

INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.30 - JUNE 2023



Welcome to June's edition of InTouch where we celebrate some of the many brilliant events and achievements of our students. It is always a busy time of year with events and trips galore and there is still so much to look forward to before we reach the end of term.

A special mention to Year 11 and Year 13 who have completed their exams and have been celebrating in style with the Year 13 Leavers' Ball and the Year 11 Prom. The Year 11s will also experience the long-awaited return of the Ardeche trip in the coming weeks and we will bring news of that in next month's edition. We are very proud of you all and you deserve some time to relax.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Mr Thornton

Celebrating the ILC

The ILC provides pastoral support for a broad continuum of needs, including emotional and social difficulties so that our students can better access their lessons and build their resilience moving forwards. We aim to reinforce positive communication amongst the students and create a safe atmosphere where students can have open conversations with a mentor about their concerns.

The new summer display playfully capitalises on the theme of ice creams and provides positive emotional reinforcement on an ice cream stick that students can take away and use at the end of this summer term and continue to use into the break from school.

Learning Mentor Holly Fewtrell has been working in the ILC for the last six months and is about to embark a new career as a Trainee Mental Health Social Worker which is part of a Graduate Scheme. Holly shared what she has enjoyed about the job saying there are so many different aspects, but mainly building relationships with the students. She commented on how rewarding it has been to have a noticeable impact on students' lives both in school and at home. She has enjoyed guiding friendships and educating students about making positive decisions. Helping students during their low moments and being there as a person students can trust have also been highlights for Holly. She would recommend the job of Learning Mentor in the ILC saying how much she has learned in a very short space of time. We thank Holly for her work and wish her all the best with her future career.



Congratulations to our new Senate

This month the Associated Sixth Form held the annual elections for Senate at St Aidan's and Congress at St John Fisher. All Year 12 students were welcome to apply and staff and fellow Year 12s voted for the fourteen positions. Out of the students elected, some chose to go for Senate Leader, so they were then interviewed by Mrs Orton and Mr Dinsdale to identify what they could bring to the role. This year we are delighted to announce the following students have been elected for Senate: Kirsten Elliott, Jamie Green, Miranda Kidman, Jessie Lennox, Cosmo McDermott, Connie Murray, Michael Pearce, Amrita Roney, Jeevan Shergill, Theo Simpson, Ruben Turnbull, Maddy Wilson. The Senate Leaders are Jamie Green, Kirsten Elliott and Maddy Wilson. Well done to everyone who applied for positions in Senate and congratulations to those elected.



WADE visit Willow Tree

Mrs Collett took 15 members of WADE (West African Drum Ensemble) to Willow Tree Primary School earlier this month, to give an assembly. The children at Willow Tree really enjoyed the lively rhythms and were eager to join in.



Junior Band take part in Spring Fest

On Thursday 22 June, Mr Elliott took Junior Band to Springwater Special School in Starbeck to play as part of their Spring Fest event. The sun shone as Junior Band played some upbeat songs which the Springwater staff and students thoroughly enjoyed dancing along to. Our students loved meeting some of the Springwater students and were so impressed with the wonderful atmosphere the school has. A fantastic afternoon was had by all.



Playing Music with Pannal Primary

At the end of May, students from Pannal Primary School came to visit us and Mr Elliott and Junior Band were delighted to play alongside the younger students. Many of our current band members used to go to Pannal Primary School and there were a few siblings amongst the guests. We hope they'll visit again soon!



Well done Zach!

Congratulations to Zach Blackmore in Year 10 who took his Grade 8 cello exam last month with Trinity. He got 91%, a Distinction. This is an amazing achievement, particularly at this age, and we are very proud of you Zach!



ST. AIDAN'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION BOARD
Presents...
SPOTLIGHT
4th-5th July 2023
Constance Green Hall
7pm
£8 (Adult) & £5 (Under 16s)
Tickets available from Eventbrite

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!

Well done to four St. Aidan's students and a teacher who took part in Harrogate Operatic Musical Theatre Company's performance of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang this month. The production received rave reviews and was likened to a West End Show! The stage show is based on the 1996 film and tells the story of the eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts and his two children Jeremy and Jemima who come across an old car in a junk yard. Potts sets out to restore the car and discovers it has magical properties. Well done to Lucas MacLeod, who played one of the lead roles as Jeremy Potts, Izzy Graham, Child/Chorus, Izzy Ripley, Child/Chorus and Martha Stoner, Child/Chorus. Maths teacher Ms Mooney was also part of the ensemble. The show was a huge success with nearly every night a sell out and it was an amazing experience for the whole cast, well done everyone!



Summer Concert

St. Aidan's music department lead us through another fantastic evening of musical entertainment on Thursday the 29th June at the School's annual Summer Concert. Constance Green Hall was packed with parents, friends, students and teachers who all enjoyed the rich variety and outstanding quality of the music making on offer.

The Summer Concert is always an opportunity for the junior ensembles to shine as senior ensembles take a back seat to allow older students to focus on the exam season and the String Ensemble, String Quartet, WADE, APE, Junior Choir, SAGE and Junior Band all performed brilliantly, demonstrating that the future of music at St. Aidan's is very secure. Well over a hundred performers contributed to the ensembles on an evening that reinforced how vibrant musical life is at St. Aidan's.

We were all sad that this concert marked the end of a long association with St. Aidan's for Cherry Bratkowski, who has taught percussion at the school for over 30 years. Her final performance with APE was a fitting end to her musical contributions at St. Aidan's.

Never content to rest on their laurels the music department are already in full swing with their preparations for Spotlight, the KS3 performing arts showcase and have already begun the auditions process for next academic year's whole school production of The Little Mermaid. We hope you will all be able to share in these future events with us as members of the audience.



Year 7 Interform Food Technology Competition

Congratulations to Tabby, Madeleine, Miley and Eve from 7Y who have won the Year 7 Inter form Food Technology Competition 2023! The standard was extremely high this year and judges Mr Taylor and Mehdi (Head Chef at Fodder) enjoyed tasting everyone's creations! Well done to everyone who took part in the competition, you should all be proud of yourselves! Many thanks to Mehdi for offering some valuable advice and encouragement and to Fodder for the amazing prize for the winning team!



Alumni Success

Congratulations to former student Megan Elliott who for her A-level art coursework, completed at St Aidans in 2021, created this triptych of portraits. She recently entered it into the Ruth Borchard Collection Self Portrait prize 2023 and was long listed to be exhibited in their online exhibition alongside other contemporary artists. She has written in to say a huge thank you to her art teachers! We love the work and can see some familiar faces there - some are visible elsewhere in this newsletter!



Year 8 Physics Success

The Physics Olympics took place at St Peter's School in York this month. Four students from Year 8 competed in challenges all day and were up against some of the best schools across the North. They placed 9th out of 26 schools – fantastic work Jack Aplin, Harry Rollinson, Gracie Hill and Kiki Phong!



Isla's German Olympiad achievement

Isla Gouldson (9D) was delighted to be selected as a winner in the Oxford German Olympiad 2023. Isla's challenge was to create a short video in German on how to create a German, Austrian or Swiss dish. Isla chose pretzels and had great fun making a playful video. Winners and runners up were invited to attend a prizegiving ceremony in the Bodleian Library in Oxford - Isla won a lovely cookbook of German recipes.



Education Conference



On Saturday June 10th Year 12 sociology students; Maria, Lauren, Tabitha and Liv (and their teacher Mrs Wraight) attended the inaugural Quaker Education conference at Bootham School in York, entitled "How can Education create a better world". The in-person conference, attended by 150 students with both UK and international delegates, was the culmination of a longer programme in which 8 Sixth Form students had involved themselves in online conferences and submitted a short film on the conference title. The 4 students who attended the conference listened to some excellent speakers which included the mental health campaigner Natasha Devon and Ruth Ibegbuna, Founder and CEO of RECLAIM, The Roots Programme who urged students to reject negative labels. In addition, the students were spurred into action with talks by Sam Freedman, senior fellow of the Institute for Government who talked to students about how to most effectively reach people of power, and Ben Rich, Liberal Democrat policy advisor and current CEO of Radix, a cross party think tank who gave them a masterclass in manifesto writing. Working in teams of 8 the students produced documents which are being brought together as a manifesto for change in educational priorities to be presented at this weekend's 'Big Tent' event at the York Festival of Ideas, where Government Ministers, Shadow Ministers, leading journalists, commentators, local MPs and council leaders will discuss their proposals.

Junior Maths Challenge

The Junior Maths Challenge was held in April when 166 year 7 and 8s took part in the challenge which comprises an hour of solving fun, yet challenging maths puzzles. Of the entrants 62 (nearly 40%) were successful in achieving a certificate. Three students scored especially highly and qualified for the Kangaroo follow-on round. They are Magnus Thrower and Henry Beagley, from year 7, and Josh Holt from year 8. Additionally, Best in School went to Magnus Thrower. All three boys achieved a Qualification Certificate. Well done to all 166 students and especially well done to Magnus, Henry and Josh!

Year 12 Post-18 Planning Day

On Tuesday 20 June, Year 12 were taken 'off timetable' to take part in the Year 12 Post 18 Planning Day. Set up by our experienced Careers Department, this carefully planned day enabled our Year 12s to gain a valuable insight as to the opportunities awaiting them after leaving school.

Launching the conference was Matthew Chapman, Manager of Harrogate BID who shared his career journey and enthused about the post-18 opportunities that are on offer to our students. Year 12 then made an official start on their UCAS application process with the help of their senior tutors and the Careers Department. With 54 talks from Industry professionals and employers during the afternoon, our students were able to tailor the day to suit their vocational interests.

We were delighted to welcome companies such as Nestle, BBC Radio York, Leeds Conservatoire and many more. Leeds Utd legend Eddie Gray MBE was even available to give advice about playing and managing football professionally. His advice was whatever your interests are, have a good work ethic and you will achieve your true potential – great advice! The Gap Year talk was a noticeably popular option provided by York Company 'Everything is Possible' filling the school Chapel for two sessions.

The whole day was inspirational for our Year 12s at a key time when they are considering what they would like to do after Sixth Form.



Year 9 Trips

Year 9 have had a fantastic time on their trips this month. With five options to choose from there was something for everyone; the Year 9s could choose to go to Snowdonia for an outdoor adventure, Edinburgh to explore the city, a London Theatre Trip, a London Sightseeing Trip, and the Sports Tour which was gave our footballers the opportunity to play at West Bromwich and our netballers the chance to play at Loughbrough with Loughbrough Lightning.

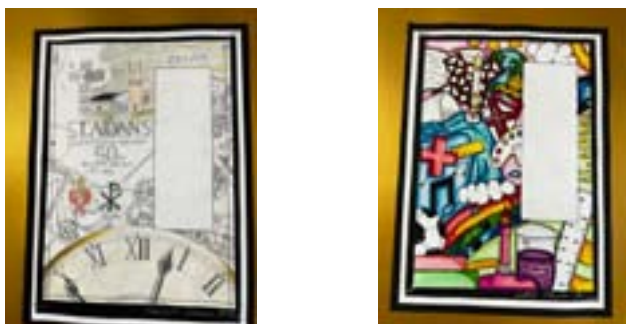
The sun shone for everyone which meant everyone could make the most of all the activities on offer. This varied from Kayaking and abseiling in the Welsh countryside to taking in a West End show in London. Huge thanks must go to the organisers of these trips which were action packed and kept all our Year 9s very busy the entire week and the staff that accompanied them who gave up time with their partners and families.



Planner Design Winners

It's that time of year again where Year 7 and 9 compete with designs for the front of the planner. There were some exceptional entries from both year groups, making it difficult to choose a final winner, and meaning many received a highly commended. The overall winners were Lottie Taylor (Year 7) and Francois Salomon (Year 9).

Well done everyone, particularly Lottie and Francois!



Family Fest 2023

Family Fest is nearly here, and Friends of St. Aidan's (FOSA) are excited to see everyone for an afternoon of fun with something to suit everyone. The former Year 11 Aidan's Flame is reuniting to bring their 'party' set list and our incoming Year 7s are invited to join in the fun with our current Year 7s for a football tournament run by our PE department (footballers must wear boots appropriate for the pitch – no metal studs please). Donations of cakes are very welcome on the day (no nuts please), good quality Tombola prizes and preloved uniform will all be received gratefully at school reception. FOSA will accept these donations right up until Friday 7 July. We hope to see you there so we can raise money for the new outdoor area for school.

End of Exams

We are delighted for all our Year 11s and Year 13s that the exam period has come to an end. Please can we take this opportunity to pass on our congratulations and thanks to all of the students in Year 11 and 13 who performed and behaved with incredible maturity throughout the examination period. It was a long and challenging time for them, and we felt that they showed immense courage and resilience throughout.

A huge thanks to all the staff at school for supporting the students throughout the last two years and the exam period itself and a special mention to Mrs Mahoney for her excellent leadership with coordinating the GCSE examinations and Mrs Humphrey for her brilliant organisation with A Levels and BTEC exams. We are very lucky to have you both.

Time to Celebrate with Year 11 and Year 13!

It has been wonderful to see the Year 13s and Year 11s be able to come together as year groups and mark the end of an era with their separate celebratory occasions.

For Year 13, who couldn't have a Year 11 prom due to the pandemic, it was an extra special occasion. Friday 23 June was the Leavers' Ball at The Pavilions in Harrogate. The Sixth Form leavers arrived dressed to the nines in great spirits and partied the night away.

For Year 11, the Prom venue was Constance Green Hall which was dressed beautifully by Mrs Rosser and her team. Students arrived in style, dressed to impress, ate pizza, danced and had a fabulous time. This was Mrs Rosser's last prom after 13 years of organising it and we would like to say a huge thankyou to her for all she has done to make Prom the highlight of Year 11's school year! She will be greatly missed!



FLG Leavers

The Foundation Learning Group said goodbye to two much loved students this month - Year 11 students Samuel and Connor who have been part of the furniture in Learning Support for the last 5 years. Samuel was particularly upset that he wouldn't have another Christmas at St. Aidan's so a special party was thrown complete with a Christmas cake. Mr Thornton was invited along and the Foundation Learning Group staff and students played rounders and partied in the sunshine! We wish Connor and Samuel all the very best and we will miss you!



Sporty Superstars

Well done to Year 8 student India Gooden (pictured right) whose Netball team (Leeds Athletic Netball Club) made it through to the England National Clubs U14 Finals at the EIS in Sheffield this month. 18 teams from across all regions in the country made it to the finals and her team came 7th overall having won all their matches except one. This was particularly impressive considering that the team was predominantly U13 girls playing one year above themselves.



Well done too to Joe Thompson in 7D who played squash for the North of England versus the South in the Battle of the Borders on Sunday 28 May. Joe won all his games and the north comfortably beat the south.

Year 10 Sports Leaders

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 Sports Leaders who have been helping out at the sports days of many local primary schools around the area. The younger children have really benefitted from having the support and encouragement from the older students and the feedback we have received about the students has been lovely to hear.

They have been wonderful ambassadors for St. Aidan's and reflect everything that we hope to represent as a school in our WALK statement - Wisdom, Aspiration, Learning and Kindness.

The team pictured here were helping out at fellow Yorkshire Causeway School, Oatlands Infants.

Well done everyone!



Trampoline Success

Well done to Year 12 student Toby Williams who competed in national age group championships at the weekend in double mini trampoline and came first in the 17-21 age category at the age of 17. Toby now stands a strong chance of being selected for both the British Championships in September and the World Championships in November. All this after a long break from the sport.

At the same event, Year 9 student Ollie Jones competed in the same event, double mini trampoline. This was in the 13-16 age group and he came 6th in the UK. He is hoping this performance means that he too will qualify for the British Championships. Ollie is also looking forward to competing with England in Portugal this October.

Congratulations too must go to Year 8 student Maryn Fraser, (pictured below right) who is in Harrogate Gymnastics trampoline squads. He competed this month in Harrogate and won 1st place in his age category in the Regional Challenge Cup Final for Double-Mini Trampoline (DMT). He will now be heading to Birmingham in September to represent Yorkshire in the Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final.



Year 11 Football Team are County Champions!

The Year 11 boys' football team celebrated the end of GCSEs in style by being crowned County Champions! In a thrilling final against Eskdale School, at full time the score was 4-4 so penalties were taken and St. Aidan's won 7-6 with Tom R making the winning save. Well done to all the team: Tom Ranson, Lucas Moyser, Jack Leach, Will Jones, Brandon Genti, Murray Brierley, Rory Carter, Lewis McStay, Charlie Dunn, Alex Huby, Joe Cook, Tom Douglas and Josh Morales-Macias. Thanks must also go to coach Mr Maullin.



Under 15 Girls' Cricket Team Yorkshire Champions!

Congratulations to the Under 15s Girls' Cricket Team who have recently won the Chance to Compete Under 15s Girls' Yorkshire Cup! The competition took place at Ampleforth School where they beat Silverdale school Sheffield on the last ball in the final. As Yorkshire champions, they now play in the North of England finals at Darlington in early July! The team is: India Gooden, Alice Halliday, Immy Hartley, Annabel Washer, Rebecca Chester, Hannah Taylor, Kirin Sahota and Hannah Batchelor. Thanks to coach Mrs Bassindale and well done everyone!



Athletics News

Three school teams have qualified for the English Schools' team National Finals in Essex, taking place in July. Year 7/8 Girls, Year 9/10 girls and Year 9/10 Boys all won their regional final early in June to qualify, with the year 7/8 boys' team finishing 3rd. Lots of athletes won their events and this all added up to some great team performances.

Highlights were Ella McIntosh throwing a new school record of 42m in the hammer, Indi Harby, pole vaulting a new school record of 2.20m. Niamh Robinson and Luke Shacklock have set new school 1500m records in the last few weeks representing Yorkshire.

It is no surprise that Luke Shacklock has also been selected for North Yorkshire to run 1500m steeplechase at the English Schools' Championships. This is great reward for Luke who has raced well over 1500m and steeplechase this Summer.

Many others also competed for the county at the Northern Counties match earlier this month - Grace Fisher, Alice Fisher, Indi Harby, Ollie Holt, George Wastling, Niamh Robinson, Josh Keay, and Ella McIntosh.

At the Harrogate and Craven district athletics, the school took a big team of athletes to compete, with quite a few Year 7 boys and girls making their first appearances on the track or field. Lots of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places from athletes in sprints, hurdles, middle distance races, throws and jumps.

Head of Biology Dr Bryant commented "It has been a great privilege to manage and coach the athletes this Summer." We are very grateful for time and energy Dr Bryant gives to Athletics at St. Aidan's – thank you.

Finals Incoming!

Congratulations to the Under 13 girls' football team who have beaten St John Fisher in the County Cup semi-final 4-2 after being 2-1 down at half time. They will now play in the County Cup final!



Dates for your diary

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 4th & 5th July | Spotlight | 12th July | Sports Awards |
| 8th July | FOSA's Family Fest | 21st July | Break up for Summer |



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)