



Welcome to  
the  
Doncaster  
School for the  
Deaf  
Newsletter

**July 2022**

## Summertime fun

We would like to start this newsletter by thanking all our parents for their continued support throughout this academic year. The school year ends with mixed emotions as we celebrate achievements and say a fond farewell to our Year 11 leavers, Lily-Rose and Luke and to some members of staff too.

## Work Experience

As part of their BTEC course, Emily, Oliver, Hadiqa, Kourtney and Plamen spent a morning working in the on-site café. They received training from Ms Laverack on how to use the coffee machine safely and were very excited to make proper cappuccinos, lattes and hot chocolates just like professionals! They had the opportunity to serve real customers and were shown how to use both the till and debit card machine. Their experience included learning about food hygiene standards and were shown how to keep the kitchen, coffee machine, worktops etc. clean.



# After School Club



After School Club has been re-introduced this half term and has been met with a great response from pupils.

Pupils have had the opportunity to learn how to play volleyball, take on their friends at table football and table tennis as well as lots of other activities all organised by Mr Nelson and supported by some of our specialist teaching assistants.



They loved cycling in the sunshine.



# Reading with Pride

To celebrate LGBTQ and Pride month, staff have created a fantastic display of books in the library with several of them already proving popular! This month is a great opportunity for everyone to celebrate all types of people, all types of families, all types of love and books and stories are a wonderful way to do this. We really hope staff and students enjoy 'reading with pride' this month!



# England Para Football

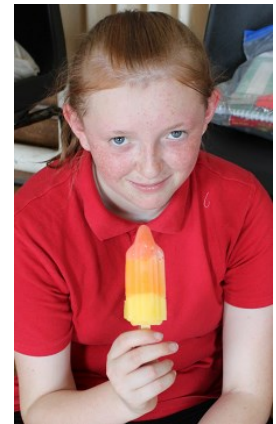
Following the England Para Football talent day last month, we were delighted to receive some great feedback regarding our pupils that took part in the event. The lead coach has now been in contact with parents and carers offering advice and support.

Special congratulations to Keira who will hopefully be joining a suitable team to further her development of the game in the very near future. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to Mrs Gaywood and Mrs Taylor-Bunting for supporting this event.

# Rounders

Secondary pupils enjoyed a fantastic day taking part in the Northern Deaf Rounders tournament organised by Mrs Taylor-Bunting and Mrs Gaywood. Four visiting schools came to take part in the event. The day was a great success. It was very exciting when the results were announced at the end of the day as one of our teams won the tournament! We were so proud of all our pupils.

At the end of the school day, staff and pupils reflected on the day's events whilst enjoying a lovely ice lolly to help them cool down.



# Festival of Sport

Most of our primary pupils had a fun and active day out at the Institute of Sport in Sheffield taking part in the Key Stage 2 'Festival of Sport' organised by Active Fusion.

Each school were allocated a country to represent. We were given 'Cameroon'. Prior to the visit, pupils enjoyed making Cameroon flags and banners to wave at the opening ceremony.

They took part in a range of multi-sports some of which they had never tried before including the long jump, tri-golf, dance, cricket and team building to name but a few.

They also had the opportunity to design a new mascot for Active Fusion.

A fun day was had by all!



# Sea life Environment

Jasper, Igor, Seth, A Jay, Veronica, Ralfs and Keira really enjoyed a zoom session led by Marilyn Wilrich. Marilyn is a profoundly Deaf, successful businesswoman who is passionate about sea life environment. They discussed the damage plastic bottles cause when disposed of in the sea and how long it takes for the plastic to break down. They discovered different ways in which we can all help to save the environment and asked lots of questions to further their understanding.



## BSL 999 Emergency Video Relay Service

As part of Enrichment, pupils were made aware of the new 999 BSL Emergency Video Relay service. It allows Deaf people to make and receive free BSL calls to UK emergency services in seconds. Thank you to Miss Blakey for organising this session. [www.999bsl.co.uk](http://www.999bsl.co.uk)

ITV's Calendar sent a film crew to our school to find out what our staff and pupils thought of this new service.



# Tag Rugby League Festival

Our primary pupils took part in a mainstream tag rugby competition run by Doncaster Rugby League FC. We hosted 8 schools at the event which ran smoothly and we were blessed with lovely weather. Our pupils were a mix of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and did amazingly well to compete against Year 6 mainstream pupils!

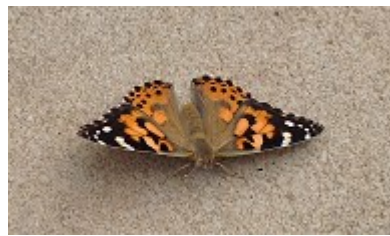
We had to borrow 2 players from Sheep Dip Lane Academy (SDLA) as we were short on players. It was lovely to see our pupils mix with SDLA pupils so well. SDLA were keen to learn some BSL signs and lots of friendships were made. Luke from Plover Primary had been training with us for the past 4 weeks and was a great addition to our squad. Our team improved every single game making super tackles, passes and attacking the space with determination and confidence.

We won 2 of our games and came 6th place overall! Even more impressive, Isabel was voted as most improved girl at the tournament and will be receiving a prize!



# The Very Hungry Caterpillar

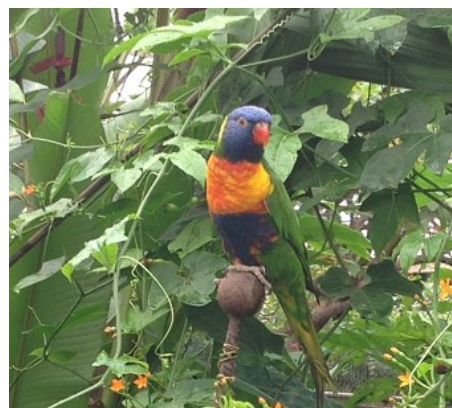
Mrs Hopton's class have been fascinated by their caterpillars and have enjoyed watching their amazing transformation into butterflies!



# Tropical Butterfly House

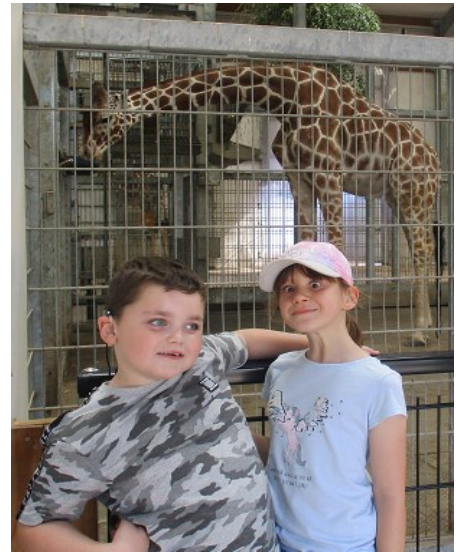
The sun was shining brightly for our trip to the Tropical Butterfly House at the Wildlife Conservation Park in Sheffield. Our primary pupils have been learning about the life cycles of animals and did lots of research before their visit.

Everyone had a great time learning and exploring in the butterfly house. They even managed to squeeze some time at the play park too!





# Yorkshire Wildlife Park



Nieve, Autumn and Finley had a fantastic day at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park.

They have worked really hard this year and it was lovely to spend the day learning about all the different animals at the park.



# Ten Pin Bowling

As a leavers' trip for Lily-Rose and Luke, they went with Molly, Plamen, and Oliver S to the local bowling alley followed by lunch at McDonalds. It was lovely and cool there, Mr Bunting, Miss Flannigan, and Ms Laverack enjoyed the challenge of playing against them with one of the games ending in a draw between Oliver S and Ms Laverack. There were quite a few strikes too which were celebrated enthusiastically. Everyone had a great time!



# Achievements and Recognition



Many congratulations to Oliver for achieving the Step up to English Entry Level 3 Certificate. Oliver has also received his Religion & Beliefs unit Award this half term too. Well done Oliver!

The Religion & Beliefs Unit Award was also awarded to Ryan, Luke, Plamen, Molly, Lily-Rose and Witold. Well done

Mrs Cartlidge gave Luke the opportunity to choose a prize in recognition of his hard work in his English exams.



## SENCO QUALIFICATION

Huge congratulations to Mrs Hopton for passing the Post Graduate National SENCO Award at Leeds Beckett University!



We were delighted to present Signature Level 2 Certificates in British Sign Language to both Tiffany and Jasper.

They have both worked really hard to achieve this award. Well done!

# Pupil of the Week Award



Chloe was presented with her award by Mrs Cook. Chloe was chosen for working hard in Maths even though she finds the subject difficult. Ralfs received his award for displaying a good, mature attitude.



Well done to Seth and Lily-Rose!

Seth received the Pupil of the Week award for his good confidence in general and for being a good friend to others. Lily-Rose received her award for working hard in lessons.



Mrs Cartlidge was delighted to present Emily with the Pupil of the Week award!

Emily has been working really well in class and is a good and kind friend to her peers.



# Pupil of the Week Award



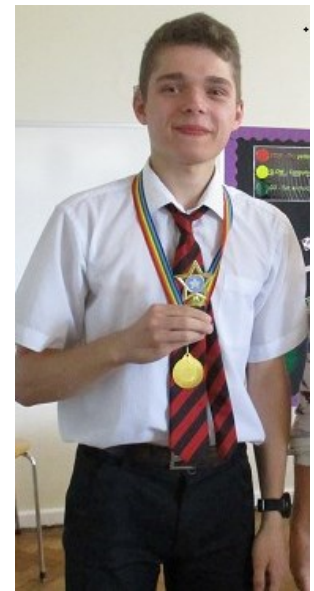
Miss Peace presented Christine with her Pupil of the Week award.

Despite having lots of ups and downs with her health recently, Christine has still wanted to come to school and tries her best to attend.



Mrs Goodman presented Dariens and Andrii with their awards.

Andrii always has a smile on his face, interacts well with others and is friendly to everyone. Dariens tried really hard in all his matches in the tag rugby competition.



Well done to Simas and Keira who were the final recipients of the 'Pupil of the Week' award for this academic year. Staff were really amazed how quickly Keira has picked up the Shakespeare play her group have been working on and Simas has been working really hard in class.

# Austerfield Adventures

Mr Meadows' class enjoyed an interesting day at the Austerfield Study Centre.

They learned about different environments and practiced simple map reading and learned how to use a compass. Whilst walking around the nature reserve they saw the habitat of rabbits, deer, badgers and foxes to name but a few.

There was a mammoth bulldozer in the old quarry, whilst the driver was having a break he happily let the pupils have a look around the machine.

The visit ended with the pupils having the opportunity to handle some exotic animals including a giant land snail, a hissing cockroach, a corn snake and a bearded dragon.

How brave was Henry! They all had a fantastic day.



# Cycling at Clumber Park

Some of our secondary pupils went to Clumber Park for the day. They hired bikes and had a great time cycling around the lake. Luckily the weather wasn't too hot!



# Deaf Focus Group

Flashing Lights Media, a Deaf-led TV and film production company, invited us to take part in a focus group for a new TV series they are developing. Via zoom, they showed some of our pupils snippets of the children's science show, Secret Lab and asked what they'd like to see from a new series!



## Poetry

Throughout this academic year, all of our pupils have enjoyed writing poems on a range of topics from wintery hot chocolates poems to poems about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Some of our older pupils have studied famous poets such as Maya Angelou and Benjamin Zephaniah and used this to inspire their own poetry. We have been so proud of all the fantastic creativity, we have compiled some of our favourite pupil poems into our very own poetry anthology which is on sale at school for £3.00.



Any money we raise will go towards buying more books for the library. We hope you enjoy reading the poems as much as we enjoyed writing them!

## SMILE Therapy

Over the last term, therapist, Mrs Robinson, has been working with Chloe and Tiffany helping them practice ways to communicate with hearing non-signers (asking for things in an office). They have been going into college so they could practice this with people they have not met before. Although both girls were very nervous at first, they did fantastically well!

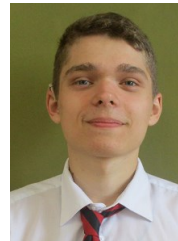
Well done Chloe and Tiffany!

## Special thanks

We would like to say a special thank you to Ben's family who have kindly made a donation to our school following a family bereavement. It was a very kind gesture during a very sad time for his family. Many thanks.

# Staff and Pupil Update

A warm welcome to Andrii who has joined the school this half term from Ukraine. It is also a time to offer our best wishes and sincere thanks to the staff members that are leaving the school this summer.



There were lots of 'happy tears' from staff and pupils alike as Miss Croggon started her maternity leave at the end of June.

As we went to print, we were still awaiting news of her baby's arrival.

Keep your eyes peeled on our facebook page for an update!



Miss Alowoya is leaving us, sadly, to take up a new role nearer to home. She joined the school in 2012 and has been a bundle of fun throughout her 10 years with us. She has supported in classes as well as residential and will be missed dearly by staff and pupils alike!



We are also saying goodbye and farewell to both Mr Meadows and Miss Ball. Mr Meadows has taught in the school this academic year. His class have made lots of lovely memories visiting the Yorkshire Wildlife Park and Cleethorpes as part of their learning as well as gaining skills for life. Miss Ball has supported in class for the last 18 months as a Specialist Teaching Assistant. She is leaving to begin her teacher training and can't wait to begin the next stage of her career! We will miss them both and wish them lots of success and happiness for the future!



# Year 11 Leavers: Luke

Mrs Blakey can remember clearly Luke's first day at our school: he was so excited he ran out of the classroom, straight into a water pipe and ended up with a big bump on his head!



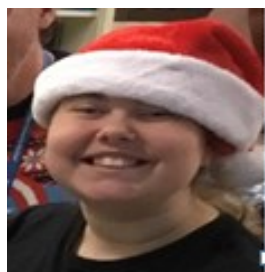
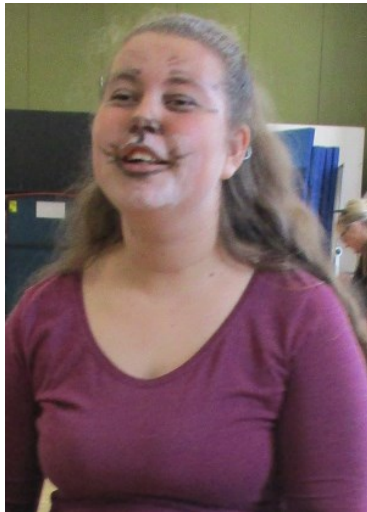
As you can see from the photographs, Luke will be remembered for, amongst other things, his infectious smile. He has shared his cheeky and engaging sense of fun with everyone he meets.

Luke is always happy and friendly and interested in everything that happens in our school, especially technology. He really enjoys his Maths lessons with Mr Brennan. His favourite school trip was to the bowling alley and McDonald's, he loved their ice-cream.

Luke has enjoyed spending transition days in college and is excited to start in September. He wants to work with computers.

We are sure that Luke will continue to share his enthusiasm and curiosity with his new friends at college. Good luck for the future Luke!

# Year 11 Leaver: Lily-Rose



Lily-Rose's favourite memories include having lots of fun at Low Mill Outdoor Centre, spending time with her friends, and very memorable, the time she fell at school and broke her wrist!

Her favourite lessons have been in English with Miss Fogg.

Lily-Rose is friendly and sociable with everyone she meets and it has been a real pleasure to watch her mature and grow in confidence.

Lily-Rose wants to study Beauty. We wish her lots of happiness and success as she makes the transition to college.

## Possible Year 11 Leaver: Andrii

Although Andrii has only been with us for a few short weeks he has already made a great impression on both staff and his peers.

He has formed lots of friendships and made some lovely memories.

Andrii represented the school in our recent rounders tournament and enjoyed a day out bike riding at Clumber Park.

Having looked around the college, Andrii may decide to enrol on a Construction course there.

We wish him lots of success for the future whatever he decides.



## Visit from Miss South Yorkshire

It was a pleasure to show Ashleigh Russell, Miss South Yorkshire, around our school.

Ashleigh is also Chair of 'PLOD'. PLOD stands for Police Link Officer for Deaf people and is a scheme that promotes equal access to the police for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.



# Our Residential Pupils

Dickson House residents were treated to an end of year activity on a canal boat. They enjoyed the scenery and had the opportunity to open swing bridges and even had a go at driving the boat! It was harder to drive than it looks!



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 22nd July 2022**

**Monday 5th September 2022**

**Tuesday 6th September 2022**

**Wednesday 7th September 2022**

**Friday 21st October 2022**

**School closes for Summer**

**Training day**

**Training day**

**School re-opens for pupils**

**School closes for half term**