

Pupils' imagination soars after hawks swoop down on Stray



Year 8 students from St Aidan's watch a harris hawk demonstration by Enviro-Hawks on the stray. (090423GS1a)

PUPILS at a Harrogate school received a visit from two hawks, designed to stir their imagination as they work on an English project about birds.

The students from St Aidan's School have written creatively about a bird of their choice, studied several bird-themed poems and read the novel *Kes*, by Barry Hines.

The harris hawks were

brought to the school by Tommy McNally from the Harrogate Arms.

After answering questions from pupils, he took the hawks out on the Stray.

He laid out some meat for the birds to eat and, with the class watching motionless, the hawks flew in low across the grass before swooping above

the students' heads to devour the meat on offer.

The birds were "perfect killing machines," one girl observed.

The teacher responsible for the visit, Mr Pickford, said that seeing the hawks had been a memorable experience for the class and that the visit would inspire them further with their writing.