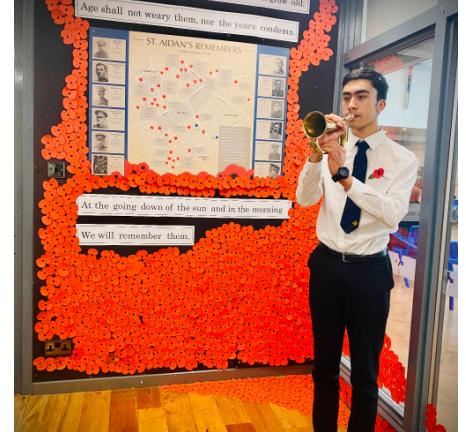


# INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.12 - NOVEMBER 2021



Welcome to our latest edition of InTouch, our good news newsletter, and it is again packed full of great stories about our brilliant students and staff. It is a pleasure to celebrate with our young people as they explore their enthusiasms and interests and enjoy much success, together with the staff who look after and encourage them so well.

We are grateful for all the ways in which we are able, as a community, to enjoy each other's company, to help others and to explore all the opportunities that God provides for us in the world. As we move toward Advent, we wish you well and look forward to all that the remainder of this term has to offer.



## St. Aidan's Chamber Choir is back!

After 20 months of no performances and only online practices, the new Chamber Choir sang wonderfully to a large audience at Ripon Cathedral. The concert, which took place on Friday 12th November was named A Night to Remember. It was a concert with a Remembrance theme in aid of Wellspring, the Harrogate-based mental health charity from which many in the St Aidan's community benefit. Fittingly, the Chamber Choir's last appearance before the pandemic was at another of our great northern cathedrals, Durham. It was thrilling to hear St. Aidan's musicians emerging from Covid restrictions in fine form.



## Remembrance Day

In true St. Aidan's style, we marked this solemn occasion by placing our Trumpeters and our Bugler in various locations around school where at the eleventh hour, they played the Last Post.

Mrs Shores created a thought-provoking display in our reception area, marking on a map of Harrogate the streets where the fallen had once lived. Pupils contributed to this with hand-written notes on poppies as a tribute to those who had lost their lives in battle. There were poems and books made available around school and together with year group assemblies, all had a remembrance theme. For year 11's assembly, Dr Nicholas showed students a World War One shell illustrating the tragic story of a group of young teenage Harrogate girls who were killed during their work for a Leeds Ammunition factory.



## 3G Pitch Update

Work on the new, much anticipated St. Aidan's 3G pitch began during half-term. The pitch will transform the sporting opportunities for all, both in school PE lessons and extra-curricular sport and in the local community. This is a very exciting time for St. Aidan's students who have often been forced to play many fixtures away from home due to the poor condition of the school's pitches in recent years.

With our teams currently riding high in national competitions in all year groups, the new pitch will take St. Aidan's sport to a new level. The construction is due to take approximately 16 weeks (weather depending) and we are sorry that the early stages have been a little noisy. This will reduce as the build progresses.

We remind parents that they must not, unless with special permission, use Bede car park as a drop-off or pick-up area as this is a significant hazard for our students due to the changes to the traffic flow within the car park and there is additional construction traffic.



## DofE Award News



The Gold Award training day took place earlier this month where 27 students underwent training for their forthcoming expedition. This involved first aid, outdoor cooking and route planning. They will undertake a four day practice expedition in the spring and a five day assessed expedition in the summer where they must carry everything they need to camp and cook for 4 nights.

The Bronze Award is also now underway, there are 106 successful applicants this year all of whom are now beginning their activities within the local community. They will complete their expedition training and two day assessed expedition next summer.

Pupils in the Foundation Learning Group created this stunning art work as part of the Remembrance Day activities in school. We think you will agree it looks fabulous!



## Zawadi

Looking for Christmas gift ideas? Zawadi have the ideal solution!

Zawadi is a student led team who raise money for Artizan International by organising many different fundraising activities each year. Artizan International is a Harrogate based charity which empowers people living with disability – you may have seen their colourful shop in the centre of town selling amazing textiles, jewellery and cards, all made at their training centres in Peru, Ecuador and the UK.

This Christmas, Zawadi would like to present to you their Virtual Gift Catalogue, which is full of the tools and equipment needed to train differently abled workers so that they have the skills to regain financial and social independence. Choose any of the items listed - from a Paper Making Mould or Jewellery Starter Kit to a Screen Printing Table or a Sewing Machine – all are priced accordingly, and can be itemised in a gift card for you to send on to a loved one this Christmas.

You can either buy online via the above link or look out for a letter with a tear-off order strip, to be sent home with students next week. Gift cards will be returned to you via your child's register.

Please support us! By doing so, you can buy the 'chance of a lifetime' for someone in Peru or Ecuador. Every penny you spend will enable Artizan International to buy items to support their training and social enterprise centres and help transform lives.



Virtual Gift Catalogue Project Managers Anwen Carman and Eve Park. Photo credit: Will Holloway



On the evening of Monday 15th November, FOSA gathered together for their AGM. It was fantastic to see some new friendly faces at the meeting as we saw the current committee step down. After five years contributing their time, energy and ideas to raise money for school, we would like to say a huge thank you to Jen Winterschladen, Jane Regnier, Lorna Eley, Karen Winspear, Anne Giliker and Cath Harrison who stepped down from their formal roles but will be on hand for advice and support for the new committee. Events we can thank them for have included fabulous balls in Constance Green, sponsored walks and the ever popular Year 7 quiz.

While large gatherings are currently not possible, fundraising for our new school minibus continues. The great news is that we are two thirds of the way there and only need £10,000 to reach our target amount. Please continue to give generously on Parent Pay.

Anybody interested in getting involved with FOSA please get in touch by emailing [fosa@staidans.co.uk](mailto:fosa@staidans.co.uk). It is a great way to meet other St. Aidan's parents and fantastic fun! The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 24th January 2022.



The charity, which was set up to remember St. Aidan's pupil Frank Ashton, who lost his life to a rare form of bone cancer Ewing Sarcoma at the age of 14, has been busy recently.

On 22nd October Constance Green was the venue for a Comedy and Curry evening. The event was hosted by St. Aidan's former student comedienne Maisie Adam, who is patron of Frank's Fund, and there were some brilliant acts including Lauren Pattison, Josh Pugh and Rob Rouse. Frank's sister Maisie Ashton and many of Frank's friends helped with the running of the evening.

To remember Frank on what would have been his 17th birthday, his friends arranged a fabulous Bake Sale. £250 was raised which will help pay for 8 hours of research into Ewing Sarcoma.

To buy Frank's Fund Christmas cards, please see Frank's Fund on Facebook.



On Friday 19th November years 7-11 were invited to come to school in non-uniform and Sixth Formers gave the rest of the school some entertainment by coming to school in fancy dress! This is always a great fun day at St. Aidan's.

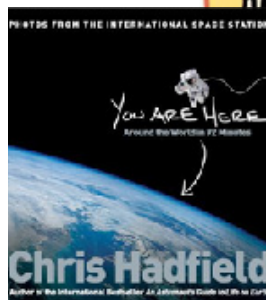
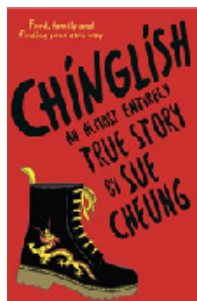
We raised a fantastic £3814.99 for Children in Need and £765.25 in cash donations which will be divided between The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and The Yorkshire Dales Conservation Appeal. (run by the National Trust).





## Reading Corner

This month the Library are recommending the following new additions. Please click on a book to find out more details of recommended reads for each year group.



## Library News

We are excited to be participating in the Children's Book Award 2022. Students in school are reading and ranking a selection of new publications.

They are contributing to the only national book award to be decided by children. We have recently celebrated Black History Month and Remembrance Day. We are currently promoting "Non-Fiction November" with an emphasis on "Heroes".

If anyone has any spare fiction or non-fiction books in good condition, the Library is delighted to receive donations. Any books that are surplus to our requirements will be passed on to other libraries or to charity.

## National Book Club at St. Aidan's!



Last week marked the start of a unique and interactive 5 week opportunity for book loving students to connect with other teen readers across the UK to share in a Virtual National Teen Book Club. Meeting at the School Library between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm every Wednesday students from Years 9 – 13 are able to share their thoughts on Sue Cheung's 'Chinglish', the Book Club's chosen book, meet writing heroes, complete activities to help them become a better reader or writer and explore careers in the literary world. Authors Tom Palmer (research), Candice Carty-Williams (structure), Eve Ainsworth (drafting) and Sue Cheung (characterisation) plus Art Director Kate Grove (illustration) will feature each week to talk about one aspect of writing.

## The Show must go on - just not yet!

Since September we have had a huge amount of fun rehearsing for our school production, "Showstarters", a celebration of musical theatre. Students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have been working on extracts from a range of super popular shows such as Les Misérables, The Greatest Showman, Dear Evan Hansen, School of Rock, Chicago, Mamma Mia and many more.

With rehearsals currently on hold, we are working towards a rescheduled date next term with evening performances in Constance Green Hall. As soon as possible, we will advertise our new performance dates and ticketing details. Everyone involved is eager to get 'back in the wings'!



## Debating

On Tuesday 16th November the Sixth Form Debating Team took part in the first round of the ESU Schools' Mace. In an online format (which worked surprisingly well) we debated the motion 'this house believes artists have a moral duty to be political in their work'.

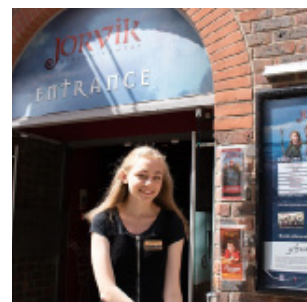
We opposed Easingwold, who put forward the proposition. It was a tough topic, but the team, consisting of Jack Christian, Emma Giliker and Salem Molife, did exceptionally well, more so because it was their first competitive debate. Special thanks is also due to Ella Colburn, Isabel Miles and Dan Bryant whose spirited speeches in the mock debate provided invaluable preparation for the real thing. We look forward to finding out who our opponents will be in the next round.



## Record numbers take up work experience!

A record number of students have signed up to take part in work experience after GCSEs next summer. Over 200 Year 11s, plus – for the first time – the year 10 Asdan class – all hope to secure one week of work experience with a local business or organisation within the Harrogate, Leeds, Bradford or York districts. Many students use their own networks of friends and family to find a suitable placement but there is plenty of assistance on hand for those who need a few ideas or are unsure how to approach a company. Mrs Farrar runs a lunchtime drop in every Tuesday and Thursday in the Careers Department and the Work Experience Handbook has FAQs, templates and instructions for searching the NYBEP database of past placements.

Please email [m.farrar@staidans.co.uk](mailto:m.farrar@staidans.co.uk) if you have any queries or if your business could help in any way.



## Northern Rail

St. Aidan's has signed up for this fantastic education season scheme. Please click [here](#) for all the details.

### Kids travelling to school daily?

Did you know that Northern Trains operate an **11-16 Educational Season ticket** which gives up to 50% discount on a child season ticket?

The ticket offers great value for money and is available for all students at this school\*

**Key benefits:**

- 50% discount on Annual tickets when bought online
- Unlimited travel in the evening and at weekends between the two chosen stations
- No worries about getting the correct fare together each morning
- Lost season tickets can be replaced
- No risk of Penalty Fares
- Termly tickets also available

Spring Term tickets are available to order from **1 December**

To find out more and order your ticket go to: [northernrailway.co.uk/educational-season](http://northernrailway.co.uk/educational-season)

**NORTHERN** *Go do your thing*

\*Tickets are available for use on Northern services only.

## KS3 Eco Club

On Tuesday lunchtimes at 12.45 in GG5, Miss Miller and Miss Norman run Eco Club. Inspired by Thought of the Day in form, students have each made a personal climate pledge. These were written on a leaf then sent to the COP26 leaders using the hashtag #promise to the planet. Eco club is available to all year 7s, 8s and 9s and new members are very welcome.



## ASDAN Trip

In October our Year 11 students completing the prevocational ASDAN course were invited to visit Askham Bryan College near York. The aim was to find out more about different educational routes after Year 11. They were invited for a private tour and presentation about a broad range of courses such as Agriculture, Sport and Fitness, Animal Management and Arboriculture to name a few. They were also made aware of the flexible nature of many of the courses. This allows for work experience and apprenticeships whilst also studying for a qualification. The St Aidan's Careers Advisors have since been working with the students to research potential careers and courses available, in order they can plan towards achieving their goals.



# Student Academic Advisors

We are excited to start this new initiative in the Independent Learning Centre (ILC) in collaboration with the Sixth Form.

Student Academic Advisors are experienced students in Sixth Form working with Years 10 and 11 to support their learning in GCSEs. It is a strategy which will help students to make the most of their studies. For the Year 10/11 students, the aim is to get help with aspects of academic work, encourage independent learning, develop successful study strategies, discuss and apply knowledge and importantly develop skills such as confidence and good communication.

The Sixth Form Advisors in turn will be developing and be able to evidence skills such as communication, leadership, and community. Offering their academic understanding to others is also an excellent way to embed their own skills.

Drop-in sessions in the ILC on a Thursday lunchtime every other week will offer the opportunity to engage with the Advisors and work together in the ILC study space. Peer mentoring has been shown to be an effective way to support students allowing an enhanced sense of engagement with subjects and we are pleased to be able to offer this.



## Good Luck Alex!

Alex Chippendale in Year 13 has entered and been placed in a national RS essay writing competition held by St. Mary's University, Twickenham, London. We are excited to report that she has made it into the top 6! The winner will be announced at an awards evening at St. Mary's University on 7th December where Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be awarding the prizes. We wish Alex the best of luck!

# Inspiring the Next Generation

On Wednesday 17th November, Year 12, as part of their EEP (Employability, Enrichment, Pastoral) lessons were treated to a thought-provoking talk from ex-England Rugby player Jane Leonard. Jane, who has also captained both the British Army and the UK Armed forces women's rugby teams, spoke with passion about making the right choices to be able to fulfill your true potential. Among her many achievements, Jane has competed in the 2400 nautical mile Great Pacific Race. Her team aptly named Girls Who Dare hold the world Record for the Pacific Crossing for a team of 3! Thank you Jane for giving our Year 12s some inspiration.



## Law Ambassadors

The Year 12 Law Ambassador Programme launched on Wednesday 3rd November. Twenty five students have been accepted onto the programme and have been partnered with Irwin Mitchell Law Firm in Leeds. This is a real achievement for the students and represents a very favourable opportunity for them to gain insight into the legal profession.

## Sports Round Up



### Madeline represents Yorkshire

Year 9 pupil Madeline O'Connell and her partner competed at the Acrobatic British Gymnastic Championships on the 14th November. They came an excellent 6th place in the Grade 4 Women's Pairs competition, beating their regional final score. Well done Madeline for representing the county at a National level!

### Ex-student is match star!

Ex-St. Aidan's student and Leeds Utd U21's Goal Keeper Harry Christy stepped up to play for the U23s team on Monday 15th November in a match against Mansfield Town.

The young team secured their first win this season in The Premier League Cup game resulting in a 2-1 victory. 18 year old Harry's saves were described by football pundits as 'heroic' and world-class. We are very proud of Harry and look forward to seeing his footballing career go from strength to strength.

## Year 11 Football

The Year 11 football team has started the season really well. We are into the last 64 in the SFSA schools cup (R4), joint winners of the Area 7-a-side and through to the next round of the County Cup. The B team has also played in the ESFA cup and played well in defeat.

#### Results:

Lost 3-1 Cardinal College (Elie Schools Cup)  
Won 8-0 v Caedman college Whitby (CC R1)  
Won 6-1 v Thirsk (ESFA Scholos cup R3)  
Joint winners of Area 7-a-side  
Next fixture ESAF R4 v Durham Johnston Away  
B Team Lost 5-3 to Easington college (R2 ESFA B Team)



## Year 8 Football

Year 8 have had some great results this season. The A team reached the second round of the Elite English Schools Cup after beating Minsthorpe 10-1. They were then knocked out by a strong team from Wright Robinson Academy in Manchester. They are into the last 16 of the County Cup after beating Stokesley 5-0. They have also made it into the quarter-finals of the Harrogate District Cup after beating Ermysteads 7-1

The B Team have beaten Ilkley Grammar 1-0 in a friendly and look forward to a match versus Saint John Fisher in early December.



## Girl's Football



The under-13 girl's football team played in the local round of a national 6-a-side competition on November 4th - and won it! We now go on to play in the next round and represent Harrogate Town at Accrington Stanley w/c 10th Jan. We met some Harrogate Town players, the club mascot Harry Gator and were treated to a signed Harrogate Town shirt! St. Aidan's entered two teams in the competition and the other team came 4th which is also a fantastic achievement. Well done girls!

Great news from the Year 7 girls football team who have won the area 5-side tournament. This is the first time in the history of the tournament that St Aidan's have won it! We beat SJF 5-1, Outwood Ripon 3-0, HGS 3-0 and Rossett 3-0 so very convincing victories for 12 minute matches!

The girls will go on to the next round and play the winners of the Scarborough, Hambleton and Richmondshire and York regions.

## Swimming Superstars

After an extremely difficult and turbulent time with many training hours lost due to lockdowns and individual isolations, the 4.30am alarm clocks have resumed and October has seen several St Aidans pupils qualify to represent Harrogate District Swimming Club at The Yorkshire Championships at Ponds Forge International Centre. Qualifying swimmers were: Adam Hawkins Yr10, Daniel Hawkins Yr8, Alfie Charlton Yr8, Sophie Baker Yr10, Molly Orr Yr8, Nell Carter Yr7, Lois Child Yr7, Lottie Swan Yr7.

Of the above swimmers 3 gained Gold Medals to become ranked 1st in Yorkshire.

\*Nell Carter - 11yr old 50m & 100m Backstroke Yorkshire Champion

\*Lois Child - 11yr old 200m Individual Medley Yorkshire Champion

\*Alfie Charlton - 12yr old 50m Breaststroke Yorkshire Champion



All the above named swimmers have worked incredibly hard to qualify for the Yorkshire Championships and the club now look forward to competing at the North East Regional Championships at Ponds Forge International Centre in November.

Since this competition, Lois Child and Nell Carter have achieved fantastic results at the North East Regionals. Lois came away with 5 gold medals and Nell achieved 2 silver medals. We are very proud of you!

## Hockey News

The U16 girls hockey team travelled to Leeds University on Friday 12th November to play in the Yorkshire finals. They only lost 1-0 in one game and drew the rest 0-0 which was a great effort from the team.

They played the following teams:

Tranby School (East Yorkshire)  
Sheffield High School (South Yorkshire)  
Hill House (South Yorkshire)  
Ripon Grammar School (North Yorkshire)

They finished off 4th in Yorkshire!

## Squash

The KS3 squash team travelled to Prestbury Squash club to play against Tytherington School and Manchester Grammar Schools A and B teams. The standard of our team was extremely high, each player had to play one other player from each school in a best of 3 games.

We managed to win all of our games and matches against Tytherington and Manchester Grammar B. Manchester Grammar A also did the same so it came down to the match against them. The lads managed to win enough points against Manchester Grammar A to beat them by 20 points overall which is a great performance and puts us through to the next stage as winners of the group.

## Year 9 Football

The Year 9 boys football team have had a great start to their season. An unbeaten record means they have played 5 matches scoring 21 goals and only conceding 5. All the players have shown great determination and a high skill level to come through some tough games against good opposition. Progress in the competitions has been smooth with the boys now through to the 2nd round of the county cup, the last 16 round of ESFA Elite cup and Round 3 of the ESFA Cup. Some big games coming up before Christmas!

On the 18th November, the team came third in the Harrogate Schools seven-a-side tournament where they drew 0-0 against Rossett High School, Harrogate Grammar, Harrogate High School, and beat St John Fishers and Ermysted's Grammar 1-0. Goals from Oliver Holdsworth and Otis Baker.



The Year 9 B team had possibly the game of the term so far in their ESFA cup run. They found themselves 2-0 down after 15mins against South Hunsley School but managed to grow in confidence to get the game back to 2-2 before triumphing in a penalty shootout. The penalty scorers were: Charlie Crankshaw, Reuben Herbert, Sam Scaife-Clarke and Archer Clough. Well done to all the lads!



# Cross Country - North-East England Region Final

Five St Aidan's teams went to Middlesbrough, having qualified from the county round of the English Schools Cup, to try and qualify for the national final. In race order...

The year 9/10 girls' team had a strong chance of qualifying having already won the N. Yorkshire title. They certainly didn't disappoint, winning this match too, and having all four scoring runners in the top 20. Elena Dickson and Seren Melling led the team home with top 10 finishes. Special mention to Daisy Abbs who only made her debut in the team this term.

The year 7/8 boys' team had also comfortably won their previous round, but with a couple of runners under the weather, they didn't have this one all their own way. The team finished 2nd and so comfortably qualified for the national final, with Alfie Charlton and Sam Alker our leading runners, both in the top 5. Back at full strength they could really do well at the finals.

The year 7/8 girls' team, relatively inexperienced with many not having raced before this term had done really well to qualify for this round and then had to put behind them an accident to one of their runners at the very start of the race. Nonetheless, they all ran well to finish as 10th team; and with lots of year 7 runners gaining experience in a high quality race.

The year 9/10 boys' team, all ran exceptionally well. Setting off as a small pack just outside the top 10 on their first lap, Sam Skaife-Clarke then put his foot down to finish 4th, with all of our runners closing in the top 15 to end as 2nd team and earn qualification for the national final again. This with three year 9 runners in the team!

Finally the year 11/12/13 girls' team, the first year that the English Schools' Cup has included this age group, but our team looked potentially very strong indeed. Eve Whitaker and Ella Colbourn finished 1st and 2nd, and the team won the match with all runners in the top 20, though pushed hard by RGS Newcastle. They have every chance of doing really well at the national finals.

A huge thank you to Endless LLP Private Equity Investor for sponsoring the transport for the long trip to the final in Cornwall which takes place on Saturday 4th December.



## Dates for your diary

29th Nov: Training Day

17th Dec: Christmas Holidays begin

12th Dec: Chamber Choir sing at Light up a Life service at St Michael's Hospice

23rd Dec: Symphonic Wind Band play at the Mayor's Carol Concert at the Royal Hall (not Christmas Eve as on previous occasions)

16th Dec: Carol Service at Christ Church



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 Kate Caine (K.Caine@staidans.co.uk)