



## Doncaster School for the Deaf Newsletter

December 2023

### Ofsted outcome



Following the recent inspection from Ofsted, we are delighted to share the news that Doncaster School for the Deaf continues to be a **good** school!

Pupils who attend DSD describe the school as one big family and say that they love coming to school. The report states that pupils are very proud of their academic and wider achievements, and feel extremely well supported in their learning. The report also recognises that leaders are ambitious for all pupils and have created a curriculum that supports pupils to achieve well.

### Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Year 7/8 pupils had a great time on their recent visit to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. They saw lots of animals, some of which they had never seen before, and enjoyed using a map to navigate around the park. The main focus of the trip was to look at different fact files so that pupils can write their own in school over the coming weeks. They found some of the features that they have been learning about in school on the fact file boards and enjoyed finding out some interesting facts.

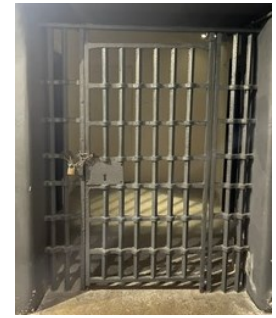
Pupils did a lot of walking throughout the visit, and everyone was tired at the end of the day, but it was lovely to see the smiles on their faces as they went around the park. What a fantastic time they had.



# York Castle Museum

This half term, four of our Year 11 girls went on a trip to York Castle Museum as part of their Step Up to English Gold Award unit on crime.

They looked around the museum prison and prison yard. It was fascinating to see the conditions that prisoners were kept in years ago, and the activities they did in the prison yard. The girls had the opportunity to sit inside the prison cells and read the stories of real prisoners. They even sat in Dick Turpin's cell! Everyone then warmed up with a hot chocolate and a cake in the museum cafe. A good day was had by all.



# GCSE Religious Education

Our Year 10 GCSE RE students had a visit to their lesson from our local Imam.

Imam Habeeb Minhas gave a presentation about the beliefs and practices of Islam. He also showed us some interesting artefacts including a selection of Qur'ans, prayer beads and hats used in worship. Seth and Lili then interviewed him with questions based on topics from their GCSE textbook. The Imam then kindly presented us with our own copy of the Qur'an for us to keep in school.



# Pupil of the Week Award



Staff chose Ralfs for the award as he produced some fantastic English work. Well done, Ralfs.

Congratulations to Seren who was presented the award for all her hard work and good attitude in class. Congratulations, Seren.



Deontay was chosen for sitting and listening well in class and Veronica for using her voice well. Worthy winners of the award.

Staff chose David for the award for both his good attendance and good attitude in class. Well done, David!



Vova displayed a really good attitude to learning and is a worthy winner of the Pupil of the Week award. Congratulations, Vova!

Vhon was chosen for working hard, always smiling and being a good friend to others.



Vova was chosen again for working really hard and improving his learning. Harmony has shown good effort and has pushed herself with her reading. Well done, Harmony.

# Achievements and Recognition

Many congratulations to Eleanor, who was voted the Players' Player of the Year by York's Learning Disability Rugby League Team at their recent awards evening. Well done, Eleanor!



Huge congratulations to Shauna Flannigan on qualifying as a Teacher of Deaf Children and Young People. Her graduation took place recently at the University of Edinburgh. Well done, Shauna!

## CASTING CALL:

Although our lips are tightly sealed at the moment...watch out for one of our Year 10 pupils appearing in a well loved BBC production in the new year!

Lili applied to Articulate Drama School and Casting Agency and had to submit a video of herself signing using British Sign Language. She was successful in her audition and has already begun filming in Manchester.

Ms Goodman said: "We are all very proud of Lili and what she has achieved. We work hard in school to show our pupils that they can achieve great things and Lili is a fantastic example of this."

Lili has already made some new friends and there is a strong awareness of the Deaf culture on set.

Lili has had an extremely successful half term. She also entered and won the Signed Culture's Christmas card 2023 competition. They said that "Lili's design was gorgeous and we're looking forward to getting it printed and sent out to all our contacts, colleagues, and friends." Lili was presented with a £50.00 Amazon voucher.



*"So... with lots of entries again for our Christmas Card Competition, ... the results are in.... We are delighted to announce that Lili Dixon (aged 14) from Doncaster School for the Deaf, won FIRST prize."*

# Meet the Author



Some of our older students attended a fantastic 'Meet the Author' event hosted by the Communication Specialist College.

They listened to a talk from local author Noreen Nasim who has written a book called 'Expelled from Uganda'. This tells the story of Noreen's father who was forced by dictator Idi Amin, President of Uganda, to leave his home country at the age of just 19. As well as this, Noreen explained her own journey to becoming a published author and how she overcame barriers to achieve her dream.

All of the students received a free, signed copy of Noreen's book and left feeling inspired to write their own stories!

# Children in Need

Everyone enjoyed dressing up and joining in the fun to support Children in Need. All year-round, the money donated to Children in Need is used to support disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.



## Unified Leaders: Active Fusion

During the Unified Leaders programme, a bespoke programme offering personal professional skills development through sports leadership & mentoring delivered by Active Fusion, they collated lots of video footage.

Active Fusion have produced a fantastic video involving our 'young leaders' Seth, Keira, Lili and Veronica. Many thanks to Mrs Gaywood, Mrs Taylor-Bunting as well as Gavin and Tom for all their hard work put into this project. The video can be viewed via our website. It's amazing.



## Doncaster City 10k Run

Many thanks to everyone who supported, ran or chose to nominate our school as their chosen charity for the recent Doncaster City 10k run.

It was touching to read some of the reasons why staff, families and friends of the school chose to support us.

*'DSD has been revolutionary for my son and many others like him in his educational journey'.*

*'My nephew is now part of a community, has his own friends, isn't a minority but now a majority. All the teachers sign, his friends all sign and without this school he wouldn't have half the opportunities he's already had'.*

*'It would be an absolute honour for us to raise as much as we possibly can for this amazing school'.*



# Primary Design Technology

Primary are currently learning woodworking skills in Design Technology. They are learning how to use hand tools. As part of this topic, pupils visited the local B & Q store to find and price up the resources they needed. Pupils asked the B & Q staff to cut the wood so that it would fit in the school minibus to take back to school. The cutting machine was huge and cut the wood at great speed. It made the pupils glad that they would be working with hand tools to begin with!

Pupils can't wait to showcase what they create!



## Careers

As part of learning about different careers, some pupils visited the First Bus depot. They learned about jobs they could do there in the future. Pupils spoke with the operations manager and an engineer, learning about apprenticeships, training involved and even office jobs that they need to run effectively. It was a very interesting and informative visit.



Emma Smith, the school's Careers Lead, also arranged for a retired dentist to visit school. The dentist gave an informative presentation about his career.

Pupils are looking forward to more professionals visiting the school in the future.







# Christmas Sparkle

Staff and pupils gathered together for the annual switch on of the Trust's Christmas lights. Whilst waiting for Father Christmas to arrive, our Sign Choir showed off their signing skills and signed some festival tunes to the delight of the crowd. The lights were switched on by Father Christmas and Marek Gutowski, Chair of Trustees. The festive lights sparkled beautifully in the clear blue sky. Hot chocolate and festive mince pies were served to finish this lovely, traditional event. Thank you to Doncaster Lions for arranging for Father Christmas to visit us.



# Christmas Jumper Day



Everyone looked very festive on Thursday 7th December in support of Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day!

# Christmas Carol Signing at Lakeside

It was great fun signing carols at Lakeside Village shopping outlet. It was very exciting too as film crews from both Look North and ITV's Calendar came to film us. We were joined by some pupils from Plover Primary School too. We were all very proud when it was aired on television later that day.



## Sundown Adventureland

Mrs Hopton's class visited Sundown Adventureland as it linked into their fairy tale theme. They went to visit the homes of the three bears, Hansel and Gretel, the three little pigs and Jack and the beanstalk. They talked about some of the things that happened in the stories whilst they were inside each home. Pupils also went on the Christmas ride and saw Father Christmas. He gave them an early present for coming to see him. He also asked what they wanted for Christmas. Seren told him she wanted a toucan and a green stick man and a pink phone. Dee wants dinosaurs. Father Christmas said he had received their letters that they posted on Monday - (the walk the class had to the post box). He can't promise they will get all the presents they have asked for but he did say they will get some lovely surprises!



## Christmas Assembly

It was a pleasure to welcome back to school former Specialist Teaching Assistant, Kim Priestley, who along with her husband, Revd Adam Priestley, delivered a special Christmastime assembly with lots of audience participation.



# Budding Artist

Congratulations to Emily S whose Christmas card design was chosen by the Mayor of South Yorkshire, Oliver Coppard, as his official 2023 Christmas card.

He said “Her design uses decorations representing the sign language for ‘I love you’, reflecting the love that deaf families share with each other at Christmas. The card illustrated by Emily will now be sent far and wide, as an e-card and in print. I’m genuinely proud to be able to share South Yorkshire’s talent with the world.”



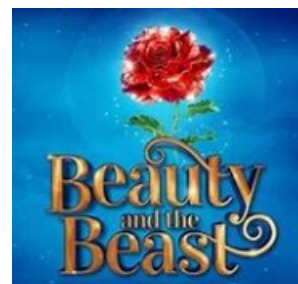
# Fun at Christmas

Pupils have been involved in a variety of Christmas activities. Christine, Henry and Lucy made gingerbread houses after completing their AQA Balanced Diet and Portion Control Award. Staff joined pupils in the dining hall to eat Christmas dinner together. Our annual ‘Book’ advent calendar has been enjoyed by everyone with lots of new books for the school library and primary acted out their very own nativity to name but a few.



## Panto time....oh yes it is!

The festive spirit continued with our annual trip to the local theatre, Cast. This year, pupils enjoyed a BSL version of the pantomime, Beauty & The Beast. They behaved impeccably and were a real credit to the school.



## Party, party, party

Many thanks to the School Council for organising the end of term Christmas party. It was lots of fun!



As we approach the Christmas break may we take this opportunity to offer our best wishes for the festive season and to thank you for your continued support of the school.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 22nd December 2023

Monday 8th January 2024

Thursday 8th February 2024

Friday 9th February 2024

Monday 19th February 2024

Thursday 28th March 2024

Monday 15th April 2024

School closes for Christmas

School re-opens

School closes for half term

Training day. School closed to pupils

School re-opens

School closes for Easter holidays

School re-opens