Doncaster School for Deaf Children

Headteacher's Update

5th October 2026

Meet Heather Greensmith, our Specialist Teaching Assistant/Interpreter

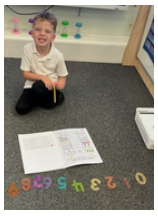
- I'm Heather and I work 1-day a week in school as a Specialist Teaching Assistant (STA). The rest of the time I work as a freelance BSL interpreter (so I'm still on site a lot of the time!).
- I am a big supporter of Doncaster Rovers, and I have ticked off 33 of the 92 league football teams from following them away. I'm aiming to get through the list so hoping to tick a few more off this season!
- I also support Hull Kingston Rovers (as I now live over that way!). We travelled to Las Vegas at the start of the year to watch them play but we won't mention the score.... We worked with the team to translate the fans song of 'Red, Red Robin' performing it last month on the pitch pre match!
- Every week I go dancing and my favourite style is ballet.
- I also play the flute and I am trying the saxophone out.... Practice is limited as I have to wait for when my neighbour isn't in!

Events

We were delighted to welcome Tim Heptinstall to school, who spoke about his ambition to become a pilot and the barriers he faced along the way and how he overcame these. Tim talked about adaptations that are made for his deafness and how he had to be determined and confident to pursue his ambitions. Pupils were really inspired by his presentation and asked lots of thoughtful questions. We look forward to welcoming Tim back once he completes his final training with British Airways.

Year 8 to 10 pupils have kicked off an exciting four-week cycling experience at Doncaster Dome Cycle Track as part of their PE lessons. During their first session this week, pupils enjoyed the thrill of riding on a professional cycling track while enhancing their bike-handling skills, fitness levels and self-confidence. It was wonderful to see so many pupils stepping outside their comfort zones, embracing new challenges and thoroughly enjoying this sporting opportunity.

Primary 1 pupils have been working really hard this week and are making fantastic progress across the curriculum. In Maths, they have been learning about greater than, less than and equal to, developing their understanding of comparing numbers. In English, pupils have been exploring the traditional tale The Three Little Pigs, matching key words to pictures and strengthening their vocabulary skills. The pupils were delighted to share their work with Mrs Barton, who was so impressed with their efforts that she awarded each pupil a Headteacher's sticker. They wore their stickers with pride for the rest of the day, celebrating their hard work and achievements. Well done, Primary 1!



Achievements

We are delighted to celebrate Ryan's success in achieving the Signature BSL Level 2 qualification. Ryan has worked really hard to develop his communication skills in British Sign Language. Well done, Ryan!