

INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.8 - MAY 2021



Welcome to our latest edition of InTouch, that is full of activities, arts, alumni, achievements and many more memories from recent times – including The Class of 2021. We remember and are blessed by all the ways in which our community lives life in all its fullness, and we remember especially the wording from Frank's memorial, "How lucky are we to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." Thank you to all at St. Aidan's for your wonderful contribution and making the school so special – have a lovely half-term break.

Memorial for Frank

A memorial has been put in place to commemorate the life of Frank Ashton, who sadly passed away in February 2019 aged just 14.

An engraved plaque and a piece of artwork, along with some benches are now in a covered area behind the RS department near to the 11Y form room, which was Frank's form, overlooking the sports fields. This is a really special space to sit and remember Frank, whilst watching football on the astro pitches - a sport which Frank loved.

If anyone would like to make a donation to Frank's Fund at Bone Cancer Research Trust, for research into Ewing's Sarcoma, please visit <https://www.bcrct.org.uk/get-involved/tribute-funds/franks-fund> You can also follow Frank's Fund on Facebook (Fabulous Frank) and Instagram (Franks_Fund)

"How lucky are we to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."



National Reading Champions Quiz

The Yorkshire round of the National Reading Champions Quiz were held online in school during the first week of May.

Congratulations to our two teams who performed brilliantly. There were 28 teams from across Yorkshire who competed in the Quiz, organised by the National Literacy Trust.

There were questions covering Myths and Legends, book villains and blasts from the past. It gave our teams a chance to show their great literary knowledge and put up a good fight! Well done Reading Champions!



The teams were :

Grace Brierley 8C, Emily Holroyd 8W, Elizabeth Kimberling 8S, Florence Linford 8Y, Ella Swift 8E, Thomas Taylor 8S, Oliver Ulanski 8W and Bareerah Uzair 8Y.

Art Projects - Paper Sculptures and Mark Making

Year 7 and Year 9 have been exploring some exciting art projects this half term. Year 9 have been creating paper sculptures from a single piece of plain paper! Meanwhile, group 7RCT have explored mark making that reflected their experiences of life in a pandemic, producing some wonderfully expressive pieces.



Publishing Success for St Aidan's Alumni

Kate Vigurs is a former student who left St Aidan's School in Summer 1993.

Kate obtained a PhD in History and has now written a book called 'Mission France: The True History of the Women of SOE'.

The book has been published by Yale University Press and is about women Special Operation Executive agents sent into occupied France, during World War Two. We are sure it will be a fantastic read.

This is a great reflection on our teachers in school who taught Kate, particularly in History.

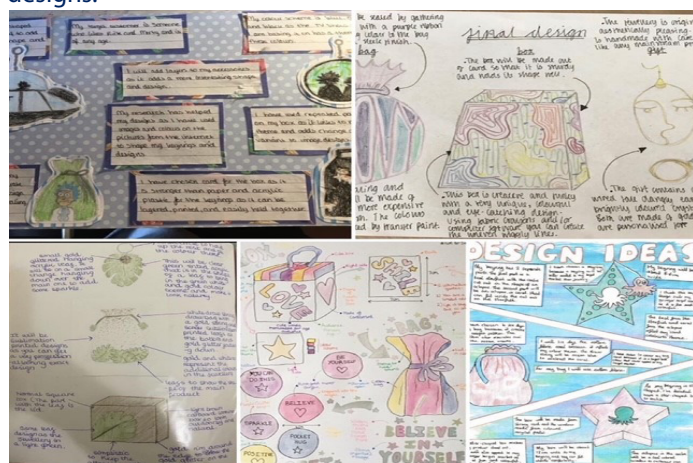


Year 9 Textiles Competition

Our Year 9 students took part in a 'Gift in a Box' design competition during lockdown. The standard of work was incredibly high and we were very impressed with the work students did.

We chose five winners who have had their gift designs realised in acrylic. They were Sadie Robson, Willow Clifton-Smith, Hollie Bassham, Lola Thomas and Chloe Brett.

We'd like to say a big well done to all students who submitted work and especially to the imaginative winning designs.



Life Skills in ASDAN

Students in Year 10 and 11 following the life skills course called ASDAN have been learning some helpful tools to support them when they leave school.

They have learnt how to plan, prepare and deliver a presentation and, with the support of our fantastic Careers department, learnt how to carry out effective research whilst planning what they will do after Year 11.

First Aid techniques and bicycle maintenance has given them the opportunity to consider how they learn effectively, for example through watching others, or reading instructions. Teamwork is essential in the world of work, and they are working together to renovate an area of garden and learning how to problem solve. All by having some fun at the same time!



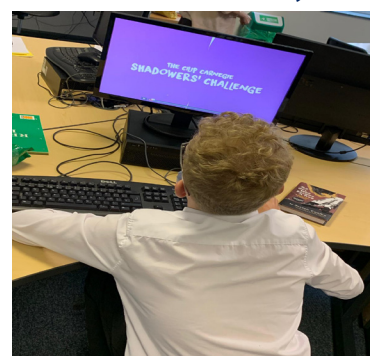
Year 8 Book Shadowing for CILIP Carnegie Medal

A group of Year 8 students have been enthusiastically reading their way through the eight shortlisted teen fiction books up for this year's prestigious CILIP Carnegie Medal in our Thursday lunchtime book shadowing group.

Along with hundreds of students around the country, our dedicated and voracious Year 8 readers have been voting for their favourites and uploading their own book reviews to the official Carnegie Shadowing website. The CILIP Carnegie medal will be awarded on Wednesday 16th June and all our work will culminate in our own awards ceremony.

You can follow our group by searching 'St Aidan's Carnegie Club' at www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk

Look out for some of the most popular books from the shortlist on St Aidan's recommended reading lists!



Class of 2021

On Friday 14th May, Years 11 and 13 celebrated their time at St Aidan's and the Associated Sixth Form.



Work Experience Opportunities

Virtual Work Experience may sound like a contradiction in terms – how could a young person possibly benefit from a remote, hands off placement? However, as we have all learnt over the past year, there are many creative and engaging ways to communicate knowledge and understanding via a zoom connection. National and global companies, many of them home to well-known brands and normally inaccessible to school students, have expertly harnessed this new way of working to produce some extremely effective, interactive work experience opportunities.

WOULD YOU LIKE WORK EXPERIENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL BRANDS LIKE L'OREAL, SUPERDRY, OR BRITISH AIRWAYS?

'It has been amazing, and I've learnt so much! I would rate it 10/10'

'I would feel so much more confident now in a recruitment process'

L'ORÉAL
PARIS

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THE LOWRY
ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Sir Robert
McALPINE

IBM

BRITISH AIRWAYS

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TOUR

NHS

Digital Forensics, Architecture, Photography, Quantity Surveying, Personal Training, Neuropsychology, Global Publishing, Farming Technology and Artificial Intelligence are amongst the huge variety of placements available across diverse and less traditional career sectors.

Some take place over several days, whilst others are one day insights, but feedback to date has been universally positive. Students who have taken part already report that the experience has significantly increased their confidence and enabled them to develop and evidence valuable work related skills such as problem solving, teamwork, organisation and presentation skills.



"I have been given a lot of helpful advice and gained an increased knowledge of the energy sector and what the National Grid are doing to ensure a net-zero future"

Ellie, Year 12



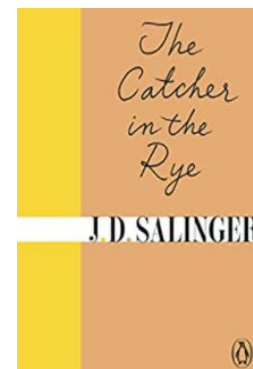
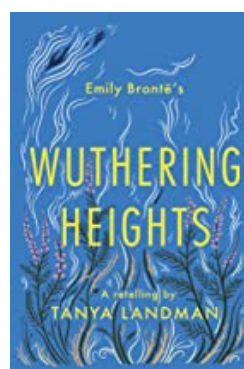
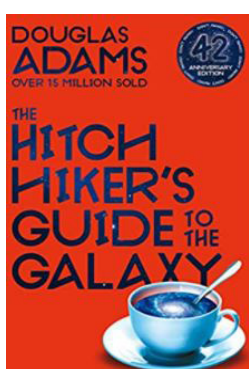
"I learnt a lot about Hedge funds and how they operate etc. Virtual work experience has helped me decide about working in the financial industry when I am older"

Tom, Year 12

Open to students aged 14 – 18, new opportunities are being added all the time and the list on the school website is updated each week. View the full 15 page list of current placements [here](#) or contact Mrs Farrar, m.farrar@staidans.co.uk if you have any questions or would like further advice.

Reading Corner

To end this half term, the Library Department is recommending a selection of classic novels to excite and engage readers. Click on the covers below for more details on classic reads for each year group.



Virtual IRIS Conference

During this academic year, fourteen Year 12 students have completed an IRIS research project called Earth observation.

This has involved the students training themselves in using online software to analyse data, before then using the software to conduct their own research project independently. Students have conducted projects on a wide variety of topics including polar bear migration, volcanic eruptions and the effects of palm oil plantations.

On Wednesday 12th May, students presented their findings in the form of posters at the virtual IRIS conference. During the conference students were asked questions about their research, had the chance to read and hear about the research that has been carried out in other schools and listened to two key note speakers. These key note speakers spoke to the students about their journeys in academia and the research that they carry out.

Well done to all the students who took part in the project.



Senate Launch

After the Half term break, it will be time once again to begin elections for a new Senate in the Sixth Form.

The Senate is the Sixth Form Student Council, a group of Year 13 students who represent the student body as a whole. The students elected to be part of the Senate represent the Sixth Form at various meetings and events, lead lower school assemblies, as well as organise charity days, socials and arrangements for Year 13 Leavers'.

On Monday 7th June, the Senate process will be launched. The following week, information will be sent out regarding each candidate's application for their potential place on the Senate, with voting commencing during lunchtime on Thursday 17th June in Constance Green Hall.

Year 12 students and staff will choose their ten preferred candidates. The ten candidates with the most votes are then elected - with the two highest scoring 'newcomers' automatically gaining places on the Senate - to ensure fair representation of those students who were new to St Aidan's School at the beginning of Year 12.

Good luck to all our candidates and we look forward to announcing the new Senate next term.



Sixth Form Law Event

A handful of dedicated Year 13 students have been participating in a wonderfully organised and expertly delivered law programme by BPP Law School.

On Tuesday 18th May, the students virtually observed court sessions from Leeds Crown Court in the morning and interviewed a Magistrate in the afternoon. This is designed to build on their understanding of criminal law, from previous sessions, of the approach that members of the legal teams take in delivering prosecution and defence cases.

This event is the penultimate session in what has been a 2-year long programme for budding lawyers and barristers.

We plan to re-launch the programme for Year 12 students in September 2021.



Year 9 Spanish Competition



Year 9 Spanish students have been working on ordering food and drink in a restaurant.

Students enjoyed getting into character, using props and costumes and performed scripts written entirely by themselves in front of their classes.

The group with the best combination of accurate Spanish and a great performance were: Emma Grainger, Jessica Lovell, Maisie Groundwater, Zoe Newcomb and Eleanor Adrian-Horrocks.

Well done to everyone for joining in with such enthusiasm. Let's hope you have the opportunity soon to travel to Spain and order food and drink for real! Click here for the video.

Sponsorship for school 3G pitch

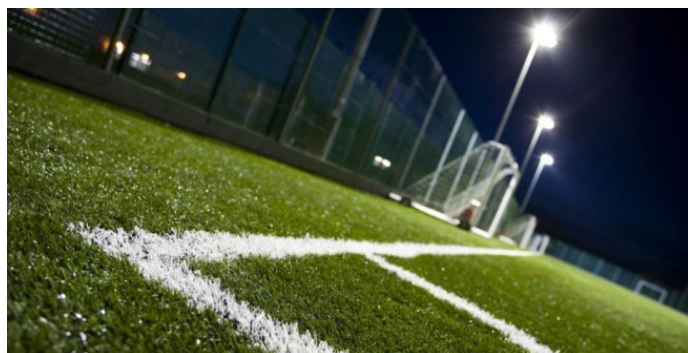
The construction of our new 3G pitch will commence during the summer holidays.

Within the facility, we will have a sponsors logo board, which will be visible to spectators and players.

We are looking for a number of local businesses to support our new venture and enable us to buy all the equipment we need to enjoy the facility.

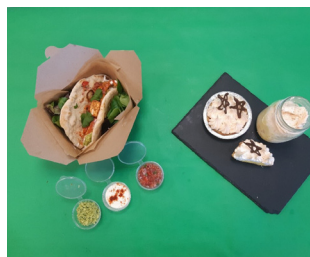
If you would like further information about sponsorship opportunities, please get in touch with Cath Harrison at c.harrison@staidans.co.uk by the end of June 2021.

We look forward to completing the project within the Autumn of 2021.



Food Technology Projects

The Food Technology Department is very proud of the practical work the Year 11 Food students have completed throughout the year. More recently they have been completing dishes as part of their Street Food project.



Year 10 students have been very busy producing some amazing work for their Coffee Shop Brief and learning all about the scientific functions of ingredients. Meanwhile, Year 9 are making excellent progress with their Multicultural project. This week we have seen some amazing Calzone and Margherita pizzas. Well done to you all.



Upcoming dates for your diary

7 June: Students return to school

7 June: Sixth Form Senate Launch

10 June: New Year 7 Parents Meet and Greet

14 June: Year 7 Exam week begins

16 June: Year 12 Post 18 Planning Day

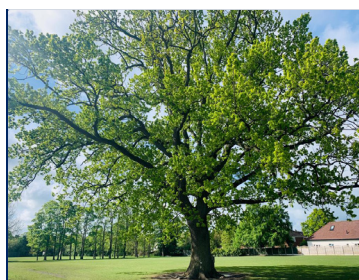
16 June: New Year 7 Parents Meet and Greet

17 June: Sixth Form Senate Voting

21 June: Interform Week 1

23 June: New Year 7 Students Half Day Visit

25 June: Sixth Form Induction Day



We hope you have enjoyed this 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)