Doncaster School for Deaf Children

Headteacher's Update

22nd September 2026

Meet Paul Nelson, our Children's Home Manager

- I've spent the last 12 years working in care, progressing from support roles to now Children's Home Manager.
- I used to manage a gym, designed and sold kitchens, and even started my working life as an assistant milkman at 16!
- When I'm not at work, you'll usually find me keeping active. I've played football my entire life but, I'm planning to hang up my boots for the final time at the end of this season. I also enjoy the gym and running it's a love/hate thing, though. But I love crossing the finish line.
- I'm married and have three young children. I also come from a big Irish family and am one of six children.
- Growing up, some of my best memories were during summers spent off the coast of Donegal. I'd spend seven weeks enjoying island life, fishing, swimming in the sea, and on the beach, and making the most of the adventure that comes with being surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean.
- I'm a big mythology enthusiast. If there were a quiz on Greek mythology, I'd fancy my chances!

Events

During a careers session with Year 7 pupils, we were delighted to introduce our Year 10 pupils as their mentors. The Year 10 pupils were fantastic, speaking confidently about the support available within school and explaining how Year 7 pupils can seek help from them whenever they need it. They also shared how they will support the younger pupils both in and around school, helping them to feel safe, settled and happy. Harmony has taken a leading role in the mentoring programme but all of our Year 10 mentors showed great enthusiasm and commitment to supporting our Year 7 pupils. We are incredibly proud of the positive example they are setting and the welcoming environment they are helping to create.

History came to life for our Year 7 pupils as they stepped into the shoes of people from different eras! Using their chronology skills, they worked together to create a living timeline, placing themselves in date order from across the centuries. A fun and interactive way to explore the past!

Headteacher

This half term, we're delighted to be expanding our lunchtime enrichment programme with exciting activities to develop skills, encourage creativity, and provide extra support for our pupils. Mondays bring our Computer Club, where secondary pupils can improve their digital skills, complete homework that requires computer access, or simply enjoy exploring their own interests through a range of computer-based activities. Tuesdays, pupils can take advantage of a dedicated Homework Support Session, providing a quiet space to complete work and receive help from staff if needed. For those who enjoy adventure, imagination, and teamwork, Wednesdays offer the chance for Year 8 to Year 11 pupils to take part in Dungeons & Dragons, an exciting tabletop role-playing game. Creativity continues on Thursdays with Art Club, where pupils can experiment with different techniques, develop their artistic talents, and express themselves through a variety of fun and inspiring projects. We look forward to seeing pupils make the most of these fantastic opportunities to learn new skills, build confidence, and enjoy spending time with friends during their lunchtime with more clubs planned in the coming weeks too!