

## In Brief:

### Bishop Helen-Ann

Richard Taylor School was delighted to welcome Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley to the school recently when she rededicated the school building.

### Year 7 Speak Out

Christmas, cookery, climate change and Churchill - some of the hot topics debated by St. Aidan's students.

### Engineering

#### Extravaganza

Year 9 girls have their skills put to the test at the National STEM learning centre in York.

### Community Matters

Our schools engage with the communities of which they are a part all year around, but even more so at Christmas.

### School News

All our schools have been busy during this term. Read about Christmas markets, cards and lunches, national recognition for one of our teachers and a 108th birthday.

### Trust Training Day

Information about the Trust training day which takes place on Monday 6th January 2020. Details of workshops and timings.

### Governance News

Changes to governor file sharing arrangements, training dates and news about the Annual Conference 2020.

## Welcome



As we reach the end of a long and busy autumn term, I would like to pay tribute to all of you in our schools for the commitment and dedication shown to each and every one of the children in our care.

As I talk to colleagues from across the Trust, it is clear that for all our schools, there is an unequivocal focus on ensuring that our pupils achieve the very best that they can, whilst also feeling safe and happy at school. As we celebrate academic success across our Trust, I am reassured that the wellbeing of our students and staff is considered equal in status alongside academic achievement.

I look forward to meeting many colleagues at the collaborative training day on the 6th January 2020. In the meantime, may I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Christmas and thank you once again for all that you give to our schools.

With best wishes,

Chris Burt  
Executive Leader

## Bishop Helen-Ann Visits Richard Taylor School

On Tuesday 10th December, Richard Taylor School was delighted to welcome Bishop Helen-Ann, who returned to school to lead worship and rededicate the school building following the opening of a new entrance.

She spoke to the children about the importance of light in darkness and its link to the birth of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem. She was presented with a book of Christmas Hopes made by every class and a special school tea towel which is the perfect gift for a visiting Bishop.

The photograph below shows Bishop Helen-Ann with Dylan and Sophie who welcomed her to school with members of the governing body.



## Year 7 Public Speaking Competition

Since half term, the English Department at St. Aidan's High School have been teaching Year 7 students about persuasive writing skills and the art of constructing a well-researched argument. Pupils have learnt how to form a viewpoint from which to write, the use of rhetorical and persuasive techniques and the impact of their choice of language and style of delivery on an audience.

To mark the culmination of the project, Mrs Cartwright invited children to put their newfound skills into practice and deliver their speech at the annual Public Speaking Competition in front of the rest of the year group, teachers and judges. Undaunted by what, to some, might seem an incredibly intimidating challenge, the enthusiastic response delivered a final line up of 16 speakers whose subject choices ranged from 'Why do people celebrate Christmas so early' and 'Books are better than films' to personal heroes such as Rosa Parks, Jamie Oliver and Winston Churchill.

The competition was held in Constance Green Hall and produced a highly informative, entertaining and impressive afternoon. Three external judges, all with extensive personal experience of public speaking, – Laura Bottell, Managing Director of Harrogate management training company Quarterdeck, Clare Downham, motivational speaker and Jack Farrar, actor – had the unenviable task of choosing a winner plus two runners up, which they all agreed was an almost impossible task as the standard of delivery was so high.

After weighty deliberation, during which time the audience were entertained by a number of equally brave Year 7 musicians performing solo and in ensemble, the judges presented very well deserved Certificates of Achievement to all speakers, announcing Flossie Linford as the overall winner with her speech 'Climate Change' and Elena Dickson and Sophia Crooks as runners up with their speeches on Wilma Rudolph and 'Are there too many cookery programmes on TV?' respectively.



## Autumn Flower Show

North Rigton School took part in the annual Autumn Flower show competition in Harrogate. This year it was called 'Totally Trees' and the children had to decorate the tree any way they wished to. The children in Year 4 and 5 chose a brightly coloured sweet tree and an artistic tree. The judges said that the leaves drawn and painted were lovely colours and detailed and the sweet tree was very colourful and they said 'wouldn't it be nice if sweets grew on a tree!' Well done to all the children that took part - watch out for their next entry at the Spring Flower Show!



## Community Christmas Lunch

Our Trust schools are engaged with their local communities throughout the year, but at Christmas, this is ever more apparent.

The Chamber Choir from St. Aidan's School visited St. Michael's Hospice this week to sing at the 'Light Up a Life' service in memory of loved ones. Later in the week, a group of staff, pupils and their families toured the 'Saints' area of Harrogate, singing carols before returning to school for hot drinks and mince pies.

Every year the children from All Saints Kirkby Overblow host a Community Christmas Lunch in church. The children sing festive songs and then serve a delicious Christmas dinner to their village friends. This is a long-standing tradition and everyone always looks forward to this community event.



## Engineering Extravaganza 2019

On Tuesday 5th November 2019 teachers from the St Aidan's Design and Technology department took 30 Year 9 girls to an Engineering Extravaganza at the National STEM learning centre in York. The aim of the event was to give the students hands-on experience of different types of engineering.

A number of professional engineering institutions, covering a broad range of engineering disciplines, joined forces to organise the Engineering Extravaganza. Throughout the day, the students took part in a variety of engineering based activities including:

### The Institution of Civil Engineers: Skyscraper Challenge

The young engineer's skills were put to the test when they were challenged to build the tallest tower using limited materials. With materials to buy, land to purchase and labour to employ, could the teams also make a profit? The students had to design their tower and estimate the profit before the timed construction phase commenced. The tower had to stand up by itself and be able to withstand an earth quake (a shaking of the table).

### The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining: Materials in action challenge

Materials play a central role in our lives, but we take them very much for granted. The students explored how materials have helped change and improve the technology we rely on and their uses. They used this knowledge to design a house of the future.

### The Institution of Engineering & Technology: Mars Lander project

A huge amount of engineering goes into the design of a craft to land on another planet 225 million miles from earth. The teams had to design and build a parachute to land a rover on the surface of Mars. Would their designs survive the impact of landing?





### Housing Development Funds Classroom

Following housing development in the area, Hampsthwaite Primary School qualified for Section 106 funding which allowed the school to expand its teaching facilities. The new classroom is well and truly up and running, with the Year 1 and Year 2 children taking full advantage of their new environment. Having this classroom has provided extra space for this flourishing and growing school. Amy Ross, Headteacher, describes the classroom as, "Such an asset we are truly lucky to have."

### National Recognition for Emma Crisell

In early 2019, Emma Crisell, Deputy Headteacher at Richard Taylor Primary School, was nominated for a prestigious award in the world of primary education.

Emma has been shortlisted for the National Primary Science Teacher Award and if successful will become a Fellow of the PSTT Primary Science Teacher College which comes with the opportunity to apply for additional funding to promote science in schools every year.

Just to be shortlisted is a huge honour and she has already been visited by the judging panel who were very impressed with the quality of her work. Winners are formally announced in February and we feel sure that we will soon be celebrating more fantastic news!



### A Familiar Face Opens New Entrance

More news from Richard Taylor School which brings with it a rather familiar face!

On November 21st 2019 the school were delighted to welcome Mr John Wood, the former Headteacher of St Aidan's who led worship and formally opened the new entrance hall.

The theme of his worship was the need for strong foundations told through the story of the three little pigs, complete with props! The event has been marked by a brass plaque in the new entrance hall.

The entrance hall project was funded via Trust 'School Condition Allocation' monies which schools are eligible to bid for annually.

This year, St. Peter's, North Rigton, St. Aidan's and Hampsthwaite Schools were also awarded funds to assist with various building projects.



### Dorothy's Birthday

Following an appeal on Stray FM for Dorothy at Southlands Care Home to receive 108 birthday cards for her 108th birthday on 22nd October, Oatlands Infant Year 2 children all wrote a card. Here is one of the children delivering 108 cards to her ready for the big day!



### Harrogate Christmas Market

On Thursday 14th November, Oatlands Infant pupils visited the opening of Harrogate Christmas Market to welcome Father Christmas and his reindeer. They were met by The Lord Mayor of Harrogate who arrived with Santa on his sleigh pulled by real reindeer.





## News for Governors

From January 2020, the Trust will be migrating governor files from the current file sharing site 'SharePoint' to a new platform, 'Microsoft Teams'. Governors may already have seen an email relating to Teams. Further information will be provided in the New Year. The sites are similar, however Teams has more functionality and greater accessibility. Governor's current email log in details will provide access to Teams. You can access the site [here](#).

Safeguarding training for governors has been organised for Thursday 6th February 2020 from 6.00pm - 8.00pm in the Chapel at St. Aidan's School. This training is suitable for all governors and trustees and will cover updates to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019.

New to Governance training will be held on Wednesday 1st April, again from 6.00pm - 8.00pm at St. Aidan's High School. This training is also suitable for any governor or trustee who is interested in refreshing their knowledge about governance within YCST schools.

The annual Trust Conference for governors and trustees will be held on Tuesday 30th June from 6.00pm - 8.00pm. Mary Myatt will be joining us to talk about the importance of strong governance in schools. Mary is an education adviser, writer and speaker. She works in schools talking to pupils, teachers and leaders about learning, leadership and the curriculum. She writes and speaks at conferences about leadership, curriculum and school improvement. We hope that you will be able to join us.

## Trust Training Day

On Monday 6th January 2020, 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:

Deep diving (Ofsted)

Using One Drive/Online Calendar

Teaching Inference Skills in Reading

Mindfulness- what, why and how

Seesaw - the online learning journal

ACES- they really aren't ACE!

Maths: Early Years to Year 1

Making it stick - teaching for long term memory

Science on Stage-Beyond the water project

What can I do with a song?

Changing Minds Through Compass Buzz

Fine Motor Skills

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.

We are delighted that colleagues from Skipton Parish Primary School will be joining us for the day.

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