

Centre for the Deaf



Once again we have had a busy term at the Centre for the Deaf supporting the children in the mainstream and providing additional enriching activities. Here are some of the things we did this term...

We received feedback from the Specialist Resource Provision Review 2018-19

The main strengths were noted as:

- The staff in the CfD working as a cohesive team
- The extra-curricular activities that are provided for the students.
- The development of a Communication and Friendship club which is a mix of students from both the CfD and the mainstream school.
- Participating in Play Makers workshops with students from James Wolfe School.
- Activities that are provided for the parents which has included a 'cultural cook-up' and workshops run by the Speech and Language Therapist and ToDs.
- Pupils have achieved the Arts and Ambassador Awards
- There has been a focus on the emotional wellbeing of the students, which has resulted in an increase in friendships being formed and the students feeling more positive about being deaf.
- The attendance of the students in the CfD is outstanding. All students, except one specific case, are in school every day.
- The high level of access to mainstream learning.
- The students are withdrawn to work with the ToD for identified target lessons, this can be both individually and in small groups.
- All the children are happy and confident.
- The ToD is an asset to the school. She is able to accurately assess the children and support the individual's and their families as appropriate.
- The students have a wide variety of opportunities to meet and link with other students who are deaf.
- The students are provided with a range of extra-curricular experiences to support their social and communication skills, these are provided by both internal and external staff/agencies.
- BSL is taught to individuals as it is required.
- Liaison and joint working with the Speech and Language Therapist to provide positive outcomes for both the students and their families.

Challenges:

- Getting students into the CfD is a challenge. There have been discussions around the best way to advertise Lewisham Specialist Provisions for students who are deaf and the potential of offering assessment placements to students in Reception and Year 1.

The report concludes by recommending we use current parents of children in the Centre as advocates. I would like to thank all of the parents who have expressed their appreciation for the provision and hope we can call on you in the future to share your experiences and explain the benefits of your child attending a school that has a Centre.



Multi Sports day

On Tuesday 1st October we traveled to Osterley Sports & Athletics Centre for a day organised by Deaf Sports Plus and Brentford FC Community Sports Project. We had a great day learning new skills with table tennis, basketball, athletics, and football. AD enjoyed the trip he said "I really enjoyed the football, which is my favourite anyway and other sports. I learnt how to train with an athletic weight ball". MA enjoyed the day too and said "I played football and kicked the ball. I played table tennis and learnt to hit low, not high". What impressed me most was how nice all the children were to each other, they were really supportive, kind, and had a great team spirit. As TW noted "I enjoyed playing basketball and playing with new friends". The day was exceptionally well organised, with just enough time to learn new skills before trying the next activity with experienced coaches who were both deaf and hearing.

Ben Lampert very kindly organized a taxi for us to get to and from the station. When one taxi did not turn up one group collected conkers while the other group, nearer the station, watched and counted the number of airplanes taking off. MB enjoyed the day too and voiced everyone's opinion when he said "I love the hat and medal", which provided a lovely memento of the day.





Nature Activities

While we were waiting for the taxi in Osterley we found a lot of conkers near a large Horse Chestnut tree, we collected some, brought them back to school and made Conker pendants and Conker people. The next week staff had a training event that showed the benefits of bringing back nature into the classroom. These little people were easy and fun to make and nobody mentioned the dangerous playground game...

Holiday Activities

This holiday can be a particularly busy and difficult for deaf children. The NDCS has a list of top tips on how to make sure the holiday is fun and deaf friendly. Check out their website for more ideas such as;

- ⇒ Sit at a round table so everyone can be seen when they talk
- ⇒ Use a table cloth so cutlery is not so noisy
- ⇒ Turn the music off or down when talking
- ⇒ Have a bright light on as well as the fairy lights so you can be seen and lip-read
- ⇒ Put the subtitles on
- ⇒ Make sure your child knows if there are changes to the routine
- ⇒ Give them a job to do, or a game to play so they have a break from lip-reading which can be very tiring.
- ⇒ Remember beards that hid the lips make lip-reading impossible.



Audiology

There will be no drop-in audiology clinics at Kaleidoscope this holiday but you can book to attend by calling: 020 3049 8592. The next set of Friday sessions at Kaleidoscope are on the 10th January, 7th February, 24th April and 19th June at 10am.

Batteries

We really appreciated everyone sending in packets of spare hearing aid batteries. These are kept in the pupils own drawer in the Centre encouraging them to be independent and responsible users. Please make sure you have enough batteries at home for the holidays and if you can please put another packet in your child's book bag for use next year/term.

Visitors

Once again this term it has been my privilege to show around a family who are considering sending their children to Rushey Green because of the provision it offers within the Centre. Not all parents are aware of the benefits of having a Centre on site. I always enjoy summarizing what we do here and introducing our pupils who are a credit to the school and like working and playing in the Centre. We offer effective support on site and provide an enrichment curriculum that develops self esteem and deaf awareness which supports their emotional and social development.

Lion King Film Night,

On Monday 25th November we collected beanbags from around the school and snuggled down to watch Lion King in the Centre. The children behaved beautifully, enjoyed their snacks and focused on the film. We could tell by their squeals of delight that Sasvin and Million enjoyed the fight scene with Scar. Theo also loved the bit when "Simba threw Scar off the edge and Scar got eaten by the hyenas because he called them enemies". We also got to see how Disney looked at real animals and made them into cartoon characters. It was a lovely, magical evening. Muneer best described how everyone felt when he came out of the room and simply said, "I loved it!"



Drumming lessons

We have thoroughly enjoyed our 10 drumming lessons on Monday mornings with Mr Emery. We learnt how to hold the drums properly between our knees and how to swap hands when playing. We also learnt to play tone and base with dynamics (loud and quiet) and had to work hard to practice playing our composed piece in time with each other.



On **Monday 16th December** parents were invited to see them perform in the 'Guitar, Rock band, Djembe' performance at 2.30. Some of the pupils were really nervous about performing in front of their peers, but they all did really well. AD overcame his nerves and said he felt really good about it afterwards. It's so good to see our young ones challenging themselves.



Monday 2nd December

Steven Gardiner came to visit and all of the key stage 2 children joined in an Emotional Health and Wellbeing workshop. As you can see in the photographs the sessions were very interactive and all our pupils participated very well.



Pupils from 4A, 5C and 6W also got involved in Deaf Awareness 'Look, Smile and Chat' sessions. Teachers and pupils found them "very informative", "interesting" and "fun". They were also able to show off some of their sign language skills.

MB and JB had an additional technology session and enjoyed listening to music with new bone conduction headphones and feeling the vibrating alarm clock.

The visit concluded with parents coming into school at 2.30 to see some of the services and equipment the NDCS can provide. Mrs Williams also popped in and has said she would like to have the NDCS visit again. So we can look forward to some more interactive and informative sessions in the future.





On Wednesday 11th December we visited Oak Lodge school and heard about their enterprise project. The pupils had made and sold a variety of goods at a recent fayre. We watched a video of the pupils and staff in action. When the pupils were asked what they thought Theo got up on the stage in front of all the whole school and gave his ideas. He did really well, used a microphone, answered the questions appropriately and spoke clearly, he was a credit to the school. We then had the opportunity to design our own cards, which CE said was great fun, the beautiful results can be seen above.



On Tuesday 17th December we saw the pupils from Frank Barnes School perform the Lion King at Saint Johns Deaf Community Centre. Once again the pupils designed great scenery and wore beautiful costumes. AD thought the acting was very good especially from the girl who played Scar. MB really liked it when Scar fell off the rock (via green screen) and then fell off the stage. SP said the performance was "lovely" and TW went a step further saying it was "awesome". CE concluded by saying "if there are no more trips I will be really sad".

Work Experience Placements

We always enjoy having students in the Centre, it may be hard work but it showcases what we do well here and helps us to keep up to date with new developments. This term Amy came into the Centre on Tuesdays to work with Emily. They worked together during the Speech and Language sessions and Amy got fully involved from day one. Amy said, "I've had a wonderful half term coming into the Deaf Centre every Tuesday. Big Thank you to Ms Upcraft and all the staff and children for welcoming me into your supportive space".



Farewells

Sadly we said goodbye to Hafsa Bhatti in November. She was an incredibly valuable member of the team and definitely enhanced pupils lives while she was here with her calm, patient manner and sense of humor. We want to thank her for all for her hard work and dedication and wish her an enjoyable time with her young family. Ms Bhatti said; "I cannot describe the despair I feel having to leave the staff and pupils at this wonderful establishment. I have had such a wonderful time being part of the team at the Centre for the Deaf. Both the staff and pupils are amazing and I will miss them dearly. I have gained such valuable experience and I hope that I have allowed the children to gain as much as they have allowed me to. I really have learnt so much, the team are second to none, and I wish them all the best. It has been a pleasure working with both parents and children and I sincerely wish you the best for all your future endeavours".



Thank you

I too will be leaving. I have had an incredible four years in the Centre. It has been such a pleasure seeing the children grow and develop and getting to know you all. We have had some amazing experiences and I will take many fond memories with me. I feel like you have all welcomed me into your families and it has been a real privilege to have had this time to get to know you better. Thank you so much for allowing me to be involved in such an incredible part of your children's journeys. They will always have a special place in my heart and I know they all have amazing potential. They are also an asset to the deaf community and school. I hope to hear more about their achievements in the future— maybe even seeing their experiences in the NDCS magazine.

