

INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.18 - MAY 2022



At this time of the school year, we often think very carefully about being ready to move forward. We have experienced many lovely moments with our Year 11 and Year 13, including assemblies and services, and it is always one of the wonders of education to see how our young people have grown up, having learned so many brilliant ways to live life in all its fullness, over their time here at St Aidan's, and in preparation for the years to come. Well done to all our students - we are very proud of them all, and wish them well as they tackle the remaining weeks of this term and in their bright and blessed futures.

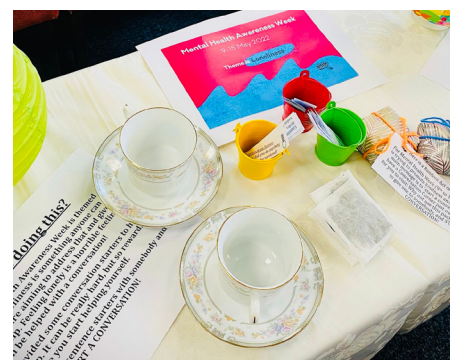
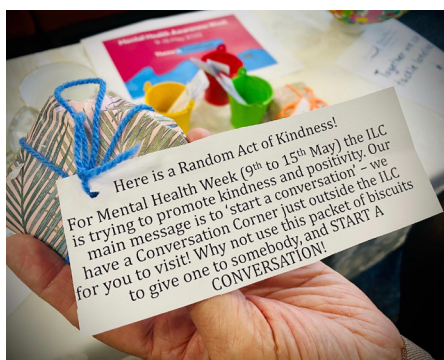
As you will see, again, as usual, there has been a lot going on in school and, as well as the good news stories included in this edition, we thank all in our community for the other fantastic ways that our staff, children and young people are finding ways to explore their talents and help others. We pray that we can all find ways to help others at this time, whether bringing donations for Harrogate foodbank, supporting a team or group, helping another in our classes to be happy, or with encouragement to keep going with all sorts of endeavours. Well done everyone!

Mental health awareness week 9-15 May

In the ILC we spun the theme of loneliness to become about starting conversations to help tackle people feeling isolated and lonely. We had a Conversation Corner outside of the ILC with conversation starters in buckets and a table at which to have the conversations. We hoped it would trigger both awareness, amusement, and some conversations.

In addition, we sent some random acts of kindness via the form bags for the form teachers in lower school to randomly give to a student in the form. Perhaps you found one just for you?

A reminder that there is always someone to talk to. Staff in the ILC are there to help or email wellbeing@staidans.co.uk for advice.



Zawadi AGM

Zawadi did not need to fear any superstitions about gathering 13 members around a table as they all took their seats for their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday May 3rd. The event, attended by Susie Hart, CEO of Artizan International, Mr Ives, Chair of Governors Mrs Wicks, fellow Governor Rev. Matthew Evans, Deputy Director of 6th Form Mrs Orton, Head of Careers Mrs Dukes and other interested and supportive staff, was a celebration of their amazing achievements over the last 12 months.



Zawadi Co-Chairs, Rebecca Whittaker and Alasdair Harrison, together with Finance Manager Alyssa Parris were the only remaining members in September 2021, after Covid decimated the student led fundraising groups' 2020 – 2021 plans and threatened to wipe out the organisation which was founded 15 years ago. However, the three Year 13 students were determined to rebuild a strong Zawadi team and they could not have done a more successful job. 10 further students from years 11 and 12 were recruited in October 2021 and they all were all equally as entrepreneurial, organised, enthusiastic and industrious. Between November 21 and April 2022 they planned and project-managed 8 money making initiatives, with events taking place both in school and in the wider community.



In her annual report, Finance manager Alyssa was happy to announce that Artizan International would receive a cheque for £4,000, the phenomenal result of their commercial initiative over the past 8 months, combined with a lot of hard work.

In his closing speech, Co-Chair Alasdair Harrison paid tribute to his fellow team members and acknowledged that although fund raising for Artizan International was their ultimate goal, personal development, self-confidence and a huge sense of satisfaction were very much the underlying benefits of membership of team Zawadi 2021 – 2022.



Year 7 bushcraft adventure



After a period of no school trips due to the pandemic, it was wonderful to see almost all of Year 7 heading off excitedly to Castle Howard for their Bushcraft Residential. Staff and students spent two fun nights camping out in tents, learning survival skills such as making their own fires and then cooking their own meals on them. The camp leaders taught the students a variety of new skills ranging from shelter building to making bracelets out of parachute cord. There were songs and stories around the campfire and plenty of popcorn and brownies to go around which made for a very happy camp! Word is that they arrived back from their adventure with a new appreciation for their own comfortable beds and a hot bath, having had a fantastic time! A huge thank you to the staff who accompanied Year 7.

Eco Club cake stall



On May 3rd, Eco Club did a wonderful job hosting a cake stall. They baked all the goods, created all the relevant signage including full ingredient lists etc - and we were really impressed by their organisation. They have raised over £100.00 and will be spending the money on plants (particularly bee friendly ones) for the School grounds and the rest we will donate to our partner charity - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Maths Challenge!

The Junior Maths Challenge was held in April with 201 students from years 7 and 8 entering. A fantastic level of entry. Overall an amazing 44% of entries were successful in achieving a certificate, with 28% achieving BRONZE, 12% SILVER and 4% GOLD.

4 pupils also qualified to go onto the next round, this puts them in the top 8000 pupils nationally and is a great achievement. 3 pupils from Year 7 and 1 from Year 8. The follow on round is to be held on Tuesday 14th June. Super congratulations to all, especially after such a tough couple of years.

Competition winners

Congratulations to James Cobley and Fin Hewson who won and were runner up in a brand new video competition run by Brasenose College (Oxford University) and St Catharine's College (Cambridge University). The competition for Year 11-12 in North Yorkshire, asked individuals to research, write and create a short talking-head style lecture on a topic of their choice. Entries were judged on the educational value of the lecture, the clarity and concision of the script, the confidence and clarity of delivery and creativity and originality. James won a £50 Waterstones gift card and Fin a £20 Waterstones gift card.

Year 11 celebrate before their exams

Friday 13 May was Year 11's last day in school before the onset of the GCSE examination period. With some leaving to go on study leave and some choosing to spend the last few weeks before half term doing their revision in school, everyone was up for some fun to mark the occasion.

For this group of students, disruption due to the Pandemic has meant they have had to be self-motivated and cope with many online lessons and we have been impressed with their resilience and attitude. This made the day more poignant for staff and students who were grateful they were able to have normality back on this special day unlike with the previous few year groups.

They were given their Year 11 Yearbook, they enjoyed signing their friends' shirts and had a wonderful Leavers' Assembly led brilliantly by Head of Year 11 Mr Alker. Memories of their time at St. Aidan's were reflected upon with humour and some awards read out including 'Best Hair Cut' and the 'Student most likely to leave their future child on a bus' award! Most memorable was the entire year group joining in with enthusiastic renditions of the school's favourite worship songs; Bless the Lord O' My Soul, King of Kings and My Lighthouse. This brought a tear to a few eyes as it was Year 8 when we last heard the Year group sing together - Mr Alker had everyone in the Main Hall waving their arms along.

We continue to give our good wishes and support to each and every Year 11 during the exam period.

Year 13 mark the end of their school days

Year 13 have been one of the year groups that didn't get to celebrate at the end of Year 11, so they were ready this time when it came time to mark the end of their school days! They have collected their Leaver's Hoodies and their Yearbooks which they have filled with messages from friends and staff.

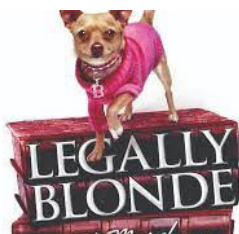
On Wednesday, there was a poignant service for the Associated Sixth Form in the chapel at St. John Fisher. Senate and Congress came together with Poems and readings, Mr Mort and Mr Sharpe shared the reading of a prayer and Year 13 members of Chamber Choir sang together for the penultimate time.

The following day during period 1, both sides of the Association held Leaver's Assemblies.

At St. Aidan's, this combined a brilliantly funny video pulled together by Senate member Finlay Noble featuring skits on Breaking Bad and The Queens Gambit and Mr Wilson and Mr Symes starred in a 'first dates' sketch! Awards were given for all manner of things including Kindest Year 13 and most likely Year 13 to appear on Love Island! The Chamber Choir sang everyone out, which was to be both the Year 13 choir member's and Mr Pallant's final performance with Chamber Choir! A rousing rendition of King of Kings was an emotional end to what has been a challenging but wonderful time for our Year 13 Leavers. We wish them every success with their exams and the road ahead.



Autumn's school production announced!



We are thrilled to announce that our next full scale school production for November 2022 will be ... Legally Blonde! This is a hugely uplifting tale about defying expectations about stereotypes and staying true to yourself. We can't wait to see Elle Woods make her journey from Los Angeles to Harvard Law School accompanied by a whole host of characters including a Greek chorus of cheerleaders!

Auditions for newcomers to the 6th form will be on: Mon 27 June. Details are available from Mrs Hendry in the 6th form office. Auditions for Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be on: Wed 29 and Thu 30 June at 3.45 in Mu2. More details to follow.

Famous string quartet to visit!



We are very excited to have secured a visit to St Aidan's of one of the foremost string quartets in the world later this term, on Tuesday June 28th. Since forming 50 years ago, the Brodsky Quartet have performed over 3,000 concerts on the major stages of the world and have released more than 60 recordings. Their energy and craftsmanship have attracted numerous awards and accolades worldwide, while their ongoing educational work provides a vehicle to pass on experience and stay in touch with the next generation. The quartet have also regularly recorded for television and radio with their performances broadcast worldwide. As well as partnering many top classical artists for their performances and recordings, the quartet has made musical history with ground-breaking collaborations with some of the world's leading artists across many genres, including Björk, Elvis Costello and Paul McCartney, and have commissioned and championed many of the world's most respected composers.

The Brodsky Quartet will be in school on Tuesday 28th June, giving a masterclass for some of our young string and piano players, with other instrumentalists and music students forming the audience. In the evening the quartet will present a superb concert, with an exciting programme of Purcell, James MacMillan, Shostakovich and Ravel. We warmly invite the St Aidan's community to come along to this concert, sponsored by St Aidan's Music Association, at St Wilfrid's Church at 7.30 pm, and which will also be the opening concert of the Harrogate International Summer Music Festival. Tickets will be available for the evening concert from Harrogate International Festivals via their website.

Book club cast their vote

On Friday 20 May, our book club enjoyed reading and voting for books on the shortlists for both the Carnegie Medal and Children's Book Award 2022, prestigious prizes for the best children's books of the year. With eleven books to read, the library was a busy place to be!



Bolton Priory concert

On May 6 Chamber Choir and Swing Band performed in the beautiful Bolton Priory. It was to be the last public performance for our Year 13 members of Chamber Choir, who have entertained us so wonderfully during their time at St. Aidan's. They are pictured here with Mr Pallant who retires at the end of this term after 19 years with the school. Thanks to all who joined us for this memorable evening.



FAMILY FEST

July 9TH
12 - 4^{PM}

LAUNCH OF OUR 3G PITCH

- BARBEQUE
- DART FOOTBALL
- FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT (YEAR 7, 8 & 9)
- KEEPY-UPPY COMPETITION
- BOOK STALL
- AND MUCH MORE!

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF THE ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY

FOSA FRIENDS OF ST. AIDAN'S

At Family Fest, there will be a Used Uniform and Sports Equipment stall and a Second-hand Book Stall. If you have a clear out over half term, please gather and donate any used uniform, PE kit and sports equipment – all must be clean and in good condition. We would also love donations of any second-hand books (including any used revision guides) Students are welcome to bring this to school and leave first thing in the morning in the Year 7 outside eating area after May half term.

Celebrating sporting achievements!



Congratulations to 7D's Darcey Summerfield who has been selected to play for Leeds Utd Academy in the Under 13s squad for next season. Darcey who plays in the Left Wing position started playing football for Pannal Sports when she was six years old and had to undergo a trial at Leeds Utd training camp and was observed training with the Under 12 girls team before being selected.



Hattie Miles, Year 10, has been selected to represent Yorkshire at super region training camps for the North of England - the 2nd stage of the Basketball England Talent programme. Hattie has now attended 3 training camps as part of the North region for matches. Hattie and her sister Isabel, Year 12, both play for The City of Leeds Basketball Club Under18 girls team & have just finished their first season playing in the Junior National League, travelling to Birmingham, Northampton, Liverpool & Durham for matches. Both girls only took up Basketball after attending Mrs Buxton's after school basketball club.



Year 7 students Nell Carter and Lois Child who are both members of Harrogate District Swimming Club have recently competed at the Northeast Regional Championships. Nell was awarded 2 bronze medals and broke club records for 100m backstroke and 100m Fly and Lois 5 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals. Lois also broke 3 HDSC records and is ranking number 1 in the UK in her age group (12 Years old) for 100m freestyle and 200m Individual Medley. Both girls are looking forward to attending the English National Championships in August and we wish them all the best!



Well done to our Under 15s girls cricket team who competed against Ripon Grammar School in a T20 fixture as part of the School Sport Magazine National Cup. The girls performed really well in a thrilling victory, winning by 34 runs! Special mention to Millie Adrian-Horrocks who won Player of the Match. She scored 27 runs not out and her bowling figures were 3 overs, 1 maiden, 6 runs and 4 wickets. Also well done to those team members who played their first game ever of hard ball cricket!



Our Year 13 student, Alfie Dean, was selected for England Under18 school boys this year. He played in the traditional Centenary Shield tournament against the home nations, starting every game in an attacking midfield role. The goal he scored against Scotland was brilliant! Well done to Alfie for such a great achievement and good luck to him as he leaves the sixth form after his A-Level exams.



Congratulations to Year 7s Alice Halliday and India Gooden who have both been selected to play cricket for Yorkshire Cricket's Under 13s. Alice, who plays for Otley Cricket Club, is a left handed swing bowler and all-rounder and India, who plays for Pannal Cricket Club, is a fast paced right handed bowler and all-rounder. Great work girls!



Well done to Year 9 student Ella McIntosh who competed at the Yorkshire County Athletics Championships recently and became the Under 15s Hammer throwing Champion of Yorkshire 2022! As a member of Harrogate Harriers, Ella has been practising since Year 6 but has not had many opportunities to compete due to the pandemic. Earlier this month, during the recent English Schools Cup Competition, she scored her personal best throwing 35 metres 6 cm. Fantastic work Ella!

Athletics news

Eve Whitaker won the Under 19 UK intercounty fell running championship held at Kettlewell by over a minute from her nearest rival. Alfie Charlton was 2nd in the Under 15 1500m, again setting a new school record of 4min 36sec.

Niamh Robinson and Gabriella Chippindale won bronze medals in the Under 15 3000m and javelin respectively. Luke Shacklock won the Under 15 boys 3000m and was 2nd in the sprint hurdles.

The 4 school teams all performed really strongly in the 1st round of the English Schools' cup – junior girls, junior boys, inter girls and inter boys all qualified for the North East England A final with the highest or second highest scores of the whole North East region. Highest points scorers for each team were Alex Huby in the 100m and Triple jump for Year 9/10 boys'; Seren Melling in 800m and Long Jump for the Year 9/10 girls'; Indy Harby in 800m and relay for the Year 7/8 girls'; and Alfie Charlton in 1500m and shot put for the Year 7/8 boys'. I'm hoping that teams can progress to the national final later this Summer.

Athletics clubs continue Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this term – all welcome.

End of season football round up



It has been another fantastic season of Football at St Aidan's, there have been teams in all year groups for boys and girls training most weeks (when the weather has allowed) and an incredible number of students attending! Thanks all the students for their hard work and commitment to Football this year, the progress has been immense. As a school we have played well over 130 football matches, A huge thank you to the teachers who have run all the teams and organised all the matches. We have had success in all our teams, many making it through to the later stages of the ESFA cups, some notable highlights are the Year 9, 10 and Year 11 boys teams winning the County Cup and the Year 9 and Sixth Form girls team making the County Cup final. The Under13 girls' team have had some great results in national competitions and tournaments and the Year 7 boys' team have done brilliantly and won the area cup this week. We are incredibly excited to be able to use our new 3G facility for next year's football and everyone can't wait for September to come along so we can get going once again.

Upcoming dates for your diary

9th June	Post 18 Options Evening	24th June	Year 13 Leavers Ball	30th June	Year 11 Prom
13th June	Careers Conference	28th June	Sixth Form Induction Day	1st July	Junior Concert
15th June	New Year 7 Parents Meet and Greet	28th June	Brodsky Quartet Concert	7th July	Spotlight



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)