

In Brief:

Schools Brave Bed Race

Three Trust schools braved the grim weather and took part in the 2019 Knaresborough Bed Race.

Jubilee Celebrations

St. Aidan's High School marked its 50th anniversary with a weekend of celebrations.

News from Schools

Trips, prom, sports days, bees and fun learning in the countryside. Summer is here!

External Inspections

Hampsthwaite and Pannal Primaries were subject to inspections during the term.

Health Assured

Looking after the health and wellbeing of staff and of their families.

Trust Conference 2019

Senior leaders and governors from across Trust schools to consider the new Ofsted framework.

To Be Frank

Schools raise thousands of pounds in memory of Frank Ashton.

A Message from the Chair of the Trust

Alison Glover summarises the work of the Trust board this year.

So Long, Farewell....

We say goodbye to key members of staff as they move on to new adventures.

Welcome

As I am about to leave St. Aidan's CE High School and Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust after 42 years of teaching, I would like to thank all those I have met and worked with over the years for their support and loyalty.

Whilst my time as leader of this multi academy trust has been short compared to my service at St. Aidan's School, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with some outstanding colleagues, during what has been an exciting time of development for all of our schools.

I have no doubt that there will be elements of my professional life that I will miss, but I know that the time is now right for me to step down and I wish all the schools in the Trust every success for the future. Under the experienced guidance of Chris Burt, I know that the Trust and all who work within it, will thrive and develop, continuing to provide the highest quality of education for all the students in its care.

John Wood
Executive Principal, YCST



Bed Race Champions and Runners

Three of our schools entered teams into this year's Knaresborough Bed Race. Despite the pretty awful weather, the teams from Pannal Primary, Oatlands Infant and Richard Taylor Primary had a brilliant day and raised lots of money for local charities. The team from Richard Taylor School came away with the 'Best Dressed Bed' award! Congratulations to all the runners and their support teams.



Jubilee Celebrations at St. Aidan's High School

St. Aidan's CE High School chose the first bank holiday weekend of the year to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Students, staff, friends and alumni of the school all joined together to mark the special occasion at three separate events.

The weekend began with a reunion of past students which was held in Constance Green Hall. Over 300 ex-students attended the event and enjoyed catching up with old friends and reminiscing on life as a St. Aidan's student in the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. The school even welcomed back some 'noughties'!

Later on the same day, the Harrogate Convention Centre was the setting for an exciting and spectacular gala evening, telling the story of the five decades of St Aidan's through music, dance, sport and musical theatre. The evening was such a great success that DVDs are now being snapped up by those who attended and would like to look back on a wonderful evening. Anyone who would like a copy, please contact school.

The finale of the weekend of celebrations was a Service of Thanksgiving which was held at Ripon Cathedral. Attended by no less than THREE Bishops, the joyful service included performances by the Chamber Choir, Aidan's Flame Worship Band, the Causeway Brass Ensemble and the St. Aidan's Jubilee Choir. Current and past members of staff and pupils gave readings.

To round off the Jubilee year, on 15th July, Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley attended a Service of Celebration at the school and unveiled a plaque which will commemorate 50 years of St. Aidan's Church of England High School.



Fun, Games and Ice Lollies for our Youngest Pupils

On 20th June some of our youngest pupils enjoyed a Sports Day at Oatlands Infant School. The event was a great success and the weather was kind. There were contributions of cakes and biscuits and the PTA helped serve refreshments and provided ice lollies. The year 5 children from Oatlands Junior School were a great help.



Pannal Primary Students Learn to 'Bee Friendly'

Reception and Year 6 pupils at Pannal Primary School enjoyed a "Bee Day" with Sue Dixon and Neil Waite from Horticap. They learnt about the life cycle of bees, made beeswax candles and found out which bee-friendly plants to put in the school grounds.



Staff Rush to Workout

Staff from Oatlands enjoy a Rush Workout after school. Space hoppers, inflatable slides and LOTS of mud were the order of the day and despite some bruises, it was a great team building event which they would recommend!



A Fellowship Walk to Almscliffe Crag

On Friday 5th July, our Fellowship schools, All Saints Kirkby Overblow and North Rigton, set off from the village of North Rigton for a walk to the top of Almscliffe Crag. The children were supported on their journey by staff members, parents, governors and friends – along with a few toddlers and pet dogs! The walk took the two schools through fields, woodlands, muddy tracks and over stiles until they arrived at the top of the Crag where a Collective Act of Worship was enjoyed by all. A picnic lunch was followed by games in a friendly farmer's field at the bottom of the Crag, before a long and weary walk back to North Rigton School, just before home time. This walk stemmed from the work the two schools have been promoting on Wellbeing, which has been part of YCST Development Plan for this year – the theme was Connect. This was the first opportunity for both schools in the Fellowship to come together as a whole and connect. It was a very successful outing, greatly enjoyed by all members of both communities and the aim is to make it an annual event.



When in Rome

The children from Richard Taylor School had a wonderful time when they visited Murton Park where they spent the day in Brigantium learning how to be recruits in the Roman Army. As well as learning their Latin alphabet and Roman numerals, the children made an oil lamp and practised marching, fighting and javelin throwing skills as part of the Roman army.



Let's Learn Moor

In partnership with Countryside Learning, a group of pupils from St. Peter's went up onto the moorland at Dallowgill within the Nidderdale Area Of Outstanding Beauty in July. It was an amazing day where the children learnt all about the moorland environment.

They saw creatures native to the area, saw how the gun dogs work and learnt about how to put out a moorland fire. They even rescued the Headteacher with the help of the Mountain Rescue Team!

This and many other activities were offered free of charge with transport provided. It comes recommended, one to look out for next year, teachers!



The End of a Busy Term at St. Aidan's

It's been a hectic term at St. Aidan's with trips to New York, Salamanca, Nice, the Ardeche and Cologne to name but a few. Year 11 students celebrated the end of their exams with their school prom which is always a great occasion for the students. Does anyone else wish they were back at school?!



Pannal and Hampsthwaite Shine in External Inspections

Two of our schools have been inspected during the Summer term.

Firstly, it was the turn of Hampsthwaite Primary School which received a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). This inspection was conducted under the new, more stringent, framework and lasted for one day. The Inspector commented, "Pupils live out the school's vision, developing strong relationships with other members of the school community that lead to very positive behaviour and attitudes to their work." She went on to say, "There is a well-established culture of high expectations and high ambition for all pupils. Pupils love coming to school because learning is enjoyable." The school was pleased to receive a 'Good' judgement following the inspection.

The next visit came from Ofsted, who visited Pannal Primary School later in the term. Following the one day short inspection, the Inspector indicated in his letter that the school's next inspection would be a Section 5. This was due to the strong practice and marked improvement he observed during his visit, which suggested to him that the school has improved significantly overall. There were many highlights in the Inspector's letter. Here are a few:

"The quality of pupils' creative writing is superb."

"Provision in the early years is a significant strength of the school."

"Teachers liaise effectively with highly skilled teaching assistants."

"Teachers demonstrate strong subject knowledge, use learning time wisely and assess pupils accurately."

"Leaders across the school are inspirational, determined and genuinely focused on what works best for pupils."

A parent perhaps best summed up the success of the school, saying, "Pannal Primary is a truly lovely school. There is a clear holistic approach to child development, which permeates through everything they do ('Pannal-Shaped'). Staff are committed and very skilled at developing a child's academic ability, whilst addressing and nurturing the needs of the whole child; physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. My children are extremely happy at school. They are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged – I couldn't ask for more."

Congratulations to all staff and governors at both schools whose hard work contributed towards these fantastic

Health Assured

A reminder that all Trust primary school staff are members of the 'Health Assured' Employee Assistance Programme.

The confidential support service for employees and their immediate family members offers help with a number of issues including stress, debt, financial problems, childcare, family matters, relationships and legal matters.

The counselling service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and all calls are answered by a qualified and experienced counsellor who will offer help and support in a professional, friendly and non-judgemental manner. You can speak to the same counsellor more than once. Contact the free 24 hour counselling service on 0800 030 5182.

The online health portal provides instant and unlimited access to emotional support video content, fitness videos and over 200 easy to read and understand medical factsheets. It also includes personal coaching and health assessment areas, which allow employees to enter their personal details and produce clear reports and advice. www.healthassuredeap.co.uk.

YCST Annual Conference

In June, over 80 headteachers, senior leaders, trustees and governors joined together to learn more about the new Ofsted framework which comes into effect from September 2019.

Mike Smit, educational consultant and external adviser to Trust schools, gave presentations which focused on the key changes schools and governing bodies can expect from September.

One of the key changes in the framework will be the breadth of the curriculum, focusing on three factors - intent, implementation and impact.

Inspectors will consider the extent to which the school's curriculum sets out the knowledge and skills that pupils will gain at each stage (intent). They will also consider the way that the curriculum selected by the school is taught and assessed in order to support pupils to build their knowledge and to apply that knowledge as skills (implementation). Finally, inspectors will consider the outcomes that pupils receive as a result of the education they have received (impact).

Governors can access handouts on SharePoint here.

Fund Raising in Memory of Frank Ashton

As many of you will know, former Pannal Primary School and latterly St. Aidan's School pupil, Frank Ashton, tragically lost his battle with Ewing's sarcoma earlier this year aged just 14. Since then, and with the support of Frank's family, both schools have been fund raising for Frank's Fund and the Bone Cancer Research Trust.

In the Spring term, a group of Year 6 pupils from Pannal Primary decided to make friendship bracelets for every child in school - all 443 of them! In return, the children brought in donations for Frank's Fund and raised over £3,000! An amazing achievement and testament to the fond memories pupils and staff at the school have of Frank.

At St. Aidan's School, a number of fund raising activities have taken place recently including 'Frank Friday' and a whole school sponsored walk to Spofforth Castle and back. Sponsorship money is still coming in to the school, but initial indications are that considerably more than the £5,000 target set has been raised.



A message from Frank's Fund: Ewing sarcoma most commonly affects children and young adults aged 10-25 years old and makes up about 1.5% of all childhood cancers. A child, teenager or adult is diagnosed with primary bone cancer every 10 minutes, but primary bone cancer received just 0.04% of funding from the major UK cancer charities in 2017/18 and shockingly their investment in the disease dropped by 43% to a 16-year low. Treatment protocols are out of date and gruelling. It's a scandal that the lack of investment means that neither treatment nor survival rates have improved in over 30 years and that there's so little chance of survival if it returns.

Frank would never have wanted any child to suffer as he suffered. If his death is to have any meaning at all, it needs to be to help people who are diagnosed in the future by raising funds that can be invested in much needed research. If you'd like to help with the fund raising, this is how you can get involved:

Text BCRT FRANK to 70800 to donate £5

Visit <https://www.bcrt.org.uk/get-involved/tribute-funds/franks-fund>

A Message from Alison Glover, Chair of YCST

The work of the Trust board continues to be interesting and varied. It has been great this year to have opportunities for the trustees to work alongside colleagues on local governing bodies – having a shared purpose and the opportunity to build relationships across the Trust.

The most significant of these opportunities was the work of the joint panel of trustees and St Aidan's governors who took responsibility for the recruitment of Chris Burt as the new headteacher for St Aidan's and executive leader for the Trust. The panel worked extremely well together and all on the Trust board are excited about working with Chris when he takes up his post on 1 September 2019.

Another opportunity to work together came when a trustee was part of the recruitment panel to appoint a new headteacher at Hampsthwaite. Amy Ross begins her new role in September and staff and governors are looking forward to working with her. Trustees have also been available to support schools during their Ofsted and SIAMS inspections and to meet with inspectors and attend their feedback session.

Several trustees have been out and attended local governing body meetings over the course of the year. This is a great chance for trustees to hear about the issues governors are dealing with in schools and for governors to have a chance to get to know the trustees and ask questions of them.

Termly chairs meetings have been well attended and skills from across the governors in the Trust are being identified and utilised, with members of local governing bodies joining sub-committees of the board as associate members to add relevant skills and experience.

The Trust's governance year was rounded off with our annual Governor Conference. Mike Smit led a session on the implications for governors of the new Ofsted inspection framework. The presentation was highly relevant and accessible and was followed by time for each school to discuss the implications in their particular school context.

In the Spring we said goodbye to Seth King, who stepped down from the board at the end of his 4 year term and welcomed Andrew Marson as a new trustee. Andrew's career has been in the pensions industry and he brings knowledge and experience of charity law and governance. We are delighted that Claire Kelley, Phil Titchmarsh and Martin Wicks have all agreed to remain on the Trust board for a second term.

Trust board meetings will not be quite the same without a certain Mr John Wood. It has been an absolute delight to work with him over the last few years and we wish him the very best in his retirement.

Regards, Alison

So Long, Farewell

As we reach the end of the school year, we say goodbye to three colleagues. Firstly, we say thank you and goodbye to Steve Gill, who leaves the Trust after 4 years as Compliance and Resources Officer. Steve has been instrumental in ensuring that Trust schools meet statutory obligations in terms of policies and procedures and his attention to detail and professional, friendly manner will be missed greatly. We wish Steve and his wife Lynn every happiness as they move on.

After over 6 years as Head of Hampsthwaite Primary School, Andrew Phoenix is leaving to take up a headship at a community primary school in another area of the country. We wish him and his family well for the future and pay tribute to him for the work he has carried out at the school.

Of course we are also saying goodbye to John Wood. After an incredible 42 years service to St. Aidan's School, and more recently to YCST, the school community past and present said its farewells to John at an emotional, funny and heartwarming evening of celebration this week. As well as the 'This is Your Life' - style presentation, surely one of the highlights of the evening was the re-working of The Beatles classic, 'Hey Jude', which ended with the lyrics:

Hey John! It's not goodbye,
It's just the start of something better,
Remember, to keep us close to your heart,
But don't come in just send a letter!

From all your friends and colleagues at YCST, we wish you a happy, healthy and busy retirement. You have made a difference to many lives, young and some now less so, and we are immensely grateful for all you have done for our schools.

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