



## **Secondary Department**

In Secondary Department we strive for high academic achievement according to individual potential and starting points. Pupils look beyond the classroom by taking part in a range of activities in the deaf community both at home and abroad. While helping pupils to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to leave our secure environment, we also encourage pupils to be lifelong learners as they enter further education or to the world of work. Pupils value each other and the relationships they make. Our high expectations challenge every pupil to raise their aspirations and develop their confidence.

Pupils join the department during their secondary phase of education. When they arrive, our pupils have a range of different language abilities and communication needs; some pupils have no first or established language. As a result, it is essential that learning and communication are tailored to the individual needs of our pupils. Deaf and hearing staff work throughout the Department which allows pupils access an environment which is rich in both BSL and English.

Pupils access an adapted National Curriculum and subjects are taught in a challenging, exciting and stimulating environment by subject specialist teachers, the majority of whom are qualified Teachers of the Deaf or training to be Teachers of the Deaf.

### **KEY ASPECTS:**

- The English Curriculum promotes enjoyment of literacy and achievement. Pupils study a range of texts, including non-fiction, fiction, poetry, drama and media.
- Pupils have the opportunity to experience literacy outside the classroom, enhancing their understanding of, and pleasure in literature for example through visits to the theatre, cinema and participation in signed drama productions.
- Vocabulary development in particular subject specific vocabulary is explicitly taught to ensure pupils are able to access curriculum content at the level of their language ability.
- A high-quality mathematics education provides a foundation for understanding the world and the ability to reason mathematically. Pupils strive to become fluent in the fundamentals to reason mathematically and to solve problems.
- Science lessons are taught in two well-equipped laboratories. Scientific knowledge is related to understanding familiar phenomena and to things that are used every day.
- Where possible, vocational options are offered at Key Stage 4 at local college providers.
- Personal and social development opportunities are offered through the teaching of PSHE, wellbeing lessons, assemblies, Citizenship, Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and work experience.
- Visitors to the school are encouraged to enhance pupils understanding of the wider world as a hearing or deaf person, for example the Police, Deaf role models, BSL999, the local theatre showing BSL performances.
- A focus on safety awareness in the home, online and when out in the community are a high priority so pupil's feel safe and know how to ask for help when needed.
- Proactive strategies are used to encourage young people to become socially and emotionally aware. Targeted groups of pupils take part in SMiLE (Strategies and Measurable interaction in Live English) Therapy. SMiLE Therapy develops functional communication and social skills for deaf students and students with

special needs. This is supervised and co-ordinated by our Speech and Language Therapists and our Literacy and BSL Leads.

- There is an active Signing Choir that performs at a variety of functions including Derby Cathedral, events in the City and at the school itself. The choir regularly visits a range of locations around Derby City to raise awareness of the Deaf community and fundraise for the school community.
- Enterprise, personal finance education and work based learning develops and prepares pupils for being responsible members of the community. Fundraising and enterprise projects are open to all Secondary department students on an annual basis on open day and participation in
- International links include partnerships with schools for the deaf in Europe. This is an excellent example of the opportunities for cultural exchange visits and the personal development of our students which we endeavour to offer. We currently have a relationship with our partner school in Derby's twin town Osnabruck in Germany.
- Rigorous assessment and monitoring of pupil progress continues throughout the secondary phase and ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to achieve to their potential.
- External examinations and assessments offered include Entry Level, GCSE, ASDAN, AQA Units and Signature BSL 1, 2 & 3.
- Comprehensive transition planning ensures a smooth transfer to the next phase of education or training.