



## Doncaster School for the Deaf Newsletter

July 2023



## Welcome

Welcome to Seren who joined us at the end of last term, just in time to take part in sports day. She has settled into class and is enjoying making friends with her peers.



We have had a very busy and successful half term. We hope you enjoy reading all about it.

## After School Club

After School Club has continued to be very popular. Pupils have had lots of fun taking part in a range of activities including kick boxing, board games, cookery classes, painting, cycling to name but a few. Thank you to Mr Nelson and all the support staff that have helped make the club so successful.



# Celebrating reading with pride

As part of LGBTQ+ pride month, pupils have been enjoying rediscovering some of the books featuring LGBTQ+ characters that we have in our library. Our younger pupils love sharing the picture books, such as 'And Tango Makes Three', 'Pirate mums' and 'Grandad's Camper' while the 'Heartstopper' graphic novel series is always very popular with our older secondary pupils. With so many fantastic stories featuring a diverse range of people and families, there is something for everyone to enjoy as we celebrate 'reading with pride' this month!



# Football at Derby

We had a great time at the Deaf 5 a side football competition in Derby organised by the English F.A. The competition was at a beautiful venue, but the weather was not so kind. The rain poured down for hours, but we played on with determination and not one person complained. Pupils battled hard against 9 other schools, learnt lots and met up with old friends.

All of our 3 teams won, drew and lost some games. They had strong attacks on goal that were unlucky and we missed Plamen's contribution in our senior team. A big thank you to Seth who had to help out with both the junior and senior teams – what a star!

We were so proud of our pupils who showed great resilience through the long day. They were extremely fit and skillful and had some lovely moments on the pitch. We competed against some very large schools from all over England and although we did not manage to get through to the finals we can be happy with our efforts.



# Rounders

7 teams enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the annual rounders tournament that we hosted this half term.

The standard was very high again this year with many close matches. Some excellent play was witnessed by the spectators with some amazing batting and fielding and some incredible catches. Tactics were taken seriously, and the pupils loved the challenge. The top 3 teams were: in third place Castleford School, a very close match between Woodlands and Doncaster School for the Deaf resulted in DSD 'A' team winning and retaining the trophy. Congratulations to the pupils who all showed great sportsmanship. Many thanks to the other schools for supporting the event and to all staff who worked so hard to make the day a success.



# Life Skills



Some of our primary pupils went on a trip to Sheffield to practice life skills. We wanted to travel on different types of transport, so we caught a bus, a train and a tram! Pupils liked the tram because it felt like a roller coaster. In Sheffield, they did some sightseeing, visited the Millenium Gallery, and saw some interactive artwork. They then visited the Winter Gardens and the Peace Gardens.

## Year 7

Year 7 have been studying the book 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl. They made their own Squiggly Spaghetti; a delicious meal of spaghetti, tomato sauce and of course...wriggly worms!



To support their learning in History, Year 7 visited Kelham Island Museum in Sheffield. They learnt more about the differences between industry in the 1700s and could see some of the changes between then and the 1900s. The boys loved the hands-on experience.



## Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Following the Y7 boys Enterprise fund raiser we chose to give the funds to the charity 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'. Martin Peaham came to school to collect the cheque which our boys proudly presented. Martin did a very informative and funny talk all about his hearing dog. He told us about what important jobs the dogs do and how they can save lives and improve the lives of Deaf people. Then we all got to meet his dog, Inca, who was very friendly and particularly cute! Thank you so much for coming to visit us Martin and Inca, we are so happy to have helped a good cause.



# Inca—the adventures of a hearing dog

The beautiful spaniel Inca that visited us has his own website, look up Inca - the adventures of a hearing dog. Thanks to Martin and Inca for travelling for an hour and a half to get to Doncaster to talk to us. Martin is running 4 marathons this year to fund raise for the charity 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'.

If anyone wants to follow his progress on the website or give towards a good cause, please visit [www.hearingdogs.org.uk](http://www.hearingdogs.org.uk)



# YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

To support their GCSE Art & Photography, some pupils went on a trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

On a lovely, sunny day they were lucky enough to have a BSL tour from deaf artist, Martin Glover, from Digitspace. Martin showed them some sculptures, explained their history and encouraged the pupils to use their creative minds based on this.



# Speak Up Celebration Event

On Wednesday 28th June our Speak Up group had their final performance day at Cast Theatre in Doncaster. The pupils have worked incredibly hard alongside Mrs Blakey and Rachel Clarke, a professional choreographer and CODA. The pupils wanted to 'speak up' about their experiences of being deaf, and the final dance performance was based upon a poem written by Tiffany, one of our pupils. The end performance was incredibly powerful. Members of staff and pupils from school went to watch, and they were moved to tears. It was lovely to see how proud our pupils were of each other. Well done to our fantastic Speak Up group- Jasper, Lacey, Mohammad, Eleanor, Veronica, Vhon, Tiffany, Chloe and A Jay. We look forward to showing our performance again on prize day.



Speak up poem:  
Being deaf doesn't mean that  
stupid  
Being deaf mean people ignore  
you  
but deaf people can't hear  
you.  
Deaf people feeling hurt or cry  
Deaf people were trying teach  
people learn BSL  
but people were ignore to deaf.  
I need hearing people  
learn BSL but hard for deaf  
people.



# Feel the Music Festival

Some pupils were involved in the Feel the Music festival, a celebration of the Deaf community and the arts. They performed a dance routine which was filmed in school and shown on the big screen on the evening as part of the festival. The event was a sell out. Staff and pupils worked really hard on this project. Special thanks to Mrs Blakey and Rachel Clarke, the choreographer.



# Achievements and Recognition

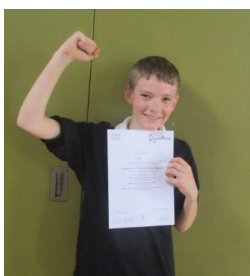
Seth, Lili, Veronica and Keira had learnt so much from the 'Unified Leaders' leadership course delivered by Tom from Active Fusion over the past 6 months. They have finally achieved their certificates recognised by the nation and they are now qualified 'I Can Lead' sports leaders!

During the course, they participated in a range of both theory and practical sessions. They focused on a range of skills, including critical life skills such as communication and teamwork and have been leading PE sessions to our younger pupils, teaching basic techniques and skills. They have worked really hard and impressed us with the quality of their leadership.

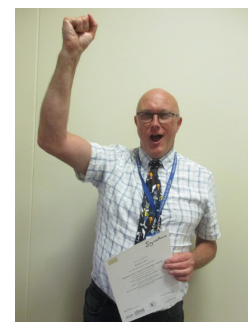
To thank Tom from Active Fusion for his coaching and mentoring of our pupils over the last 6 months, Mrs Taylor-Bunting and Mrs Gaywood presented him with his own little trophy.



Many congratulations to Mrs Colwell and Mrs Brown who have both passed their BSL Level 3 exam recently.



Well done to both A Jay and Mr Hirst who have successfully completed BSL Level 1.



# Pupil of the Week Awards

Congratulations to Isabel who was awarded Pupil of the Week for working well in class.



Congratulations to Plamen and Oliver, both worthy winners of the Pupil of the Week award. They have worked so hard in their GCSE exams. Well done, guys.

Well done to Autumn who has done some fantastic reading and has a good attitude in class.



Veronica is an excellent role model, her enthusiasm and dancing at the Speak Up performance at Cast Theatre was fantastic. Well done, Veronica!

Chloe was chosen for the award as she pushed herself out of her comfort zone and took part in different activities in and out of school.



Congratulations to Witek who was chosen to receive the Pupil of the Week award for coping well with the forthcoming changes.



# British Bake Off, DSD style!

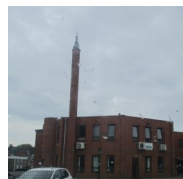
During this half term, Witek, Henry, Lucy, Christine, Tegan and Lacey have been taking part in their very own British Bake off DSD style. Each week they were all given a recipe to follow independently. They were then marked on skills shown, equipment used, presentation and taste.

In the final week pupils had to make full use of the skills learned throughout the half term. They used a variety of kitchen equipment to produce their final 'show stopper'. Everyone showed great skill and we are delighted to announce that Henry was chosen as our Star Baker!.



## Out and about

There has been lots of other visits this half term to support learning including visits to a local mosque, The Deep, cycling at Clumber Park, Clifton Park, a trip on a barge to name but a few.



# Ingleborough

Some secondary pupils enjoyed a residential trip to Ingleborough Hall Outdoor Education Centre in Clapham, North Yorkshire.

They had the chance to try some very exciting new activities – caving, gorge scrambling, tree climbing, archery, orienteering, team building and problem solving. They also enjoyed campfires with marshmallows! The pupils developed both their team work skills, their personal independence skills and improved their confidence.

They were kind and helped each other overcome fears and obstacles – making a bed being one of them.

Some of the comments after the trip:

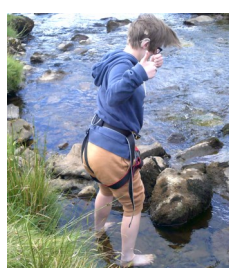
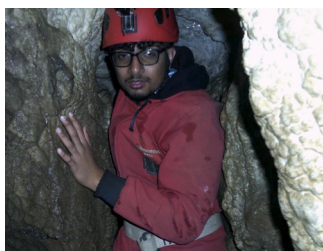
‘It was the best trip of my life’ (year 8 pupil)

‘I loved climbing and chatting to my friends’ (year 10 pupil)

‘I loved tree climbing and archery best. I liked everything but I have some bruises now.’ (year 10 pupil)

‘I loved archery and caving because I learned new things’ (year 8 pupil)

‘I liked gorge scrambling. It felt peaceful, like being in a magical world with trees growing all around and above you. I also liked caving. At first, I was scared but I overcame my fear of small spaces. I am glad I tried something new’. (year 9 pupil)



## Year 11s

Year 11s have worked tirelessly during the exam season and we are proud of the focus and resilience they have shown. Special thanks to Mrs Hodgett for ensuring that all the exams ran smoothly.

Sadly, we say goodbye to our Year 11 pupils: Oliver, Molly, Ryan, Plamen and Witek and wish them lots of luck as they move onto their chosen college courses.

## Year 11 leavers in their own words

Hi, I am Molly. I started here at Doncaster School for the Deaf in Year 7 so I have been here for 5 years. I was at Plover Primary School before.

I like this school because staff and pupils all sign in BSL. The best subject for me was Geography because I found it very interesting. I really enjoyed going abseiling too. I have made loads of friends at the school. My proudest achievement was completing the GCSE Photography exams.

I am going to college to learn about hair and beauty because that's the future career I want.





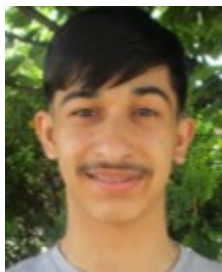
Hi, I'm Ryan, I have been at this school for 2 years now as I started at the end of year 9. I moved here from a big mainstream secondary school near my home in Rotherham. It had a unit for Deaf children so there were a few other Deaf pupils there but there were hundreds of hearing children, really big classes and most of the staff could not sign. I feel like this is the best school because we all understand each other because we all learn BSL, staff and pupils. My favourite subject is PE and I loved taking part in the Derby cross country running competition. In September I am going to college to train to be a painter and decorator as that is the career I am aiming for. My other ambition is to learn to drive.



My name is Witek. I am from Poland. I started at Doncaster School for the Deaf when I was 8 years old. My favourite subject at school is ICT. I feel happy at school because staff help me. I am going to college in September to learn about ICT.



# Year 11 Leavers



Hey, my name is Plamen. I came here 4 years ago. I am from Bulgaria. When I first came to England I did not know any English or any BSL. I have been working hard to learn both languages and now I have qualifications in both. The best thing about this school is how friendly it is and how well we all communicate. I love PE because it makes me fit and strong. I am proud of my progress in Maths and the medals I have won for running. In the future I would like to teach football skills. I am going to college in September to study sport and I am also going to learn some car mechanics.



Hello, my name is Oliver. I started school when I was 3 years old so I have been here for 13 years! I have enjoyed learning lots of subjects, especially PE. Also I have created lots of friends.

My best memories are that I went on trips to Low Mill and recently Ingleborough Hall. I like those because they had lots of activities, my most favourite activity is caving.

I will miss my friends but am looking forward to leaving school because I will start my new life in college. I am relieved that I finished all my exams and I am proud of myself because I did hard work and focused on exams. I will go to Grimsby College and I will study sport.

We wish all our Year 11 leavers the very best with their chosen courses at college and look forward to receiving updates on their progress and achievements.

# Staff News

We would like to say a big thank you and goodbye to Mrs Carline who is retiring from teaching. Mrs Carline has taught art at the school for the last 15 years. She has inspired so many pupils during this time and she will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike. We wish her a long and happy retirement.



Mrs Lyon is also leaving us, sadly, to take up a new role nearer to home. Mrs Lyon joined the school in 2017 and has taught both primary and secondary pupils over the years. Her professionalism and dedication has been second to none and we will all miss her lots.

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

Exciting times ahead for Miss Harding as she starts her maternity leave.

There has been lots of baby talk and broody staff over the last few months! We are looking forward to meeting her little one in September.



We would like to thank all our teachers and support staff who have all worked incredibly hard throughout the year.

We would also like to thank our regular supply staff, Mrs Johnson, Miss Taylor, Mrs Wheatley, Mrs Johnston, Mrs Gregory and Ms Tudor who have all supported in school this year.

# Summer Fair

We had a great time at the Trust's summer fair. There were lots of stalls and activities to suit all ages. School, Dickson House, nursery, college and Aspire to Be all joined together to put on the event. It was a lovely afternoon despite the weather! A total of £1194.76 was raised! Many thanks to everyone that contributed and to Becca Lynch, our fundraising officer, for organising the whole event.



Many thanks to all our parents and carers for all their support and co-operation throughout the year.

We hope you all have an enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Wednesday 6th September 2023.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 21st July 2023	School closes for summer
Monday 4th September 2023	Training day
Tuesday 5th September 2023	Training day
Wednesday 6th September 2023	School re-opens
Friday 20th October 2023	School closes for half term
Monday 30th October 2023	School re-opens