



Doncaster School for the Deaf Newsletter

October 2024

Celebrating 195 years of the school

195

It was wonderful to see so many friends of the school join together to celebrate the school's 195th year. The BSL interpreted celebration included an exhibition of historical photographs and artifacts, and a tour of the school. Refreshments and raffle tickets were sold in support of the school which raised £779, this will go directly towards buying new playground equipment for the pupils. Reflections on the school's achievements and celebrations continued into the evening with a 3 course meal and dancing.



Welcome

We are delighted to welcome 5 new pupils to the school this term; Scarlet, Luke, Miriam, James and Ryan. They have all quickly made friends and are embracing everything we have to offer at Doncaster School for the Deaf.



Presentation to the Education Advisory Board Subgroup

Headteacher, Jane Goodman, was invited by the BSL Advisory Board to deliver a short presentation on the school's work to the Education Advisory Subgroup in London.

The day included presentations to the advisory board and government officials, group discussions on priorities and recommendations to government. The Minister for Social Security and Disability, The Rt Hon. Stephen Timms, joined them for part of the day. Also present at the meeting were headteachers from Exeter Deaf Academy, RSDD, Elmfield, Frank Barnes, Heathlands and Rebecca Mansel the CEO of the BDA. Following the meeting we received great feedback from the Cabinet Office thanking Jane for her contributions which they said were incredibly insightful and have given the advisory board a great set of goals to focus on. We were informed that the Minister and all the civil servants found the day incredibly powerful and moving.



Staff Update:



Welcome back to Teacher of the Deaf, Mrs Lyon, who has re-joined the teaching team much to the delight of both the staff and pupils. Also, a warm welcome to Miss Kilgannon and Miss Harrison who have joined our Specialist Teaching Assistant team this term.



Goodbye and good luck to Steve Connor who has decided to retire. Steve worked at The Trust in a security/care taker capacity. We all wish him a long and happy retirement. Steve will now have more time to dedicate to his photography work which he is very passionate about and we hope to still see him in school from time to time taking photographs at school events.



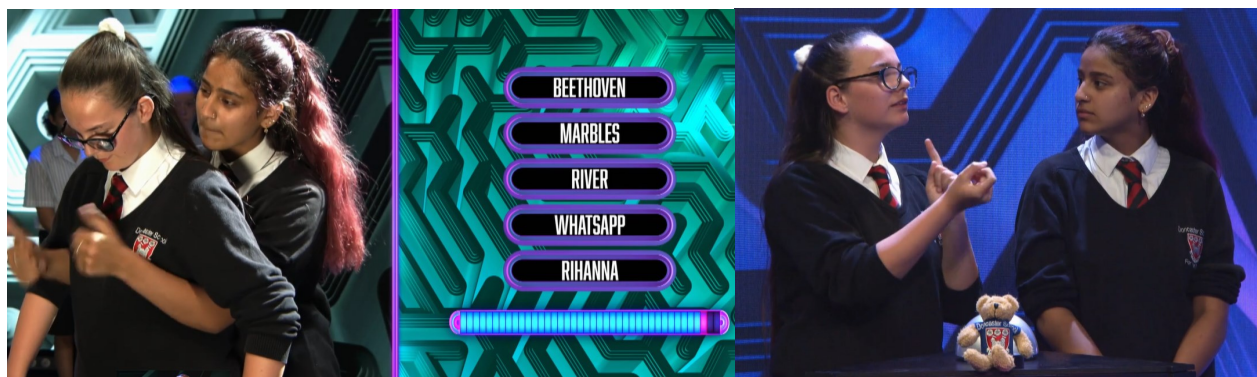
SIGN 2 WIN

We are very proud of 2 of our pupils who took part in the competition in the TV gameshow Sign 2 Win on BSL Zone. They are on series 3, episode 5. We hope that you manage to watch this.

<https://www.bslzone.co.uk/watch/sign2win-series-3/sign2win-series-3-episode-5>

Keira told us *“taking part was scary but it was also a good experience because we saw what it is like behind the scenes and we met new people. It was exciting and nerve-wracking at the same time - it gave me an adrenaline rush!”*

The pair went head-to-head with two other pairs of students from around the country to win the prize.



Waterloo Road

Last December, we told you that Lili was due to appear in a well loved BBC production.

We are delighted to reveal that Lili appears in series 14, episode 5 of **Waterloo Road!**

Lili loved the whole experience and we are extremely proud of her.



Introducing our School Council

The school council is an important part of life at Doncaster School for the Deaf. It highlights the British value of democracy and is designed to mirror the British parliamentary system. Congratulations to Keira, Ben, Lacey, Finn J, Isabel, Samuel, David and Scarlet who have all been elected by their peers for this academic year. Pupils know who their school council representative is and can go to them with ideas and concerns. The school council make sure to feedback from their meetings to their form group. They met this term to discuss the purpose of the school council, choose a badge design, and began to plan this year's Halloween party. They will meet regularly throughout the year, providing an all-important pupil voice to the school.



Roald Dahl Day

At the beginning of term, local author Philip Sheppard came to visit us in school to celebrate Roald Dahl Day. He read us the first chapter of 'George's Marvellous Medicine' by Roald Dahl and pupils were captivated. He then taught pupils how to draw one of the characters from Roald Dahl's books. Primary pupils learned how to draw Willy Wonka, and secondary pupils learned how to draw a witch. We really enjoyed the draw along and the pupil's drawings were fantastic!

Philip also brought a donation of Roald Dahl books for the pupils as they celebrated the magic this iconic author continues to bring to children everywhere.



Pupil of the Week Award



Congratulations to Nieve who has made a great start to the new academic year and has engaged in all activities.

Harmony was chosen for the award for working really hard and wearing her hearing aids all week.



Congratulations to Scarlet who joined the school in September and has already settled in well. She has been working very hard too. Well done, Scarlet.

Well done to Keira who was chosen for the award due to her fantastic work and good attitude in lessons, especially in English lessons.



Congratulations to both Vova and Samuel. Vova was chosen for the Pupil of the Week award for having a good attitude to learning, engaging in communication and being kind. Samuel received his award for his positive attitude to learning and for being a very polite pupil.



James received his award for having a great attitude to learning and fantastic manners. Staff chose Finn too for his great attitude to learning. Well done, guys!



Well done to Seren who was chosen for the award for having a good attitude and writing a fabulous story in English.

Congratulations to Alice who received the award for displaying a good attitude to independent work in class.



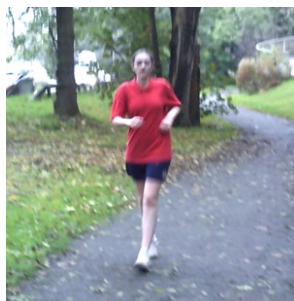
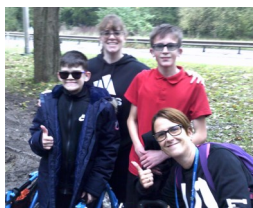
Inter-School Cross Country

Our secondary pupils competed against 4 other schools in the cross country event at the Royal School for the Deaf Derby. It was a typical autumnal day and there were smiles all round from start to finish.

Everyone ran with great determination and made us proud with their pacing and fast finishes. Many of the pupils came in the top 10 in their age group. The practice sessions definitely paid off!

Many pupils improved on their position from last year and impressed all the staff. The event was well organised and hosted in a lovely park close to RSDD.

Many thanks to all the staff - great team work ensured everything ran like clockwork and everyone was safe and happy. We were all proud to represent Doncaster School for the Deaf.



Rail Safety - Silver Award

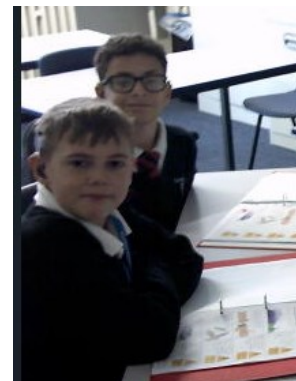
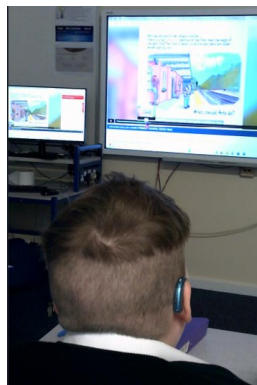
We are currently studying about rail safety in PHSE. Over the next few weeks all our pupils will be watching videos and discussing dangers we might come across and how to stay safe.

To achieve the silver standard on the Rail Safety programme by Learn Live, we have to share the video links below with parents and to nominate another school to share the train safety information. Please feel free to watch the appropriately aged video with your child.

NEW Primary school version: Suitable for KS1:
<https://learnliveuk.com/ks1-primary-school-safety-talk/>

NEW Primary school version: Suitable for KS2:
<https://learnliveuk.com/keltbrayrailtd-rail-safe-friendly-primary/>

NEW Secondary school version: Age 11-16:
<https://learnliveuk.com/keltbrayrailtd-rail-safe-friendly-secondary/>



Enterprise

As part of their AQA Award, Christine and Henry having been learning about how to run a healthy tuck shop. Working to a strict budget, they have experimented with recipes and enjoyed taste testing the end results. They designed and handed out a pupil questionnaire to find out the most popular flavours. After half term, Christine and Henry are hoping to meet with Ms Goodman to discuss setting up and running a tuck shop in our school! They are keeping their fingers crossed that she says YES!

