

INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.28 - APRIL 2023



We hope you enjoy this edition of InTouch which shares the good news stories from inside and outside our school community. Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in school trips, sports, music activities and beyond, we are proud of you all.

As we approach the exams season, we urge everyone to take care of themselves and look out for each other. As always we, in school will support you all the way.

With Bank Holidays in quick succession, enjoy some time with your friends and families.

Best wishes,

Mr Thornton



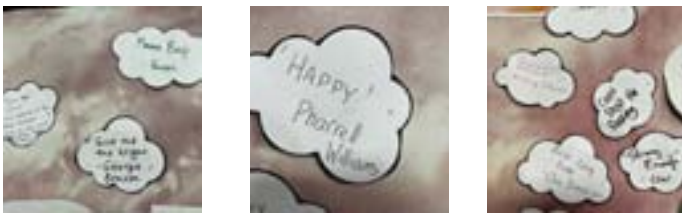
John 10:10 "I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness."

Cloudbusting with ILC

You will already know that research suggests that music can stimulate the body's natural feel-good chemicals (for example, endorphins and oxytocin). It can help energise our mood and provide an outlet for us to take control of our feelings.

The Independent Learning Centre has been making playlists of 'Cloud Busting' songs to share via the Wellbeing Teams. These include music that can start the day with hope and a good feeling. Music that kickstarts positivity and an uplifting mindset and busts the negativity.

Staff and students have been asked for song suggestions and these have all been displayed outside ILC. Here are a few that caught our eye – why not have a listen?



The return of Communion

It has been fantastic to welcome back communion services to school this month, the first since the pandemic, with Year 7 and 8 being the first to take part. Many thanks to St Robert's Curate Nick Murray for taking our Year 8 services - as can be seen in these images.



Human Rights Week



At the end of March, we celebrated Human Rights Week in school. Mrs Trought, who leads our Amnesty team, held assemblies that covered the history of the Human Rights Act and the articles included in it were displayed in reception. The students set up a successful cake stall in the maths corridor and all proceeds went to Amnesty International. Well done to all involved for educating our school community about Human Rights.

Associated Easter Service



For Year 12 students across the Associated Sixth Form, the Spring term ended with our traditional Easter service. With music from Chamber Choir, readings and prayer, the students were encouraged to reflect on the meaning of Easter. Hot Cross Buns were passed around and it was wonderful to all be together in one room for an hour of calm contemplation ahead of the busy summer term.

Lauren Doherty BEM



Lauren Doherty BEM visited Year 12 this month to share her story and road safety message.

15 years ago, Lauren was distracted as she crossed the road, she was hit by a van and left paralysed.

Over the last 7 years, Lauren has shared her story on a national basis with over 10,000 children and adults. She was honoured to be remembered in the last ever Queen's Honours for Services to Education and is also thrilled to have been invited to the upcoming King's Coronation! Thank you Lauren for delivering such a thought-provoking talk to our students.

FOSA AGM

Friends of St Aidan's (FOSA) met after Easter for their AGM. Mr Thornton thanks the small group for all they have done over the past year to try and raise funds that will benefit our students. They discussed how the 2022-2023 fundraising money should be spent and all agreed that this would be on the new outdoor area. The plan is to assemble some student representatives to help design the area so the students feel ownership over the project. FOSA are working hard to make sure this work happens this term.

The current committee are all going to remain in their roles and they welcomed new member Heidi Kendrew to the team. Heidi is going work with Treasurer Cecilia Warren with a view to taking over the role of Treasurer in the near future. New members are very welcome at any point in the year as there are some exciting events in the pipeline! For further information, please read the FOSA area of the school website to read the AGM minutes.

Careers Evening

Our rescheduled Careers Evening was a great success with a packed Constance Green Hall buzzing with enthusiastic St Aidan's and Associated Sixth Form Students making the most of the valuable opportunity to speak to employers and apprenticeship providers. We were thrilled to hear feedback from those who exhibited and attended:

"Thank you for organising a great Careers Evening! I don't remember it being so vibrant and engaging in years gone by, there was a great vibe last night."

"The energy of the event was brilliant and the engagement our stall received was just great. The timings of the event (6pm – 8pm) were great too I think that was enough time for all the students to experience all the stalls. All I can give is praise for this event and we would be delighted to attend any further careers fairs you have."

Thanks to all those who exhibited and attended the event and well done to our Careers Department for rearranging this fantastic evening for our students.



TV star Mike Bushell visits school

At the end of the Spring term there was a frenzy of excitement in the Careers department conference room as we welcomed BBC Sport presenter Mike Bushell for a careers talk on television journalism, sport's journalism and working in the media in general. Students were queuing outside the packed room with their sandwiches in hand as Mike described his career journey and gave advice to the students on what they could be doing now to help progress to a career in this industry. During periods 4 and 5 Mike spoke to GCSE and A Level Media students who were equally thrilled to meet him and there were opportunities for 'selfies' afterwards! Mike promised to return when he's not busy at some of the most exciting sports events in the country – next stop for him is Wimbledon!



Brass Band Champs



Peter Abeyawardene, Euan O'Connell, Ethan Cowell, Ben Dickinson, James Dickinson, Henry Dilley, Oliver Dilley, Ben Fearnley, George Fearnley, Rosa Fisher, India Harby, Samuel Kidd, Ollie Prestwich, Thomas Taylor, Oscar Trenholme competed with the Tewit Youth Senior Band in the National Youth Brass Band Championships at the end of March. The young band worked incredibly hard to overcome gaps remaining from being unable to play during Covid. Many of them giving up extra hours on weekends and evenings to reach a standard that enabled them to compete in the Championship Section where they earned a silver certificate. We are proud of everyone involved and how well they have represented Tewit Youth Organisation, St Aidan's and Harrogate.

St Mark's Concert

The Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir performed to a full St Mark's church on Thursday 20th April and, through ticket sales and raffle, raised nearly £900 for Frank's fund. This was Year 13's final concert so there were fabulous solo and concerto performances from Alasdair Chisholm, Ella Colbourn, Euan O'Connell, Olivia Simpson, Maria Devenny and Sam Shores. Repertoire was varied from Beethoven and Bizet to Les Miserables and John Rutter. There was even a brilliant and very memorable performance from a Barbershop quartet! Mrs Leonard said "The evening was a huge success and I am so proud of each and every student. They have shown such dedication and commitment in rehearsals this year and the talent we have in our students is amazing. We were so pleased to raise so much money too for Frank's Fund".



Physics Olympiad

Despite having to be rescheduled due to the snow, 36 of our Year 12 Physicists sat an extremely difficult BPhO Physics Olympiad paper in March. This is the highest number of entries in St. Aidan's history! In total, they achieved 8 Commendations, 19 Bronze, 8 Silver and 1 Gold award. The BPhO encourages students to develop their wider problem-solving skills through a number of opportunities and competitions during Year 10 to Year 13.

Congratulations go to all of our students who took the challenge, but in particular Tom Beddis, Oliver Clark, Ethan Cowell, Oscar Gouldson, James Lavelle, Ethan May, Theo Simpson, and Natalia Walker for achieving Silver. William Varley deserves a special mention for an outstanding Gold. Based on the entry data, only around 150 students across the country from a total of 4168 managed to achieve such a high mark.

Olympiad sessions continue with Mrs Watson on Thursday lunchtime, and we very much look forward to seeing how these talented students embrace the opportunities available to them as they move into Year 13.

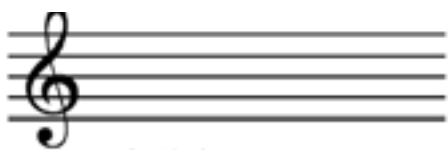


Maths achievement

Well done to everyone who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge which was for Years 9, 10 and 11. A special mention must go to John Regnier in Year 9 who has not only come best in school in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, but he also qualified for the follow-on round (Grey Kangaroo).



Calling all Choir Leaders



Leader required for a fun and friendly group of teachers and St Aidan's staff who would like to start a choir. Subs for your time will be paid and would need to be available for either one lunchtime (1230-1330) a week or after school (depending on availability). If you think you would like to take on this role we would love to hear from you! Email: marketing@staidans.co.uk

Chemistry Olympiad



The Chemistry Olympiad is an international competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. 11838 students entered the UK competition this year. Round 1 of the competition is a 2 hour paper based examination. The questions posed often stimulate much debate on, and enthusiasm for, chemistry - raising awareness of what the subject is all about. Tackling the Round 1 paper also provides a good opportunity to develop some of the skills required for study at university and beyond. This year students prepared well, and the 30+ students who took part managed to achieve 15 bronze awards, 7 silver awards and 2 gold awards between them. Any particularly high achieving students called to round two are considered for representing the UK Team at the International Chemistry Olympiad final, to be held in Switzerland during July.

More success in the William Akroyd Scholarship



We are delighted to announce that Sam Shores has been awarded a William Akroyd Scholarship. He is the second student from the Associated Sixth Form in two years to receive one of these historic and prestigious awards. The origins of the award go back to the 15th century when William Akroyd, a priest, left provision in his will to support the education of students at university. The award is open to anyone under 25 studying in Yorkshire. In December ten students from across the Associated 6th Form sat a two-hour paper consisting of essays chosen from questions on general subjects. Although only six students from among all the entries are short-listed, two of them were from the Associated Sixth Form: Isobel Miles and Sam Shores. They were interviewed about their essays in mid-March. For the excellence of his essay, which was on the ways science has changed his views of God, Sam will receive a grant of £500 per year for the next three years. Many congratulations to Sam on his outstanding achievement. Every good wish for his future.

DT Club does Star Wars



During the entire Spring term, Year 8 students who attend Mr Turner's DT club have been making Storm Trooper helmets out of card. Using the laser cutter to create templates the 10 students have made a helmet each. Charis Gladish, Theo Webb and Simeon Fearnley showed Mr Thornton the helmets and he was very impressed commenting "They look brilliant, really convincing!" Simeon explained that "Each helmet was built by hand, and it was difficult but rewarding" and Charis' favourite thing about the project was; "it was great all working together". The students are looking forward to their next project.

Year 10 Loch Eil Trip

Just before we broke up for Easter, 36 Year 10 students had an amazing time on the Loch Eil trip. They started the traditional Jog 'n Dip in the loch and the next few days consisted of activities such as raft-building, sea kayaking, hill walking, wild swimming and gorge scrambling. With day three being described by trip leader Mr Weare as 'near perfect conditions in one of the most beautiful parts of the country', the weather turned as the three groups set off for their two-day expedition meaning the students had to dig deep. Everyone arrived back in school ready for a good rest over the Easter holiday - not least the staff who, as always, we give huge thanks to for organising these fantastic experiences and giving up time with their families to accompany the students.



Year 7 RS Trip

On 21st and 23rd March the two halves of Year 7 visited Christ Church in Harrogate and the United Hebrew Congregations Synagogue in Leeds as part of their Religious Studies Curriculum.

The students enjoyed the opportunity to apply what they have learned in lessons to real places of worship, to consider the benefits of traditional and modern designs of worship-space and the work of places of worship in the wider community. They are now very well prepared for their first end of year examination next term!

The Religious Studies Department and other teachers who kindly volunteered to accompany the visits were very pleased with the standards of behaviour and impressed with the quality of the questions that students asked at both the Church and Synagogue.



Interform Pizza Competition

At the end of March, a creative group of students from Year 8 embarked on the quest to win the Interform Pizza Competition. With the challenge to design and produce a pizza, a side and a dessert, the students didn't disappoint, and the judges had a wonderful time trying all the food on offer. Heading up the judging panel was well known Consultant Chef and good friend of St Aidan's Steph Moon, helped enthusiastically by Assistant Head Mrs King. Picking a winner was very difficult as there were some brilliant aspects to each form's entry. The overall winners were voted to be 8D who were absolutely delighted and get to demonstrate their skills at the Great Yorkshire Show as guests of Steph Moon!



Production plea!

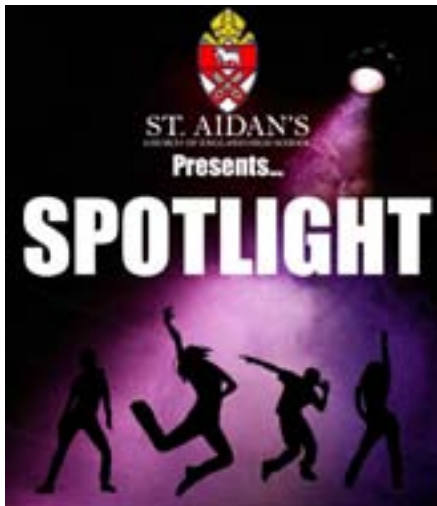
Our dedicated student production team are already creating the costumes for this year's school production Disney's The Little Mermaid. They are meeting weekly and working hard designing and making the costumes for the show. We are asking our school community if they can spare any of the following items to help with the costumes. If you do have anything from the list below, please ask your child to bring it to school and leave it in the marked box in the reception area. Many thanks in advance for any items offered. (Please note that they are non-returnable.)

Hair accessories – bands, clips, tiara/crown, seashells (not broken), fake pearls, blazers (navy or black), white school shirts, white t shirts, waistcoats, welt material, (white/black/orange, any size), ballet skirts, (any colour), dance accessories – leg warmers, arm warmers, hats - flat caps, baseball caps, beanies, top hat(!), black trousers – school trousers, leotards – dark colours, prom dresses – any unwanted dresses, Fabric offcuts, organza – sheer material. Many thanks in advance for your help with this.

A reminder that Open Auditions for students currently in Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be held on Mon 24, Tues 25, Weds 26 May, in Music Room 2 at 3.45pm. Further details will follow on the school website.

Misophonia assembly

This month, Charlotte Anderson in Year 12 delivered an informative assembly to her year group about a condition that she is living with known as Misophonia. It is marked by an extreme sensitivity to certain sounds, for example chewing or breathing which causes anger or disgust. With around 10% of the population affected by this, Charlotte wanted to raise awareness withing the school community. If anyone feels they are struggling with this condition, please make sure you make teachers aware – there are things that can be done to help you. Thank you Charlotte for educating us all.



Exciting news for actors, singers and dancers in Years 7, 8 and 9. The launch of Spotlight 2023 is on Friday 5th May at 3.45-5pm in the Main School Hall. For further details, check out the front page of the school website or school social media platforms.

St Aidan's Sporty Superstars



Congratulations to Year 10 student Niamh Robinson who was selected to represent Yorkshire and Humberside at the TCS Mini London Marathon Championships. Over the years, this event has launched the careers of international athletes including Laura Muir, Keely Hodgkinson and Josh Kerr not to mention the great Sir Mo Farrah, who won the mini three times! Niamh has told us that she really enjoyed the experience, and she was placed 31st out of 207 athletes and was the second Yorkshire and Humberside athlete. What an achievement- well done Niamh!



We are very excited for Ava Peat (9W), Amelia Vance (9P), Bella Blackmore (8W) and Daisy Demir (7S) who will participate at the World Gymnastrada in Amsterdam at the end of July.

Last weekend they travelled down to Nottingham to train with the rest of the team and to collect their GB kit pictured here. We can't wait to hear how you get on girls!



Year 7 student George Hardman has been performing brilliantly with his tennis and recently made it to the final of the Under 14 Boys Scottish Tour. George competes nationally every weekend and is now ranked 23rd in Yorkshire. Well done George!



Well done to the St Aidan's students who at the end of March represented Yorkshire at the Inter County Squash Finals. In the Under 13s – Year 7 Joe Thompson and Year 8 Thomas Brook (pictured here) made 4th place and missing out on 3rd place by just one point! and in the Under 15's – Year 9's Adam Smith, James Townley and Archie King made 3rd place. Year 10 student Tommy Simpson also competed for the Under 17s coming 5th. Great work everyone!

Year 9 and 10 Boys Football Teams through to the finals!

Well done to two of our school boys football teams who have done brilliantly this month! Mr Margerison's Year 9 team managed a 4-1 win against Ermysted's Grammar School in the Area Cup semi-finals which means they are through to the finals against St John Fisher.

Meanwhile under the guidance of Mr McVey, Year 10 beat Rossett School 2-0 with goals from Tom Hartley and Henry McQuade making it through to the County Cup finals for their age group. Well done to all who played, and we will be cheering you on when the finals come!



Alumni sports news

Rosie Sharpley left St Aidan's in 2020 and is now studying at the University of Sheffield. During her time there, she has taken up Boxing. Speaking about her recent success at an event held by Sheffield Varsity Boxing on the 20th of March involving Sheffield Hallam University against the University of Sheffield she told us; "I won my bout with a unanimous decision which helped contribute to an overall 8-5 win for the Uni of Sheffield. It was the first women's bout in Varsity for 5 years. I am the women's captain of the University Boxing Club and I would like to encourage many more girls to get into the sport because it is so rewarding." We would like to wish Rosie all the best for her continued studies and her Boxing pursuits and thank her for getting in touch.



Dates for your diary

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| 1st May: May Day Bank Holiday | 15th May: Year 7 Bushcraft trip | 27th May: Break up for Half Term |
| 5th May: Spotlight Launch | 17th May: Associated Leavers' Service | |
| 8th May: Bank Holiday for King's Coronation | 21st May: Bronze D of E Training Weekend | |



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)