



**April  
2022**



Welcome to  
Doncaster  
School for the  
Deaf

## **Spring is in the air**

Welcome to another bumper edition of the school newsletter. It has been an extremely busy half term! We hope you enjoy reading all about it.

## **Visit to Cast Theatre**

Pupils have enjoyed a trip to the local theatre, Cast. They watched a performance of STAN, the story of Sam, a happy, dinosaur loving 8-year-old whose world turns upside down after his parents separate. As he takes himself off to the far end of the school field he meets Alex, a deaf girl with a vivid imagination - and an impressive collection of dinosaurs.



## **Swimming lessons**

To promote water confidence, this half term, our primary pupils have enjoyed weekly swimming lessons at a nearby school.



Mrs Gaywood and other staff are putting the children through their paces at Hall Cross swimming pool. The pupils are aiming to pass Swimming Teachers Awards Levels 1, 2 and 3 and have already made amazing progress.

# The Hepworth Gallery visit

On 25th February, our primary and Year 7 and 8 pupils went on a visit to the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield to see the famous Hepworth sculptures in real life.

They were familiar with some of the sculptures from their studies but were thrilled to see them full size! The pupils could not wait to start drawing their favourite sculptures in their sketchbooks.



# World Book Day

Staff and pupils alike all got into the spirit of this year's World Book Day organised by Miss Fogg. Pupils were encouraged to bring into school the books they purchased with their World Book Day tokens.

Lots of discussion about books took place and there was book related activities for the pupils to take part in throughout the day including 'Hook a Book' and 'Guessing which staff member was hiding behind their favourite book'!

We even managed a video link to Mary Poppins aka Christine who was off school poorly but wanted to join in the fun.

Pupils ended the day with an amusing BSL interpreted story.



# WORLD BOOK DAY 2022



# BTEC Rugby

Congratulations to our BTEC pupils who have passed their Tag Rugby Leadership award with flying colours. They completed 4 weeks of intensive training where they learnt how to deliver skilled sessions and mini games to our primary pupils. Martin Rowlands, Legacy Officer, at Doncaster Rugby League Club (The Dons) came into school today with first team player, Dean Roberts, to present the pupils with their certificates. Pupils also had a question time opportunity where they asked Dean about his career pathway. Everyone was interested to find out what he studied and where his professional career can lead to in the future.



# Rugby League World Cup

We were proud to welcome the Rugby League World Cup organisers to our school. The organisers were marking 200 days to go until the start of the event by taking all 3 tournament trophies to the 16 host towns and cities within a 48 hour period and our school was chosen as one of the venues to visit! It was all very exciting, BBC Look North and ITV Calendar film crews came to film the occasion. Pupils took part in some rugby league activities and had the opportunity to have their photo taken with the prestigious Paul Barriere Trophy!



# Careers Taster Event

Our older pupils have taken part in some digital online training this half term delivered by NDCS and the British Red Cross Society. These workshops included first aid, confidence and leadership building, interview preparation and online safety. Well done to them all!



## Whole School Guided Reading



Guided reading has proved really popular. One Year 10 pupil said “I really enjoy reading with my friends, I have learnt lots of new words and the bug club activities are fun.” Another pupil said “reading as a group with the teacher and using the interactive whiteboard is a good way to improve my confidence with reading, I like it.”

## PSHE



As part of learning about health in PSHE, pupils did an experiment to see what the plaque levels were on their teeth. They used purple disclosing tablets which stained the plaque. The pupils thought this was highly amusing!

# New pupils and staff update

A warm welcome to our 2 new pupils Autumn and Chloe. It is lovely to see how well they have settled into school life in such a short space of time! Autumn's parent contacted us recently to say that he has already seen a big difference in Autumn's confidence since she joined the school. We also welcome a new staff member, Keri Betteridge, who has joined our dedicated Specialist Teaching Assistant team.



## Lana Cook

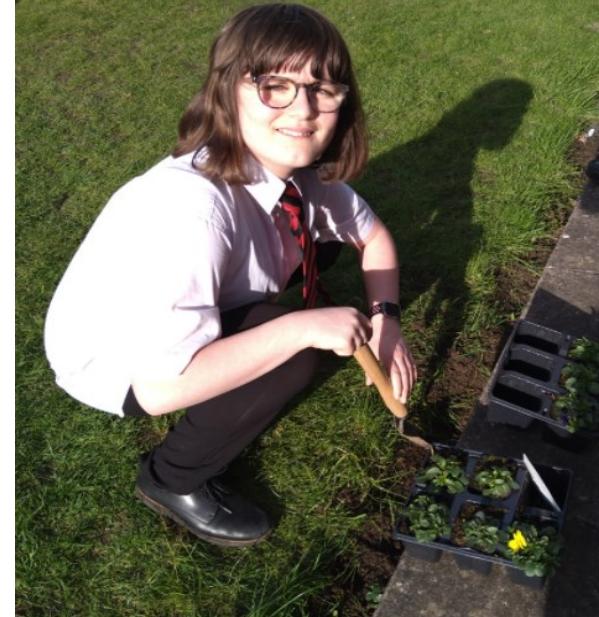
Lana Cook, our wonderful pastoral lead, was presented with a bouquet of flowers to celebrate 30 years of working at the school....what a fantastic achievement and highlights her dedication to working with pupils. Following the presentation Lana was asked to say something about working at school this long and she replied "I love working with children" the pupils replied "and the children love you".

As you can see from the pictures, the hairstyles may have changed over the years but Lana's dedication hasn't changed. She is always on hand to support pupils and staff whatever the problem may be. Thank you, Lana.



# Nuturing Nature

Mr Meadows' class have enjoyed a trip to a local garden centre where they purchased some plants. On returning to school, the pupils have planted their plants and have been responsible for ensuring they are regularly watered.



## ASDAN Challenges

As part of ASDAN some pupils have been learning new skills.

Plamen and Ryan decided to learn how to play chess which they had not played before. Mrs Taylor-Bunting has been teaching them and have enjoyed challenging each other in chess.

Molly decided to challenge herself too and has been making ear-rings to sell at the Easter Enterprise event.



# Enrichment and Careers

To inspire our pupils about potential career paths, Deaf dog groomer, Donna Serridge Cross, came to school with her mobile dog grooming unit, to talk to our pupils about her life achievements. She had a captivated audience throughout especially when talking about her experiences representing the Deaf Ladies GB football team. Pupils enjoyed looking at all the medals Donna had won during her football career. She ended the session by involving all the pupils in an energetic workout. Donna also set up a BSL Fit Therapy business during lockdown to support the Deaf community.



As part of Enrichment, Miss Flannigan arranged for the Deaf Stone Carver, Louis Francis, to visit school. Louis gave an inspiring presentation to the pupils about his life and career. This was followed by a carving demonstration. The pupils then had a go themselves and had a 'cracking' time. They amazed us with their carving talent!



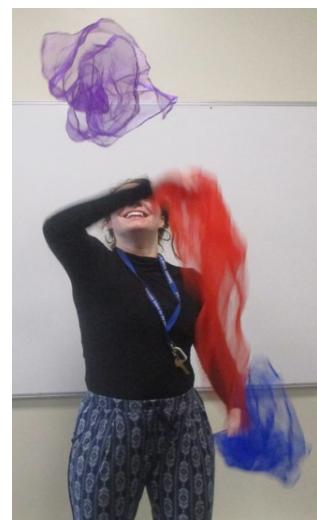
# Enrichment

The final Enrichment session this half term was provided by Dean Cousins, a professional drummer. Dean brought along a selection of percussion instruments and a huge Chinese gong! Most of the pupils had

a go at hitting the gong and formed a band with Deano.



# Dance Movement Psychotherapy



Eleanor G. has been working with some of our pupils providing DMP sessions. The sessions are individual to what the pupil needs in the moment and can include lots of interesting props, drawing, dancing, music making and story telling just to name a few! Benefits of these sessions include: mood regulation, improvement of communication, increased confidence, expression of self and increased co-ordination.

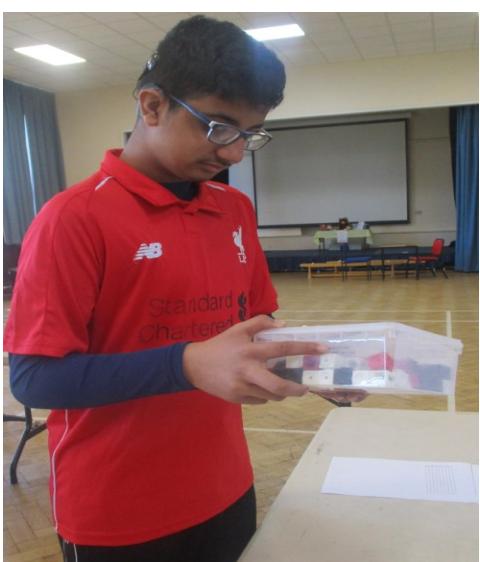
Dance Movement Psychotherapy is especially useful as a way to communicate things that aren't easily spoken or for pupils who find it hard to express themselves in words. Eleanor is currently a trainee Dance & Movement Psychotherapist studying with the University of Derby and would like to thank Doncaster Deaf Trust for having her on placement.

# Comic Relief

Pupils enjoyed an exciting day in support of Comic Relief.

Staff and pupils were asked to come to school wearing something red. There was a range of activities for pupils to take part in during the day including 'Pin the Red Nose on Ms Goodman' which was won by Lacey. Well done to Oliver for winning the 'Guess the number of cubes in the box' and to staff member Zoe, from Dickson House, for winning the prize for wearing the most amount of 'red'.

We raised a grand total of £78.25! Many thanks to everyone for donating so generously.



# Comic Relief



# Achievements



Many congratulations to Ryan on achieving his Level 1 in BSL.

Ryan has also recently passed his Entry Level 1 Writing paper along with Molly and Plamen.

Well done guys!

We are proud to announce that Mr Nelson, Mrs Blakey, Miss Croggon and Miss Fogg have all passed their British Sign Language Level 3 exam.

They were presented with their certificates by their tutor, Mr Ross, during a special assembly. Congratulations to them all.



# **YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PARK**

A group of secondary pupils went on a trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park as part of their literacy topic. The pupils enjoyed seeing all the different animals, including polar bears, lions, giraffes, and tigers. We also met Kim Wilkins, the Carnivore Team Leader, who looks after the polar bears. She answered all our questions and told us lots of interesting facts about the bears. We finished the day with an ice cream in the sunshine. A good day was had by all!



# Easter Fun

The Easter Bunny made a surprise visit to school and gave all the pupils a small chocolate gift. This was followed later in the week by the drawing of the Easter raffle which raised a total of £188.00 in support of 'Children with Cancer UK'. Thank you to all parents and staff for their support. Pupils also took part in an Easter egg hunt and were treated to an end of term Easter party organised by the School Council, everyone had lots of fun. It was a lovely ending to a very busy half term.



# Easter Enterprise

In PSHE and Enrichment lessons, secondary pupils designed and made items to sell at the Easter Enterprise event. They enjoyed learning lots of new skills such as budgeting, planning, working as a team, communicating and practical creative skills. All pupils and staff were invited to the event. As you can see from the photographs, it was a huge success!



# Our Residential Pupils

This term, our residential pupils have enjoyed an evening visit to Planet Circus. They especially enjoyed seeing the motorbikes flying over their heads! Birthdays have been celebrated, they've joined in some online Deaf clubs and took part in some sport activities via zoom. They have started getting the garden ready for summer by painting the wooden planters and will be planting some lovely bedding plants in the coming weeks.



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 1st April 2022**

**Tuesday 19th April 2022**

**Wednesday 20th April 2022**

**Friday 27th May 2022**

**Thursday 23rd June 2022**

**20 or 21st July 2022**

**School closes for Easter holidays**

**Staff Training Day**

**School re-opens to pupils**

**Sports Day 10.00am to 12 noon. Parents invited.**

**School closes for half term**

**Rounders event (Deaf Schools)**

**Prize Day. Parents invited.**

**Date and time to be confirmed.**