

INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.25 - JANUARY 2023



Top 200 sporting	
31 (77) Grammar School at Leeds	90 (-) West Brit
32 (18) Abingdon School	91 (114) Brighton
33 (103) St Aidan's HS Harrogate	92 (56) County
34 (13) Sedburgh School	93 (-) Becket K
35 (121) Cheadle Hulme School	94 (199) Stann
36 (-) Holy Trinity School, Crawley	95 (-) Formby
37 (183) Yarm School	96 (-) Heaton
38 (145) St Swithun's School	97 (129) Mann
39 (-) Bradfield College	98 (-) St Geo
40 (10) Reed's School	99 (-) Bristol
41 (110) Trinity School Croydon	100 (133) New
42 (103) Bradford GS	101 (-) Brims
43 (-) Widdowson Girls School	102 (61) Mar
44 (-) Fitzwilliam School	103 (-) Warr
45 (26) Perse School	104 (179) E
46 (80) Calday Grange GS	105 (-) High
47 (96) Shrewsbury School	106 (-) New
48 (-) Idd School	107 (-) Ben



Happy New Year! I know it feels like a long time ago now and February half term is fast approaching, where does the time go? All staff in the Yorkshire Causeway Trust began the new year with an historic Training Day. This was the first time that staff from across the Trust schools and the central team, have been together in one space. Our Interim CEO Jane Goodwin, delivered an inspirational speech which reminded us of our core values and why we exist as a Trust. At St Aidan's we express those values in W.A.L.K (Wisdom, Aspiration, Learning together, and Kindness) Our values, together with our strong Christian ethos, form the backbone of our school community, lived by us all, each day. An ethos soon to be shared by our new Headteacher. The advert went live on 16th January and we aim to appoint a new Head for September 2023. Speaking personally, I cannot imagine a more fulfilling and rewarding job. I will keep you updated about our progress with this important appointment.

Finally, news just in...St Aidan's has been named by School Sport Magazine as one of the top schools in the country (both state and independent) for student achievement in sports. We were 33rd out of the top 200 making our students within the elite 3% of all schools nationally. An incredible achievement by our students, supported by the amazing sports staff here at St Aidan's. Congratulations!

I hope you enjoy the rest of the term and students manage a well-earned rest over the half term holiday.

Sixth Form Academic Advisors

Sixth Form Academic Advisors meet each Thursday lunchtime in the Independent Learning Centre. This is a voluntary role that involves supporting students in Year 10 or 11 who are receiving mentoring in the ILC with their GCSEs. It offers Sixth Formers the opportunity to evidence skills such as communication, leadership and community to be used in progression after Sixth Form. The younger students find it really helpful to have this support during what can be challenging years.



Shut Down Friday!

Eco club have been meeting and discussing their aims for the coming term. They will firstly be launching 'Shut Down Friday' which will involve creating a whole school initiative to switch all classroom lights off at the end of the day on Friday, turn off computers and other electronic devices and also turn the radiators down before we leave for the weekend. They will be leading an assembly alongside Mr Thornton very soon. They are also launching a huge battery recycling scheme, and will be strengthening links with Ridding Park! As always, they are enjoying discussing important issues linked to sustainability each week, and continue in their efforts to make School a more sustainable place.

Year 11 Mocks



Straight after the Christmas holidays it was time for GCSE mock examinations. The Year 11 students conducted themselves very well throughout and the whole experience seemed positive and went well. Thank you also to Mrs Mahoney and her team for the superb leadership and organisation of the mocks.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International has been running at St. Aidan's for over 10 years now and is a well attended and active club in the school. The main focus is human rights. We work to raise awareness of important human rights issues, lobby the powers that be to ensure justice and equitable treatment for everyone, and sometimes fundraise for Amnesty International as an organisation.

So far this year we have written to international embassies, made flowers of peace for display round the school building, entered competitions writing essays on human rights topics, signed petitions and planned events for Human Rights Week. Look out for us in March when we'll be running a series of events!

Everybody is welcome at Amnesty International - students from Y7-13 currently attend. We are friendly, welcoming and open to any suggestions you have for the group; next week we are going to be looking into a women's rights issue raised by one of our members. It's a privilege to be involved with such compassionate and thoughtful students who tackle challenging subjects in an intelligent and creative way.



When was the last time you wore that outfit stuffed in the bottom of your wardrobe? If it's been a while, bring your unloved clothes, suitable for Year 10-13, to the Geography office by the 10th of February. Do your bit for the climate, and buy Skinted!

We are raising money in aid of Labour behind the label. Labour Behind the Label is a charity which aims to protect workers from exploitation and fights for fair pay. We are holding a second hand vintage clothing sale on 23rd and 24th of February, come along to buy, donate and support.



The return of the Year 7 Quiz!

Friday 20 January saw the return of the FOSA Year 7 Quiz an event that is held with the aim of introducing those newest to the St Aidan's school community to other families. Hosted by Quizmaster extraordinaire and Head of Year 7 Mr Taylor, the evening was a great success with almost 200 people attending. Along with the quiz, there was a tombola and sweet stall for the students and a bar for the adults. Everyone had a fantastic time and a delighted 7G were crowned Year 7 Quiz winners and presented with a shiny trophy! The evening raised around £800 which will be put towards a new outdoor area and equipment at school which is currently in the planning stages. If you would like to donate towards this new facility, you are very welcome to do so via ParentPay – anything you can give would make a big difference and FOSA thank you in advance for these donations. FOSA would love new members to join their small but friendly team and particularly need someone with accountancy skills. If you could help or give any time at all, please do get in touch by emailing marketing@staidans.co.uk.



Talks from a Cambridge undergraduate

We were delighted to welcome former St Aidan's & St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form student Matt Ball into school in December. He is currently embarking upon his third year in Natural Sciences at The University of Cambridge and spoke with Sixth Form students about the following aspects of university life: The experience of higher education, how life has been at Cambridge, interesting/ challenging aspects of a Natural Sciences qualification, future plans beyond University with such a qualifications and advice on succeeding in exams and Sixth Form.



Henry gets a mention!

It's not everyday that you get a mention in a magazine! Last month Year 8's Henry Lowe was featured in Angling Times magazine to celebrate him catching a 3lb Common Carp at Sunrise Lakes in Spofforth.

Well done Henry!



Associated Sixth Form Information Evening

Thursday 19 January was Sixth Form Information Evening and school was buzzing with staff and student ambassadors greeting our guests – all keen to share their knowledge about the Associated Sixth Form and what a great place it is to study. Parents of current Year 11 students and newcomer students and their parents spoke to subject staff, met our wonderful Sixth Form team, chatted to the Careers team and enjoyed refreshments on offer in the Sixth Form Café. Student Ambassadors were on hand to guide them around school for the first part of the evening, then later there was a talk in Constance Green Hall.

The St John Fisher Jazz and Swing band filled the hall with uplifting music followed by entertainment from the accomplished St Aidan's Chamber Choir. Presentations were given by the Heads of both schools Mr Thornton and Mr Mort and also the Directors of Sixth Form, Mr Kidman and Mr Sharpe. The only thing left to hear was the student perspective which Senate Leader Ben Green and Congress leader Ivana Philip delivered brilliantly. These presentations are now available to view on the school website.

Huge thanks to all who came to see what the Associated Sixth Form can offer and to our fantastic staff and students who made our guests so welcome on the night.

A reminder for those wishing to apply for the Associated Sixth Form that you can do this by visiting the Sixth Form area of the school website or [click here](#). The deadline for applications is Friday 3 March 2023.



Half Faces Exhibition

Year 8 have worked incredibly hard practising their tonal work and as a result have produced these outstanding half face drawings. We are incredibly proud of the time, effort and skills that have gone into the pieces by all the students. They are all currently on display in the school entrance and in the art block. Well done Year 8!



FLG channel Mondrian

The Foundation Learning Group has been creating some wonderful art work in the style of the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian who was a pioneer of abstract art. We think they have captured his work brilliantly - well done everyone!



St Aidan's Song Contest

Dancing all the way to Portugal



In celebration of the Eurovision Song Contest coming to the UK this year, St Aidan's is hosting its very own song writing competition for Year 7 to 13. Open to bands, soloists, duets, small groups and GCSE or A Level students can even send in a coursework composition.

It must be original work with someone singing and it can be accompanied by either instruments or an electronic backing track.

Record the song and save it to OneDrive and send Mrs Elliott the link with the name of the composer and performer to: V.Elliott@staidans.co.uk. It will be judged by staff from the music department and other members of staff. The deadline for entries is March 1st and there will be a grand finale in Constance Green Hall on March 20th. We can't wait to hear the entries so get composing!



Liam in Year 10 has been dancing since he was ten years old and thanks to hard work and determination, he has made it to the finals of the Dance World Cup to be held in Braga Portugal in June this year.

A member of Extension Dance Academy in Barnsley, he entered the competition with both Jazz and Contemporary pieces winning 3rd and 9th places. It is his Jazz performance that he takes to the final and he is really excited about it explaining; "I am going to have to do some fundraising to pay for things such as my uniform as these things don't come cheap!" With this in mind he is currently planning some sponsored personal challenges including doing 2000 press ups before he goes in June!

Liam's dance journey started with Commercial before moving on to Contemporary, Jazz and Ballet. His favourite genre is Contemporary because "it's not about how high you can kick, it's more about free will and interpreting music". His inspiration includes Northern School of Contemporary Dance and choreographers Liam Sale and Josie Lee. He is also looking forward to experiencing the Rambert Dance Company perform their homage to Peaky Blinders at the Alhambra in Bradford with Miss Miller and fellow GCSE Dance students this month.

Liam recently gave a memorable performance in St Aidan's school show Legally Blonde and dreams of one day being in the cast of the West End production Newsies. He also hopes to own his own "massive dance company" one day - we look forward to seeing what the future brings and wish him all the best with the Dance World Cup in June!

Triple offers for Twins

Year 13 Twins George and Ben Fearnley are well known in the St Aidan's school community and beyond for their musical talent. George plays the Tenor Horn and Ben the Trumpet, Cornet and Soprano Cornet. They have taken part in numerous musical events at school over the years including recent concerts and Ben being in the band for the School Production Legally Blonde.

Now in their final year in the Associated Sixth Form, a bright future awaits them with both brothers securing offers from all three Musical Conservatoires that they applied for – Cardiff, Manchester and Birmingham not to mention both being considered for a scholarship from Birmingham!

We looked back at their journey which started with both boys playing cornet in Summerbridge and Dacre Band aged nine years old. In Ben's words "We were sick of sitting next to each other" so George picked a different instrument and the pair have gone from strength to strength developing their individual musical talents ever since.

The next ensemble they joined aged 11 was Ripon City Band where their dad played and this is where they met soon to be mentor Martin Hall who has had a life-changing impact on both boys. As conductor of Tewit Youth band, he took the boys under his wing; teaching, inspiring and pushing them forward. From Intermediate Band members, they have progressed to the Senior Band, Ben playing Soprano Cornet and George Solo Horn, gaining experience in contests and concerts all the way.

In 2018, Tewit Silver Band was formed 'under the baton' of Martin and the boys have enjoyed being a key part of this with multiple consecutive wins moving the band from the fourth section up to the second section and they're still going – the band hope to move up to the first section very soon.

Both boys also joined the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band around four years ago and Ben is now the Principal Cornet and George the Solo Horn and Mentor. YYBB is run by Black Dyke (known for their contribution to the famous Beatles song 'Yellow Submarine') and this enabled the boys to meet Richard Marshall who is one of the best Cornet Players in the world. They have since had lessons from Marshall who in Ben's words has taken them to "another level".

Offers and opportunities have come since including George being asked to play with the Black Dyke Band and Brighouse & Rastrick Band, and Ben being asked to play Soprano Cornet with Carlton Main Frickley Colliery (another of the world's top brass bands). George has been offered the position of Youth Ambassador for Geneva Instruments and they have both successfully auditioned for The National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

When asked what advice they would give younger students, George without delay said; "Don't give up when playing your instrument gets tough, just stick it out" and Ben (who is a member of St Aidan's Chamber Choir) emphatically advised; "All kids should try singing".

Their favourite memories of St Aidan's include celebrating Chamber Choir's 30th anniversary at Ripon Cathedral and the 50 years of St Aidan's celebration at the International Centre, performing with Symphonic Wind Band at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham and performing with Swing Band in the Big Band Jazz Festival.

What does the future hold for this dynamic duo? For George it's the possibility of teaching and sharing his skills that appeals to him – with his experience as Musical Director at Tewit Training Band, he's already on his way. Meanwhile, Ben likes the idea of being a session musician or perhaps going down the music technology route. We hope they will both keep in touch.



Success for Jess



In the Christmas holidays Year 9 student Jess Warren (pictured here in the Goal Shooter bib) represented North Yorkshire in the U15A Netball team in the regional tournament. She played GA and GS and her team, North Yorkshire won the tournament! So a great achievement for the county as West Yorkshire are the team to beat! Well done to Jess and all the North Yorkshire Under 15 netball team!

Interform Results



Basketball

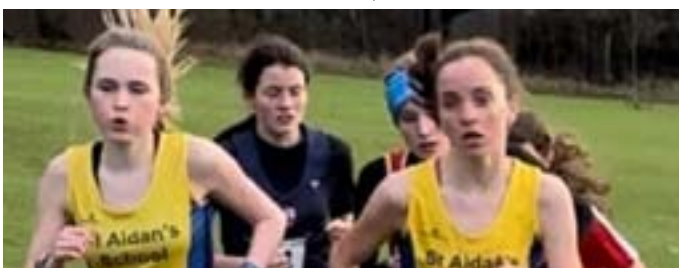


Earlier this month we were thrilled to see the start of the Junior NBA competition which our newly formed Year 7 and 8 team form competed in. In Round 1, they lost by just one point but are showing great potential and have a number of fixtures coming up this term.



The Year 11 Basketball team competed in the Year 11 Area Schools Basketball Competition which we hosted here at St Aidan's. The competition involved five other teams and St Aidan's progressed through to the final where they met a very strong and physical QE side and narrowly missed out on the win. Well done to all the players as runners up in Harrogate and Craven

Cross country news



County schools races to select County teams took place this month.

1st place for Ellie Simpson, 2nd place for Elena Dickson, 3rd for Niamh Robinson in their races. County selection also for James deBussy, Eva Schuster, Lizzie Taylor-Chadwick, Arran Robson, Ben Graham, Alfie Charlton, Luke Shacklock, Seren Melling and Tom Midwood. Well done everyone!

Our cross country runners are looking forward to the National Cross Country Relays which are taking place on 1st February!

Squash



Well done to the Key Stage 3 squash team who this month won their regional round against Gosforth, Shelley College and Lincoln Minster. They have qualified for the National Finals! What fantastic news!

Hockey



Well done to the Under 13 boys hockey team who came 5th in the Area Tournament at St Peter's. They were up against very strong opposition but showed great resilience and determination to win their last two games.



The Year 7 A and B girls hockey teams welcomed Queen Ethelburga's this month. All players worked really hard and encouraged each other throughout with both St Aidan's teams coming away with a win. Well done everyone!

Finally, we wish all the best to the Under 14 Girls Hockey Team who are due to play in the Nationals on February 6th – we are very proud of you all and look forward to hearing how you get on!

Football Round Up

January has been a busy month for football across all year groups for both boys and girls teams and many fixtures have been cancelled due to ice on the pitches including the popular GSAL all years football fixture. Here is just some of the football news from the month.

Earlier this month, the Year 7 A team (pictured top left) played well against a big, strong South Hunsley team in the ESFA Elite National Quarter Finals. The game could have gone either way with both teams having good chances, but South Hunsley managed to come out winners 2-1 with a well taken goal in the second half. The boys should be proud of their efforts and what an achievement to make it this far in such a competitive competition.

Meanwhile the Year 7 B team just played in the last 32 of ESFA Cup against St Joseph's school from Newcastle. After going 3-0 down the lads got it back to 4-2 at half time and then back to 4-4 with 3mins to go. We couldn't get the winner and St Joseph's nicked a winning goal with the last kick of the game. Great determination showed by all the players.

Year 8 played Harrogate Grammar School on Thursday 26 January and despite playing really well, they lost by a margin to a strong side. The score was 3-2 with goals from Charlie Baxter and Ed Colbert.

The Year 9 football team (pictured top right) lost 4-3 against Aklam Grange in Round 5 of the ESFA Schools Cup last week. Coach Mr Margerison commented "The boys played really well and, on another day, could have gone through". Well done to all who played and made it this far in the competition.

The Year 10 football team (pictured bottom left) have made it through to the quarter finals of the County Cup and are in the semi finals of the Area Cup. Well done to all who played and we look forward to seeing how they get on in the next rounds.

With some changes in planned fixtures and the GSAL match cancelled while enroute to Leeds, Year 11 are really looking forward to playing in the last 16 of the ESFA in the final week of the month.

On Wednesday 25 January, the Sixth form football team (pictured bottom centre) played well in an Area Cup game against Queen Ethelburga's. In a game of lots of chances, they equalised in the second half but then unfortunately conceded late goals to lose 4-1. The team will now focus on the County Cup.

Earlier this month the Under 13s girls football team (pictured bottom right) travelled to Nelson, Lancashire to represent Harrogate Town FC in the Utilita North Regional Finals. They came away with 4 losses, 2 draws and 2 wins. The girls played exceptionally well and even beat the eventual winners in the early stages. Well done to all.

The Under 14s Girls football team (pictured top middle) were runners up in the Area 5-a-side tournament with three wins and one loss. A great achievement!

Well done to everyone who takes part in school football - you all show great examples of community and determination when you play and win or lose, we are always proud of the way you conduct yourselves while representing the school. Huge thanks must go to our fantastic team of PE staff for their ongoing coaching and commitment to the teams - what a great start to 2023!



Netball Round Up

Our netballers have been busy so far this year. On January 16th, the Under 13s played Woodhouse Grove School at home. A, B and C teams were all involved and came away with 1 win and 2 losses. Great community and resilience was shown while playing in freezing temperatures.

Meanwhile, on the same day, the Year 7 A and B team travelled away for their friendly against St Mary's Menston. Both teams have been working hard to develop their passing and shooting and this has paid off with both teams coming away with a win! More recently, the Under 16 B team (pictured here) travelled to St Hilda's School in Liverpool last week to compete in the next round of the Sisters in Sport competition. The girls battled it out but were not able to break the well drilled side.

Finally, the Under 12 A and B team (B team are pictured here) hosted Ilkley Grammar and the A team won 5-4 and B team drew 2-2. Well done everyone!



St Aidan's rated as being in top 3% of Sports Schools in the country!

Each year the School Sport Magazine compile a list of the top sports schools in the country. This is only the second time the list has included both independent and state schools together. The list is based on performances in up to 20 different sports, more weighting is given to success in a range of sports rather than single sports and those sports with more schools competing. Reaching the top 30 puts you in the top 1% of the country's state or independent sporting schools, the top 100 puts you in the top 3% while the top 200 puts you in the top 5%. Schools usually have to reach the later stages of at least two, three or four national competitions to make the list.

We are really proud of our staff and students to have come 33rd in this list and although it is not the only or most important metric to be measured by, it is great for the student's performances in national competitions to be recognised. To be able to reach this level of performance while still maintaining an inclusive extra-curricular programme accessed by so many students is testament to the hard work by all the students and the staff involved in the extra curricular programme.

Dates for your diary

2nd Feb: Annual Book Sale

20th Feb: Return to school

9th Feb: Jazz Night

22nd Feb: Year 9 Options Evening

11th Feb: Half Term begins



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)