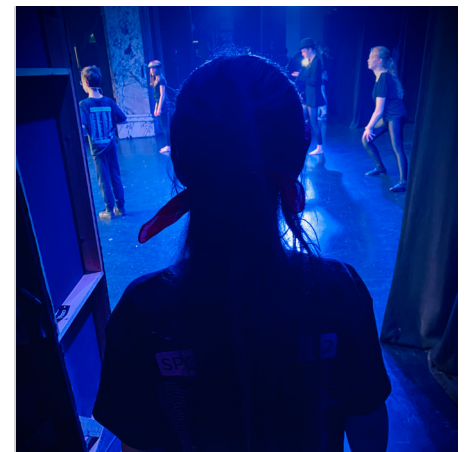


# INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.20 - JULY 2022



Life at St Aidan's follows the rhythms of the year and we now come to a time of holiday and time away from school. As we look back over the year, we have seen so many lovely moments, of lessons learned and activities completed. These editions of InTouch give a snapshot of these moments, and we have celebrated the many ways in which our children and young people excel in their daily lives together – they are nothing short of brilliant, and we wish them well as they enjoy their time over the summer, and we look forward to welcoming them back in the Autumn. Take care and have a good break!

## A farewell message from Mr Ives

I often tell our pupils in assemblies that St Aidan's turns out the most amazing young people, who all go on to be a blessing to those that they are with, in all sorts of lovely ways. How do I know this? Firstly, we remember that we are, as God's children, all on the journey of learning, discovery and service. Secondly, we remember that, no matter what might be happening at times, we are part of this loving community that supports and encourages, and strives for the best for each and every person. Finally, I have experienced it over my 21 years at St Aidan's, witnessing such beautiful young people grow up, benefitting from their kindness and good character, and all – past, present, and future – are to be celebrated and congratulated for the contributions that they make to St Aidan's and beyond – well done!



I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at St Aidan's, with the best students and the best staff, parents and carers. I have been blessed in knowing them, will miss everyone very much, and I offer my heartfelt thanks to all. Moving to Nepal to continue leading a school is exciting, and my wife, Hannah, and I are looking forward to our adventure; we would love to keep in touch and would appreciate your prayers for this new chapter. I have every confidence that St Aidan's will continue to be a fabulous school community, and I look forward to seeing all the successes that will come in future.

## Interim Headteacher David Thornton spends some time at school

At the start of this month, we welcomed Mr Thornton into school to get to know everyone ahead of his start date in September when we will be under his leadership. Mr Thornton who has a wealth of experience as a secondary Head, spent time meeting staff, students and Governors. We are looking forward to seeing him in the new school year in September.



## Preparing for summer with a little help from the ILC

As we go off into the summer holidays, the ILC have created a new picnic display based on how to look after your own wellbeing during the summer holidays. The summer holidays can be great fun away from school, but we thought students might need some ideas of how to keep busy and positive. The ILC have created some 'Summer Wellbeing Packs' for students to take home to encourage a range of wellbeing activities. We have also got some postcards which the students can write in and send back to us ready to read in the new school year!





## Spotlight is back!

Spotlight started 13 years ago and has gone from strength to strength with hundreds of students taking part over the years. The premise behind Spotlight is that absolutely anyone from Year 7, 8 and 9 can take part in a spectacular evening of song, dance and drama. Auditions are held for students to have solos and small group roles, which allows those with particular talents in performing to be showcased, whilst the emphasis on inclusivity means that there is still something for everyone. Spotlight not only allows students to develop their confidence, skills within performing and work ethic but gives students the opportunity to meet other students with similar interests. Alongside the performers on stage we try to recruit our back stage and technical team from our student body and this year we had a fabulous set of students supporting the show. We also had some Year 10 and 12 students on board assisting with each piece. This support is invaluable to us teachers, as well as providing an opportunity for these students to give something back and develop their own skills as leaders and coordinators. This year, the cast and student crew were very disciplined both in rehearsals and in performance; the result was a slick and polished performance. We are very proud of all our students that took part in whatever capacity and thank all staff and students that contributed to the show.



## Summer Concert and tributes to Mr Pallant

The Summer Concert on Friday 1 July was a musical extravaganza with ensembles including all year groups. St Aidan's Jazz Ensemble (SAJE) started us off with our Sixth formers Ewan, Euan and George conducting our younger students, keeping the audience amused with their humorous repartee. There were the atmospheric beats of African drums from Mrs Collett's group, playing a variety of work that they performed brilliantly – including an original piece inspired by the ring tone of a mobile phone! Miss John's fabulous String Ensemble were next up playing everything from Argentine Tango to traditional Scottish music. Junior Band led by Mrs Elliott followed had everyone in the room taking part in the YMCA! Mrs Leonard led the Junior choir and their stunning vocals and ended with a wonderful rendition of Toto's Africa.

To end the evening Mr Pallant conducted his Symphonic Wind Band for the last time before he retires at the end of term. After 19 years conducting this ensemble, this moment was always going to be poignant and their performances ending with You Can't Stop the Beat from Hairspray, brought the audience to their feet with cheers of appreciation for Mr Pallant. There followed speeches from the music department and Mr Ives and a video with messages from alumni, ex-colleagues, Chamber Choir, musicians, colleagues and Mr Pallant's family. Then there was a special performance, that had been secretly rehearsed, from all our musicians. The entire audience joined in too as they sang ABBA's Thankyou for The Music. We all wish Mr Pallant a wonderful retirement!



## Junior Maths success!



We were delighted to see over 44% of our Year 7 and 8 entrants to the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge achieve certificates, compared to a figure of 40% nationally. 8 of our students achieved the highest Gold award, these were: Henry Beagley, Matthew Bunkle, Harry Tanner, Annabel Tiffin, Eliza Corbett, Jonathan Easo from Year 7, and Oscar Potter and Ollie Holt from Year 8. Oscar Potter (Y8), Henry Beagley, Matthew Bunkle and Harry Tanner (Y7) further qualified for the Kangaroo round with all four being awarded certificates. The Junior Kangaroo is a follow-on round to the Junior Mathematical Challenge. It is a 60-minute, multiple-choice challenge consisting of 25 problems. Only the top 3% of students from the Junior Mathematical Challenge qualify to take part in the Junior Kangaroo so this is a huge achievement. Henry and Oscar both jointly achieved Best In School.

Well done to everyone who entered the original competition and particular congratulations to all those who were awarded certificates.

## Work experience

Throughout the last 3 weeks of term over 120 companies in Harrogate, York, Leeds and beyond have been supporting Year 11 students on work experience. Staff visiting the placements have received overwhelmingly positive feedback - students have universally reported increased confidence and insight into the world of work and testimonials from employers have included the following comments: '... a delightful student who has put 100% effort into everything she's done. He has worked extremely hard and is a real credit to St. Aidan's. The whole team have found her to be a joy to have around.'



Life in all its fullness

## Life as a Sikh in Britain

On Tuesday 28th July Year 8 gathered in the Main Hall to listen to Dr Jasjit Singh, Associate Professor at the School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science, University of Leeds. Dr Singh began by explaining Sikh Dharma and then spoke about his experience as a Sikh in modern Britain, before inviting questions. Year 8 responded brilliantly, drawing on their knowledge of studying the Sikh religion in RS to ask everything from are you a vegetarian through to have you ever been bullied because of your faith. The whole hour was filled, with hands up even as the bell rang. We all appreciated Dr Singh's openness and honesty - which extended to showing us how long his turban is and proving that he can tie it in 35 seconds - and look forward to welcoming him back to St Aidan's next year.

## Author visits Year 12

Over the last couple of weeks, we English A-level students have enjoyed participating in a number of sessions with inspirational writers. As well as being a great support for our NEAs, the sessions provided a lot of insight for aspiring writers and prospective English undergraduates. We were pleased to hear the poetry of Sarah Wimbush, whose work explored diverse cultures on our doorstep; Robert Hamberger, who presented a poignant set of poems focussing on his experiences as a gay man; and Jane Clarke, whose poetry hinged on themes of the natural world and its beauty. Additionally, we were visited by ex-student, Lisa Bradley, now a published author and deputy head of the Journalism department at Sheffield University. Her session was invaluable to any future-novelists, covering the character-creating process in a fun way without losing any sense of depth. The opportunity to ask questions and interact with these writers was also invaluable, giving a unique understanding of the texts we were shown. Overall, it has been a joy to hear from these writers and the experience will certainly be useful for those looking to pursue the field of literature longer-term. Sam Shores, Y12



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## Year 7, 8 & 9 have fun at the Yorkshire Show!



On 12 and 13 July Years 7, 8 and 9 visited the Great Yorkshire Show. The weather was great for both days and the students were given the freedom to wander around the wonderful stalls and attractions at the show meeting back at the picnic area for lunch and to register before heading on the walk back to school. There were some purchases at the show that needed a lift back to school on the minibus these included Mr Pallant's Agapanthus and a giant pink unicorn!

## Interform pizza making competition winners make a guest appearance at Yorkshire Show

12 students from Year 8 were invited by celebrated Chef Steph Moon to demonstrate their food skills on the stage at the Great Yorkshire Show's Game Theatre. They were the winners of the Year 8 Interform Food Technology Competition earlier this year. Steph was so impressed with their skills when she judged the competition she asked us to join her in the Game Theatre this week.

The students showed off their fantastic skills in the first group by making Venison Calzone, Greek Salad, Fluffy Pancakes with fruit skewers and Strawberry and Yorkshire Rhubarb Icecream. The second group made delicious Duck Stuffed Crust Pizza, Pear Flan and Parmesan potatoes served with homemade garlic mayonnaise. Steph and the audience were really impressed with their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to produce such complex recipes in such a short time.

Michelin starred chef Shaun Rankin was also on the programme, alongside our ex student and apprentice chef Ollie Wenn. Ollie met Steph Moon when he won the same competition 4 years ago and started to develop his career as a chef. He worked on lots of projects with Steph and at Rudding Park before leaving school and starting his professional apprenticeship. Ollie made two delicious and stunning dishes, Pheasant Summer Rolls with hoi sin and Rudding Park Kitchen Garden herbs and edible flowers, and a Venison Tartare with gherkin gel, caramelised onions and red mustard frill. We are so grateful to Steph Moon who really has inspired our young chefs at St Aidan's - one Year 8 who was involved in the cookery demo at the Great Yorkshire Show emailed the teacher with the following words: "When I chose my year 9 subjects I dropped food but now I know what I do in year 9 and the amount of fun I had at the Yorkshire show cooking it changed my mind".





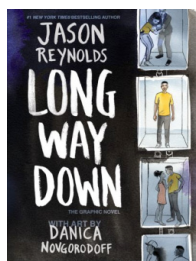
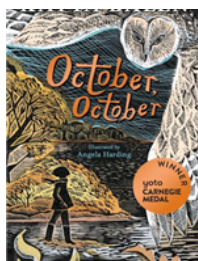
## London Politics trip



We took 44 Politics and History Year 12 students to London for a two-night stay in mid-July. Our first stop was at the Imperial War Museum, where we had a chance to explore the various exhibits and galleries. From there it was a short walk to the London Eye where we enjoyed some fine panoramic views of the city. A visit to watch Mamma Mia rounded off the day. We began the next day with a visit to the gates of Downing Street after which we bumped into Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng, who kindly stopped for a photo while striding purposefully towards the entrance of Parliament. A short while later on our tour of Westminster we looked down from the Public Gallery to watch questions being put to the Business Secretary: we now understood his rush. The tour was followed by an interactive workshop on law-making and a Q&A with Harrogate MP Andrew Jones. We then walked to the Treasury where former student Matthew Beer now works as a policy advisor. It was fascinating to see civil servants at work and also the Chancellor's office. We then enjoyed some time in Covent Garden before watching The Play That Goes Wrong. The final day included a trip to the wonderful Churchill War Rooms followed by some shopping time on Oxford Street. Although London was parched by the heatwave, it did not mar the enthusiasm of the students, who relished the mixture of political and historical interest alongside the more relaxed and fun elements.

## Summer reads

It's been the season of children's book awards, and here are the amazing winners of the Kate Greenaway Medal (for book illustration), the Carnegie Medal and the Children's Book Awards – all available in the Library. Please click on the pictures below to find out more recommendations specific to your year group.



## Slapton Sands Trip



After a very early 4.30am meet time, a group of 37 Year 12 Geographers set off on a 9 hour journey to the south coast of Devon. The aim was to spend 4 days in the area around Slapton Sands carrying out fieldwork for the Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). This NEA is worth 20% of their A-level and involves students creating a unique title to investigate a part of their Geography course in more detail. In the first two days students were given the chance to recce various locations in the area including the tiny village of Slapton, the coastal villages of Torcross and Beesands and the stunning shingle ridge that runs along the coast in front of Slapton Ley, a freshwater lake and Site of Special Scientific Interest just metres behind the beach. Once we'd seen the area, the students got to work refining their titles and designing their data collection methods. On the morning of Day 3 everyone set off, determined to collect every piece of data that was needed for their title, but collaborating and supporting one another in their teams. The students worked hard, and despite the scorchingly hot conditions, everyone managed to get the information they needed. As teachers, we could not have been prouder of our 6th formers, the work they completed, their kindness to one another and their wonderfully positive attitudes. We hope the students had a great time too!

## EcoClub waste tips

Batteries are part of our every day life, but did you know there are serious problems from not disposing of these correctly? 20,000 tonnes of batteries go to landfill every year. They contain toxic metals and chemicals that pollute the environment such as mercury, zinc and lithium. Not only this, but dead batteries can be damaging to your health - your eyes, skin and even your lungs. In Knaresborough, a bin lorry actually set on fire because somebody put their laptop battery in the wrong bin!

This can easily be avoided by recycling your used batteries. It's easy to do and there are lots of collection points in the local community. Save used batteries up at home and you can drop them off at most supermarkets, schools or DIY stores to recycle. All Cancer Research stores have them too, where they are actually paid £100 per tonne collected, so you can recycle and support a charity too!

## Hundreds enjoy the sunshine for Family Fest!

To celebrate our fantastic brand new 3G pitch (which has been six years in the planning stages) FOSA wanted to hold an event that gave our school community an opportunity to come together and see it up close! With the help of our fabulous PE department, Mr Strover and Mr Holdsworth arranged the first ever tournament to win the St. Aidan's Challenge Cup. Around 100 students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 took part and battled it out in the heat to win. The winning teams were presented with medals from our special guests, footballers Josh Falkingham (Harrogate Town Captain), George Horbury (Year 13 St. Aidan's student and new signing for Harrogate Town) and former Leeds Utd and England defender Danny Mills. The winning Year 9 team The Brexit Ballers delighted Josh Falkingham with their bespoke 'We Love Josh Falkingham' slogan on their kits! The sunshine brought out pupils, families and staff who arrived in their hundreds on the day to be greeted by the fabulous Crackerjack BBQ and Kele Beans who served her very own blend of coffee from her van – Iced Coffee being a particular favourite on the day. Students, parents, governors and staff helpers were so much appreciated and among many other jobs, provided a mobile ice lolly stall to keep everyone cool. The giant football dart board looked spectacular and there were also classics such as the Cake Stall, Tombola, Hook a Duck and Name the Teddy. The day was compered by Your Harrogate Radio's Alex Cann and to bring further 'fest' to Family Fest were student band Three Strikes who played a fantastic set of Soul and Jazz music. The total profit raised was £1413.50 which FOSA are delighted with as there were costs to make the event possible. The FOSA team is made up of a handful of parents who contribute their free time and work hard raising money which all goes back into the school to benefit as many students as possible. We are a friendly and welcoming committee who would appreciate any help that any parent can give, big or small. It is not essential to come to all the meetings or commit lots of time and it's a great way to get to know people in the school community and have an insight into the workings of our wonderful school. Please visit the FOSA area of the school website for further information and check dates for meetings or if you have any questions, please email [k.caine@staidans.co.uk](mailto:k.caine@staidans.co.uk)



## Well done Aidan's Maidens!

Congratulations to our fabulous all-female staff team 'Aidan's Maidens' who ran the Race for Life on Sunday 10 July. Marking the ten year anniversary for Aidan's Maidens (previously Aidan's Angels and All Saints), the team braved the blistering heat to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Well done to Mrs Searby for organizing the team and to all the team for taking part. They raised a huge £875!

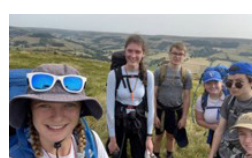


## See the 3G in development



## D of E Gold Award

Congratulations to the students that completed their 4-day Duke of Edinburgh Gold Assessed Expedition in the North Yorkshire Moors July 2022. To start on what could possibly be the day that the UK had record breaking temperatures the students had a very early start to get out on the moor before the heat rose to temperatures that would halt their expedition. All groups were out of camp before 5:30am and had a very successful day hiking 18Km and making their way to Rosedale Abbey. Overnight the weather changed and dropped a good 10 degrees to allow for much nicer hiking conditions. It even allowed for a little lie in meaning a slightly later start on the remaining days. All the students were fantastic throughout the expedition, they demonstrated skills that they practiced in their previous expedition to show how proficient they have become. Team work, will power, patience and fitness were all tested and challenges overcome to allow for success. Well done!





## Lower school sports achievement awards

The Lower School Sports Achievements Awards were held in Constance Green Hall on the sunny evening of Tuesday 12 July. Over 150 pupils were in attendance from Years 7 to 9, along with their family members. All the pupils had contributed to school sport in one way or another. Pupils were invited as they were part of a variety of successful teams nominated by their teacher. It was brilliant to reflect on all the sporting achievements of our students over the past year in sports including Athletics, Cross County, Squash, Football, Netball, Cricket, Basketball, Rounders and Hockey. Every student received a mention for the teams they were part of and a medal from our special guest Paul Stansfield who is Director at Harrogate Town Academy. Paul also handed out awards to those who had made an Outstanding Contribution to School Sport in each year group, the Year 9s who were the most improved over the last three years and to the Team of the Year! Congratulations to the following recipients of these awards.

For an Outstanding Contribution to Sport the awards went to: Immy Hartley and India Gooden (Year 7) and Aaron Robson and Josh Taylor (Year 7), Jess Warren and Eliza Henry (Year 8), John Regnier (Year 8), Elena Dickson (Year 9) Otis Baker, Sam Grass and Ollie Holdsworth (Year 9).

For Outstanding Progress in PE and Sport, the awards went to Grace Brierley (Year 9) and Will Daniels (Year 9).

The Team of the Year was awarded to the Key Stage 3 Squash Team which is: Archie King, Adam Smith, James Townley, Tommy Simpson, Thomas Taylor and Elliot Campbell.

Paul Stansfield gave a speech talking about the benefits of sport to young people and how, above all, taking part in sport helps to teach resilience and how this is one of the most important skills we need in life. Congratulations to everyone who takes part in sport at St. Aidan's and a huge thanks to Mr Strover and our fabulous PE department who have worked tirelessly on extra - curricular sport across the school over the last academic year.





## Celebrating our students



On Saturday 16 July, Elliot Hunter in year 12 took part in the WSAF European Aikido Championships in Dartford, Kent. Despite spending 11 hours in an unairconditioned dojo he won 2 silver medals and a bronze medal in the under 19 category. Elliot, aged 17, started Aikido, which is a defensive martial art, when he was only 5 and has been competing ever since. Teams from across Europe were taking part, including one from Ukraine. Well done Elliot, what a fantastic achievement!



Congratulations to Ella McIntosh who has recently come 2nd in the English Schools competition with a huge Personal Best for throwing the hammer – 41.82m! Ella is currently ranked 10th in the country for the hammer. We are very proud of you Ella!



We are celebrating the achievements of Year 10 student Poppy Winspear who has done brilliantly making it into the Yorkshire Girls Rugby Team. Poppy started playing rugby at Harrogate Rugby Club at the start of last season. She was selected for the Yorkshire U15 girls' squad and played as Centre in three tournaments featuring Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire. Congratulations Poppy!

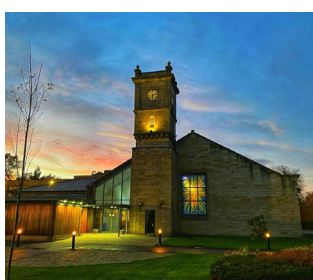
## Cricket news

On Thursday 14 July, the Year 9 cricket team won a thriller against a very strong Richmond side in the last over to progress to the North Yorkshire Final against Queen Ethelburga's School. A great all-round display in the field restricted Richmond to 118/7. The team knocked them off with 2 balls to spare. Sam Grass got 48 and Ollie Holdsworth 30 not out. Callum Wood hit the winning runs. The final will be played in September.



## Upcoming dates for your diary

22 July	School Breaks up for the summer	1 & 2 September	Year 12 Enrolment Interviews
18 August	Sixth Form Results Day	5 September	Staff Training Day
25 August	GCSE Results Day	6/7 September	Year 7 & 12 Return /All other students return



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))