



## Spring Newsletter

### School Peace Week

The last week of term was our school peace week. This involved different tasks for forms to do in their class rooms in place of collective worship for the week.

The aim is to build a peace garden in the courtyard opposite the school chapel. It would have a bench in that space, potted plants, a sand tray for a secondary zen garden and a lovely mosaic on the wall. It could be an extra outdoor sensory space and we can add to it year on year (we'll keep you posted).

A big thank you to Mr Lynch and the sixth formers for cutting out the dove shape and the peace letters for us to create the mosaic.

Thank you to Miss Murray, Glen and RE teacher for co-ordinating the project and the assemblies and everyone for joining in.



### Spring Has Sprung

Other stories inside include an insight into life in our Sixth Form, exploring space, a soldier visits school, Dragons Den challenge, an update on PSHE lessons and some snapshots of our school mascot dog, Flo.

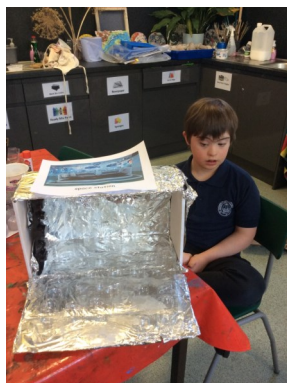
We hope you like it and if any of the pupils want to share some interesting news with school, please email your article and picture to [Jackie.Peacock@StJohns.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.Peacock@StJohns.org.uk)



## In and Around School

### Glen Explore Space

Pupils in the Glen created their own space stations in Art. The models were made from recycled materials donated by staff. This linked to their literacy book for the week Goodnight Spaceman. Well done everyone.



### Linking Schools

Donaldson, Ellington and Robin class got together this half term to connect with our Linking class at Primrose Lane. We joined them on Teams and played funny games to get to know each other. We are hoping that in the Summer Term we will be able to meet up with them at their school for a picnic, a play and a chat! *Miss Heggarty*





# In and Around School

## Rainbow Activities

Rainbow made £180.21p from all their hard work at the rainbow Christmas shop, they have decided to donate the full amount to local charity, Martin House Children's Hospice.

They have been busy again this half term preparing and making Easter crafts to sell in the rainbow shop in April. Times and dates will be sent out soon.

They are also going to be busy cleaning up the sensory garden and around the school grounds to support their Asdan qualification of being active citizens.

They have really enjoyed the narrative of Dear Zoo this half term getting into role play and matching the different pets to their homes as well as using adjectives to describe the pet, through picture communication, sensory approaches, Makaton, BSL signing, ICT and proloquo 2go technology.

They have continued making delicious foods this half term; investigating and looking at foods from the past, focusing on foods from world war 2, making carrot scones, war cake, biscuits, bread and much more.

Rainbow learners have been busy looking at art from the past, focusing on Pablo Picasso and abstract art. They linked the art to maths-looking at 2d shapes.

The students are enjoying making choices for themselves, going to the shops to buy the ingredients needed for their cooking lessons and being able to go to the cafe to make choices and placing an order, paying for their chosen items and asking, signing or using assistive technology to request their receipt. They are thoroughly enjoying using their road safety fans, supporting when it is safe to cross and identifying dangers of the road, waiting.

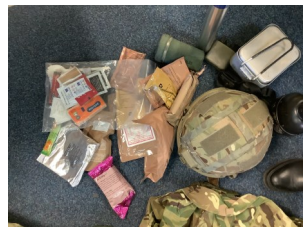
Rainbow have shown tremendous progress in their literacy skills, improving letter formation, sentence writing, using the computer to type out work and even making a power point. *Mrs Kaur*



## In and Around School—Donaldson

### A Soldier Visits School

Harriet's dad came to visit our year 6 to 8 classes in the Spring term to give some insight into what it was like in the daily life of a soldier. Our catholic themes during English lessons were 'Peace and Conflict' and he explained about the humanitarian jobs soldiers do such as helping people to rebuild their homes after natural disasters to restore peace on their communities, as well as fighting during wars. He spoke about his experience of having to leave family and travel to various countries as well as the rations he had to take with him when travelling long distances and the pop-up tent he had in his rucksack which he slept in. He also spoke about having to remain camouflaged when asleep so the tent was really low to the ground and his uniform was green, brown and black. He also spoke about putting face paint on to make sure they are even more camouflaged! It was really informative and we really appreciate the visit, thank you! *Miss Sturgess*



### Good News Stories

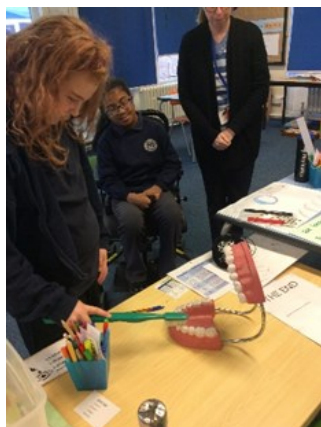
Congratulations to Mrs Pike, Learning Support Assistant on the safe arrival of her grandson, Jonah back in January. Also to Mrs Keedy on the safe arrival of her grandson, Noah, born in September 2021.





## PSHE News From Donaldson, Ellington and Keller

In PSHE Donaldson and Ellington have been learning about the importance of looking after our teeth. They have been looking at the sugar content in different food/sweets. Using egg shells to show what happens to our teeth if we don't look after them.



Keller have been learning about the different units and the law around alcohol. Using "Drunk Goggles" to experience the disorientation too much alcohol can cause. Here are some pupils trying to walk in a straight line!



### Dragon's Den

Keller have been developing their use of persuasive language in English lessons. They were challenged to come up with a pitch to sell an idea to the Dragon's Den. They had an extra challenge of linking it to the school term theme of sustainable development.

What do you think of these examples from their pitches?

Luke came up with a game called 'Stop-Focus' which would keep children safe and improve their mental health. 'Children keep playing games and don't focus in school or college. My app will change that. I can help children focus...'

Joshua wanted to create a 'Plastic Machine'. 'It is a machine that will take plastic out of ponds, river and seas. 50% of sea creatures have died because of plastic in the sea. I mean you do want to save the animals in the sea, don't you?'

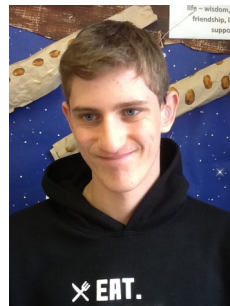
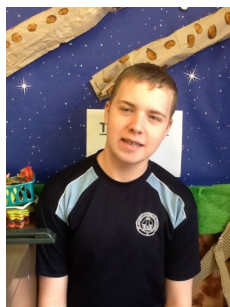
Steven. 'Hello Dragons. I want to show you 'Re-fresh' the world's first toilet that recycles water and generates electricity'. The 'Re-fresh' can save the average four people family up to £200 per month in water.'

Edward. 'Has your phone ever run out of charge when you are riding your bike? My product, the 'Chargerbike', will charge your phone while you ride. You may want to call someone if you are late, in case there is an emergency, or in case you want to order some food.'

Georgia chose something close to home. 'How do think it feels to not go somewhere because it is not accessible? Well let me tell you, I feel sad, angry and lonely and that earth isn't liking disabled people. Introducing 'Retro-Ramp', 'Ramp n a bag.'

I have been so impressed by their ideas and the way they are using persuasive language to pitch them. I am already considering investing in all of them!

*Miss Fox*



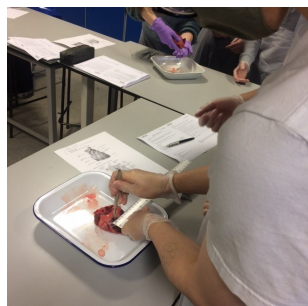
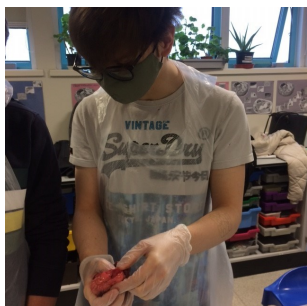


## A Snapshot of Our Super Sixth Formers



Here are a collection of photos of our Sixth Formers doing amazing things on their college courses. We hope you're as impressed by them as we are.

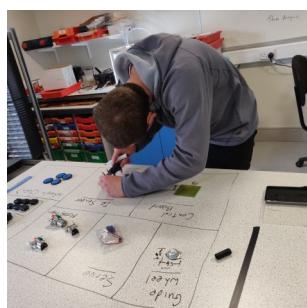
### George-Being Scientific in A-Level Biology



Left to right George is examining and dissecting a heart and performing a blood glucose test.

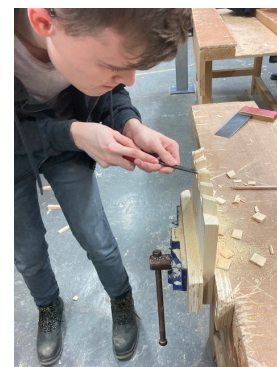
Robert working on developing a chassis for a Robot. He designed it on CAD and worked out all the components needed to complete the design. Having a speech lesson via teams with Alison (SALT) and Catherine (Signing). Working on his assignment about manufacturing spectacles from design to production.

### Robert-Engineering Level 3 Course

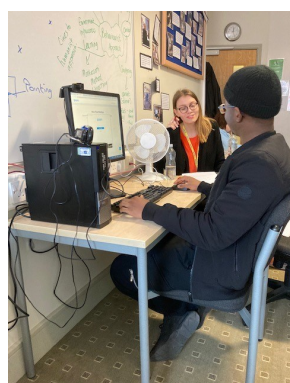


### Alex-Getting Practical on his Joinery Course

Alex working in a team with L, a student on the course. Task to fit guttering up on a test jig. The plastic guttering needs to have a fall of 3mm per meter and the clips have to be equidistant along the length of the gutter. A string line is used to work out the correct fall and some maths to work out the equal distance of the clips. Alex and L had no problem sorting it out and working on an "impossible" dovetail joint.

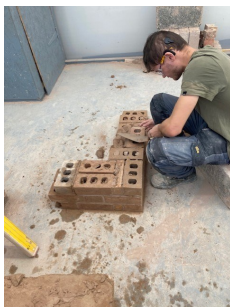


### Mqhele-Painting and Decorating Level 1 Course



Mqhele working in partnership with a hearing student on his course, lining a chimney breast. Both students worked well together and had great communication between them. The quality of work is so high. In the second photo Mqhele had just had a casting interview over zoom for a BBC film. He will find out next week if he's got on! He did really really well. A few questions were difficult having to use his imagination about what aliens would look like etc but he answered everything really well. Break a leg Mqhele.

### Tyler-Brickwork Level 2



Left to right, Tyler working on a Flemish bond return wall, brick with mortar is 75mm so six courses high works out at 450mm. Finishing off the corner of an English bond solid wall with the pointing tool. Working on a cavity wall assessment, measuring with a gauge as it is very important to get the mortar bonds all the same.

### Scarlet-T Level Childcare Course



Scarlet on her NCFE L3 Technical Qualification in Childcare and Education, left to right, working on a practical task making felt designs and felt puppets. These might be used when she starts her work placement and practicing her craft skills and making a model plan of a class room.



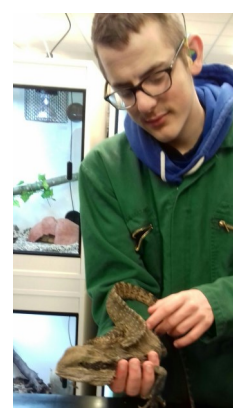
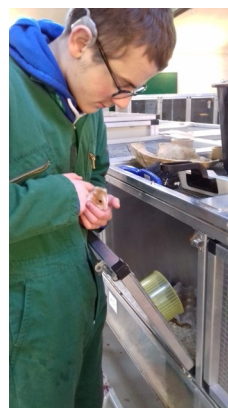
### Macauley-Game Keeping Level 2

Right to left, Macauley in college with his English teacher and support worker, Lisa. Then looking very happy behind the wheel of a tractor.



### Julian-Animal Care Course

Julian (right) has been learning to handle lizards and small animals. This week he handled Hammy Hamster a Syrian Hamster and an Australian Water Dragon. He is doing Entry 3.5 Animal Care.



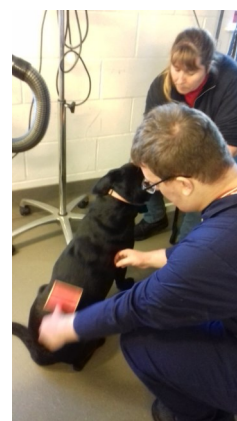
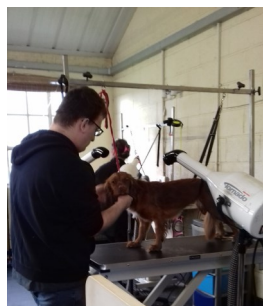


## Sixth Form Work Experience

### Bradley-Animal Care Level 1.5 Course

Bradley started work experience at Barking Beauties in Thorp Arch. He washes, dries and grooms different dogs with a team of dog groomers.

As well as that Bradley raised £60 for The Dog's Trust by walking, grooming and bathing staff dogs at ABC.



### Finn-Pathways Course



FK has started his work experience at Tadcaster swimming pool. He was issued with a Tad pool uniform (looking good) and has been helping the staff keep the place clean, tidy and well stocked with snacks for visitors. Finn catches the coast liner from College at 9:30 to Tadcaster (travel training) goes to work until about 2:30 then catches the bus from Tadcaster to Boston spa (more travel training). Finn is supported by St Johns staff throughout the day.

### Kacey and Haider-Pathways Course



Kacey and Haider go to Askham Bryan College one day per week as part of their course, just look at those smiles!

## Residential Care News

### Trips and Treats

Some of the sixth form students have enjoyed swimming in Tadcaster every other week.

We have had some ice skating trips. Everyone managed to get off the ice without breaking a leg so that's good.



### Fine Dining

Alex and George made a meal for all the students (pasta and meatballs). They chose the food they wanted to cook, budgeted and shopped for it before finally cooking it. This was followed by George's lovely banana tart and chocolate brownie – delicious and everyone enjoyed it.



The sixth formers had a couple of independent trips to Leeds, one to watch the new Spiderman film and another to Byrons Burger Restaurant, looks exciting and delicious!

Another night, we all enjoyed a night in playing Bingo.





## More Residential Care News

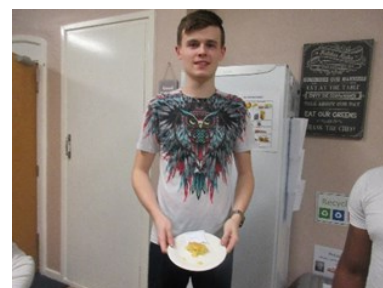
### Pamper Night

Our pamper night went well. Face masks, nails and a strawberry fondue for afters. Who needs to go to a spa!



### Bake Off Challenge

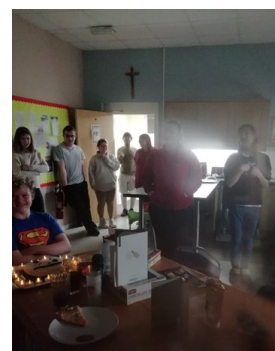
Bake off challenge! Lemon tray bake judged by Rachel Blackburn Head of Care - well done to Alex for getting 10/10



### Birthday Celebrations

Happy 19th birthday to Macauley (right), pictured celebrating with his friends. Mquele, Tyler, Alex and Macauley decided to treat themselves to a visit to Byrons Restaurant. It looks delicious!

We all enjoyed celebrating Finn's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday (below). Takeaway pizza for all of us and Finn got three birthday cakes!!!



## Special Days

### Awards and Recognition



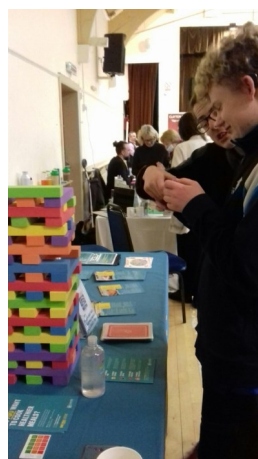
Robert received an award from school in recognition of all his hard work not just in college but driving all the way from Middlesbrough each college day.

Mqhele awarded with the “peace Award” for promoting community cohesion.



### Visit to the Local Village Wellbeing Event

Miss Dyer, Learning Support Assistant and Rene from the Residential Team went down to the wellbeing event in Boston Spa, with Finn and Julian. They did some sand art, played a giant jenga, had a drink and looked at gem stones and crystals! I had a little Reiki! We all met the Wise Owl. It was a lovely little trip out.



### New Chess and Board Game Club

A new Chess and Board Game Club has been requested by students and subsequently set up.

It is held in Donaldson Classroom, on Mondays, after lunch, between 12.50 and 1.20 pm.





## Past Pupils News

### Visits to School

We were delighted to welcome back two of our ex-students, Catherine (left) and Rebecca (right) pictured here with Miss Fox.

They were talking to our younger students about how their careers have developed. Rebecca described working for two years in a care home during the pandemic and how difficult she found communication when everyone was wearing masks. She loved the experience but decided it wasn't her 'forever' job and is now training to be an HGV driver which she loves. Catherine is studying for a BA in BSL and Deaf studies at York St John University, despite refusing point blank to consider university until her last year in sixth form. Both Catherine and Rebecca are still in contact with many of the other ex-students at St John's.



They joked about their class who argued constantly in year 7 (and a long time beyond) and how Miss Fox would leave chocolates on their chairs at the start of the day to put them in a good mood so they would get some work done.

Wise words of advice to our current students from Catherine: " Don't think you have to have everything worked out yet, take your time to think about you really want to do, you can always change your mind."

### Past Pupil Working in Boston Spa

Early in February, Mrs. Bradbury caught up with Alex, one of our ex-pupils. Alex has continued his studies at Askham Bryam college and is in his first year of a Level 3 Horticulture course. For one day a week, he supports The Conservation Volunteers and is currently helping to improve the riverside paths next to the Wharfe in Boston Spa. He is still in contact with many of his friends from school and told Mrs Bradbury he still misses St John's but is working hard towards his future career.



### Schools Four Legged Friend

Flo belongs to our school nurse, Kate, she is a rescue dog, who happens to be deaf. Nurse Kate sometimes brings Flo into school as a bit of a treat for us all, as most people think that dogs or pets are good for our health and make us feel better. Flo comes in when we are doing special topics, like caring for animals, or to help us feel less stressed about something - like exams coming up! Flo also has her own assistance dog, Luna, to help her with her own deafness. We hope you like Flo and our photos as much as we do!



## What's on in 2022

### Safety Awareness Campaign



*First News* newspaper is launching the Look Up! campaign to encourage children to look up from their phones while crossing the road. Statistics show that there is a clear link between the use of mobile devices and serious road accidents involving children. *First News* is a regular subscription for school, so pupils have been encouraged to enter the competition for a Campaign Poster. It's a good message to everyone really!

### Please Let the Office Know if.....

Please may we remind parents/carers to **let the office know as soon possible** if you know your child will be absent from school for any reason. This includes upcoming medical appointments. **Please call the office on 01937 842144**, you can leave a message on the answer machine if it's outside school hours. Or email [Admin@stjohns.org.uk](mailto:Admin@stjohns.org.uk). You can also text TeachersToParents on 07786 207779. This helps us to make sure we have the right teaching staff and learning support assistants throughout school.

Please help us to help you. Thanks.

### General Dates for your diary

8th April	-School closes 12.30pm for Easter Holidays
25th April	-School reopens
2nd May	-School closed for Bank holiday
27th May	-School closes for half term holiday
6th June	-School reopens
24th June	-School closed for TRAINING DAY
21st July	-School closes 12.30pm for Summer Holidays

Early Notice—The School Year 2022-2023 will start on Monday 5th September for pupils.

**5th September** -School reopens for pupils



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