



ST. AIDAN'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

2025

St. Aidan's Prospectus

"Life in all its fullness"





Contents

Welcome to St. Aidan's	4
The Curriculum	7
Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust	8
Meeting the Needs of All	9
Subject Areas	10
Results	15
The Extended Curriculum	19
Outdoor Education and School Trips	20
Extra-Curricular Music	24
Extra-Curricular Drama	25
Extra-Curricular Dance	25
School Sport and Recreation	26
Additional Information	28
Places and Admissions	28
Charitable Donations 2023-2024	29
Home and School	30
Celebrating Achievements	32
Leadership Team and Governance	34
Senior Leadership Team	35

Welcome to St. Aidan's

The school was founded in 1968 as a small secondary school with just over 600 students – today it is a thriving community of over 2000 students aged 11-19, regularly being ranked among the top comprehensive schools in the country. St. Aidan's converted to Academy status in 2011 and in March 2015, became the founding secondary school of the Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust, a growing Multi Academy Trust for primary and secondary students.

The foundation is a Church of England one, but the school is well known for its ecumenical stance and welcomes students from all Christian denominations. St. Aidan's also allocates places to students of other major faiths each year contributing to a vibrant and religiously diverse community. At Sixth Form level this is evidenced by our Association with St John Fisher Catholic High School which brings together students from both schools, as well as a significant number from other local secondary schools. The Association is now in its 50th year and, with over 1,000 students, is one of the largest school-based Sixth Forms in the country.

The ethos of our school is a clear one: to enable every student to thrive and progress in all aspects of life through the nurture, care, and guidance we provide for them. We achieve this alongside our academic excellence with highly experienced, expert staff who deliver a first-class education both inside and outside the classroom. Year on year our academic outcomes exceed the national average in all measures with a three-year trend of over 85% of students achieving a GCSE grade 4 in both English and Maths. In 2024 over 35% of all GCSE grades attained were at grade 7 or above. At Advanced Level, 59% of results achieved in the Associated Sixth Form were A* to B with 90% of students obtaining places at their first or second choice University.

In 2024, 18 students secured places at Oxford or Cambridge Colleges with a significant number of students taking up places on competitive courses at the top Universities in the country. The extra-curricular programme that exists within the school is outstanding. The Music, PE and Drama departments have a national reputation. Excellence in a variety of competitive sports at all ages is achieved and outdoor education, including the Bronze and Gold Award on the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme are offered to all students. In addition, students at St. Aidan's take part in a wide variety of trips to national, European, and worldwide destinations. These take place each year and support the implementation of cultural capital awareness within the curriculum.

Our curriculum is central to our student's achieving success and is knowledge rich and ambitious for all learners. We provide our students with the environment to access this broad curriculum and educate them in developing the skills they need to know more and remember more.


There is a strong focus on the core subjects, English, Maths, and Science which are complimented by a vast range of other subjects including languages, humanities, creative subjects, and the arts.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students is paramount. Young people thrive at St. Aidan's, and we never lose sight of our essential inclusivity where we truly believe that every student should be celebrated, encouraged, and seen as an individual. We have an excellent reputation for supporting students who have additional educational needs and for this reason, students of all abilities flourish in this school. Clearly, given the foundation of the school, we place particular emphasis on high quality Religious Studies and Christian assemblies. The way in which the school is organised and run, as well as the relationship between the students themselves and their teachers, is based on the Christian ethos that pervades every aspect of school life here at St. Aidan's. Collective worship has a clear Christian focus where we sing, celebrate, and worship together. The twice weekly Eucharist in the school chapel also enables students to experience and respect the corporate life of the Christian community. Our Lay Chaplain is always available to support students in their Christian, social development.

We value our parents and families and make every effort to include them in the learning journey of their child and in the full life of the school. Choosing St. Aidan's is wanting your child to get the very best qualifications, outcomes and experiences that secure their future; it is enabling your child to develop in character to become courageous and confident: brave enough to see the opportunities in every difficulty, and strong enough to become citizens who actively promote respect, tolerance, and individual liberty. We are grateful for your interest in St. Aidan's Church of England High School, and we look forward to welcoming you soon.



Mrs Siân Dover, Headteacher



“Choosing St. Aidan's is wanting your child to get the very best qualifications, outcomes and experiences that secure their future; it is enabling your child to develop in character to become courageous and confident; brave enough to see the opportunities in every difficulty, and strong enough to become citizens who actively promote respect, tolerance, and individual liberty.”



The Curriculum

At St. Aidan's our curriculum is central to our students' achieving success and is knowledge rich and ambitious for all learners. We provide our students with the environment to access this broad curriculum and educate them in developing the skills they need to know more and remember more. Our curriculum is filled with exciting opportunities that promote academic excellence whilst preparing all our students to be life-long learners with inquisitive, enquiring minds. With an emphasis on literacy throughout our curriculum, there is a strong focus on the core subjects, English, Maths, and Science, which are complimented by a vast range of other subjects including languages, humanities, creative subjects, and the arts. Our timetabled curriculum is also supported by the extensive extra-curriculum offer we have, known as The St. Aidan's Offer.

Key Stage 3

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students study:

English, Maths, Science, Religious Studies, PSHE, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, PE, Art, Music, ICT, DT (Food, Product and Textiles).

In Year 9, Science is taught as 3 separate subjects (Physics, Chemistry and Biology).

Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) students work towards a maximum of 10 subjects including a Core of English Language, English Literature, Maths (and Further Maths if appropriate), Religious Studies, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. This is supplemented by option courses from the following:

Art (Fine/Graphics), ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness Award, Business, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Geography, History, Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish), Media Studies, Music, PE, Technology (Engineering, Food, Product, Textiles).

All students continue to follow non-examined Core PE and PSHE.

Assessment and reporting

Students are monitored and their progress checked throughout their school career. Assessments and exams occur in class for Years 7 and 8. In Year 9, Maths and English exams only are taken in the main exam hall. In Years 10-13, students sit all mock and end of year exams in formal exam conditions in the exam hall.

During the school year, there are two or three reporting points, depending on the year group, where parents and carers receive a summary report showing achievement and/or projected achievement, in addition to an overall effort grade. This is supplemented by an annual parent/carers consultation where progress can be discussed in more detail.



Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust

Based in and around Harrogate and Craven, Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust is outward looking and built on the strength gained from every school in the Trust being a valued and significant part of the organisation. Yorkshire Causeway is a growing trust which includes both Church of England and community schools.

In delivering education that is ambitious in its widest sense, the Trust sets high expectations of all, regardless of starting points or situation. In all its schools, Yorkshire Causeway provides high-quality education based on common purpose, providing a rich and broad learning experience that enables students to flourish.

Further information about the Trust including statutory policies, documents and financial information, can be located on the Yorkshire Causeway website at www.yorkshirecauseway.co.uk

Yorkshire Causeway Schools

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Harrogate
Richard Taylor Church of England Primary School, Harrogate, St. Peter's Church of England Primary School, Harrogate, Pannal Primary School, Pannal, Oatlands Infant School, Harrogate, Hampsthwaite Church of England Primary School, Hampsthwaite, All Saints Church of England Primary School, Kirkby Overblow, North Rigton Church of England Primary School, North Rigton, Skipton Parish Church of England Primary School, Skipton



“Where everyone is valued and respected, where we share commitment to education that is ambitious, setting the highest expectations and where integrity is the foundation.”

Jane Goodwin
Trust CEO



Meeting the Needs of All

St. Aidan's places great emphasis on tailoring learning to meet the needs of all. As a result, students of all abilities flourish at our school.

Student grouping

On arrival in Year 7, students are placed in a mixed-ability form group that remains their pastoral unit until they are 16. Some setting is introduced early in Year 7 for Mathematics classes. Some small intervention groups are also identified in Year 7 to help students with additional curriculum needs. Literacy intervention is delivered during our morning WALK time.

Our SEN Faculty

Our SEN faculty works in close partnership with parents and staff to ensure that each student, regardless of academic or physical difficulties, is able to make excellent progress in and enjoy every aspect of school life.

At the start of Year 7, all students undertake screening tests to highlight pupils who may need additional support, particularly with literacy or processing information.

Teaching Assistants also provide some support within some classrooms for specific students (usually with an Education, Health and Care plan - EHCP) but they are also able to work with other students within those classes, as well as their designated student. Independent working is encouraged for all students, regardless of whether they have an EHCP.

Each morning, we run a 'Get Organised Club' for students who need a little extra support with the organisation of work and equipment. There is also a lunchtime homework club for pupils wishing to receive further help with homework tasks.

A very small number of students are unable to access the standard curriculum, and these students have a personalised timetable within the structure of mainstream provision usually with the inclusion of an EHCP.



Gifted and talented students

The remarkably high number of St. Aidan's students who achieve A*/A, 9/8/7 at GCSE and A* or A at A Level is testament to our success in enabling gifted and talented students to achieve their full potential. All staff ensure that able students are stretched and challenged across the curriculum. In addition, enrichment experiences and activities are offered through the extended curriculum which are particularly suitable and challenging for gifted and talented students.

Subject Areas

Art

Key Stage 3 is all about exploration, awareness, creativity and recording experiences. Students have the opportunity to learn and become proficient in a variety of artistic techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, animation, 3-D and Photoshop. Students increase their image awareness by learning about the power and principles of design to help them navigate an increasingly image conscious culture. Our aim is to promote creative thought and appreciation, and foster learning through a combination of cultural awareness/artist/designer knowledge with creative problem solving through self-navigation and experimentation.

During Year 9, students will complete projects in Fine Art, Graphics and Photography, giving them a flavour of courses offered at GCSE and A Level.

At GCSE we offer courses in Fine Art and Graphic Communication. We also offer these subjects at A Level with the additional option of Photography. Our standards are extremely high and we take a pride in both our facilities and the diversity of work produced. We exhibit students work on the walls of our school and use it as an aspirational force for students. Artwork is often entered for external competitions and exhibitions, including the National Students Art Exhibition of which we have, over the years, had several successes. The Art education we provide at St. Aidan's has provided the stepping stone for many students to form their careers in a multitude of creative industries, many of whom remain in contact and come back to talk with our students about their journey in higher Art education/industry.



Computing

The modern world runs on computers and ICT based systems! As such the Computing department aims to develop e-confident learners who have an understanding of Computer Science and the processes that run in the background of any computer system; whether that is through the study of computation or even learning programming skills. Alongside this we will develop an understanding of how you can use ICT as a tool for finding things out, developing ideas, making things happen and exchanging and sharing information. Creating confident, competent learners and users of computers is the foundation of our work as a department.

Key Stage 3 students follow a hands-on course that covers office applications, new media (such as video and animation), programming and safe and effective use of the internet. A key principle of the department is to develop skills which can be interchanged between subjects and departments, e.g. to help with monitoring experiments in Science and understanding of how computers represent sound for Music, understanding bitmap and vector graphics that used in many subjects in the creation of artefacts. In Years 10 and 11, students can study for a full GCSE in Computer Science; a course which offers both an in-depth knowledge, as well as practical skills in the subject area.

In the Associated Sixth Form, students can currently opt either for an A Level equivalent qualification in IT or a full traditional A Level in Computer Science.

Dance and Performing Arts

Dance at St. Aidan's aims to provide opportunities for students to gain physical, mental and social benefits from doing a fun, creative and inclusive activity.

Dance is taught at both GCSE and A Level. The aims are to improve technical and performance skills, gain understanding of the processes involved in creating dance and gives an opportunity to appreciate professional dance works. Performing Arts BTEC is also taught as an isolated subject in the Associated Sixth Form.

Dance clubs are on offer for all students in Years 7 – 9 and welcome all students with any experience, Spotlight being the highlight of the school's Key Stage 3 extra-curricular Performing Arts programme.

The Dance department often plays a large role in the school musical, as Music, Dance and Drama are combined to provide a showcase of the very best talent the school has to offer. Each year many of our students go on to study at top conservatoires in Dance and/ or Musical Theatre, examples include Arts Educational, Urdang Academy, Laine Theatre Arts, Mountview, Bird College, Trinity Laban, London Studio Centre, LIPA, GSA. The department visits the theatre and also works with local dance organisations and professionals in the industry, many of whom are former students of the school, to enrich the curriculum.

Drama

In Years 7 – 9 Drama is taught within the English curriculum. Pupils have the option of studying the subject at GCSE and A Level and both courses are hugely popular, exploring a wide range of plays and theatrical styles in a practical, dynamic and interactive way. Experience of live theatre is an essential part of examination Drama and a rich range of trips are organised every year to theatres across the country, encouraging an appreciation of an extensive variety of performance styles and genres. Both the GCSE and A Level Drama courses develop skills sought by universities and employers, including self-management and self-awareness, collaboration and respect for others, problem solving and analysis, communication and literacy.

Economics and Business Studies

The Economics and Business Studies department aims to enhance students' personal skills and develop informed attitudes in relation to business enterprise, the economy and the world of work.

In Years 10 and 11 they can choose to take GCSE Business: a lively and topical course which provides students with the opportunity to understand the nature of business activity through studying business operations, finance, marketing and human resources, alongside the relationship between the business and the environment in which it operates. Students learn to understand how these topics are interdependent and how their relationship underpins business decisions, using real world case study examples.

In the Associated Sixth Form, qualifications in Economics and Business are offered. They are all extremely popular and rewarding courses where students achieve excellent examination results many of whom go on to study subjects in this area at university.



English

The English department aims to ensure that all students develop their skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening to the highest possible levels, promoting an enquiring and lively interest in all aspects of the subject. The staff cultivate an approach which is supportive, enabling students to be questioning and searching, respecting the opinions of others whilst also being able to articulate their own ideas.

Key Stage 3 students study a comprehensive range of fiction, plays (including Shakespeare), poetry, media texts and non-fiction. They are taught to write in a variety of styles and develop research skills and wider reading through regular supervised use of the library. In Years 10 and 11 students work towards GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. We use AQA exam board. They study a 19th century novel, a Shakespeare play, modern drama/prose, poetry, non-fiction material and a range of fictional extracts from 20th and 21st century. GCSE writing tasks require well-crafted narrative and descriptive skills and the ability to put forward a carefully constructed argument. Teachers continue to encourage wider reading by referring students to the suggested reading lists in the library and on the website.

All three subjects are popular at A Level: English Literature, English Language and Dual English Language and Literature. Beyond the classroom, students throughout the school take part in creative writing workshops, clubs and residential experiences. Other highlights of the year include National Poetry Day, World Book Day, the Battle of the Books quiz, spelling competitions and the Year 7 public speaking competition.



Geography

Through studying Geography, students develop knowledge, skills and understanding that will help them grow up and contribute positively in an increasingly complex world. Geography covers a wide range of topics between Year 7 and Year 13, from hazardous events to globalisation, from natural landforms to superpowers and from development to environmental issues. Geography also develops a range of highly desirable transferable skills that include research, enquiry, analysis, evaluation and decision making. The department runs a range of educational visits including to the Holderness Coast, Leeds and Iceland. The department provides students with opportunities to take part in Eco Club for Key Stage 3, E-Committee for older students with an interest in sustainability and GeogSoc allows A Level students to enhance their academic studies, as well as opportunities to enter national competitions. Geography is a very popular option at GCSE and A Level, examination results are excellent. Many students opt to continue to study Geography or related disciplines at university.

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History

The aim of the History department is to excite and enthuse students about exploring the past. As students develop historical knowledge, their understanding grows, they are able to grasp the shape of the past and gain an informed insight into the present.

After starting Year 7 with an examination of the Roman Empire and a re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings, Key Stage 3 students proceed through a tour of the second millennium AD, with the Medieval Realms, English Civil War, the Slave Trade and the horrors of war and genocide. At GCSE, students follow the AQA specification, ranging from a history of medicine, Norman England and Germany from the Kaiser to Hitler. Sixth form students can choose A Levels in History, Ancient History, and Government and Politics. All three are extremely popular and many students go on to study related courses at university.

Mathematics

The Mathematics department at St. Aidan's believe every student should experience success within Mathematics and plan our curriculum to maximise the progress our students make. The Mathematics department follows the White Rose Maths curriculum, this ensures a smooth transition between Key Stages and exposes our students to problem-solving and reasoning questions early in their secondary school career. We support our students' classroom learning with weekly homework on the Sparx platform, providing students with further practice and opportunities to revise topics from previous weeks.



Modern Languages

Students in Year 7 study French for one half of the academic year and Spanish in the other half. In June of Year 7 we ask parents to express a preference for a language to follow in Years 8 and 9. The language studied in Years 8 and 9 is the one that students can take forward to GCSE. The school has state-of-the-art facilities for teaching languages. GCSE and A Level students benefit from new language experiences such as our annual visits abroad to France, Spain and Germany.



Religious Studies

Religious Studies is part of the core curriculum at St. Aidan's. Key Stage 3 students explore different aspects of religious belief and practice. Christianity is the basis for most topics, and students also learn about other world religions and world views. In Years 10 and 11, all students follow GCSE courses in Religious Studies. They can choose from two different options, both of which combine a study of Christianity and Islam with Christian Ethics and either St. Mark's Gospel or Christian philosophy. Christianity forms the basis of A Level Religious Studies; courses include the study of theology, philosophy of religion and religious ethics. Links with Christ Church, High Harrogate are essential for work on Christianity and wider links with faith communities in Bradford provide insight into world religions.

Music

Practical music-making using students' vocal talents and a wide range of instruments is an essential part of the curriculum. Year 7 – 9 students embark on a series of engaging and stimulating units of work including film music, rap, blues, Indian, West African and Reggae plus song writing and musicals.

We have a visiting team of 10 specialist peripatetic music teachers who cover a whole range of musical instruments and voices. Many students arrive at St. Aidan's already learning an instrument, but there are also opportunities to start learning an instrument through our ground-breaking initiative "Start the Music".

GCSE and A Level Music and Music Technology cover a variety of musical styles and develop students' skills in composition, performance and listening. The department is well equipped with four teaching rooms, two of them fully equipped with digital audio workstations, and a suite of practice rooms. The music curriculum integrates, where possible, with the extensive extra-curricular programme.



Personal Social economic and Health Education (PSHE)

PSHE helps pupils develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe, and prepared for life and work. Our Programmes of Study aim to develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk management, teamworking and critical thinking in the context of three core themes: health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world (including economic wellbeing and aspects of careers education). The curriculum is underpinned by the ethos and values of our school and we uphold it as an entitlement for all our students.

Physical Education

The objectives of maximising progress and participation for all co-exist happily at St. Aidan's, as shown by high levels of participation in extra-curricular clubs and our proven record of individual and team success.

Key Stage 3 students are taught a broad and balanced Physical Education curriculum with an emphasis on personal development, fun and enjoyment that go hand in hand with the school's vision of 'life in all its fullness'. Many students opt for GCSE Physical Education and we also offer GCSE Dance. In the Associated Sixth Form, A Level Physical Education and BTEC Sport are popular choices and examination results have been some of the best in the county for the past six years.



Science

At St. Aidan's we believe Science should be dynamic, interesting and challenging for all students. In Key Stage 3 students have three lessons of Science per week. For Years 7 and 8 this is a broad, general introduction to Science before following separate disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 9 and beyond.

In Key Stage 4 most of our students study for GCSEs in the Separate Sciences to gain individual qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The other option is Combined Science (2 GCSEs). We carefully monitor student progress and help to explore other Science options that may be appropriate for them.

A Level Sciences are always very popular subject choices. Along with the expected Biology, Chemistry and Physics at this level we also offer a range of other Science related Level 3 qualifications.

A large number of our students continue to study for degrees in Pure Sciences, Engineering and Medical Sciences.

Beyond the curriculum we also have Science clubs, links with universities and local enterprises as well as entering various Science competitions.



Design and Technology

Design and Technology gives students an opportunity to learn in a practical environment. Across Key Stage 3 students will study Product Design, Textiles and Food and Nutrition. Each material area offers students the opportunity to explore the world around them; to design, plan and make a variety of products to solve everyday problems. Independent learning, problem solving, and creative thinking form the core of skills in all Design and Technology subjects. ICT and CAD/CAM are used extensively in lessons, with students simulating industrial processes, designing and manufacturing high quality products. All students have the opportunity to use state-of-the-art technology such as 2D and 3D CAD, laser cutters and 3D printers.

At GCSE students can choose to study courses in Design and Technology (Product Design or Textiles Technology) and Food and Nutrition. Engineering is offered as a level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate (a vocational qualification with a wide range of transferable skills and core knowledge). Through all of the courses students follow a scheme of practical-based projects to develop skills in research, problem solving, creative design, product development and planning, making/ manufacturing, testing and critical evaluation of their work. A Level courses in Product Design and Fashion and Textiles can be studied along with a Level 3 qualification (equal to an A Level) in Food Science and Nutrition.

Interest in Technology is reflected in the thriving extracurricular activities which take part in the department. These include lunchtime clubs in Textiles where students are able to make a range of products and a Year 12 trip to London; Food inter-form competitions for Yr7, Yr8 and Yr9 with the students competing to make couscous salad meals, pizzas and gingerbread houses and a Key Stage 3 club in Product Design with students taking part in the local Rotary Technology Challenge.

Careers Education

Careers education is valued highly at St. Aidan's and all students follow a comprehensive programme with support to guide them through the key transition points in Years 9 and 11.

The Careers Department employs professionally qualified Careers Advisers to offer careers information, advice and guidance to all students and we have an extensive range of resources for students to access to help them make informed and realistic career decisions.

We aim to raise students' aspirations and awareness of the options and opportunities available to them to enable them to become effective decision makers and to plan for their future pathways.

Representatives from universities, colleges and employment regularly visit the school to talk to students about courses, career routes and opportunities available. The Careers team organise an annual careers evening and events throughout the year.



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Results

Highlights are given here to provide you with a snapshot of our students' achievements.



GCSE results 2024

% of students achieved grades 9-5 in both English and Maths	72%
% of students achieved grades 9-4 in both English and Maths	86%
% of students achieved grades 9-4 in English Language	88%
% of students achieved grades 9-4 in English Literature	92%
% of students achieved grades 9-4 in Maths	89%
% of the cohort were entered for the EBacc	72%
Average Points Score per EBacc slot for the cohort	5.2
% of students achieved the EBacc measure at grade 9-4	51%
% of grades were at grades 9-7	34%



Sixth Form 2024

Attending University	73%
1st or 2nd choice University	70%
Oxbridge	18 Students
Medicine or Veterinary Science	13 Students
Gap Year	19%
Employment	6%
Further Education	2%

Results

% of A-Level grades were at A*- C	81%
% of A-Level grades were at grades A*, A or B	59%
% of A-Level grades were at grades A* or A	31%
% of A-Level grades were at grades A* to E	98%
% of Applied General grades were D* to D	48%
% of Applied General were D*/D/M	85%

Life in all its fullness - The Extended Curriculum at St. Aidan's.

Our school ethos is very much centered around offering opportunities for students to enjoy the fullness of life. At St. Aidan's, we believe strongly that whilst the students are with us, we should make every effort for them to achieve and have experiences outside of the classroom to broaden their skills and develop their qualities. Our offer of trips and activities is designed to enhance WALK where wisdom, aspirations, learning well together and kindness can be developed and realised.

An outline of some of these opportunities is on the following pages; more comprehensive information can be found on the school's website.

“ Our offer of trips and activities is designed to enhance WALK where wisdom, aspirations, learning well together and kindness can be developed and realised. ”



Outdoor Education and School Trips

Year 7 'Kindness'

In Year 7, students are new to the school, and we aim our focus on kindness and diversity. We welcome each and every one and introduce them to the origins of St. Aidan and the school's Church Foundation with a visit to Northumberland and Holy Island. Students will work well with others in their new form and the trip is designed to help with transition; they can get to know staff, build relationships, and begin to develop the skills necessary for success at their new secondary school. Year 7 students in the Junior Band and String Ensemble are also invited to take part in the Junior Music residential in York, a visit to Christchurch and other religious places of worship, theatre visits, Great Yorkshire Show and a range of other subject-based activities outside of school.



Year 8 'Learning well together'

Year 8 is an opportunity for students to put good relationships at the heart of our community. WALK days are organised so that students can take part in charity events, sporting activities and other themes based around their social development and PSHE studies. Year 8 students can also take part in the Junior Band and String Ensemble leading the Junior Music residential in York. There is also the Marrick Priory visit and Great Yorkshire Show.

Year 9 'Aspiration'

In Year 9, we offer students an opportunity to further their experiences. There are a variety of opportunities to suit different interests including a UK based sports trip where boys and girls can train at professional clubs and compete against opposition from different areas of the country. Students are also able to attend a trip to London to experience the culture, history and sites of our capital city. For those students who prefer a more active outdoor experience, we also offer the choice of attending an outdoor education centre led by PGL to take part in a variety of exciting and challenging experiences. For those students who choose not to go on one of these trips, a range of fun activities will be organised in and around school at this time. Year 9 students in the Junior Band and String Ensemble are also invited to take part in the Junior Music residential in York as well as the Great Yorkshire Show.



“ An iconic visit to canoe the Ardeche gorge in southern France where our Year 11 students can enjoy and reflect on five years of friendship in our St. Aidan's community under the Mediterranean sun. ”

Year 10 'Wisdom'

Students start their GCSE studies in Year 10 and have a focus on learning all that they can about the world and how to live well in it.

Year 10 is an opportunity to discover new interests, talents and enthusiasms. Many of our students choose to take part in the bronze Duke of Edinburgh Scheme involving leadership, volunteering and expedition.

They are also given an exciting opportunity to experience how to live and learn well in a foreign country. Three foreign language trips are offered with approximately four hours of tuition in the language school per day and accommodation is with host families or in local hotels. This is a great opportunity to improve language skills by being immersed in family life and unfamiliar cultures. The visits include:

- Language School in Nice, France.
- Language school in Cologne, Germany.
- Language school in Salamanca, Spain.

Students may also have the opportunity to attend a European Music tour if they are in one of the many music ensembles.

Year 11 'Celebration'

By Year 11, our students will be working hard responding well to challenges, and achieving the best they can. The year group celebrate the culmination of a rich and varied journey in school by attending Year 11 Prom based in Constance Green Hall. This is followed by a final iconic visit to canoe the Ardeche gorge in southern France where our Year 11 students can enjoy and reflect on five years of friendship in our St. Aidan's community under the Mediterranean sun.

Students may also have the opportunity to attend a European Music tour if they are in one of the many music ensembles.

Marrick Priory Retreat – 'Living and Learning according to our Church Foundation'

Each year, students in Years 8-13 are invited to join us for the Chapel Away Weekend. This residential retreat to Marrick Priory in the Yorkshire Dales runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon and offers a program of team games, prayer, worship and personal reflection as well as outdoor pursuits such as canoeing, night walking, climbing and the infamous leap of faith.

Duke of Edinburgh Award – Bronze Year 10, Gold Year 12.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a rewarding program of personal development which encourages young people to undertake constructive, challenging and enjoyable activities in their free time - there is a great deal of emphasis on developing independence and personal responsibility in the Award, both at Bronze and Gold levels. The Award comprises four sections: Volunteering (with animals or in the community); Skill (a hobby, skill or interest); Physical Recreation (Sports, Dance, Fitness) and Expedition (on foot, cycle, horseback or water). There is an extra section for the Gold Award - the Residential - which allows each participant to pursue an interest away from home, in a residential setting, for 5 days.

Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is high at St. Aidan's. Well over 120 students completed their Bronze or Gold Award over the last year.

Those students who are successful in the Gold category attend the ceremony at Buckingham or St. James's Palace to receive their Gold Awards, each meeting the Earl of Wessex! Students undertaking the Award complete their training and expeditions in various locations across the North of England, all renowned for their natural beauty: Gold training in the Lake District; Bronze Practice, Bronze Assessed, and Gold Practice in the Yorkshire Dales; and finally the Gold Assessed expedition on the North Yorkshire Moors.

“

Now I see the secret of making the best people, it is to grow in the open air and eat and sleep with the earth (Walt Whitman)

”

The Associated Sixth Form – ‘Exploring our calling and achieving the best for others and ourselves’.

Sixth form students have a wide range of opportunities offered to them. Some of these opportunities are course related; others are open to all Sixth Form students. The Associated Sixth Form run trips to different countries to enhance students' learning and are pleased to offer an extensive range of visits most of which take place in WALK enrichment fortnight at the start of July.

Geography trip to Iceland

Physics trip to CERN or the Goonhilly Earth Station

Technology students' visit to London

Annual European Music tour

Annual Ski trip to a European destination

There are also a number of day trips to enhance the subjects taught at A-Level.

Language trips to Spain and Germany

Work Experience visit in France

A creative writing residential week in Wales

A Politics/Economics/History/ Psychology trip to New York, Philadelphia and Washington and/or London

Art and Textiles trips to London



Extra-Curricular Music

Our school boasts around 10 musical ensembles that practice and perform together weekly. These include four bands, three choirs, an orchestra, and various smaller groups. Some of these ensembles are led by our talented and passionate senior students. Our performing groups are well-known in the local community, across Yorkshire, on the national stage, and even internationally.

The school is renowned for the scale and quality of its musical productions, with recent shows including Legally Blonde and The Little Mermaid, and an upcoming production of Annie. Additionally, students in the lower years have the opportunity to shine in the annual "Spotlight" performance, showcasing their skills in Music, Dance, and Drama.

St. Aidan's Music – Highlights

Junior musicians at the annual Junior Music Residential in York

Swing Band at the Great North Big Band and Jazz Festival

Swing Band tour of Belgium Summer 2023

Chamber Choir tour of Italy including singing at St Mark's Basilica, Venice

In recent years, our ensembles and choirs have embarked on remarkable international tours. They have performed in Florence, Montecatini, and San Gimignano, as well as in China, where they graced the stage at the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing. Our musicians have also showcased their talents at the world-famous Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland.

The Swing Band made a notable appearance at the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival in July 2016. In 2017, the Chamber Choir toured Belgium, performing in Bruges, Ypres Cathedral, and participating in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres. In July 2018, the Symphonic Wind Band and Swing Band toured Lake Konstanz, performing at venues in both Switzerland and Germany.

In the summer of 2023, the Swing Band toured Belgium and the Netherlands, earning high praise for their performances in Roermond, Hasselt, and Liège. More recently, the Chamber Choir completed a stunning tour of Italy, which included a memorable performance at St Mark's Basilica in Venice.



Extra-Curricular Drama

Drama at St. Aidan's is a high profile and extremely popular extra-curricular activity for all ages. At KS3 (Years 7-9) Drama clubs are offered across the year. With no previous experience necessary, this is an ideal opportunity to form friendship groups and develop confidence and communication skills in a safe and nurturing environment.

We strive to create performance opportunities throughout the year and are justifiably proud of our reputation for professional, top-quality productions, such as Les Misérables, Evita, West Side Story, School of Rock, Sister Act and The Little Mermaid. The next big show, Annie, is currently being planned for November 2024.

SPOTLIGHT, our popular Performing Arts event, offers Years 7 – 9 an opportunity to showcase their talent. In addition, there are Sixth Form audition workshops for those pursuing a career in the Performing Arts industry; we have an enviable record of students who have won places with The National Youth Theatre and top Drama schools such as RADA, Royal Central, Royal Welsh, GSA, Italia Conti, LAMDA and many more.



Extra-Curricular Dance

Dance is a thriving extra-curricular activity at KS3 at St. Aidan's with large numbers making the most of the opportunities on offer. We have Dance clubs for Year 7, 8 and 9 that run on rotation throughout the year with various performances and we encourage anyone regardless of experience to get involved in an activity that enriches their school life, builds confidence, develops team working skills and new friendships and promotes a positive physical and mental wellbeing. Spotlight is a highlight for many in the school calendar where each year over 200 students from KS3 showcase their talents in dance, drama and singing.



The Dance department also contributes heavily to our school productions and during exam season our GCSE and A Level Dance students are always on the lookout for dancers to participate in choreographies and the studio is always a hive of activity with dance pieces being created including dancers from all year groups. We actively encourage our older students to get involved with helping with lower school clubs to develop their skills in and pass on their knowledge to the next generation.

We have had numerous students go on to study at prestigious Dance and Performing Arts colleges including; Rambert, Trinity Laban, Arts Ed, Laine Theatre Arts, Urdang, Bird College, Mountview, Wilkes, Addict and Italia Conti. Many of these are now working in the industry, both creating and performing. We frequently arrange for these past students and other professional artists to come into school and give workshops, sometimes we can catch them on tour as we aim to visit the theatre regularly to enrich and expose students to the arts further.

School Sport and Recreation

A wide range of sporting, recreational and fitness activities are on offer at lunchtimes, after school and at weekends. Clubs and extra-curricular sessions are all well attended by students.

Inter-form Sport

In Years 7, 8 and 9 forms compete against each other in all the different major sports in schools. Forms are given the autonomy to organise and manage their own teams, kit, captains, tactics and substitutions. Therefore, this encourages students who are not involved within interschool matches an opportunity to build strong social relationships, integrity and character, whilst competing amongst their peers.



Competitive Sport

Students from St. Aidan's compete successfully at local, area, county and national level in a range of sports, including:

- Football (girls and boys)
- Netball (girls)
- Hockey (girls and boys)
- Cross Country
- Basketball (girls and boys)
- Athletics
- Rounders (girls)
- Tennis
- Cricket (girls and boys)
- Squash
- Golf
- Badminton

Notable highlights have included our Cross Country teams reaching the National Finals. In addition, some of our Football, Cricket, Tennis and Netball teams were crowned area and county champions. Recently, our KS3 Squash team reached the National final and came 3rd in the whole country. Our Junior and Inter girls Athletics teams reached the National final in 2024, both finishing in the top 10 in the country. Amongst these achievements we have been ranked in the top 50 Sport Schools in the country by featuring in the School Sport Magazine for the last 4 consecutive years. Last year we were ranked the 9th best state school in the country.



“ Notable, highlights have included 3 of our Cross County teams reaching the National Finals. In addition, many of our Football and Netball teams were crowned area and county champions. Recently, our KS3 Squash team reached the National final and were runners up in the whole country.

”

Additional Information

The school day

The school day is structured as follows:

8:45 — 8:55am	Check-in/ learning ready	10 mins
8:55 — 9:15am	Period 1 WALK time	20 mins
9:15 — 10:15am	Period 2	60 mins
10:15 — 10:35am	Morning Break	20 mins
10:35 — 11:35am	Period 3	60 mins
11:35 — 12:35pm	Period 4	60 mins
12:35 — 1:25pm	Lunch	50 mins
1:25 — 2:25pm	Period 5	60 mins
2:25 — 3:25pm	Period 6	60 mins
3.25pm	End of school day	

Admissions

St. Aidan's Church of England High School became an Academy in August 2011 and provides an education for students aged 11-19. The foundation of the school is a Church of England one, but the school has a uniquely vibrant and diverse community. Applications are welcomed from all Christian denominations, those who are members of world faiths and those who are members of the local community.

For detailed information regarding Admission into St. Aidan's, including details of our Open Day please see the Admissions page of our website or contact the Admissions Team on 01423 885814 (option 3) or by email to admissions@staidans.co.uk.

Complaints Procedure

Parents who are unhappy about anything in which the school is involved should contact us at once. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteachers and Senior Staff will always be available to meet concerned parents in order to resolve difficulties. Any parent who is still dissatisfied should contact the Chair of Governors.



Charitable Donations 2023-24

Every year St. Aidan's pupils, parents and staff raise incredible amounts of money for charity. The range of fundraising events is diverse to say the least, but the enthusiasm shown is always staggering!

£209.80	.....	Franks Fund
£148.95	.....	Macmillan Coffee Morning
£747.71	.....	Children in Need
£487.01	.....	Winston's Wish charity
£2,461	.....	Artizan International
£2,138.47	.....	The Ogden Trust
Total:		£6,192.94



Home and School

We believe that the personal welfare and academic success of our students is best supported by close co-operation between home and school. We aim to keep parents/ carers fully aware of their child's progress through regular consultation, information events and extra personal contact where needed. Early in Year 7, parents/carers are invited to an informal evening to review their child's first weeks in school. There are annual parent/carer consultation evenings for each year group, plus additional meetings in Years 9 and 11 to review education choices.

St. Aidan's strives to support the wellbeing of students, staff, and the school community. Form Tutors care for students' personal welfare and monitor academic progress. The Head of Year is the contact point for parents/carers, who are encouraged to get in touch whenever they feel there is need. Our experience is that a telephone call or brief meeting is usually sufficient to resolve any problems that arise. If students need support in school, they can speak to their Head of Year or their Assistant Head of Year as well as their Form Tutor.

Homework

All pupils are set homework and it is essential for their academic progress that this is completed fully and on time. The amount of homework will vary but increases during the school career. In Years 10 and 11, the demands of GCSE work are likely to increase the amount of homework considerably. Parents/carers can play an important part by taking an active interest in work their children do at home and by providing a quiet working environment for them. A pupil planner provides a record of homework and an opportunity for home/ school communication. The library is open after school for those students who wish to use this quiet space.



Communication with Parents

The school's website is at www.staidans.co.uk, where a wide range of information about the school can be found. It is designed to be user-friendly, with clear navigation tools to enable easy access to information. It is useful for both parents and pupils, giving details such as:

General information – term dates, copies of letters sent home, handbooks, prospectuses, information on staffing, courses offered and school trips. Prospective parents can also access useful information on the admission process.

Catering information – menus for the week, nutritional information and guidelines.

Health and well-being – the Healthzone provides an essential reference point for information on healthy living and safety, including where to look for help and advice within school, locally and on the internet. This supports work done in lessons.

Careers department - this provides essential careers information, particularly aimed at the key transition points of Year 9 and 11, but involved in all year groups and available to answer questions from all students/parents/ carers.

The website and other online applications provide information for pupils and parents. Staff use Microsoft Teams to communicate with their classes, share documents and resources for home learning.

Parents are also encouraged to sign up to our regular information e-mail service. We also use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to share updates, news events and information.

Friends of St. Aidan's

Friends of St. Aidan's (FOSA) actively supports the educational work of the school through fundraising activities. All parents/carers automatically become members when their children start St. Aidan's and are encouraged to join meetings and help out the small committee of staff and parents/carers with fundraisers.

ParentPay

In line with many primary schools, St. Aidan's preferred method of paying money for dinner monies and residential trips is online. The online system we use is ParentPay. ParentPay.com is an online 24/7 system, (designed specifically for schools) which allows you to make payments to the school and view your child's catering balance, catering transactions and trip payments, including any balances due.



Celebrating Achievements

St. Aidan's is proud of the achievements of all of its students in a variety of fields, a selection is as follows:



Jessie Thomas

Jessie played Young Fiona in Shrek at Harrogate Theatre in 2022 and is now a fairy in Opera North's Midsummer Night's Dream on tour this autumn.



Rafe Gooden

Rafe Gooden plays for Yorkshire County Cricket Club U12 squad.



Darcey Summerfield

Darcey Summerfield is now playing football for Leeds United.



Lois Child

Lois won five medals at the Aquatics GB Summer Nationals and is UK number 1 for Butterfly. She's been selected for Swim England's 2024/25 Development Pathways.



Jessica Warren

Jessica Warren plays for Leeds Rhinos U16s Player Development Programme Squad for 2024-2025.



Alexa Goodall

Alexa Goodall has starred in A Gentleman in Moscow, The Long Shadow, and plays the lead in the upcoming film Momo, based on Michael Ende's novel.



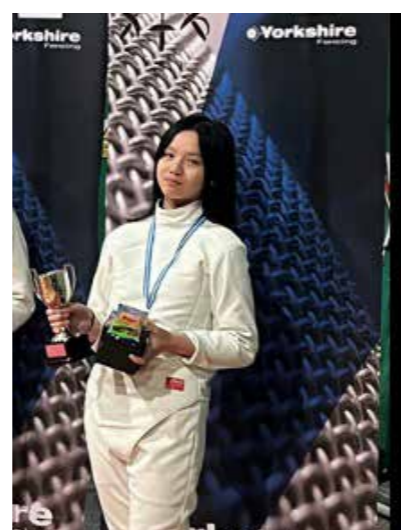
Immy Hartley

Immy Hartley plays for Yorkshire County Cricket U15 squad and is an all-rounder.



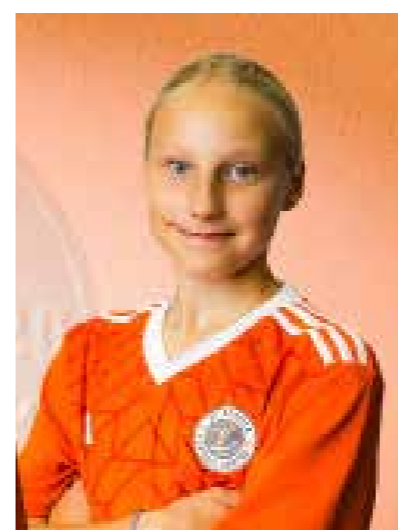
Ollie Holt

Ollie Holt is now playing football for Bradford City.



Hayes Leung

Hayes Leung, a member of Harrogate Fencing Club, won first place at the 2024 Yorkshire Foil Championships.



Nell Pickersgill

Nell Pickersgill plays for JPL (Junior Premier League) Warriors U13 league.



Annabel Baxter

Annabel Baxter won Ora Singers Young Composer competition 2024.



Krish Desha-Beerachee

He achieved his Piano Diploma at age 16 with Distinction earlier this year and won the Piano Championship Class at the Harrogate Competitive Festival for Music, Speech and Drama.

Leadership Team and Governance

St. Aidan's Church of England High School Leadership Team

Mrs Siân Dover BA, PGCE, NPQ Headteacher

Mr Iain Addison MA PGCE Deputy Headteacher,

Mr Dave Holdsworth MSc, PGCE Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour, Culture, and Enrichment),

Mrs Kate Douglas BSc, PGCE Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion and Student Wellbeing),

Mrs Clair King, BA, PGCE Assistant Headteacher (Assessment, Progress, and Reporting),

Dr Lucy Holt Bsc, PhD, PGCE Assistant Headteacher (Director of Sixth Form),

Mrs Maggie Gee BA, QTS Assistant Headteacher (Learning and Professional Development),

Mr Tristan Hainsworth BSc, NPQH Senior Leader Systems Implementation Lead (Quality Assurance and School Improvement)

Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust Academy Members

The Rt Reverend Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon (representing the Bishop of Leeds) Mrs Simone Bennett as Director of Education of the Diocesan Board of Education, Reverend Matthew Evans as incumbent of Christ Church, High Harrogate, Mrs Rachel Fell representing the PCC of St Peters, High Harrogate, Mrs Jane Boyd representing the PCC of Christ Church, High Harrogate, Reverend Nigel Sinclair as appointee of the Diocesan, Mrs Alison Glover as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust Academy Trustees

Dr Chris Beaumont

Mr Jonathan Davis

Mrs Alison Glover (Chair of the Trust Board)

Mrs Jane Goodwin

Mr Paul Haslam

Mrs Madeline Hoskin

Ms Victoria Iley

Mr Andrew Marson (Vice Chair of the Trust Board)

Mr Christopher Parkhouse

Governors of St. Aidan's Church of England High School

Mrs Karen Baker - Foundation Governor - Chair

Mrs Kerry Kidd - Parent Governor - Vice Chair

Mr John Bushell - Foundation Governor

Mr Tom Davis - Academy Governor

Mrs Sian Dover - Ex-Officio, Headteacher

Rev Matthew Evans - Ex-Officio, Incumbent

Mrs Catherine Hunter - Teaching Staff Governor

Mrs Jane Kennerley - Support Staff Governor

Mrs Vivienne Melville - Parent Governor

Dr Joy Shacklock - Academy Governor

Mrs Josy Thompson - Academy Governor

The following also attend meetings of the governing body:

Mr Iain Addison Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Catherine Houlding Clerk to the St. Aidan's Local Governing Body

Senior Leadership Team



Mrs Siân Dover BA, PGCE, NPQ Headteacher



Mr Iain Addison MA PGCE Deputy Headteacher



Mr Dave Holdsworth MSc, PGCE Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Kate Douglas BSc, PGCE Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Clair King, BA, PGCE Assistant Headteacher



Dr Lucy Holt Bsc, PhD, PGCE Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Maggie Gee BA, QTS Assistant Headteacher



Mr Tristan Hainsworth, BSc, NPQH Systems Implementation Lead



ST. AIDAN'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



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