

INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.37 - FEBRUARY 2024



Welcome to February's edition of our InTouch newsletter. This is just a flavour of everything that is happening both in and out of the St. Aidan's community which as always, depicts our school ethos of living 'Life in all its fullness'. I am proud of our students for all they work hard to achieve, and we are thrilled to be able to celebrate this in both this monthly newsletter and assemblies and form time within school.

This month it is heart-warming to read about the wonderful sense of community that flourishes within school. Whether this be our older students supporting the younger students in helping them make important decisions at the Year 11 Forum, encouraging them at Jazz Night or individuals going the extra mile to brighten up someone's day by playing music during their lunch hour. It is these qualities that enable students at St. Aidan's to stand out from the crowd.

As we move towards Spring and Easter approaches, we are grateful for the lighter evenings and the warmer days. Thank you all for the continued support you give to St Aidan's. Enjoy this issue of InTouch


Headteacher

Children's Mental Health

Before half term, Children's Mental Health Awareness Week took place and this year's theme was 'My Voice Matters'. My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. The research shows that when we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our wellbeing.

The Beacon promoted the theme with information displays as well as lunchtime sessions which included the following: Reshaping Monday - express yourself with art. Tuesday - My Voice - graffiti wall to complete with 'What in the World matters to you? Wednesday - Wake up Well Wednesday - a quiet sleep workshop. Providing vital top tips on sleeping and how to improve your sleep. Thursday - Talk it over Thursday - space for expression, very loosely along the lines of the Human Libraries now seen in Denmark. Friday - Never be board again Friday - board games, one of the best forms of promoting expression and communication.

The Beacon continues to work with students after half term providing support and working alongside our students to navigate their own wellbeing, helping to enable them to experience life to the full.



New Bibles for Year 7



We were pleased to welcome Steve, Tim and Gillian from Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons UK) into school today. After speaking about the Bible in Year 7 Collective Worship, they gave students the opportunity to receive their own copy of the New Testament and Psalms, a gift which some of the teaching staff fondly remembered receiving themselves in Year 7.

Year 11 Mock Exams



We are delighted with the efforts of our Year 11 students for their mock exams last month. The results for progress and achievement look very promising and reflect the levels of preparation and organisation that we know our students put in. This bodes well for the upcoming exams in May and we encourage our students to keep the momentum with their ongoing revision. A reminder to all that we are all here to support them in whatever way is needed.

Bake-Off Challenge for Year 12 French

Year 12 French students had a lesson with a difference this month in Madame Murray's class. Learning about le patrimoine immatériel (intangible cultural heritage), they learned all about the origins of the Tarte Tatin. As part of this, they were set the task of creating a Tarte Tatin and competing to win the title of 'le meilleur pâtissier'!

Mr Weare, Miss McMahon and Mrs Caine had the enviable task of tasting 17 Tarte Tatins before voting Daisy Cartwright as the winner! Well done Daisy!



Cathedral Choir Experience for Sixth Form Students



A level Music students, Joe Capstick (Year 13) and Jack Brierley (Year 12) joined the choir of Voces Seraphorum to sing in Eucharist and two Evensong services at Ripon Cathedral in February. The boys spent many hours in rehearsal with the choir and very much enjoyed this unique experience. Pictured with Jack and Joe is our ex-Director of Music, Mark Pallant who is Deputy Lay Clerk and ex St Aidan's pupil Jonathan Finch.

Aidan's Flame play for Learning Support



Huge thanks to Team Week B Aidan's Flame who treated Learning Support Drama Club to a wonderful performance during lunchtime on 26 February. The band had the entire room singing along to classic worship songs, including King of Kings and My Lighthouse. A fabulous way to brighten up a Monday lunchtime – a special mention must go to Year 11 student Thomas Lachman for gathering his band mates and arranging the performance!

Year 8 Create Theatrical Sets

Year 8 English students have been studying Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and for their homework were set the challenge of creating sets of their favourite scene. We think they are amazing and thought you would like to see them!

Jazz Night 2024

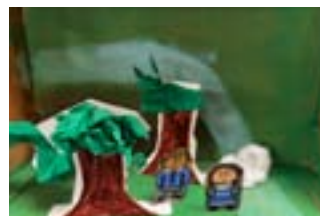


Constance Green Hall was buzzing with excitement on Tuesday 6 February as the ever-popular Jazz Night took place. The evening kicked off with entertainment from Swing Band featuring Lucy Amos' fantastic vocals singing At Last, Someone to Watch Over Me, Feeling Good and Valerie. Other repertoire from the band included Brass Machine, Africa, Sir Duke and When I Fall in Love.

Next our very capable Sixth Form students took the lead directing our younger performers in SAJE (St Aidan's Jazz Ensemble) who really impressed the audience with arrangements of A Night in Tunisia, Birdland, Summertime and The Incredibles. Amongst the entertainment, were impressive performances including a stunning trombone solo from Kirsten Elliott playing Georgia on My Mind, a jazz trio featuring three of our Year 13 pupils and a trombone quartet with a rendition of Hey Jude.

It was a final Jazz Night for our Year 13s who have played brilliantly over so many years and we thank them for guiding and inspiring those younger musicians who are starting to shine on evenings such as this.

The evening ended with all the musicians coming together for the spectacular Grand Finale with both bands playing St Louis Blues, which was received with much applause! Well done to the musicians, tech team, SAMA and of course, massive thanks must go to our Head of Music, Mrs Elliott who pulled the whole evening together.



National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week took place the week before half term and we celebrated this on our social media platforms by sharing all the resources and information available within school, in the careers area of the website, and beyond. We also caught up with former student Amy Barraclough who left St. Aidan's in 2023 after completing Year 11 to start pursuing a career in Primary School Education. She is currently studying to be a Teaching Assistant on an Apprenticeship scheme at our fellow Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust school, Oatlands Infants in Harrogate and is thoroughly enjoying it. Amy commented on how fantastic it is to learn on the job and be paid while doing it.

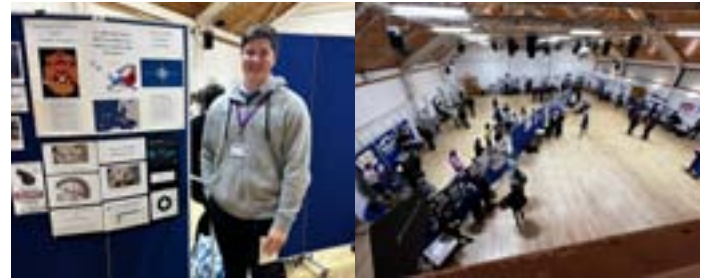
Amy's long-term goal is to be a Primary School Teacher which she will no doubt



EPQ Showcase

Well done to the Year 13 EPQ students who this month have delivered their projects while being assessed for their Extended Project Qualification. Constance Green Hall was filled with displays of varied and well researched projects and students talked passionately to assessors about the topics they had chosen to research such as Antibiotic Resistance, gender gaps in civil engineering and how Saudi Arabian money has impacted the football industry to name but a few.

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is on offer to all students in the Associated Sixth Form and work commences during the summer term of Year 12. The course is designed to increase the breadth and depth of study in the chosen subject. The subject chosen can be something that complements an existing A Level but isn't on the specification or it can be something entirely different in which they have a personal interest. Doing an EPQ can help develop skills such as research, critical thinking, referencing and academic writing.



Year 11 Forum

St. Aidan's Year 11 students were given the opportunity to find out all about the wonderful and varied courses on offer to them at the Associated Sixth Form this month as they gathered in Constance Green Hall for the Year 11 Forum.

Huge thanks to our current Sixth Formers for giving up your time to share the student perspective with our Year 11s, it is so valuable to this year group as they consider their post-16 choices.



Globe Theatre Visit



Recently, Sixth Form English students took the train down to London to see The Globe Theatre's new production of 'Othello'. We had a brilliant day in London, starting with a visit to Borough Market before heading along the Southbank to The Globe. We enjoyed an informative tour around the historic theatre; a great opportunity to explore the replica space many of Shakespeare's plays were performed in. The Globe's 'Othello' was amazing – a production of stunning quality brought to life in the candlelight of the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. This was not only a very enjoyable trip, but also a valuable complement to our A Level studies.

El Rowntree

Silver for Peter

This month Year 9 student Peter Middlemass won a silver medal at the North of England Indoor Championships in the Under 15s 60m hurdles at the EIS in Sheffield. Congratulations Peter!



County Footballers

Year 11 footballers Tom Perry and Ollie Holdsworth continue to play county level football and represented North Yorkshire Under 16s during half term. They won their game against Pickering Town 4-0! Well done boys!



Fin is a Black Belt

Congratulations to Year 8 student Finley Straker who after 5 hard years of dedication and weekly training (3-5 hrs a week) has achieved his black belt in Taekwondo. His brother Ben achieved his last year too and both boys now continue to support their club and give back to the club by teaching, all age groups of a lower belt, the art of Taekwondo - something which takes great skill and patience!



Lois Does It Again!

We have been following the swimming successes of Lois Child in Year 9 for a while now. Her latest success, this month has seen her win 8 individual gold and 3 silver medals across a range of events at the Yorkshire Long Course Championships. She was also part of the girls 13/14 year old relay team who won gold in both the free and medley relays. She has now also qualified for 4 events at the British Swimming Championships in April in London.

This month, she has also been on a Swim England Endurance Initiative training camp at Repton School – Lois was one of 14 of the fastest 'endurance' 13 year olds in England selected for the camp. Well done Lois!



Squash Celebrations

We have had some excellent success in the English Schools Squash competition this year, following on from success in previous years. Our Key Stage 3 team won both their first two rounds and so have qualified for the National Final at Edgbaston Squash Club on Wednesday 13 March. Only 8 teams qualify from all over the country for this.

In the Key Stage 4 competition we had 2 teams compete in different groups. Both teams qualified for the regional finals. One team managed to win their group in a closely fought affair to qualify for the National Final on Thursday 14 March. This was an amazing achievement as it is the first time some of these students have competed for school. Our other Key Stage 4 team finished second and missed out on a place in the finals.

In the Key Stage 5 competition the team again qualified for the regional finals but came up against some tough opposition at this round and finished third.

The Key Stage 4 Team that qualified are pictured here, from left to right: Elliott Campbell, Zach Blackmore, Charlie Norwood, Jack Leonard and Joe Thompson.



Year 13 Ski Trip

During February half term, 60 Year 13 students took to the slopes of Andorra for the Year 13 Ski Trip.

With fantastic conditions on the pistes, each ability group was able to have a fantastic skiing experience. After an action packed day on the slopes, the students spent the evenings visiting the local town, bowling, ice skating and there was even a quiz night! Making memories during their last year at school, Year 13 had a blast!

Huge thanks to trip leader, Mrs Searby and the team of staff that accompanied our students during their half term break - they can be seen here enjoying some time off the slopes!



Semi-Finals for the Year 8 Football Team

Congratulations to our Year 8 Football Team who have made it through to the semi-finals of the English Schools Elite Football Competition. In the words of coach Mr Maullin; "this is an unbelievable achievement and the furthest the school has reached in over 15 years!"

Earlier this month, there was a thrilling match on the 3G between our Year 8 boys football team and a strong South Hunsley side. Making it to the last eight teams in the country, this was the English Schools Elite Football Competition quarter finals. With a fantastic team performance, it was a 5-4 win for St. Aidan's with 3 goals from Henry Wardle, a goal from Dan Pears and a goal from James de Bussy. The semi finals are to be held on 7 March in Telford and we wish the team all the very best!

The Year 8 Football team are: James Barraclough, Will Swale, Ryan Dyson, Ben Dickinson, Ewan Rhodes, Archie Wilson, Isaac Alker, Henry Wardle, Isaiah Prosper, James De Bussy, Dan Pears, Dominic Twigs, Joe Thompson, Cole Watson and Theo Storr.



Dates for your diary

Tues 12 March	Year 7 RS Trip:C/D/E/G & H	Thurs 21 March	Year 7 Author visit - Tom Palmer
Wed 13 March	Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Leeds	Thurs 21 March	Senior Concert
Thurs 14 March	Year & RS Trip: P/S/W/Y	Fri 22 March	Break up for Easter
Weds 20 March	Associated Sixth Form Easter Liturgy Service		



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)