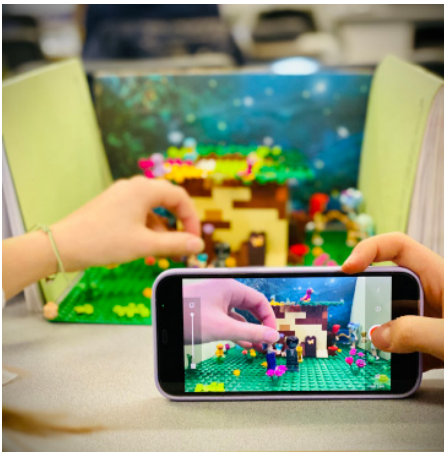


# INTOUCH

ST AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.15 - FEBRUARY 2022



Welcome to another fantastic edition of InTouch, celebrating lots of different ways that the St Aidan's community is enjoying all sorts of activities in and out of lessons. We are always so pleased to see our staff and students working together to live life in all its fullness, enjoying each others' company and realising how to live well together. We treasure all the blessings that have come our way this half-term and we wish everyone a well-deserved break as we enjoy the half-term holidays. We look forward to next half-term as we move into Lent with the opportunity for reflection, confession and resolution in living our very best lives - ever hopeful as we also look forward to the Easter season. Take care of yourself and those you are with, and see you soon.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6 v21

## Meet Martin

Martin Powell is a School Liaison Officer working for the North Yorkshire Police. InTouch caught up with him and asked him about some of the issues facing young people in our community today.



*In my role, I aim to provide early intervention and prevention. I want to stop young people getting into the criminal justice system by educating them. I do this by working with schools giving assemblies, group work and one to ones – whatever is needed.*

*The majority of my work is Social Media related. I deal with many cases of online bullying and in particular cases where young people have sent or received inappropriate messages including those of an adult nature. In these situations, young people leave themselves open to problems in the future, including situations involving blackmail.*

*Young people often are not aware that it is an offence to send or receive inappropriate images under the age of 18. The social media laws are also much stricter these days with the rise of hate crime.*

*If ever in this situation, my advice to a young person would be: If it feels wrong it probably is. Make good and sensible decisions. If you receive an image, delete it immediately and tell a responsible adult. If asked to send images by a stranger, call 101 and report it to the police.*

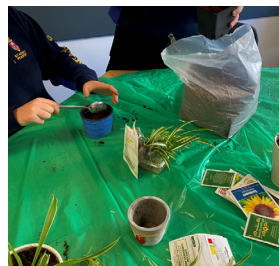
Martin is available to contact by email if anyone feels they need any advice: martin.powell@northyorkshire.police.uk.

## Children's Mental Health Week in the ILC

This year's Children's Mental Health Week (7th to 13th February 2022) was focused on Growing Together. The Independent Learning Centre (ILC) combined our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' with Children's Mental Health Week to show the importance of looking after your own wellbeing and improving resilience.

We planted lots of different types of plants and seeds into pots, some of them that our students had spent time decorating. We also created clay models such as gnomes, bugs and different characters to put in our 'window shelf garden'. We will be encouraging the students to take responsibility to nurture the plants and help them thrive. These tools will be teaching the students how important it is to look after ourselves and our own wellbeing.

Our students were engaged and it was lovely to see them get so involved – not only with the soil, but also the larger picture of what we were doing. Looking after your own wellbeing should be a priority – such as making the time to look after a plant!



## Learning how to live well with the help of a new club



How can we help ourselves and others to flourish? Lunch time club 10:10 seeks to address that question, using videos, puzzles and games to explore different ideas about happiness and living life well.

Launched just three weeks ago, the club has been a source of lunch time fun and learning for 20+ Year 7s who're enjoying sharing their experiences and getting to know each other over team games and challenges in the Chapel every Thursday.

As the weeks progress we will be finding out more about what youth workers, psychologists and faith leaders believe we can do to live life well then trying out some of their suggestions.

You can find out more about the project here: <https://www.theuglyducklingcompany.com/news/blog-post-title-one-kl6d6>  
The club is open to anyone in Year 7 and young people are welcome to bring their lunch along or see Mrs Shores for an early lunch pass.

## Year 8 portraits work exhibited!

At a very busy time of the year and with us all feeling the pressures a little, we felt it was the perfect time to celebrate what a wonderful, talented and resilient set of students we have here at St Aidan's.

In Art, Year 8 have just finished their portrait project, focussing on proportioning and 'learning to look', something we often don't get chance to pause and do. Every single student has taken on the 'half face challenge' with some super results.



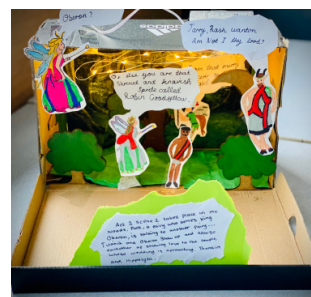
## Getting creative with Shakespeare

The English department have been finding all sorts of wonderful ways to help the Year 8s and Year 9s engage with their Shakespeare Units.

In Year 8, Mrs Rosser's class have been reading and animating Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" as they created fabulous stop-motion films. Meanwhile Miss Selka, Mrs Cartwright and their Year 8 classes have been working in groups to create 3D visualisation models from specific scenes from the same play. The results are so imaginative!

In Mrs Style's Year 9 class, "Romeo and Juliet" and the Capulet ball was the inspiration behind the creation of these masks. A special mention must go to Georgina Villars and Lucy Hughes for creating some 'mask cakes'! Georgina's was eaten up by the class before a photo was taken but we are delighted to be able to show Lucy's cake here!

Well done to everyone for studying the work of William Shakespeare with such creativity and enthusiasm!



## Van Gogh recreated

The famous Wheat Fields by Dutch artist Van Gogh has inspired this wonderful painting by Year 7 and 8 students in the Foundation Learning Group. We can hardly tell the difference from the original! Well done everyone.



## The Junior Music Residential is back!

The 17th year of the Junior Music Residential saw 45 excited members of the Junior Band and String Ensemble, along with Mrs Elliott, Mr Pallant, Mrs Wraight and Mr Taylor heading off to the fantastic York Racecourse Centre to spend a weekend of music making.

Members of both ensembles spent hours rehearsing, were treated to some great food and accommodation, enjoyed taking part in some games around the racecourse, had a fantastic time bowling in York, performed in a Cabaret and played a stunning concert to parents at the end of the weekend. Congratulations to everybody involved in a fantastic weekend of outstanding music!



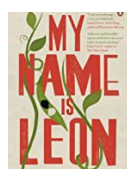
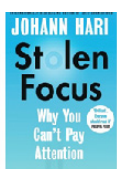
## Law Ambassador Programme going strong



The Law Ambassador Programme goes from strength to strength with a number of sixth form students from across the Association participating. 13 students graduated from the programme in 2021 and most have gone onto study Law at university. One of the students who completed the LAP earned an apprenticeship with Gordons LLP and another, Winter, was accredited with being the Most Productive Student and received certification for his achievements. The LAP continues to inspire and advance sixth form students, aspiring to become the lawyers of the future!

## Reading Corner

The Library has recommended the following books for you to enjoy over the half term break.



## William Akroyd Foundation Scholarship

Will Ackroyd in Year 13 has been shortlisted for this award after sitting an exam in which he impressed the judges with his essay on the interventions of western governments in the political affairs of other states. He is competing with students from across York, North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire, including those from some of the more selective schools in the area. Will will attend for interview in March to see if he is awarded a scholarship towards his university studies. Congratulations, Will, and all the very best for the interview!

## Speakers for Schools success

Over 50 students from St Aidan's aged between 14 and 18 have participated in Speakers for Schools' Virtual Work Experience programme since its launch in March 2020, with students from Years 10 through to 13 securing placements with leading UK employers including Tesco, Wilmott Dixon Construction, National Grid, IBM, Office for National Statistics and many more. The programme has been strongly encouraged and promoted at St Aidan's with the list of opportunities updated each week on the **Work Experience** page of the school website and its success has now been featured on the **Speakers for Schools website** featuring testimonials from students about their positive involvement.

## Celebrating our Oxbridge offers

The Associated 6th Form is delighted to announce that ten students have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge for September 2022. Two students have received offers from Oxford and a further eight have offers from Cambridge. We would like to congratulate the students on their outstanding achievement. It reflects their hard work, impressive academic ability and the dedication of their teachers, whose encouragement and support have helped them to prepare successfully for the process. The successful students are:

Oxford: Isobel Davies (St John Fisher) Chemistry, Brasenose; Edward Freeman (St Aidan's) Music, Queen's.

Cambridge: Ben Cooper (St Aidan's) History, St. John's; Rebecca Davies (St Aidan's) Natural Sciences, Kings; Ben Handley (St Aidan's) Mathematics, Fitzwilliam; Alasdair Harrison (St Aidan's) Archeology, Girton; Alyssa Parris (St Aidan's) Mathematics, Churchill; Thomas Plant (St John Fisher) History, Downing; Sam Spencer (St Aidan's) Law, Peterhouse; Tom Wallace (St Aidan's) History and French, Pembroke.



## EPQ Showcase Evening



Over 50 Year 13 students took part in a showcase presentation evening as part of their Extended Project Qualification. The EPQ is a qualification that gives students the opportunity to select and research a topic of their choice. This work culminates in presenting their findings and reflecting on their learning from this independent research.

Students presented with such enthusiasm and demonstrated such strong knowledge on their chosen topics which covered themes of fashion, feminism, psychology, statistics, war, the pandemic and much more. A big well done to all the students involved!

## Year 11 prepare for the future

With the Mocks out of the way, Year 11 have been busy this month planning what they might do after their GCSEs. The Sixth Form Forum meant that Year 12 and 13 were on hand for advice and to provide information about the many subjects that are available to study in the Associated Sixth Form. On 10 February, parents and pupils from other schools in the area attended the Sixth Form Information Evening. The deadline for applications for The Associated Sixth Form is 4 March.



## Celebrating our sporty superstars!



We are delighted to report that Year 12 student Ambur Ashcroft and her horse Oreo were the first to compete for our newly formed St Aidan's Equestrian Team!

The competition, which took place in Epworth near Doncaster, was the '90cms Eventer's Challenge' and was a mixture of cross country and showjumping.

A broken-down car meant the day started stressfully, however, Ambur still managed a respectable 8th place out of 90 competitors. Well done Ambur!

## Jess ranked number 1 in the country!

Year 12 student Jess Hardesty has done brilliantly in her competitive archery pursuits and has been ranked number 1 in the country for her age category - for the second year running!

Jess first became interested in archery when she tried it at a summer camp aged 8. She has come a very long way since then!



A massive well done to Year 8 students Millie Adrian-Horrocks, Jess Warren and Lily Howliston who have been selected to play County level netball for the North Yorkshire under 13s squad. They were selected to play for the first team on 18 January and they won!

## Squash news

The Key Stage 3 and 4 Squash Teams have made it to the finals!

Key Stage 3 are through to the National Schools Finals Championships taking place in Nottingham on 23 March and our Key Stage 4 team have made it through to the National Schools Finals Plate in Nottingham on 24 March.

Well done to the following players who qualified while competing at Harrogate Sports and Fitness Centre: Stan King, Tommy Simpson, Elliot Campbell, Thomas Taylor, James Townley, Adam Smith, Harry McGuinness and Archie King.



Year 8's Maisie Richardson has made us all very proud with her latest Hockey achievements. Already playing for North Yorkshire, she was nominated by her coach to trial for the North East Regional Squad and she was selected! Congratulations Maisie!

## Ex-students' professional debut!



We love to hear stories of what our alumni go on to achieve after they have left school and it was great to have news about ex-Associated Sixth Form students, Jack Mallinson and Ryan Rowley, both age 20, making their debut appearance on 27 January for Hunslet Rugby League. Well done to both of you!

## Basketball scores are in!

U16 Area Cup L 37-41 to Rossett

U15 Area Cup W 13-8 v Rossett, L 23-17 Ashville

U16 English schools cup R1 v Kettlethorpe School W 41-29

## Cross Country: King Henry VIII School relays

After a record 12 school runners qualified for the North Yorkshire team in January, February's highlight has been these prestigious relays that attract 40 or 50 school teams from all over the country. We had to withdraw our boys' team after having suffered case after case of Covid, but remarkably our girls' A and B teams were left pretty much intact.

Seren Melling ran a very strong leg 1 to bring the A team in 7th, with Niamh Robinson bringing the B team back in 11th place. Ella Colbourn successfully chased down 4 runners over her 3.5 km lap to pull the A team into 3rd place. Elena Dickson and Eve Whitaker then had to run really hard on their 2 laps, with large gaps between runners, to maintain our 3rd place – with some very fast runners in the teams ahead and behind pushing them all the way. Our brilliant A team completed their medal-winning performance about 45 seconds ahead of the 4th place team and Eve Whitaker ran the 8th fastest time of the day overall. The team's run was so fast that it would win the race in many years. Our B team finished an excellent 14th place – the 2nd highest B team finish in the race. Full results are on the host school's website.

A team: Seren Melling, Ella Colbourn, Elena Dickson, Eve Whitaker. B team: Niamh Robinson, Carys Dickson, Grace Brierley, Kaelin McCooke.

Lunchtime and after school running clubs continue every week and new runners are always welcome – details are on the cross-country noticeboard outside the PE office.



## All Years Boys Football fixture at GSAL

On 22 January, 70 St Aidan's footballers played a great standard of football at our annual All Years Boys Football fixture against the Grammar School at Leeds.

With three wins and two losses the boys all did a great job representing the school. GSAL have hosted us brilliantly every year since 2005 and it was fantastic to be back.



## Upcoming dates for your diary

- 28 Feb      Students return after half-term
- 3 March     Year 9 Parents' Evening (on Teams)
- 4 March     Deadline for Sixth Form applications
- 10 March    Careers Evening (CGH)
- 16 March    Training Day  
School closed to students



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](mailto:k.caine@staidans.co.uk))