

# INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.29 - MAY 2023



As we come to the end of this half term, we are full of pride in our students for all they are doing both inside and outside of school. They are shining examples of our school ethos which encourages us all to live 'life in all its fullness'. This bumper edition of InTouch brings just a flavour of this!

This month we celebrated the end of an era for our Year 11s and the end of their school days for our Year 13s. Both year groups have behaved impeccably in the run up to the exam period and continue to do so as they sit their exams. We hope that half term brings some respite for them so they can recharge and go again in June.

There is so much to look forward to as we approach the end of the academic year and my time here at St. Aidan's. It has been wonderful to welcome our new Headteacher Mrs Sian Dover into our warm school community, we know she is really looking forward to September when she will lead the school into a new era.

Mr Thornton

## Welcome to Mrs Dover!

We were delighted to welcome our new Headteacher Mrs Sian Dover this month as she begins her induction process to the school. Mrs Dover has been busy in meetings with key members of staff and has also managed to catch up with a few students while she's been here. She is very excited to start with us in September saying "It's an honour to be able to serve this school and its community and to become part of its ongoing journey providing an excellent education with opportunities for enrichment along the way."



## Mental Health Awareness Week

This month we marked Mental Health Awareness Week and Anxiety was the theme.

The Independent Learning Centre encouraged students to take part in their interactive display. This gave those with worries, a physical way of getting rid of them – so they no longer have to carry them.

There was a list of everyday worries outside the ILC and students were encouraged to pick one that applies to them and put it in the bin, reminding them that thoughts are just thoughts and not actions.



## Royal Marines Visit



Last week the Royal Marines Band Service visited us at school and performed for and with Junior Band! This musical wing of the Royal Navy had recently performed at King Charles III Coronation Concert, accompanying (much to the delight of Mrs Caine and Mrs Elliott!) Take That! As if this wasn't enough of a 'sell' for a career in the Navy, they explained what the job involves and the positives that are included: Worldwide travel, a competitive salary and opportunities to play at incredible events. Mrs Elliott was ready to sign up there and then but unfortunately for her, they are not looking for Bassoon players at the moment! The musicians then played with Junior Band which was a great experience for them and we are very grateful to them for visiting us.

## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze

Our Year 10 students have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Training Weekend this month. This included challenges such as first aid training, setting up their tents, thinking about what food they should cook on their camp stoves, planning a route and navigating their way on a lengthy hike in the areas surrounding school. They were blessed with the weather and we hope the sun shines for them during the assessed weekend in July.



# Alastair Campbell visits the Associated Sixth Form

The Associated Sixth Form was delighted to host journalist, broadcaster and political strategist Alastair Campbell on Tuesday 16 May. The event was organised by the PPE Society, whose aim is to promote wider interest in humanities. We were delighted to welcome students studying History and Politics A Level from the Associated Sixth Form, Harrogate Grammar and Ashville. Although Alastair was in Harrogate to record the latest edition of his *The Rest is Politics* podcast and, later, to give a talk in the Royal Hall, he gave his time generously. He started with an interview with the PPE Society by Lizzie Gibbin, Lucia Doyle and Jamie Green. In the Main Hall he started with a short introduction before answering questions from students. These covered an enormous range of topics from his views on the House of Lords and Brexit to the prospects for Keir Starmer, the role of the media in politics to whether he would ever stand for election. There was even one about Burnley FC! At the end he signed copies of his book for each student who'd asked a question as well as posing for numerous photos and selfies. Throughout he was patient and charming, answering each question with insight, honesty and humour. It was fantastic to have someone of his stature and experience in school, and there is no doubt he inspired the audience of young people to get involved in politics.



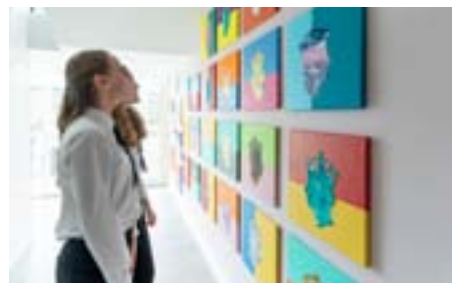
# Coronation Collaboration

During the Easter break, 42 St Aidan's students contributed to an Andy Warhol-inspired collaboration with local Artist Sarah Charneca. The original installation, which is on display at care provider, The Cuttings is a community celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III.

Art teacher Mrs Meader has led the project and is very proud of all the students who entered stating; "As the teacher leading the project in school, I was overwhelmed by the response from the students; they have shown strong excitement and enthusiasm for the collaboration."

It has attracted much press interest including featuring on BBC Look North where residents at The Cuttings were thrilled to share how much they are enjoying looking at the vibrant and colourful artwork. Year 8 students Masie Bursell and Bella Blackmore took part in the filming and enjoyed meeting the residents there.

One of the silhouettes was voted the winning entry and this was the work of Year 8 student Sophia Hodgson (pictured bottom left and her work is above her) , Sophia will enjoy a one-to-one workshop with artist Sarah Charneca. Congratulations Sophia!



## Junior Band visit Oatlands Infant School



Earlier this month Mr Elliott and Junior Band took a stroll to Oatlands Infants School to perform for the staff and students there. The young pupils were fascinated to learn about the many instruments that made up the band and engaged with all the music that made up Junior Band's repertoire which included upbeat hits from Taylor Swift and ABBA. Perhaps some of the students there will be our future Junior Band members – we certainly hope so! We are looking forward to next year's visit already!

## The Flame Shines On



Huge thanks to our Year 11 Aidan's Flame who have performed as our worship band in our Year group assemblies since Year 8 (apart from a break during the pandemic). They have stepped down in order to focus on their GCSE examinations and we are grateful for the music they have provided over the years which has provided an uplifting tone at the start of each school day. Their last performance was a very lively Year 11 Leavers' assembly where they added some upbeat pop classics to their repertoire for the occasion – all the Year 11s joined in enthusiastically!

Wishing, Lucy Amos, Jack Brierley, Kieran McQuire, Krish Desha-Beerachee, Ewan Buchan, Joe Lepine and Rob Kidd all the very best with their ongoing exams.

The baton has been passed to two brand new Aidan's Flame groups – to perform in assemblies for Week A and Week B! They have so far performed a week each and done absolutely brilliantly!

Week A Aidan's Flame are Year 9 students: Noah Kidman, Ralph Williamson, Martha Stoner, Indi Harby, Josh Moses, Francois Salomon and Zoe Townson.

Week B Aidan's Flame are: Jacob Bullivant, Thomas Lachman, Darcey Hutchinson, Abigail Scaife, Alice Fisher and Bethany Withington.

## Auditions Announced - Year 9 to Year 12 Actors, Singers and Dancers Needed!

Exciting news for singers, dancers and actors in Year 9 - Year 12! The audition details for our upcoming school production Disney's The Little Mermaid have been released. For all the information on when, where and what you need to do, visit the school website. Don't miss out, it's going to be a fabulous show and if you need any inspiration, the brand new blockbuster film is released in cinemas today – perhaps go and see it at the cinema over the half term break!

## Well Done to Year 11 student Jack!

Jack Brierley in Y11 has achieved a huge musical opportunity. Jack entered the ORA Singers Young Composer Scheme and has been chosen as one of 10 young composers from around the country, who will receive 10 hours of one to one mentoring from a professional composer, who then support the young composer to write a new musical piece for a choir. They receive a workshop with members of the ORA singers and then their piece is performed at the 'Three Choirs Festival' in Gloucester Cathedral in July. Jack entered this competition and has been chosen as one of the 10 young composers. The Music department and all of us are incredibly proud of him and are excited to hear his progress!

## Year 11 celebrate ahead of GCSE Exams



Friday 12 May was Year 11's last day in school before the onset of the GCSE examination period and everyone was ready for some fun to mark the occasion. They were given their Year 11 Yearbook, they enjoyed signing their friends' shirts and had a wonderful Leavers' Assembly led brilliantly by Head of Year 11 Mr Bean. Memories of their time at St. Aidan's were reflected upon with humour as Mr Bean read out the best 'Year 11 excuses' given for all manner of things over the years! Most memorable was the entire year group joining in with enthusiastic renditions of the school's favourite worship songs; Bless the Lord O' My Soul, King of Kings and My Lighthouse - this brought a tear to a few eyes.

We continue to give our good wishes and support to each and every Year 11 during the exam period.

## Year 13 mark the end of their school days

Year 13 were given a great send-off as they marked the end of an era. They collected their Leaver's Hoodies and their Yearbooks which they have filled with messages from friends and staff. On Wednesday 17 May, there was a poignant service for the Associated Sixth Form in the chapel at St. John Fisher. Senate and Congress came together with readings, there were words from Mr Sharpe, Mrs Orton and Mr Thornton and music from Chamber Choir and student Dan Napper on guitar. On Friday 19 May, both sides of the Association held Leaver's Assemblies. At St. Aidan's, this combined a brilliantly funny video painstakingly pulled together by Senate member Toby Peyton including skits on Carpool Karaoke featuring Head of Psychology Mr Paynton! Awards were given for all manner of things including Best/Worst Trims in Year 13 and most likely Year 13 to appear on Love Island! The old Aidan's Flame sang everyone out with a rousing rendition of King of Kings. It was a fun but emotional end to our Year 13 Leavers school life. We wish them every success with their exams and the road ahead.



## Student takes GCSE Arabic

Within the languages department we are delighted to have been able to support our first student to sit GCSE Arabic in school this exam season. Year 11 student Baghdad Kharfana has already sat her speaking and listening tests and will complete her course with a reading and writing exam after the half term break. We are hugely grateful to parent and exam invigilator Lilian Nasry for her support with the speaking exam. We now have everything in place to support more students in the coming years with Arabic as a first language. We continue to offer support to students with first language skills in Polish, Italian and Mandarin who also want to sit a GCSE or A level exam and we are working towards our first entry for GCSE Greek in 2025. With our annual Year 10 trips to France, Germany and Spain restarting this June, it seems a fitting time to expand our language studies.

## FOSA Needs Your Help!

FOSA are working hard to pull together Family Fest which is a fantastic event that brings together the St Aidan's community including those due to start the school in September 2023! It is taking place on Saturday 8 July 12-3pm and will include a BBQ, fun inflatables, challenges, a football tournament, stalls, ice cream, sweets, tombola, raffle and much more all hosted by Your Harrogate's Alex Cann. The proceeds raised will all go towards new outdoor equipment and a new outdoor area within the school grounds. Students have been helping design this new area guided by our Head of Product Design and Engineering Mr Botterill and we estimate that it will cost £11,000 to complete. If you are able to help us reach this target, please visit ParentPay.com and make a donation or alternatively if you are able to help us out with materials/equipment such as astroturf, recycled plastic benches that would also be really helpful - please email [marketing@staidans.co.uk](mailto:marketing@staidans.co.uk)

## Zawadi AGM

Student-led charity group Zawadi have held their AGM this month with an invited audience including Governors, Headteacher Mr Thornton and CEO of Yorkshire Causeway Trust, Jane Goodwin. They reported on all the events/initiatives they have organised this year reflecting on what they have raised and learned in the process. Zawadi is coming to the end of its 15th year and by the end of this term are on track to have raised a cumulative total of £50,000! Every penny has gone to enable disabled communities in Tanzania, Peru and Ecuador to learn new skills so they can earn money, support their families, integrate with their communities and lead independent lives. Their latest cheque for £3500, presented to Susie Hart at their AGM earlier this month, will mean Artizan International can finally get the cafe in Arequipa, Peru, furnished and equipped so that they can start training their first deaf trainees.



Well done to the entire Zawadi team and a special mention to the four Year 13 students who will leave this year. Our Business Liaison Manager Mrs Farrar, who supports Zawadi, had something special to say about each of the leavers. Anwen who has been the creative force behind many of Zawadi's projects, Luas who is always smiling and willing to help, Sasha who is "enthusiasm personified" and finally Chair, Eve who has managed the team brilliantly and has "presentation skills beyond her years". These are all amazing qualities – we are very proud of you all and wish you all the best for your upcoming exams and future plans.



## Newly Elected Zawadi



Following the AGM, Zawadi appointed their new management team for 2023-24 with Olivia Parris as Chair, Zoe Simms as Vice Chair, Iona Davies as Secretary, Erin Bullen as Finance and Amrita Roney for Communications. Please support our next fundraising event, the 'Great Big School Quiz' on Friday 16th June 6pm - 8.30pm. Teachers will be setting the questions and teams of up to 6 family and friends will be very welcome. Tickets available online on the Zawadi area of the school website, from Main Reception or from a Zawadi member.



## Fashion Show Success

Chris Carter, Phoebe Hall, Jasmine Hustwist, Sara Ahmed and Kirsten Elliot all entered the fashion design competition for the Harrogate 'Celebration of Fashion' in Harrogate town centre this month. As part of the show, which was organised by Harrogate BID and Enchantica, they presented their entries (designs and creations) on the catwalk and Kirsten Elliot won! Well done everyone and congratulations Kirsten!



# Bushcraft Adventures for Year 7

This month our Year 7s travelled to Castle Howard to take part in their Bushcraft residential. The annual trip which is hosted by The Bushcraft Company, enables our Year 7s to camp out in stunning woods filled with bluebells and experience all sorts of survival activities.

The schedule over the three day/two night trip was action-packed teaching skills such as shelter building, fire lighting, cooking their own meals, foraging and there were some evening games before bed including Tribes got Talent!

The year 7s arrived back to school shattered and ready for their own beds with plenty of dirty washing to hand over! Huge thanks to the staff who accompanied them (we know they enjoyed getting back to their own beds too!) What a fantastic experience for all who went.



# A Trip Back in Time

Emmaus House is a care home that sits at the bottom of Valley Drive, adjacent to Harrogate's picturesque Valley Gardens, famed for their spring bloom. Established back in 1988 by devout Christians from a local church, Emmaus has Christianity deep in its roots. As part of this Christian ethos, there are activities such as singing hymns, prayers and Bible readings. Emmaus is part of the Pilgrim's Friends Society, who have various homes, from Plymouth to the Scottish Borders. With 22 residents in their specialised care, there are many interesting backgrounds, from Molly who grew up in the Yorkshire Dales on a farm, and spent her later years in Pateley Bridge; to Patricia, who was born in the Belgian Congo (Formerly Zaire) in Africa and moved to England as a child before becoming a budding photographer on London's Regent Street, later taking a position as the first female photographer at the Yorkshire Post, also opening Huddersfield's Holocaust Museum in 2018. I think it's so interesting that all these residents, (from past engineers to photographers and those who've lived simpler lives) have lived very different lives, altogether ending up at Emmaus House.

I was initially inspired by a radio program I heard where a woman spoke about publishing a book where she detailed talking to elderly patients in hospitals and this captured my attention. Also, I thought it'd be fun to couple my writing skills with talking to people and this is what happened. Therefore, when I spoke with Careers here, they put me in contact with Emmaus and that is where it began, I'm thankful I took up the opportunity and it has taught me fundamental core skills. Through meeting several residents, I have learned skills which will help me in the future, both short-term and longer-term, such as interviewing strangers and writing to deadlines, alongside learning to talk with the residents in a polite and considerate manner, ensuring they're comfortable. Overall, I've really enjoyed the experience so far, and hope to continue these interviews for as long as I possibly can, documenting each person's life in ways that it hasn't been recorded before. I hope to become a writer or have a job within the media someday, as it has always appealed to me, especially with current affairs.

by Angus Douglas - Year 12

To read Angus' interviews in full, visit the News area of the school website.



# Music For Youth Success!!

We have had fantastic feedback from our entry in the National Festival of Music for Youth this year. Both the Chamber Choir (directed by Mrs Leonard) and Swing Band (directed by Mrs Elliott) submitted a recorded entry to the festival this year and we are glad to say that both the choir and swing band had some wonderful feedback. Tom Appleton the music mentor for the Chamber Choir described the choir as 'Glorious' 'Impressive' and having 'a set of well blended voices'. Bridget Walsh who was the mentor for the Swing Band commented on the fact that the pupils were all 'on the path to great mastery of their instruments, which I know takes hours and hours of work, both individually and collectively' and she also commented on the obvious enjoyment of the band in the music they were making and loved the fact that the rhythm section were all wearing shades!

We were incredibly pleased to hear that the Swing Band have been invited to now play at the National Festival in Birmingham in July, with other bands from across the country. However, we are slightly disappointed that we are unable to take up this offer, as it is the day that the band go on their tour to Belgium!

# Sporting Achievements



Evie Coe, Year 8, was selected to join the England U14 Women's Epee Team at an international fencing competition in Osijek, Croatia. The competition took place over the weekend of 22nd/23rd April and Evie finished 13th overall in the event. This is a fantastic achievement for any England fencer, particularly as there were some very strong international fencers from Hungary, Latvia, Bulgaria and Croatia among others, all competing for the first time in the U14 European Circuit. The competition was run by the European Fencing Confederation as an introduction for younger fencers to experience international competitions. Evie has been fencing with Harrogate Fencing Club since age 9 and switched weapons, from foil to epee, when training resumed at the club after lockdown.



James Beagley in Year 10, was selected to compete in the Isle of Man Youth Tour at the end of April, part of the British Cycling National Youth Circuit Series. The 3-stage event involved a time trial followed by two road circuit races. James finished an impressive 7th in the final stage race for the Under 16s, seeing him finish 16th overall in the event, taking him to 26th in the national rankings. James regularly participates in road and cyclocross disciplines, representing the Harrogate Nova cycling club youth team. He recently did the Tour of Flanders sportive in Belgium - riding over 170km in damp conditions with some cobblestones en route for an added challenge.



This month Lilly Mayhew (7E) competed in the English TeamGym Championships with her Gymnastic squad (Richmondshire Gymnastics Club). They competed in the Junior age category (10-14 yrs) and finished second! This is Lilly's second national medal in TeamGym after the team finished third in the Primary age (9-11 yrs) category in 2022 prior to her starting at St. Aidan's. TeamGym is a team competition which is performed and includes Floor, Tumble, Trampet and Vault Lilly trains three times a week in gymnastics and once a week in dance to be able to compete at this level. The hours, dedication and hard work Lilly puts in are really paying off – well done Lilly!



Congratulations to Year 10 student Ollie Holdsworth who has recently been selected to play football for North Yorkshire County. He has played for local club Pannal Ash since the age of 5 as a centre-midfielder and currently plays for their Under 15s Whites team. He also represents our school and Harrogate and Craven District team as well as Harrogate Town U15/16's. He was selected for the North Yorkshire County team following recent trials. Well done Ollie!



Huge congratulations to the St. Aidan's students who took part in the North East Regional long course championships this month. Swimming on behalf of Harrogate District Swimming Club, out of a total 61 swimmers, Harrogate swimmers produced 36 top 10 finishes and won a total of 20 medals! A special mention to St. Aidan's student Lois Child who won seven gold medals across several strokes including back, fly and freestyle. Well done too to students Tallulah Elder, Nell Carter, Alfie Charlton, Sophie Baker and Connie Milburn (all pictured here with their team mates). You have all done brilliantly in this prestigious event!



Well done to Immy Hartley 8P (pictured left) who has been selected to join the Yorkshire U13s Cricket squad for the 2023 summer season. This is an amazing achievement, and she is one of only 29 girls across the whole county to have been selected. Immy will take part in a number of fixtures with other counties that take place across the summer term and we look forward to hearing how she gets on! Year 7 student James Barraclough has been chosen to represent the regional North Yorkshire U12's at Cricket, James' (pictured here) first North Yorkshire game was away against West Yorkshire on 30th April Henry Wardle has been chosen to represent the district Nidderdale U12's at Cricket, with Joseph Halliday making the Nidderdale U12's reserve list so may represent the district later in the summer. Well done everyone!





## Year 7 Win Area Cup!



The Year 7 boys football team won the Area Cup final this month. They played against a strong King James side and started the game in amazing fashion going 3-0 up in 20mins with some excellent goals from Dan P and Henry W. The King James team came back strong and managed to score a last-minute equaliser to take the game in to extra time. Our Year 7s went on to win 5-4 in extra time with 2 great goals from Isaiah. The lads showed tremendous team spirit, resilience and an awful lot of skill and ability throughout the match and were the deserved winners of the competition. This has topped off a great season for the lads who have only lost 2 of the 20 matches they have played.

The Area Cup final team: Isaac Alker, Ryan Dyson, Jack Sharpe, Henry Wardle, Ben Dickinson, Dominic Twiggs, Will Swales, Archie Wilson, Isaiah Prosper, Joe Thompson, James De Bussy, Daniel Pears, James Baraclough (GK)

## Year 11 Football



## Athletics News

Athletes in Year 7 to 10 enjoyed a great first round match of the English Schools' Cup in York. All four teams (junior girls, junior boys, inter girls and inter boys) won their matches against six other schools in the county and have all qualified for the North-East regional final. Three of the teams have the top score of all teams in the NE region too, giving them a good chance of qualifying for the National Finals. Luke Shacklock (1500m), Ella McIntosh (hammer), Indi Harby (pole vault), Josh Keay (pole vault) and Arran Robson (3000m) have all set new school records with Luke breaking a 14-year-old record held by former student Matthew Hipkin. Eve Whitaker represented GB U20 Triathlon in the European Championships, finishing 5th; and has been selected to run for GB U20 in the European Fell Running Championships.

## Year 9 Football

The Year 9 team ended the season with the Area cup final. It was very much a game of two halves with St Aidan's dominating the last 20 minutes of the game. Unfortunately the ball would just not drop for us and the St John Fisher keeper made some excellent saves with the score ending 2-1 to a strong St John Fisher team. The boys can be really proud of their achievements this year with reaching the 5th round of the English Schools cup as well. The B team can also be proud of their run in the English schools competition and the C team had fixtures with over 40 boys representing the school over the year. Training was regularly attended and Mr Margerison would like to thank all the boys for their effort this year. Team for Area Cup final: Adam Walmsley, Oli Prestwich, John Regnier, James Dickinson, Sam Alker, Oli Holt, James Margerison, Harrison Morrell, Alfie Searby, Justin Nodoro, Jack Barnett, Dan Akinrinola, Alfie Charlton, Dan Hawkins, Fynn Park, James Harkins, Harry Singleton.

On a hot Friday afternoon after completing their GCSE Maths paper, the Year 11 Football Team beat South Craven school in the County Cup semi-final with a convincing performance of 4-1. Well done to all the team and we look forward to hearing how you get on in the County Cup final!

## Dates for your diary

5th June	Back to school	23rd June	Year 13 Leavers Ball	29th June	Summer Concert
8th June	Post-18 Options Evening for Year 12	25th June	Year 10 Languages Trips		
12th June	Year 9 Trips week	28th June	Year 11 Prom		



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))