



# SOUNDWAVE

Securing the future of deaf children & young people



Set Your Sights High 28



Primary News 35



Fundraising 42



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## Acknowledgements

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# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

By Peter Gale

It is, as ever, a great pleasure to get this magazine a couple of weeks early and to reflect on the hugely vibrant school Mary Hare is and to see the range and quantity of great things going on. 'Making memories' is fast becoming a cliché, but I know from meeting former pupils on a regular basis that these young people are indeed making memories - and friendships - which they will keep forever.

Some of the events are well known to you - the Christmas production, Sports Day, Speech Day and so on - what you perhaps won't be aware of are other wonderful events like Howards's Got Talent, where every Year 7 pupil will be encouraged to be part of a truly inclusive talent competition. Like so much we do, we want the pupils to have fun, but we also want to build their confidence and their sense of achievement.

2017-18 has been an extremely important year in the school's development. We have launched our Primary School Appeal and have submitted our planning application. To consolidate all of our activities on one site makes great sense - although the primary school will be in its own grounds, close enough to make use of our facilities, but separate enough to allow primary aged children to enjoy a primary atmosphere.

I sometimes wonder whether we explain our finances enough to our stakeholders. Mary Hare is a non-maintained special school and that means that we rely on fees paid by local authorities. Small classes and 24/7 care do not come cheap and nearly all of our fees are taken up by staffing, utilities and upkeep of our campuses. If we want to invest for the future, we need to raise money to do so and we are fortunate to have the Mary Hare Foundation which supports us through the organising of fundraising events. The Primary School appeal needs our support and I would urge you to think about ways you might be able to help - through an event, through your workplace, through making a regular donation or however you can, to make our new primary school a reality.

So, having rattled my collection tin in your direction, I will leave you now to read this great magazine and to get a flavour of the rich lives and experiences of our pupils, guided by our great staff.

*Peter Gale*

Principal and CEO



Mr Peter Gale



July 2017

# The Mary Hare Year Summer Extravaganza and Fayre

By Tony Trigwell-Jones

On Sunday 2nd July we opened our grounds for the second Summer Extravaganza, incorporating the Summer Fayre, Art and Design Exhibition and performances from the Dance, Music and Drama departments.

On exhibition for the Big Top Extravaganza were a selection of visual arts from students studying the subjects at GCSE and A Level. The exhibition showcased the students' work as a professional art exhibition would. There were examples of ceramics, casted glass, furniture, woven plastics, printed and painted textiles, digital photography, sculpture and much more. The exhibition featured work from the following students: Khadeeja Ali, Paige Barnes, Pollyanna Begbie, Jack Brockhurst, Kyra Evans, Samuel Georges, Jessica Hungbeme, Lewis Hunt, Maddie Hawes, Emma Jackson, Thomas Keer, Ivanka Pritchard, Ianjaye Robinson, Martha Ryan and Bella Stone. All pupils worked very hard to create these pieces and were very proud to have them exhibited in such a professional setting.

The majority of students took part, either performing or helping on stalls alongside staff, providing an opportunity to bring together the whole school community to celebrate the hard work and creativity of our young people. There were over 40 stalls which were really busy and raised funds for Coles Diner and Happy Days. The inflatables and our own youth club provided much loved entertainment. There was also a shoot off between Ollie and Mathew to win the basketball hoop!

The raffle was very successful with Shante's mum winning 1st prize and Mae's mum scooping 2nd and 3rd prizes!

The BBQ was popular as were the ice creams, helped by the wonderful British weather which gave us sunshine all afternoon. The highlight of the day was Furry Foot the Clown who had an amazing array of circus skills equipment, perfectly in keeping with the Big Top!

Performances from the Dance, Music and Drama departments were wonderful including solos by many students.

The day raised over £3000 which will help towards the outside fitness area that is planned. Thank you to Kirilynn and other staff for all the hard work and organisation to make the day such a success.



A graceful dance performance



Bullseye!



Furry Foot the Clown



September 2017

# Junior Speech Day

By Mrs Furnell

On Friday 29th September, Mary Hare School held its annual Junior Speech Day. Mrs Furnell welcomed pupils, parents and supporters before introducing Mr David Watkins, the Guest of Honour. Mr Watkins gave an inspiring speech, where he spoke of the challenges he faced to reach Everest Base Camp. Mr Watkins also shared his recipe for success; making your own PATH in life using Passion, Ambition, Teamwork and Hard work. The photographs Mr Watkins was able to share were stunning and he reminded the students to 'Set their Sights High'.

Deciding on the winners for prizes this year was a great challenge, as there are so many hard-working students in Year 10.

The first prizes were for the pupils who had consistently good achievement and effort grades every term throughout last year.



Katherine Fowler



Benedict Morgan

## CONGRATULATIONS WENT TO:

Vernon Eminowicz in Year 7  
 Luke Bannister in Year 8  
 Reanna Mullings in Year 9

## THE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY PRIZES:

Omar Sammour and Georgie Ellis in Year 7  
 James Keer in Year 8  
 Aidan O'Gorman in Year 9

## THE BOARDING HOUSES PRIZES:

Opal Lycett in Year 7  
 Katherine Fowler and Luke Bannister in Year 8  
 Jenny Sampson and Lucas Boulet-Mpome in Year 9

KiriLynn awarded the **Youth Club Prize** to **Joel Greenfield** for being 'polite, well-mannered and lovely to have on the team'.

Next up were the form prizes. The **9A Prize** was awarded to **Simron Gurung** and the **9B prize** to **Aidan O'Gorman**. **Jack Swabey** was awarded the prize for **9C** and the **Language Enrichment Group Prize** was awarded to **Alfie Johnson**.





Vernon Eminowicz and  
Luke Bannister



Opal Lycett



Lucas Boulet Mpome



Norika Dambrauskaite

**SUBJECT PRIZES**

- Art & Design - **Rebecca Hegedus**
- Biology - **Benedict Morgan**
- Chemistry - **Sydney Wilkinson**
- Design & Technology - **Jonny Geikie-Cobb**
- Dance - **Lucas Boulet-Mpome**
- Drama - **Joshua Buxton**
- English - **Rebecca Dakin**
- French - **Setayesh Kamrani**
- Geography - **Norika Dambrauskaite**
- History - **Rebecca Hegedus**
- ICT - **Rebecca Dakin**
- Maths - **Benedict Morgan**
- Music - **Lucas Boulet-Mpome**
- PE - **Norika Dambrauskaite**
- Physics - **Jack Swabey**
- Religious Studies - **Sydney Wilkinson**
- Textiles - **Sydney Wilkinson**

The **Liz May Prize** is awarded to the pupil who perseveres and makes the most progress in English in Key Stage 3. This was awarded to **Charlie Haycox** who has worked very hard over the past three years to improve his speech, his reading skills and his written work.

The **Kenneth Bayliss Cup Trophy for Sports** is awarded to the boy who has made the most progress made in PE. This year it went to **Charlie Haycox**.

There was the addition of a new prize this year; **The Sandra Wylie Award** celebrates a student who is kind, generous or helpful to other students and staff. Both pupils and staff voted for the winner and the award was given to **Simron Gurung**.

Mr Gale awarded a special Principal's prize to **Alannah Sumner** for being a very kind, caring, honest and friendly student.

Mr Gale said, *'It was an extremely enjoyable afternoon and a delight to celebrate the success of the current Year 10s. They have a bright future ahead of them!'*



Alannah Sumner



Rebecca Hegedus



Jonny Geikie-Cobb



Setayesh Kamrani



Jack Swabey



September 2017

# Greenham - 100 Years of War and Peace

By Miss McKenna

On Friday 6th September a group of 18 students from Year 9 upward participated in the large-scale outdoor event marking 100 years of War and Peace at Greenham Common, Newbury.

The event involved hundreds of local people who brought the history of the Common to life through performance, theatrical installations, music, dance and live graffiti art. This was a community production organised by professionals featuring Paolo Dionisotti RSC who has performed in Game of Thrones.

Moments of war and peace from the last century were re-enacted featuring stories of WW2, the American Forces, the arrival of the Ugandan Asian refugees, the Cold War and Peace Camps and the more recent return of the common to nature and the local community.

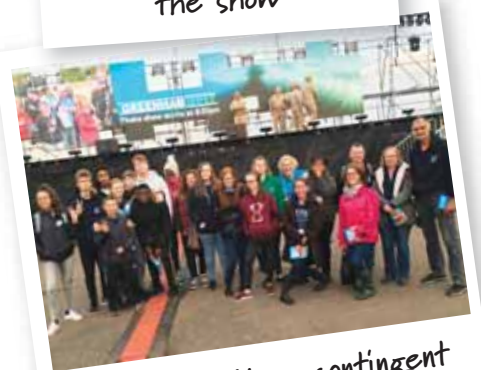
Our current Year 9 pupils made large bird lanterns, which featured at the beginning of the performance and our 18 volunteers carried them high and with pride through the large assembled crowd on to the stage at the opening of the show.

The students then stayed to enjoy the performance in an unusual setting and experienced a once in a lifetime opportunity. We would like to thank all the pupils who participated and represented the school at the event.

We would also like to thank the production team Rosa Productions and the Corn Exchange who gave the school the opportunity to take part in this historic event.



Setting up for the show



The Mary Hare contingent



Carrying the lanterns



September 2017

# Year 9 - Activities Week

By Miss Leach

The week of 18th September saw our Year 9 students enjoy a fun-filled activities trip. Let's hear about the week from the students themselves.

## MONDAY 18TH - MULTI-ACTIVITY

We went to this forest where we did water balloons, caving, archery and made hot chocolate in the woods. I enjoyed caving looking at all the fossils in the cave. I liked doing archery because I got a bullseye! In the afternoon we went canoeing, it was so much fun. We learnt how to move and row the board, we got split into teams of four in each boat. We played lots of games in the water and splashed each other! Then we got back home to houses and had a nice warm shower.

By Charlotte Tuck

## TUESDAY 19TH - WATER SPORTS & CLIMBING

On Tuesday, we did water sports, we had a 30-minute challenge to make a cardboard boat and we had to do it in teams. When that was finished, people went in the little board and they had fun. We also did stand up paddle boarding and kayaking. We had lunch and then we were on our way to the climbing, which was brilliant fun. We climbed all afternoon.

By Elin Brant

## WEDNESDAY 20TH- BIKE RIDING

We went and did bike riding; our teacher was Josh again. When we finished we went into groups and we had a map and we had to go and find numbers in the forest. When we found the numbers, we had to look for the letter and have to remember it and come back and write it on a piece of paper. We had our lunch then did frisbee golf where you throw the disc into a chain goal/net. Then we had to clean our bikes and get a half bag of rubbish before going back to school.

By Elin Brant

My favourite was the bike riding it was fun riding up and down the steep mountains with my teammates. We learned some tricks to do on the bikes like trying to wheelie over a long flat stick. We went on trails that had really great views!  
By Charlotte Tuck

## THURSDAY 21ST & FRIDAY 22ND - THE EXPEDITION

We went to our camping area and put our tents up. We had letter groups, I was group C with Angel, Alina, Om, Alex B and Jacob. We had different boys' and girls' tents. We helped each other put up the tents. We grabbed our bags from the trailer and our sleeping bags and mats ready for the night. After that we put our waterproof jacket and trousers and buoyancy aids on and went canoeing! We finished back at the campsite for the night. We made our own dinner which was pasta bolognese we had two sauces and pastas! We had to boil one pot of pasta at a time. We had our dinner and did the washing up. Then we had free time, played some games and went to bed. On Friday, we woke at 7am and I was the first up and helped the staff wake everyone else. Breakfast was porridge and hot dog sausages. Yum! Then we cleaned and packed everything up and started day two of canoeing. We went back to the campsite for lunch, then had to say thank you and goodbye to the team and go back to school.

By Katherine Fowler



Caving



The climbing wall





October 2017

# Year 7 Trip to Marwell Zoo

Our new Year 7's had their trip to Marwell Zoo. They all had a wonderful time exploring the grounds then meeting all the different animals.

*"The first animals we saw were Penguins. Their enclosure smelled of fish (I couldn't guess why!) After that we saw Flamingo's, then a couple of Leopards just minding their own business."*

Cameron

*"We saw Tigers, Snow Leopards, Zebra, Ants, Forest Buffalo, birds, fish and lots more... All this was amazing."*

Lilli

*"...We moved on to see the Cheetahs, which I was interested in because we had had a chance to touch their skin. When I yelled 'Hi' at the Giraffe, it bent its head down to look at me."*

Joel



The Mary Hare Year



Is a giraffe really this tall?



Time to spread our wings



November 2017

# Year 11 Work Experience

By Miss Leach

Our Year 11 pupils spent a week on work experience this half term. This year we had pupils in many different workplaces including shops, schools, farms, car mechanics, dog kennels, hotels, vets, a nursery, an auctioneers, a bakery, an environmental law firm, a local theatre, an architect's office, a pottery painting cafe and a local nature reserve.

Work experience is a fantastic opportunity to be part of the world of work and learn what practical and personal skills are necessary to have when you have a job. This gives our pupils the ideal opportunity to learn what it is like to arrive on time, communicate with colleagues, completing tasks to a deadline and working as a team or independently.

The employers gave some wonderful reports including one from Philip Brown Violins who wrote about Angel, *"Her confidence grew. She is very quick to learn. We let her play the violin, she was very good and should take it up!"*

Alliyah worked in Eden Bakery in town. They wrote, *"Super impressed with Alliyah working at our coffee shop. She has been a pleasure to work with!"*

Miss Leach gave a prize to some of the pupils who excelled during their week. These went to Emily, Elle, Tom and April. Sophie and Christian received the Log Book prize. Sophie for her time at Chieveley Primary School and Christian for his time at The Hare and Hounds pub and restaurant.

Well done to all of you for such a successful week!



Finding out how a fire engine works



Mathew, a budding mechanic



November 2017

# Speech Day 2017

Annual Speech Day was held on Friday 24th November. The event was opened with an address from Principal Mr Gale and Chair of Governors, Andrew Strivens. This year's guest speaker and alumni was Ashley Dunn. Ashley also received the Hugh Ogus award for Postgraduate achievement. After leaving Mary Hare in 2011, Ashley studied Robotic Engineering at Hertfordshire University. He then went on to complete a second degree in Diagnostic Radiography.

Awards were given to many current and past pupils for their various and wonderful achievements. Our wonderful Speech and Language Therapy department also received an award - the PTA prize for their work supporting students with community service including their work with pupils entering the National Voice Box Competition and Claire Whittaker's skydive in April of this year which raised over £2000.

George, Head Boy, spoke to the audience about his experiences on the Nepal 2017 trip and shared some lovely photos with everyone. Claudia, Head Girl, received the Bronze Award for her Duke of Edinburgh and gave a lovely speech about her time at the school and the opportunities she has been given.

## LIST OF AWARDS:

### Ffion Griffiths

Dickson Memorial Prize (Head Girl)  
Subject Prize for Animal Care

### Habiba Bernier

Dickson Memorial Prize (Head Girl)  
Subject Prizes for Computing and Applied Science BTEC

### Eddie Cleere

Eichholz Memorial Prize (Head Boy)  
Chairman's Prize for Academic Achievement at Advanced Level  
Anne Mazey Prize for English (Advanced)  
Jasbir Kaur Johal Prize given to a student who has not only achieved commendably but has made a significant contribution to the wider life of the school  
Subject Prize for French and History

### Calum Medlock

Chairman's Prize for Academic Achievement at Advanced Level  
Subject Prizes for Mathematics and Physics

### Alex Courtney-Guy

Principal's Prize for Academic Achievement at GCSE  
Whitton Religious Studies Prize  
Subject Prizes for English and Music Technology

### Jack Potter

Principal's Prize for Academic Achievement at GCSE  
Subject Prize for History

### Cameron Levy Pollock

Phyllis M Buckell Prize for Integration  
Subject Prize for Art and Design: Textiles

### Pollyanna Begbie

Elizabeth Dyson Prize for Progress and Achievement  
Subject Prizes for Art and Biology

### George Bull McLean

Duffell Prize for Effort and Progress (Advanced Level)



Alex Courtney-Guy



Annie Alexander



**Naomi Whitley**

SK Anderson Prize for Effort and Progress (GCSE)  
Annie Fogden Prize for GCSE English

**Vidhu Patel**

Rose Fenney Service Prize

**Joseph Shakespeare**

Rose Fenney Service Prize

**Francis Allen**

Lightmonger's Science Innovation Prize

**Thomas Keer**

Margaret Caws Prize for Art, Jack Askew Prize for Science  
Subject Prize for Design Technology: Resistant Materials

**Maddie Hawes**

McLellan Prize for Art

**Samuel Georges**

Thomas Award for Art  
Peter K Hanton Memorial Prize for Technology

**Jack Brockhurst**

Amy Sale Memorial Prize for Drama

**Alex Ash**

Dr Mike Milne Cup for Achievement in Information  
Technology

**Imogen Gibbons**

Pope Music Prize

**William Cuthbert**

Trevor Brooking Cup for Sport  
Subject Prize for Computing

**Dillon Parmar**

John Rowsell Sports' Endeavour Prize

**William Hobbs**

Donnington Lodge Speech Endeavour Prize

**Owen Rowley**

Donnington Lodge Speech Endeavour Prize

**Ashley Dunn**

Hugh Ogus Award

**Tom Jackson**

Laurentia Tan Award given to a student who is involved  
with sport outside of Mary Hare School

**Jessica Hungbeme**

Lesley White Challenge Cup given to a student who has  
faced challenges and struggles due to additional literacy  
difficulties.

Subject Prize for Textiles

**Speech and Language Therapy Department**

PTA Prize given to a group or club or department that  
enhances the experiences of pupils at Mary Hare



Ashley Dunn



Claudia Davies



Thomas Keer

**Andre Preston Morley**

Subject Prizes for Business Studies and Sports' Studies

**Lauren McNally**

Subject Prizes for Art and Design: Photography,  
Media Studies and Land Based Studies

**Caitlin Greenfield**

Subject Prizes for Design and Technology: Food and  
Home Economics: Child Development

**Morgan Keane**

Subject Prize for Drama

**Andrew Harris**

Subject Prizes for Economics and Geography

**Owen Ruthven**

Subject Prize for Media Studies

**Paige Barnes**

Subject Prize for Performing Arts

**Ariella Laughlin**

Subject Prize for Performing Arts

**Annie Alexander**

Subject Prize for Religious Studies

**George Dowsett**

Subject Prize for Chemistry

**Oliver James**

Subject Prizes for Plumbing and Carpentry

**Chloe Turrell**

Subject Prize for Floristry

**Max Taucher**

Subject Prize for Hospitality/Catering

**Sophie Cuerden**

Subject Prize for Childcare

**Claudia Davies**

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

**Moya Hogburn**

25 Years' Service

**Fran Iles**

25 Years' Service



December 2017

# Christmas Party for the Elderly

A group of Mary Hare 6th Formers put on a Christmas party for a group of elderly locals. They did a great job in entertaining through music, poetry, action bingo, carol singing, Christmas quiz and a physical theatre piece and spoken poetry. The event was presented by Bella and George, suitably attired as Mr & Mrs Christmas! They warmed up the audience with some jokes and introduced each of the following acts with confidence and style.

This event, which has now become a welcome annual Christmas outing for the Newbury visitors, took place in Arlington Arts Centre. The event was well attended with many returning regulars all residents of Newbury and the surrounding area.



Let the show begin

The visitors were treated to a lovely lunch prepared from scratch by the 6th Formers including homemade sausage rolls, salmon tartlets and mini sandwiches.

The 6th Formers involved were also nominated 'Stars of the Week'. Mrs Martin, Head of 6th Form and Assistant Principal told those involved, *"I am immensely proud of everyone who took part. Whatever you did, whether you played a big or small part, you helped towards making the production work. Your role helped to give a large group of elderly people a lovely start to Christmas."*

There were some lovely comments from the guests. One guest said, *"We thoroughly enjoyed last year and this year was even better. You wouldn't think these pupils are deaf. They are so confident."*

Two friends, who were attending as carers, both sporting matching Christmas jumpers said, *"We are delighted to have been invited today. This is the first time we have visited and the environment is tremendous. The students are so polite."*



Enter Father Christmas



# The School of Life and Deaf, a Channel 4 documentary

On 14th December, Channel 4 aired the film **Extraordinary Teens: The School of Life and Deaf**. After a year's filming and a further year of editing and going through the production process, all at Mary Hare and Channel 4 were delighted to see the finished version.

The film followed a number of pupils over three terms at school; Lewis, a Year 10 pupil about to have a cochlear implant, Andrew a 6th Former who wants to apply for the role of Head boy and twins Fae and Mae preparing to leave 6th Form for University.

A group of staff and pupils were lucky enough to go to Channel 4 Headquarters on 1st December to see a screening of the film. They were welcomed with hot snacks and drinks before watching the film in the 90 seater cinema in the basement.

Although Mary Hare did not have editorial rights over the film or its title, the school was pleased to have been involved in such an exciting project. Mr Gale commented, *"It is great to be able to show our school and our amazing pupils to a national audience. I hope if viewers take one thing away from the programme, it will be that deafness is not a learning difficulty and there is very little that deaf people can't do."*



Fae and Mae



Lewis



February 2018

# Year 7 Rocket Challenge

By Mr Gibbs

During the Spring Term, Year 7 took part in the Race for the Line challenge which is a national event linked to the Bloodhound land speed record attempt. All pupils were required to form teams and design and build a rocket car from a foam block and other materials. This took place within design and technology lessons with the help of a STEM Ambassador, Ray Buckland. The race day took place on 28th February and was run by Mr Gibbs, Ray and two members of the RAF who are trained to handle the rockets. All the teams did really well with the making and all completed the race. The winning team was Velocity 3, Amelia Molyneux, Macy Shilton and Roman Eminowicz with a time of 43.2ms over a 50m track. 2nd place team was MLK 46.4ms and 3rd was Jungle of Jaguar, 48.6ms. Year 7 will do further work with the cars and theory behind the event later in the year.

The results will now be posted to the competition where, fingers crossed, the winning team will have the possibility of reaching the regional final.

## THE REGIONAL FINALS

Later in the Spring term two of the teams, Velocity 3 and MLK ran fast enough to make it to the regional finals at RAF Odiham on the 24th April. The pupils and staff had a fantastic day out at the event not only building two excellent cars, but also working really well in their teams and having a look round the base. They were also given the chance to go inside a Chinook helicopter.

Although the teams did really well, they didn't make the next round. Well done to all for getting to the regional final of a competition with 78,000 entries.



At RAF Odiham



Can we get a move on - we are freezing!



Testing the theory



March 2018

# Year 12 Science Trip to Oxford

On 15th March, the Year 12 BTEC Applied Science students visited the Clinical Trials Service Unit in Oxford. They were invited to see how the blood testing laboratory worked, from checking samples in at the reception to running tests using specialist equipment including an NMR machine. The students were able to see all parts of the facility and even went in the freezer which held samples at  $-40^{\circ}$ . The students were able to use their experiences to complete their assignments for their Level 3 Applied Science course. Thank you to the team at CTSU for a fantastic day and a great learning experience.



A real life lab experience

# Year 7 Big Bang Event

By Dr Thompson

A group of Year 7 pupils took a trip to a Big Bang event at Headington School, Oxford on March 15th. The day was packed with activities including a chemistry cluedo murder mystery, the chance to take blood from a fake arm and then to undertake keyhole surgery, and the investigation of medical equipment. Others made LED light shows and raced balloon powered cars. The highlight of the trip was cracking codes using a real life enigma machine. The day was fantastic and the pupils were thoroughly engaged.



Dr Hough with the enigma machine



Can you crack the code?





April 2018

# Prom Night 2018

Prom is an event organised every two years for pupils in Years 11 and 13. The evening is an ideal opportunity for pupils and staff to enjoy an evening together. The Regency Park Hotel hosted the event again this year. Weeks of preparation had taken place agreeing the menu, organising the decorations and of course the deliberation over what suit or dress to wear!

During the day there were make-up sessions, nails being painted and hair being styled (not just for the girls!). The evening started with some group photos being taken at school. The pupils then travelled to the hotel by Limo whilst the staff followed on in the minibus! After welcome drinks and a delicious three course meal chosen by the prom committee, an award ceremony took place including ones for best dress, best make up, best tie and best hair, which was won this year by Freddie Barratt and Mr Davies! Thanks goes to the committee for organising the event, to the Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies, (George Dowsett, Claudia Davies, Bella Stone and Frank Allen) and not forgetting Louise Osborn.

Following the meal, all enjoyed dancing, a photo booth and card games before returning to school by coach. Claudia, Head Girl commented, "An evening to always remember!"



Ollie in his 007 pose



Looking glamorous

# Our new Prefect Team

Each year we hold the Hustings for Head Boy and Head Girl. These positions are hotly contested and each year we are amazed by the quality of presentations. This year we have had to delay the selection of Head Boy until later in June which means that only the Head Girl can be announced in this issue of Soundwave.

Naomi Whitley, incoming Head Girl said, "First of all we would like to thank Claudia and George and their prefect team for all their hard work over the past year and to their commitment and dedication to their roles. We also want to thank you all for giving us this opportunity and we hope that we will be able to live up to your expectations. We hope to continue to make the school a great environment for pupils to learn and to be themselves."

**Prefect team:**  
**Head Girl**  
**Deputy Head Girl**  
**Prefects**



Naomi and Pollyanna

- Naomi Whitley
- Pollyanna Begbie
- Martha Ryan
- Imogen Gibbons
- Freya Connelly-Warne
- Morgan Keane
- Alex Courtney-Guy
- Ciaran O'Brien
- Ellis McLean
- Thomas Keer



April 2018

# The Oscars

By Louise Osborn

The Oscars is an annual event organised by the Prefects and held in Dulverton Hall. This year matched all expectations with its red carpet and glittery curtain to walk through into the Hall! The dress code was smart black tie and everyone who attended looked fabulous. Kirilynn ran a food stall with her group from the Youth Club. Some pupils paid for VIP seats which gave them a seat at the front with waitress service. The Prefects took it in turns to announce the nominees from each category. A flavour of the awards which were made and decorated by the Prefects and the winners were:

|                            |         |                                     |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Best Look-a-Like</b>    | Staff   | Peter Gale and Peter Griffin        |
|                            | Seniors | April Platt and Georgie Paul        |
| <b>Drama Queen/King</b>    | Juniors | Winston Dunkley                     |
|                            | Seniors | Ivanka Pritchard                    |
| <b>Cutest Couple</b>       | Seniors | India Rose Appleton and Frank Allen |
|                            | Staff   | Mr & Mrs Allum                      |
| <b>Most Artistic</b>       | Juniors | Katie Denning                       |
|                            | Seniors | Rebecca Meen                        |
| <b>Most Musical</b>        | Juniors | Rosie Quick                         |
|                            | Seniors | Angel Anderson                      |
| <b>Funniest</b>            | Juniors | Opal Lycett                         |
|                            | Seniors | Razzaq Ahmed                        |
|                            | Staff   | Yasmin, Manor Care Staff            |
| <b>Sportiest</b>           | Juniors | Roman Eminowicz                     |
|                            | Seniors | Imogen Gibbons                      |
|                            | Staff   | Mr Garratt                          |
| <b>Most Talented Staff</b> |         | Mrs Barker                          |



Jacob, Duncan and Valentin - are they bouncers?



India and Frank, the cutest couple



Getting ready for a lesson

# Ski Trip 2018

By Mr Thompson

This Easter 23 students and four staff went to Claviere on the Italy France border. We had the luxury of a coach all to ourselves so it turned out to be more comfortable than flying. Sometimes, at this time of year, the snow can be a bit soft, but this year was the best anyone could remember. Deep snow that stayed in great condition all day, and it even snowed while we were there, so we had one morning of brand new snow - fantastic conditions. We also went bowling, went for a night time walk in the mountains where we roasted marshmallows over a fire, we had a quiz night and a treasure hunt.

Personally, although I've been on a lot of Mary Hare Ski Trips, this was my first time as group leader, and I couldn't have been prouder of the students (and staff). On and off the piste, they looked after each other, had fun and were great to be with.



May 2018

# Out and about with the Geography Department

By Miss Truman

The Geography Department took full advantage of the lovely May Day weather on 1st May with a Year 8 trip to the Dorset coast to meet Old Harry at Ballads Point and Swanage.

As part of their unit on coasts they went out and collected field data at Swanage Bay and saw geography in action at Ballads Point. It was the first time some had ever been to the coast so time was given for everyone to enjoy the beach and hone their skills at skimming stones. Another highlight of the day was having ice creams on the beach.



Old Harry Rock  
this way



What a view!



Layla and Hope



Time for a well earned  
break



# Getting Active

## Kirilynn's Baywatch Gang!

By Miss Colby

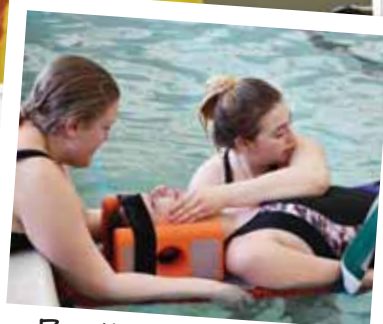
During November five 6th Form pupils and Miss Colby embarked on the first two days of a National Pool Lifeguard qualification (NPLQ). The NPLQ is the most widely recognised lifeguard qualification in the UK and Ireland and is the industry standard for lifeguarding jobs in the UK.

The NPLQ covers all elements of Pool Rescue Techniques, Lifeguarding Theory, First Aid and CPR. The course is physically demanding and includes swimming to set times, lifting casualties and diving to the deepest part of the swimming pool. Training and assessment for the NPLQ is in three sections and all must be successfully passed to attain the qualification. The last three days and assessment took place just before the Christmas break.

Once qualified, the students involved, Martha, Ivanka, Sam, Imogen and Pollyanna, were employed by Kirilynn the Activities Co-ordinator to support the Care Team in the evenings. As a school, we believe in setting your sights high and having aspirations for deaf young people. This experience has shown that, with the right support and planning, deafness is not a limiting factor to achievement. Martin Symcox, Director of IQL UK said, 'We have stringent measures in place that are designed to open the qualification to those candidates with specific needs and it is this policy of 'reasonable adjustment', that has seen the candidates from the Mary Hare School succeed.' We are also very pleased that these students will be able to use the qualification for employment outside of Mary Hare either in their local area or at University.

Miss Colby said, 'swimming is an important and popular curricular and leisure activity at Mary Hare and we feel very lucky to have our own indoor heated pool. At school we believe in setting your sights high and having aspirations for deaf young people.'

It was also with great pride that the lifeguarding article featured in The National Lifesaving magazine in May 2018.



Practising pool rescue techniques



More practical learning



Learning CPR



Sam performing CPR



# Sports Day 2018

On Friday 25th May we held our annual Mary Hare Sports Day. All students took part in a variety of field and track events. A delicious BBQ was cooked by the PTA who also provided a fantastic hamper for the raffle. There was a great atmosphere on the day with students, staff and parents cheering on competitors.

The guest of honour this year was Neil Owen who has unfortunately been off due to an injury sustained playing rugby and a further injury during subsequent surgery. It was lovely to have Neil back on campus!

The overall results were very close with the final results being:

- 4th Braidwood
- 3rd Beverley
- 2nd Mary Hare
- 1st Arnold



Senior boys fighting it out!



Neve Massey going for gold



Time for a rest!



Joel Savery on javelin

# Swimming Gala

In the lead up to the swimming gala and on the day, the House Captains worked their socks off to get the teams ready and to be organised. There were some really good swims and many of the students surprised their teachers and TAs.

Well done to Ivanka who completed her 7th breaststroke win to follow her sister in complete breaststroke domination in their time at MH. Congratulations to all that took part, these are the results:

## Backstroke

Winners:  
 Junior girls - **Layla**  
 Junior boys - **Roman**  
 Senior girls - **April**  
 Senior boys - **Charlie**

## Butterfly

Winners:  
 Junior girls - **Rosie O**  
 Junior boys - **Max**  
 Senior girls - **Martha**  
 Senior boys - **Rej**

## Individual Medley

Winners:  
 Junior girls - **Ellie T**  
 Junior boys - **William**  
 Senior girls - **Martha**  
 Senior boys - **George**

## Free style

Winners:  
 Junior girls - **Katie D**  
 Junior boys - **James K**  
 Senior girls - **Grace T**  
 Senior boys - **Kyle**

## Breaststroke

Winners:  
 Junior girls - **Rebecca R**  
 Junior boys - **Luke B**  
 Senior girls - **Ivanka**  
 Senior boys - **Josh A**

## Overall Gala results

1st Braidwood  
 2nd Beverley  
 3rd Arnold  
 4th Mary Hare



Front crawl



Making a splash



Top six making a good start



Fighting the way to the finishing line



Lili takes 1st place in the Junior Girls



Fayed winning it for the Senior Boys

# Cross Country 2018

By Miss Colby

The cross country was a lovely event and took part in Well Being week. Well done to everyone who took part! Cross country is another way of keeping fit and of looking after your physical and mental health.

## Individual Winners: Junior Girls

1st Lili Mondiere-Carter  
 2nd Katie Denning  
 3rd Charlotte Tuck and Madi Donohoe

## Individual winners: Junior Boys

1st William Ryan  
 2nd Luke Bannister  
 3rd Vernon Eminowicz

## Individual winners: Senior Girls

1st Claudia Davies  
 2nd Maddy Hawes  
 3rd Mae Keenan

## Individual winners: Senior Boys

1st Fayed Ahmed  
 2nd Amaan Hussain  
 3rd Ellis McLean

## Overall Results:

1st Beverley  
 2nd Braidwood and Mary Hare  
 4th Arnold



# Arts News

## School of Rock

Every year Mary Hare puts on a whole school performance in Arlington Arts Centre. Each year sees standout performances and 2017 was no different in this respect. The pupils rehearse tirelessly in the months leading up to the performance, not to mention all the extra hours put in by the staff involved.

So, on Sunday 10th December pupils from across the school came together in the School of Rock. Showcasing talents in dance, music, drama, everyone from Years 7 to 13 had a part to play in Mary Hare's version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical hit. The staff band got motors running, the girls' and boys' dance companies performed several pieces of original choreography including some of their own, and GCSE musicians performed 'Highway to Hell' while the Junior band took the audience, 'One Step Beyond'!

Interspersed with year group dances and solos, pupils of all ages took the parts of parents and children, with some stand out performances from Year 13 student Pollyanna Begbie (who took on a role that morning because the original performer was snowed in). Rosie Quick in Year 7 was Summer Hathaway and Georgie Ellis in Year 8 bravely introduced the whole show on her own.

Special mention should go to Jayden Reid who kept the whole thing together in the lead role of Dewey Finn - acting, dancing and playing in the band. The audience responded with rapturous applause and high praise as the curtains closed.



*James on the sax*



*The Girls' Dance Company*



*Keeping the rhythm*



# Willow Lantern Workshop

By Miss McKenna

Greenham Common Trust are celebrating 20 Years by putting together a Community project in celebration of 100 years of War and Peace, of the 8th and 9th September. Over the past 20 years the trust has donated £35million to the local communities.

In preparation for this, the Year 8s made Willow Lantern birds that were part of an arts performance. They have been making them in the shape of local birds to symbolise peace, most of them being starlings. However, parrots and penguins have been made to add to the flock. Visiting artists Olivia and Kristoffer ran this session. They are both associate artists with the Corn Exchange, Newbury.

The pupils made large bird shapes using willow, which had to be very carefully bent into shape. They were making birds that are natural to the Greenham Common environment. When the structure was complete they were then covered with Japanese white paper using glue and water. This was a very messy process and took a great deal of care. The pupils came up with some fantastic structures and some of the models were larger than the pupils. When the structures have dried led lights will be inserted so that the lanterns will glow.

This workshop was sponsored by Greenham Trust and the lanterns were used in a large outdoor production celebrating 100 years of War and Peace at Greenham Common.

On the evenings of the 8th and 9th September 2017 the story of Greenham Common came alive through an amazing spectacle of performance, songs, light projections and live art. The event was filmed for online broadcast and covered by radio and TV. The event portrayed 100 years of history of the Common and the dramatic moments of war and peace that form part of that history. It marked the 20th anniversary of the Greenham Common Trust which has distributed over £35 million to local good causes since 1997.



Look what we are making



Lily-May taking a different perspective



It's all coming together nicely

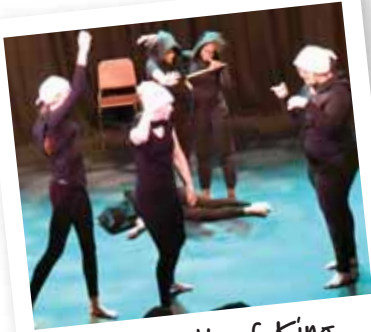


Jasper and Tobi - it's taller than us!



Katie concentrating hard to get the job done





*The Death of King  
Duncan (Jacob Tidcombe)*

# Shakespeare Schools Festival

By Mr Trigwell-Jones



*'A drum, a drum, Macbeth  
doth come.'*

Last November, eighteen students from across Years 8,9 and 10 performed Macbeth at The Corn Exchange in Newbury as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Under the direction of Mr Trigwell-Jones, this was the first young company from Mary Hare to take part in this prestigious event and they did the school proud.

"Working as an ensemble is difficult for most young people" explains Mr Trigwell-Jones, "and being part of a deaf ensemble is additionally complex. Our young people gave an exceptional performance, being highly praised by the public audience, their hearing peers, teachers and professionals" he continues. Mr Gale, who was at the event, said that their performance helped to "change the perception of what others believe young deaf people are capable of."



*'So foul and fair a day I  
have not seen.'*



*The Mary Hare ensemble*

We are very excited to be taking part again in 2018 and plans are beginning to take shape for a production of The Tempest next term.

## Duologue Drama Club

This year, Lixi Chivas from The Watermill Theatre has continued to run the Duologue Drama club on Tuesday evenings at Arlington Arts. The focus at the start of the year was on developing performance skills featuring visiting professionals such as Stephen Collins, (professional Deaf Actor), who led a session on characterisation; Chris Fonseca (professional Deaf Dancer), introduced the basic elements of hip-hop dance; Deaf Actress Charlotte Moulton-Thomas delivered a session on visual storytelling; they explored the blending of performance and communication styles with integrated performance specialist Ana Becker; while Mary Hare's Tony Trigwell-Jones (himself a successful theatre director) led a workshop on European clowning.

Towards the end of the summer term Duologue performed at The Watermill, Bagnor in a production that showcased the works of six outreach projects associated with the theatre. This was followed by a group trip to watch the theatre's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, as part of the theatre's ambition to share live theatre with every person who takes part in the outreach programme.



*Duologue Drama Club*



# Music

By Miss Kennett

Year 11 and 12 pupils were invited to a schools' concert at the Sheldonian in Oxford to watch Evelyn Glennie perform. We were also fortunate enough to have the opportunity to meet with her afterwards and ask her some questions. She talked about how she composes and how she practices a new piece and was inspirational, giving the students food for thought for their own studies. We heard 4 pieces. The first a drum solo 'Prim' played only on the snare drum showed everyone the range of sounds just one instrument could make. The second involved audience participation and we created a new piece of music with string players from Sweden and South Africa. We had an opportunity to watch a performance by Lydia Kavina, who played a Theramin. Lydia was taught at a very young age by the inventor of the instrument when he himself was 80 years old. Finally, an orchestra played a piece by Vaughan Williams. To hear such a variety of music in such a fantastic venue was a really fantastic opportunity and was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff.

# Trip to Cosmic Audio

As part of their studies, sixth form students Alex and Imogen spent the day working with Mark Ashfield at his professional studio in North London. Focusing on mixing and mastering music, the students explored professional standard equipment and music.

Alex said: *"We went to Cosmic Audio, a state-of-the-art recording studio in Epping. The site itself was based inside a warehouse and consisted of a studio and a band room. There we met with two producers, Mark and James, who spent the day with us. Under their tutelage, we gained a better understanding of music production topics like how phasing works, what Izotope Oz does and mastering basics. They showed us the best mixing techniques and the best output levels to use for producing a clear and enjoyable track. I enjoyed meeting Mark and James and I felt that it has helped me to get a better understanding of some of the topics we have been covering in lessons. It was useful to see it in the real world and I have been able to use it in my work already."*



Cosmic Audio



Angel rehearses for her performances

# Going public

This year we have had a number of opportunities to take pupils out to perform at public events. One included performing at a reception held at Woolley Park by the Newbury Agricultural Society. Mary Hare was the chosen charity for the Berkshire Agricultural show this year and it was an honour to perform for the society members. Angel and Razzaq impressed them with their performance of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'. Pupils also performed at the fundraising event at West Woodhay. The school band played 30 minutes of well-known tracks, including Highway to Hell and Lay me Down to an audience of local residents. They played with confidence and everyone was very impressed! Well done to Bethany, Tom, Angel, Imogen, Sam and Jayden.



# Instrument Lessons

This year over 50% of KS3 students have been learning a musical instrument, which they have had the opportunity to perform at the Christmas and Summer performances. We strongly advocate the value of learning a musical instrument for all children. Here are 10 reasons why:

- Learning an instrument increases memory skills
- It increases concentration
- It teaches perseverance and achievement
- It improves maths skills
- It can improve social skills
- It helps with listening skills
- It can develop an understanding of culture and history
- It gives them responsibility
- It encourages self-expression
- It helps improve co-ordination

Please register your interest for the next academic year with Miss Kennett.



Imogen - piano lessons



Jayden on the drums



Angel at the mixing desk

# Set Your Sights High

The 'Set Your Sights High' Award has become part of the fabric of the school. Pupils and staff have adopted it and I feel proud that it is gaining support and enthusiasm as the years roll on. The pupils know that this award is something special for those who have shown resilience and ambition. The posters around the school continue to be popular with pupils, visitors and staff and are regularly pointed out to visiting pupils as something to aspire to. Well done to all those who have received an award this year and to our guests at Speech Day.

Some of those who have received the Set your Sights High award this year:

**Maddie Hawes** - for achieving above predictions in Fine Art, Textiles and Photography - September 2017

**Victor Angafaa** - for working hard in Science - October 2017

**April Platt** - for having a mature attitude to English work - November 2017

**Jenny Sampson** - for enthusiasm and effort in Science - December 2017

**Alex Denny** - for working consistently hard in French - January 2018

**Imogen Gibbons** - for involvement in production and positive attitude to Music - January 2018

**Rebecca Hegedus** - for hard work in French and History - February 2018

**Christian Clark** - for getting his own photographs on BBC television as a young weather watcher - February 2018

**Riley Heath** - for working hard in Maths - March 2018

**Emma Jackson and Freya Connelly-Warne** - for dedication and perseverance in English - April 2018

And finally...

**Mr O'Regan and Mr Roberts** - nominated by Isabella Stone for helping her in her University application!



Maddie Hawes



April Platt



Victor Angafaa



Alex Denny



Mr Roberts and Mr O'Regan

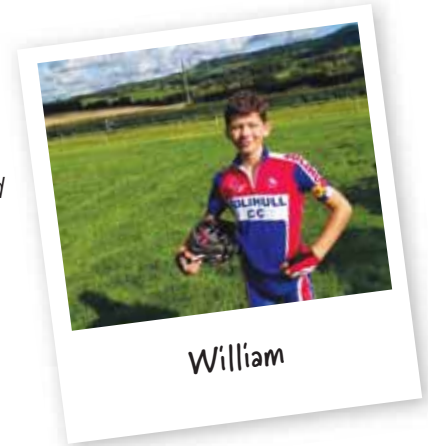
Set your Sights High

# William Goes for Gold!

William, (Year 9), has a real taste for cycling and is now enjoying the sport competitively. He entered his first bike race whilst at Mary Hare Primary School which gave him the initial bug. He remembers Ed taking him to the Banjo Cycles event in Newbury! Since then he has competed in a number of other competitions winning many races including three Midland regional events. *"I now have the bug for cycling!"* said William. *"I train on an indoor track using Laura Trott's old bike and have now joined a racing team called Mike Vaughan Cycles."*

William has a British Cycling Race Licence. He says that he loves cycling but realises that it can be a fast and dangerous sport - he broke his wrist in a recent crash.

We wish William well for all future races.



William

## Running for Charity

Jonas and Sileas completed a 2k run in Cardiff in March to raise money for Coles Diner. They both did extremely well to complete this run together and were delighted with the amount they raised. Well done to them both!



Sileas and Jonas proudly show their medals

## Getting the Chop

Aliyah Evans, Rebecca Mean, (both Year 11), India-Rose Appleton (Year 12) and Elanya Marsh, (Year 13) had their hair cut to raise money for The Little Princess Trust. Each girl had between 7 and 12 inches of hair cut off which was then put into a ponytail and sent off to the charity. The Princess Trust is a children's cancer charity which supplies wigs to children with cancer as well as children who have lost their hair because of another condition such as alopecia.

The girls said, *"we are all so glad to be able to do something to help the children who need a wig. We hope that it makes someone feel a bit happier at such a difficult time."*

Mary Hare is very proud of the girls and the courage and kindness they have shown is an inspiration to all.



Before and After



Now you see it...



...Now you don't!

# A Rising Star

Danny, (Year 9), has been quite busy this year breaking into the film industry! Danny successfully auditioned for a role in 'The Parts you Lose' starring alongside Aaron Paul and Elizabeth Winstead. Danny plays the part of a deaf boy, Wesley, who forges an unlikely friendship with a fugitive (Aaron Paul). Producer, Tom Williams said, *"Watching Danny on set, it was really hard to believe that this is his first film. As a person he has this wonderful, exuberant energy, but could transform effortlessly into the shy, withdrawn character in the movie."*



Danny at the Diana Awards

Everyone, especially Aaron Paul, was truly impressed with Danny's talent.' After submitting a two minute clip to the film company, Danny was invited to Canada for an audition. *"I went first class on the plane" he told us. "Once I was in Canada I met the Director and had to audition in front of a camera. I flew home after the audition and heard two days later that I had got the role of Wesley. I was so excited!"*



Actor Danny

Whilst in Canada filming, Danny visited some great places including Manitoba School for the Deaf, the Human Rights Museum and Manitoba Zoo. Probably one of the highlights of Danny's time in Canada was when he attended a Jets game where he got to press the buzzer live on TV!



The film is due to be released late 2018 or early 2019. We look forward to following Danny on his journey. Danny was also nominated for the Diana Award.

Set your Sights High

# Youth Speaks

This year Mary Hare fielded two teams in the Annual Youth Speaks competition held at a local level in its very own Arlington Arts theatre where this prestigious occasion has become a regular booking. The Intermediate team comprised Peter Walker, (main speaker), Roman Eminowicz, (Chair) and Aaron Bannister, (Vote of thanks). Their topic was 'Should gaming dominate your life?' Up against only one competitor they cruised to a comfortable victory and a place in the next round in Reading which took place after Christmas. These young novices proved witty, knowledgeable, charming and hilarious, the ideal combination for a Youth Speaks team. Much credit to Mrs Carmichael-Jones and Miss Blackett for their phenomenal support and guidance.

Mary Hare's other team, the Seniors, was made up of Maddie Molloy, (main speaker), Jessica Clark, (Vote of thanks) and Alliyah Evans, (Chair). They were pitched against four other teams and discussed whether Cannabis should be legalised in the UK or not. The winners, from Trinity, talked about the morality and economic issues of tax evasion. The girls put up a great battle and seemed so natural in their home setting. All credit to both the teams, and thanks to their family and friends who turned up to support. A good evening was had by all!!



Our intermediate team

# Coles Diner

## It's all happening at Coles

Coles Diner now has 36 Youth Club workers across Years 8 to 11. Pupils really enjoy being involved in the life and work of the Youth Club as well as loving to earn a bit of extra pocket money! All the pupils this year have embraced their new roles which include selling sweets at the sweet cart, waiting on tables, helping Kirilynn run the kitchen and even being members of security staff on the door!

Coles Diner is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays and gives pupils the chance to chill out and enjoy a range of snacks on the American Diner menu. Two of the all-time favourites have been the dirty fries with the Hawaiian toppings and the cookie caramel pie.

The Film Club on Wednesday nights has been a great success. Films have included action to comedy. Thursday nights have included special theme nights such as the honey theme, (including honeycomb ice cream and honey mustard chicken wraps). Larger events have included Beauty and the Beast sing-a-long in Arlington Arts. This was a great, fun event. A raffle with Beauty and the Beast themed prizes completed the evening.

Life skills is held on a Tuesday and we have 18 young people signed up learning towards a cooking qualification which has seen groups prepare fruit in an interesting way! Life skills helps to focus on important key skills to support the young people after school in Coles Diner.

Some great fundraising has taken place this year. We held a bingo evening at the end of the Christmas term for the life skills group to run. This raised over £85 which was matched by the Youth Club. Monies were used to decorate the Quiet Room and helped the life skills group to achieve their social action part of their young leadership course.



Rebecca as Belle



Life Skills Shark



Budding Chefs



Razzaq as the Beast

# Wild West Weekend

A group of 48 staff and pupils travelled to Oakerwood in Herefordshire on the May bank holiday weekend to complete 24 challenges, all falling under the theme of The Wild West. Accommodation was in camping pods. Activities ranged from low ropes to Krypton style challenges similar to that seen in the Crystal Maze! Kirilynn was cast as the Mayoress of Oakerwood town and her job was to write the challenges for her town members. Challenge packs were given out on the Friday evening giving each team the chance to organise their tactics! The four teams made up of pupils from Year 7 to Year 12 and staff members were, Blue Ninjas, Green and Mean, Yin Yang and the Orange Satsumas. The competitive spirit sprang into action with a shootout!

Each time a challenge was completed a resource bag was given. Resource bags included miner rocks, gold and gems. One of the most popular games was the trading card game with the Green-eyed snake bandits being the most sourced cards - characters included members of the senior management team. Mr Gale was, at one point, traded for 10 gems!

The weekend was full of funny moments, great team spirit and lots of hard work. Kirilynn was so impressed by the Year 7's who attended that she has offered them jobs in the Youth Club next year! Well done to all involved and a special thank you to Kirilynn for once again organising such a great event. The weekend raised an amazing sum of £3,979.39. Monies raised will go the Youth Club which is such a hub for the pupils at Mary Hare.



Thomas and Benedict practising their shaving techniques



Green and Mean team practising looking mean!

# Fundraising

The money raised over the last year has helped refurbish the school fitness room that is used in the evenings. Kirilynn decorated the gym and bought new equipment under the guidance of Cheryl Colby to make sure that the space is more useable in school and in the evening. A little bit of behind the scenes about where the money goes:

- 36 children working in the youth club paying their wages, uniform and training opportunities
- 10 children completing a young leadership qualification
- 18 children completing life skills cooking Asdan qualification
- 5 6th Formers completing a life guard qualification, paying their wages, uniform and training opportunities
- 1 6th Form coaching opportunities for the children to work with our evening club coaches and being paid a wage as a swimming coach
- Refurbishment of the fitness room with new equipment for the evening clubs and PE lessons
- An outside table tennis table / arcade machine / table football for the youth club for the children to enjoy
- Games, activities and prizes for the young people attending the youth club
- Funding an Easter event and Christmas party with gifts for the children of Happy Days and HD Gamers Den 25-35 families across West Berkshire living with autism, ADHD or deafness
- Providing funding for activity boxes for all the young people in the houses after school In the evenings to use with care staff includes treats, crafts and cooking ingredients
- Buying new sports equipment and games for use in the gym for the houses after school including dodge balls and yoga mats



Look what we bought for the Quiet Room



Ready for action





# Wellbeing

By Charlie Hadley

The Wellbeing Department is a fairly new department at Mary Hare made up of the Wellbeing Coordinator and two ELSA's (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants). As well as doing 1:1 work with pupils, group sessions and teaching whole classes, the department arranges a variety of whole school events promoting a better understanding of how to look after your wellbeing. Thanks to fundraising by Coles Diner and the Life Skills Group, the Quiet Room has had a facelift this year. The pupils from the Life Skills group not only fundraised but also designed, shopped for and decorated the room. This is an invaluable space for pupils to use.



Love to Learn  
Fayre - First Aid



Mr Gale encourages  
all to love sudoku



Mr Trigwell - Jones  
is off the blocks!

## 5 Ways to Wellbeing

This year we launched the whole school ethos around the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. Research shows that by including the five areas in your lifestyle your wellbeing stays healthy and resilient. To launch the ethos we had a Wellbeing Week. On the Monday it was Learn where we held a 'Love to Learn' Fayre at lunchtime with lots of stalls. There were animals, science experiments, pompom making, clay work and juggling. Tuesday celebrated Connect by having a whole school assembly which talked about the importance of connecting with others. Cross Country happened on Wednesday to celebrate Active. Thursday saw a hunting game around the school to support Notice and we finished on Friday with a non-school uniform day and cake sale to mark Give.

## Revision Tips & De-Stress Evening

As GCSE's approach, it can be a very stressful time for all. After the success of the evening organised last year, the Head of Year 11 and Charlie Hadley ran another drop-in workshop this year. This year the focus was on different ways to revise such as making timetables and flashcards to making up raps! Important tips on looking after yourself and de-stressing were also given.



## World Mental Health Day

To celebrate World Mental Health Day we had a VIP come to visit. Gemma Cairney, radio and TV presenter and author of 'Open' gave an assembly to the whole school. The assembly followed the theme of her book, 'how magic and messed up life can be' and covered the seven ways that we can look after our mental health and wellbeing.

There was a question and answer session for Years 10 and 11 afterwards and all found the visit inspiring.



Gemma Cairney signs copies of her book

## Do Good, Feel Good Club

Throughout the year we run a lunchtime club. Its aim is to encourage small acts of kindness around the school and in the local community. By being kind and helpful to others it makes you and others feel good.

This year we took dogs for a walk, cleaned wellies for the Geography department, planted seeds and made over 50 Christmas shoe boxes for the local women's refuge.



Audience participation.



Do Good, Feel Good



# Mary Hare Primary School

It has been a very busy year at Mary Hare Primary School as always. We are delighted that the Mary Hare Primary Appeal has been launched and now look towards our next chapter of a new Primary School on the Secondary School site. The children have been wonderful in supporting some of the key fundraising initiatives from singing at the launch event as well as the West Woodhay Gala Dinner, to appearing in our very own film which was entered for the Charity Film Awards. Well done to all the children and staff who worked so hard.

## Finalists in the Charity Film Awards 2018

This year we produced and made a film to launch our Primary Appeal which we then entered for The Charity Film Awards 2018. The film featured a group of Mary Hare Primary pupils in a boardroom scene discussing the merits of a new primary school. They, (the Board Members), discussed the merits of the new site, what facilities were required and, most importantly, how the money could be raised.

The children rehearsed their lines well and showed great confidence and skill during the filming and, most of all, had fun in the process. We were delighted that our film made it to the shortlist in our category. Mrs Robinson and Miss Ogg attended the award evening on May 11th with fingers crossed that we had won. However, although we were pipped at the post by another charity we were immensely proud to have got that far and are very proud of the film which continues to be used at fundraising events for the Primary Appeal and continues to pull at heart strings! Thank you to all those who voted for us.

Pam Robinson commented, "over 400,00 charities entered these awards and we are talking big organisations such as McMillan Nurses and Save the Children so we did remarkably well getting to the finals. I felt very proud of our pupils as I talked to people about the film. Everybody commented about the children's speech, humour and clear enthusiasm for their school."



Lights, camera & action!



Mrs Robinson & Miss Ogg at the Awards Event

# Healthy Lifestyle

Healthy lifestyles has been the theme for the summer term's assemblies at the primary. The children have been thinking about healthy minds-what makes us happy and our responsibilities to support others and healthy bodies- eating sensibly, drinking plenty of water and physical exercise. The term ended with a 'healthy lifestyle' week, during which time they were able to take part in lots of physical activities including jogging, skipping, bike riding and a multi-gym. The week started with pupils making their own lunches on Monday and ended with a dance exhibition by some of the Year 6 pupils together with some other children from a local independent school.



Do we think he is convinced?

# Children in Need

This year the primary school had great fun replicating the rickshaw challenge from the BBC One Show. They borrowed an exercise bike, which they kept going all day.

By the end of the day they had ridden the equivalent of Newbury to Manchester in miles and raised £320.

Thanks go to the men in the ear mould labs, Mr Askew, staff and parents for joining in the fun.



Maria cycling and smiling



Nuala keeps pedalling



Mr Askew in motion!

# Well Done

All our pupils get a chance to shine throughout the year in one way or another. We would like to highlight some of those achievements.

Well done to pupils who won **1st prize in The Newbury Agricultural Show challenge** to make an item from recycled materials with their bird homes from old teapots.

Well done to Mary Hare Primary for being one of ten schools chosen to **decorate a giant Easter bunny** which were on display in and around Newbury town centre.

Well done to our **Cross-Country team** consisting of pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 for competing in a cross-country event at Newbury Showground.

Well done to our **Archery team** for coming 2nd out of nine schools in a schools' archery competition.



Almost bullseye!



Cross country



Our wonderful teapot bird houses!



# Topic Curriculum

This school year has seen the pupils studying a range of topics including Animal habitats, Crime and Punishment, The Titanic, Greece, The Romans, Volcanoes etc. Alongside this they have been developing their writing skills by using 'Talk4Writing.' We have all been impressed with the children's increased enthusiasm to write. A special mention must go to Nuala Trainor in Year 4 who has written this sensitive piece about caring for our environment.

## The Great Ocean Story

By Nuala Trainor

One sunny morning, a family came to a long dappled sandy beach. The parents were carrying the bags and the children were eating sweets, giggling along the edge of the waves. Moments before, the ocean was alive with the sounds of splashing dolphins and squawking seagulls. Now, all was quiet as a mouse. However, one little girl threw her sweet wrappers into the beautiful ocean. Suddenly, a tiny baby fish came rushing excitedly and put the wrapper in his mouth. As quick as a flash, the little fish spat it out. "Yuck!" said the fish and swam off angrily.

A few moments later, many more rotten sweet wrappers were dumped in the ocean by the thoughtless little girl. Then an unhappy dolphin swam around looking worried at the rubbish. The dolphin told her friend about the wrappers and her friend replied "If even more rubbish was being dumped in the ocean, we may die."

After a while, the grumpy dolphin found out that it was the little girl that was throwing the rubbish into the ocean the whole time. While her family went to fetch the ice creams, the little girl lay on the towel and the hissing sun had lulled her to sleep. Meanwhile, a small red crab walked to the girl, frowning and whispered into the little girl's ear, "please do not throw those rotten rubbish in our tropical ocean or else the sea animals will die by choking with the rubbish in their throats!"

Slowly, the girl opened her eyes and stretched her arms. She ate another sweet and tried to throw the rubbish into the waves of the ocean, but she stopped and looked around her. She looked at the sparkling ocean, the worried dolphins, the glorious mermaid and the sea animals and she remembered what she had heard in her sleep. When her family returned with the ice creams, she saw her family and explained what had happened. Her mum frowned at the girl and walked quickly to the sea and picked up the rubbish. She demanded the girl to help her and they all left with the girl feeling guilty. She promised that she wouldn't litter ever again and would always try to look after mother Earth and the animals.



Nuala Trainor

# Speech and Language and Audiology

## Teaching Vocabulary

By Hannah Wrench

With the introduction of the Vocabulary Policy the Speech and Language Therapists have engaged pupils in the learning of new vocabulary in their jointly taught English lessons across Years 7, 8 and 9.

The pupils have been learning 'Emotions Vocabulary' and, more recently, have been learning vocabulary to do with 'Language for Thinking and Learning.'

To help with speech and to practice saying the words, the pupils have been taught how to syllabify words and how to phonetically transcribe according to rules devised at Mary Hare. To help with language they have generated groups of synonyms to show which words have a similar meaning and have practised using the words in sentences. To help embed the new vocabulary, the pupils have been taught in a multi-modal approach appealing to different learning styles such as visual, auditory, reading/writing and kinaesthetic. They have been taking part in discussions, role play, generating and recreating stories, and engaging in practical and physical activities, for example, to learn the word 'cooperate' and 'collaborate'.

Above all, we have been working on developing the pupils' curiosity for learning new vocabulary; encouraging them to ask questions and use the words in different contexts. The benefit of a whole school approach to vocabulary learning is that all the staff can help the pupils to generalise their understanding to outside of the classroom, as demonstrated on the ski-trip over Easter when one pupil said she felt 'ecstatic'.



Team work



A great discussion point

## Transition Workshops

The Ewing Foundation visited Mary Hare Secondary School in April to run a number of workshops. These are aimed at supporting pupils who are due to leave the school this year. Pupils at Mary Hare are extremely lucky with the support they get from our Audiology department, making sure that their cochlear implants and hearing aids work properly and ensuring they have the best access to speech using our Group Hearing Aid. Leaving Mary Hare is a big step for many pupils each year. The Audiology department, headed by Ms Ogg, works very closely with a number of external businesses to help support our pupils. One of these is The Ewing Foundation who came and ran a workshop which introduced the leaving pupils to the different types of technology available to them as they enter the world of further study or work.

One pupil, April, commented, "there are microphones which can connect to hearing aids and cochlears which is amazing!", whilst another, Victor, said, "this equipment will help me to hear well. I have a better understanding of what is available and the equipment is better and will develop more in the future."



Technology explained

# Social Thinking

By Charlie Mellor

Our Speech and Language Therapy team have been looking at developing 'Social Thinking' skills in hearing impaired pupils and the benefits of teaching 'Social Thinking' to our pupils.

## What is 'social thinking'?

You've probably heard the term 'social skills'. This usually refers to turn taking, eye contact, body language and tone of voice - all the things we can see somebody doing 'on the outside'. But before we can expect a child to learn 'social skills', they need to have developed a deeper understanding of why we do these things; this is 'social thinking'. Social thinking is something that we cannot see or hear, but the thought processes that go on 'behind the scenes'.

It's a bit like looking at a tree. Eye contact, facial expression and turn taking are like the green leaves we can see, but these things wouldn't exist unless there was an extensive network of roots hidden below the ground supporting the tree. These roots are like our social thinking.

## Social thinking and deafness:

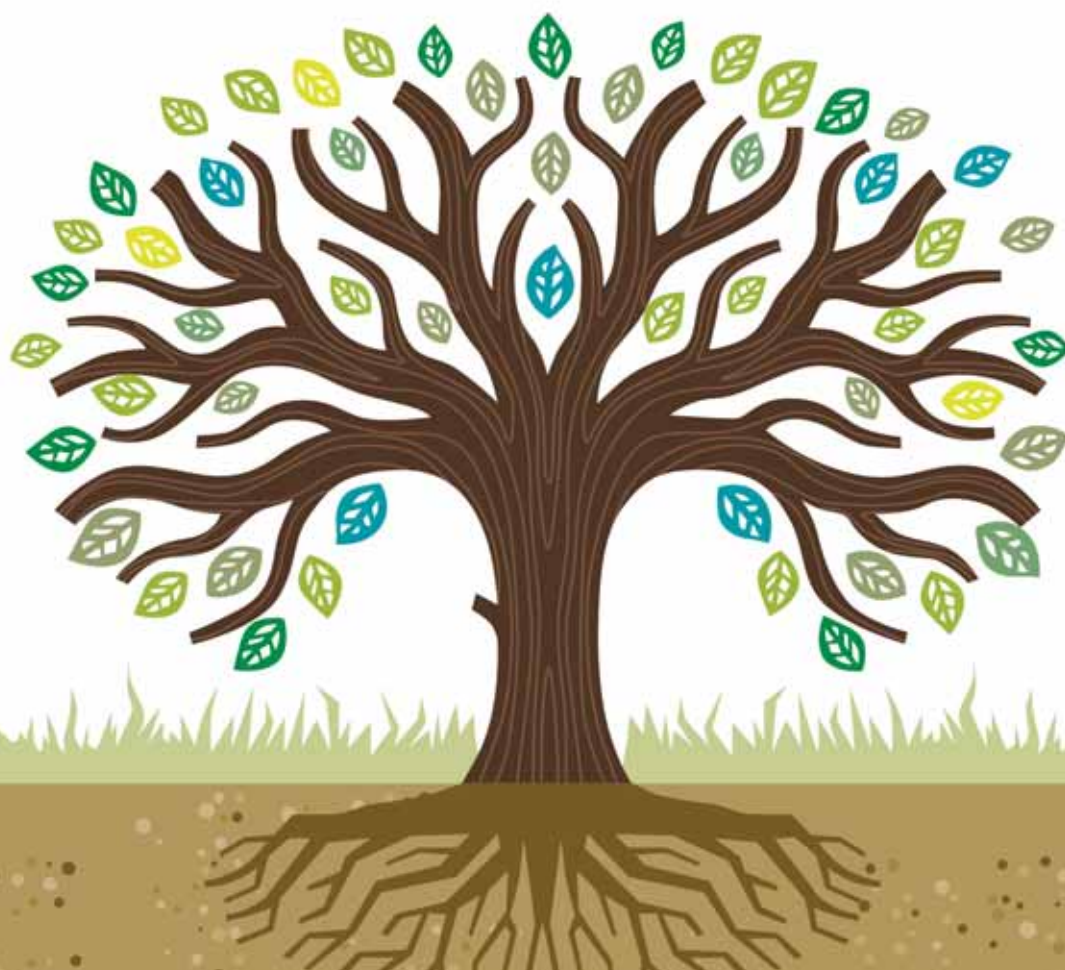
Social thinking is typically learned by hearing children with little effort starting at a young age. These skills are shaped by children watching others and having other people react to their behaviour. How we learn social skills is based

on very subtle cues, such as facial expression, body posture and quiet auditory cues. Because of their smaller "listening bubbles" children with hearing loss do not pick up language and the subtle aspects of interactions going on around them as fully as their hearing peers.

## When do we use social thinking?

We practice social thinking all day long! Essentially, we use social thinking whenever we think about the perspective of another person. Below are some examples.

- At work - when we become aware that by loudly sipping our coffee we may be bothering our colleagues.
- At the supermarket - when we move our trolley away from the middle of the aisle so other shoppers can pass by.
- Watching TV - when we follow the story by understanding how the characters interpret each other's behaviour and how that then influences their own behaviour.



## Social Thinking (continued)

### Why is social thinking important?

We often take it for granted, but having the ability to be a 'social thinker' is a core skill which allows us to better connect with others. Social thinking allows us to effectively share space with others, work as part of a team, and develop relationships of all kinds: with family, friends, classmates, work colleagues, and more.

### How Social Thinking fits in at Mary Hare:

Over the past 2 years our Year 7, 8 and 9 classes have been completing a series of English/Speech Therapy lessons based on 'Social Thinking'. More specifically, developing their ability to identify and recognise their own, and other people's behaviors as being either 'expected' or 'unexpected'. They have been learning that if you behave in an 'expected' way, then you, and others around you will feel calm, relaxed, and content and think of you in a positive way. However, behaviour that is 'unexpected' such as arriving late, being rude, not saying please/thank you will make others around you feel upset, annoyed, or uncomfortable, and may result in another person thinking of you in a negative way.

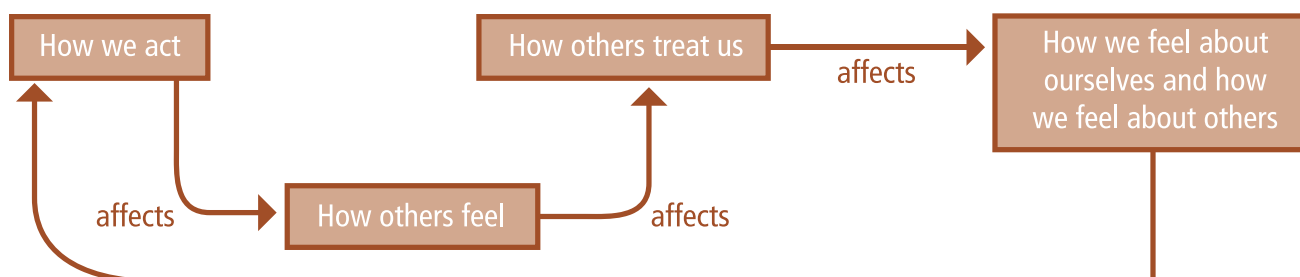
Some of our pupils benefit from colour coding expected behaviours in green and unexpected behaviours in red. We use jars and coloured LEGO bricks to identify 'expected/unexpected' behaviours live in the classroom to help the pupils to acknowledge when even subtle behaviours (e.g. pulling a face) are impacting on other people's thoughts/feelings.

We want our pupils to realise that our behaviour and attitude directly impact how others feel about us and therefore affects how we are treated. We must treat others well to benefit from the same treatment.



### How you can support your child's Social Thinking skills:

- Put your thoughts on loudspeaker: Tell your child what you're thinking and how you're feeling and explain why. This will help your son/daughter understand how your thoughts affect the decisions you make.
- Encourage self-awareness: Point out when their behaviour might be affecting others and explain why: For example, when travelling on a bus you might suggest that they put their bag on the floor because another passenger might like to sit in the seat beside them.
- Reinforce good social behaviours: Be specific about what he/she does well! Praise the level of effort as well as their output.
- Be a good role model: Use good social skills yourself, and make it obvious when you're doing this i.e. saying "I'm just going to hold the door open for this older lady because..."



### Speech Therapy blogs and Parent information sheets

To find information and ideas for supporting your son/daughter's communication skills at home, you can access our half termly Speech therapy blogs and information sheets via the following link:  
<https://www.maryhare.org.uk/admissions/useful-downloads>



# Communication Skills in Blount Hall

By Amy Smith

Last summer, the Speech Therapists ran a communication skills project. Staff and students had noticed that pupils were not always showing good communication skills at lunchtimes in Blount Hall e.g. eye contact, greetings and saying please/thank you.

We therefore launched the Blount Hall communication skills project! Firstly, we observed students at lunchtimes to assess communication skills. We were surprised by some of the results; for example, only 3% of students greeted kitchen staff, and only 23% smiled.

Our next step was to create a presentation to show all students. We filmed role-plays of 'expected' and 'unexpected' communication skills in Blount Hall, and students discussed these. They also talked about good communication skills and their importance, as these skills will help them outside Mary Hare too!

The Speech Therapists talked with the kitchen and care staff, to tell them about the project and discuss how they could get involved. The main points were being good communication role models and encouraging students to follow their example. After the project had been put in place, the Speech Therapists observed pupils again. We found some improvements! For example, greetings increased from 3-10% and smiling from 23-32%. This was great progress, but it was clear that we needed to continue working with staff to ensure progress continued.

This year, all new pupils have been shown the communication skills presentation. We have also continued working with kitchen and care staff, and all staff are more aware of being good role models and encouraging good communication skills at mealtimes. Pupils have been working on their skills in Form time and through discussions in class and in Speech Therapy. We would like pupils to continue working on these skills at home and during the holidays - what a great life skill to have!

# Makeover Challenge for Audiology

The Audiology department has been relocated adjacent to the Burwood centre and now has an improved working space which is greatly appreciated by both staff and pupils. Pupils have commented on the fresh and contemporary feel of the space. The Year 10 GCSE Graphics group have been working on designs and products for the department which, we hope to have in place for the opening later in the term.

Some of the pieces the pupils have been working on are:

Coffee mugs by Jonny Geikie Cobb

A cushion by Setayesh Kamrani

An umbrella by Joel Greenfield

Badges by Jack Swabey

A sign by Norika Dambrauskaite

What a lovely way of personalising this space!



Imogen remembering to smile



Our wonderful catering team



The Makeover Team!



Katrina's individually designed mural



Charlie's designer bag



# Fundraising

## We've Launched!

Last year we launched our Primary School Appeal at Englefield House, family home to Richard Benyon MP and Foundation Trustee. This is our first appeal in eight years and the biggest one to date! The aim is to build a new primary school on the Snelmore campus, the site of the Secondary School, with a target completion date of 2020. The appeal is to raise £6 million, some of which will come from the sale of the existing building.

The new primary school will bring even greater benefits to children who are deaf, improving their outcomes and inspiring them to achieve even more. The state of the art building will be built on the main school campus overlooking the secondary site. With its distinct horseshoe shape, the classrooms in the new school will look out over the countryside. An internal courtyard will bind the outer parts of the building and will provide an ideal space for socialising, choir practice and outside projects.

The boarding facilities will be separate yet close to the school building, which is on one level, providing easy access for children who may have additional mobility needs.

The current Primary School is situated in a Grade 2\* listed building at Greenham. Sadly, this building no longer meets our needs and is difficult to maintain. The intention will be to take the best of the old school and put it into a new bespoke building with state of the art Speech & Language and Audiology suites, ensuring our children get the additional support they deserve. There will be additional space for 1:1 or small group sessions and all rooms will be acoustically treated with up to date modern facilities. Significant savings on utilities and maintenance costs will make a huge difference to us.

Guests at the launch appeal included Pippa Middleton, Ambassador for the school and Richard Benyon, MP, along with other dignitaries and people involved with this exciting project. Pippa commented, 'there are many good reasons to support the Primary School project and I am delighted that the Appeal launch has been so successful. The launch has been a great success.' Mr Gale added, 'the advantages of moving to a new school on our campus are considerable, not least in making it easier for staff from the two departments to work together and bring their expertise to benefit all of our pupils. We have been very happy in Greenham and will keep fond memories of our time there, but it is time for us to have a 21st century school.'

Presentations were given by Peter Gale, Principal and CEO, the Architect, Andrew Fifield and Kirsten Loyd, Chairman of Trustees. In addition, some primary pupils gave a wonderful performance singing two songs for all present. The presentations concluded with our launch video including a boardroom scene enacted by the Primary pupils which reduced many to tears. Since the Appeal was launched and at the time of going to print, we have raised almost £500,000 towards our target. To view the launch video in full go to [www.maryhare.org.uk/primaryappeal](http://www.maryhare.org.uk/primaryappeal)



Pippa gives thumbs up for our new Primary School



Preparing for the guests



We've launched



# West Woodhay Gala Evening

The first major event towards the Primary School Appeal took place on Friday 27th April in the ground of West Woodhay House. 330 guests filled a beautiful marquee for a three-course meal, entertainment from some of the primary pupils and a live auction. Sophie-Jade Woods also gave a talk on how Mary Hare had changed her life, drawing on things such as having real friends, not feeling different any more and being in an environment where she could reach her potential. There is certainly nothing more galvanising for this appeal than listening to a pupil's own words!

Some of the primary school children performed a number of songs for the audience, again, creating an emotionally charged atmosphere. The audience were visibly moved and all gave generously via individual pledges and bids in the online and live auctions. The total raised from this event was £210,000, the most raised from any individual fundraising event to date.

A big thank you goes out to the Fundraising team at Mary Hare, to Harry and Sarah Henderson for providing the venue and to Kirsten Loyd and her fundraising committee members for making the event such a success. A huge thanks to our sponsors and donors for their very generous support without which the evening would not have happened.

Kirsten Loyd said 'the evening was a huge success and the children performed beautifully. Everyone's hard work paid off. All who attended said what a wonderful evening it was.'



Our Primary School choir



Performing to 330 guests



Pippa supports the appeal



Sophie-Jade gets ready to speak



The VIP guests start to arrive!



Kirsten Loyd chats to Lord Carnarvon

# Family Fun Day

On Sunday 29th April, we held a Family Fun Day in the grounds of West Woodhay House and making use of the marquee which had been erected for the Gala Dinner on the Friday evening. The event was well attended by local families. Students from the senior school performed a collection of songs.

We had lots of stalls including a chocolate tombola and cake decorating, a bouncy slide, a BBQ and a pizza stand. A Mini Olympics was also on offer. Local businesses such as Camp Hopson, Jump Factory and The Honesty Bakery supported our raffle with some wonderful prizes.

The day raised £1500.



# Challenges and Events

We are always delighted when our parents, staff and supporters get behind us in our fundraising by undertaking challenges and events for Mary Hare. We thank you for all your support and generosity.

## Fundraising Challenges

### Paul Woods

Paul Woods, father of Sophie-Jade one of our pupils, ran the incredible Marathon des Sables in April to raise money for the Mary Hare Foundation. The 160 mile marathon is across the Sahara where temperatures reached 50 degrees. Mr Woods said, 'I had mixed feelings crossing the finish line, it was a surreal experience after 18 months of training... I have left the Sahara with the knowledge that anything is possible with the right frame of mind. Runners had to carry their rations on their backs. Mr Woods commented, 'Mary Hare has changed my daughter's life'. He raised over £1000 with more funds rolling in. A huge thank you to Paul and all his efforts.



Paul Woods

**Hannah Spake**, Auntie of a Primary School pupil, ran the Great South Run for the second time and raised £500 towards the Primary School Appeal.



Hannah Spake

**Suki Mali** walked the length of the Thames in July by walking the entire 'Thames Path' (184 miles) in 8 days. She has raised over £3,000



Suki Mali

**Heather Fowler** ran the Great South Run in October 2017 to raise money for the PTA. She continues to raise funds for the PTA and plans some more runs in the future.



Heather Fowler

**Jane McMillan**, our Development Director joined some friends to walk part of the Camino de Santiago route through Northern Spain of around 150km. Jane raised £500 towards the Primary Appeal.



Jane McMillan

Fundraising



## Fundraising Events

### Wear it Loud

Every year we have a 'Wear it Loud' day for Deaf Awareness Week at Mary Hare when school uniform is banished and staff and pupils put on their loudest clothes! This year a total of £185 was raised between both schools which will go towards the Primary School Appeal.



Wear it Loud at Secondary

### Welford Park Snowdrop Event

Welford Park, home of The Great British Bake Off, open their gardens annually for visitors to see their wonderful snowdrop gardens and woodland. Welford Park kindly made The Mary Hare Foundation a beneficiary on one of their Sundays in February. We received £4000 from the gate money on that day and a further £300 from the raffle which we ran. Thank you to the Puxleys for their support.



Welford Park snowdrops

### Royal County of Berkshire Show

We were delighted to be the official chosen charity of the year this year. Thanks to Kirsten Loyd, President of the Royal County of Berkshire Show for nominating us. We had a stand in the main exhibitor's enclosure which was visited by lots of people. The 'Guess how many earmoulds in the jar' competition drew lots of attention! Some of our vocational pupils were involved in the main arena and our Primary School put up a wonderful display of their work which focussed on celebrating the potato! Their display included potato print bags, potato models and the centre piece was an amazing 'Mr Potato Head' model!

As always, The Newbury Show was a success and testament to our pupils' strengths and development in the world outside Mary Hare.

We have received £21,308 in donations!



Manning the stand at the Royal County of Berkshire Show



Crowds at the Show



Mr Potato Head for the Royal County of Berkshire Show

## Trusts and Foundations

The Mary Hare Foundation has a large number of regular supporters who support our fundraising appeals. The Primary School Appeal has already seen a number of grants from both 'friends' and new donors. We are grateful to all those that have already made a donation.

# People News

## Pam Robinson

By Peter Gale

Pam joined the school as Head of the Primary at the same time that I took up the position of Principal. It is greatly to her credit, that in a time of considerable change, she quickly earned the respect and trust of pupils, parents and colleagues. Pam had already worked at Mary Hare Primary as a teacher but had since moved on to a range of specialist positions. She inherited a happy and successful school, but also, within weeks, a significant challenge from Ofsted. Pam led her team in much hard work to move to a more evidence based approach to teaching and learning.



Pam Robinson

Pam is at her happiest when she is with the deaf children she cares so much about. It is nigh on impossible to visit Pam in her office without a proud young person coming in to show her their work or to talk about their day.

In her four years, Pam has initiated great things like 'wake up shake up', the behaviour management 'Going for Green' and the amazing summer overnight camp in the grounds.

## Emily Barton

By Miss McKenna



Emily Barton

Emily Barton joined Mary Hare 24 years ago to teach textiles in both the design technology and the art & design departments. She brought a tremendous sense of fun and excitement to the subject and her unconventional and inspirational approach developed a greater depth of enquiry and introduced many students and staff to the intricacies and marvels of the medium of textiles.

Emily, the ever-creative artist was rarely to be seen without carrying some knitting or sewing that she was working on. Her pieces are enigmatic narratives that relate to personal events and experiences. This is how she involved pupils in their work, enabling them to see how they mattered and how they could tell their story.

Within the art & design department Emily has been an inspirational teacher, with boundless sophisticated knowledge of the subject and an ability to perceive students' understanding and ability even before they were aware of it themselves. She has happily transferred her skills and supported many staff with the teaching of the subject over the years.

Emily has worked tirelessly for the school as well as teaching all year groups she has contributed to the whole of school life including creating costumes for school productions, helped with exhibitions and marketing events. She believes in the wellbeing of the whole person and her consultation sofa has been available for many pupils and staff.

Many of Emily's students have achieved great success in their exams and gone on to study textiles in various forms at Art College. She has always been enormously proud of their achievements.

Emily's retirement will be a tremendous loss to the school, but we know she will move on to experience new creative challenges and bring great happiness to many others.

## Pam Swift

By Paul Jackson

We are sadly saying goodbye to Pam Swift who is retiring at the end of this academic year. Pam has been at Mary Hare for 24 years and has worked tirelessly during her time with us ensuring the pupils and houses benefit from her caring approach and commitment. She has a wide range of interests varying from a deep passion for rugby, walking and, in recent years, undertook a charity bike ride across Africa!

Pam is a popular figure around Mary Hare campus and can often be found scurrying from building to building in an endeavour to make sure that all is running smoothly. In retirement, Pam is planning to start by undertaking international travel and although she will be sorely missed, we are sure she will keep us updated on her latest adventure.



Pam Swift

## John Boyd

By Mr Robinson

John Boyd will be retiring at the end of this term after 28 years of dedicated service to Mary Hare School. He began his career as a member of care staff in 1990 with responsibility for the sixth form boys. It was during this time that John was able to pursue an emerging interest in photography and subsequently undertook a series of photographic courses at Newbury College.

Thanks to the support of Tony Shaw and the late Con Powell, John was encouraged to introduce photography as an academic and practical discipline in the sixth form in 1993, making the transition from care to a full time member of the teaching staff. He has since taught photography to many pupils, overseen the development of this curriculum area and embraced technological changes and theoretical perspectives with passionate commitment.

Whilst always attending to his professional duties, John has never lost his sense of humour and whatever subject arises from general conversation, he has always been able to make a humorous and mostly appropriate contribution... This, coupled with his good-natured demeanour, insatiable appetite for his subject and a commitment to the education of hearing impaired children, means that John will be sorely missed by colleagues and by students - all of whom have been lucky enough to be recipients of his enthusiasm and kindness.



John Boyd

## Paul Leverton

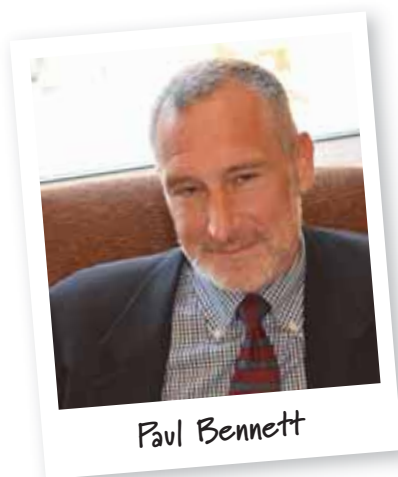
By Paul Jackson

Paul stepped down as Catering Manager in May. Paul had been at Mary Hare for 11 years and had been an integral part of the organisation from school, to events to summer school. We will miss Paul's powerful presence by the trays in Blount Hall!

We wish Paul well and hope he is enjoying the break.



Paul Leverton



## Paul Bennett

By Miss Leach

Mr Bennett has been at Mary Hare for many years, as the Head of Religious Studies and teaching History. Mr Bennett's knowledge of historical events and world affairs is excellent, this has made him a firm favourite of our pupils over the years. His calm, gentle and patient nature makes him an excellent teacher of the deaf. Pupils and staff can go to Mr Bennett for advice as he is a good listener and always has useful advice. Mr Bennett created a lunchtime group, The Christian Fellowship, which many pupils have come to enjoy and look forward to. We all admire him for his optimism and positive attitude in life. I know the pupils also really enjoy his lessons for the yummy sweets and doughnuts.

We will miss the wise and wonderful Mr Bennett, who definitely doesn't look old enough to retire! Come back and visit us often Mr B.

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## Elaine Bush

By Mr Davies

We were very sad to say goodbye to Elaine Bush when she left at Christmas. She has left a big gap in the Science Department where she was a much loved teacher and role model, appreciated by all the students she worked with. Elaine has kept in touch since she left and is excitedly preparing for her Wedding this summer.

We wish her every success in both her marriage and her future ventures where she hopes to continue working with Hearing Impaired Children.

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## Suzie Davies

By Mr Davies

Suzie Davies will also be leaving the science department this summer. Suzie has suffered with ill health for a number of years and sadly has decided that her illness has made it too difficult to continue working with our pupils.

Suzie is a patient teacher who has a skill for keeping all students motivated regardless of their ability. She hopes to continue working in education and we hope that her health improves sufficiently to allow her to restart her career.

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## Goodbye to some of our TAs

By Liesl Britten

We've said a fond farewell to four members of the Teaching Assistants' team this year.

**Clare Hallcup** worked at Mary Hare for three and a half years and made a huge difference to the lives of our LEGS+ students.

**Angela Delahaye** joined Mary Hare in 2014 and worked closely with a number of GCSE students.

**Maurice Laneres** left us at Easter this year. An ex-Mary Hare pupil, Maurice was able to understand the everyday challenges of deafness.

Lastly we say goodbye to **Liam McCreesh** who is leaving us at the end of the summer term. After two years supporting GCSE students Liam is heading for a new challenge at a school in York. Liam is also hearing impaired and has made an enormous difference to the students he supported.

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# News from our Alumni

## The Crystal Maze Gang

By Will Ogden

Will Ogden and his former Mary Hare classmates, Philip Swift, Sam Arnold, Simon Wilkins and Andrew Cochran, recently took part in The Crystal Maze. Will tells us how it all came about.

The Crystal Maze has always been a quirky and eccentric show. It was right up my street! I had always found it fascinating when Richard O'Brien used to host the show. Last year, in 2017 after a successful charity one off special, C4 decided to bring it back for a brand-new series and they encouraged the public to apply. They announced a new host, Richard Ayoade, who we were huge fans of. Without thinking, I decided to apply for us to go on the show.

It wasn't long until we were asked to come for an audition in West Kensington. It was a wonderful sunny afternoon and we were in the best of moods and felt very positive. We were very nervous but we decided to have the 'life is too short' approach to the audition. The Casting Producer, Daisy, loved us for our mutual love of music, attending festivals, how we had all met at Mary Hare and how we continue to be best friends - just about! The audition was a huge success and we were allocated a date for us to film our episode at The Bottle Yard Studios in Bristol.

We travelled down to Bristol, we each had our own room and decided to go out for a drink to calm our nerves. We all felt like rock stars as it was all paid for by C4! The next morning, we were picked up and taken to the studios into our very own green room where we met Richard Ayoade, Daisy, the Director, the Producer and many other members of the film crew. They were all very kind and accommodating. It was touching to know that Richard Ayoade had watched and learnt the sign language for 'welcome to the Crystal Maze' from our audition clip too.

When we were filmed, it felt so quick. Everything was live and our games were only taken in one shoot. We had to agree beforehand who was going to do the Mystery, Mental, Physical and Skill before each game and to allow each of us to have a shot at different categories. It was extremely difficult being under pressure. It was a surreal but fantastic experience that we will always remember. We had such a laugh! We were honoured to be part of C4's improved coverage to have more diversity and inclusion. This just goes to show that no matter what your age, background or disability, everyone needs to see themselves on screen to reflect representing more of our audience on TV. If you see something you want to do - go for it! The episode was aired on 29th April but you can see the boys on catch up on All 4. Love it!



*Will, Philip, Sam,  
Simon and Andrew*

# Eddie Cleere

After leaving Mary Hare, I joined Exeter University to study English and French Law. I've just finished my first year and the experiences I've had over the past year have been incredible. From studying an intellectually rewarding subject to making new friends, the opportunities that come from being a university student have helped broaden my horizons and have given me a great sense of independence both academically and socially.

The fact that I study English Law and French Law has enriched my learning in becoming fluent in two languages and two opposing legal systems present around the world. This is an advantage which will help me stand out from the crowd when applying for legal work experience and future employment opportunities.

From a social perspective, I have made many friends who come from a diverse range of backgrounds through societies and on my course. University has so far been a great experience, and it will be exciting to see what next year brings.



*Eddie Cleere*

# Jamie Wilson

Jamie, who currently lives in Dublin, left Mary Hare in 1996. Jamie has been coaching football on a professional basis for nearly 20 years.

After leaving Mary Hare he went to Coventry University where he achieved a BSc in Sport Science. After this he went to the University of Ulster where he gained an MSc in Sport and Exercise Science. Jamie has held many coaching positions including for the Football Association of Ireland, Crusaders football club and Dundela football club, both professional clubs in Northern Ireland. He also coached the Ireland U16 women's international football squad. Jamie currently coaches for Shelbourne FC U15 & U17 professional National League.

Jamie also works full time for the football association as a football development coach, where he runs development programmes such as teaching on coaching courses and working with coaches around Ireland within clubs.



*Jamie Wilson*



*Jamie training the squad*

# Set your sights high!

Mary Hare students leave us with all the skills and confidence they need to forge a successful future. We're extremely proud of being able to play a part in their journey and below we showcase just a few of the many success stories of past students.





# Special features

## Nepal Trip

By Mrs Martin

Nepal 2017 was our first Year 12 overseas trip to volunteer in schools for the deaf. During the three-week trip the students and staff worked at a number of deaf school supporting in lessons, doing some refurbishment work and to learn a little bit more about the culture. Pupils were required to fundraise towards the cost of their trip which they embraced with enthusiasm.

The trip began at the end of the Summer term 2017, when 16 Year 12 pupils and five staff headed off to Nepal for three weeks of voluntary work and trekking. Everyone had done some hiking beforehand to get them ready for the trip but still felt unprepared for some of the challenges that they were faced with once there. Unfortunately, there was a seven hour wait at Dubai airport on the outward journey but no one complained - they were all looking forward to the trip! The students were all very excited at the new experiences they faced. Nepal is a very busy place, lots of vehicles and even cows, on the roads.

The first week was spent in Kathmandu. During this week they spent some time at a school for the deaf where they helped to paint the boys' bedrooms. The group took a trip to a Monkey Temple which was a real treat after a few days of volunteering work. The monkeys were lively, jumping above the students and touching their arms.

The second week was spent trekking in the foothills of the Himalayas with only one rest day! One pupil commented 'it should have been a walk in the park but nah, it was more like a walk in the jungle!' In addition to the long upward climb, other hurdles included leeches that attached themselves easily to all body parts and bridges to cross that wouldn't have passed UK Health and Safety standards! One pupil got 10 leeches on him in one day! The group was so thankful to the Sherpas who helped carry the big bags with great ease and speed! Having reached the top of Poon Hill at 3210m, all were relieved and felt a great sense of pride as the clouds parted and the Annapurna mountain range appeared in all its glory.



Ready for the off



We made it to the top!



Where are the monkeys?



There they are!

The third week was spent in Pokhara where the students visited another school for the deaf. They joined in an English lesson with the children where they watched Nepalese sign language being used. All were interested that there were 24 pupils in one class. How lucky did they feel to have classes of 10 back at Mary Hare!

Another day was spent in Chetara where they visited a textiles workshop where only women work. A few pupils had a go at weaving.

We asked the pupils, so what were the best things about the trip?

*'Seeing the happiness on the faces of the Nepalese children at meeting us, although it was a challenge to communicate with them in Nepalese sign language.'*

*'Completing the six-day trek and seeing the wonderful views.'*

*'The trip has made me want to help more poor schools.'*

*'Making us realise we should be grateful for all the things we have.'*

And the biggest challenges?

*'Becoming a vegetarian for three weeks.'*

*'The hard trekking which made me so tired.'*

*'There were no MacDonalds in Nepal!'*

The trip was a great success - everyone had a great time, learnt a lot, faced challenges with enthusiasm, met with so many wonderful people and experienced Nepal's wonderful culture. The Year 12 trip this summer is to Sri Lanka.



Visiting a Deaf School



Let's get painting



It's not McDonalds but it's tasty!

# Audiological Provision at Mary Hare School

By Viv Ogg

## CAUSES OF DEAFNESS

|                              |    |                            |    |
|------------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|
| Antibiotic Overdose          | 1  | Leukaemia                  | 1  |
| Apert Syndrome               | 1  | Meningitis                 | 14 |
| Auditory Dyschrony           | 1  | Mitochondria Myopathy      | 1  |
| Auditory Neuropathy          | 11 | Partially Formed Cochleas  | 1  |
| Barter's Syndrome            | 1  | Pendred's Syndrome         | 4  |
| Bronchio-oto-renal Syndrome  | 1  | Prem / Auditory Neuropathy | 1  |
| Charge Syndrome              | 2  | Premature                  | 10 |
| CMV (Cytomegalovirus)        | 5  | Rubella                    | 2  |
| Congenital                   | 1  | Townes Brockes Syndrome    | 1  |
| Connexin 26                  | 15 | Turner Syndrome            | 1  |
| Enlarged Vestibular Aqueduct | 4  | Unknown                    | 1  |
| Genetic                      | 40 | Ushers                     | 5  |
| German Measles (mum)         | 1  | Virus                      | 57 |
| Glue Ear                     | 1  | Waardenburg                | 11 |
| Klinefelter Syndrome         | 1  |                            |    |

Mary Hare was a passionate teacher of the deaf who founded the school on the positive "can-do" belief that deaf children could achieve academically through speaking and listening. One hundred years later, Mary Hare School is now the largest non-maintained special school for the deaf in the UK.

We have over 200 pupils aged 5 - 19 from around the country across our Primary and Secondary schools. The majority of our pupils are Severely or Profoundly deaf, but we have pupils across the range of levels of hearing loss. Most of our pupils have hearing parents, with 20% of our pupils having one or both parents who are deaf. There are varied causes of deafness, including children with relatively rare syndromes.



## Audiological Provision at Mary Hare School (continued)

### TYPES OF PERSONAL AMPLIFICATION



- Children with Bilateral CI 91 - 42%
- Children with Bilateral HA 61 - 28%
- Children with Single CI 28 - 13%
- Children with Bimodal devices 25 - 12%
- Children with Single HA 11 - 5%

Audiology lies at the heart of the school’s philosophy and forms the foundation for all our work. As a department, we are constantly busy with over 400 ears to manage. This involves managing equipment (both personal and educational amplification), ear health, hearing assessments, and holding records on every child, as well as supporting all staff with updates and training. We have dedicated staff in myself and a second full-time audiologist, and two technicians. We do not work in isolation but recognise that, in order to support our children, it is down to teamwork and developing partnerships with professionals and others.

Form teachers and care teams have care packs and batteries to support the day-to-day management of issues and for pupils to maintain their own equipment. The school day starts with Form time for checking amplification and any issues are passed to the Audiology team. The volume of equipment in use means repairs are a daily requirement. The priority is to get equipment repaired or replaced as soon as possible and returned directly to pupils in class to minimise the time without amplification. We pride ourselves on providing a quick turnaround but this does lead to high expectations and we get the impression that some pupils think we actually live and sleep in school!

We work closely with our medical department and can refer children for earwax removal and treatment, including GP and ENT referrals. We also liaise with our speech and language therapy team e.g. in supporting the development of listening skills with new hearing aids and cochlear implants.

The school Audiology department works in partnership with the local Audiology service at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH) in Reading. All our hearing aid pupils are registered on the hospital Auditbase system, which the school department accesses through a secure internet connection. This means that replacement aids can be programmed on site. Hearing aid reviews are held on site every week, supported by a dedicated Audiologist from RBH working with the school audiologist.

As a national school, we work with cochlear implanted children from a range of implant centres. We have close contact with all the teams and two centres carry out outreach tuning appointments for pupils on site using the school clinic. This reduces time out of school, develops independence and allows staff face-to-face contact to support pupils.

Earmould impressions are taken on site and processed by our own earmould laboratory, Arlington Labs. This allows quick turnaround and first-hand expertise to find solutions for pupils. e.g. with suitable materials and designs.

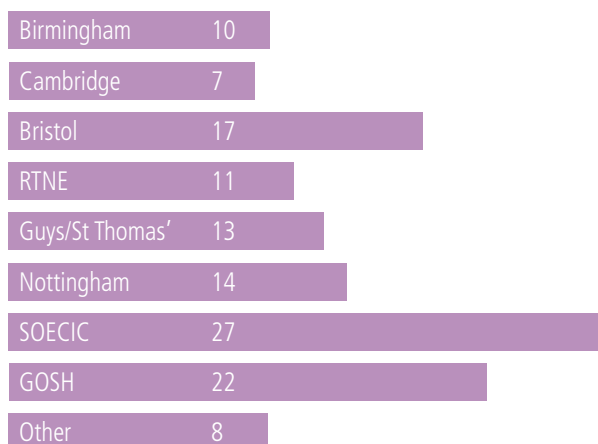
Direct contact with manufacturers of both hearing aids and auditory implants is essential in supporting our work. The nature of our caseload means that we are often at the cutting edge of the latest technology and continually have to learn about new devices. We are also able to give feedback on problems and assist in any redesign. e.g. the ear hook design on the Advanced Bionics Naida processor. Another great development is the support for spares directly from manufacturers, allowing the quick delivery of spares to school.

We work closely with outside agencies, in particular with the NDCS who support with an annual visit of the Roadshow to provide workshops, such as supporting transition planning beyond Mary Hare for our Sixth Form. We are also fortunate to draw on technical support from the Ewing Foundation who have an office at our Primary site.

One of our biggest challenges as a residential school is keeping parents involved and informed. Face-to-face contact is best and happens at Annual Reviews and Parent Consultation days. However, the day-to-day issues can now be communicated via emails so they know that any concerns, particularly regarding equipment, are being managed and they can stop worrying.

At the heart of all we do are the pupils themselves. We have an open-door policy so that they feel able to come and see us directly, as well as via staff and parent referrals.

### CI TEAMS



## BEYOND THE EARS

All pupils are deaf but they are individuals and it is crucial to understand the whole child, and so we employ a holistic approach. We have to be more than just audiologists: we have to be listeners, counsellors, detectives, psychologists and mediators; it can also feel like you have to be magicians, mind readers and jugglers! Taking time to gather and unravel the facts whilst maintaining a sense of humour and remaining patient can be challenging. For example, a pupil returns to school with no hearing aids (again!) – this appears deliberate and then you discover they have an ear infection.

The aim is to provide a safe, non-judgemental environment, one in which pupils have time and space to express themselves and explore their deaf identity. e.g. exploring the possibility of a cochlear implant or understanding the cause of their hearing loss. The time and space we provide as audiologists sometimes means that we can explore issues and find a suitable solution together. In Audiology, they understand that they cannot fail and there is no right or wrong.

## CASE STUDIES

Here are few examples of our day to day work.

It is summer term: early morning and I received a phone call to say a pupil was on their way to see me, totally distraught as their hearing had dropped overnight and they were due to sit their French listening exam that day. They had a history of a fluctuating loss and so the timing couldn't be worse. I knew that I had to keep calm and focused to deal with the situation. Firstly, I checked his ears and got ready to do a hearing test. He handed me his aid and it was all working. Finally, I checked the coloured mould and pulled the tubing out to find it blocked with wax. His face was a picture as I handed him a re-tubed mould and witnessed a miracle - his hearing returned to normal and off he went beaming to his exam. Panic over for him and all staff who were on standby to support!

A frequent issue (given we deal with teenagers) is "I can't find my processor/ hearing aid" They report that they lost it outside. Therefore, out you go with the child, rain or snow, with the metal detector trying to locate it! This does test your patience but, amazingly, we have successfully recovered processors, even ones lost in the snow and then reappearing a few days later when the snow has melted. A frequent discussion is: could a lost implant be stuck to something? We have recovered them from radiators, chair legs, on a coach seat to name a few. All this requires detective skills, trying to work out just where and when it was misplaced! Of course, you have taken their word and searched where they report they lost it and then you casually ask "Have you checked your pockets and school bag?" and, magically, it appears when they were adamant that they lost it outside!

A wet day is not only a day of dread for those on break and lunch duty but also for us, as the queue for the dry boxes exceeds capacity! The worst is when the care staff bring equipment for us to fault-find, as it got wet last night and then reveal... "down the toilet!"

## Conclusion

Mary Hare School provides a unique environment for both students and staff, and Audiology provision lies at the heart of the school and its ethos. The development of hearing technology today is unbelievable and ever-evolving. However, the technology needs to be appropriate and to be working reliably. This requires a team approach, both within the school and with those outside. Thinking holistically and beyond the ears is fundamental in supporting pupils to fulfil their potential.

If Mary Hare were able to visit us today, I feel that she would be astounded with the level of technology available to support listening while her vision for deaf children remains the foundation for all that we do at Mary Hare.

### TOP TIPS FOR MANAGING AUDIOLOGY IN ANY SETTING

#### For ToDS

- Always start with the basics!
- Be organised and logical in your approach
- Provide a safe and relaxed environment for pupils
- Listen to the child but don't always take things at face value
- Give them time to talk and explain
- Use a step-by-step approach and plan with the pupil
- Understand that you may not be dealing with an equipment issue

#### For Pupils

- To know that in Audiology there is no right or wrong
- They cannot fail
- That as a ToD you will always listen, try to understand and find solutions



A day out at Laycock Abbey



6th Form fashion show



Dabbin!



Festive cheer at the Primary School



Feeling a bit crabby today



Mary Hare Primary slimmers



Neve - lyin low!



Year 9 Activities Week



Great work



Down wiv the kids



Who said cross country was easy?



You have our undivided attention



Painting the duckhouse



What a talented bunch!



The slipper fits!

Mary Hare in Pictures





This is how it's done boys!



Zipwire here I come!



The longest socks I've ever seen...



Wearing it loud in the HE department



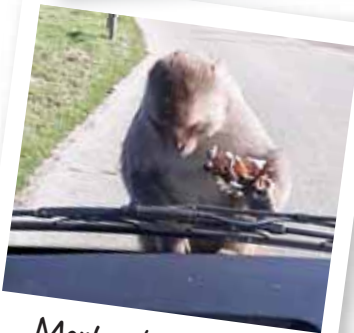
Easter Ski Trip



School of Rock



Ollie is very photogenic



Monkeying around



I want my mummy!



Stage presence



Let's get this party started



Bowling on the ski trip



Gently does it



Behind the scenes at the Watermill



The hare and the snowman



Welcome to Gemma Cairney



Ellis tries some off-piste



Assemblies are always fun



Going Greek



This African Drumming is good!



Howard's Got Talent



Teachers celebrating something!



Mary Hare 6th Form Business Dress!



Rehearsing for Spring Equinox



Penny and Becky supporting Children in Need



You could try a centre partying



I believe I can fly...



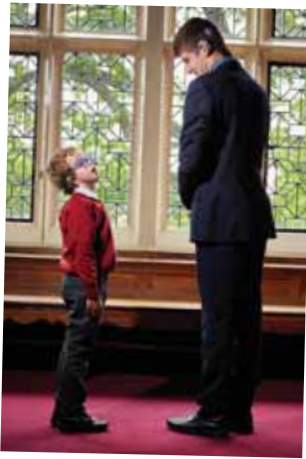
We love Mr D's tie!



Keeping the fire burning



Year 10 Maths Challenge



Will I be as tall as you one day?



Who let the dogs out



Maths Challenge - Murder Mystery



We have all the moves



We set imaginations on fire!



Food and drinks at Coles



The magic wand that creates tiaras for guys!



Eton Mess



Duncan Goodhew tries out our new pool



I really want those biscuits



Our very own trolley key ring for sale!



Which university should I choose?

# Thank You...



Our Primary School Appeal is gathering pace and we have to date raised over £500,000. We've reached this fantastic milestone thanks to your help, your support, your ideas and getting behind this appeal. You really do all deserve our heartfelt thanks.

We've still got a long way to go. Please continue to support us.

