

School News

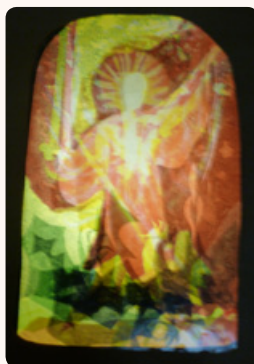
Early Years Nursery and Kindergarten

Autumn arrives and we have already made jam from wild berries. Kindergarten children helped cook the jam over a campfire! Now we are preparing for Michaelmas (27th September), the harvest festival, when the children will prepare a meal to share with their parents in each class.

Soon it will be Martinmas (8th November), which we celebrate by making lanterns and going on a short lantern walk with all our families before sharing homemade goodies!

The Advent Fair will be on 23rd November, and Early Years families contribute towards the International Food stall for this wonderful event.

On 1st December we celebrate the arrival of advent with our Advent Spiral. It is lovely to see each child carefully lighting and adding their candle to the spiral of light while families accompany them with carol singing.



Main School Classes 1 - 8

For Michaelmas this year the classes are putting together a festival of kites and puppets, and even a 2-metre long Chinese dragon made by Class 8! How appropriate for a harvest festival also celebrating the forces of good, where evil is often portrayed as a dragon.

Martinmas is about the spirit of sharing, and of bringing light into the darkness. We celebrate this with our lantern

festival and shared songs and food. Seeing hundreds of fabulous hand-made lanterns bobbing through the autumn night is a beautiful thing!

The Advent Fair is a huge event, with around 2000 visitors through the day. As always, each class is organising their own stall, often with items they have made through the term. As well as crafts and tempting food round every

corner, the Grotto is not to be missed by young and old alike!

Advent brings calm, peaceful preparation as we move towards the end of term, but also a reminder that even in the darkest depths of winter there is always light. From a single candle at the centre, a spectacular Spiral appears by the end of the Advent festival of light and music.

My, how they've grown!

This photo is from the Class 8 trip of 1990; a tour around France.

If you have any photos or memories of your Class 8 trip you would like to share, we would love to hear about them! Please email us at friends@yorksteinerschool.org



L – R: Angela Michel (just retired from teaching at school), Adam Worallo, Jackie Harmson, Sonja (now a Eurythmist), Jo Tomkys (full-time mother), Kit Gilham (elite pro Cyclist), Brendan Hesse, Nikolai Cull (Specialist Carer), Raph Taylor (Specialist Carer), Brodie Stephens (Artist and Set Design), Amber Wood (Senior Management), Hannah Davies (Playwright and Actress), Simon Aitken and Michael Rose (founding teacher and still a member of our School Management Group).



Friends of York Steiner School

Autumn 2013 - issue 1

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Welcome to our first issue of the 'Friends of York Steiner School'

Welcome Friends, old and new alike, to this short-but-extremely-sweet inaugural issue of the Friends of York Steiner School newsletter!

We are proud to number among our Friends not only our alumni, but also their parents and the many people who we are lucky enough to have met in our journey over the last 35 years. Wherever

our Friends may have roamed in the meantime, a little part of them remains with us at school, and we hope a little of York Steiner School is also with them! In this initial newsletter you will find news from school, news from alumni, and ways we can keep in touch. If you would like to join the Friends and receive future issues and updates, please visit us online at <http://www.yorksteinerschool.org/community/friends/> to find out more.

Later this term the first full issue of this newsletter will be published, with more in-depth alumni stories, photos from down the ages, articles about the school... and much more! We're sure you'd like to hear how Class 8 were involved in rescuing someone from the sewers under Vienna last May, or how our teachers are helping Steiner education in India through pedagogical visits. Or perhaps you just want to know when the Advent Fair will be so you don't miss your visit to the Grotto! Whatever the reason, we shall welcome you as our Friend.

We also want to hear from you!

If you have a tale to tell as an Alumnus, or as an ex-parent, perhaps, then we would love to hear it and share it with our Friends.

Let us know by email (friends@yorksteinerschool.org) or visit <http://www.yorksteinerschool.org/contact/> for other ways to get in touch.

Helping take the school forwards Two ex pupils and professional architects collaborate to design a new front of school



We are extremely grateful to have received a donation enabling us to renew the front entrance to school. An ex-parent at school, David Tasker, is a civil engineer; his son Tim and friend Antony Carlile are both York Steiner School alumni and both now qualified architects! Tim and Ian have offered to lead the design of our new entrance. Watch this space!

The Friends team are busy planning a spectacular launch party to coincide with the first full issue, and we would love to see you there. Join us!

With all our best wishes, from everyone at York Steiner School!

In the words of our Alumni and where they are today

Beth Gilham

– Class of 2002

A long journey into medicine

I attended York Steiner School from toddler group all the way through to class 8. After class 8 I went to All Saints School where I completed my GCSEs. As I didn't know what I wanted to do when I was older I decided to take a year out before making my A-Level choices but wanted to do something productive with the year. I decided learning a second language would be both interesting and useful. So I went to live with a family in Schwäbisch Hall where I attended the Steiner School for a year and achieved my main objective of learning German!

During the year abroad I realised that I wanted to become a doctor so came back to All Saints to complete the necessary A-Levels. Between A-Levels and University I took another year out to work at a Camphill Community working as everything from a carer to dairy farmer and everything in between!

I started studying medicine at the University of Sheffield and have just graduated. I have a position as a doctor in the South Yorkshire region starting in August.



Ellie Lucas

– Class of 2005

Education, education, education!



I went to York Steiner School from nursery to the end of class 8. I then went on to do GCSEs at All Saints RC school; I got 9 grade A's and one A* and stayed on to do A-levels, where I got a B in English language, an A in Textiles and an A in Philosophy and Ethics.

Ben Poulten

– Class of 2005

Cambridge via York

The main thing I appreciate about attending York Steiner School is the emphasis on storytelling and mythology that continues from the early years until the final play (usually, but not always, Shakespeare) put on by the students in Class 8.

I feel that this has engendered, or at least enhanced, a sense of wonder and curiosity in me, without sacrificing key aspects of my education such as mathematics and the sciences. This has stuck with me in the years since I left the school.

After completing my A-levels I took a gap year and worked in the York Steiner School Kindergartens and Nursery to learn more about the philosophies and practices and also to earn some money to travel to South East Asia. I guess I loved the school so much I couldn't keep away!

I then studied Education and Sociology at Durham University and graduated with first class honours. I have just begun my first term as a Year 1 teacher at a primary school in Newham, East London, which is a placement as part of my PGCE training programme with Teach First, a competitive graduate recruitment scheme.

The attitude towards education, life skills and ethics I've learnt from York Steiner School have contributed to making me the person I am today. I'm just so grateful that I was given this opportunity.

I am now studying Philosophy at the University of Cambridge and currently intend to pursue a career writing fiction.

**"Accept the
children with
reverence,
educate them
with love, send
them forth
in freedom"**

Rudolf Steiner

Sophie Mackfall and Ruth Wood

– Class of 1998

Top of the (UK) class of 2003

In 2003 two of our former pupils received letters from the Department of Education. They had just taken their A' Levels and were told that they had both achieved marks that put them in the top 5 in the country. They were Sophie Mackfall and Ruth Wood.

Sophie took A levels in French, Art and Politics. She went on to do an Art Foundation Course at York college and then to Study at Glasgow School of Art. She is now establishing herself as a painter and was selected as one of 4 young Scottish Artists to be given her own show at the Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh. Sophie is now studying for an MA in Fin Art at the Royal College of art in London.

Ruth also studied art, graduating in 2007 with a First Class BA (Hons.) Degree in Fine Art (Painting), followed by a Graduate Fellowship, exhibiting artwork in several exhibitions, including one in Japan. Ruth then chose to leave academia and in 2008 moved to Norway to live in Vidaråsen Camphill Community, setting up her own painting workshop amongst other things! In 2010 Ruth returned to the UK to pursue a career in and went on to do a PGCE at the University of Cambridge. She has now completed her first year of teaching



Sofi Cainer

– Class of 2006

Creative cake entrepreneur

After leaving York Steiner School at 14, I chose not to move on to a state school but attended the Stables Project instead, where I achieved a Silver Arts Award in Dress Making. Although this pathway did not equip me with traditional qualifications, I built up a portfolio which allowed me to achieve a place on a course in Fashion and Clothing at York College. I excelled in the course and really enjoyed it. I went on to a to do a short placement in London where I got the chance to work with the designer Deborah Milner and was able to help with the making of dresses for the Alexander McQueen Paris fashion show. However, I decided I was not suited to a career in the fashion industry. I chose to further explore and expand my creative skills by completing a course in Media Make Up. I again chose not to pursue a career as a make-up artist but gained invaluable skills which have inspired me and enabled me to set up a business in something which I have always had a great passion for; cakes. I set up my business Sofi Cakes in 2012 and I am now creating and selling bespoke edible art.



A view from the parents

Past and present parents reflecting on their experiences while at York Steiner School

Sarah and Alun Kirby

Chartered Accountant and Immunologist

When choosing how to educate our children all we knew was that the usual path of school from age 5 and regular testing was not what we wanted. Then we came across York Steiner School. During our Enquirer's Morning visit it just felt like the right place, and obviously the right educational structure. Our children have now spent four years here, and we have no doubts. We've seen that the Steiner approach works incredibly well – our children are happy, free from unnecessary pressures and very well educated. York Steiner School is giving them all we hoped for from an education and whatever they choose to do in life, they will be well prepared.