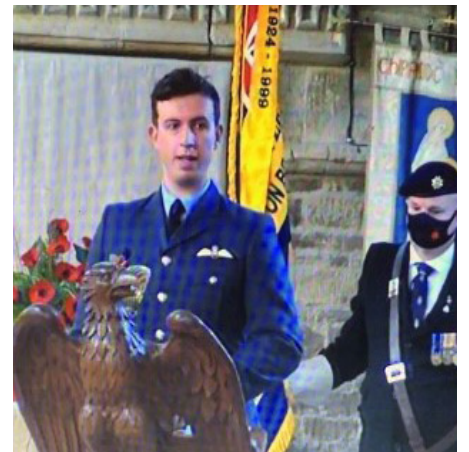


INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.2 - DECEMBER 2020

Good News Continues!



Welcome to our second edition. Thank you for the many messages about InTouch, with ideas for items to include and showing your enjoyment of the news stories. In this edition we celebrate more good news about the achievements of staff and students (past and present), and the kindness of the community as a whole. Wishing everyone well, with hope and peace at this time of Advent.

Remembrance day

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them."



On the 11th November at 11am, silence fell on St. Aidan's as we remembered the fallen. The end of the two-minute silence was once again signalled poignantly with The Last Post, played by a group of socially distanced musicians stationed around the school. This act of remembrance was broadcast on Microsoft Teams so that members of our school community, wherever they were, could come together and pay their respects to those who fought for us.

Our thanks to the exceptional musicians whose performances captured the sentiment of Remembrance Day so perfectly.

The school library

Books can still be borrowed from the School Library! Although only Year 13 are allowed in the Library at the moment, books can still be borrowed by all.

To browse the Library catalogue, click the link on the [Library page](#) of the school website. Book requests should be emailed to library@staidans.co.uk - if you don't know what to read we can suggest books for you!

We will deliver the book(s) to you. To return books, place them in the blue box outside the Library door.



Zawadi



Social enterprise in action! Founded 13 years ago, the student-led Zawadi team at St. Aidan's raises money to support Artizan International. Unfortunately, 2020 has not been a year for Ceilidhs, Quiz Nights, Pop up Cafés, Christmas Market Busking or Year 7 Discos. However, the team have come up with the idea of a [Virtual Catalogue](#). Choose any of the items listed – from a Paper Making Mould or Jewellery Starter Kit to a Screen Printing Table or a Sewing Machine – and your donation will enable Artizan to buy these and many other items to support their training & social enterprise centres for people living with a wide range of disabilities. Thank you.

Alumni in flight

Last month, former St. Aidan's student Flight Lieutenant Alexander Barker took part in the Chipping Norton Remembrance Sunday service as a serving Officer in the RAF. During the service, Alex spoke about how his faith helps him as a Pilot. When he is not flying, he also works as a volunteer for [Mission Aviation Fellowship](#).

Alex and his older brother Oliver (also an RAF Pilot) have fond memories of their time at St. Aidan's and we are thrilled that they have offered to come and give a presentation to students on their careers to date, when it is safe to do so.



The Great (mini) St Aidan's Bake Off

The Great (mini) St Aidan's Bake Off took place recently as part of our activities and fundraising for Children In Need. Like every area of school life this couldn't go ahead as normal with live crowds watching in person as staff embarrass themselves to draw attention to a good cause. Instead we took to Teams and did a socially distanced baking challenge between the Heads of Year 7, 8 and 9.

Mr Taylor is an excellent baker and highly competitive, mentioning that he would probably make a good professional chef. Dr Holt is less competitive but likes baking and made a lot of St Aidan's oat biscuits in lockdown. Mr Bean is good at eating cakes.

The wonderful Food Tech department revealed the challenge; which was to make and ice six shortbread stars in around 15 minutes using a Year 7 recipe. Mr Taylor showed great flair in his mixing and icing technique, Mr Bean made twice as many biscuits as needed, and Dr Holt burnt hers at the edges but covered this well with icing.



Mr Ives joined Mrs Betteridge to judge the final results. After careful deliberation the judges said that unfortunately Mr Bean would be leaving the tent. Mr Bean said that although he was sad to be leaving he had made some friends for life. Dr Holt was awarded Star Baker and took the rest of the biscuits home for her children. Mr Taylor considered hiring lawyers to demand a recount, but instead is focussing his efforts on a spin-off book and hoping for his own TV series (or at least another video for the school YouTube channel).

It was logistically challenging to fit one more thing into the very busy pace of school life at the moment but also a lot of fun and good to model to the students that we all have to look for what we can do safely to stay connected and keep having a bit of fun in life. Thanks to all who were involved (particularly Mrs Betteridge, Ms Hedges and Mr Marshall) and all the families who gave to support Children in Need; a total of £4,454 has been raised!



Pizza pizza!



Year 8 students have been busy making pizzas from scratch and focusing on how they can become part of a balanced diet. This has enabled them to further develop their bread making skills and demonstrate their understanding of the science behind fermentation. Don't they look delicious?

A virtual symphony



The St. Aidan's Virtual Senior Concert premiered on YouTube on Thursday 26th November, and was a triumph!

The Concert features an hour's worth of great, varied musical entertainment from some of our most dedicated and wonderful students in Years 9-13. If you have not yet managed to watch it, you're in for a treat. Please do visit the [YouTube channel](#) and tune in - perhaps as something to lighten your evening or weekend.

Congratulations to all involved, and our special thanks to Mr Pallant and the entire Music department for bringing this uplifting concert to our screens.

Film success

Year 13 student Emily Belcher has recently starred in a film written and directed by local filmmaker Ava Bounds. 'Beth' is set in 1898, and is the story of a real life patient at High Royds in Menston when it was a Victorian asylum. The film has recently had its world premiere at Ilkley cinema before travelling to film festivals around the world.



We wish Emily every success with the film and look forward to seeing what she goes onto next. Congratulations!



Careers - Year 13 next steps

The Careers Department have been busy this term helping our Year 13 students complete their applications for Higher and Further Education courses. We have also been organising virtual interview practice and guidance and have been fortunate in this to work with consultants from Harrogate District Hospital, Primary Education degree providers and our own Work Experience Co-ordinator, Mrs Farrar. We are excited to now see course offers come rolling in for the students and will be supporting them in making their firm choices in the coming months.

Our attention next term will turn to working with those Year 13 students wanting to make applications for employment or plan a gap year and we look forward to providing bespoke information, advice and guidance and virtual work experience opportunities to assist them in this process.



Budding chemists

As part of the extra-curricular opportunities available in Science, a number of Sixth Form students are taking part in the RSC UK Chemistry Olympiad.

Budding chemists will develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. They will be taking a two-hour exam in January, with the possibility of finding themselves representing the UK at the prestigious International Chemistry Olympiad to be held in Japan.

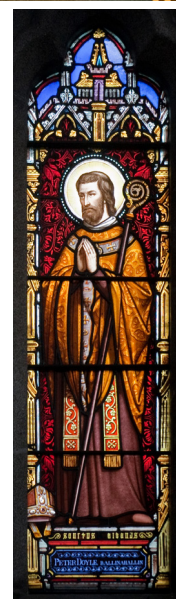
In addition to this, over twenty Year 12 students are embarking upon an Earth Observation project delivered through the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS). This is with a view to attending an IRIS conference to present their findings - from utilising satellite data, to understanding our changing world.



Religious Studies triptychs

As part of their 'Welcome' topic this term, Year 7 students have been researching and reflecting on the life of Saint Aidan.

They designed, researched, and produced fantastic triptychs that explore the relevance, influence, and continuing impact of the life of Saint Aidan for our school community.



Upcoming dates for your diary

2-15 Dec: Year 13 Mock Exams

9-17 Dec: KS3 Inter-form football & netball

13 Dec: 'Light Up a Life' - Saint Michael's Hospice
(Virtual event - featuring St. Aidan's musicians, 5pm)

14 Dec: Year 8 Progress Reviews to parents

16 Dec: Virtual 'A Christmas Carol' (Year 7)

17 Dec: Year 9 Progress Reviews to parents

17 Dec: 'A Christmas Celebration' virtual service -
(St. Aidan's YouTube channel, 7:30pm)

18 Dec: Year 7 Christingle
(School members only, not open to parents/carers)

18 Dec: LAST DAY OF TERM - closing 2:00pm

21 Dec: Mayor of Harrogate's Christmas Concert
(Harrogate Borough Council's YouTube channel)



'Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.' - 1 Peter 3:8

We hope you have enjoyed the second edition of **INTOUCH**. Thank you for your feedback so far; please do send any further comments or suggestions to Cath Harrison (c.harrison@staidans.co.uk)