

# INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.27 - MARCH 2023



As we come to the end of term, it is a privilege to share just some of the school news about our staff and students who set such a wonderful example by living 'life in all its fullness'.

We recently had 'National Offer Day' for Y6 students and would like to extend a warm welcome to those students and their families that will be starting with us in Year 7. We are very excited to meet them during our summer transition programme. Welcome to the St Aidan's family!

Easter is a joyous time for us at St Aidan's as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his promise of eternal life. We have gathered for worship within the school community and look forward to the Easter break and much needed time to rest and recharge ready for the busy summer term ahead.

Happy Easter everyone!

Mr Thornton



John 10:10 "I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness."

## Ask Twice say the ILC

The Independent Learning Centre is promoting - ASK TWICE - with a new display and some prompts to help understand what this means. It's all about the campaign to follow up the - Are you OK question - with a second question. Asking twice is a really effective way for us all to feel that the ask is genuine and that we are being seen. Research shows that this simple follow up question can help all of us feel good and supported.

Why not try it yourself and open up the conversation.

Are you OK ? Do you fancy a game of footie?

Are you OK ? I'm walking my dog; do you want to come too ?



## Sixth Form French Students go to Nantes

Congratulations to the Year 12 and 13 French students who have recently returned from one of the most challenging, but rewarding weeks of their lives.

The thirteen youngsters spent a fully immersive week in the vibrant city of Nantes not only staying in French families and of course speaking French the entire time, but also spending their days at work. Placements were spread around the city and ranged from hotels, restaurants and cafes, to shops, a nursery, a foodbank and a variety of social centres.

"I could not have been more proud of them," said Mr. Weare on his return. "Some worked a full 8-hour day, including chatting to colleagues in French all lunch, before then returning 'home' and spending the evening playing board games and chatting to their host families. To do all this in a foreign language is an incredible achievement. They were truly amazing."

It was not just the teachers who were impressed. Feedback from the employers was also glowing: "Outstanding", "Better than all the French students we've ever had" and "Can she come back and work for us in the summer?" were some of the fabulous comments received. Particular highlights were: Zoe Sims being offered a permanent job in her family-run restaurant at the end of her first day; Eve Greenwood starring in a promotional video clip on her toy shop's Instagram; Isabel Miles running her café virtually single-handedly by the end of the week; and Maddy Wilson patiently explaining to her foodbank customers what they could and couldn't have.

The young people's French improved no end over the course of the week, but they took away so much more too. What an incredible experience! Félicitations à toutes et à tous !

## Sixth Form in Cologne



Sixth Form German students enjoyed a week in Cologne earlier this month. With time spent at a language school, a visit to Bonn to learn about post-war Germany, a visit to the zoo and a spot of cafe culture the experience was a wonderful one. It also provided an excellent opportunity to improve their German.

## D of E Gold practice Expedition

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition in the Yorkshire Dales. 22-24 March

A group of brave Y12 students embarked on a VERY wet and windy expedition carrying all their equipment and food. It was a sunny start when practising map reading and navigation skills with an instructor. The groups all arrived into camp at sunset ready to pitch tents and then begin their outdoor cooking in the dark. There were some gourmet meals produced by some very tired and chilly individuals before heading to bed for a good nights sleep ready to go again the next morning.

Day 2 brought about a new set of challenges with some incredible rain. Many individuals were soaked from head to toe, through every layer of clothing, even the water proof layers! The persistent rain was testing but moral was high and the students continued though to their next campsite. They were greeted by more rain and a biting wind. Tents were pitched quickly, cooking was a challenge but all went to sleep having removed all waterproofs and socks for drying. Staff worked through the night to get kit dry for the next leg of the expedition. During the night the freezing wind howled at approximately 45 knots and the rain continued to fall, not all slept well, some were very tired the following day. Dry kit was returned to students ready to pack up and set off for a final day of walking. This expedition was a test of commitment, perseverance and determination. It pushed students' fitness and will power to the edge as well as equipping them with the social skills to work as a team.

All groups successfully completed the expedition and are now looking forward to the assessed expedition that will take place on the North York Moors in the summer.





## Spring Concert

Constance Green Hall was filled with music to suit every taste from our talented Senior ensembles at our Spring Concert.

The evening opened with classical treats from the Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Mrs Leonard. Senior Choir then performed contemporary hits from Coldplay and Miley Cyrus with some beautiful harmonies. Mrs Elliott together with students Miranda Kidman, Maria Devenny and Bassoon teacher Mrs Garside, followed with The Bassoon Quartet who entertained us with their first ever performance! Our Head of Music made it clear that any students wishing to learn this 'endangered' instrument that is close to her heart, would be very welcome. School Worship group Aidan's Flame were next with soul hits from Stevie Wonder and Coldplay and are now available outside of school for events under their rebranded name 'Flame'! Following this, were our upbeat Swing Band who performed hits including Stevie Wonder classics and Ben Fearnley brought a tear to many eyes with his moving rendition of my Funny Valentine on Flugel Horn. It was then Chamber Choir's turn who were stunning as ever with Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my Heart and an uplifting arrangement of Oh When the Saints. Symphonic Wind Band led by Mr Elliott brought the evening to an end with Yorkshire Overture and Coldplay in Symphony.

Throughout the evening a handful of students were given Musical Director's Awards for their fantastic attitude and contribution to each ensemble and also a Musicianship award for outstanding musical contribution to each ensemble. Our Year 13 musicians who are coming to the end of their time at St Aidan's were also thanked by Mrs Elliott for all they have contributed over the years, standing up to rousing applause from the audience – with their talent and the leadership that they have given our younger students, we will miss them when they leave.

Date for the diary: Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir will soon perform at St Marks Church on 20th April, tickets can be bought on Eventbrite and are available if you click [here](#).



## Swing Band Win Awards



Earlier this month, St. Aidan's Swing Band competed in the Great North Big Band Festival in Chester Le Street in County Durham. After a flawless performance and up against some really stiff competition, they managed to come away with a Best Section Award, awarded to the whole brass section and the award for Best Programme. The Music department are immensely proud of them!

## Tewit Silver Band Success



On Sunday 12 March, Sixth Form students Peter Abeyawardene, Euan O'Connell, Ethan Cowell, Ben Fearnley and George Fearnley performed with Tewit Silver Band at the North of England Brass Band Championships. The Band secured second place in the Second Section providing them with an invitation to represent the area at the National Brass Band Championships in September. Ben Fearnley was also awarded with the Best 2nd Section Soprano cornet award for the second year running. Congratulations to all!

## St Aidan's Song Contest

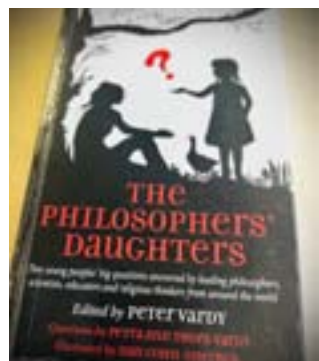
Well done to everyone who entered the St Aidan's Song Contest. Performing in front of 300 people in Constance Green Hall is not easy! Thanks to judges Miss Strickland and former St Aidan's music teacher Emily Roberts. Congratulations to Key Stage 3 winners Magnus, Alfred and Jonathan and Key Stage 4 winners Krish, Ewan and Jack!





March has been a busy month for reading in school. We welcomed our new Literacy Coordinator, Mrs Parris, and enjoyed the first issue of a new literacy bulletin. The Library celebrated World Book Day by decorating its windows with iconic book covers. Students from the Library's book club have been judging new books for the annual Children's Book Awards (the only book prize judged entirely by children), as well as shadowing the judging of the prestigious YOTO Carnegie Book Awards. Year 7 enjoyed a visit from the award-winning author Tom Palmer. He inspired us all with his talk about how he became a writer, how he does his research, and his passion for history and football!

## Celebrating Petra's Curiosity



We are very proud of Petra Vardy in Year 8 who this month went to Cambridge to launch 'The Philosophers' Daughters', a book made up of 54 questions asked by Petra and her younger sister Thora during lockdown, as well as answers to them from leading philosophers, scientists and religious leaders.

The book (which is now available to buy on Amazon and to borrow from the school library) shows the power that questions have in the learning and discovery processes. It was fantastic that so many eminent people - including two Cardinals, the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Leeds - took the time to contribute their ideas.

The Cambridge book launch is available to watch on YouTube and Petra will also be appearing at the York Festival of Ideas on 8th June. Sounds like a fascinating read; well done for asking those questions Petra!

## Battle of the Books



The evening of Wednesday 15th March saw St Aidan's host the annual quiz "Battle of the Books", which we have won for the past two years. The quiz, which has been running since 2009, is a fantastic opportunity for keen readers from across the area to demonstrate their extensive knowledge while having a great evening. Hosted this year by quizmaster Tom Palmer, the well-known author whose books are loved by many of our readers, the event was attended by teachers, parents and friends of the teams who turned out in force to cheer them on.

After a battle over six rounds of questions that went down to the wire, we ended up with a dead heat for first position between three teams; ending in a nail-biting tiebreak, the contest was eventually won by Queen Mary's A Team, followed by Harrogate Grammar school in second place and St John Fisher in third. The winning team takes home the coveted Michael Rosen Trophy until next year's event.

Thank you to all the teams, their teachers and families for making it such a special night and for celebrating the joy of reading. An even bigger thank you to the Harrogate and District School Librarians Group for organising the quiz, to our very own librarians Mrs Davidson and Mrs Kennerley who put in so much effort behind the scenes to make it happen and to Harrogate Children's Book Group and Imagined Things independent book shop for donating prizes (book tokens, of course!) for schools and individuals. We were also supported by a team of younger St Aidan's students who acted as "runners", speedily handing out and collecting in the questions and answers.

Well done to our team of Ella, Ben, Ellie and Emily who made us very proud! We are looking forward to next year's event.

Two teams of Year 7 and Year 8 students also took part in the National Reading Champions Quiz online, coming 13th and 12th out of 25 regional teams.



## Campaign for Safer Roads



Leaders from Harrogate schools and education settings came together at St Aidan's Church of England High School this month with local Councillors Marsh, Mann and Schofield, road safety leads from the Emergency Services and campaigners Hazel Peacock, Dr Vicki Evans and Dr Jenny Marks. The group received an update from NYCC Highways and Cllr Keane Duncan, NYCC Executive Member for Highways and Transportation, on proposals for road safety and active travel in the Oatlands and Pannal Ash areas including the locations in and around the schools and education settings. The following schools attended the meeting: Harrogate Grammar School, Rossett School, Western Primary, Rossett Acre Primary, Oatlands Junior School, St Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Infant School, St John Fisher's Catholic High School, Ashville College, Harrogate FE College and Willow Tree Primary School.

## British Science Week



British Science Week was 10-17 March 2023 and St Aidan's celebrated with Science Fairs being held in PH4 and CH4 on Monday and Friday lunchtimes. The theme is connections and our budding scientists have been making slime, DNA from sweets, gliders and graphite circuits, as well as demonstrating the Van der Graaf and Methane bubbles!

## Crochet Club news



Crochet club has proved very popular this term with members from Year 12 to Year 7 coming along on a Friday lunchtime. There has been such a lovely atmosphere for students to chat, make new friends or just enjoy some peace and quiet, and learn a new skill. Some of their progress has been amazing! This fantastic blanket was made by the Year 11 Crochet Club members. For anyone wishing to join Crochet Club after Easter – just pop down to PH5 on Friday lunchtime.

## Shut Down Friday

St. Aidan's Eco Club have been spreading the word this week about their fantastic new initiative to conserve energy in school. Shut Down Friday encourages all students at St Aidan's to switch off lights, turn off electrical equipment and turn off radiators at the end of the school day. This will help the environment and save money. The students did a fantastic job presenting their idea to Year group assemblies this week. Today was Year 8's turn and we hope they will follow Eco Club's advice both in school and at home too. Well done to Year 7 students Bethany, Adeline, Florence, Sophia and Mohammed who form Eco Club.



## Year 10 Maths Feast



These Year 10 students had a challenging morning at the University of Leeds, where 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 – one of which they had never come across before. Throughout the competition, the students had to work quickly but accurately, and they all showed great teamwork and determination. Congratulations to the team who achieved the top score in round 1 and the other team who came first in the relay (and pastries!) round. Well done for volunteering to go and for doing so well!

## Tech Tournament



The Rotary Technology Tournament took place in Constance Green Hall earlier this month with six schools and 24 teams taking part. Challenges were set for all the teams at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced level, the overall aim being to develop technology without the use of computers, tablets, or mobile phones. Well done to everyone who took part in the competition and congratulations to our students (some of whom are pictured here) who were the winners or runners up in their categories.

## Human Rights Week



Human Rights Week was held this month and Mrs Troughton who runs Amnesty International in school delivered Year group assemblies to educate everyone about Human Rights law and how it was originally created in response to the Holocaust and is there to keep us all safe. The display in school reception gives us more information specifying all 30 Human Rights that apply under the law. Our students involved with Amnesty International held two cakes sales to raise money for the charity – well done to all involved.

## Fin Sails to Success



Year 9 student Fin Cochrane has only been sailing for two and a half years but he has gone from strength to strength in that time. His achievements to date include being selected to train with RYA North and Midlands and he has been training with International competitors, Olympians and World Champions.

Fin made the Selden SailJuice Winter Series which was his main racing goal this winter. Aged 13, he was thrilled to be placed 17th overall out of 351 entrants and to win the Top Junior (Under 16), Top Youth (Under 19) and Top ILCA 4 prizes, which were presented to him on the main stage at the RYA Dinghy Show in London, on Saturday. Especially as it was Jon Emmett (National, European and World Champion ILCA 6 / Laser Radial sailor & Professional Coach) who was presenting the prizes.

The Selden SailJuice Winter Series is the UK's biggest winter handicap sailing event. The series attracts some of the best sailors in the country, from many dinghy fleets, to compete against each other.

So many fantastic achievements, we look forward to hearing what you do next Fin!



## Seren's debut



Well done to Year 11 student Seren Melling who made her England Hockey National League debut this month, playing for the Harrogate Hockey Club Ladies 1st team.

## Sporty Temi



Temi Adeniji (Year 8) has been busy with all her sporting pursuits lately. She was one of 12 selected to compete for North Yorkshire in the U13 girls team at the Regional final of the UK Sportshall Championships in Middlesbrough on Sat 4th March.

North Yorkshire U13 girls came first in the Regional competition putting them through to the National Final in Stoke on 1st April. Temi came 2nd in standing long jump and 1st in the 4 x 1 lap relay. Temi regularly competes for her club - Harrogate Harriers.

On 25 February, Temi played netball for North Yorkshire as part of U13 squad in the county tournament. Temi played in defence and the team won the tournament.

She has also been selected to represent North Yorkshire Performance Netball to play an opener game before Leeds Rhinos play Severn Stars in the Superleague on 24th March in Hull.

Keep up the good work Temi - we are very proud of you!

## KS3 Squash National Success for the 2nd year running



Our KS3 Squash team travelled to the Edgbaston Squash club to compete in the National finals. Only the top 8 teams in the country qualified for this event. The format was a Monrad so your first game dictated if you played for the top 4 spots of the bottom 4 spots. We drew Millfield and narrowly lost 3-2 in a game that could have gone either way. The challenge was now on to finish 5th. Our next match was against Epsom College who we lost to in the final last year and we ran out 4-1 winners. This put us into the 5th/6th playoff against Sevenoaks school. The boys showed great skill and determination to win 3-2. Well done to all the boys involved. A shout out to James Townley who was unable to compete after breaking his thumb two days before!

## Year 7 Football supporters needed please!

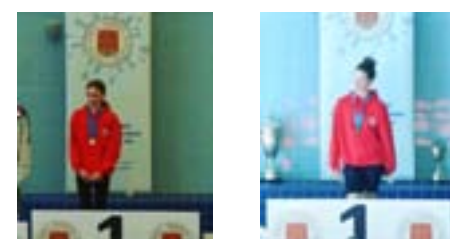
The Y7 boys football team have reached the Area Cup final to be held at Knaresborough Celtic F.C ground Thistle Hill on Tuesday 2nd May 6.30pm KO. They have had a great season to date and have only lost twice all year in very close games. They won the semi final 3-0 against St John Fisher but will face a stern test against a strong King James side in the final. It would be great to have as much support as possible at the final.

## North Yorkshire Golf Championships



St Aidan's took its largest ever squad to these championships at Ripon Golf Club. We entered 5 teams of 3 golfers from Y8 through to Y13, playing off a range of handicaps. The tricky conditions with the wet ground and strong wind meant scoring on the day was difficult and if you played to your handicap, you were in the top 10 golfers on the day. Notable mentions go to Harry Armstrong with 36 points, Harry Cairns with 35 points and Ben Stratford and Archie Stoner both scored 33 apiece. The standout performance from St Aidan's and indeed all the golfers on the day was Ed Chesnick, he scored a massive 43 points to win the competition and become the North Yorkshire Golf Nett champion. His team with Max Sowray and Jacob Slater also won the team event and qualify for the next round at Darlington Golf Club.

## Nationals Champions



Year 8 students Nell Carter and Lois Child competed at the English Schools National Swimming Championships in Coventry this month representing the North East. Nell had a fantastic swim and won a Gold medal in the 100m back and there was also a Gold for the junior girls 100m free relay team, with both Nell and Lois in the team.

The Junior girls' team were crowned National ESSA Champions and North East were the overall winners putting Harrogate District Swimming Club and St Aidan's on the national map.

## Cricket Champions



On 3rd March, the Under 13s girls cricket team travelled to Northallerton for the North Yorkshire Lady Taverners indoor cricket finals. The team played 4 games in total and won each game convincingly. There were some fantastic individual performances batting and fielding, demonstrating a lot of potential. Well done girls!

## Basketball Champions



At the start of the month, the Year 7 basketball team had a very successful day at the County finals held at York College. The team played Vale of York in the semi final with a promising win of 22-6 to take them through to the final against Ryedale High.

With a minute to go, the score was 11-11, our boys managed to secure the win in the last seconds to lift the trophy with a 14-11 win!

## National Quarter Finals



Congratulations to the Under 16 Basketball team who had another close and competitive match against Jesmond Park. The final score of 70-63 sees the team qualify for the quarter finals! Well done and good luck in the next round.

## Cross Country News

Eve Whitaker has had an amazing few weeks of racing, finishing 3rd in the UK intercounties u20 cross country and then 4th in the English Schools' Senior Cross Country. Niamh Robinson, Luke Shacklock, Elena Dickson, Ellie Simpson, James deBussy and Eva Schuster have all continued their excellent cross country season, racing for the Yorkshire or North Yorkshire teams in these races.



## Dates for your diary

17th April Back to school

20th April Chamber Choir and Symphony Orchestra perform at St Mark's Church Concert

26th April Start the Music Launch

28th April Zawadi's Big Games Night



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))