Causeway
50th Anniversary Edition

May 2019

St. Aidan's Church of England High School

GOLDEN JUBILEE
As I write we are in the throes of not only making preparations for the events celebrating our 50th Anniversary but also in ensuring that the students in Year 11 and Year 13 are ready to undertake their public examinations later in the month. I would like to thank all friends and colleagues who have been involved in these, as well as many other events taking place in school over the last two months and wish all students taking their GCSEs or A Levels well for what lies ahead.

As you will see from this issue of Causeway there is so much going on within this school which affords students the opportunities to develop not only their interests but also them as people. It is this, alongside the commitment of all staff and the Christian foundation of the school, that has made it, and continues to make it, a special school providing the highest quality of all round education. We thank God for His many blessings over the last 50 years and rededicate ourselves and the school to His service.

John Wood, Headteacher
New Headteacher Appointment – September 2019

The governing body of St Aidan’s Church of England High School is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Headteacher who will replace Mr John Wood when he retires at the end of August 2019.

Mr Chris Burt will assume the role of Headteacher of St Aidan’s CE High School from September 2019. He will also lead Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust, the multi academy trust of which St Aidan’s is a part.

Mr Burt was selected from a strong field of candidates following a rigorous assessment process. He has taught at St Aidan’s for 28 years and has been a member of the senior leadership team of the School for the last 18 years. In June 2017, he was appointed Associate Headteacher of the School and since then he and John Wood have led the School collaboratively.

Ms Claire Kelley, Chair of Governors of the School said of Mr Burt’s appointment, “The governing body of the School is delighted with the outcome of this recruitment exercise. Governors are confident the School will continue to flourish under the leadership of Mr Burt, who is committed to preserving the unique ethos and Christian values that are so important to the St Aidan’s community, whilst also ensuring that outcomes for our students remain a priority.”

Following his appointment, Mr Burt said, “I am delighted and feel very privileged to have been appointed Headteacher of St Aidan’s Church of England High School and Executive Leader of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust.

St Aidan’s is an exceptional school with a superb team of staff, totally committed to working with all of the pupils in our care, helping them to achieve outcomes that reflect the best of their abilities. The school’s distinctive ethos will remain unchanged and looking ahead, I am ambitious and optimistic about the future of St Aidan’s and its pupils.

I have been heavily involved in the development of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust since its formation in 2015 and am excited to take on the role of Executive Leader of the Trust which now comprises eight wonderful schools. The collaboration between these schools is having a hugely positive impact and plans exist to further develop these important partnerships.

I look forward to working with pupils, parents, staff and the wider community in this new role.”

Mr Chris Burt
Jazz Evening
On Thursday 14th February, we held a wonderful Valentines Jazz Evening in Constance Green Hall.

The evening featured Swing Band, St Aidan’s Jazz Ensembles (SAJE), Girls Choir and Year 9 Dancers. This year there were also a number of individual performances which were warmly received by an extremely enthusiastic audience.

We would like to thank all students and staff who were involved, as well as the full house of parents and friends, who enjoyed a really entertaining evening.

St Aidan’s Chamber Choir on the National stage again!
Constance Green Hall at St Aidan’s was the venue again for a Regional Festival of the National Festival of Music for Youth in March, hosting young musicians from as far afield as Tyneside and South Derbyshire. On the strength of their performance at that event the Chamber Choir has been invited to sing at Symphony Hall, Birmingham as part of the main National Festival in July. A central part of their programme will new piece, “The Shepherd”, composed and conducted by Year 12 student, Sophie Priestley. 3 days after that appearance the choir will head over to Belgium for their summer concert tour, which will include a joint concert with Roeselare Chamber Choir, performances at Ypres and Bruges cathedrals and singing at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres.
Junior Music Residential, January 2019
The 15th year of the Junior Music Residential saw 67 members of the Junior Band along with Mrs Elliott, Mr Pallant, Mrs Leonard, Mr Ives, Mrs Wraight and Mrs Hedges heading off to the fantastic York Racecourse Centre to spend a weekend of music making.

Members of the Junior Band spent hours rehearsing, were treated to some great food and accommodation, enjoyed taking part in an interactive quiz around the racecourse, had a fantastic time bowling in York, performed in a Cabaret and played a stunning concert to parents at the end of the weekend. This included pieces such as Mamma Mia!, Shape of You, Mary Poppins and Despacito!

Junior Orchestras perform for Primary Schools
On Thursday 21st March, Junior Band and String Ensemble performed for a large number of Primary School students in Constance Green Hall. This was to help KS2 students to experience and connect to the world of live music first hand. Our Music Ensembles entertained the Primary Schools with well-known pieces from Star Wars, Ed Sheeran and Mamma Mia! to name a few. The event was a huge success and thank you to everyone who was involved.

National Youth Brass Band Success
Congratulations to Emilia Johnson and Sam Watts, Year 11 students, who have both secured places in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, playing Trombone and Tenor Horn. We wish them every success in this fantastic achievement.

10 years in the Spotlight
This year marks the 10th year of Spotlight, our KS3 performing arts showcase.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary and mark the school’s Jubilee, this year’s show will be a single performance in the Royal Hall on Tuesday 2nd July. We are also planning to involve Spotlight alumni from Years 10-13 and beyond.

Please keep checking the school website for further information regarding this exciting event.
February Sports Round Up

Monday 11th February
Year 10 Boys Area Basketball - A very good performance from the Year 10 boys as they became area champions after beating King James’s and Boroughbridge.

Year 7 Netball B,C,D,E Rossett School + Harrogate Grammar School - The Year 7 girls won 2 games against Rossett School and drew and lost against Harrogate Grammar School.

Tuesday 12th February
Under 14s Girls Basketball v Boroughbridge - The Under 14s Girls Basketball team won their third game in a row against Boroughbridge.

Under 14s Hockey v Rossett School - A very strong performance from the Under 14 Girls Hockey as they ran out 5-0 winners against Rossett School.

Year 10 Boys Football B Team v St John Fisher - After a very tough game, St John Fisher eventually went on to win 3-2.

Thursday 14th February
Under 15s Hockey v Queen Ethelburga’s - A close league match saw the Under 15 girls run out eventual 1-0 winners against Queen Ethelburga’s.

Year 8 boys Basketball County Finals - The boys played a “round robin” against 3 other schools winning one and losing two against three other schools.

Friday 15th February
Year 11 Boys Football v King James’s - The Year 11 boys are now through to the area cup semi-final after beating King James’s 2-1.

Year 7 Netball Triumph
Both the A and B Year 7 Netball teams won their Area netball tournament last week at Ashville College. Congratulations girls!
Year 10 Football

Congratulations to all of the boys who have played so well for the Year 10 Football team so far this season.

In a thrilling semi-final, the boys beat Rossett School to reach the North Yorkshire Cup Final, a trophy they won last year.

The final was played at Whitby Town's ground against a strong and athletic Tadcaster Grammar School. On this occasion, our boys came out second best as we went down to a 2-0 defeat!

The team then followed up their North Yorkshire final with a win against St John Fisher School on penalties in the semi final of the Harrogate and Craven Cup competition.

Well done to the following boys: Eddie Murray, Joe Caygill, Charlie Peach, Harrison Shinkfield, Ed Wooldridge, Louis Ellul, Harry Allinson, George Horbury, Ben Chumas, Alex Forbes, Charlie Pilkington, Oliver Hunter, Tom Barrett, Jonny Haselden, Harry Christy, Charlie Siddall.

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March Sports Round Up

Monday 18th March
Year 7 Basketball – The Year 7 Basketball team came 2nd in the County Tournament, only just losing out in the final.

Year 8 Boys Football – The Year 8 boys are now through to the area cup final after beating St John Fisher in the semi-final.

Under 14s Hockey – The Under 14 Hockey team became Area champions after putting in some fantastic performances to beat Harrogate Grammar, Ripon Grammar, King James's and Rossett School.

Thursday 21st March
Squash – The Squash team became National England Schools Squash Plate champions after defeating Bromsgrove and Tytherington. Then beating Bradfield, Exeter and Sevenoaks at the finals event in Nottingham.

Cross Country – The Cross Country team ran superbly in the 2km Relays at Ernysteds with the Under 12s Mixed team finishing 1st and 3rd, and the Under 14s Mixed B team finishing 1st and 2nd.

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Summer Extra Curricular PE and Sport Programme 2019

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<td>Year 10 rounders-Miss Wadhams</td>
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<td>Year 9 Rounders- Miss Wadhams</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Year 9 Cricket- Mr Margerison Volleyball- Mr Maullin, Mr Fireman, Mr Burnett</td>
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<td>Year 7 Rounders- Miss Lyons+Miss Baldrick</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Year 7 Cricket- Mr Strover + Mr Burnett</td>
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8G won the Interform Football title
**Sporting Successes**

**Beatrix Baum, Year 7**

On the weekend of the 30th and 31st March, Beatrix Baum in Year 7 competed at a National Gymnastics Qualifier.

Beatrix not only qualified with Distinction, but was also crowned Yorkshire Champion, winning a Gold Medal! She will represent Yorkshire in a National Final in May, along with her team mates.

Congratulations Beatrix on this fantastic achievement! We wish her the best of luck for the Finals in May.

**Edward Lusted, Year 8**

Year 8 student, Edward Lusted, has won Bronze at the Yorkshire Fencing Championship in Under 14 Foil. This result means he has qualified to represent Yorkshire at the British Youth Fencing Championship. The Championship will be held over the May Bank Holiday weekend at the Institute of Sport in Sheffield. Congratulations Edward on this fantastic achievement.

**Eddie Murray, Year 10**

Eddie has recently played at the National Squash Tournament, London. He has then played for Yorkshire at the finals weekend of the National Counties Junior Championship, having qualified through the previous rounds. Eddie played all matches for the Yorkshire Under 15s team, as they finished as Runners Up – out of 34 counties!

**Beth Miller, Year 10**

Beth Miller was the first placed girl and an impressive second overall at the RS Tera Pro World Championships at RS Games in Weymouth Portland, sailing in the 66-strong RS Tera Pro Fleet for older juniors in the class, likewise having to contend with some strong breezes. Over five days and 12 races, Beth’s results included a race win and two seconds, plus a consistent set of top 10 finishes to secure the girls’ title by a clear margin. Congratulations Beth on this tremendous achievement.

**Under 16 Squash Team Win**

Our Under 16 Boys have won the England Squash National Plate finals in Nottingham.

The team beat Bromsgrove School and Tytherington in the first round.

Semi Final – St Aidan's 144 vs 115 Exeter School.

Final – St Aidan's 154 vs 80 Sevenoaks School.

Congratulations boys!

**Honor Rouse, Year 8**

On Wednesday 6th March one of our Year 8 students, Honor Rouse, very successfully competed in the English Gymnastics Championships in Essex.

Honor is an Elite Junior competing against 14 and 15 year olds. She is now ranked 21st out of 90 gymnasts of the same level and age banding in England. This is a huge achievement and she has made a massive amount of progress in the last year with her Gymnastics coaches.

**Under 15 Football**

Well done to the year 10 team who followed up their North Yorkshire final with a win v St John Fisher School on penalties in the semi final of the Harrogate and Craven cup competition. The final will be after Easter!
Pagen Spooner, Year 13

Congratulations to Pagen who competed in the 5000m Race Walk at the British Athletics Championships in Birmingham in February, securing a Bronze medal.

More recently Pagen was selected to represent the England Team at a European Athletics Event in the Czech Republic in April. Pagen raced against International Athletes from across Europe in the 10km Race walk event.

Pagen finished 25th out of a field of 38 athletes and second of the three British girls home, completing the 10km course in a new personal best time.

Pagen gave a great performance in her International debut as an England Team member. It was a world class field with all the major European countries sending their National Teams. There were even some athletes from as far afield as Mexico, Puerto Rico and Kazakhstan!
St Aidan’s goes global

**Superdevoluy, France 2019**

During February half term, some of our Sixth Form students enjoyed a wonderful week skiing in Superdevoluy, France.

The conditions were fantastic and all students enjoyed the trip whether beginners, intermediate or advanced. As well as skiing the group also enjoyed plenty of other activities including snowshoeing through the forest!

Thank you to all the staff who made this a really enjoyable trip for Year 12 and 13.

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**Australia 2019**

On Saturday 16th March, ten Year 9 students departed from Manchester Airport for the annual Australian Exchange. Students arrived safely in Melbourne with their exchange families and started at Carey Baptist School on Monday with the Australian students. We wish them well and we look forward to hearing all about their adventures upon their return!

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**Loch Eil 2019**

Over 90 Year 10 students enjoyed some fantastic weather and activities on their recent trip to Loch Eil. The students enjoyed a range of outdoor activities including a night jog and dip in the beautiful surroundings of Ben Nevis, a self-made abseil and canoeing on the Loch.
Sri Lanka 2019

On 2nd February, nine students from Year 9 set off on their travels to Hillwood College in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The long journey took the students via Doha to Colombo where they were given a very warm welcome on arrival at the school. The students enjoyed the Botanical Gardens, visits to temples, sports and art classes, elephant orphanages and climbing Sigiriya Rock. On their final weekend the students spent time with their exchange families. This was a wonderful experience for our students and we look forward to welcoming the Sri Lankans to the UK in September.

Following the tragic events in Sri Lanka over Easter we were extremely relieved to hear that all the students and staff from Hillwood Academy are safe. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this very difficult time.
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St Aidan’s CofE High School
693 pupils, 30 staff
St Aidan’s CofE High School
1342 pupils, 134 staff
Associated Sixth Form
991 students
Amazing Alumni!

Matt Johnston (now Coulton) is working with international touring theatre company, Complicite.

Joel Pitts (now Benedict) is an actor and has performed as Eddie in ‘Blood Brothers’ (UK Tour).

Joe Beighton is Music Director for recent hit Six The Musical, which is currently in the West End and is nominated for an Olivier Award 2019.

Jonathan Miller performed in the West End in Dirty Dancing.

Katie Pearson has performed in the West End and on tour in productions such as Hairspray, 42ND Street and the Dusty Springfield Musical.

Verity Kirk trained at RADA and has recently worked at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Maisie Adam is now a touring stand-up comedian.

Tom Pallant is now touring with British artist Yungblud as a photographer.

Alex Foster now plays for Castleford Tigers Rugby League.

Jonathan Allen won a BAFTA for Sound for Les Miserables.
Eleonore Cockerham is now a Professional Singer. She is a performer and music education leader for vocal group, VOCES8.

Katie Skinner is now a Singer Songwriter, most recently recording demos for Sony and Louisa Johnson.

Susan Blair is now a Harpist for London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Simon Estell is a Bassoonist for London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Tom Knowles is Musical Director for musical theatre shows in London and across Europe.

Rebecca Else is now 1st violin for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Emily Harrington has done Starlight Express in Germany and understudied Ellen in the UK tour of Miss Saigon.

Simon Lee is now a meteorologist, currently working towards a PhD in the department of Meteorology at the University of Reading.

Lydia Bradd has just finished the Asian tour of Flashdance.

Hollie-Ann Lowe has done the UK tour of Flashdance understudying Joanne Clifton from Strictly Come Dancing in the lead role.

Elisha Ainsley played the lead in the original Tangled musical onboard Disney Cruise Line.

George Mills is a Professional Runner for the 800m event.
Then...

St Aidan's Stone laid 1966, which is still here today.

New School Construction c. 1968.


Main Hall c. 1969.

Building of New School, local newspaper article.

Previous School On Site c. 1960.

New School Construction c. 1968.


Outside School Building, c. 1968.

Mr D Richards, Headteacher 1989-2011.
Now...

Year 7 students begin the 50th Jubilee Celebrations in Lindisfarne, Northumberland, 2018.

Jazz Night, February 2019.

Gingerbread House Competition, December 2018.


Ullswater Trip.

Children in Need, 2018.

Children in Need, 2018.

Sister Act Cast Photo, 2018.
Maths Feast

Year 10 students had a challenging afternoon at Horsforth School, where in teams of four they had to answer a range of Maths questions against 12 other teams. The comprehension round gave them a sheet on an unfamiliar topic to read through and learn followed by some questions on that topic. Each student worked as hard as they could both individually and as part of the team and although they didn’t place, both teams were commended for scoring highly in all three rounds.

Well done for volunteering to go and for doing so well.

Team 1: Tom Adamson, Ben Handley, Luke Fry and Tom Shaw.

Team 2: Lily Hagen, Alyssa Parris, Jamie Bune and Ben Folkard.

Junior Maths Challenge

Four Year 8 and 9 students attended a Maths competition at Bradford Grammar School in March.

It was a gruelling day from 10.30am to 3pm, filled with some tricky questions over three rounds. They should be congratulated for working well with students they had never met before, as well performing to the best of their ability individually. All that hard work paid off with an impressive 8th place out of 32.

Great work!

Thomas Went 8W, Ptolemy Treetops 8D, Harvey Gawthorpe 9G and Abigail Fenwick 9G.

Debating Success in Sixth Form

On Monday 4th March, St Aidan’s hosted the NE Regional Finals of the ESU Mace competition. Six teams travelled from Morpeth, Newcastle, York, Hull and Sheffield to take part in three debates.

The Associated Sixth Form team faced Hymers College, who they opposed on the motion ‘This house would legalise paid surrogacy in the UK’.

The three judges, chaired by Duncan Partridge, Director of Education at the ESU, praised the quality of debating, but declared the Associated Team overall winners. As defending champions this was an especially pleasing result. The team then looked forward to attending the National Finals in London in March. As one of the only twelve regions in England, this places us among the best debating schools in the country.

On Monday 25th March the debating team then headed to London for the finals. The twelve regional winners, including Repton, Dulwich and Eton, competed for a place in the Grand Final. Our team gave their best performance yet and clearly won their debate against Chenderit School on the motion: ‘This house would ban the use of armed drones during counter-terrorism and warfare.’

The judges were divided about which of the six teams in the semi-finals to put through, but eventually came down in favour of Sevenoaks School. However, the team more than held their own among the top debating schools in the country. Indeed the judges commended them on the high quality of their performance. The guest of honour, Lord Blunkett, presented the team of Frankie Ryan-Casey and Owen Spafford with their individual trophies for being the NE Regional Champions.

Many congratulations to Frankie Ryan-Casey and Owen Spafford for their accomplished performances. It was also pleasing to have so much support from the lower school debating club. Their insightful contributions suggested that the future of debating looks bright.
We were delighted to host a visit by the BBC on Friday 22nd February, when they talked to all Year 9 students about career opportunities in the creative industries. Nick Bright, Presenter at Radio 1Xtra and Five Live hosted the event and interviewed Jean Heeley, Head of Crew Engagement at Emmerdale and Nader Mabadi, Senior Production Manager also at Emmerdale, who both provided an informative and engaging insight into careers in media and related industries. Students in Years 10 to 13 also enjoyed a similar talk at lunchtime.

Careers News

Celebrating Apprenticeships Week

On Wednesday 6th March, Year 12 students attended a presentation on employment and apprenticeships in order to raise awareness about some of the amazing opportunities available after Sixth Form.

We were delighted to welcome back former students; Sam Gumbley from Belzona, Conor Mulhall from O2 and Safiyah Asmat from Nestle who all provided an informative and inspiring insight into what they do and have achieved in their respective companies, including the opportunity to study for a fully funded degree in Management.

Careers Evening 2019

All students and parents in Years 9 to 13 were invited to attend the school’s Careers Evening on Thursday 14th March in Constance Green Hall from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

Over 65 employers, universities, colleges and training providers attended to represent an amazing range of careers and opportunities within the Humanities, Languages, Business, Creative and Performing Arts sectors of industry.

This was an extremely successful event. Thank you to all staff, students and parents who supported this evening.

BBC Careers Presentation

We were delighted to host a visit by the BBC on Friday 22nd February, when they talked to all Year 9 students about career opportunities in the creative industries. Nick Bright, Presenter at Radio 1Xtra and Five Live hosted the event and interviewed Jean Heeley, Head of Crew Engagement at Emmerdale and Nader Mabadi, Senior Production Manager also at Emmerdale, who both provided an informative and engaging insight into careers in media and related industries. Students in Years 10 to 13 also enjoyed a similar talk at lunchtime.
Green Poems for Stray FM Competition

Stray FM have been working with local business Entech to promote ‘Green month’ throughout the whole of March.

The radio station asked local schools to encourage their students to write a ‘Green Poem’ about our planet, climate and environmental changes. This was particularly embraced by our Geography department and Eco club, with Year 8 student Olivia Parris being announced as the winner by Stray FM!

Olivia had the opportunity to record her poem with local Stray FM presenter to go out on air! Congratulations Olivia!

Comic Relief

The arena was set for the ‘Sumo Push off’ raising funds for Comic Relief on Friday 15th March.

Mr Wood, Mr Alker, Mr Taylor and Mr Ives went head to head against each other. Mr Wood and Mr Alker scored the highest so were in the final ‘push off’ – with Mr Alker as the overall winner!

A very big thank you to everybody who dressed up, donated, bought books, cakes or helped in any way to create a really positive Comic Relief day.

Special thanks have to go to the 4 very brave and entertaining Sumo Pushers. The students really loved it and it all helped to bring in a huge £3,388.17

Peak Performance

On Saturday 18th May 2019
Friends of St Aidan’s (FOSA) are tackling the amazing Yorkshire Three Peaks. They will be taking on the big hills of Pen-y-ghent, Whernside, and Ingleborough in under 12 hours. Fundraising and training is well underway but we need all the support we can get!

This year 75% of funds raised will go to St Aidan’s and 25% of funds will go to Frank’s Fund.

Please help us support St Aidan’s school fund and Frank’s fund by visiting our donation pages below.

www.bcrt.org.uk/get-involved/tribute-funds/franks-fund
mydonate.bt.com/events/fosa3peakschallenge/482987

Thank you once again for your support.

If you would like to get involved in any aspect of this event please do get in touch via school.
**Frank’s Fund**

Year 9 student Frank Ashton sadly lost his battle against cancer earlier this year. Frank was a fun loving, happy-go-lucky teenager. He loved sleepovers with friends while eating buckets of sweets and watching movies, playing in the park, kicking a ball and going to the cinema. In order to raise funds to support research into this devastating disease, Frank’s family have set up “Frank’s Fund” in support of the Bone Cancer Trust.

Ewing sarcoma most commonly affects children and young adults aged 10-25 years old and makes up about 1.5% of all childhood cancers. A child, teenager or adult is diagnosed with primary bone cancer every 10 minutes, but primary bone cancer received just 0.04% of funding from the major UK cancer charities in 2017/18 and shockingly their investment in the disease dropped by 43% to a 16-year low. Treatment protocols are out of date and gruelling, this means that survival rates have not improved in over 30 years. Please follow this link if you wish to donate:


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**Upcoming Production News...**

After the success of Sister Act last November, we are excited to announce that this year’s production will be We Will Rock You, in November in Constance Green Hall. Audition information will be released very soon.