences such as our visits abroad to France, Spain and Germany.

Music

Practical music-making using students' vocal talents and a wide range of instruments is an essential part of the curriculum. Year 7 – 9 students embark on a series of engaging and stimulating half-termly units of work including film music, rap, blues and jazz, song writing and musicals. Seventeen peripatetic staff from the NYCC Music Service teach a whole range of musical instruments and voices. GCSE and A Level Music and Music Technology cover a variety of musical styles and develop students' skills in composition, performance and listening.

The department is well equipped with four teaching rooms, two of them fully equipped with digital audio workstations, and a suite of practice rooms. The music curriculum integrates where possible with the extensive extra-curricular programme.



Physical Education

The objectives of maximising progress and participation for all co-exist happily at St. Aidan's, as shown by high levels of participation in after-school clubs and our proven record of individual and team success.

Key stage 3 students are taught a broad and balanced Physical Education curriculum with an emphasis on personal development, fun and enjoyment. Many students opt for GCSE Physical Education and we also offer GCSE Dance. In the Associated Sixth Form, A Level Physical Education and BTEC Sport are popular choices and examination results have been some of the best in the county for the past six years.

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is part of the core curriculum at St. Aidan's. Key stage 3 students explore different aspects of religious belief and practice. Christianity is the basis for most topics, and students also learn about other world religions. In Years 10 and 11, all students follow GCSE courses in Religious Studies. They can choose from two different options, both of which combine a study of Christianity and Islam with Christian Ethics and either St. Mark's Gospel or Christian philosophy. Christianity forms the basis of A Level Religious Studies; courses include the study of theology, philosophy of religion and religious ethics. Links with Christ Church, High Harrogate are essential for work on Christianity and wider links with faith communities in Bradford provide insight into world religions.



Science

At St. Aidan's we believe Science should be dynamic, interesting and challenging for all students. In key stage 3 students have three lessons of Science per week. For Years 7 and 8 this is a broad, general introduction to Science before following separate disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 9 and beyond.

At GCSE most of our students study separate Sciences to gain individual qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The other option is Combined Science (2 GCSEs). We also offer GCSE Health and Social Care.

A Level Sciences are always very popular subject choices. Along with the expected Biology, Chemistry and Physics at this level we also offer Geology, Applied Science and Health and Social Care.

A large number of our students continue to study for degrees in Pure Sciences, Engineering and Medical Sciences.

Beyond the curriculum we also have Science clubs, links with universities and local enterprises as well as entering various science competitions.

Technology

At key stage 3, students design and make a wide range of products across all material areas of Design and Technology (Product Design/Engineering, Food & Nutrition and Fashion & Textiles). ICT and CAD/CAM are used extensively in lessons, with students simulating industrial processes and using state-of-the-art technology to design and manufacture products. Pupils are encouraged to explore the world around them and given the opportunity to design, develop and create working products to solve every day problems.

At GCSE students can choose to study courses in Product Design, Engineering, Food & Nutrition and Fashion & Textiles. Through these courses students follow a programme of practical-based projects to develop skills in research analysis, problem solving, creative design, product development and planning, making/manufacturing, testing and critical evaluation of their work. A Level courses in Product Design and Fashion & Textiles can be studied along with a Level 3 qualification (equal to an A Level) in Food Science and Nutrition.

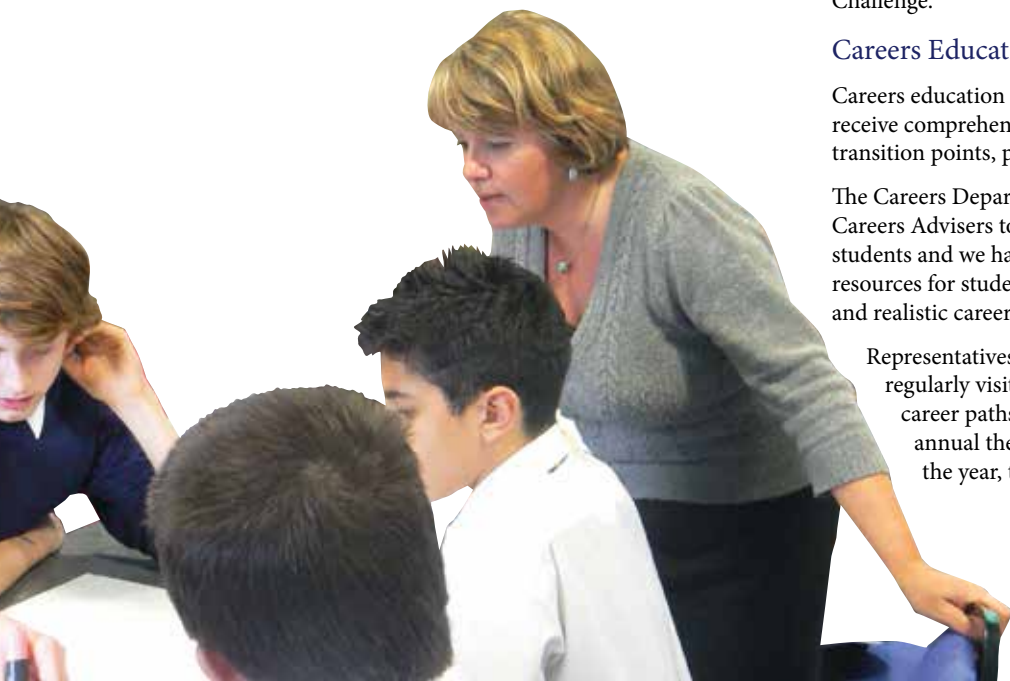
Interest in Technology is reflected in the thriving clubs held at lunchtime and after school. Students take part in a number of local competitions including the Rotary Technology Challenge, the "Pot to Plot" Harrogate Flower show cooking competition, the Big Bang inspiration and the IET Faraday Challenge.

Careers Education

Careers education is valued highly at St. Aidan's and students receive comprehensive support to guide them through the key transition points, particularly in Year's 9 and 11.

The Careers Department employs professionally qualified Careers Advisers to offer careers advice and guidance to all students and we have an extensive range of information and resources for students to access to help them make informed and realistic career decisions.

Representatives from universities and employment regularly visit school to talk to students about courses, career paths and opportunities available. We organise annual themed career evenings and events throughout the year, to which students and parents are invited.







Results

Full GCSE and A Level results are on the school website www.staidans.co.uk

Highlights are given here to provide you with a snapshot of our students' achievements.

GCSE results 2016

- 51% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate performance measure, gaining A*-C across English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a Language.
- 86% of students obtained grade C or above in English Language
- 81% of students obtained grade C or above in Mathematics
- 39% of the grades achieved by students in Year 11 were at A*-A

A Level results 2016

- 54% of all A Level results were at grades A*-B
- 10 students secured a place at either Oxford or Cambridge University
- 15 students secured a place to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science
- Of those students who applied to university, 75% gained a place at their first choice institution

Summary of destinations 2016

St. Aidan's and the Associated Sixth Form have an outstanding record for achieving excellence whilst maintaining inclusivity and supporting each student to achieve their very best.

From a total of 241 pupils aged 15 on roll at the beginning of the year

- 239 remained in education
- 2 moved into employment/apprenticeship

From a total of 325 students aged 17/18

- 78% went on to a course in either Higher or Further Education
- 9% went into apprenticeships or employment
- 13% took a gap year (with the vast majority planning to apply for an HE course)



Sixth Form Office



Constance Green Hall



Bede House



Main School Reception



The Extended Curriculum



At St. Aidan's we believe strongly that the school should make opportunities for students to achieve outside the classroom in order to broaden their skills and develop their qualities. Our programme also offers students the chance to share their interests and enthusiasm with others and develop relationships.

We use the term 'the extended curriculum' to describe the vast range of clubs, activities and trips on offer beyond the formal curriculum, an outline of some of these is on the following pages. More comprehensive information can be found on the school's website.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a rewarding programme of personal development which encourages young people to undertake constructive, challenging and enjoyable activities in their free time - there is a great deal of emphasis on developing independence and personal responsibility in the Award, both at Bronze and Gold levels. The Award comprises four sections: Volunteering (with animals or in the community); Skill (a hobby, skill or interest); Physical Recreation (sports, dance, fitness) and Expedition (on foot, cycle, horseback or water). There is an extra section for the Gold Award - the Residential - which allows each participant to pursue an interest away from home, in a residential setting, for 5 days.

Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is high at St. Aidan's. Well over 150 students completed their Bronze or Gold Award over the last year. In February, 20 young people, either past or present students, attended the ceremony at St James' Palace to receive their Gold Awards: each meeting the Duke himself! Those students undertaking the Award complete their training and expeditions in various locations across the North of England, all renowned for their natural beauty: Gold training in the Lake District; Bronze Practice, Bronze Assessed, and Gold Practice in the Yorkshire Dales; and finally the Gold Assessed expedition on the North Yorkshire Moors.

Global Community Links

St. Aidan's places an interest in the global community at the centre of what we do. Students, in a range of subjects, study modules influenced by other cultures. Volunteers run fair trade stalls and initiatives regularly and Year 9 students take part in exchanges with Sydney, Australia and Kandy, Sri Lanka every year.



Extra-Curricular Music

We have around 15 musical ensembles that practise and play together weekly, including six bands, five choirs, two orchestras and a range of smaller ensembles. These performing groups are to be heard in the local community, further afield in Yorkshire, on the national stage and frequently abroad. The school is known for the scale and quality of its musical productions and shows, with notable recent productions of *Evita* and *Copacabana*; the 2016 show is *West Side Story*. Students in the lower years have their own exciting performing arts showcase in the annual "Spotlight" performances which allow a large numbers of students to show their skills in dance, music and drama.

St. Aidan's Music – Recent Highlights

- Junior Band at the annual Junior Music Residential in York
- Symphony Orchestra at Ripon Cathedral for the Harrogate International Youth Music Festival
- Chamber Choir at the National Festival of Music for Youth Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall
- Symphonic Wind Band at the Mayor of Harrogate's Carol Concert
- Swing Band at the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival

In recent years our ensembles and choirs have travelled overseas performing in Florence, Montecatini and San Gimignano, a tour in China including a performance at the Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing, and the world famous Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.





Extra-Curricular Drama

Drama at St. Aidan's is a high profile and extremely popular extra-curricular activity for all ages. For Year 7, a drama club meets most weeks after school. With no previous experience necessary, this is an ideal opportunity to form friendship groups and develop confidence and communication skills in a safe and nurturing environment.

We strive to create a large number of performance opportunities throughout the year and are justifiably proud of our reputation for professional, top quality productions, such as *Les Misérables*, *We Will Rock You* and *Evita*. Spotlight, our popular Performing Arts event, offers Years 7 – 9 an opportunity to showcase their talent and the Associated Sixth Form's Bedlam Theatre Company stages numerous studio productions. In addition, there are audition workshops for those pursuing a career in the Performing Arts industry; we have an enviable record of students who have won places with The National Youth Theatre and top Drama schools such as RADA, Royal Central, Royal Welsh, GSA, Italia Conti, LAMDA and many more.





School Sport and Recreation

A wide range of sporting, recreational and fitness activities are on offer at lunchtimes, after school and at weekends. Clubs and extra-curricular sessions are all well attended by students.

Inter-form Sport

In Years 7, 8 and 9 forms compete against each other in all the different major sports in schools. Forms organise and manage their own teams, kit, captains, tactics and substitutions. This gives many students who are not involved in inter-school matches an opportunity to compete.

Competitive Sport

Students from St. Aidan's compete successfully at local, area, county and national level in a range of sports, including:

- Football (girls and boys)
- Netball (girls)
- Hockey (girls and boys)
- Cross country
- Basketball (girls and boys)
- Athletics
- Rounders (girls)
- Tennis
- Equestrianism
- Cricket (girls and boys)
- Rugby Union
- Volleyball
- Handball
- Golf
- Climbing

Recent highlights have included all 4 of our Athletics teams reaching the North East Finals. Also, several of our Football and Netball teams were area champions. We have also had our boys and girls Basketball teams regularly reach the last 16 in the country.





ST. AIDAN'S
PE & SPORT

ST AIDAN'S

GB

Celebrating Achievements



Year 9 Football team
National English Schools Quarter Finalists, County Cup Winners and Area Cup Runners Up

St. Aidan's is proud of the achievements of all of its students in a variety of fields, a selection is as follows:



Anna Beever
Finished in the top level of her age group in the National Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad and invited to attend the prestigious Mathematics Summer School at Oxford University



Evie Cook
Yorkshire Junior Girls Golf team member, Five County Junior Jamboree Winner and Order of Merit winner for the Harrogate and District Union



Lilian Housley
Winner of the SASH Art competition. Lilian's work was exhibited at various locations in and around York



Pagen Spooner
Member of the 2016 England Schools Athletics Team for the 5000m Race Walk and silver medallist in the 3000m Race Walk at the English Schools National Championships



Helena Baker
Achieved a place with the National Youth Theatre



Year 7 Boys Cricket team
Winners of the 2016 Yorkshire Cup therefore qualifying to compete in the national competition



Falcon Initiative Team
1 of only 10 British school teams selected to compete in this prestigious national competition to build a flight simulator



Cast of A Midsummer Night's Dream
invited to attend the Six Shakespeare Schools' Festival



George Mills
800m Gold Medal Winner at the 2016 European Youth Championships in Tblisi, Georgia, in the time of 1:48.82

Outdoor Education and School Trips



Throughout their time at St. Aidan's students have the opportunity to go on residential outdoor education visits and curriculum-related trips. These are to enrich the experiences of the students and further develop personal qualities and life skills including leadership, communication and resilience.

Year 7

For over 30 years, Year 7 students from St. Aidan's have spent a weekend in Northumberland studying the history, geography and religious background of the area. Staying at Ford Castle near Berwick, students visit Holy Island, Bamburgh Castle, the bird sanctuary at the Farne Islands and Beamish Open Air Museum. Year 7 students are also invited to take part in the Junior Band residential in York, a variety of field trips, theatre visits and a range of other subject-based out of school activities.

Year 8

Students have the opportunity to spend a week at the Ullswater 'Outward Bound' Centre in the Lake District. The focus of the residential is 'adventure and challenge' – students are encouraged to push themselves beyond their expectations and learn about themselves and others. Possible activities include canoeing, walking, rock climbing, abseiling, raft building, gorge walking and mountain navigation.



Year 9

Year 9 students can choose one of five trips that take place at the same time:

- cultural visit to the Rhineland of Germany to incorporate aspects of History, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages
- a Performing Arts Trip to London, which involves attending a theatre production and taking part in a range of workshops and sightseeing opportunities (aimed at those who want to study Dance, Music or Drama)
- a cultural visit to Ireland, which incorporates History, Geography and Religious Studies together with sightseeing opportunities
- an active and sporting visit to Holland, with a focus on team building plus a number of football/hockey fixtures and sightseeing
- a trip to Sorrento in Italy for pupils planning to study Geography at GCSE
- coast to coast cycling from Flamborough Head to St. Bee's
- for those students who choose not to go on one of these trips, a range of fun activities are organised in and around school at this time

In addition, Year 9 students have the opportunity to apply for an exchange with a school in Melbourne, Australia. St. Aidan's students go to Australia for six weeks in the spring term and the Australians return for six weeks during the summer term.

Year 10

The following school trips are available for students to choose from:

- a challenging outdoor activity course at Loch Eil, close to Ben Nevis which culminates with backpacking in the Western Highlands
- a visit to a Language School in France, with three hours' of French tuition each day
- a visit to a language school in Cologne, with four hours of German tuition each day
- a visit to a language school in Salamanca, Spain, with four hours of Spanish tuition each day

Year 11

At the end of Year 11 students are offered a two-centre trip to France, including a three-day canoe descent of the Ardèche Gorge and four days on the Mediterranean, windsurfing and sailing. Now in its fourth decade, this residential course is a challenging and highly enjoyable experience that has proved extremely popular with students.

The Associated Sixth Form

Sixth form students have a wide range of opportunities open to them. Some of these are course-related, for example visits to language schools in Spain and Germany, work experience in France, a creative writing residential week in Wales, a Politics/Economics trip to London, a Geography trip to Iceland and a ski trip.





Charitable Donations 2015 - 16

Every year St. Aidan's pupils, parents and staff raise incredible amounts of money for charity. The range of fundraising events is diverse to say the least, but the enthusiasm shown is always staggering!

AMNESTY	348.00
AWAY FROM IT ALL	2476.71
BACK UP TRUST	480.50
CANCER RESEARCH.....	1509.23
CHILDREN-IN-NEED	2921.98
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY	418.55
CHRISTIAN AID	1552.55
CUMBRIA FLOOD APPEAL	1120.00
DEMENTIA FORWARD	589.80
DREAMS COME TRUE	618.55
FOUNDATION FOR REFUGEE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (FREE).....	2362.07
MACMILLAN	617.00
ROW LIKE A GIRL	290.00
SAMARITANS.....	202.42
SRI LANKAN APPEAL.....	433.31
ST MICHAELS HOSPICE	557.50
ZAWADI.....	1400.00
TOTAL.....	£17898.17



Home and School

We believe that the personal welfare and academic success of our students is best supported by close co-operation between home and school.

We aim to keep parents fully aware of their child's progress through regular consultation, information events and extra personal contact where needed. Early in Year 7, parents are invited to an informal evening to review their child's first weeks in school. There are annual parents' evenings for each year group, plus additional meetings in Years 9, 11 and 12 to review education choices.

The school's system of pastoral care is centred on the form and year group. Form Tutors care for students' personal welfare and monitor academic progress. The Head of Year is the contact point for parents, who are encouraged to get in touch whenever they feel there is need. Our experience is that a telephone call or brief meeting is usually sufficient to sort out any problems that arise.

Homework

All pupils are set homework and it is essential for their academic progress that this is completed fully and on time. The amount of homework will vary, but on average will increase from about one hour each evening in Year 7 to about an hour and a half in Year 9. In Years 10 and 11, the demands of GCSE work are likely to increase the amount of homework considerably.

Parents can play an important part by taking an active interest in work their children do at home and by providing a quiet working environment for them.

A pupil planner provides a record of homework and an opportunity for home/school communication.

The library is open after school for those students who wish to use this quiet space.

Friends of St. Aidan's

Friends of St. Aidan's (FOSA) actively supports the educational work of the school through fundraising activities. All parents automatically become members when their children join St. Aidan's and there is a management committee of around 45 parents and staff.

Communication with Parents

The school's website is at www.staidans.co.uk, where a wide range of information about the school can be found. It is designed to be user friendly, with clear navigation tools to enable easy access to information. It is useful for both parents and pupils, giving details such as:

- general information – term dates, copies of letters sent home, handbooks, prospectuses, information on staffing, courses offered and school trips. Prospective parents can also access useful information on the admission process
- catering information – menus for the week, nutritional information and guidelines
- health and well-being – the Healthzone provides an essential reference point for information on healthy living and safety, including where to look for help and advice within school, locally and on the internet. This supports work done in lessons
- careers department - this provides essential careers information, Particularly aimed at the key transition points of Year 9 and 11

The website and other online applications provide information for pupils and parents. Staff use the VLE to give coursework information, revision guides and links to useful websites. Pupils can use their user name and password to access these online services at home as well as at school.

Parents are also encouraged to sign up to our regular information e-mail service.

Parent Pay

In line with many primary schools, St. Aidan's preferred method of paying money for dinner monies and residential trips is online. The online system we use is ParentPay.

ParentPay.com is an online 24/7 system, (designed specifically for schools) which allows you to make payments to the school and view your child's catering balance, catering transactions and trip payments, including any balances due.

Additional Information for Parents

The school day

The school day is structured as follows:

08:45 Form period

09:10 Period 1

10:10 Period 2

11:10 Break

11:30 Period 3

12:30 Lunch

13:25 Warning bell

13:30 Period 4

14:30 End of period 4

14:35 Period 5

15:35 End of school

Attendance Figures 2015 - 16

In the school's Summer 2015 Census Collection, there were 1217 pupils in Years 7 to 11 on roll

- 4.04% of teaching sessions were missed as a result of authorised absence
- 0.24% of teaching sessions were missed as a result of unauthorised absence

Complaints Procedure

Parents who are unhappy about anything in which the school is involved should contact us at once.

The Headteacher, Deputy Headteachers and Senior Staff will always be available to meet concerned parents in order to resolve difficulties. Any parent who is still dissatisfied should contact the Chair of Governors.



Places, Admissions and How to Apply

Places available at St. Aidan's

The school's admission limit for September 2016 was 226, 257 places were allocated to pupils starting in September 2016.

Please note that the information above relates to admissions and appeals for September 2016 – it is not possible to estimate the likely number of requests for places in September 2017. However, the information is given to assist parents in deciding which school they would like their child to attend and the possibility of gaining a place at the school.

Admission arrangements are co-ordinated by the Local Authority and are set out in A Guide for Parents in the Harrogate Area, which should be referred to for detailed guidelines on admissions. Copies of the guide are available online from the Area Education Office. More detailed information on the admissions procedure is given on the following page.

Visiting the school

Parents are invited to visit the school on one or two evenings in October, when the Headteacher and Senior Staff will address the meeting and make themselves available to answer questions. You will also be invited to bring your children to look round the school on a Saturday afternoon (15th October 2016), when teaching staff and pupils will be on hand to introduce visitors to the life and work of St. Aidan's School.

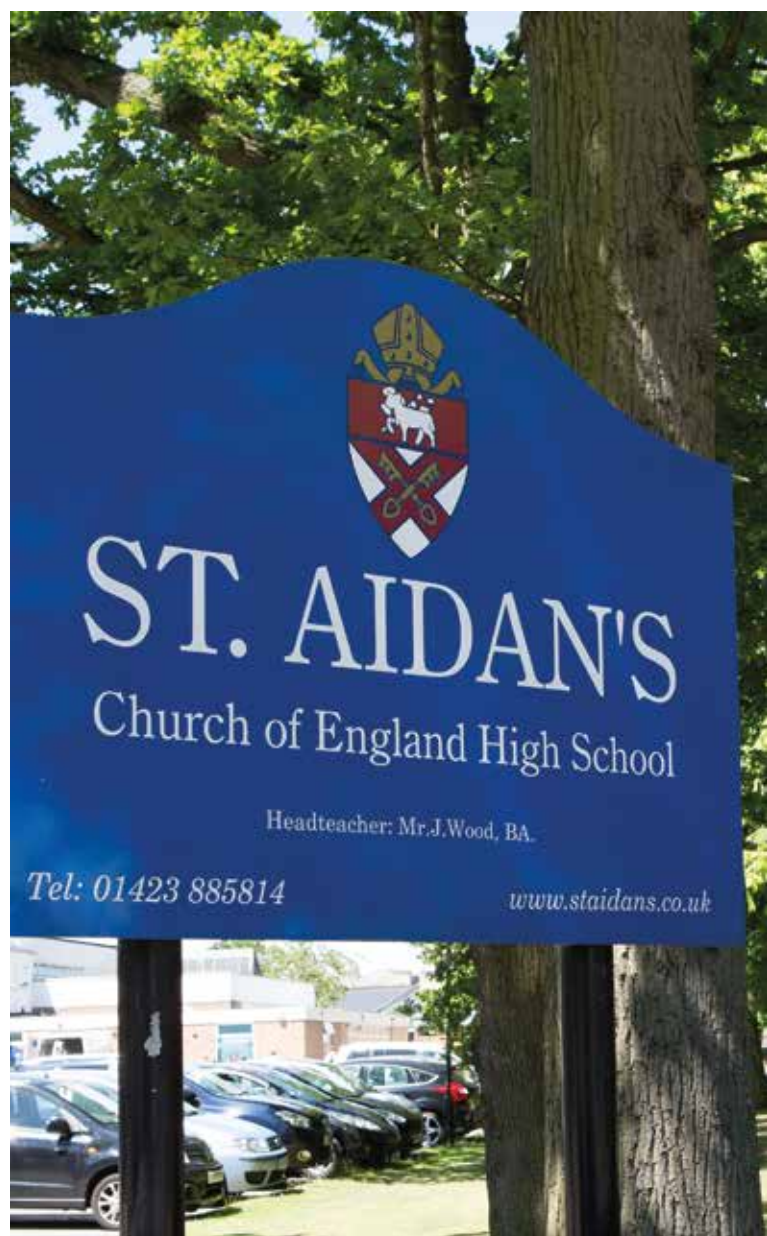
Parents who wish to see the school during a working day are also welcome to do so. You should contact the School Office between 8.30am and 4pm to make an appointment.

St. Aidan's Church of England High School
Oatlands Drive
Harrogate
North Yorkshire HG2 8JR

Telephone: 01423 885814

Fax: 01423 884327

Email: admissions@staidans.co.uk
or for general enquiries: admin@staidans.co.uk



How to Apply

St. Aidan's Church of England High School became an Academy in August 2011 and given the distinctive nature of the school it is committed to the ethos of the Christian faith in the tradition of the Anglican Church. It provides an education for students aged 11 – 19. As an Academy admissions are the responsibility of the Governing Body, however in terms of procedure we follow closely the policy and timings of North Yorkshire County Council.

In order to make an application for a place at St. Aidan's in Year 7 for 2017 you will need to complete two forms. First the online schools admissions application for North Yorkshire common application form, secondly you will need to complete the St. Aidan's application form for admission into Year 7 September 2017 which is available through our website or through the main school office.

The school's admission number is 226. The school serves the Deaneries of Harrogate and Ripon.

Children with a statement of Special Educational Need naming St. Aidan's Church of England High School will be allocated a place in line with section 324 of the Education Act.

In the case of oversubscription, places are offered to those who fulfil the following criteria. In determining places the Governors will allocate places as follows:-

Priority 1:

Children currently or previously looked after by the local authority. (See note B)

Priority 2:

Siblings of children attending the school at the time of admission. (See note C)

Priority 3:

Foundation Places: 80% of the remaining places will be allocated to children of the Christian faith living within the Anglican Deaneries of Harrogate and Ripon.

Of these places, 85% will be allocated to those living in the Harrogate Deanery and 15% to those living in Ripon Deanery. Governors will allocate points for church attendance (see Appendix) and places will be allocated according to the points scored.



Where there is a need to differentiate between applications with the same points score, priority will be determined by geographic proximity to the school, by the nearest route, according to the NYCC electronic measuring system.

If applications from either Deanery are less than the allocation under this priority then those places will be available to the other Deanery.

Priority 4:

Children of staff at the school in either or both of the following circumstances:

where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made;

and/or

where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Priority 5:

Up to 5 children with a demonstrated medical/social need for a place at St. Aidan's. (See note D)

Priority 6:

Up to 5 children of other faiths living within the Anglican Deaneries of Harrogate and Ripon. (See Note E)

Priority 7:

Community Places: Remaining places will be allocated to those applicants living within the Anglican Deaneries of Harrogate and Ripon closest to the school (determined by geographic proximity to the school, by the nearest route, according to the NYCC electronic measuring system) regardless of their eligibility under any other priorities.

Priority 8:

Remaining places will be allocated to children living outside the Anglican Deaneries of Harrogate and Ripon according to the points scored for church attendance (see Appendix 1). Where there is a need to differentiate between applications with the same points score, priority will be determined by geographic proximity to the school, by the nearest route, according to the NYCC electronic measuring system.

Pupils already of secondary age:

Parents are asked to contact the Headteacher directly.



Appeals

All parents of children for whom places are not offered have the right to appeal against the decision. You are required to write notice of your wish to appeal to the Clerk of the Appeals Committee, through the Headteacher at the school, within 14 days of receiving the notice that a place has not been allocated.

Application to St. Aidan’s Church of England High School 2017

Notes

We recommend that you enter your postcode at www.achurchnearyou.com to find your parish church and clarify which Deanery your residence is in. If you then open the details of that church and look under the ‘More Info’ tab, it will tell you which Deanery you live in.

A ‘looked after child’ is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school. Previously looked after children are children who were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order) immediately following having been looked after.

‘Siblings’ include step siblings, foster siblings, adopted siblings and other children living permanently at the same address.

A medical or social need will refer to some particular and exceptional reason why a place at St. Aidan’s will be important to the medical or social well-being of the child. Supporting evidence will be required in writing from a health or social care professional.

Children of other faiths will require a letter of support from their faith leader confirming frequency of attendance at worship. There is a minimum requirement of monthly attendance at a place of worship to be considered under this category. Where there are more than five applications priority will be given on a points basis equivalent to that used for Foundation Places. Where there is a need to differentiate between applications with the same points score, priority will be determined by geographic proximity to the school, by the nearest route, according to the NYCC electronic measuring system.

If the distance between two children’s homes and the school is the same, random allocation will be used as a tie-break in Priorities 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 above to decide who has highest priority for admission. This process will be independently verified.

Appendix:

Church attendance is measured by the approximate number of weeks in which the person has attended a church service in the three year period immediately before the date of application.

1. Church attendance of child

- Weekly*3 points
- 2-3 times/month.....2 points
- Monthly1 points

2. Church attendance of parent or guardian

- Weekly*3 points
- 2-3 times/month.....2 points
- Monthly1 points

* Weekly indicates every week except for sickness and family holidays and would usually therefore be in excess of 40 weeks in the year.

If your pattern of attendance has changed significantly during the last three years, then an average over the three years should be used.

- e.g. Year 1 Monthly 12 weeks
- Year 2 Fortnightly24 weeks
- Year 3 Weekly 48 weeks
- = 84 weeks averaged over 3 years = 28
- i.e. 2-3 times per month

Application forms for Foundation places (Priority 3) must be endorsed by a leader of the specified Church community before submission.

Note: Where “church” is referred to in the criteria, the Governors recognise any branch of the Christian Church affiliated to Churches Together in England (or in full sympathy with its Trinitarian stance). If in doubt please consult one of your church leaders. A list of churches affiliated to and/or in sympathy with Churches Together in England is appended to the application form.

Leadership Team and Governance

Leadership Team

Mr John Wood BA PGCE Headteacher
 Mrs Gill Soper M.Ed PGCE Deputy Head
 Mr Chris Burt BA PGCE Deputy Head
 Mr Martyn Beer BA PGCE Deputy Head
 Mr Chris Ives BA PGCE Assistant Head
 Mr Chris Kidman MA PGCE Assistant Head & Head of St. Aidan's Sixth Form
 Mrs Kate Douglas BSc PGCE Assistant Head & Head of Year 7
 Mr Dave Holdsworth MSc PGCE Director of Teacher Training
 Mr Mark Pallant BA PGCE Director of Music/Community Cohesion
 Mrs Ruth McQuire BA PGCE Senior Teacher

Trust Members

The Right Reverend James Bell Bishop of Knaresborough
 Mr Richard Noake Director of Education of the Diocesan Board of Education
 The Reverend Matthew Evans as incumbent of Christ Church, High Harrogate
 Mr David Fisher representing the PCC of St. Peters, High Harrogate
 Mrs Jane Boyd representing the PCC of Christ Church, High Harrogate
 Reverend Nigel Sinclair as appointee of the Diocesan Board of Education

Academy Trustees

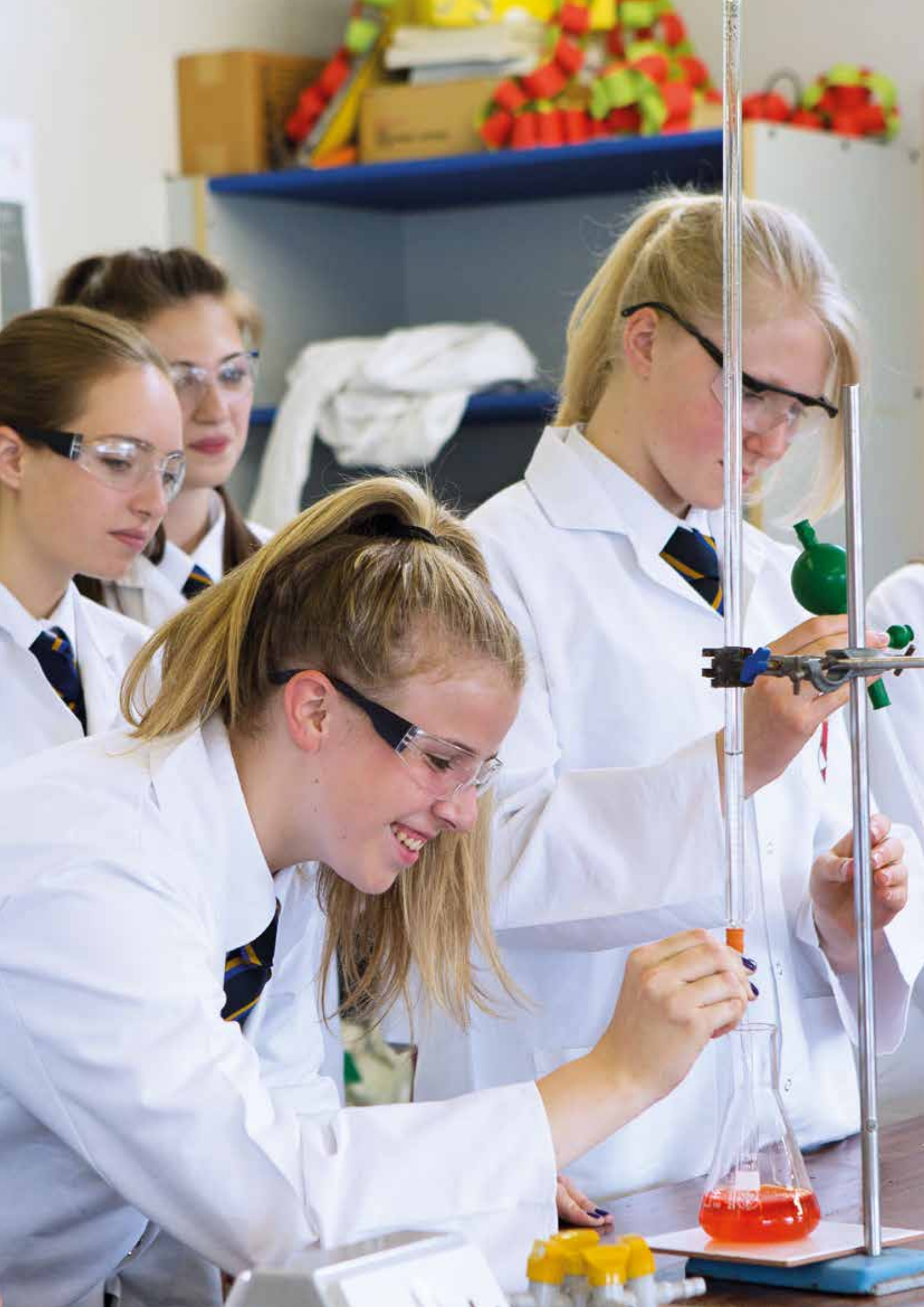
Dr Jill Adam	Mr Steven Scarisbrick
Mr John Bushell	Mr Andrew Symonds
Mr David Fisher	Mr Philip Titchmarsh
Mr Terence Harrison	Mr Martin Wicks
Ms Claire Kelley	Mr John Wood
Mr Seth King	

Governors of St. Aidan's

Ms Claire Kelley..... Foundation Governor
 Mr John Bushell..... Foundation Governor
 Mrs Sheina Demain..... Foundation Governor
 Mr David Fisher..... Foundation Governor
 Mrs Pam Young Foundation Governor
 Mrs Joanne Wicks Foundation Governor
 Mrs Jane Boyd..... Foundation Governor
 Reverend Matthew Evans Foundation Governor
 Mr Jonathan Birch..... Parent Governor
 Mr Peter Marston Parent Governor
 Ms Megan Chanter..... Staff Governor
 Mr Matthew Park Staff Governor
 Mrs Ingrid Claydon..... Support Staff Governor
 Mr John Garnett Co-opted
 Dr Jai Prakash Narain Co-opted

The following also attend Governors' meetings:

Mr John Wood.....Headteacher
 Mrs Gill Soper..... Deputy Head
 Mr Chris Burt Deputy Head/Company Secretary
 Mr Martyn Beer..... Deputy Head
 Vacancy..... Clerk to the Governors
 Ms Kelley can be contacted via the school address





ST. AIDAN'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate North Yorkshire HG2 8JR
Telephone: 01423 885814 • Fax: 01423 884327 • Email: admissions@staidans.co.uk • www.staidans.co.uk