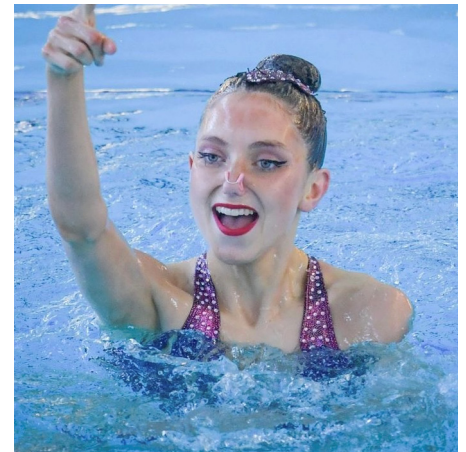


# INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.17 - APRIL 2022



“You will show me the path that leads to life,” and, as can be seen in this edition of InTouch, our community at St Aidan’s continues to lead that life in all its fullness. We are so pleased to be seeing more and more in-person events, performances and shows, fixtures, clubs and activities - what a privilege it is to share in the joy and pleasure that these bring!

Congratulations and well done to those who have taken part, in the celebrations, competitions, social and charitable action, and many others shown in this edition. Continue to let us know of other good news stories that you know about - we have so much to be thankful for.

## Celebrating 30 years of Chamber Choir

"Music is back!", was the declaration, enthusiastically spoken by St Aidan's Director of Music, Mark Pallant and emphatically proven by 300 performers to a capacity audience in Ripon Cathedral at the concert on April 2nd to celebrate 30 years of the renowned St Aidan's Chamber Choir. After two years of Covid restrictions severely curtailing music rehearsals and performances, the evening was a tremendously uplifting celebration of the best that St Aidan's and its community can be, featuring the current Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Chamber Choir and Symphony Orchestra in a diverse and entertaining first half of the concert. These first-class ensembles gave of their best in a half which also featured esteemed former student and soprano, Eleonore Cockerham, who includes in her impressive CV singing with professional singing ensemble Voces8. To begin the second half of the concert, Greg Beardsell, a special guest who was in the Chamber Choir in its earliest days, and now an acclaimed conductor of youth choirs across the UK and BBC Proms presenter, had everyone in the cathedral singing in parts, combining songs by Adele, Lady Gaga, Eurythmics, 2 Unlimited. A further soloist and former member of the choir, Frankie Bounds, now training at Birmingham Music Conservatoire, impressed the audience with his stunning vocal talent.

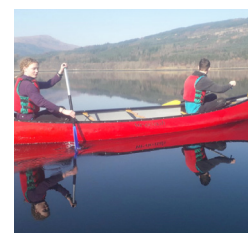
Around 100 former members of the Chamber Choir came together specially to perform three pieces which had great significance over the 30 years of the choir's existence, conducted by two of the choir's previous conductors, Cathy Roberts, who began the choir in 1992, and Mrs. Leonard who still plays a key role in our Music Department. In a further ramping up of the numbers of performers, St Aidan's Community Chorus, another 100 in number, then sang two wonderful pieces accompanied by the augmented Symphony Orchestra, a setting of 'And Can It Be?' and Haydn's joyous 'The Heavens are Telling'. The concert was brought to a rousing conclusion, with associated raising of the cathedral's historic roof, in the St Aidan's unofficial anthem 'King of Kings' performed by the whole assembled company of singers and instrumentalists. The text of one of the current Chamber Choir pieces, "Music and singing have been my refuge, and music and singing will be my light", seemed to sum up this jubilant and inspiring evening.

The evening was to be the last spectacular concert for our Director of Music, Mark Pallant who is due to retire at the end of this term after 19 years at St. Aidan's (and 41 years as a music teacher!). It was therefore only fitting that, during the evening, there was a wonderful performance which paid tribute to Mr Pallant. The arrangement of the worship song Jesus King of Kings that he had written for the Chamber Choir in 2004 when they were finalists in the Songs of Praise School Choir of the Year was secretly rehearsed by Mrs Leonard and included Ewan Reid accompanying and interpreting it in his signature jazz style.

Photo credits: Jessica Hardesty Dean and Oscar O'Dell - Year 12



## Year 10 go to Loch Eil



Year 10 enjoyed an adventurous week away in Loch Eil at the end of March. They zip wired over a river, built rafts, gorge walked, canoed, scrambled and each group experienced an expedition which involved camping in the wild! One evening the Outward Bound Instructors gave the students an insight into their own career paths and experiences which were incredibly varied.

We are delighted to see the return of school trips and are very grateful to the wonderful staff who give up their time to accompany the students.

## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Four days of walking a total of 75km and 3 nights camping in freezing conditions! 23 Sixth Formers have just completed their 4-day Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice expedition in the Yorkshire Dales carrying all their equipment and food. It was a snowy start but that didn't discourage them, they spent the first day practising map reading and navigation skills with an instructor. The groups had tents up and were cooking their three course gourmet meals by 6pm.

Day 2 proved to be a real challenge, the students woke to frosty topped tents after a chilly night. Then they had to overcome the challenge of a 22km walk with blisters to manage. Day 3 was another long one with some massive hills to climb, it was a route that really proved the quality of their compass and navigation skills. Spirits were high and the sun was shining. The final day involved a flatter route and the promise of the end, a hot shower and lots of fresh food that was waiting for them at home.

This expedition was a test of commitment as the planning and preparation stages took away many lunch times but students always turned up with a smile on their faces. The walking itself pushed students' fitness and will power to the edge as well as equipping them with the social skills to work as a team even with people they did not know. And the final test was showing up to school the next day with aches, pains and blisters.

All groups successfully completed the expedition and are now in the process of planning their 4 day assessed expedition that will take place in the North York Moors in the summer. Congratulations to everyone!



## Join Aidan's Maidens to celebrate 10 years of fundraising!



Aidan's Maidens organised by Mrs Searby celebrates its 10th anniversary this year! Previously known as 'All Saints' and 'Aidan's Angels', it is a group of women and girls in our school community who enter the Race for Life which is a popular fundraiser for Cancer Research UK.

In the words of Mrs Searby; "Given that fundraising has taken an obvious hit over the past couple of years and it's our decade anniversary the event should be magic! What better excuse to become part of a fabulous team of ladies for the day? Run/ walk/ bring the kids- whatever works for you! Pop the 10 July in your diary and register **here** to kick off your goal".

## Showstarters - the show did go on!



The return of Musical Theatre to St. Aidan's has been long-awaited with repeated cancellations along the way due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic. We were therefore delighted that on Monday 25 April at Harrogate Theatre for one night only, our talented students from Years 10,11,12 and 13 with a passion for theatre were finally able to perform. The actors, dancers, singers and musicians had been working hard since September 2021 and this was evident in their polished and enthusiastic performances! They raised the roof of the theatre with extracts from a range of popular shows such as Les Miserables, The Greatest Showman, Dear Evan Hansen, School of Rock, Chicago, Mamma Mia and many more.

The night was a great success with the Harrogate Theatre audience clapping along and giving rapturous applause. Congratulations to all the students involved and a huge thanks must go to the Director Mr MacCallum and his team which included Miss Miller, Mrs Elliott, Mrs Leonard, Mr Pallant, Miss Collett, Mr Gardner and Mr D Ives not to mention the technical team who did a fabulous job with the sound and lighting. We can't wait to hear what production is planned for Autumn!

## Dan to perform with the National Youth Music Theatre



Year 12 student Dan Bryant has been busy pursuing his interest in Musical Theatre over the last few months and having been invited for a recall audition with the National Youth Music Theatre during the Feb half term holiday, was then invited to attend a week's workshop residential, with young people from across the UK, at Tonbridge School during the Easter break. InTouch asked Dan how it went: "I found the course both fun and challenging; fun because every day I got to work alongside 35 other performers, all of whom are immensely talented people; challenging simply because the standard which the NYMT maintains is so high. The performance which we were working on was called NYMT in Concert and features a range of songs from a broad range of different musicals - for example, there is a group of songs in sequence which are all by Stephen Sondheim, whilst the show ends with a selection of songs from NYMT's original musicals."

Dan is currently busy studying for his A Levels so what is the plan after Sixth Form? "After sixth form, I intend to study History & Politics at university, though it is an ambition of mine to make a name for myself in the world of showbusiness. I've always wanted to write a musical, though this is a longer-term project! "

Dan was fabulous as part of the company of the latest school production Showstarters, playing one of the Greatest Showmen amongst other parts. What other projects has he been involved in both in and out of school? "Within school I have been involved in School of Rock, We Will Rock You and Showstarters, along with Spotlight from year 7 to year 9, whilst being a member of Harrogate Youth Theatre since the age of 7."

We look forward to seeing Daniel's name in lights in the future!

## World Book Day Doors - competition winner announced!



Year 7, 8 and 9 forms decorated their form room doors in the theme of their chosen book last month to celebrate World Book Day. The judges, which included Dr Holt, were very impressed by the imaginative entries! Included in some of the designs were; working fairy lights, use of quotes, original artwork and it was extremely difficult to choose a winner. The judges top six doors can be seen above and we are delighted to announce that the winner was the Murder Most Horrid themed door. Well done to 8G – you impressed the judges with your original choice of book, great concept and the design matched the original cover!

## Yellow and Blue for Ukraine



On 25 March staff and students came to school in blue and yellow or in non-uniform in support of those suffering due to the war in Ukraine. Thank you to all who have donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal via the ParentPay link. We sent £6200 to the appeal before Easter and donations are still coming in. We are leaving the appeal open on ParentPay due to the ongoing need in Ukraine. Highlights of our fundraising day included the sunshine and Dr Bryant's yellow flares which brightened up everyone's day!

## Year 10 Maths Feast

In late March, Miss Hendrick and Mrs Mooney took Year 10 students to Maths Feast at Bootham School in York. In teams of four they had to answer a range of questions against other teams from across North Yorkshire. There were 4 rounds altogether which tested them on many topics.

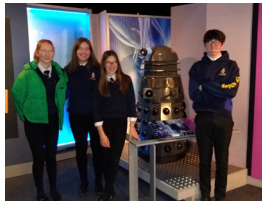
Round one gave them questions, but no words and the comprehension round gave them a sheet on an unfamiliar topic to read through and then apply that knowledge to the questions that followed. The final relay round involved working in pairs but relying on the other pair to give them a number that they had worked out in order to compete their own question. Each student worked as hard they could both individually and as part of the team - one team achieved a certificate for winning round 2 and the other team was commended for scoring highly in all three rounds.

Well done to the following for volunteering to go and for doing so well, Team 1: Zoe Adamson, Hattie Miles, Sam Walker-Taylor and Krish Desha-Berachee and Team 2: Jordan Maclean, Jack Moore, James Baxter and Roshan Biju.



## Media Studies trip to Bradford

Students enjoyed a day trip to The Science and Media Museum in Bradford, exploring the history of TV and video games. Highlights included playing on the classic 'vintage' video games like Donkey Kong, learning about TV audiences and how they've changed and experimenting with sound and light in the Wonderlab. This will be a great starting point for exploring classic sitcoms next year and has helped to consolidate our study of gaming franchises.

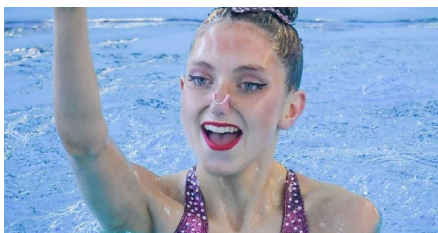


## Sara's petition handed to MP

Sara Ahmed in Year 7 has been campaigning for larger recycling bins in our community and has been busy collecting signatures on a petition. Earlier this month she handed this petition to our MP Andrew Jones in person. We are so impressed with Sara's commitment to help improve the recycling in Harrogate – well done Sara!



## Well done to Year 13 Ellie!



During the Easter break, Year 13 student Ellie Crabtree successfully competed in the Artistic Swimming British Championships with her club, City of Leeds, winning two team bronze medals in Free Team and Combo swims. She also finished sixth with her technical duet partner and in her first national solo swim was placed eighth in junior free solo. Ellie is also attending Leeds Sports Awards on 12 May as her squad is a finalist for club/team performance 18+.

## Harrogate Town for Alfie



We were delighted to hear that Year 11's Alfie Lee has become one of the first players from Harrogate Town's Player Development Centre (PDC) to progress to play for Harrogate Town's Academy. As part of a two year football scholarship Alfie will compete for their second season in the EFL Youth Alliance North East, while accessing education delivered by League Football Education before leaving with a BTEC qualification.

## Fin's rugby success



Congratulations to Year 11 student and Rugby full back Fin Green who, earlier this month, represented the Yorkshire Academy in the U16s Academy Festival at the University of Warwick playing against Worcester Warriors and Gloucester. Since then, on Saturday 23 April, he stepped up an age group for the U17 academy squad against Leicester Tigers and Newcastle Falcons - managing to score! Fin has also been selected to play for the U17 academy squad for next season!

## Ollie jumping for success

Thirteen year old Ollie Jones in 8C has had a successful Easter competing in Trampolining and Double Mini Trampolining coming 5th in the British Championships and then 3rd the English Qualifiers. He has also been invited to train with the Double Trampolining England Squad in Telford and is hoping to impress them and win a permanent position in the squad. This has been an ambition for Ollie since he started trampolining with Harrogate Gymnastics three years ago. InTouch asked Ollie what his next goal will be and Ollie replied: "I'd love to do an international competition!" We look forward to hearing how it all goes Ollie – well done!



## Squash success

The following students attended the KS4 Squash Plate Finals in Nottingham at the end of March: Stan King, James Townley, Max Brown, Tom Taylor and Elliot Campbell and they all put on an impressive display of squash. The first round was a loss, 4-1 with some incredibly close games that could have easily been a win. The lads had to re-focus and aim for 5th place. The Semi-finals started with very exciting games and the St. Aidan's spirit meant a comfortable win; 5-0 which meant 5th or 6th place in the finals. In the finals we came up against some strong players but managed to win 4-1 securing 5th position in the plate in the country! Well done to everyone who played.

## Girl's Indoor Cricket

Well done to the girl's U-13 Indoor Cricket Team who were runners up in the Yorkshire round of the Lady Taverners indoor softball competition losing narrowly to Wakefield Girls.



## Under 18s Cricket Fixtures



The U-18 Cricket team played a traditional cricket fixture vs the famous Marylebone Cricket Club the first week back from holidays on 25th April at Harrogate Cricket Club and against Woodhouse Grove School on Wednesday 27th April.

During Monday's match, the team bowled and fielded well, the MCC declared 215-4. Harry Hudson and Ben Harrison picked up a pair of wickets each in reply. Special mention to Ted Morley who batted with an outstanding 75 runs (not out) but the team ultimately fell 60 runs short.

Wednesday's match v Woodhouse Grove School started with us winning the toss and choosing to bat first. The students scored an impressive 169-4. Mathew Lurcuck scored 48 runs and Harry Hudson a fast 43- not out! In response, our bowling attack was strong with Woodhouse Grove ending up with 135-5. Wickets were shared between Ben O'Connor, Ben Harrison (with 2 wickets), Harry Hudson and Tom Midwood. Well done to the students involved in both matches.

## Upcoming dates for your diary

- 16th May GCSE Exams start
- 19th May Year 13 Leavers' Assembly
- 27th May Break up for May Half-Term

## Save the Date!!!

Event to Launch the brand new 3G pitch July 9 2022!



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))