

INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.14 - JANUARY 2022



Welcome to the first edition of InTouch for 2022 which, as usual, is packed full of good news stories, and we look forward to many more of these as we go through the year. I have spent the last two weeks in school telling our children and young people, in no uncertain terms, just how fantastic they are, full of great character and representing the school brilliantly at all times. As can be seen in this edition, we are celebrating hard work, new initiatives, friendship, service to others, art, creativity, fundraising, sport, and more sport. So many wonderful achievements – well done to everyone! Mr Ives

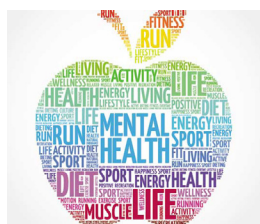


It's good to talk!

The Independent Learning Centre at St. Aidan's has, for over 5 years now, been there to provide a safe space for students when they need to reflect or rebalance the day.

The ILC is a creative space where children can be inspired and motivated with their wellbeing at the core of this. The staff in the ILC, as we refer to it in school, encourage students to develop strategies around wellbeing to underpin their learning.

A reminder to all our students that if ever you have any concerns or worries there are lots of people you can talk to. These include: Form Tutors, Head of Year, ILC Mentors, Subject Teachers, School Counsellor or Medical Room Nurse. If in doubt, go to reception and they will contact the relevant person to share your worries/concerns with. Anything, however small you think, it will be listened to. You might prefer to email the wellbeing hub on wellbeing@staidans.co.uk where you will receive the appropriate advice for your needs.



Emotional First Aid



In the ILC making Emotional First Aid Boxes proves to be an excellent way for students to have strategies ready for when they may feel anxious or a little overwhelmed. With students a box is created and decorated and includes many things that will help a student find a balance.

They will then be ready at hand in an emotional emergency, just like a physical first aid kit.

They are handy, comforting and bespoke for each individual. Even the process of making one has a positive impact on Wellbeing. It may include: pencils and colouring sheets, travel sized creams and perfumes, a tangle toy, breathing techniques, a postcard on which to write a positive statement, in fact any item that an individual student would find helpful. This is all part of the Wellbeing activities happening at St. Aidan's.

Peer Listening

We would like to say a big thank you to our Year 13 Peer Listeners who did a great job helping our current Year 7s settle into their first term at St. Aidan's. Training for the role starts in Year 12 and by the time they are in Year 13, the Sixth Formers are equipped to greet our new Year 7s. It is fantastic to see the oldest and youngest pupils in school spending time together during lunch times playing games and chatting. Well done to all involved.



Disabled Sibling Forum

This year St. Aidan's has introduced a new group: The Disabled Sibling Forum

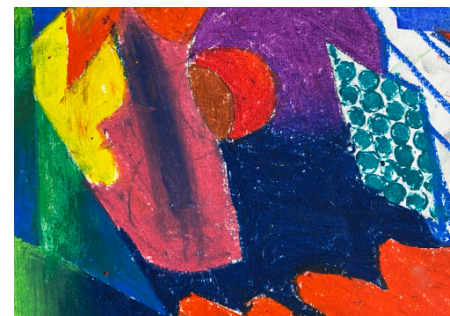
Evie Griffin, the founder of the group, explains more; "Through my experience of having a sibling with a disability I identified the need for the creation of a group where other students in my situation can feel less isolated by sharing their experiences. Through this they will feel a sense of common understanding and support. The first session went extremely well and I am already beginning to see the prosperity and success that this group will have and the help that it will give'.

It is taking place once every two weeks on a Tuesday lunchtime and the first meeting took place on the 18th January in the Independent Learning Centre (ILC).

For more information, please feel free to contact Mrs Atherton H.Atherton@staidans.co.uk

Famous Artist congratulates Year 7 on their work!

It's not every day a celebrated artist comments on your work but last month the internationally acclaimed artist Beatriz Milhazes spotted our St. Aidan's Art instagram post filled with Year 7's Milhazes-inspired work and commented; "So nice! Thank you." Students and the art department were thrilled that Milhazes had seen their work and liked it. Milhazes is a Brazilian artist known for her work juxtaposing Brazilian cultural imagery and references to western Modernist painting. We hope these Year 7 examples of Milhazes-inspired bold, bright and colourful analysis pages liven up your January!



Year 11 mocks done!

Well done to Year 11 who embraced the exam conditions and challenges of mock exams brilliantly. We are sure you are relieved that they are over! We know you will continue to work hard and listen to the ongoing valuable advice from your subject teachers as you continue with your GCSE work.



Craft in the FLG

Students in the Foundation Learning Group have been as creative as always this month. In Mrs Mackenzie's Arts and Craft group ("the nicest way to end the week" some have said), Chinese Lanterns have been made in preparation for Chinese New Year which takes place 1-11 February. This year is Year of the Tiger. Tigers are courageous and active people who love a good challenge and adventure in life. Sounds like a good way to be!



Lucy's Charity Success



We are delighted to report on the superb fundraising efforts of Year 9's Lucy Hughes with a little help from her sister Molly who is in Year 11 and her good friend and class-mate Alex Douglas.

As a final part of Lucy's Guide Gold Award, she raised a fantastic £325 for Save the Children's Afghanistan Appeal. Lucy wrote to her neighbours asking for donations in exchange for a range of delicious baked treats which Molly and Alex helped to bake and deliver. We are proud of all three of you for raising funds for such a good cause.

Life in the Associated Sixth Form: from a Sixth Former's perspective

The St John Fisher and St. Aidan's Associated Sixth Form offers a positive place for students to thrive. With it being one of the largest sixth forms in the UK, it provides a diverse range of subjects for students to study; it enriches and builds on what you have learnt in lower school to enable pupils to succeed in preparation for university or careers. The dual site setup of the Sixth Form gives a change of scenery for pupils and creates the opportunity for the formation of new friendships and relationships which has been great for me. The diversity of the sixth form has given me the chance to create friends I otherwise would not have. Both schools offer exceptional facilities that gives the chance for students to participate in extracurricular activities of their choosing. The Association's drama and music departments are the staple of the school; they produce yearly musicals for pupils to take part in which typically run for four nights. The drama department always creates a must watch performance which is ably supported by a live band made up of music students. As well as this, both St. Aidan's and St. John Fisher have exceptional sports facilities. St. John Fisher has a full sized 3G pitch and St. Aidan's is in the process of building a 3G pitch. This gives the chance for A-level PE students to play on large, professional-sized pitches. Furthermore, St. Aidan's offers the chance for A-level students to meet at Amnesty which is a committee that discusses challenging issues in the current headlines. These current affairs range from human rights to politics; this presents a time to challenge students, to understand alternative views and to share a range of perspectives.

In short, the combined Sixth Form offers an environment in which students can excel and prepare themselves for any academic, performance and sporting challenges they might seek in the future.

by Cormac Frost - Year 12 The Associated Sixth Form



3G Pitch update (and we are looking for sponsors!)



Thanks to some great January weather, work on the 3G pitch is going really well and is on track for completion in April.

Our friends and colleagues at Clevershot have taken these fantastic aerial shots this week and we wanted to share them with you. They give a great perspective on the scale of the pitch.

If you know of a local company that may be interested in sponsoring the 3G pitch, we would be happy to give you more information. Please contact k.caine@staidans.co.uk.

Showstarters is on!

We are delighted that 'Showstarters - back in the wings' has announced its new date and venue. This marks the return of live performance for St. Aidan's and students will be performing excerpts from your favourite shows including Les Miserables, School of Rock and The Greatest Showman. It is on for one night only at Harrogate Theatre on Monday 25th April at 7.30pm and tickets are available from Harrogate Theatre Box Office. We can't wait!



ASSOCIATED SIXTH FORM
ST AIDAN'S & ST JOHN FISHER, HARROGATE

Information Evening 2022

For students considering entry into the Associated Sixth Form in September 2022, we warmly invite you to book a place at our Information Evening.

St Aidan's Church of England High School
Change of Date: Thursday 10 February 2022

BOOK ONLINE AT
www.staidans.co.uk/sixth-form / www.sjfchs.org.uk/sixth-form/welcome



Zawadi – fundraising machines!

Zawadi, the student led enterprise team founded in 2007, almost came to a halt in terms of their fundraising initiatives since Covid first struck in March 2020. However, year 13 Co-Chairs Becky Whittaker and Alasdair Harrison were delighted to welcome Susie Hart, CEO of Artizan International, to a meeting in early December to hand over a cheque for £2000 which they had raised pre pandemic and had not had the opportunity to present.



Although depleted in number, following a very strong recruitment drive at the start of this academic year, membership is now back to full strength and enthusiasm with the new team producing a record breaking £1220 alone from their initial Christmas fundraising projects. Very many thanks to every parent and student who went online to buy gifts from the **Zawadi Virtual Gift Catalogue** or who sent a Candy Cane greeting to a classmate!



Congratulations Zawadi – you are an unstoppable and amazing team! Here’s to your continuing success in 2022!

Cricket Stars!



A big well done to Year 7 students India Gooden and Immy Hartley for being selected for U13 Yorkshire girls Cricket. This is a fantastic achievement as they are a year young for this age-group.

Harry Signs for Leeds Utd!

We are excited to share the news that ex-student Harry Christy has signed his first professional contract for Leeds Utd.

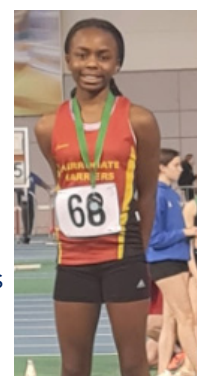
Eighteen year old Harry has been the first choice goalkeeper for Leeds Utd under 18s this season making 12 appearances in the Premier League North.

We shared Harry’s news on our school social media posts recently and had a huge response congratulating Harry. Harry has responded; “Thank you for all the messages of congratulations. I loved my time at St. Aidan’s and really appreciate the support that I got.”



Well done Temi!

We’d like to celebrate the sporting achievements of Year 7’s Temi Adeniji! Temi has recently won Player of the League and received most votes for Player of the Match by the Opposition for her club Aspire Netball. She has also won 2nd place in the U13 60m sprint at the North Yorkshire Indoor Athletics Competition which was held at Sheffield Institute for Sport. Keep up the good work Temi!



Football Round-up

The Year 9 boys football B team travelled to St Mary's College in Hull for the last 32 of the ESFA B Team Cup. After a bright start Charlie Harrison put the boys 1-0 up with a great shot from out wide which flew into the top corner. St Mary's were a strong team with lots of good players and we had to defend very well right the way through the game. Our player of the match was Ralphie Harrison who was our goal keeper. He saved a penalty in the first half and made a string of great saves to keep us in the game until late in the second half when we finally relented under the pressure and conceded 3 goals in quick succession to eventually lose 3-1. A great performance from the lads.

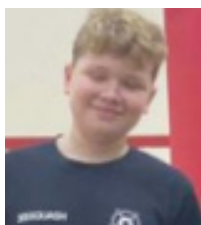
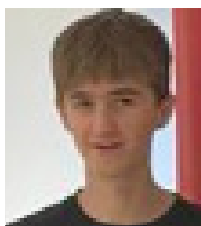
The Year 10 boys football team travelled to Queen Ethelburga's last week in the last 16 of the County Cup. St. Aidan's won 6-0 with goals from Coban Bird, Jack Leach and Luke Alker in the first half and a second half hat-trick from Lewis McStay. Man of the match was Murray Brierley. Well done to all involved and good luck in the quarter final of the English Schools competition when we travel up to Hartlepool to play English Martyrs school on Thursday 20th January.

The U-13 girls football team represented Harrogate Town at the EFL northern final at Accrington Stanley last week. The girls did really well against very strong opposition. They lost 2-0 against Huddersfield Town, 3-0 against the eventual winners Wigan Athletic, 3-1 against Oldham Athletic and 1-0 against Rochdale. They learnt lots from the tournament and are keen to play more matches in the forthcoming sisters in sport competition.

The Year 10 girls football team were triumphant in the Harrogate and District indoor 5-aside tournament. The girls played 4 matches winning 2 and drawing 1. This was enough to put them in first place ahead of Rossett and St John Fisher. All the girls showed some great skill and fitness levels and were able to stay solid in defence and also create and score goals in attack. The county cup quarter final is next up for the girls.

Squash Success

Well done to Tommy Simpson (Year 9) and James Townley (Year 8) who were members of the Yorkshire under 15s and 13s squash teams who played in the GB intercounty finals in Nottingham this weekend. The Under 15s won their event and the Under 13s were runners up!



Basketball

Each year we enter the Jnr NBA mixed year 7 and 8 basketball competition. This year we have been drafted as the Golden State Warriors. The team played their first matches against Bootham School and Gateways School. It was great to see lots of students play their first competitive games of Basketball ever and they played really well. Lots of composure on the ball and implementation of the skills developed in training under match pressure. We managed to score 32 points in the two games winning one and losing the other. Well done to all.



Under 12s Netball

For our first fixture of 2022 we took two teams to Ilkley Grammar School. For some of our players it was their first fixture and they all played well enjoying their matches.

U12 Bs - Won 4-1. Player of the Match was awarded to Nell Carter for fantastic defensive play.

U12 As - Won 13-0. Player of the Match was awarded to Immy Hartley for great shooting.

Hockey

The Year 7 hockey club has been well represented by both boys and girls, all who are eager to learn new skills and play some competitive games. The girls A&B teams' played their first matches against Ripon Grammar School at home and then away, they showed great potential and team work, the A team with a draw and a well fought but narrow loss and the B team just narrowly missing out with two losses but lots to take away and work on. The two teams also played Harrogate Grammar School where the forwards are beginning to settle into positions and scoring goals and the sticks are getting flatter and stronger in defence!



North Yorkshire School's Championships Catterick, January 15th

A frosty and foggy day saw many of the school's cross country runners head to Catterick to run for the district and also try to qualify for the county school's team. It was terrific to see so many St. Aidan's runners competing well at this tough level of competition.

The Year 10 and 11 girls, followed quickly by the boys, were the first races, in which Seren Melling, Kaelin McCooke and Jack Brierley all qualified for the N Yorkshire team, Seren running really well to finish in 6th place.

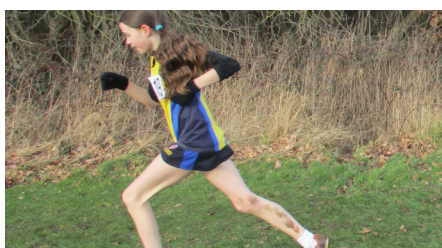
The Year 7 boys and girls quickly followed – with all six of the schools' Year 7 boys team competing for the district and 3 of the girls' team! Arran Robson and Ben Graham finished 4th and 5th in the boys' race and Darcey Summerfield 8th in the girls' race to all qualify for the county team.

More very strong running in the Year 8 and 9 races saw Elena Dickson winning a medal in 2nd place, Niamh Robinson in 5th in the girls' race; Sam Skaife-Clarke in 4th, Luke Shacklock and Otis Baker also qualifying for the N Yorkshire team.

In the senior races, our only representative, Eve Whitaker finished 2nd in what looks like being a very strong county team to go to the English Schools' race.

These great results come on the back of Sam, Eve and Alfie Charlton all winning places in the full Yorkshire team the previous weekend at the Yorkshire clubs championships.

Congratulations to all runners on representing the Harrogate and Craven District Team...



Upcoming dates for your diary

26 Jan:	Year 10 Parents' Evening (on Teams)	10 Feb:	Sixth Form Information Evening
28 Jan:	Junior Music Residential	17 Feb:	Jazz Night
3 Feb:	Year 12 Parents' Evening (on Teams)	18 Feb:	Break up for half term



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)