



## Doncaster School for the Deaf Newsletter

**December 2024**

Wow, what a busy half term we've had! Lots of learning, fun, and enjoying new experiences. We hope you enjoy reading all about it!

## Remembrance Day 2024

To help our pupils see and understand more about Remembrance Day, Miss Flannigan took some of our Year 6 and 7 pupils on a visit to Doncaster Minster. Everyone enjoyed the guided tour of the Minster thanks to Andrew Wright, who took the time to share his knowledge with the pupils. The visit definitely inspired the pupils' Remembrance Day art project! Using clay, they created some fantastic poppies.



## History

In History, Year 7 pupils tried making their own version of the Magna Carta using a quill pen and ink. They came up with some good ideas about the freedoms and rights they believe are important today, such as the right to communicate in BSL and the right to a free dentist. They all agreed that using a quill pen was a tricky skill and that ink is very messy.



# Careers

Igor, one of our Year 11 pupils, had the opportunity to attend a 'Plastering' taster session in The Trust's Communication Specialist College. Igor really enjoyed the experience. Earlier in the Autumn term, Igor spent time in both the Motor Vehicle dept and the new Deaf Education Centre. Thank you to everyone involved.



For our careers work this term, KS3 have had a visitor: Andy Copley from the Schools programme of Job Centre Plus. Andy has helped us learn about the many jobs that are available, and our group followed a pack of cards through the production line: from creating and designing, manufacturing, delivering, all the way to the person selling them in the shop. It was very interesting to learn about the many jobs surrounding a purchase that we may not normally think about. As part of this, we had great fun creating our own advert too.

This term, Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq, a deaf artist and art therapist, visited school to give a presentation on her career journey. Pupils enjoyed learning about her experience. Following Rubbena's presentation, pupils had the opportunity to create colourful stained glass inspired by Rubbena's abstract. They looked fantastic against the windows when the light shone through.

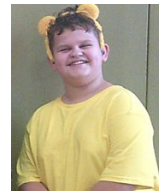
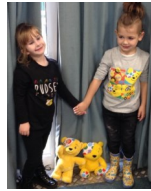


Deaf actor and ex-pupil, Adam Bassett visited school to talk to pupils about his career journey. He encouraged pupils to have a go themselves at acting – they did a brilliant job with both movement and facial expression. Adam presented lots of video footage and photographs to the pupils, who all really enjoyed this motivational workshop and presentation. Our Year 11 pupil, Lili, shared her acting experience with Adam following her successful audition for Waterloo Road. It was a great opportunity for pupils to learn about the acting profession.



# Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who dressed up and supported Children in Need. We raised a total of £71.61 for this worthy charity.



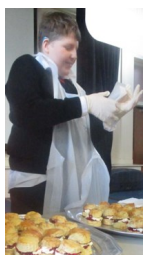
## Primary Boccia

Our Key Stage 2 pupils were invited to take part in a boccia tournament organised by Active Fusion taking place in our very own sports hall. Boccia is a game similar to bowls, played in teams of 3. The players must remain seated as they roll or throw their balls, aiming for the white jack. The team that gets a ball closest to the jack wins! Our team were absolutely amazing, following the rules diligently, and aiming their balls very carefully. They also showed excellent manners, encouraging each other, and congratulating other teams when they won! We all had a brilliant time!



## Enterprise

Christine successfully presented her ideas to run a school tuck shop to Ms Goodman. Henry and Christine have now been running the tuck shop for several weeks and it's proving to be very popular. They have both prepared the snacks following kitchen hygiene rules, storing and serving the snacks appropriately. Week 1: Positive feedback was received for their first healthy snack option. Week 2: Homemade jam and cream scones were served. Henry used Asda's online grocery service to calculate the cost of ingredients to help with pricing. They supported each other by taking turns using the till and ensured that they gave the correct change. After counting up the money at the end of the sessions they were delighted to discover that they had made a profit!



# Pupil of the Week Award



Autumn was presented with the award as she is less distracted, concentrating more in class and showing a keen willingness to learn. Well done, Autumn.

Congratulations to Igor who has made a brilliant start to his Speaking & Listening presentation. A well deserved winner of the award.



Well done to David who was chosen for the award for being focused in Maths and having a good attitude to learning.

Lacey received the most votes for the award for being a great mathematician all week and for being a genius at ratio and graph work. Well done, Lacey.



Congratulations to Christine for working hard in class and accepting catch-up work.

Samuel was chosen for the award for being a polite pupil, who supports others during break times and lunch times. Well done, Samuel.



# Achievements and Recognition

Congratulations to Ben and Simas who have both successfully completed the Signature Level 1 Award in British Sign Language. Well done, guys.



We would also like to recognise the hard work and commitment of our Year 11 pupils, who have sat various mock GCSE exams this term. Their conduct throughout the mocks has been exemplary.

## Stickman



Emily and Deontay have been reading a book called 'Stickman'. They have enjoyed reading about his travels and made their own stick family in the classroom. They wrapped some presents for the family and put them inside his tree house. As you can see in the pictures, they have lots of presents!

## Religious Education

Jane and Jonathan Redden from the charity Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons UK), came to school for a Q and A session to help our GCSE RE students to prepare for their exams. Pupils asked them questions such as "Why is the Bible important?", "How often do you read it?" and "How does the Bible influence your life?"

Jonathan and Jane returned a few days later to deliver a whole school assembly featuring a video about a young boy called Tom and how the Bible helped him through a serious illness. Pupils were given free copies of the Bible to take home. Following the visit, Jane and Jonathan told us that they loved their time with us, commenting that our pupils were engaging, courteous and well-mannered.





# Countdown to Christmas



Following the snow flurries in late November, the countdown to Christmas began when we all gathered at the front of the trust building to meet Father Christmas, courtesy of Doncaster Lions. Father Christmas, along with Donny Dog, came to meet everyone and had the important job of switching on the Trust's Christmas lights along with the CEO, Alexis Johnson. The lights looked amazing. Our Sign Choir entertained the crowd by signing some festive songs, creating a lovely atmosphere with some great audience participation. College students served hot chocolate and home-made biscuits throughout the event, which we all enjoyed.



## Signed singing at Lakeside



Primary and Year 7 pupils went to Lakeside Village shopping centre to entertain the shoppers with some sign singing. We had a brilliant time and our audience seemed to enjoy it too. Thank you to Costa for our tasty hot chocolate to keep us going. We raised £118.58 for our school -spectacular.

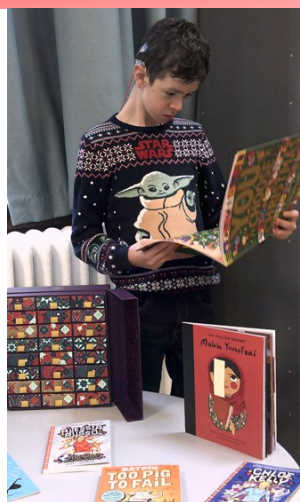
Well done to all the pupils and staff who worked so hard learning the Christmas songs and a big thank you to everyone who came and supported us - hopefully, we will see you next year!

## Panto Time - Oh yes it is!

It wouldn't be Christmas without a visit to the local theatre to watch the pantomime. This year's BSL friendly panto was Jack and the Beanstalk. It was full of merriment and mayhem! Everyone loved it!



## Christmas Book Advent Calender



Pupils have been really enjoying our book advent calendar again this year! Each day, a pupil is selected to open the drawer and reveal the title of a new book to go in our library (and a sweet of course!) So far, we've had some great titles including 'You Choose Christmas edition', 'A Christmas Carol' and 'The Elf Next Door'. There have also been some non-fiction books about popular female footballers and some fantastic graphic novels so there is something for everyone to enjoy!

## Christmas Jumper day



Staff and pupils alike were proud to come to school wearing their Christmas jumpers in support of the Save the Children charity.

## Trip to Sundown Adventureland

Some of our younger pupils enjoyed a lovely trip to Sundown Adventureland where they went on lots of fun rides including an amazing Santa ride where they saw Santa's helpers, Frosty the Snowman and the Ice Queen. At the end of the ride, they arrived at Santa's grotto. Pupils were able to tell Santa a little bit about our school and what they would like for Christmas. Apparently, all the children are on the nice list, so they should get some nice surprises!





# Christmas Assembly

We had a fantastic Christmas assembly delivered by Revd Adam Priestley, his wife Kim and Phillip McKenning.

They explained the four separate parts of the Christingle and how it links to the Christmas story. These are the orange (God's creation), the sweets (God's provision), the ribbon (the blood of Jesus) and the candle (Jesus is the light of the world).

This very informative assembly was great fun, filled with songs and dance moves that the pupils soon got involved in. Thank you, Adam, Kim and Phil.



## Time to party

The School Council were tasked with organising this year's Christmas party, they did a fantastic job. Pupils enjoyed taking part in lots of games and activities including, pin the carrot on the snowman, Santa splat and pass the parcel. Pupils also enjoyed using the photo booth and craft table where they could fill their own baubles alongside other Christmas crafts. During the party, pupils had a surprise visit from Father Christmas who came loaded down with gifts for them all. It was magical. Thank you to Mrs Davies and all the School Council members for organising this fabulous party.





# Thank you



A massive thank you to the staff and customers of Doncaster's Dunelm branch who kindly donated Christmas gifts for our pupils as part of their 'Delivering Joy at Christmas' campaign. We were overwhelmed by their generosity. We would also like to thank all the other local companies who have supported us throughout the year including Amazon, Nuffield and Club Doncaster. Your support is greatly appreciated.



## Exam dates for 2025 - advance notice

Year 11 GCSEs will take place from 30 April to 16 June 2025.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 20th December 2024	School closes for Christmas
Monday 6th January 2025	School re-opens
Friday 14th February 2025	School closes for half term
Monday 24th February 2025	School re-opens
Friday 28th March 2025	School closes for half term
Monday 14th April 2025	School re-opens
Thursday 17th April 2025	School closes for Easter
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	School re-opens