



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

13th December 2024

Meet our Deaf Education Curriculum Manager



Amy started at working at Communication Specialist College Doncaster in November as our Deaf Education Curriculum Manager. So far, she has loved getting to know the students and finding out how college works. She oversees the Deaf Education Centre and Communication Support Workers (CSWs) to support our Deaf learners. She has two rescue dogs called Riley and Roo who keep her busy!

Before coming to CSCD, she worked in Speech and Language Therapy at another college. She coordinated the support for the d/Deaf learners and worked with the local Deaf community to build connections through coffee mornings, a youth group and special events such as theatre trips, meals out and bowling. She loves being part of both the Deaf and hearing communities and is passionate about working to bridge the gap.

Fun facts about Amy:

- Her favourite meal is a homemade Shepherd's Pie.
- She loves swimming, kayaking and paddleboarding, especially with her little dog, Roo.
- Her favourite treat is eating chocolate and crisps... at the same time!
- She loves travelling in the UK and Europe and she's trying to learn German.

Independence

Jack Nightingale has now started an internal work placement in our Joinery Enterprise Shop. He was fantastic on the till and managed to serve many customers in the shop. Another learner also helped by reading out the prices to support Jack. It was amazing to see him so focused and engaged.



Student Voice

It's been an exciting week for Student Voice! We have met with the Student Leaders for Accessibility and Positive Behaviour as well as holding the main Student Voice meeting for this half term. The theme was curriculum and Students shared their thoughts and feelings in a professional and mature manner. We are looking forward to working together on the actions now.

Communication and Wellbeing

Kyle has been showing us his customer skills this week. He has collected card payments from staff members and did all the sales independently using excellent communication skills, showing good awareness of adding figures into the machine, adding sales and payments onto the system and showing an all round good attitude to learning. Well done Kyle!

We would also like to announce that the grand opening of the music room will take place on the 13th January!

Transition

Lots of transition visits are happening for our July '25 leavers, including visits to Project Search Supported Internships for West Yorkshire Police, Pinderfields Hospital, Growing Together and Mexborough SMILE, among many others.

Therapy

We are happy to say we now have 3 mobile hoists on site in addition to our 2 ceiling track hoists. These will improve accessibility across college, and will support our students to engage in additional sessions like Rebound Therapy and physical therapy exercises. They will each be based upstairs - one in Main building, one in Howard and one outside the Eastfield's Café.



Christmas Jumper Day

We had a great time on Thursday for Christmas Jumper Day, thank you to all who joined in the festivities and donated to 'Save the Children'. We raised over £100.

A big thank you also goes to the Sodexo team who cooked an amazing Christmas dinner for both students and staff.



Employability

It is our pleasure to announce that the Horticulture department has been given approval to purchase a new greenhouse. This was a complex decision due to the cost and logistics of the request. With the old greenhouse not being cost effective to repair, the Trust decided that the only option was to have a total rebuild. Several quotes were sought to enable a more cost effective approach to the build. A supplier was decided upon, who kindly gave us a discount of £5000 to help us reach our goal.

We are in the process of preparing the date for the build to commence and with the maintenance team this project should soon be on it's way. The new greenhouse will currently support 14 students from learning within the RARPA modules, and the City and Guilds Level 1 and 2 Diplomas and will ensure continual learning for years to come. The new greenhouse will also support our vision for the enterprise project, with the first part being the café.

A massive thank you for the Trust's commitment to horticulture from all in our team.

Christmas Fair and Student Party



We are hosting two Christmas events next week - the first is the student Christmas party on Wednesday 18th December 12pm-3pm.

The second is our Christmas Fair, which parents are welcome to attend. This will take place on Thursday 19th December 1pm-3pm.

