

# INTOUCH

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NO.24 - DECEMBER 2022



The last few weeks before the end of the autumn term is always a very special time at St Aidan's as we prepare for Christmas. It begins with our Christmas card competition (well done to Sophia Hodgson on the winning design) and quickly builds up to the wonderful Carol Service at Christ Church. All the events are joyous, with lovely services, singing and music. We remind our students that beyond the glitter and sparkle there lies a profound Christian celebration which marks the birth of Jesus Christ and his impact on our world. We take time to reflect and think of others, some less fortunate than ourselves. Humility along with kindness and charity are central themes at this time of year. It has been a wonderful term and it is a joy to see our students flourish and grow, living life in all its fullness. Thank you to all our parents and carers and to those in the wider school community for your continued support, we really appreciate it. May I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back in the new year. Take care.

Mr Thornton

## Wellbeing Advent Calendar

The ILC is getting in the festive spirit with Wellbeing Wednesdays! On the 30th of November, we have all made Wellbeing Advent Calendars which include wellbeing and self care tips. They are simple things that everyone can do to have a few minutes each day to prioritise themselves and their wellbeing. The ILC have a big version of it on display which the students have really enjoyed opening each day!

This last week, 7th of December, we have been making Christmas cards! The students have made some lovely designs and enjoyed having that time during the week to be creative and be in a different environment with new people! There was a big emphasis on who the card would be written to as the students were prompted to think about who they are grateful and thankful for this year, and who has been part of their support network.

Wellbeing Wednesdays are now being run as a club for all students during a Wednesday lunchtime! It has been a great success so far, and we are really excited to keep this going through the next year!



## Christingle with Year 7



Year 7 ended their first term at St Aidan's with a wonderful Christingle service where parents were invited to join the year group for prayer, readings, drama, dancing, songs and carols. The Year 7s were thrilled to be taking part in the Service which explained the meaning behind Christingle; the orange represents the world, the red tape reminds us of God's love, the sweets remind us of the good things God has given us and the lit candle reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world. We congratulate our Year 7s on a fantastic first term at St Aidan's and wish them and their families a peaceful Christmas.

## Light up a Life Service



On Sunday 11th December the Chamber choir led the carols and performed the poignant song 'Run' by Snow Patrol at the St Michael's Hospice Light up a Life service. It was a beautiful and moving occasion with hundreds of people in attendance. Mrs Leonard said "The service clearly means so much to so many people who have lost loved ones and the Chamber choir were honoured to be asked to be involved. It is an outside service so we wrapped up warm!"

## Carols at Christchurch



The Carol Service at Christchurch is always a special evening, marking the start of Christmas for our school community and we are blessed to be welcomed there each year. This is a traditional service of Nine Lessons, involving Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Chamber Choir. This year was no different, where the congregation were treated to a variety of carols and traditional music including Chamber Choir's poignant 'In the Bleak Midwinter'. A highlight of the service was hearing all choirs sing together for the joyous contemporary carol 'Immanuel'. With readings and prayers from staff and students, we would like to thank all involved and our Lay Chaplain Liz Shores who has worked tirelessly during this festive period to provide us all with some wonderful opportunities to worship and celebrate Christmas together.



# Grantley Hall

Year 13 Food Science and Nutrition students spent a morning at the Michelin Star hotel and restaurant, Grantley Hall. The visit was arranged to support their understanding and application of Food Safety and Hygiene in the numerous top-class restaurants at the hotel. They were very lucky to visit behind the scenes in the Shaun Rankin restaurant, and able to contrast this with visits to the other restaurants and kitchens available to guests at the hotel. Grantley Hall were very generous with their time, and keen to chat to the students about their career aspirations, offering great advice to those intending to join the hospitality industry. An inspirational day for everyone.



# Senior Maths Challenge



The Senior Maths Challenge, for mathematicians in Years 12 and 13, was held earlier this term. Certificates, bronze, silver and gold, are awarded to the top 66% of entries. In total we had 95 entries of which 74% achieved a certificate - 4 Gold, 25 Silver and 41 Bronze. Furthermore, students who are in the top 6000 from across the whole country qualify for The Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo. This is a follow-on round to the Senior Mathematical Challenge. It is a 60-minute Challenge consisting of 20 problems. 4 students, who also achieved Gold, qualified for the Senior Kangaroo - Josh Jolley, Nikhil Prabhu, Amogh Simhadri and Will Varley. All 4 received a certificate from this round as well. All students who took part should be very proud of themselves and special congratulations to the certificate winners, and the 4 Kangaroo round qualifiers.

# Year 8 go to Ullswater

On Monday 5 December Year 8, with bags packed full of warm clothes, embarked on their residential trip to Ullswater. The staff and students stayed in two centres, one based in Ullswater and one across the lake in Howtown. The trip started with a bracing dip in the lake and much more adventure was to follow. All enjoyed kayaking, raft building, hill walking, abseiling and much more. There was home made food, new friendships formed and it was lovely to see the students enjoying themselves again on school trips. Thanks must go to all the staff that organised and accompanied our students enabling them to have a trip to remember!



# The Gingerbread Man

Congratulations to the Foundation Learning Group for their brilliant production of The Gingerbread Man directed by Mrs McKenzie! There was a special screening during the last week of term and the reviews say it was fantastic and full of drama!





# Year 9 Gingerbread House Competition



The annual Interform Gingerbread House Competition was a huge success this year and resulted in 9S winning the trophy. The students were treated to a Masterclass from Ms King, our cake expert who works as part of our school catering team. The groups were made up of 4 students from each Year 9 form, many competing for a place in their team due to the popularity of the event. Teams were judged not only on their fantastic creative houses, but also on the planning, teamwork, determination and resilience they showed throughout the competition. The students had a great time in the after-school competition, being cheered on by their form tutors and Food Technology teachers. Congratulations to everyone who took part. A delicious way to start the Christmas season.

## Christmas Card Competition

There was fierce competition for this year's Year 8 Christmas Card Design Competition. With a wide range of creative and well executed ideas, the judges found it hard to choose a winner. Congratulations to Sophia Hodgson who designed the winning entry, the card is currently being printed out ready to go! Well done too to all those that were judged to be Highly Commended, your designs were all fabulous.



## Christmas Lunch for everyone!

Huge thanks to our wonderful catering team for providing the whole school with a wonderful Christmas lunch! With all the trimmings and Christmas Crackers for everyone - staff and students loved it! Special thanks must go to our Catering Manager, Mr Partridge who after twenty years at St Aidan's, is retiring! We hope someone cooks for you this Christmas as you deserve a rest!



## Christmas Cakes by FLG



Well done to Kitty and Chloe who made these beautifully decorated Christmas Cakes as part of their Cooking classes in the Foundation Learning Group! They have also been busy in FLG making chocolate truffles ready to give as gifts!





## Wins for the Year 7 Boys Football Teams

The Year 7 Football Team have had a great week. Last Friday they beat St John Fisher to progress to the 5th Round of the ESFA cup, on Tuesday they then went to South Shields to play Mortimer College and won to qualify for the QF of the ESFA Elite Schools Cup. To top it off on Thursday this week they won the Harrogate and Craven Area 5 a side competition. It is the B team's turn next week with a trip to Hurworth School in the 3rd round of their ESFA Cup. News to follow...



## Celebrating Under 16s Netball Teams success

The Under 16s Netball Teams have had a fantastic half term! The A team became Area and County champions this term and they go on to play in the Regionals at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield in January. The B team are rightly proud of their win at the end of November against Lady Manner School which means they have progressed through to the next round of the Sisters of Sport Competition – they are due to play St Hilda's School next! Well done for all your hard work girls and well done to Miss Wadhams for your fantastic coaching and encouragement.



## Hockey Nationals Next!

We are thrilled to be celebrating the achievements of the under 14s girls Hockey team who came from 1-0 down in the semi final to beat Newcastle Girls School 3-1. They then progressed to the final where they met tough opponents Bradford Grammar. The score was 0-0 taking them to nail-biting penalty shuffles for the decider where they won 2-1! Nationals here they come!



ASSOCIATED SIXTH FORM  
ST AIDAN'S & ST JOHN FISHER, HARROGATE

Information Evening

SAVE  
THE  
DATE



# ESAA Cross Country Cup National Final

Five teams ran really well at the NE England region round to qualify for the national finals, this year held at GSAL in North Leeds. No other school in the country had more than 4 teams representing them at this very high quality match and our teams performed well despite a few injury or illness absences and 2 runners suffering in the stampede at the race start. Junior Girls were 20th, with Ellie Simpson our first runner home; Junior Boys were 11th, led home by Arran Robson; Inter Girls were 14th with Niamh Robinson a fantastic 9th place; Inter Boys were 12th with Luke Shacklock our fastest runner; and Senior Girls were 15th with Ella Colbourn first home in the team. Huge well done to everyone, lots of races to look forward to next term including the county school trials and the prestigious Coventry Relays.



## Dates for your diary

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|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 3rd Jan: Staff Training Day        | 9th Jan: Applied Subject Exams           | 21st Jan: All Years Boys football GSAL |
| 4th Jan: Students return to school | 19th Jan: Sixth Form Information Evening | 21st Jan: All Years Netball Ashville   |
| 4th Jan: Year 11 Mock Exams        | 20th Jan: FOSA Year 7 Quiz               | 27th Jan: Junior Music Residential     |



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))