



## Doncaster School for the Deaf Newsletter

July 2024

### Welcome

Welcome to our bumper edition. We have so much to tell you about this half term; lots of visits linked to the curriculum, celebrating successes and achievements at our annual prize day as well as the much enjoyed residential trip to Ingleborough.

### Ingleborough

Some of our secondary pupils enjoyed a residential trip to Ingleborough Hall Outdoor Education Centre in Clapham, North Yorkshire recently. They had beautiful sunny weather and enjoyed trying some exciting new activities – caving, gorge scrambling, orienteering and geocaching. A campfire with marshmallows was fun too! The pupils developed both their team work skills, their personal independence skills and improved their confidence. Some of the comments after the trip:

*‘I had fun time, laughing with my friends even in bedrooms. I loved caving, crawling through tight dark spaces. Outside it was very hot, but in the cave, it was very cold. I loved it. And food was lovely too.’*

*‘I had fun, talking to my friends a lot. It was very exciting doing gorge scramble and caving.’  
I loved caving but I lost my boot in the cold water. The teacher found it and it was full of water. It was funny!’*

*‘I loved ‘fresh air’ and the countryside was beautiful. I felt nervous when I did gorge scrambling at first. And I felt good when I finished so I did it.... twice!’*



# Gulliver's

Year 7 and 8 pupils went to Gulliver's to take part in a shelter building activity. They found sticks with a V shaped end to weave together and created a secure structure with no other materials - Lottie said it was one of the biggest shelters she had ever seen! After their hard work, they enjoyed the afternoon by dragging the staff onto lots of rides - Miss Williams was the only person to get wet on the water slide and Mrs Smith was NOT a fan of the Gyrosaur - but the pupils LOVED it.



## Primary's visit to Gulliver's

To practice their teamwork, primary pupils also went to Gulliver's to take part in a shelter-building workshop and work as a team to create a shelter. They made a really strong shelter that even their guide couldn't push over when it was finished. In the afternoon, they enjoyed the rides in Gulliver's, some pupils dared to take on the Gyrosaur... and some of them, being sensible, kept their feet on the ground! Pupils enjoyed roller-coasters, dodgems and water slides. They made some fantastic memories and had a great day out.



# Kingswood Activity Centre

Christine, Henry and our Key Stage 3 pupils went on an outdoor activity day to Kingswood Dearne Valley. The day started with an exciting session of speedy zip-lines and then pupils were shown how to attach themselves to the zip-lines before racing 4 at a time through the air. This was followed by more daring outdoor challenges as they learned to climb as a team on the very tall climbing wall, working together to safely control the rope as each of them bravely climbed as high as they dared, some going all the way to the top. After a lunch in the Kingswood Learning Centre, the group then had 1 more session of adventure and learning as they tried the indoor archery range, firing real arrows using proper bows and targets. During the whole day our pupils showed how well they could learn the new activities, communicating well with staff and each other and showing themselves to be sensible and confident young people. It was a pleasure to see how much they enjoyed and achieved during the day.



Year 11 pupils had a fantastic day at Kingswood Activity Centre for their post exams reward trip. They have all worked so hard and it was great to see them all let their hair down and have some fun together. All of the pupils braved the zipwire (which was very high!) and they all impressed on the outdoor climbing wall. Jacob's Ladder provided lots of hilarity as they worked in pairs to try and climb up using whatever method they could think of! All in all a great day out with lots of memories made.



# Pupil of the Week Award

Alice was chosen for the Pupil of the Week award for working hard in class and for overcoming her nerves on a school trip. Well done, Alice.



Congratulations to Lili who was amazing when pupils from a local primary school visited for the afternoon. Lili was fantastic and led one of the groups!

Well done A Jay for being helpful, positive and a good friend to others.



Seth was chosen for the award for the good sportsmanship and support he demonstrated at the inter-school rounders tournament. Well done, Seth.

Congratulations to Tiffany who represented the school well during the 'Speak Up' stage performance at Cast Theatre. Tiffany also demonstrated fantastic dancing and supported her friends.



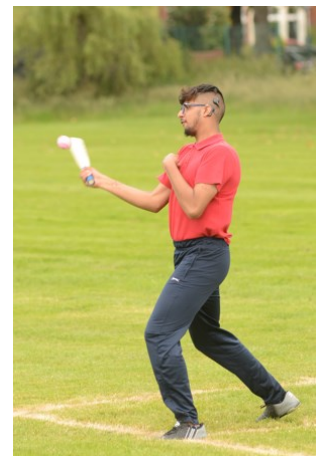
Well done to Henry & Lucy who were both chosen for the award for doing some awesome work and for being very kind to others.

# Bobbie Roberts

The Trust held a commemoration for Bobbie Roberts on 10<sup>th</sup> July. The service was well attended by both staff and guests from the community who knew Bobby. There was an opportunity for everyone to visit Bobbie's Garden, an area on site designed by our horticulturist Mark Ogden. The garden includes some of Bobbie's favourite flowers and plants and a memorial bench where people can sit, relax and reflect. Alongside a water feature, 'Bobbie's Garden' includes images of the Buddha as Bobbie was a keen advocate of Buddhist principles. We are sure Bobbie would have been pleased with the beautiful garden Mark and his students have created.

# Rounders

What a fabulous day we had at the recent rounders competition! A total of 12 teams (120 deaf children) played in the biggest tournament yet to date at Doncaster School for the Deaf. The many hours of organising were well worth the effort by Mrs Taylor-Bunting and Mrs Gaywood as all went smoothly and in glorious sunshine. We wanted to say a massive THANK YOU to our school staff for working hard all day non-stop and for their support and encouragement - these events cannot run without your help. Congratulations to all the children involved who were so well behaved and worked so hard to do their very best. Great sportsmanship was seen throughout. It was lovely to hear that our Headteacher, Ms Goodman had received lovely feedback from other schools saying how much they enjoyed the day and how well organised it was. Congratulations to the players of Doncaster School for the Deaf who stayed positive and determined and came away with silver medals.



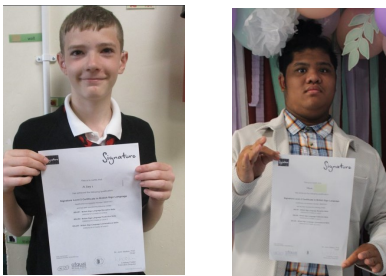
# Achievements and Recognition

Congratulations to both Seth and Lili who have recently passed their Functional Skills ICT Level 1 exam. Well done, guys!



We want to say a huge congratulations to Shauna Flannigan, one of our teachers. Shauna has achieved Level 6 in BSL. Well done, Shauna.

Well done to Finn, Finley O, Alice and Oliver who have all worked hard this half term creating their own story, using colourful semantics, extended sentences and story boards. The pupils and staff are really proud of their work.



Many congratulations to A Jay and Vhon who have both successfully completed the Signature BSL Level 2 Award!

Well done to Vhon, Eleanor and Lucy who have passed ASDAN Entry Level Certificate in Personal and Social Development (Entry 1).



Congratulations to Lacey, Igor, Jasper, A Jay and Ralfs on completing the 'I Can Lead' sports leaders course. Thank you to Tom from Active Fusion for his support delivering this course over several months. Pupils have gained a range of life skills and have worked extremely hard in both theory and practical lessons to become sports leaders.

# Achievements and Recognition

Hadiqa and Emily S have both passed the Functional Skills ICT Level 1 Award. Well done, guys.

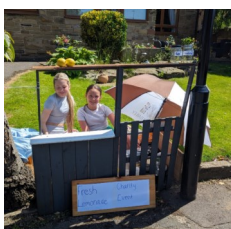


On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, the Speak Up group performed their final dance piece at Cast theatre in Doncaster. The piece was called 'If you can dream, you can achieve!', and was based upon their own experiences as deaf children, and how there are no limits to what deaf people can achieve. The pupils worked extremely hard on their performance, and we are all very proud of them. Well done to Vhon, Eleanor, Mohammad, Tiffany, Chloe, Lacey, Jasper, A Jay, Veroncia, Simas, Harmony, Alice and Ben. Photographs courtesy of #ntspeakup.



## Thank you

Esme (a pupil at Richmond Hill Primary) and Jasmine (a pupil at Ridgewood) decided to hold a lemonade sale to raise funds for our school. With the help of Esme's grandma, they made their own lemonade, and chose a hot day to set up a stall in Esme's grandma's garden in the village of Hickleton. The girls decided to charge 25p a cup. Local residents were very generous and all of them overpaid. Alongside the lemonade, the girls held a raffle and sold buns and dog biscuits too. They made a fantastic total of £120.90. The girls learned lots of BSL signs prior to visiting school to make the presentation to our pupils. Thank you so much Esme and Jasmine for choosing our school and for making the effort to learn BSL!



# Prize Day

It was lovely to see so many parents and friends of the school join us to celebrate our pupils' achievements at our annual prize day. Congratulations to all our prize winners: Eleanor, Emily, Keira, Lili, Simas, Harmony, Tiffany and Ben. Thank you to Don Conway, Chair of Trustees, for presenting the awards. It was an extra special celebration for our Year 11 leavers, who individually delivered emotional, yet amusing, presentations with confidence and flair. To conclude the ceremony, our Speak Up dance group performed their incredible final showcase.





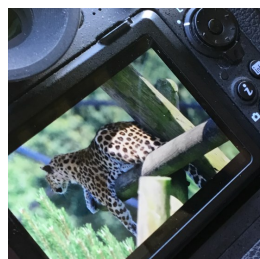
# Raising Deaf Awareness in the Community

We really enjoyed hosting Key Stage 1 hearing pupils from Plover Primary School. They visited us over 2 days as they wanted to learn more about our school and how BSL is taught to children. Mrs Taylor-Bunting arranged lots of fun BSL sessions including coloured bingo where pupils from Plover tried to lip read and learned how to sign a variety of colours. Our pupils were fantastic hosts, very patient and encouraging throughout the games. Lots of learning was had by everyone.



## Careers

As part of our careers learning, secondary pupils visited Yorkshire Wildlife Park to discuss different jobs that are available within an animal care setting. They learnt about different jobs in catering, animal care, maintenance and even education, teaching visitors about the different animals. Did you know that they have to do drills to practice what to do if different animals escape? It was really interesting to consider the number of different jobs that are needed, such as accountants, cleaners, chefs and even event organisers. After learning about different available jobs, they explored the park, learning about the animals being taken care of. There are only 100 Amur leopards left in the wild and they are critically endangered. YWP are part of the conservation of this amazing animal; they managed to successfully breed a cub last year, named Auckley, the only 2023 cub in captivity in Europe. Some of us were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the Amur leopard which are beautiful creatures.



# Summer Fair

Despite the weather it was lovely to see so many families and friends attend the summer fair. Simas, Ben and Harmony had their own enterprise stall selling popcorn and lucky dips. Over £2500 was raised across The Trust.



# Olympics

This half term, some of the primary pupils have been learning about the Olympics in preparation for this year's summer games in Paris. In order to write their own diary entry, the pupils hosted a class Olympics! Each pupil picked a country to represent, and took part in the opening ceremony and flag parade before trying out some Olympic events. There was very graceful rhythmic gymnastics with a ribbon, hobbyhorse dressage, shot put, javelin, discus, hurdles and finally a 100m race. All of the pupils managed to win a medal, awarded to them by the 'King!' They then marched with the Olympic flag to close the ceremony. It was a brilliant day, enjoyed by all, and the pupils produced some lovely writing to accompany it!



# Year 11 Leavers in their own words

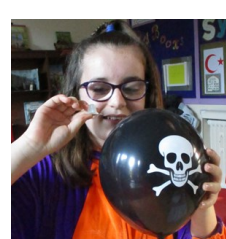
Hi, I am Eleanor. I started at Doncaster School for the Deaf in Year 7, so I have been here for 5 years. I like this school because staff all sign. The best subject for me is art because I find it interesting. I really like anime/manga drawing. I really enjoyed the residential trips especially when we tried abseiling. It was funny when I fell into a big puddle up to my middle. I am proud to have done my GCSE Art and Functional Skills English exams. In September I am going to Derby College to study Art.



Hey, I'm Vhon. I came here 2 years ago. I am from the Philippines. When I arrived, my English was not great and my sign was more ASL than BSL. I have improved a lot in my time here and taken exams in BSL and English. The best thing about the school is that it is friendly and fun, we all communicate well. I love PE because I like trying different sports. My favourite is basketball. I am going to study sport at college in September and I am also going to learn some plastering skills.

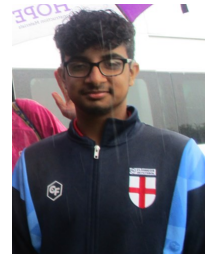
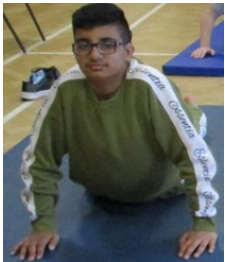


Lucy said: I love school. School is exciting. I like Science. My best friend is Eleanor. In college, I want to learn hairdressing.



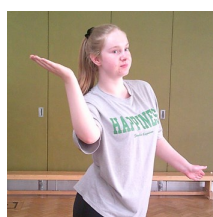
# Year 11 Leavers in their own words

Hi, I'm Mohammad! I have been here for 5 years now since I started in Year 7. I live in Doncaster so I am local and I went to Plover School before coming here. Tiffany was there at the same time so I have known her for a long time. I like PE and English and I am proud of how well I have done. I am going to the college here in September to train to be a joiner and a decorator. My ambition is to watch Liverpool play live at Anfield Stadium. I also want to learn to drive.



Hello, I'm Emily and I have been at this school for 12 years. I really like this school because our school has lots of deaf people. This means I have lots of deaf friends and staff who use my language. My favourite subject is PE and I loved taking part in the Derby Cross Country Running competition. In September, I am going to Grimsby College and I will start my sport course. Thank you for 12 great years.

Hello, my name is Tiffany. I started in a hearing mainstream in Year 7 but I decided to move to the deaf school in late June of Year 8 until Year 11 because I wanted to be with friends that I could communicate with. I like talking with my friends. I am happy with all of my teachers who are teaching me as they help me learn. My favourite thing at this school is that we go on lots of school trips – they are better than work because it is fun and we learn through experience.



# Year 11 Leavers in their own words

Hello, my name is Hadiqa. I moved to Doncaster School for the Deaf 3 years ago. When I arrived I was confident and wanted to make friends.

I love learning new things every day. My favourite subject is English and I love writing poems. The next step of my life is going to Rotherham College to study Health & Social Care. My future is pulling me to become a teacher of deaf children.



Hi, my name is Chloe. I have been at Doncaster School for the Deaf since 2022. I live in Worksop. I went to a hearing mainstream before. I am proud of my good English skills.

In September, I will go to Doncaster Communication College and I will be doing a nail and beauty course. I have made some great friends and have had some really supportive teachers. I am glad I will be at the college next door so I can still visit the school.

Tegan is also leaving us this summer. She started at the school in 2018. In 2021 Tegan entered an Art competition where she won 1<sup>st</sup> prize for her artwork! She was so proud when her work was displayed in a local art gallery. Tegan plans to study Hair & Beauty at Grimsby College. Staff are looking forward to the time they can book her for their hair appointments.



We are also saying goodbye and good luck to Year 11 pupil Kourtney who joined the school in 2018.

Kourtney plans to study Level 2 Art at East Kent College in September.



# Chauffeured in Style

Our Year 11 pupils had a fantastic leaving meal filled with lots of surprises. The pupils enjoyed getting ready at school and having their photographs taken, before being picked up in a surprise stretch limousine and chauffeured to the Lakeside Beefeater restaurant, where they enjoyed a delicious meal with their friends and staff. We are very proud of our Year 11 pupils and everything they have achieved, and we wish them all the best for their next adventures. They will all be missed.



# Author Visit

Both our primary and secondary pupils really enjoyed the workshops by local author and illustrator Phil Sheppard. He read some of his own very funny stories, including one about a worm who loved to change the ending of every fairy tale to include apples! It really made us laugh when the worm said that Cinderella, her step-sisters, her stepmother and her fairy godmother all changed into apples. Phil also taught us how to draw a cartoon shark - everyone's sharks were really creative. Thank you so much to Phil and Megan from the National Literacy Trust for coming and for the free books given to each pupil - we hope to have more workshops in the future.



# Thank you

A big thank you to Miss Taylor who has taught in school for the last year.

We all wish her lots of success and happiness for the future.

Miss Taylor will remain on our bank of supply staff so I am sure we will see her again in the not too distant future.



Many thanks to all our staff across the school for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

We would also like to thank all our parents and carers.

Have a lovely summer, school re-opens to pupils on Wednesday 4th September 2024.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 19 July 2024**

**Monday 22 July 2024**

**Tuesday 23 July 2024**

**Monday 2 September 2024**

**Tuesday 3 September 2024**

**Wednesday 4 September 2024**

**School closes for summer**

**Training day (school closed to pupils)**

**Training day (school closed to pupils)**

**Training day (school closed to pupils)**

**Training day (school closed to pupils)**

**School re-opens**