

# INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.38 - MARCH 2024



It has been a short half term but it's been absolutely packed with good news stories and examples of 'life in all its fullness' around every corner.

We recently had 'National Offer Day' for Year 6 students and would like to extend a warm welcome to those students and their families that will be starting with us in Year 7. We are very excited to meet them during our summer transition programme. Welcome to the St Aidan's family!

Easter is a joyous time for us at St Aidan's as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his promise of eternal life. We have gathered for worship within the school community and look forward to the Easter break and much needed time to rest and recharge ready for the busy summer term ahead.

*Aidan Owe*  
Headteacher

## Stem Cell Recruitment



This month, the Associated Sixth Form welcomed the Hero Project, who are volunteers working on behalf of Anthony Nolan to recruit potential stem cell donors for their register. Our guests were overwhelmed when nearly 100 of our Sixth Form students stepped up to take swabs, agreeing to be added to a register which for some might mean the difference between life and death.

This is particularly meaningful, as one of our own students, Year 13's Harry, is in need of stem cell treatment to help him recover from acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. We thank Harry for raising awareness in our school community about how important this cause is. We also thank the Hero Project for coming in and our students for taking part.

## School Council



Well done to our School Council for ongoing work representing fellow students and then feeding back concerns/ideas to Senior Leaders within school. Topics at their latest meeting included charity work and the new behaviour policy at St. Aidan's. The student voice is one we take seriously, and we thank these students for giving up their time.

## Prom Donations Needed!

Yorkshire Cancer Research at Hornbeam Park are holding a Prom Event selling great value Prom dresses, suits and accessories ahead of the upcoming Prom season!

The event is taking place between 14-21 April 2024 but they still need lots of donations!

If anyone in our school community would like to donate, please leave your dresses, suits and prom accessories in the Marketing office (upstairs in the Chapel block). The deadline for leaving these donations is Wednesday 10 April. We will pass these on to Yorkshire Cancer Research on your behalf.

## Zawadi News



Well done to Sixth Form Charity team Zawadi who earlier this month laid on an amazing Spring Disco for all of Year 7 to enjoy. There was a DJ, games, face painting, a photo booth and all the sweets and fizzy drinks you could imagine, and Constance Green Hall was buzzing! 180 students attended the Year 7 Disco and made over £900!

During the last week of term, Zawadi organised an Easter Egg tombola from Monday - Wednesday during lunchtime in the Year 7 courtyard. This event is always a crowd-pleaser!

March 21st - 27th is a 'week of solidarity' with people struggling with racism and racial discrimination and Zawadi's 'International Day' on Friday 22nd is a non-uniform day designed to celebrate our Wider World. Students are encouraged to wear fun colours to celebrate and embrace our diversity and culture. Events will include a scavenger hunt, a 'wider world film', a lunch time fair and in some cases, subject related input during lessons.

These are the final 3 events in Zawadi's calendar this academic year and they look forward to holding their AGM on 25 April.

## Attendance Award



FFT National  
Attendance Award  
2023/24

This month, we are thrilled to share that we have won an FFT National Attendance award. Our attendance is well above the national average and we are very proud of our students whose attendance has been excellent this term. Special mentions must go to Year 8 who are the Year group with the best attendance and 11D who are the form with the best attendance! We are very grateful to Main School Attendance Officer, Mrs Brown and Sixth Form Attendance Officer Mrs Bishop for all they do.

Good attendance is a huge factor in school success and we are grateful to parents and carers for supporting students' excellent attendance. If there is further support we can provide with this, please contact our Year Teams.



## Physics Olympiad



On Friday 1 March, 42 of our students sat the Year 11 Intermediate Physics Olympiad. Students with a passion for Physics and problem solving were given the opportunity to voluntarily sign up for this difficult exam. Staff were delighted to see so many of our students challenging themselves, particularly since it is such a busy time of year for them. It is the first time that the school have entered this challenge, which forms part of the wider stretch and challenge opportunities within the school. We wish them luck!



During the last few weeks, we've been celebrating everything reading! Gearing up to World Book Day and beyond!

In late February, St Aidan's (amongst several local schools) attended the annual Battle of the Books quiz at Queen Mary's School, near Thirsk. After a hard-fought six rounds, many of which went to tiebreakers, St. Aidan's were pipped to 1st Place by King James' School by just half a point. On World Book Day itself, we decorated our windows again, and had our annual book sale! WBD tokens were given out to students so that they could visit local bookshops to choose a free WBD book or a discount on any other title.

On 8th March two teams from Year 7 and Year 8 competed in a Yorkshire Regional Reading Champions Quiz. There were 8 rounds of tough questions about books ranging from classics like *The Secret Garden* to modern favourites like *Noughts & Crosses* and *Heartstopper*.

On 21 March we had a visit from author, Tom Palmer, who writes about football, rugby, and history. Tom talked about the research he does to make his books authentic and thoroughly enjoyable to read, travelling to the places where events have happened and investigating historical records. We hope that his enthusiasm for writing will encourage and inspire our own students to become authors. He also signed copies of his books for students. A fabulous treasure to keep forever!

## Rotary Tournament



We were delighted to host the Rotary Technology Tournament in Constance Green Hall earlier this month.

This event was set up and run expertly by members of the Rotary Club of Great Britain and student teams from several secondary schools in the area were invited to attend.

Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced teams were assessed on Planning and Teamwork, Design Analysis, Design Development and Realisation.

Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to our two Intermediate teams who won 2nd and 3rd place and to our Advanced team who won 1st place! Huge thanks to all the teaching staff, and Rotary club members for ensuring everyone had a great time and the day ran smoothly.





## Train Club



St. Aidan's Model Railway Club (Train Club) continues to be a very popular though possibly lesser-known extra-curricular activity on a Wednesday lunchtime. We have a variety of members with an incredible wealth of knowledge of British railways past and present.

Pictured here is one of the model layouts built by members over the past few years featuring an apparently very unlikely matching of locomotive and coaches from different eras.

## Crufts for Lena



Earlier this month, Year 9 student Lena Tate took part in the famous dog show Crufts. The competition took four days, and, on the Thursday, she was placed 3rd in her breed class with her miniature poodle Violet whom she handles and grooms herself. On the Friday Lena placed second in the Young Kennel Club 12-17 clip, strip, or trim grooming competition. The winner chose to do a hand strip so she was the winning 'trim' groomer for hand scissoring her friend's black miniature poodle, Matilda. Fantastic work Lena!



Recent research from the Careers and Enterprise Company has once again highlighted the importance of quality careers education in helping young people to become more career ready and achieve positive destinations at both post 16 and post 18, something which is celebrated every year during National Careers Week. As part of our ongoing careers programme designed to raise our student's awareness of different career and study opportunities we are once again delighted to welcome our colleagues from Harrogate College into assemblies this week to talk to the students about alternative pathways.

The Careers Department also delivered a bespoke careers lesson today to the whole of both Year 7 and 9. The focus was on 'career readiness', featuring a reflection on the many reasons why people work together with an introduction to the concept of labour market information and the labour market in our region. Lively debate and fun was had by all!

## Life Drawing for Year 12



Earlier this month in the chapel at St. Aidan's, Year 12 A Level Fine Art students were treated to a masterclass in Life Drawing. Lisa, from the Parish Art room, came in and students were able to gain valuable expertise and skills in figurative, portraiture and perspective drawing. Many thanks to Lisa for visiting us.

If you are after some extra life drawing experience, Lisa will be running her usual life drawing session the 2nd week of the Easter holidays. This is on Wednesday 3 April 10.30-12.30pm at St George's Community Hall in Harrogate.

## Year 11 Geography Field Trip



On Wednesday 6 March 130 GCSE Geographers went off to Hornsea for the day to carry out some fieldwork. This fieldwork is a compulsory part of the GCSE course, and students have to answer questions about what they did. So with the big question "Are the sea defences in Hornsea a success?" in the forefront of everyone's minds, we wrapped up warm and braved the cold and misty day to carry out some groyne surveys, bi-polars, land use maps and annotated photos. The wintery conditions, high tide and low cloud gave Hornsea a slightly gloomy feel and the opportunity to see the sea defences put into action. It wasn't long before everyone was feeling a little chilly, and the usual hunger-inducing effects of the sea air was kicking in. Thankfully, the community hub cafe and various cafes and chip shops were more than happy to welcome some eager customers, and provide everyone with a chance to warm up. It was then back out for a bit more surveying and then onto the nice warm coaches for the return to Harrogate. The next trip to Hornsea is planned for the summer term with Year 10!



## Road Safety Talks



Many thanks to guest speakers Lauren Doherty and Sgt Paul Cording who delivered a thought-provoking Road Safety talk to St. Aidan's Year 12s during their 'Living Well' session this month. 15 years ago, Lauren was distracted as she crossed the road and was left paralysed after being hit by a van. Staff and students were inspired by her determination to turn a negative into a positive.

## Year 12 go to Salamanca

This month Year 12 language students escaped to the sunshine of Salamanca. They explored all that the Golden City of Salamanca has to offer, immersing themselves in Spanish culture. Staying with host families, students enjoyed a week packed full of activities, with plenty of opportunities to practice speaking Spanish. Experiences included: a Flamenco lesson, a tour of Salamanca, its cathedral and convent, a trip to the cinema, bowling, sampling Spanish tapas and paella, and (lots!) of shopping. Thanks to the teachers who took time out to organise and ensure the smooth running of the trip.



## Work Experience in Lille

The Lille trip was an incredible experience to improve my French skills whilst doing work experience in L'Auberge de Jeunesse (Youth Hostel) and staying with a host family. During the week, I worked during the day, greeting and helping clients as well as speaking to my colleagues about all sorts of interesting topics from music to French politics. We had time to explore the city in the afternoon, before spending the evening and having a meal with our host family - who even took us on a tour of the town of Ypres, Belgium, one evening! Being able to immerse myself fully in the language was an invaluable opportunity and it really was a very useful and thoroughly enjoyable week.

Jack Brierley, Year 12



## Easter Liturgy

During the last week of term in Constance Green Hall, it was wonderful to join with Year 12s from across the Association for our Easter Liturgy service. There were readings, music from Chamber Choir, worship and most importantly, this was time to reflect on the true meaning of Easter. Hot Cross Buns were handed around and a sense of calm and community was felt at the end of what has been such a busy term.



# Harrogate Competitive Festival for Music Speech and Drama

There were many success stories from the Harrogate Competitive Festival for Music Speech and Drama this month and we hope we have done our students justice by sharing a few of them here.

Firstly, well done to Bethany McDonagh (Year 7) and Charlotte Lachman (Year 8) who took part, both performing as part of a group of six members of the Christ Church Junior Choir. Bethany also impressed with her performance in solo singing categories.

Congratulations to Year 12 Pianists Krish, Annabel and Jack who won their class, playing a Rachmaninoff trio piano piece. Special mention to Jack who has passed his grade 8 piano with Distinction and Krish who has also recently passed the ABRSM piano Diploma securing a Distinction!

Our Strings musicians have also won many awards. Zach Blackmore (Year 11), won first place with Honours in the String Solo Grades 7 and 8 category, playing Czardas by Monti on cello.

Senushi Edirisinghe (Year 10) won first place in the String Solo Grade 6 playing Melody by Gluck on violin.

Bella Blackmore (Year 9), won first place with Distinction playing cello in the String Solo Grades 4 and 5 category, playing Gershwin's I Got Rhythm. With 7 competitors in that category, St. Aidan's student Will Orr (Year 8) also played a very nice Sometime Maybe by Wedgewood.

Zach Blackmore, Bella Blackmore and Bethan Thomas also competed with their cello sextet, The Cello Choir, and received the highest award of Honours, winning the String Group category. They played Yesterday by The Beatles, Deep River by Coleridge-Taylor and Kyrie Eleison from Missa Papae Marcelli by Palestrina, the latter they performed as a world premiere of an arrangement for cellos just before Christmas!

Finally, Congratulations to Year 13's Alannah Saphir who won the Young Musician of the Festival Award!

We are proud and inspired by each and every one of you and know the dedication it takes to perform to the level you all do.



## Senior Spring Concert

With a packed Constance Green Hall, there was every musical taste catered for at the Spring Concert. The night opened with classical delights from Mrs Leonard's Symphony Orchestra, the student led Four Seasons String Quartet followed with a stunning rendition of Waltz No 2. Mrs Elliott's Senior Choir, accompanied on piano by Year 12's Jack Brierley, sang a moving song from the musical Dear Evan Hansen before lifting the audience again to ELO's Mr Blue Sky.

Chamber Choir, under the direction of Mrs Leonard, performed Ubi Caritas, Ola Gjeilo impressively sang entirely in Latin. This is to be performed by Chamber Choir in St Marks Basilica Venice in July this year. A fantastic medley of songs from Les Miserables was a treat with soloists galore and piano accompaniment from Year 13's Ethan Cowell. Swing Band made their signature entrance with Brass machine and Lucy Amos's vocals for Nina Simone's Feeling Good were full of soul.

Awards were given to many students throughout the evening; for Musicianship and the Musical Director Award. Well done to those who received these: Andre, Jamie, Zoe, Ben, Kirsten, Freddie, Joe, Rob, Alannah and Anneke – all much deserved. Mrs Elliott thanked all our Year 13 students for their contributions to music at St. Aidan's during their time here. We will miss them, and we know their musical journey isn't over yet.

Mr Elliott's wonderful Symphonic Band closed the evening on a high with English Folk Song Suite and Schola Vita. Thanks to all who joined us for a very special evening of music and thanks to Mrs Elliott and colleagues for all you do ensuring our musicians thrive at St. Aidan's.





## Sisters' Success

Well done to sisters Maisie (Year 10) and Coco Richardson (Year 12) who have not only been captaining their Hockey teams at County Level (North Yorkshire A Teams), they have been nominated for England Hockey Training Academy trials which take place later in April. Next month, they are also due to attend a High-Performance Hockey Camp – Hockey Mentors at Lee Valley Olympic Park in London. We are very proud of you both and look forward to hearing how you got on!

## Well done Ollie!

We have been following the trampolining success of Year 10 student Ollie Jones since he started at St. Aidan's, and now he is through to England Team! We are thrilled for him and wish him all the best!

## Year 7 Basketball



This month, the Year 7 Basketball team had their first experience in a County Tournament. They showed great determination in what was their first games of competitive Basketball. They played some really experienced sides and managed to come within a shoot off in winning 1 game. They only lost the other matches by 3 points and 10 points. The progress they made throughout the tournament was fantastic. Well done to all involved!

## Year 9 Girls' Football



Congratulations to the Year 9 Girls' Football team who beat Fulford School 4-3 and have made it through to the County Cup Final! Well done to the whole team!

## Under 15s Girls' Cricket



A massive congratulations to the U-15 indoor cricket team who were crowned Yorkshire Champions last week. In the most tense tournament any St. Aidan's team has experienced in 20 years, the girls were utterly magnificent.

They beat West Yorkshire representatives Holmfirth, narrowly lost to East Yorkshire's South Hunsley before beating South Yorkshire school Silverdale to reach the semi-finals. We came across Penistone Grammar and chased down an enormous run total to win the game on the final ball!

The final against Wakefield Girls was equally close and resulted in scenes of jubilation as we pulled off another comeback to win on the penultimate ball.

The team travel to Bolton Arena on 29 April as representatives of Yorkshire to compete in the North of England finals. Winning that would mean a trip to Lords!!

## Year 11 Boys' Football



Congratulations to the Year 11 Boys' football team who played Richmond School in the County Cup semifinals this month. With a 4-1 win, they have made it through to the Final! Goals from Ollie Holdsworth, Henry Collings, Nat Ellison and Jack Warren. Well done to all the team!



# Year 8 Football Team - you did brilliantly!



Well done to the Year 8 Football team who this month, played in the Elite Cup Semi-Final Vs Thomas Telford School. To reach the semi-final is an incredible achievement and the furthest the school has reached in over 15 years! Unfortunately, the team narrowly missed out on reaching the final after losing 2-1 to an incredibly strong opposition.

The team should be very proud of themselves for putting in an exceptional performance and battling extremely hard; we were in the game until the very end.

St. Aidan's went 2-0 down in the first half before Henry Wardle managed to get a goal back just before the half-time whistle. We had a couple of opportunities in the second half to equalise and take the game to extra-time but unfortunately, we were unable to convert these chances into the goal we needed.

Well done to all involved including the team's fantastic coach Mr Maullin. What an amazing experience!

The team were: The team were: James Barraclough, Will Swales, Ryan Dyson, Ben Dickinson, Archie Wilson, Isaac Alker, Henry Wardle (c), Isaiah Prosper, James De Bussy, Dan Pears, Theo Storr, Ewan Rhodes, Cole Watson, Joe Thompson and Dom Twiggs.

## Dates for your diary

Mon 8 April	Return to School	Thurs 11 April	Gold D of E Practice Expedition
Tues 9 April	Careers Evening	Thurs 25 April	Concert at St Andrews Starbeck



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))