



In Brief:

100 Years of Remembrance

Schools across the Trust marked the 100 year anniversary of the end of WW1 in poignant acts of remembrance.

A New Fellowship

Two Trust primary schools formally collaborate to form a new fellowship with a shared Headteacher.

Message from Jane Goodwin, COO

The newly appointed Chief Operating Officer of the Trust introduces herself and outlines her priorities for the coming months.

Keeping Data Secure

Advice from the Trust IT department on how to keep your data safe and avoid cyber-attacks.

School News

Sporting successes, drama, reindeer, buses, royal letters, space camps, a jubilee celebration and a retirement. It's been a busy term for the Trust!

Trust Training Day

Information about the Trust training day which takes place on Monday 7th January 2019. Details of workshops and timings.

Governance News

Access to SharePoint, OneDrive, and Learning Link. Safeguarding training 9th February 2019.

Welcome

Two weeks ago, the Annual General Meeting for Members and Trustees of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust took place. At the meeting we had an opportunity to reflect upon the journey taken since the Trust was formed in 2014. Obviously there was a need to focus on the financial viability of YCST and the structures that have been put in place to ensure the smooth, effective and legally compliant running of the organisation, but particularly pleasing this year was the focus on how we continue to strive to provide the highest quality of education for our children through the Trust Development Plan, the School Improvement Model and the important work being undertaken by our Network Groups.

We must never lose sight, in this ever-changing world of education, of our real focus, both within our individual schools and the Trust – namely the teaching and learning that provides challenge, encouragement and support for every child that we are privileged to work with. The Trust truly recognises how fortunate we are to have such talented and dedicated staff working with our children and on their behalf.

I thank you for all that you offer your schools as well as wishing you a very Happy Christmas as you celebrate with friends and family. I look forward to meeting with staff from across the Trust at Pannal Primary School on 7th January 2019!

John Wood
Executive Principal, YCST

Penguins Visit the Christmas Market

Oatlands Infant School Penguins class recently visited the Harrogate Christmas Market, following a kind invitation from Mr Scarre, a former Oatlands Infant School governor. The children had a lovely time and were lucky enough to meet Father Christmas and his reindeer. They were also given 'Grass Pets' to take back to school for each class. The children are looking forward to seeing how they grow!



100 Years of Remembrance

Schools from across the Trust marked Armistice Day in November. Pannal Primary School commemorated the WW1 centenary with an exhibition of work in Pannal Memorial Hall across the weekend of 10-11th November. Each class produced pictures and writing focusing on the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. Year 4 painted a stone marked with the names of the 29 residents of Pannal who were lost in the war and placed these in the Memorial Garden at the Hall.

At St. Peter's Primary School, displays of poppies were seen inside the school and along the railings outside to mark the occasion. A bugle played the last post and children observed a two minute silence. The children particularly remembered Charles Hull and Donald Bell, former pupils of St. Peter's who were awarded the Victoria Cross.

St. Aidan's School linked with the 'There But Not There' initiative, described as "a nationwide installation for the fallen". Transparent 'Tommy' figures stood in the school reception, and seated transparent silhouettes on chairs in assemblies served as a reminder of those who went to war and never returned. On Friday 9th November, the school observed two minutes silence at 11:00 ending with the sounding of the Last Post by trumpeters placed all around school.



All Aboard the Richard Taylor School Bus

The children at Richard Taylor School were thrilled to be told that the Harrogate Bus Company had named one of the new fleet of electric buses after the School.

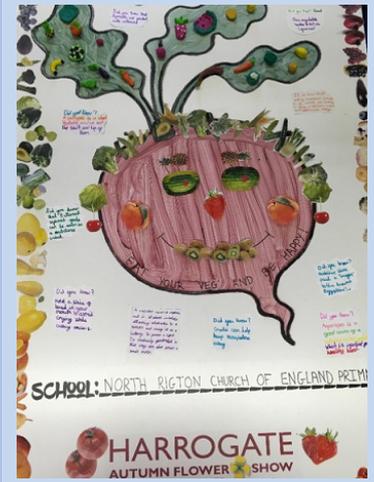
The new Richard Taylor Bus visited school and was unveiled in front of some of the classes, before pupils jumped on board for a trip around Bilton. The new buses have a range of about 30 kilometres and can recharge in five minutes. If you see the bus, the pupils ask that you please give it a wave!



Fellowship and Collaboration

This time last year we were delighted to report that North Rigton CE Primary School had joined the Trust. In July it was the turn of All Saints CE Primary School to convert and join YCST and we can now report that the two schools have entered into a formal collaboration. This new partnership is known as The Fellowship of All Saints Kirkby Overblow and North Rigton CE Primary Schools. The schools share a Headteacher – Mrs Amber Andrews and from January will have one Governing Body.

In other news from North Rigton, the children from Year 4 and 5 won the School's Autumn Harrogate Flower show competition again this year by decorating a radish in a creative and informative way!



Lost Words of Nidderdale

Children with a special interest in art from Hampsthwaite School joined an exciting project to explore nature and the words they use, making a published book and taking part in a professional art gallery presentation.

The 'Lost Words of Nidderdale' project was inspired by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris' book 'The Lost Words', which was written in reaction to the news that nature words are disappearing from children's dictionaries. Their beautifully illustrated book of poems seeks to give some of those words back. The aim of the project was to encourage the children to be active participants in researching the nature around them; to be investigators, artists, poets and as a consequence the custodians and safe keepers of local knowledge.



Young Voices Sing Out

Children from Hampsthwaite School are looking forward to taking part in the 'Young Voices' choir concerts in January 2019. The children have been busy learning and rehearsing songs, which will be performed as part of a choir of thousands with a live band at an evening concert in Sheffield Arena.

The children are very excited and have commented, 'We can't wait... it's going to be awesome!' 'It's an amazing experience – we went two years ago and it is fantastic to be part of this incredible choir.' 'When the lights go off, it's mesmerising!'



Sister Act A Sell Out

The celebrated drama department at St. Aidan's CE High School recently wowed audiences with its production of 'Sister Act'. Every member of the cast shone and the whole show was a great ensemble effort, which raised the roof and left members of the audience crying with laughter. Congratulations to everyone involved on a superb production.



A Message from Jane Goodwin, Chief Operating Officer

Joining the Trust as Chief Operating Officer in September 2018, it has been a roller-coaster of a first term for me!

My role incorporates such a wide range of areas including HR, estates, data protection and whatever else the day may bring that isn't budgets or teaching and learning. Building on the work that colleagues have done before, I am pleased that the Trust now has an Estates Strategy and 2018-19 Action Plan in place which will be a useful building block in ensuring that our pupils have the best provision that we can resource for the future.

On the back of its sponsorship status, the Trust is committed to exploring opportunities for expansion, and in order to ensure that we understand as much as possible about potential schools, I have re-worked the due diligence process and am currently trialling it as the key mechanism to underpin any decision to take on an additional school.



Working with headteacher, governor and trustee colleagues, a revised Scheme of Delegation will be available in the new year and having made some inroads into GDPR and data protection, I am clear that there is much more of that to come as we move into 2019.

All in all I've felt very welcomed to the Trust and am looking forward to what lies ahead.

How to Keep your Data Safe and Secure

Advice from the Trust IT department to help you keep your data safe over Christmas and into 2019.

Regularly update your security

With security software, regular updates are key to keeping cyber-attacks at bay. Older software will not be able to protect your computer or data from the latest viruses and methods used by hackers. To keep up with the most recent threats, you will need to make sure your personal computer has all the latest updates.

Never click on emails from unknown sources

It's important to always know exactly who an email is from and if it's genuine. Be wary of unknown email addresses and attachments. Don't open the attachments and never respond if you're suspicious of the authenticity. If the email is from an organisation like your bank, you can normally forward it on to the company and request that they confirm if it's genuine. If in doubt, please contact the Trust IT department.

Protect it with a password

When it comes to keeping passwords safe, the simpler it is, the more likely it is a hacker will be able to break into your system and take your data.

Ensure that your password contains at least 8 characters

Use both upper and lower case letters

Combine both numbers and symbols in your password

Don't use anything that could be easily linked to you such as names, birthdays, telephone numbers etc.

Use a different password for each of your online accounts

Take care of physical data

Make sure you check paperwork for sensitive data before you discard it. When you do dispose of any important documents, be sure to use a shredder, so that anything important is completely distorted. Governors could consider giving papers to their LGB clerks for shredding at the end of a meeting.

Sporting School Success

St Aidan's has been placed 18th in this year's 'School Sport Magazine' analysis of school sport in national competitions across the country. This is a remarkable achievement and even better than last year's 29th position. Congratulations to all students who are involved in representing the school in the huge amount of activities available, on their success and of course the exceptional PE and support staff who show such immense commitment to those activities.



St Aidan's Jubilee Events 2019

50 Years ago on the 5th September 1968, St Aidan's opened its doors to 700 students for the first time. To celebrate its Jubilee year, a series of events will take place in May 2019:

On the 4th and 5th May 2019 (Early May Bank Holiday Weekend) the school will be holding a weekend of Golden Jubilee celebrations. There will be three connected elements to the celebrations, and all Trust staff and governors are warmly invited to attend.

On Saturday 4th May from 2.00pm - 4.00pm, there will be a 'Jubilee Welcome' for all those with a connection to the school, to which alumni will be especially welcome, held at St Aidan's School.

This will be followed in the evening by a 'Jubilee Celebration' at Harrogate Convention Centre from 7.00pm - 9.45pm, in which the school hopes alumni may take part in a performance or two!

On Sunday 5th May, a 'Jubilee Service of Celebration' will take place at Ripon Cathedral from 3.30pm - 5.00pm.

The school is currently building up its database of St. Aidan's alumni in order to ensure as many past students as possible join the celebrations. Please encourage any alumni you know to email alumni@staidans.co.uk with their information if they would like to hear more. We also have an Alumni Facebook [@staidansonwards](https://www.facebook.com/staidansonwards).



More News from Richard Taylor School

During November, children from years 5 and 6 have been visiting the dementia friendly 'Wellbeing Cafe', run by volunteers from St. Luke's Church. Andrew Symonds, Headteacher said, "We know how much the children gain from working with different generations and how much their visits are appreciated. I am delighted that we have been able to establish this partnership and I hope it will continue and flourish in the new year."

As well as playing board games with the regulars, the children will be sharing their work, playing instruments and chatting to the visitors in the café.

The school has received the fantastic news that it is one of the 100 schools nationally to have been awarded 'Space Camp' status. The space camp programme is supported by the Stephen Hawking Foundation and provides funds for schools to run fantastic space-themed experiences for children. The first overnight stargazing camp will take place at Richard Taylor School later in the academic year.

Newly appointed science ambassadors were chosen to be part of the judging process for the 'Primary Science Book of the Year'. The ambassadors led panels of children from across school in reviewing the finalists. As a reward for their work, the school received a full set of the winning books.

Royal Penfriends for Oatlands Infants

Earlier this year some of the children from Oatlands Infant School wrote a letter to Megan and Harry congratulating them on their wedding. There was great excitement when it was announced in class that two of the children had received a response. Well done!



John Wood to Retire

John Wood, Executive Principal of YCST and Headteacher of St. Aidan's CE High School, has announced his intention to retire on 31st August 2019, after 41 years of exceptional service to the school and education. More news about John's long career in teaching will follow in the spring term newsletter.

News for Governors and Trustees

A reminder that all Trust governors now have access to SharePoint and OneDrive which can be accessed here using Trust email log in details.

On SharePoint, governors can access LGB minutes, training materials, Trust documentation and guidelines, policies and the Governor Handbooks which have been updated for all schools for the academic year 2018-19.

Further to the introduction of Trust email addresses for governors and trustees last year, governors now have access to OneDrive, a cloud-based file storage platform which provides a secure area in which to store, sync and share governance-related documents.

A reminder that all governors and trustees are members of the National Governance Association (NGA) and have access to Learning Link, an online learning platform. Governors can log in to Learning Link here using the details provided to you by the NGA.

Safeguarding training for all those involved in governance will take place at St. Aidan's CE High School on Tuesday 19th February 2019 from 6.00pm - 8.00pm. All governors and trustees are encouraged to attend.

The Trust is hugely grateful to all those involved in the governance of YCST and its schools. The commitment shown by these volunteers is remarkable. We wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Schools Give Generously at Harvest

Schools across the Trust enjoyed harvest festival celebrations and gave generously to those in need. Children from Oatlands Infant School performed harvest songs at St. Mark's Church and at St. Aidan's School, a joyous harvest celebration took place which included reflective dance, music from the Junior and Chamber Choirs and a fantastic sermon from Rev Jimmy Lawrence from Otley Parish Church.



Trust Training Day

On Monday 7th January 2019, Pannal Primary School will host a Trust-wide collaborative training day for all primary school staff. Focusing on sharing best practice, the following workshops will take place:

Just B mental Health, Compass Buzz Toolkit, E-Safety, Lego Therapy, Lost Words, OneDrive/Coding, Growth Mindset through outdoor learning, using Numberblocks to support early maths, KS2 spelling through phonics, whole class guided reading, mindfulness, REAL PE, Shanghai Maths, vocabulary, dyslexia, algebra.

Workshops will run in three cycles from 9.30am - 2.30pm. From this time, individual schools are invited to make use of meeting rooms for group work or discussions. Refreshments will be available from 8.30am - 9.00am and a bring and share lunch will be provided from 12.15pm - 1.15pm.

Thank you to the Trust network groups who have helped to arrange many of the workshops on offer and to Pannal Primary School for hosting the event once more.