

INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.3 - DECEMBER 2020

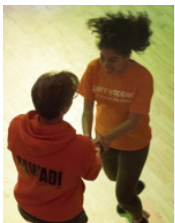
Christmas Special



Welcome to our Christmas edition! You may have noticed the strapline 'Life in all its fullness' in the footer of InTouch pages; this verse from John 10:10 describes well the vision for St. Aidan's to offer opportunities for all to thrive, and the wonderful and varied ways that the whole community responds and contributes to school life. We hope that you enjoy reading more about this fullness of life at St. Aidan's in this latest edition of InTouch, and we wish everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas.

Christingle

On Friday 18th, a number of small Christingle services took place for our Year 7 students. This annual event is normally enjoyed as a full year group with parents and carers invited too. As we are not able to do that this year, we hope these photos will help bring it to life.



ARTIZAN
INTERNATIONAL



Zawadi gift catalogue

The [Zawadi 'Virtual Gift' Catalogue](#) is now available on the school website with payments via Parent Pay!

Choose any of the items listed - from a Paper Making Mould or Jewellery Starter Kit to a Screen Printing Table or a Sewing Machine - every penny will enable Artizan International to buy these and many other items to support their training & social enterprise centres for people living with a wide range of disabilities.

In return for your donation, a beautiful e-card will be sent out to you via email. You can then personalise and send on to your loved one this Christmas letting them know about Artizan and the people you have helped on their behalf.

Please help us to support Artizan so that in 2021, more people than ever receive the gift of a lifetime – the chance to learn skills enabling them to earn a regular wage, support their families, build their self-esteem and gain the respect of their communities.

Zawadi is a student led fundraising organisation, set up in 2007, run by successive teams of St. Aidan's CE High School and Associated 6th Form students and identified by their distinctive orange hoodies! Find out more about us [here!](#)

Textiles

We certainly have some very talented students in Years 7 and 8. Their creativity and imagination shows in these fabulous creations they have been making.



Inter-form sport

During the last two weeks of term Years 7, 8 and 9 have been taking part in inter-form sports competitions. These have been in both netball and football. The competitions finish on the last day of term so watch out for the results on the website and social media.

Quality in Careers

We are delighted to announce that the Careers Department has once again been awarded the Quality in Careers Standard. This involved a rigorous evaluation of the careers information, advice and guidance programme delivered by our team of three fully qualified careers advisers together with our work experience coordinator.

Our provision was assessed as fully meeting the nationally recognised Gatsby Benchmarks, the standards which provide the framework defining the best careers provision in secondary schools.

The careers support was described by students and parents as both 'excellent' and 'open, friendly, flexible and adaptable,' and the department was commended on the fact that individual appointments are always readily available.

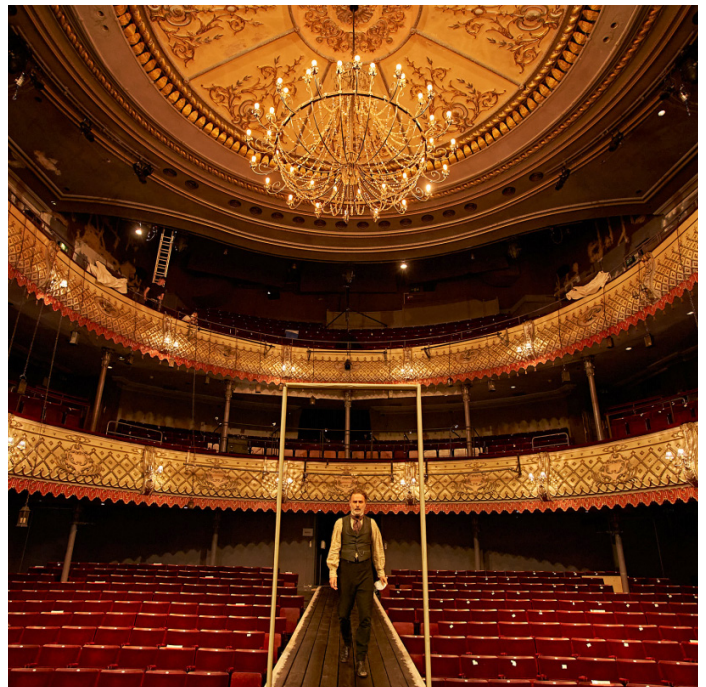
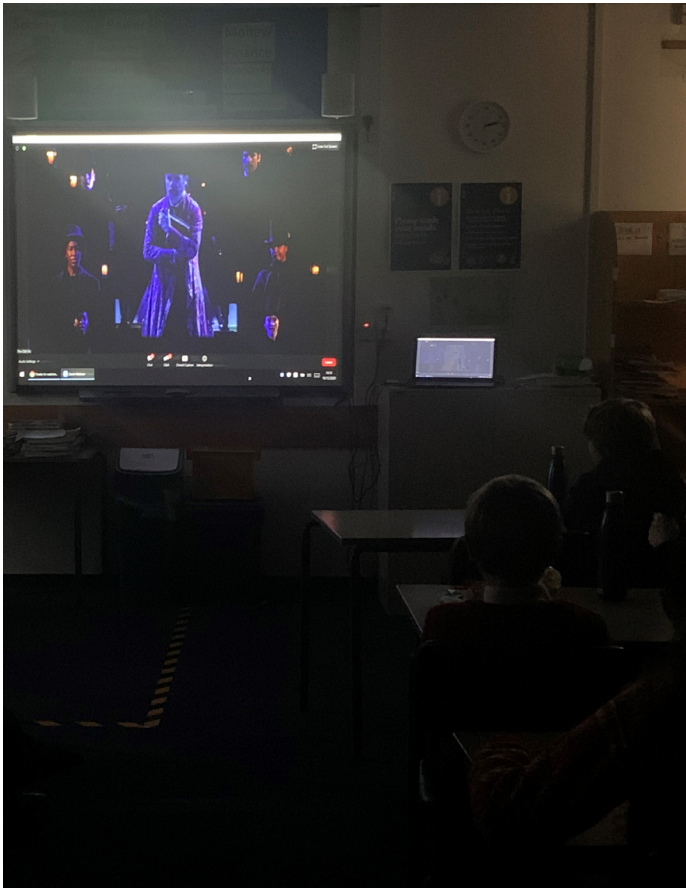
One student commented: 'We think very highly of the Careers Advisers, they really know their stuff!'



Year 7 - 'A Christmas Carol' virtual screening

On Wednesday 16th, Year 7 were lucky to have 'A Christmas Carol' streamed to their classrooms as it was performed live from the auditorium at the Old Vic Theatre in London.

This was a wonderful Christmas treat at the end of their first term during which they have all settled in so well.



National Burberry design competition

Earlier in the year, several of our students were successful in reaching the final of a Burberry design competition and took part in a 'virtual final' on Thursday 10th December.

All students got to speak to some of the team from Burberry and learn about their job roles as well as discussing their own work. They are all being awarded a Burberry scarf and stationary! How fantastic!

A huge congratulations to all the students involved and especially Tanisha Choudhury in Year 10 (work pictured), who won her age category.



Sweet treats

In Food Technology, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been rustling up some gorgeous Christmas goodies! Christmas biscuits, mince pies, jam tarts; you name it they've made it! During this final week Years 7 and 8 have also been creating models of Gingerbread houses - they look extremely impressive!



A festive feast and farewell

Over the course of the last week of term we were delighted to be able to offer Christmas lunch to all year groups. This was served by all our wonderful catering staff at St. Aidan's, including our catering manager and Head Chef, Trevor Whitehead. Trevor is retiring this week after 19 years' service and we would like to take this opportunity to wish him well.



Christmas music and celebration

Our fantastic music department has been extremely busy over the last few weeks putting together some really beautiful music for us all to enjoy. On Sunday 13th December the Chamber Choir contributed to the annual 'Light up a Life' service at Saint Michael's Hospice. The video was a very meaningful aid to reflection, at the end of a year like no other and something from which the whole community may be able to gain some comfort.

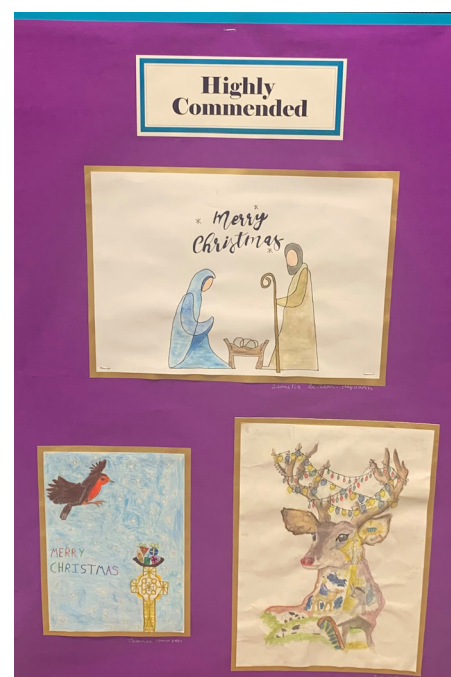
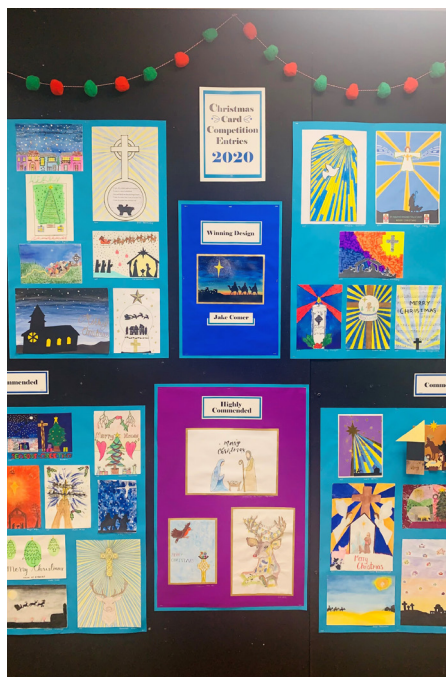
On Thursday 17th December our St. Aidan's 'Christmas Celebration' virtual service premiered on You Tube. This is a fantastic collection of festive music and we would like to thank everyone involved. These videos take a lot of time and co-ordination and we are delighted to show you some photos of 'behind' the scenes! We hope you enjoy!



Christmas card competition

The 2020 Christmas card competition has been really warmly received by all Year 8 students. The overall winner is Jake Comer, with highly commended going to Thomas Harrison, Camilla Rishton-Hepworth and Zoe Gill. A number of students were also commended for their really hard work in coming up with such fantastic designs.

Well done to all of Year 8; we would like to thank you for all your enthusiasm and hard work with this project.



Upcoming dates for your diary

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

4 Jan: Training day

5 Jan: Term starts for students

5 Jan: Year 11 mock GCSEs start

11-20 Jan: Applied subject examinations

21 Jan: Sixth Form presentation to Year 11

21 Jan: Sixth Form information evening (virtual)

25 Jan: Grade reviews issued to parents

27 Jan: Year 10 parents' evening (virtual)

1 Feb: Year 12 grades issued to parents



*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth - **John 1: 14***

Is there anything else you would like to see included in future editions of **INTOUCH**? If so, please email Cath Harrison (c.harrison@staidans.co.uk)