

INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.32 - SEPTEMBER 2023



Welcome to our first monthly edition of InTouch for this academic year. It has been an exceptionally busy but hugely positive start to the year, and I have been overwhelmed by the kindness, compassion, and support I have been shown by everyone in our St Aidan's family as I start my Headship with you. This truly is a wonderful place to be so thank you to you all for such a warm welcome. We have wasted no time in embracing Life in All its Fullness; as well as settling into our academic routines and making sure we embrace our learning culture within the classroom, we have also continued in true St Aidan's style to get involved in many other enrichment opportunities, all of which you can read about in this edition of InTouch. As we look forward to the weeks ahead, we have a full calendar of events including the Main School and Associated Sixth Form Open Day on the 14th of October, Year 10 and Year 11 Parent information evenings, field trips, sporting competitions, music events, the Harvest Festival, and The Golden Gala; a wonderful opportunity to celebrate 50 Years of the Associated Sixth Form (tickets are available at Harrogate Theatre Box Office).

Please enjoy reading about the wonderful opportunities and achievements we have been celebrating during these first weeks back and I look forward to sharing many more of these moment with you in the months and years to come.

Aidan Owe

Headteacher

The Beacon

The Independent Learning Centre has had a rebrand and is now known as The Beacon!

Following the example of St Aidan, The Beacon is all about gently establishing relationships, and by the example of our communication and practice, we show the light. The Beacon seemed an appropriate name for the space in the ILC. As St Aidan's crest is a torch, The Beacon can represent this. It has the link with St Aidan as he carries a beacon and has the natural associations to lighting the way. It then has more of a hub feel around it and inclusivity around the elements of wellbeing that we cover as well as our day-to-day mentoring and alternative provision elements.

The base of support historically has been the model for how we now function. The structure and knowledge that the ILC has now allows for its development to reflect the needs within school. This has been a natural process to meet the changing and challenging emotional and social issues experienced by some of our students here at St Aidan's; hence the need to rename it and define its function clearly.

The students have been invited to help design a logo for The Beacon with the help of Mrs Klauser and we look forward to seeing the results! We thank both Mrs Atherton and Mrs Klauser for your ongoing work with our students.

School of The Week



We are delighted to have been nominated as School of The Week by local digital radio station Your Harrogate Radio. Presenter Pete Egerton visited at the end of the month to chat to Year 7's Alice Holt and Year 13 students Alannah Saphir and Senate Lead, Jamie Green about all we have to offer as a school and our exciting upcoming Golden Gala to celebrate 50 Years of the Associated Sixth Form.

The interviews can be heard all this week at 7.35am on Your Harrogate Radio which is available on DAB or via their website. If you miss the interviews, there will also be a podcast celebrating our wonderful school available on their website in the coming weeks.

Cooking at the Flower Show

Cooking on stage at the Autumn Flower Show in Newby Hall, Ripon, alongside the renowned chef Stephanie Moon and her team was an incredible experience.

Our demonstration centred around the use of fresh, seasonal, and locally sourced ingredients to craft four dishes that celebrated the essence of the autumn season. I created two mouthwatering dishes; a seasonal poached plum tiramisu and pizza chips. Meanwhile, Stephanie Moon showcased her scrumptious pumpkin pie and an amazing savoury, melt-in-your-mouth sausage roll.

There was a big audience and their reactions were very positive, with everybody enjoying sampling the food at the end of the demonstration.

It was a rewarding experience, and I look forward to future opportunities to showcase my passion for cooking.

George Lever Year 9



Lego achievement

Well done to Year 8 student Julia Bisewska-Sidoruk who won the Lego Chief Dream Creator competition, a part of the new Lego Dreamzzz product line. With five other winners from all over the globe she was flown to Lego HQ in Billund, where she met with the Lego team in a "behind the scenes" workshop at Lego Campus.

They unleashed imagination and in the words of the Lego team 'brought their dreams to life using Lego bricks and creative superpowers'. After the workshop they watched unseen Lego Dreamzzz movie episodes and took a tour around Lego House where they can see the biggest brick in the world. Julia is pictured here with her fantastic Lego creation!



Marrick Priory

On Friday 29th September, 30 students from Years 8 to 13 joined Mrs Shores, Mr Weare and Mrs Kennerley on our annual Chapel Away Weekend to Marrick Priory. The Priory, which is set in beautiful Swaledale, has hosted us for many years and offers a wide range of outdoor activities as well as a breakout room and Chapel for discussion groups and reflective times. This year we were delighted to welcome Emma James, the youth worker from St John's and St Luke's Churches in Bilton who led us in games, prayer and discussion on the theme of love, in particular God's incredible love for us.

Pupils also enjoyed taking part in a range of outdoor activities over the weekend including canoeing, climbing and, for the most daring, the infamous Leap of Faith. A downpour on Saturday night sadly forced us to cancel our night walk on the hillside but the night-line, which saw groups of blindfolded students working together to navigate a course guided only by a rope and each other, was a fun alternative. And there was still time for one of our favourite Marrick traditions: a game of Empires.

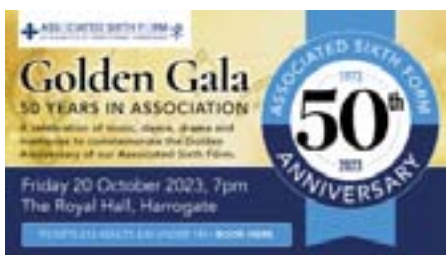
Once again, it was a pleasure to see the way young people of different ages and degrees of experience pulled together to solve problems, encouraged each other to meet challenges and shared warm and honest fellowship. Our trip drew to a close with a short service in Marrick's tiny chapel, during which we reflected on everything we'd learned and how this might shape our faith and the future. If you'd like to join us on the Marrick Priory trip next year and are currently in Years 7 to 12, please speak to Mrs Shores or look out for an email to parents/carers in the summer term.



Rehearsals are underway for Disney's The Little Mermaid and the set and costumes are all being made by staff and students! We cannot wait for November when Constance Green Hall is going to be transformed into a fantastical deep sea setting for what promises to be an entertaining production full of fun, music and many comedy moments!

The dates the Little Mermaid will be performed are: Wednesday 22 November 7pm, Thursday 23 November 7pm, Friday 24 November 7pm, Saturday 25 November 2pm matinee and 7pm evening performance.

We can't wait to see you there!



Gala to celebrate 50 years!

St. Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form is delighted to be celebrating 50 years in association this October. To mark the occasion, a Golden Gala is taking place on Friday 20 October, 7pm at Harrogate's fabulous Royal Hall; this promises to be a spectacular evening of Music, Dance and Drama. Both schools are known for their excellence in the Performing Arts and the Music, Dance and Drama students regularly perform in showcases and concerts in school and the wider community. Alumni of these departments have progressed to join highly acclaimed theatre schools, perform in West End Shows, world-famous orchestras and current students continue to benefit from the expertise amongst the teaching staff.

Vicki Elliott, Head of Music at St. Aidan's commented;

"The Association is an important feature of both schools' identities and this concert is a celebration of how closely the schools work together. The audience should look forward to some exciting collaborations from our most gifted and experienced performers and alumni."

Compering the event is former Associated Sixth Form student Richard Upton, now a professional Musical Theatre actor. He revealed;

"I was thrilled when Vicki Elliott asked me to comper the Golden Gala. My years in the Associated Sixth Form from 2009-2011, have provided me with some of my most cherished memories and dearest lifelong friends. To celebrate the joining of these two powerhouse schools with staff and students, past and present, at one of the most prestigious venues in Harrogate, really will be a night to remember!"

St John Fisher Director of Sixth Form Jon Sharpe is equally excited about the evening saying;

'We are proud of the enduring success of the Association, and it is important to celebrate such a notable milestone. The Golden Gala promises to be a fabulous evening of music, dance and drama showcasing our incredibly talented students. Collaboration is at the heart of the Association and preparations are already well underway.'

Tickets are now available from Harrogate Theatre's website www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk £13 for adults and £10 for under 18s.

Well done Joe and Bella!

Associated Sixth Form students Joe Capstick and Bella Taylor took part in the Brass Band National Finals of Great Britain this month playing with Harrogate's highest ranked sectional band, Harrogate Band.

Joe is the band's Repiano Cornet player and Bella plays third Cornet. The band's musical director is St John Fisher School director of music, Mr Craig Ratcliffe.

The band competed in the First section against 19 other bands from around the country. This was Joe and Bella's first appearance at the National finals.



Student Composer

We are thrilled for Year 12 student Jack Brierley who last term made the final of the ORA Singers Young Composers Scheme.

Jack's composition entitled Sharp North, Declining West was premiered in July at the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester Cathedral.



Distinction for Alannah

Congratulations to Year 13 student Alannah Saphir who before we broke up for summer achieved a brilliant 47/50 (a distinction) in her Flute Diploma exam. Alannah who also sings in St. Aidan's Chamber Choir, has played the flute since the age of 7 and when she leaves St. Aidan's is hoping to go to a conservatoire to study music. Her next performance will be at The Golden Gala and she's very excited about it! Tickets are available from Harrogate Theatre Box Office.



Student Actors

We were excited to hear that Year 7 student Alexa Goodall has been busy pursuing her acting career lately. She is currently working on a feature film that is under wraps for now, meanwhile she is appearing in the ITV/ITVX drama 'The Long Shadow' which is showing on ITV on Monday evenings at 9pm. This drama is based on the true story of Peter Sutcliffe and she is playing the daughter of his first victim. Alexa has quite a portfolio of work for such a young age and has also been working alongside famous actor Ewan McGregor on a series due out in 2024 called A Gentleman in Moscow. Alexa's brother Sebastian in Year 9 has also appeared in various commercials while here at St Aidan's; we will be following both your careers with interest – well done!



Irish Dancing Success for Eve

Massive well done to Year 11 student Eve Pennell who participated in the OPIDF Irish Dance World Championships in Folkestone this weekend and achieved 2nd in the Under 15s. What a fantastic achievement!



Library Goes from Strength to Strength

Situated above main reception, with calming views over the trees on Oatlands Drive, our library continues to provide an amazing service to all members of the school community. Housing around 12,700 books (and constantly adding new titles – 1,576 this year alone!), it is a welcoming place for quiet study, academic research and happy reading.

Over the past year, there have been 7,735 books borrowed and many reference materials used during study periods, lunch and break times and after school (the library remains open for homework or quiet reading until 5pm Monday – Thursday and until 4pm on Friday).

In addition to this, Mrs Kennerley and her fantastic team have organised many events such as hosting the interschool "Battle of the Books", a visit by author Tom Palmer and participating in the Children's Book Awards. The library also hosts a range of book clubs for students of all ages and even origami and papercraft classes.

The library is currently hosting a poetry competition for National Poetry Day on 5th October and we are asking for submissions on the theme of "Refuge", as we have explored in assembly and English lessons this week. Entries need to be submitted by Monday 16th October and we will be awarding prizes for each year group.

Please encourage your child to make the most of everything the library has to offer – there really is something for everyone!



Ken and Barbie in the Library

At Book Club this month, we thought we'd use the Barbie film to promote the idea that books can help you see into other worlds / lives and can encourage you to be who you want to be. Our willing participants brought their favourite books, and we hope this encourages others to try books from different genres and see the world through other people's stories. We think they had fun promoting their books!

Book Club is on Tuesday lunchtimes in the library at 1pm. All KS3 and 4 students are very welcome for book chat, creative writing and journaling.



Year 7 – Exploring The World Through Fiction

On their transition day in July, all of our new Year 7 students were presented with a reading book for the summer holidays, courtesy of FOSA. The idea behind this gift was that all of our new students could share in the collective enjoyment of reading the same book, the amazing "Boy 87" by Ele Fountain. Described as "a gripping, uplifting tale of one boy's struggle for survival" which "echoes the story of young people all over the world today", the book has generated some thoughtful discussions and has promoted the message that St Aidan's is a school where reading is valued for enjoyment, not just for study. Here, some of our students say "Thank you, FOSA!"



Physics news

Before the summer break, Year 12 (now Year 13) did a presentation about each physics topic they had learnt as a practice for public speaking and presenting. Well done everyone!



Chemistry News

Last academic year, a group of 20 Year 12 Chemists participated in a project run by the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS) called Earth Observation. This project involved students following online training to use and analyse satellite data from the European space agency before then conducting their own research project using this data in small groups. Topics of research included volcano emissions, bird migration, tropical storms and deforestation.



In September, these students received an exciting parcel containing their own academic research posters printed on large paper, along with their certificates. These posters are now on display in the upstairs science corridor. A new group of Year 12 researchers will be beginning their projects soon.



FOSA News

Friends of St. Aidan's (FOSA) are delighted to report that the new outdoor area complete with picnic benches and table tennis tables is ready and will be in use by our students very soon!

Huge thanks to everyone who came to Family Fest or donated to the FOSA fund on ParentPay - you have all helped transform this area of school to allow our students to have fun there.

FOSA continue to collect on ParentPay for plans which will be discussed at the next FOSA meeting on Thursday 12 October at 7.30pm.

New members are always very welcome - just come to main school reception at the above time and join Mrs Dover and FOSA who will be discussing future projects.









Year 7 Intake Information Evening and Open Day

Information Evening - Tuesday 10th October 2023, 6.00-7.00pm
 Open Day - Saturday 14th October 2023, 12.30-3.30pm

Parents/Carers of Year 6 students are warmly invited to our Information Evening and families are welcome to the Open Day. Together these events will give you a flavour of what St. Aidan's can offer your child.
 To book, please visit the school website.

www.staidans.co.uk





ASSOCIATED SIXTH FORM

ST AIDAN'S & ST JOHN FISHER, HARROGATE



Prospective Sixth Form students are warmly invited to visit

St John Fisher Catholic High School
Saturday 7th October, 9.30-11.00am

St Aidan's Church of England High School
Saturday 14th October, 9.30-11.30am

To book your place visit bit.ly/452Q39E or scan here





Great North Run



We are proud of our Chair of Governors Jo Wicks and daughter and former St. Aidan's student Anna Wicks who have run the Great North Run. All proceeds are going to Franks Fund, a charity set up by the family of former St. Aidan's student Frank Ashton. Franks Fund's aim is to raise funds for more research into Bone Cancer. Jo commented; "It was such a hot day but really enjoyable. Great community spirit. Well done to both of you!

Selected to play for North Yorkshire

Congratulations to Year 11 students Ollie Holdsworth and Tom Perry who following trials, have been selected to play for the Under 16 North Yorkshire Squad! They had their first match against York City at the end of the month and drew 2:2.

Area Champs



Congratulations to the Under 19 girls netball team who on the 20 September were crowned Area Champions! Huge thanks to Miss Wadhams for the fantastic coaching and to all the team who were: Verity Mcara, Tilly Collings, Alice McIntee, Emily Keay, Abi Palmer, Eleanor Adrian Horrocks, Zoe Hales, Anneke Gray, Maddy Hewson and Martha Reynolds Jones.

Gymnastics in Amsterdam

Congratulations to everyone who represented Team GB at the World Gymnastrada in Amsterdam over the Summer including Ava Peat (10W), Amelia Vance (10P), Bella Blackmore (9W) and Daisy Demir (8S). They had a brilliant time performing at the Olympic Stadium and in different venues across the city

Squash Star



Well done to Year 8 student Joe Thompson who competed at the Buckinghamshire Silver squash tournament (there are only a handful of these top events through the year) coming first in the under 13's. He will be ranked in the top 2 in England this month and likely to be seeded one or two in the British Junior Championships in October. Fantastic news Joe!

Cricket Cup!



Congratulations to the Under 14 girls cricket team who beat Ripon Grammar to become the North Yorkshire Schools Lauren Winfield Hill Cup winners at the end of the summer term! The girls put on a superb display of precision bowling reducing Ripon Grammar School to 53 all out after 15 overs. This rounds off a very successful season in many competitions this year. Credit must be given to the local cricket clubs who work tirelessly to improve the skills of the girls on a weekly basis. Many thanks to Mrs Bassindale for the expert coaching! The team were: Immy Hartley, Lucy Brannan, Beth Holdsworth, Daisy Searby, Lottie Beaumont, India Gooden, Winnie Mackenzie, Alice Halliday, Annabel Washer, Hannah Batchelor and Charlotte Chapman.

Alumni success - The Mills Brothers

We have been hearing much in the national news about former St. Aidan's students George and Stanley Mills lately and are very proud of them both.

George Mills has run the third fastest time ever by a British athlete in the United States. Competing in the final of the prestigious Diamond League in Oregon, he finished in 3 minutes 47.65 seconds. Not only was it a personal best, it was the fastest run by a British miler since 1985. Only Steve Cram and Sebastian Coe have ever beaten it. British middle distance running is exceptionally strong at the moment and George will hope to join the likes of countrymen and world champions Jake Wightman and Josh Kerr at next year's Olympics in Paris.

Stanley is an attacking midfielder who joined Everton at the age of 14 having previously been at Leeds United. He signed a first professional contract with the Blues in July 2021, penning a two-year contract. Stan went on to enjoy an excellent 2021/22 campaign with Everton Under-23s, playing in all but one of the Blues' 26 Premier League 2 matches, scoring three goals and providing four assists. Stan was called into Everton's First-Team squad for the pre-season tour to the USA in July 2022 and featured in matches against Arsenal and Minnesota United, before playing in friendlies back in England against Blackpool and Dynamo Kyiv. Days after the teenager was named on the bench for Everton's 2022/23 Premier League opener against Chelsea at Goodison, he signed a new three-year contract until the end of June 2025. Stan's development continued in July 2023 when he joined League One side Oxford United on a season-long loan.



Duke of Edinburgh

Our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Gold Award students have worked hard over the last few months to complete all the tasks set to meet the award requirements. For the students taking part in the Gold Award, they undertook their assessed expedition in July. This consisted of a four day/three-night camping expedition.

Most of the Year 10 (now Year 11 students) completed the one-night expedition in Nidderdale in July but the few remaining students spent a slightly chillier night camping at the end of September.

Well done to everyone who took part in both Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We hope you have learned a lot from the experience, and we look forward to hearing how our Gold students get on when receiving their awards at Buckingham Palace! Huge thanks to Miss Blewitt and Mr Kirkpatrick for the organisation and support you give our students for Duke of Edinburgh.



Cross Country News

We were thrilled to host a home friendly cross-country fixture at the end of the month. Ripon Grammar School, St John Fisher, Ermysteds and Skipton Girls High School all joined us on the Stray for some challenging races! Some results highlights were:

Junior Girls; Ellie Simpson 3rd and the team were 1st
 Junior Boys; Isaac Alker 1st and the team were 2nd
 Inter Girls; Alice Turner 3rd and the team were 2nd
 Inter Boys; Alfie Charlton 1st, George Wastling 3rd and the team were 1st

Well done to everyone who took part and we are looking forward to hearing how everyone gets on with our interform cross country challenge during the first week of October.



Dates for your diary

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|----------|-------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 9-13 Oct | Autumn Booksale | 12 Oct | FOSA Meeting | 20 Oct | Golden Gala at The Royal Hall |
| 10 Oct | New Intake Info Evening | 13 Oct | Staff Training Day | | |
| 11 Oct | Harvest Festival | 14 Oct | Open Day | | |



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)