



## Doncaster School for the Deaf Newsletter



**March 2024**

## Welcome

A warm welcome to Samuel who has joined Year 6 recently. Samuel has settled into school life very quickly and has enjoyed being involved in all the activities throughout this busy half term.

We would also like to welcome back Ms Harding who has returned from maternity leave.



## In memory of Bobbie Roberts

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Bobbie Roberts, The Trust's former Chair of Trustees, passed away on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 after a short illness.

Bobbie was Doncaster Deaf Trust's longest standing volunteer with 42 years of dedicated service, 13 years of which she served as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Bobbie was well loved and touched the lives of so many people across the Trust, both past and present.



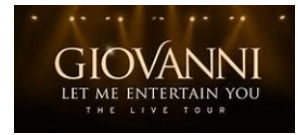
**Bobbie Roberts MBE JP**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> June 1938 - 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

An online Book of Condolences has been set up for people to share messages and memories which will all be passed on to Bobbie's family in due course. [www.remembr.com/bobbie.roberts](http://www.remembr.com/bobbie.roberts)

## Work Experience



Cousins Lili and Emily had a super surprise as part of their work experience at Cast Theatre in the city centre. They were both working front of house at the theatre when dancing star Giovanni Pernice visited the theatre for his tour.



## Speak Up Council

Pupils and staff welcomed Alice King-Farlow, the Director of Learning at the National Theatre in London, into school in February.

Alice came to visit our Speak Up group to see what fantastic work they are doing, and also to meet with one of our pupils, Chloe. Chloe is the co-chair of the National Speak Up Council which is a fantastic opportunity for her. Alice came to talk to Chloe about planning future events and opportunities for Speak Up pupils. Two other pupils, Tiffany and Veronica, are also members of the Speak Up Council.

**National  
Theatre**



## Correspondence from the King!

When Silvia was at her previous school, she sent a lovely picture to King Charles in celebration of his Coronation.

Recently, Silvia has received both a reply letter and a card from Buckingham Palace!

She enjoyed showing the special card and letter to the rest of her class who were all really excited to see them. Thank you to Bramley Grange Primary School for forwarding these on to us.



King  
Charles  
wearing  
Cochlear  
implants



# British Science Week

Pupils have been taking part in British Science Week, a 10 day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. This year's theme was 'Time'. Along with several other Deaf schools they took part in online events to explore the wonders of science in British Sign Language. They enjoyed online sessions delivered by Deaf science teachers and participated in various practical activities including collecting and measuring rain water, investigating which candle burns longest and creating a time chamber.



## Dickson House news



Ofsted visited our children's home in January of this year. We are delighted to announce that once again the home was rated 'Outstanding'. Many congratulations to Kate Warner and all her staff on this achievement.

## National SMSC Quality Mark

We are delighted to share the news that the school has been awarded SILVER for The National SMSC Quality Mark in recognition of our provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.



Many thanks to everyone involved, especially Mrs Dargan.

## Exams

An inspector from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) made an unannounced visit to school recently. The inspector came to check our Access Arrangements (reasonable adjustments for pupils) for the upcoming GCSE exam series. The inspection went really well and the inspector was pleased with everything we have put in place. Well done to everyone involved.



Joint Council for  
Qualifications c1c

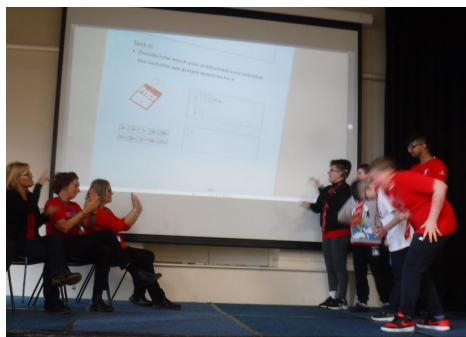
## Careers

During one of Club Doncaster's regular visits to school, pupils had to think about what they would need in order to be a 'professional person' going out to work.

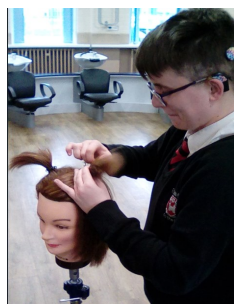
In groups, pupils had to create an outfit suitable for a teacher using a black bin sack, a white bin liner and some paper. They were very creative adding name tags, a watch for time keeping, a smile to show they were approachable etc.



In a different session, again delivered by Club Doncaster, pupils experienced their very own version of the popular tv programme, Dragon's Den. There were lots of interesting ideas during the brain storming sessions.

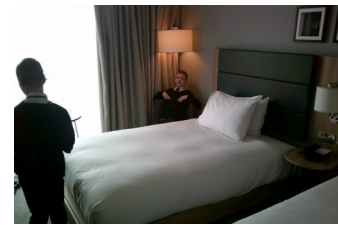


Year 11 pupils have enjoyed taster sessions at The Trust's onsite college including the newly opened Animal Care department as well as spending time in Catering, Joinery, IT and the Hair and Beauty salon.



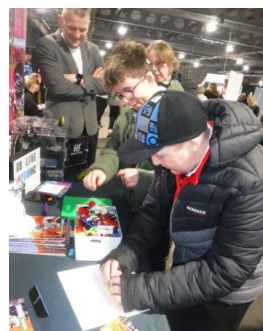
# Careers

Some of our Year 7 and 8 pupils visited the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel as part of their careers focus. Pupils have been learning about hospitality with a focus on hotels. They visited 3 different bedrooms, the kitchen, the restaurant and the events space. They learned about the different roles in each department. Thank you to the staff at Hilton Hotel, Doncaster for a wonderful experience. We are proud to share feedback from the hotel, they said our pupils were great ambassadors for the school on this visit and they look forward to supporting the school in the future.



# Opportunities Doncaster

Some secondary pupils had the opportunity to interact with local businesses at the annual Opportunities Doncaster event held at Doncaster Racecourse. Pupils were able to ask questions and got a sense of what the world of work is really like. Exhibitors offered guidance and inspiration regarding career pathways available across the borough. The event really broadened their minds regarding possible career choices.



# Pupil of the Week Award



Finley was chosen for the award for wearing his glasses all the time and having a friendly smile in the mornings. Finley also uses his voice in lessons and is improving his vocabulary.

Congratulations to Ben who received the award for displaying lovely manners. Well done, Ben.



Emily S. was chosen for her beautiful signing of the story in the World Book Day assembly. Congratulations, Emily.



Congratulations to Harmony. Harmony has just changed classes and has settled in well. She also has a good attitude around the school. Well done, Harmony.

Well done to Seren. She has had a fantastic few weeks enjoying all her lessons with her classmates. She has also had a good attitude and her behaviour has been outstanding. Congratulations, Seren.



## Step Up to English

A group of Year 11 pupils visited The Mayflower Sanctuary in Bawtry, a rescue and rehoming centre for dogs and cats as part of their English unit on pets. They were shown around the sanctuary by Carolyn, who explained the adoption processes, and the everyday routines of the sanctuary.

Pupils enjoyed learning about animal care and how the sanctuary is run. The pupils were also particularly thrilled to meet the resident dogs and cats!



## World Down Syndrome Day

In support of World Down Syndrome Day staff came to school wearing odd and brightly coloured socks to raise awareness of Down Syndrome, a congenital disorder caused by having an extra 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome.

This event is held every year on 21<sup>st</sup> March as it represents the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome triplication.



# Comic Relief Day

Pupils and staff came to school wearing something RED in support of Red Nose Day. In class, teachers explained why Comic Relief is held every year and the purpose behind it. Thank you to everyone that kindly donated to this charity. A total of £35.00 was raised.



# Go BLUE for BSL!



To celebrate and promote Sign Language Week, pupils and staff were invited to wear blue to symbolise unity, pride and support for British Sign Language.





# World Book Day

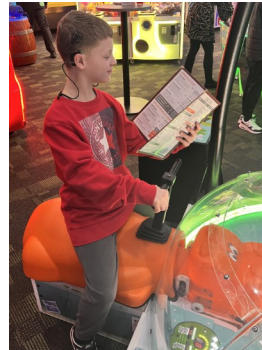
All of our staff and pupils had a great day celebrating World Book Day. As always, everyone showed great enthusiasm - we loved seeing everyone's fantastic costumes and finding out about their favourite books. In the morning, our primary pupils had a lovely time visiting Doncaster Library while our secondary pupils enjoyed getting involved with a range of book themed activities in the hall - the 'guess which staff are hiding behind the books' was lots of fun! In the afternoon, it was great to be joined by lots of parents/carers who came to share our reading celebration with us. As well as this, lots of younger pupils enjoyed reading with older pupils. The whole day was finished off with a wonderful assembly where we shared lots of our favourite things about reading including a brilliant BSL signed story and BSL signed poem from some of our year 10 and 11 pupils. Thank you to everyone who got involved with any of this year's activities - we hope it has inspired you to keep reading!



Many thanks to Miss Fogg for organising this wonderful event as well as organising the 'reading books in unusual places' challenge. Everyone had a lovely day celebrating reading.

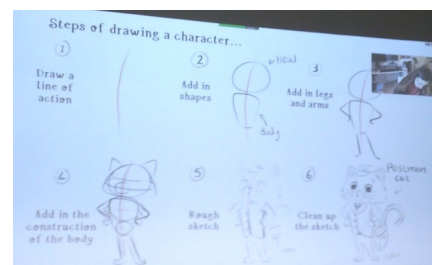
# Reading in unusual places challenge

Here are some of the entries to our reading challenge. Congratulations to our winner, A Jay, who sent us a great photograph of himself reading mid-air amongst the taxidermy.



# Illustrator workshop

Our pupils took part in an online illustrator workshop with children's book illustrator Lucy Rogers. Lucy is deaf herself and our pupils found it really inspiring to find out about her career path to becoming the successful illustrator she is today. Pupils took part in an interactive 'draw along activities' in which they learnt some tricks to drawing effective children's book characters - we were really impressed with some of their drawings! They then took part in a Q and A session with Lucy and asked her lots of questions. We think we may have some future book illustrators in the making! Thank you so much to Lucy Rogers for taking the time to deliver this workshop. If you would like to find out more about Lucy's work, her facebook page is [Lucy Rogers Illustration](#).



# Doncaster Dome Game On

Ralfs, A Jay and Igor enjoyed visiting Doncaster Dome to see the first major international touring exhibition, 'Game On'. The exhibition explores the vibrant history and culture of video games and examines the creative and scientific advances that have revolutionised the games we play. Pupils had fun at this highly interactive and educational exhibition which had over 150 games.

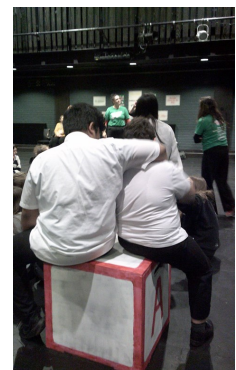
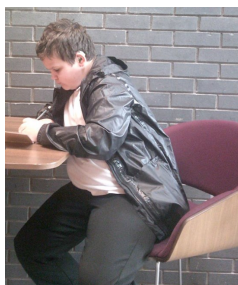


# Speak Up

Last week, members of our Speak Up group attended a day of Speak Up workshops at Cast theatre in Doncaster with Mrs Blakey and Ms Laverack.

They had great fun participating in dance, drama, and art workshops. Pupils particularly enjoyed meeting Speak Up groups from other local schools and making new friendships.

The behaviour and confidence of our pupils was outstanding, and staff were extremely proud of them.



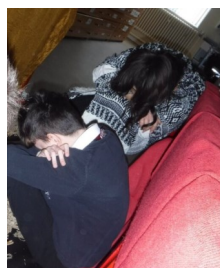
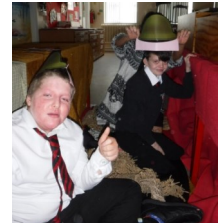
## Design Technology Project

In addition to tie dying fabric for pencil cases, pupils have also tie dyed their t shirts. Here's some of the fabulous designs.



## History

In History, Christine and Henry have been learning about World War 1. In lesson they experienced a taste of what life was like in the trenches - quite literally. They tried tinned meat and vegetables similar to what the soldiers would have eaten and learnt that they would have slept in the trenches too. They tried sleeping there and found it very uncomfortable. Christine and Henry decided they wouldn't like being soldiers in 1914!



## Primary Clay Art

Primary have just started their clay art project by investigating texture and how to join clay together.

They practiced using different tools and learnt how to blend and smooth the clay.



# Happy Easter

Thank you to the School Council for organising the Easter party which was great fun.

Thanks also to Rev Philip McKenning and Kim Priestley who delivered an interesting BSL Easter assembly with lots of audience participation.

Pupils also enjoyed a range of Easter activities to end the term including the egg and spoon race and the much loved annual Easter egg hunt.



We would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 15th April 2024.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 28th March 2024

Monday 15th April 2024

Monday 6th May 2024

Tuesday 7th May 2024

Friday 24th May 2024

Friday 24th May 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024

Thursday 18th July 2024

Friday 19th July 2024

School closes for Easter holidays

School re-opens

Bank holiday. School closed

School re-opens

Sports Day (am)

School closes for half term

School re-opens

Prize Day (pm)

School closes for summer