



A Warm Welcome

This has been a particularly special term for the Associated Sixth Form as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. Undoubtedly a highlight was the Golden Gala in the Royal Hall which celebrated the anniversary with a feast of music, dance and drama. We have been able to watch with pride as Year 12 have settled in so well to life in the Association and Year 13 have made the next steps in their careers by applying to universities, for apprenticeships or planning for gap years and work. We came together at the end of term in our Christmas liturgy, which as ever was a wonderful way to finish what has been a long but successful first term of the academic year. We were delighted to receive confirmation that once again outcomes at A Level were the highest in the town and local area. We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Mr J Sharpe and Mrs R McQuire.

The Importance of Blood Donation

Year 13 student Harry Brown is currently receiving treatment for leukaemia and is urging people to do two things that could save the lives of people like him. Harry says that donating blood and signing up to the Anthony Nolan Stem Cell Register could make the difference between life and death for hundreds of patients, and is calling on anyone eligible to volunteer. Harry was diagnosed with a type of blood cancer called acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) in July this year, and has been receiving intense chemotherapy and immunotherapy at the Teenage Cancer Trust unit at St James's Hospital in Leeds. He will need a stem cell transplant to achieve a cure for his condition and is dependant on finding a suitable donor. He commented: "I therefore feel it is incredibly important that the Anthony Nolan Stem Cell Register is promoted to as wide an audience as possible as signing up is something very simple that anyone aged 16 to 30 can do but might just save the life of someone with blood cancer like me. I also feel that the issue of blood donation requires increased awareness and promotion as I have received countless life-saving platelet and blood transfusions, which can only happen if people donate. My message is that you can do something extraordinary – you can save a life by doing two simple things which can make such a huge difference to people like me."

Before his diagnosis, Harry played the tuba with Tewit Youth Band and volunteered as a Young Leader with 16th Harrogate Scouts, as well as studying for A Levels in English Language and Literature, Geography and Politics. He is now taking a break from school while he concentrates on dealing with leukaemia, with the support of his family, friends, and all here at school. We are sending our very best wishes to Harry and thank him for sharing this important message. To find out more about giving blood, visit the NHS Give Blood website, and for more information about how to donate stem cells, go to the Anthony Nolan website.



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

St John Fisher sixth formers spent registration times in late November visiting forms around the lower school and encouraging them to put together gifts in shoeboxes as part of the Christmas Shoebox

Appeal. Over 50 boxes were collected and dropped off at Mowbray Community Church where they will be sent on to communities around the world to help bring a little joy to a young person at Christmas.



CAFOD Soup and Roll Day

To mark the harvest celebration, St John Fisher held their Annual Soup and Roll Day in aid of CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). Pupils were encouraged to give up their usual lunchtime meal for a simple soup and bread roll in act of solidarity with those around the world who go with very little in terms of food. Our sixth formers were on hand to help serve pupils as well as collect donations and over £1500 was raised for CAFOD. Thank you and well done to everyone involved.

Senior Maths Challenge



The Senior Maths Challenge was held this term. 101 students from St. Aidan's entered from across Year 12 and 13. Of that they achieved an amazing haul of certificates - 41 Bronze, 28 Silver and 6 Gold - 75% achieved certificates which is excellent given that the UKMT award to the top 66% of entries. The 6 students who achieved Gold are Jerram Bishop, Leah Helm, Stan King, Oliver Dilley and Toby Williams from Year 13 and Kathryn Shores from Year 12.

Jerram and Leah both scored 95, making them joint Best in School. All 6 Gold certificate students qualified for the follow-on round - the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo. They took part and all 5 obtained a certificate with Jerram Bishop (Year 13) achieving a MERIT which means he was in the top 25% of entries. This round was open only by invitation to those students who excelled in the Senior Maths Challenge, putting all 5 students in the top 11% of students nationally to even qualify for entry. Jerram's results puts him in the top 3% of the country overall. Congratulations everyone!

Maths Olympiad for Girls

Huge congratulations to all the Year 12 and 13 girls who volunteered to do this gruelling 2.5 hour paper with 5 challenging, advanced mathematical problems. Well done to each student – what an impressive achievement! The students who took part were Year 12 students: Beth Abbott, Zoe Adamson, Sophie Baker, Zayana Bhatti, Emily Bodsworth, Florence Foster, Shelly Masawan, Sadie Robson, Aleena Roney and Alessia Talbot Year 13 students: Iris Asbury, Erin Bullen, Iona Davies, Leah Helm, Kezia Jackson and Natalia Walker.

Global Poetry Award



Huge congratulations to Year 13 student Sophie Hardaker who has won a prestigious global poetry award! She was selected as one of 85 commended Foyle Young Poets of the Year out of over 15800 entries! The Year 12 writing residential trip to Wales provided the location for Sophie to make a start on what has become award-winning work. Sophie collected her award at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London last month - what a fantastic achievement!

Debating Success

The Associated Sixth Form debating team, which consists of Kezia Jackson, Emily Hughes and Seth Pickersgill, took part in the first round of the ESU's prestigious Mace Competition on Friday 10 November. They

faced a team from Queen Mary's School, who proposed the motion: 'This house would broadcast court cases in the British justice system.' Our debaters, however, proved more persuasive, convincing the judges

that the motion should be opposed. It was a great achievement for the team, who were competing in their first inter-school competition. They now proceed to Round 2, which will be held in January.



Science News

St John Fisher is delighted to re-launch its partnership with the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS). The charity set up by Becky Parker, seeks to change the culture in education so that every young person experiences authentic research and innovation while at school.

It provides opportunities for young people in the UK, aged 11-18, to participate in cutting-edge STEM research and collaborate with leading universities and institution while still at school. It actively champions the benefit of students carrying out research while at school and influences and demonstrates best practice in STEM research and innovation in schools.

Student Ambassadors

Student Ambassadors continue to play a vital role in supporting younger students throughout both schools.

The St John Fisher Science Department would like to thank the 20 plus volunteers who have been giving up their time to support the Year 11 learners, after school, in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This has given Year 11, 325 hours of additional revision and intervention, in the run up to, through and after their November mock examinations.



Well done must also go to the St. Aidan's Academic Advisors who have supported students in main school with their work. St. Aidan's Ambassadors were also a huge help welcoming guests at Open Day and will be taking part in Information Evening this January. Our elected Senate and Congress will also be on hand to help continuing to represent the school in all they do.



All Year 12 and 13 St John Fisher students are working towards the Stella Maris Leadership Award which is in partnership with Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College, Leeds Trinity University and St. Mary's Twickenham. Congratulations to the 65 students in Year 13 who have achieved the Bronze Award and 10 students who have achieved their Silver Award this Term. We have also been really impressed with the number of commendations that Year 12 have been awarded; well done to Florence, Lucy and Eve who currently have the most commendations in the year group due to their commitments to serving the lower school community and our Sixth Form Community.

Harvest Collections



Every harvest time, St John Fisher collects tins of food and dried goods for the mission of St Pio's Friary, Bradford. The sixth form community rallied round to donate tins and pasta to help this good cause. A special mention to James Punter in Year 12 who promoted the Tin Collection in the local supermarket where he works. The supermarket donated a trolley-full of items which, along with all the other tins, will help to feed the hungry and homeless. James is pictured along with other members of the chaplaincy group and Franciszek from St Pio's Friary as they helped deliver the donations.

At St. Aidan's, a huge thanks to all who donated to our Harvest collections. We received £1482.94 for Christian Aid and 356.2kg of food for Harrogate Foodbank which is just fantastic. We now turn our attention to Christmas and would encourage everyone who is able, to contribute to our Advent appeal for food and household items which will be collected by the Foodbank just before the end of term.

Little Mermaid

A little bit of Disney magic landed at Constance Green Hall last week for the annual school production - and the show was an absolute smash hit! Faced with the challenge of representing seagulls, fish and crabs, Mr MacCallum's production made some bold costume decisions that allowed the characters to come to life, backed by an ingenious screen that gave a very professional finish. The well-loved story of Ariel the mermaid's love of humans was brought to the stage with humour, colour and a lot of joy! Bravo to the cast, orchestra and crew who produced a show that would not have been out of place on the professional stage. The many hours that went into the final production were all worthwhile when we heard the laughter and cheers of the audience. Congratulations to all involved for reinforcing how important the arts have always been - and continue to be - at St Aidan's! The whole cast were incredible in their roles, but special mention must go to Bella Bickerdike (Ariel), Marissa Ramdeehul (Eric), Kate Thompson (Ursula), Joe Capstick (Sebastian), Amelia Moran (Flounder), Katherine Pringle (Scuttle), Angus Hague (King Triton), Brodie Watson (Grimsby), Leah Nicholls (Flotsam) and Lucy Amos (Jetsam). Huge thanks to the staff who gave so much of their time to make this show happen - as well as Mr MacCallum, we must thank musical director Mrs Elliott, choreographer Ms Miller, singing coach Ms Collett, technician Mr Balme and assistant director Mrs Forsythe. The production was honoured to support the charity Winston's Wish, their work supporting children who have suffered a bereavement is close to our hearts. Thanks to everyone who donated £487.00 was raised.



Elfastic!

With over a thousand people coming in through the doors of St. John Fisher to see Elf, we can guarantee that Christmas cheer has indeed been spread! Our senior production this year marked the end of an intense 10 week rehearsal period for students and the performing arts department who produced yet another stellar showcase of student talent. Elf told the story of the human-mistaken-for-an-elf Buddy, played by Year 13 student Jeannot. In a monumental character shift from The Beast last year, Jeannot led us through the magical story of the Elf who heads to New York to look for his Father. Barely off stage, this role demanded a huge amount, both in content and the ability to be a bouncing, effervescent storyteller for the best part of 2 and a half hours. Supported ably by a cast of over 50 students, Year 12 student Hazel took on the role of Jovie, Buddy's humbug turned Christmas loving toy shop worker. Hazel commented "It was such a fun show to be a part of and we really enjoyed bringing the Christmas spirit to St. John Fisher". The principals in this show ranged right the way from Year 9 to 13 and none were out of place in this complex show which featured animated graphics on our video wall and an early winter dosing of snow for the audience. Alongside our fantastic on-stage cast, our technical team put in a huge amount of work to bring the glitz of the North Pole and downtown New York to life. Supported by a 19 piece live band, one parent commented "I had no idea the music was live until the band came on the screen at the end of the show!". Mrs Noonan, choreographer, said "Our students have worked incredibly hard to produce such a high standard of production in such a short space of time - they're all brilliant!". With Director Miss Hill about to depart at Christmas after covering Mrs Staunton's maternity leave, she commented "I knew that the standard of performing arts at St. John Fisher was strong, but I didn't know it was this good. It's been an absolute pleasure working with all these young people". Huge thanks go to all who came to support Elf and especially to all the students who did such a wonderful job. We hope to announce next year's production in the new year.



Golden Gala

The Associated Sixth Form was created in 1973 as a unique venture in ecumenical education, aiming to provide a Christian environment in which all students who wish to remain at school beyond the age of 16 could experience the expertise, experience and resources of two excellent schools. 50 years on, the Associated Sixth Form is going from strength to strength and a Golden Gala was planned that would mark this occasion by bringing together exciting collaborations between the most experienced, gifted and talented performers and alumni students across both schools.

Taking place at The Royal Hall in October, this spectacular event was performed to a packed house who entered into the celebrations with gusto. St. Aidan's, Head of Music Mrs Elliott and her fantastic team of Mrs Leonard, Mrs Collett, Mr Elliott and Miss Miller worked around the clock alongside Mr Ratcliffe, Miss Longbottom and Mrs Noonan from St John Fisher to rehearse with musical and dance ensembles. Meanwhile, Mrs Levahn's and Miss Hill's A Level Drama students performed some challenging extracts from the Greek Tragedy, 'Antigone' with impressive ease and projection.

Former student, Chemistry teacher and now professional musical theatre actor, Richard Upton compered the Gala expertly and even stepped in to sing 'Mack the Knife' when former student and musical theatre star, Frankie Bounds couldn't make it due to Storm Babette. Performances from other alumni students included 'Les Miserables' star, Jo Stephenson singing selections from Wicked and Joseph as well as professional singer and former member of Voces8, Eleonore Cockerham singing a beautiful rendition of 'Irish Blessing' along with the Chamber Choir. Professional clarinettist Andy Mellor also joined the Swing Band with his rousing solo in the jazz classic 'Sing Sing Sing'. There was also a very moving tribute to much loved Director of Sixth Form Mr Kidman who passed away during the summer.

Towards the end of the concert, every space was taken up with performers coming together for an Andrew Lloyd Webber medley. The audience were on their feet to sing together 'For All the Saints' an arrangement created specifically for the evening by former St. Aidan's Director of Music, Mark Pallant. Well done to all who took part in the concert, one audience member felt it was 'like being at a concert at The Royal Albert Hall!' Thanks must also go to all who joined us for this celebration. We are all proud of the enduring success of the Associated Sixth Form and were thrilled to celebrate this notable milestone in style.



Celebrating a New Chamber Choir

Congratulations to our Year 12s who auditioned and were selected to join the St. Aidan's Chamber Choir. The Year 12 students who have joined this year are: Emily Dennis, Chloe Brett, Ellora Turner, Catie Dresler, Seren Hill, Amelie Coyle, Lucy Brown, Emily Hughes, Olivia Hodgetts, Jack Brierley, Angus Bailey-Hague, Robert Smith, Cole Beadle, Kieran McQuire, Arthur Harrison, George Thomson, Kate Thompson, Flossie Davies, Annabel Baxter, Martha Ellis, Jazz Bain, Maisie Groundwater, Lucy Amos, Amelia Moran, Sophie Baker, Krish Deshra

-Beerachee, Jude Bowlas, Jae Ellison, Jeannott Gantier-Houston and Frankie Jackson.

So far, we have enjoyed listening to you sing at many events including the school Harvest Festival, the spectacular Golden Gala at the Royal Hall, (pictured above right), the joint Christmas Concert with Vocalis, Light up a Life Service at St Michaels Hospice and our Carol Service at Christ Church. Chamber Choir celebrated its 30-year anniversary last year. and rehearses after school on Monday and Friday lunchtimes led by Mrs

Leonard who said, "It is an absolute privilege to direct these committed and enthusiastic Sixth Form students". Chamber Choir have an exciting year ahead including the enormous privilege of performing at a mass at St Marks Basilica in Venice when they travel to Italy in July.



Double Diploma Distinctions

Congratulations to flutist friends Year 13's Anneke Gray and Alannah Saphir who this term have both managed to achieve Distinctions in their Flute Diploma exams. This is a major achievement at such a young age and is testament to years of hard work and dedication. These talented musicians have been busy this term with the Golden Gala, The Little Mermaid and the Carol service at Christchurch among other events. In November, Alannah also celebrated winning her age category for the Ripon Young Musician of the Year 2023!



Interfaith Talk

12-19th November marked Interfaith Week. The aims of this week are to strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels and to increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society. It also aims to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. Events included inter faith sports, discussions and dialogues, walks and pilgrimages, festivals and celebrations, exhibitions, concerts, and classroom activities. Faith communities across the country took part alongside schools, colleges,

universities, local authorities, and many other types of organisations. On 15th November the RS department, as part of the Living Well Year12 programme welcomed Adam, Heston and Anna as representatives of the Abrahamic faiths: Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Each spoke of their individual religious journeys and the impact of faith on their own lives. In addition they addressed an array of questions from students on topics from favourite teachings to how religions respond to the changing demography of our regions. The panel acknowledged their shared beliefs while discussing how their interpretation of religious text impact one another

Children in Need 2023

Children in Need at St John Fisher was a great success thanks to the hard work of the Congress team in planning and executing events throughout the week such as Bake and Sweet Sales and the Year 12 Netball Match. Once again, an auction was held on the Friday with nearly 50 items subject to a frenzy of bidding. Items donated included a Coach Gym annual membership,

Cloud 9 straighteners and a meal for 2 at Rudding Park Hotel. Alongside the voluntary donations for non-uniform, the final amount raised was over £3,800.

Meanwhile at St. Aidan's, the Sixth Form entertained the whole school with their varied and hilarious fancy dress costumes! They were 'off

timetable' for Period 5 so could play football on the 3G, play board games in the Café or take part in a Kahoot. In the build up to Friday's fun and games, Senate held an auction in the Café where students were able to bid for some amazing prizes. Huge thanks to everyone who donated. The total amount raised was £ 4,433.71 and all profits will be divided between BBC Children in Need and Wellspring.



Football News

The Sixth Form Football teams have both had great starts to the year. The 1st XI made it through to the 4th round of the ESFA Cup beating Thirsk 7-1, Garforth School 5-2 and Penistone 4-2. They were narrowly beaten by Roundhay school in some of the worst conditions Mr Strover has ever seen a football match being played in. In the County Cup they are through to the QF after wins v Thirsk and Ermysteds. We play Richmond after the Christmas holidays. The 2nd XI have done incredibly well to make it through to the last 16 in the ESFA 2nd XI Cup. They travelled up to play Royal Grammar School Newcastle and had a great afternoon against some tough opposition coming out 2-1 winners. We were meant to play Maltby academy in Rotherham, but they conceded the match. The team are playing Manchester Grammar School in the last 16 looking to secure a QF spot.



Rugby Round Up

The Associated Sixth Form Rugby team has continued to thrive, despite being a victim of the weather which has meant cancelled fixtures this term.

Students from both schools came together for an in-house match being closely contested and Captain Pearson's team being narrowly defeated by Vice Captain Morley's team - there was an array of talent on show, not to mention some hard fitness truths!!

The new breed of Year 12s made an outstanding show with Josh Morales, Ben Green and Aquila Coultas looking sharp. We are looking forward to the new year and all it brings, with more fixtures and promising performances.



Hockey News



Well done to the U18 girls hockey team who were up against tough competition at the Tier 3 Yorkshire Semi-Finals this term.

The girls were unlucky to come away with just a 1-0 loss against Hill House, a 4-1 loss against Hymers College with a brilliant goal scored by Coco and an epic 5-1 win against Wakefield Girls High.

The girls did themselves proud and played the best hockey they have ever played, including some excellent saves by birthday girl, Freya. A special mention to Libby, Bea and Maisie who stepped up at the last minute so we could field a team.

Squash Success

Well done to the Key Stage 5 Squash team who played in the first round of the National schools Squash competition and qualified for the regional round in January! The team

were: Adam Hope, Max Brown, Archie King, Stanley King and Pierce Rosney

