



SOUNDWAVE

Securing the future of deaf children & young people





Contents

Introduction	3
The Mary Hare Year in pictures - Primary	4
The Mary Hare Year in pictures - Secondary	10
Pupil Success stories	16
Arts News	18
Getting Active	23
Coles Diner	26
Fundraising	28
The 2023-2024 Prefect Team	31
Special Features	32
Alumni	36
People News	38

Acknowledgements

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Welcome from our Vice Principal of Curriculum

I'm sitting in my office as I write this introduction to this year's Soundwave magazine. Around me the day-to-day routines of Mary Hare are continuing as we head to the end of term.

It seems hard to believe that it's only been a year since I sat in this very same office meeting the previous Vice Principal to talk about the job and what it was like working at Mary Hare.

I'm not entirely sure where the year is gone. It doesn't seem a moment ago that we welcomed families back after the long summer break setting out the expectations of the year ahead, and here we are now with Year 11 and 13 students finishing their studies and getting ready to say their goodbyes.

As a new starter I think particularly of our Year 7 students, who also joined Mary Hare in September. Over the year they've grown and developed taking on a wide range of new challenges that perhaps they didn't think they would be doing when they joined the school. They've made friends and developed links that will stay with them long after they leave school, and have embraced the history and traditions that are so important to us all at Mary Hare.

This year's Soundwave magazine is packed with so many of the different activities that have taken place this year. Some personal highlights were the Christmas entertainment where I felt I truly understood what being part of the Mary Hare family meant, the wide range of trips and visits pupils have been able to go on, and the quiet day-to-day interactions that take place across the school, helping us all work towards securing the future of deaf children and young people.

Sarah Strudley
Vice Principal (Curriculum)



Sarah Strudley

“ I'm not entirely sure where the year is gone. It doesn't seem a moment ago that we welcomed families back after the long summer break...

Welcome to Mary Hare Primary

In September 2022, we relocated and opened our brand-new Primary School for deaf children and I had the privilege of opening its doors for the first time whilst also stepping into the role as Head of Primary.



It was a joy to be able to welcome the new school year with a bespoke building designed to give the optimum listening environment that will allow our children the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

At Mary Hare, we have high aspirations for all pupils and deliver an ambitious holistic curriculum which overcomes the challenges and impacts of deafness on learning, self-esteem, and language. We encourage our school values of being respectful, responsible, healthy, safe, communicative and successful learners to allow deaf children to flourish in an ever-changing and evolving hearing world.

This is a very exciting new chapter for us at Mary Hare Primary and we look forward to making lots of wonderful memories for many years to come!

Rachel Sheen, Head of Primary

Reflections of the past year

This last year has been one of many landmarks and milestones for us at Mary Hare Primary School, mostly as we started the academic year in our brand new school.

In September 2022 we opened our new school's doors for the first time to welcome pupils and parents. Staff had worked hard in the summer term and over the holiday break to ensure we were ready for opening. Some boxes were still yet to be unpacked, but we were thrilled with our new home.

By the end of September our vibrant and fresh new library was finally in place in our Primary School!



Enjoying the outdoors



What a blast!

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful collection of books for the children to enjoy.

Rose Ayling-Ellis and Mattel kindly sent us some Barbies with hearing aids. Our pupils were delighted with their gift and it is brilliant to see this representation in toys.

In November we proudly sported colourful spots as part of Children in Need. As the year came to a close we marked the end of 2022 with a wonderful Christmas assembly for parents to enjoy, which included bell ringing, singing and a festive Christmas dance.

Thursday 2nd March was World Book Day! Our pupils and staff at Mary Hare Primary looked fabulous as they dressed up as their favourite book characters.

At the end of March we were busy planting seeds in various pots and troughs as part of the #RHSBigSeedSow. We were very excited to watch them grow!

In May we welcomed the Mayor who visited us on Deaf Awareness Week, which was also the week leading up to the Coronation of King Charles III. We took part in some screen printing with Berkshire Printmakers and made some fabulous Coronation-themed t-shirts.



Thank you for our Barbies!



Children in Need 2022



LAST DAY AT MILL HALL

On Friday 15 July, Primary staff, pupils and their families shared a special farewell, as their last day of the school year also marked their last day at Mill Hall.

The day commenced with a dance the pupils had choreographed to present to the families before heading outside into the sunshine for Sports Day. There was excellent sportsmanship between all the pupils as they made their efforts on the egg and spoon race, skipping, relay and the sprint. Families and pupils then enjoyed a picnic on the grounds before watching a music performance and presentations from each of the Year 6 leavers about their favourite memories of Mary Hare Primary School.

One family shared a few words to share their thanks and their child's experience at the school. *"It has been a real fight to get Elissa into Mary Hare, but every effort has been so worth it. The progress she has made brings me to tears. Every member of staff at Mary Hare has taken such great care of Elissa. The passion you have for your work is evident to see. I can't thank you enough for everything you've done... You have opened so many doors for her in the future."*

It was a day of many special goodbyes as the staff at Mary Hare Primary said good luck to those pupils making their transition to Secondary School in September, as well as reflecting on all the many fantastic years in the Mill Hall building, as they embarked on their big move to the new Primary School in the summer.



Go, go, go!



We are the winners!



The sun came out for us



Skip to the finish!



A close finish!



Final assembly in Mill Hall

FIRST DAY IN NEW SCHOOL



A new school year



We love our new school



State of the art!



Our first tour

CHRISTMAS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Christmas reflection



Festive games



Our Christmas designs!



No cheating!



Pin Rudolph's nose!

MAYOR OF NEWBURY VISITS THE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Making our own t-shirts!

CORONATION TEA PARTY



Donning our crowns



Delicious food!



Enjoying the coronation fun

THE FIRE BRIGADE VISITS MARY HARE



In the big seat!



We learnt lots



Growing our confidence with cycling

LITTLECOTE TRIP



Amazing history!



Going back in time

CRICKET SESSION WITH JAMES DIXON



We loved the games



Catch!



Agricultural Challenge



Agricultural Challenge winners!



Panathlon Bowling

PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH SEEDS



Planting is so much fun



Taking part in the Big Seed Sew

WORLD BOOK DAY



Our favourite books!



Story time fun



We love reading



Can you guess our characters?

OXENWOOD TRIP



Enjoying the outdoors



Toasting marshmallows!



Cosy round the campfire



Yummy!



It's been another great year for the Secondary School with lots of new memories made.

With the Primary School now on the same site as our Secondary School, this year we saw more events enjoyed as a whole school. Together we marked Remembrance Day as well as enjoying activities arranged by our fantastic Wellbeing Team, including the Wellbeing Walk during Mental Health Awareness Week, and pupil and staff contributions to our Deaf Awareness Tree.

There have been plenty of trips and activities throughout the year and we celebrated a special Coronation theme for this year's Wear It Loud during Deaf Awareness Week. We saw the return of Speech Day since 2019, a fantastic opportunity for us to recognise the achievements of students who have completed their studies at Mary Hare.

Our Head and Deputy Prefects were excellent ambassadors for the school when they shared their reflections of Mary Hare to visiting families on our Open Day, and our Year 10s made excellent tour guides. We are immensely proud of everyone as we all came together to showcase all that Mary Hare has to offer to our guests.



A winter wonderland!



Snowball in flight!



Lest we forget



The whole school marking Remembrance Day

SPEECH DAY

A snapshot of Friday's Speech Day, a day celebrating the achievements of our students who completed their studies at Mary Hare last year. This is the first time we have been able to hold Speech Day since 2019, and it was a special occasion brimming with proud families and staff as the students received their awards.

We welcomed our guest of honour, Rory Herdman, who shared his ENT career and long connection with Mary Hare dating back to 1993.

We also enjoyed music performed by our students as well as talks from the Principal and the Head Prefect team.



Families enjoyed the student band



A proud day for everyone



Our Head Prefects welcome families

RED NOSE DAY



Shining bright



Mr Askew donning the red nose



The hare and the tortoise



Leaping lizards!



Looking great!



Everyone got involved



Splat a Prefect!

THE OSCARS



And the award goes to...



The 'Oscars'!



Walking down the red carpet



Bubbles!



Mindfulness in the sunshine



Huge bubble!

SPORTS DAY



Mary Hare House are this year's winners



Fantastic racing



It was a great day in the sunshine



Supporting each other

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Students enjoyed activities as part of Mental Health Awareness Week, organised by our fabulous Wellbeing team. Secondary pupils and staff enjoyed a Wellbeing Walk and used the time to connect with each other. Our Primary pupils played games around the beautiful grounds.



Everyone came together



Our lovely wellbeing team



Walking is a great way to connect



Lots of smiles!



Miss Duffield looking glam

WEAR IT ROYAL LOUD



Looking fabulous



Enjoying a royal cuppa



We're ready for Wear it Loud!



Feeling patriotic

NATIONWIDE'S VISIT TO MARY HARE

We welcomed Nationwide who came to share their top tips for budgeting, how to open a bank account and how to safely use online banking!



Learning about bank accounts



We enjoyed the workshop!



Competition is heating up!



What's cooking?



Getting ready for our exams!



Exam Revision



Preparation is key



Prefect team at Lightmongers

OPEN DAY



Mr Asken welcomes everyone



Year 10 ready to tour families



A chance to see us in action



Lots of families enjoyed the day



Our Head Prefects are great ambassadors



A great community



Our lovely tree



This is a concrete idea



A great perk!



Off to the Theatre!



Levelling it up

PUPILS MAKING US PROUD

Mary Hare pupils achieve great things every single day, both at school and afterwards in their spare time. Whether it's pushing themselves further or for the benefit of others, we are always proud of their efforts and achievements.



CONGRATULATIONS KAIDEN

Kaiden Shahakbar was nominated for a commendation from Mr Askew for his approach to speech and language therapy sessions. During the year he reached his full provision of individual therapy, achieved his speech therapy targets and showed great enthusiasm throughout his sessions.

Amanda Williams, his Speech Therapist, said, "Kaiden arrives promptly to every session and if he has been unable to attend due to other commitments, he has always communicated that with me and he has conducted himself with maturity and respect".

Mr Askew presented Kaiden with his commendation.



Kaiden has made fantastic progress

HAZEL COMPLETES 2km RUN

Year 7 pupil, Hazel, and her family, shared with us her fantastic achievement at the Newport Marathon in April.

As part of the Newport Marathon weekend, Hazel proudly conquered the 2km Family Fun Run. Hazel's family shares her achievements and her preparation leading up to the event: "She trained by running round our block of houses, but not usually managing more than 1/2 a mile. The big day was a huge step up. It was Hazel's idea to dedicate her run to a charity, and chose Mary Hare."

Hazel donated £50 to the Mary Hare Foundation, which will support future projects at the School.

"In particular we want to acknowledge the support Hazel receives in addition to her deafness, and the Stronger Together Club stands out as a great opportunity Hazel has to target her physical needs and self-esteem as someone with Cerebral Palsy. Thank you to Mary Hare staff for all your support. Hazel is happy and thriving."



Always smiling!



Amazing atmosphere



So proud



Dylan has shown great care

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Dylan has been demonstrating great care for the environment by picking up litter throughout the school. What a great role model for other students, and thank you for helping to keep our school look clean and tidy!

SWIMMING SUCCESS

Lewis reached a fantastic milestone this year with his swimming. He received a commendation certificate for his determination to learn how to swim, so that he could go on to participate in the school Swimming Gala!



Well done Lewis!

NICOLE SPEAKS IN PARLIAMENT

Sixth Former Nicole is an activist at Young Minds, a mental health charity for children, young people and their parents. Earlier this year Nicole took part of their campaign #EndTheWait which also involved speaking in front of MPs in a 5 minute talk around the need for support for young people and their mental health.

"Leading up to the event, I had been assigned as the Youth Speaker for the day. I spent hours on end preparing what I was going to say, and tried to think of all the different aspects of my journey and how this supported the #EndTheWait campaign that could be covered in 5 minutes. I had so much support from my mum and the staff from Young Minds.

It was an amazing opportunity to talk to MPs and answer any questions they had regarding the campaign. Most MPs I spoke to were not that familiar with the work Young Minds do, so this event really spotlighted the whole ethos of the charity - working with young people to advocate for change for young people. Most MPs/their secretaries listened attentively, and it felt as though they were keen to act and make a difference for the young people in their constituency."



A great campaign to be part of



Nicole meets local MP, Laura Farris



Nicole gave a fantastic speech

It's been another busy year for us in the world of the arts! From dance workshops and performances, to exhibitions and competitions and the return of our annual Christmas production, the year has been packed full of opportunities for students to showcase their talent and work.

ACE Dance Workshop

We had a great time with Ace Dance who visit Mary Hare to give a dance workshop with our students.

Our students were thrilled to be able to work with professional dancers. It was a brilliant and inspiring session.



It was amazing to work with professionals



Sharing their top tips with us

GENerate Exhibition at The Base

We were thrilled that many of our students' works featured in The Base, Greenham's GENerate exhibition earlier this year. This exhibition showcased young talent from the local area and was a great opportunity for the public to come and see the wonderful and varied works on display.



So proud!



Open to the public



Capturing the occasion

Cultural Extravaganza event

In the last week of the summer term students were able to enjoy the end of the school year with our annual Cultural Extravaganza.

Packed full of activities including DJ'ing, Pilates, Break Dancing, African Drumming, Photography and Forensics, to name a few, the students were spoilt for choice. There were around 40 activities to choose from, and it was a great opportunity to try their hand at something new.

We also welcomed local artists who led many of the sessions and workshops and we are very grateful to be able to bring their expertise to Mary Hare School.

Students had a fantastic time and the week signed off the school year perfectly!



Keep on movin'



Face painting fun



Rollin' the roulade



Having a 'roaring' time



Forging metal



Beautiful Henna



Mixing up the music



Break dancing!



Getting stuck in



We loved it at Caversham Lakes



Enjoying the rhythm



Sailing away!



A visit to Kew Gardens

West of Oz

Check out these fantastic photos from this year's Christmas production - West of Oz! A brilliant twist on the classic, written by Mr Trigwell-Jones! A HUGE well done to all of the students, and to all of the staff who brought this production to life.



Beautiful sounds filled the stage



The whole school got involved



Action shot!



The student band amazed audiences



Amazing costumes



Lots of comedy and laughter



Troublesome sisters!



Fantastic choreography

Photos by Simon Vail Photography

Shakespeare Schools Festival

On the Ides of March, some of our Key Stage 3 students performed their version of Julius Caesar at The Lights in Andover, as part of the National Shakespeare Schools Festival.

They started working on the play just after Christmas, and we are immensely proud of their achievements.

Since their performance, Mary Hare School has been recognised as a Silver Medal School by the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival. Having participated in the festival for five consecutive years, with almost 100 students taking part in that time, Mary Hare has consistently been praised for the hard work and cooperation of our students, as well as the quality of their ensemble work and ability to engage with audiences.



Well done all!



A fantastic performance



We came, we saw, and we conquered!

Articulation Winner

Georgie, was awarded top prize in the Grand Final of the national competition, Articulation, which took place at the National Gallery in London.

The annual Articulation Prize is a national competition that invites those aged 16 to 19 to deliver a 10-minute presentation on a work of art, architecture, or an artefact of their choice. Entrants go through heat rounds and regional finals before proceeding to the Grand Final, which takes place at the National Gallery. This year over 100 schools throughout the country participated with over 1,000 entries across the competition.

Following a successful progression through the heats and competing against 9 other speakers at the Southern Regional Finals in Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, Georgie was selected for the Grand Final in London which took place on Tuesday 28th March. Georgie inspired an audience of over 200 with her talk exploring the work of Canadian artists Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller and their artwork 'The Dark Pool'. All 9 finalists were assessed by the adjudicator, Dr Gabriele Finaldi, who is the Director of the National Gallery.

Talking about Georgie's presentation, Dr Gabriele Finaldi says, "We were immediately introduced to ideas of fear and of memory. Georgie outlined how these works can trigger fear and how, by doing so, they help us to understand ourselves. Georgie got inside the artists' minds and spoke about how being an active participant was important, concluding that installation art is incredibly valuable."

Georgie shares her experience, "I was very shocked when they announced my name. All the speakers were amazing and any one of them deserved to win. I have really enjoyed meeting new people through this event. It has helped my confidence enormously. Having the opportunity to talk about my love for art and make reference to my interest in theatre has been amazing."

Photos © Hydar Dewachi



An articulate performance



A fantastic space to discuss art

"I have really enjoyed meeting new people through this event. It has helped my confidence enormously."

Georgie Ellis Unique Arts Award

Georgie saw double award success at the Unique Art Awards. Georgie not only came First in the Youth Digital category, but also achieved Second place in the overall competition!



An evening of celebration



Double award success!



One of Georgie's entries

"In this work I tried to show the images of the plastic rubbish. I have also introduced values of green and yellow to make the environment look sick. This image communicates that the environment is getting fed up with us throwing litter and wants us to stop."

Studio tour

Some of our A Level Fine Art students visited artist Sioban Coppinger's studio in Lambourn on Monday 12 June. Sioban is an established artist who has produced many pieces of public sculpture. She has a whole house dedicated to her art with a wax modelling studio, a printmaking area, a drawing room and gallery and a foundry. The students Francesca, Georgie and Emily loved their visit and now have ambitions to create their own studios.



A selection of work from our A Level students

Tea Party of Champions!

We invited all the students who had been studying any of the Art & Design subjects (Fine Art, Contextual & Critical Studies, Graphic Communication, Photography & Textile Design) at A Level to a tea party to celebrate the completion of their work and to congratulate them on all their hard efforts.



Stretching Boundaries

Sixth Former Francesca helped to curate an exhibition of students' work from all disciplines and year groups in Arlington Arts Centre. It ran from October through to the end of November and was open for the public to come and see the fantastic talent we have at Mary Hare!



Impressive and professional



A wide range of works on display



A mix of 2D and 3D art

PANATHLON SWIMMING GALA

The aim of Panathlon's swimming programme is to help introduce young people with disabilities and special needs to the water and build their confidence and skills. In February, two teams of Mary Hare pupils took part in the separate competition for Deaf secondary school aged pupils. It was staged at the prestigious venue - The London 2012 Aquatic Centre, which was used for the 2012 Olympics in London.

The pupils from the Primary School took part. They did really well and came third! Well done to Lacey-Anne, Abbie, Ahmed, Ava, Blair and Evie for their super swimming and excellent teamwork.

Secondary pupils in Years 7-9 were timed over one length in lessons. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 could opt to be timed in the weekly Swimming Gala practice sessions. From these times, the best 12 were selected to represent the school. Two teams from the Secondary School took part in a series of races - as an individual and as part of a team.

B Team: 4th Place and Best 'B' Team

A Team: 1st Place and retaining their title (winning for the second year in a row)



Secondary School Teams A and B



The Primary Team: Lacey-Anne, Abbie, Ahmed, Ava, Blair and Evie

GREENHAM TRUST NEW FOOTBALL KIT

A huge thank you to Greenham Trust for their generous support of £1,500 to buy new equipment for our girl's football team.

This funding has supported new navy blue football kit and goalposts that meet tournament standards - plus a gift of new footballs!



MARY HARE SWIMMING GALA

This important event in the school calendar saw 8 new Mary Hare records set! Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Winners:

Beginners one width: Lewis Coleman

Backstroke: Maya W, Ricco P, Robyn S, Ryan C

Individual Medley: Maya W, Neve M, Ryan C

Breaststroke: Evie Small, Ben W, Jasmine W, Roman E

Butterfly: Maya W, Miles P, Tilly M, Max S

Freestyle: Roxy, Hugh M, Sophie M, Vernon E

Mixed freestyle relay: Juniors - Beverley, Seniors - Mary Hare

HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

The weather held off long enough for everyone to run and compete in what was a great afternoon of cross country.

Individual winners

Junior Girls:

- 1st Jay
- 2nd Maya
- 3rd Amber F-W

Junior Boys:

- 1st Zac B
- 2nd Harry F
- 3rd Ben W

Senior Girls:

- 1st Amelie
- 2nd Sophie
- 3rd Tilly

Senior Boys:

- 1st Vernon
- 2nd Callan
- 3rd Leo

House Winners:

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



Come on Harvey!



Go Zach!



Amelie leads the way

DEAF CHILDREN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION CROSS COUNTRY

In March we took a coach load of enthusiastic runners to compete for the first time in the Deaf Childrens Sports Association Cross Country event, held in Derby. We were the largest group there, entering 7 in the Senior Girls race and 14 in the Senior Boys race.

Boys' Results:

- 2nd Callan
- 3rd Zac B
- 4th Leo
- 5th Jasper L
- 9th Ben W
- 10th Anthony
- 12th Nikita
- 14th Michael
- 16th Jack K
- 25th Jerome
- 28th Tom F
- 34th Teddy
- 37th James M
- 38th Miles P

Girls' Results:

- 1st Amelie
- 2nd Tilly
- 3rd Jay
- 4th Sophie M
- 6th Jasmine W
- 7th Jachi
- 11th Marcie

In the team competition; Jay, Amelie and Tilly secured 1st place for the School



The winning team

In the team competition; Zac, Callan and Leo secured 1st place for the School.

YEAR 10 AREA FOOTBALL

This year the ladies have played in the SEN Schools tournament and the West Berkshire Schools Area tournament. The West Berkshire schools tournament was 7-a-side with squads of up to 10 players. We played in a mini league first and our place in that determined which overall play-off final we were in.

The team played four matches. It was a nail biting finish, winning the final match 2-0 and going through on goal difference. The finals were held at Trinity School and the Mary Hare team came third out of the 13 West Berkshire teams competing. Everyone is very proud of their achievement.



Well done team

SEN FOOTBALL

Shea, Micheal, Harry, Willoughby, Afaan, Jasper, Amelie, Jay, Anthony, Ellie, Amber, Oliver, Jasmine, Sophie, Sienna and Summer all took part in the Reading FC Community Trust Football competitions this season. The competition is an excellent opportunity for everyone to take part in competitive football. Everyone played well and all received a medal for their participation.



Team players!

SPECIAL MENTION

Vernon received a special award for his contribution to football during his time at Mary Hare. The award was given because he has played with the correct attitude - he does not argue with the referee about any decisions. He supports his team mates and encourages them - even when they have made a mistake. He accepts responsibility and respects the opposition too. A great role model!



Vernon on the ball!

SIXTH FORM FOOTBALL TEAM

The Sixth Form team only had two matches this year as other schools could not commit to a fixture. Unfortunately, they didn't win a game. But they will all agree that their match against Reading School was an amazing performance. Mary Hare took the lead through Josh. At half time, the scorers were level at 1-1. Reading School upped their intensity in the second half and scored two more goals to make the score 3-1. With two minutes to go Callan got a goal for Mary Hare to make it 3-2. In the last minute, Josh scored to make it 3-3.



Not what we meant by sticking together...

ACTIVITIES WEEK

In September, the Year 9 enjoyed their Activities Week in partnership with Outdoor Academy. It was a great experience, finishing with the grand finale of a two day rafted open canoe expedition. The teachers enjoyed seeing another side to pupils: who could cook, who worked well in a team, who already knew how to put up a tent and the future leaders in the making!

Thank you everyone for a superb week!



Now, listen carefully



Everybody paddle!



It all happens at Coles!

It's been another year packed full of adventures and activities with Coles Diner.

This year we are back to holding lots of events, trips and clubs. From climbing, paintball and quiz nights at the weekend to walking the canal path from Newbury to Hungerford and back again!

We braved the Dungeons, enjoyed the views from the London Eye and visited Cadbury World and ate lots of chocolate!

Our weekends away included the Cluedo at the Castle and the Curse of the Mummy with high ropes and raft races. Not forgetting Life Skills shopping and cooking up yummy treats.

Plus, we have been continuing our Lifeguarding duties and working in Coles. We have also helped raise money for local charities by holding events and had such a fun year doing so!

So whose up for another year of fun with Coles Diner?

Kiri-Lynn



Reaching great heights!



Flying!



Weekend fun



A great day for hiking



Enjoying the views in London Eye



Super fashionistas



Woodland adventures



Having a great time!



Archery at the castle



Looking regal!



Delicious chocolate making



Dressed up for the Occasion



Crazy characters!



A feast of food



Budgeting for a food shop



Paintball



Learning to make smoothies



Fantastic opportunities for Lifeguard training



Quiz hats at the ready!



Ready for the next question!

PRIMARY SCHOOL GRAND OPENING

On Thursday 27th April we officially opened our brand-new Primary School! We welcomed over 120 guests, including those who directly supported the project. The event opened with a joyful musical performance of *The Rhythm of Life* by Cy Coleman, performed by the Primary pupils. The pupils warmed audiences with their playing of the keyboard, drums and various percussion instruments.

Key speakers, including Harriet McCalmont, Chair of the Mary Hare Foundation, Andrew Strivens, Chair of Governors, and Robin Askew, Principal of Mary Hare School, each shared their stories of the many years of this project and the impact the new school has already made since it welcomed its first pupils in September 2022. There were many people to be thanked for their support in making the project a success, including the Mary Hare Foundation, who raised £4 million in total.

Visitors also heard speeches from current students who featured in the original campaign launch of the Primary School back in 2017. They shared how their time at Mary Hare has been pivotal in their academic success. A small musical band of Year 8 pupils then entertained audiences with a selection of songs by George Ezra and Bob Marley, before the school was announced as officially opened by guest, and former Principal, Peter Gale. In an emotional speech, Peter Gale shared his joy in opening the new school, its importance in bringing it into the 21st century with state-of-the-art facilities and offering a truly inclusive educational setting for the school's youngest deaf pupils for many years to come. Peter then declared Mary Hare Primary School officially open by unveiling a commemorative plaque.

Peter Gale shared in his experience of the day *"It was a great honour to be asked back to officially open Mary Hare Primary School. Whilst I was Principal and CEO throughout the project, this really was the ultimate team effort and I am grateful to donors and our Foundation, governors, staff and all of our professional partners."*

Sharing his thoughts on how important this opening means for deaf young people, Peter said, *"This school is needed and I do hope that Local Authorities will see that early specialism can be transformational in the outcomes for deaf children."*

Robin Askew said, *"The event was a fantastic way to celebrate our new Primary School and we are thrilled to be able to mark the occasion with those who have supported us. This is an exciting chapter for Mary Hare School and I look forward to many more years welcoming new families to the school."*



Enthusiastic applause



Primary performers sing out



Year 8 musicians



Who'd like a piece of cake?



Emma



Matthew



Eric

JEFFERY RUNS THE LONDON MARATHON

A huge congratulations to Jeffrey, who completed the London Marathon in October to raise money for Mary Hare. The London Marathon is an iconic running challenge, and one on many people's bucket lists. Jeffrey Wasserman took on the 26.2 miles to support and raise awareness of Mary Hare School, and raised over £6000!

Jeffrey's daughter attends Mary Hare School and, following her experience in mainstream education, he saw the difference in her learning and confidence that the school has been able to bring: *"Maya went to a traditional primary school where she was the only deaf student, and she struggled not only to keep up with her hearing peers, but also with her sense of identity. As she entered secondary in Year 7, she has discovered the deaf community, deaf culture, and has learned how to excel with her deafness, not in spite of it."*

Sharing his experience of the day, Jeffrey says, *"The greatest part of the marathon by far was the non-stop stream of supporters and cheerers lining the course, clapping and honking horns, handing out jelly babies, shouting words of encouragement to keep us going, long after our legs have given up on us. I want to give a hearty THANK YOU to all my donors who have supported the Mary Hare School and my marathon endeavour, you made this all possible!"*

"The greatest part of the marathon by far was the non-stop stream of supporters and cheerers lining the course, clapping and honking horns..."



Give that man a medal!



Still smiling



A well deserved drink

SELINA'S JURASSIC COAST ULTRA MARATHON

On Saturday 15 October, our Marketing Manager, Selina, took on the 54km running challenge across the Jurassic Coast and raised over £600 for the Mary Hare Foundation.

Starting at Corfe Castle, the route took runners on a approximately 23km trail to the Jurassic Coast, where the route stayed for 21km, before making its way back inland through woodland to Corfe Castle. The route was all off road, with plenty of hills and views to enjoy along the way, totaling 1300m of elevation gain.

Selina shares her experience: *"It was an epic day of adventure, which included mighty hills, beautiful breathtaking coastlines and a big sense of achievement. The route had lots of support with members of the public and event marshals. My partner, Ed, welcomed me at every outpost, and my family were cheering me on through sending me messages."*



Is this the way to the finishing line?

"It was an epic day of adventure, which included mighty hills, beautiful breathtaking coastlines and a big sense of achievement."

LONDON QUIZ

This was the second London Quiz organised by the Events Committee of the Mary Hare Foundation. It is becoming a popular event with those who attend.

Kit Loyd was our good humoured Quizmaster. 20 enthusiastic teams took part and the evening raised £5,374.



Geography is not my favourite subject



Jasper and Shea with Georgina

JIGS & REELS

On Saturday 29 October plenty of dancing and cheer was had at our Jigs and Reels fundraiser, held in the Manor Barn at Yattendon - a Grade 11 listed building dating from the 17th Century.

The fundraising event for Mary Hare was attended by over 160 people from the local area, and enjoyed traditional Scottish dancing with music performed by the Craigievar Scottish Dance Band. The event raised a total of £5,344! The Mary Hare Foundation would like to thank the organisers, Georgina, Camilla and Harriet (Trustees), for all their help and support with the event.

This event proved to be so popular that the Foundation decided to organise a second event on Saturday 20th May. For the 'Summer Reels', guests brought their own picnics to give them the energy they needed to dance on into the night. Two Year 10 pupils, Jasper and Shea, spoke to the guests to explain why Mary Hare School deserved their support.

The evening was a huge success and thanks to the generosity of those attending, the sponsor Grundon, the wonderful donations for the raffle and many others who supported the event, the total raised was £14,500.



Now, take your partner by the hand

JUNO GROUP HEARING AID

At Mary Hare we are very proud of the technology used in the classrooms to optimise the listening conditions for pupils. Our Group Hearing Aid was developed in-house and has been developed over the years. Most recently it has been updated with the latest technology and we are grateful to all our donors who helped make this possible. We raised just under £40,000 for this work.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

We are grateful to Yamaha for donating a new keyboard for our Music Therapy programme and to the John Thaw Foundation for their funding for some new instruments including an alto metallophone, micro cabas, singing bowl, tongue drum and free-standing temple blocks.



Music Therapy

IT'S A KNOCKOUT, A TALE OF TWO STORIES

For the last 2 years we have taken part in It's a Knockout, and for the first time we had some of our students take part in the action. It was an occasion filled with quirky challenges, funny competitions and all of the crazy antics that come with the event! One of the teams came first, and the other team came last. We raised £300 in total for The Mary Hare Foundation.



Meet the new Prefect Team!

We welcome our new Prefect Team, made up of enthusiastic Sixth Formers committed to bringing greater opportunities and making a positive impact on the students at Mary Hare. They look forward to challenges and projects ahead of them for 2023-34.



Neve

“

During my time here at Mary Hare, it has given me so many opportunities to grow as a person and I have always wanted to do something that would give back to the school. As a Head Prefect I can't wait to improve students' opportunities and experiences during my year in this position.

Neve Massey, Head Prefect



Marni

“

Ever since I joined Mary Hare in Year 7, I have been able to thrive with the support of people in Mary Hare. Comparing Mary Hare to a mainstream school had allowed me to appreciate my time here and the opportunities it had given me. I am giving my thanks to the school by being a Head Prefect and hoping that I make a positive impact on the people at Mary Hare.

Marni Roff, Head Prefect



The 2023 - 2024 Prefect team:

- Head Prefects Marni Roff
Neve Massey
- Sports Prefect Roman Eminowicz
- Charity Prefect Hollie Reeve
- Pupil Liaison Mwaura Munyua
- Prefect Muhammad Ahmed
- Prefect Robbie Newman



New Chapter for Mary Hare Hearing Services

Mary Hare Hearing Services is made up of two businesses, the Hearing Centre and the Hearing Aid Repair Shop. Previously these two businesses were on separate sites, and in September 2022 we relocated so that all our services could be available on one site.

Since 2006 The Mary Hare Hearing Centre has been offering bespoke hearing care from their location in the heart of Newbury, on Weavers Walk. Over the past 15 years have supported countless customers and built up relationships with so many wonderful people.

The Hearing Centre is the place to go for any and all hearing issues. From a free hearing assessment to an in-depth wax removal, the Hearing Centre's team of professional audiologists are here to help. In the UK, more than 40% of people over 50 years old suffer from hearing loss, rising to more than 70% of people over the age of 70.

These figures, combined with statistics amongst younger generations amount to the fact that, as of 2020, there were 12 million adults with hearing loss in the UK. Even more staggeringly, over 6,000,000 of these individuals could benefit from using a hearing aid.

The Hearing Aid Repair Shop (HARS) is the second business under the umbrella of the Mary Hare Hearing Services. HARS specialises in repairing hearing aids. With the capability to repair any brand of hearing aid, HARS are able to support any and all customers with a personal touch and a speedy turnaround. Since opening in 2002 HARS has repaired thousands of hearing aids. HARS offers repairs and essential servicing for all makes, models and styles, every repair and rebuild completed to the highest specification. They also have an online store offering batteries, wax guards and other essential accessories.

Our teams in both businesses are proud to be able to work in the community to provide bespoke hearing care with 50% of our profits also supporting Mary Hare School.

In September of 2022, The Hearing Centre decided to move their shop from the well-established Weavers Walk residency to a new location in Parkway Shopping, in Newbury. This move certainly came with its challenges, from carrying desks and test booths through corridors to identifying the best position for a plug socket, however, Despite the physical difficulties however, the move was a great success. Since moving into the new location, both the Hearing Centre and HARS have seen a great surge in customer engagement and feedback on the new shop has been positive. The new shop not only offers a dedicated workshop to HARS but also contains two private hearing clinic rooms and a spacious yet homely reception. Feel free to visit any time within opening hours at our new address which is: Unit 48 (S1), Park Way, Newbury, RG14 1AY.

With a new, more accessible, shop we at the Hearing Centre and HARS hope to continue to support those in need of hearing care for a long time to come - visit us or get in touch to find out more.



You can now find us in Parkway

Hearing Centre
01635 523343
newburycentre@maryhare.org.uk

HARS
01635 48724
info@HARS.co.uk



Introducing the new PTA

A new PTA (Parent Teacher Association) team launched in September, and have hit the ground running with exciting events in the pipeline. Here they introduce themselves and explain a bit more about what being part of the PTA involves and how other parents can be involved too.

Our PTA is a friendly team of parents from across the Primary and Secondary school with a goal to raise funds for our students. Every parent is automatically a member of the PTA.

We firstly wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who attended and supported our recent PTA launch event with the Coronation Cream Tea Party, which was a huge success. We had a beautiful setting on the school lawn on the marquee, blue skies, and a great turnout of student and teachers. The brass ensemble was fantastic, cream teas were delicious and we raised close to £500!

We meet monthly, either virtually or face to face, to plan events and discuss ways to support our students and teachers. We have been challenged with the goal of raising funds to refurbish the science labs, Manor House student kitchen refurbishment, Mansell House outdoor seating area improvements, Howard House garden project, Primary School picnic tables and Forest equipment.

This term the PTA have contributed funds towards this years leavers hoodies and have bought kitchen utensils for the primary school.

Whilst we appreciate not everyone is able to attend meetings we would really welcome a set of volunteers who can help out on specific events. Any support at all is always gratefully received, from donating prizes, volunteering at events, bringing fundraising ideas to the table and most importantly to have fun.

By the time you read this we will have held our next event, which is the Summer BBO during Sports Day, on the beautiful school lawns overlooking the sports field. Last year we were fortunate the sun was shining, we sold delicious burgers, hot dogs, hot and cold drinks and raised £900. We are excited to continue planning events that bring our community together and raise funds to benefit our students. Why not come to one of our meetings either in person or virtual.

Keep an eye out for dates via Instagram, Facebook and school communications. Or contact us on email pta.maryhare@gmail.com



We welcomed 'Royal' guests

Meet Sherrell Perkin, Director of Arlington Arts Centre

This year we welcomed a new face to the Arlington Arts Centre team! Sherrell joined us back in 2022, and we sat with her to get to know her a bit better, as well as getting an insight into the exciting plans brewing behind the scenes.

Tell us a little bit about yourself and your career before Arlington Arts Centre?

I loved theatre from a very early age, and graduated with a degree in Drama and English from Hull University a scarily long time ago. Since then I have spent upwards of 30 years working mainly in venue management and as an arts education specialist. I took a year out in the mid 90s to do a PGCE, and then specialised in heading up education and community departments within venues and producing theatre and opera companies for a couple of decades, working with hundreds of schools and community groups on many dozens of exciting creative projects and performances. Apart from a two-year career break teaching English in Greece, and a three-year stint as a philanthropy partnerships manager with Oxfam just before I came to Arlington, the arts has been my life and my career, and I love it!

Arlington Arts is the fifth professional venue I have worked in, with others dotted around Essex, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire and London. Two of these were also shared spaces with educational institutions, including most recently an Arts Centre based on the campus of a boarding school, so much about the set-up with Mary Hare is really familiar to me! Working here represents the best of both worlds, and I'm very happy to be here.

What does your role as Director entail?

We are a very tiny team here at Arlington Arts, so my role encompasses both leadership, strategy, vision-setting, and lots of jobs that would normally sit under a General Manager. The best bits are getting to programme the venue, getting to choose what gigs and performances should be presented here, and getting to know, and hopefully build, the audiences for all the different types of events. I'm also getting to know some local community groups and discussing building partnerships with them, which is really exciting. I have a fabulous team, but it's ultimately down to me to make sure that everything runs smoothly here, all our performers, visitors and customers have a great time and everyone goes away happy.

How does Arlington Arts support Mary Hare School?

Arlington Arts is a school building as well as a public venue - we house the school's Music, Dance and Drama departments, and so we liaise really closely with them to try and make sure that lesson activities can take place in the theatre whenever possible, and that high profile school events - such as the school show, awards ceremonies, open days, can all take place in our beautiful space, which is something the



school can be really proud of. We want Mary Hare students to have a real sense of ownership of the venue, especially if they are interested in potential careers in the industry.

In addition, any profits generated by the Arts Centre go directly towards the Mary Hare Foundation, which then helps fund some of the projects that support the school and the students. We have an option to donate at the box office point of sale, and I have been amazed at the generosity of our audiences. I think this speaks to the reputation and the standing of Mary Hare School within the local community. Conversely, it is vital that Arlington Arts establishes its own reputation for excellence as an Arts Centre locally and regionally (and even nationally), as hopefully this will enhance the school's reputation even further, and encourage more people to want to send their children here, to take advantage of the wonderful facilities on offer!

Any events coming up that we should put in our diaries?

There are always lots of exciting things going on! We're coming into our summer period, where we play host to lots of local schools putting on their summer showcases.

From the autumn we're looking at a slightly more diverse programme, maintaining our focus on excellent live music - with award-winning bands and artists and a few of the best tribute acts around. But there will also be some great theatre in the mix, together with some contemporary dance as well as ballet, not to mention a real focus on comedy, with Ignacio Lopez, Stephen K Amos, and the launch of a brand new Comedy Club, Comedy Ladder at Arlington premieres with a fab gig on Friday 27th October, not to be missed! There's far too much to mention here but please do join our mailing list! Our new brochure (July-December 2023) comes out very soon...

Any other exciting plans in future for Arlington Arts Centre?

I'm still only 6 months into the job, and getting to know Newbury and the surrounding area, but in the long term I'd love to start getting more involved in generating some of our own arts activity and projects here at Arlington, and bedding the venue in even more with Newbury's amazing cultural community. I am particularly interested in making AAC a hub for deaf and disabled arts, bringing in some of the best professional deaf and disabled artists to provide an offer of which the school can be proud, and also some excellent role models for the children here. Watch this space...



Coles Diner also opened a kiosk

21 years of Coles Diner

This year we celebrated a special anniversary for our much-loved youth club, Coles Diner. 21 Years ago it opened for the first time, and Kiri-Lynn shares the memories of when it first opened, to the anniversary celebration event in November last year.

Coles Diner celebrated its 21st Birthday in November 2022. We held an afternoon tea with past and present pupils joining in. It was lovely to see familiar faces and to hear the stories of their time with us at Mary Hare and Coles Diner.

I started up the youth club on 6th November in 2001 - I had just started work at Mary Hare as care staff in Mansell house and wanted to run a club. Before starting Mary Hare, I was a youth leader at Guides, as well as volunteering in a toy library and Pals, a charity for disabled children, which I loved. I liked giving something back to the community and young people helping them develop key life skills. So, thinking about that I noticed an empty space in the basement of Mansell and thought I could start a youth club right here!! So that is what I did with a team of young people. We opened up on 6th November and sold hot dogs and had a fancy dress party.

We opened 4 times a week selling sweets, and held events from parties to pool competitions to burger nights. With the team of young people, we drew up plans of a dream "youth club" and the PTA helped us raise over £40,000 to make it happen. That is when "Coles Diner" officially became what you all know it as today. The grand opening of that was on 30th September 2007, and I remember setting off the fire alarm cooking burgers twice that night!

It changes every year with the young people we have come through and that's why I love it so much - it is more than just a youth club. You can learn how the world of work is, helping support your own life skills, support being a lifeguard; training and employment, helping others, charity events, team building and trips.

It is a non-profit making business always giving back to the young people in part funding of trips and clubs as well as supporting local charities and, most importantly, a space just for you to call your own.

Kiri-Lynn



Opening night



Anniversary celebrations



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF MARY HARE

This event took place at the end of the year when Peter Gale was still Principal of the School. The 75 year anniversary was due to be marked in 2021, but due to Covid the event was postponed until 2022.

On Saturday 25 June 2022, 250 past pupils came together to mark 75 years of Mary Hare in a special reunion event. The day began with a few welcome words from Principal, Peter Gale, who shared some of recent updates with the school including the new Primary School project and some exciting projects in the pipeline. The sun was shining as visitors enjoyed the grounds, toured round some of the more familiar buildings and explored newer additions, such as Coles Diner.

In Arlington Arts Centre everyone enjoyed music performed by Lumpy Custard, who were the Mary Hare school band back in 1975. In the Manor a special exhibition had been displayed, showcasing many memories of Mary Hare, including the uniform across the decades, memorabilia, photos and newspaper clippings.

Alumni Chair, Derek Grabham, said, "I am very delighted to know that our 75th Anniversary Reunion at Mary Hare school was a resounding success. There were 250 guests embarking on that day and they all enjoyed themselves seeing their old friends, looking around the school buildings and most of all, they were amazed by the exhibition we put on in the old needlework room in the Manor. The Lumpy Custard music band put on two great performances much to the delight of our guests. We can now look forward in 4 years time (2026) to celebrate our 80th Anniversary. Watch this space!! Also, the Chair will welcome any younger ex-pupils to be part of the Alumni Committee for our future plans. We love to hear your views especially from the younger generations."

The day ended with everyone gathering next to the Manor, where the Alumni Chair, Derek Grabham, and one of the eldest alumnus, Ron Sutton, together unveiled a commemorative plaque outside the front of the building.



Celebrating 75 years!

“There were 250 guests embarking on that day and they all enjoyed themselves seeing their old friends...



Old school



Enjoying the exhibition



Lumpy Custard

Alumni on the honours list

William Ogden, a Mary Hare Alumni, has recently been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM), in recognition of the impact he has made to the lives of people in the local community.

William works at a University as an Academic Affairs Senior Coordinator, supporting students with disabilities, mental health, learning differences and dyslexia to ensure they receive the relevant support to access their education. Congratulations William!



Mike Penfold



Daniel Clements



William Ogden, BEM

New members of the board

Last September two former pupils joined the Board of Governors at Mary Hare School. Mike Penfold left Mary Hare in 1999 to pursue a career in civil engineering. Daniel Clements left in 2010 and now works for the Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD). We would like to welcome them both.

THE CLASS OF 2012

On 1st April 2023 the class of 2012 returned to visit Mary Hare School. The visit was organised by Arron Thomas and they were welcomed back by members of staff - Charlie Hadley, Kiri-Lynn Gardner and Louise Osbourne. Charlie, Kiri-Lynn and Louise said it was so nice to see so many of them return and to hear about what they are doing now. Charlie had been a member of the Care Team back in 2012 so they were delighted to hear that she is now Wellbeing Co-ordinator and Joint Head of PSHE as well as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Class of 2012

ALUMNI VISITS

If you would like to arrange an alumni visit or are interested in our alumni events, please email foundation@maryhare.org.uk

GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK

We said a fond farewell to some of our team this year. We wish them all the best and thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the school.

Lina Hansard

We were sad to see Lina Hansard leave Mary Hare after 5 years in the Speech & Language Therapy department. Lina was the Deputy Head of Speech & Language Therapy and supported families as part of the assessment team and at tribunals.

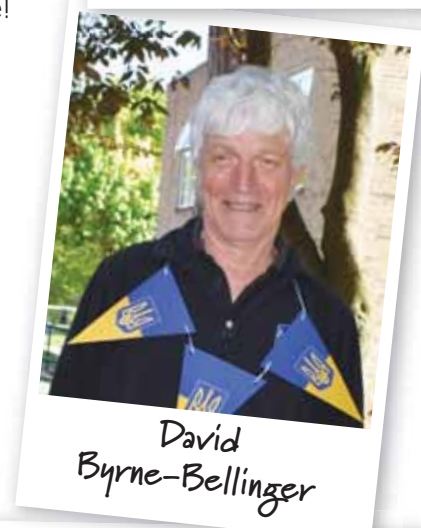


Jane Belmont

On the 28th April Jane Belmont retired after more than 16 years here at Mary Hare. Colleagues gathered to give Jane the send off she deserves and share in some delicious cake. Jane worked in administration, HR and, most recently, managed the School's pension scheme. Happy retirement Jane!

David Byrne-Bellinger

David retired in May this year following 32 years of employment at Mary Hare. David worked closely with audiology colleagues since Ivan Tucker's leadership and during this time he was instrumental in developing and upgrading the group aid system in the classrooms. We wish David well in his retirement.



Margaux Léman-Clédel

Arriving in a foreign country, and coming to teach French at Mary Hare, could have stressed me a lot. However, from my very first day, I felt welcomed and at home among all the people who work and study at the school. My colleagues, not only in French but also in all other subjects, were very supportive, and I found the working conditions ideal. I was able to develop my teaching skills and enrich my practice by working closely with individuals. I learnt to adapt lessons to match the needs of the student, create new teaching materials and be a general support to the students both in and outside of lessons.

I am very proud of the students I have had the chance to work with. They have proven their ability to learn a foreign language, and that deafness is not an obstacle to doing so. I have gained a lot from my placement at the secondary school but I'm also really grateful for the chance to have worked at the primary school with much younger students.

Many thanks to Mary Hare: teachers, TAs, care and admin staff, for giving me the chance to work here. I hope I was able to share my knowledge of the French language and my culture. Thank you so much for your welcome and your kindness. And finally, a massive thank you to the students for welcoming me into their school: you have taught me much more than I have taught you.



Rachael Lethbridge

I joined Mary Hare in 2016 because I wanted to broaden my experience of working with young people with special educational needs, I also had the opportunity to live on a barge for a year! I joined as the Numeracy Coordinator and supported the Maths department to broaden the existing curriculum and accommodate all pathways. Once I qualified as a Teacher of the Deaf I went on to achieve a Masters through researching ways to teach Maths vocabulary to Deaf students. Count on Words, a Maths vocabulary intervention package was created, which Mary Hare shares freely through their website, helping professionals support Deaf children and others with language difficulties to achieve their potential. After 6 years at Mary Hare, I have now moved back home to Cornwall to be near family and the sea. I am working as an Augmentative and Alternative Communications (AAC) advisor for Cornwall Council, supporting young people to find their voice through high-tech devices.

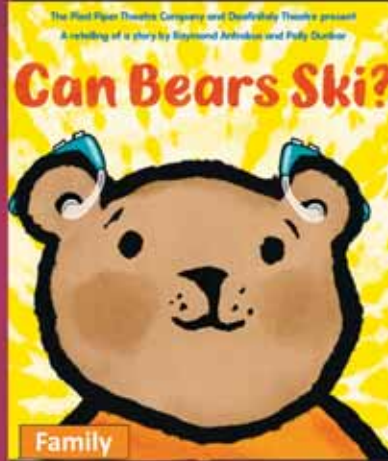
July to
December
2023

Arlington Arts Centre
Mary Hare
Snelmore
Newbury
RG14 3BQ



"an important and excellent local venue" - Newbury Today

Featuring the best in emerging and established musicians, belly laugh inducing comedians, original theatre and jaw-dropping dance.



Little Hares DEAF BABY & TODDLER support group

A new monthly support group at Mary Hare School for families with deaf babies and toddlers aged 2 and under.

Mary Hare School, based near Newbury in Berkshire, is opening its doors for families with deaf children to connect, share tips and advice, and access support from professionals in the field of deafness.

BSL interpreters will be available at each session.



Upcoming FREE sessions:

2023

Friday 15 September, 10am Baby-signing

Friday 13 October, 10am Music Therapy

Friday 10 November, 10am NDCS Support

2024

Friday 19 January, 10am Reading Together

Tuesday 27 February, 10am Language Building Blocks

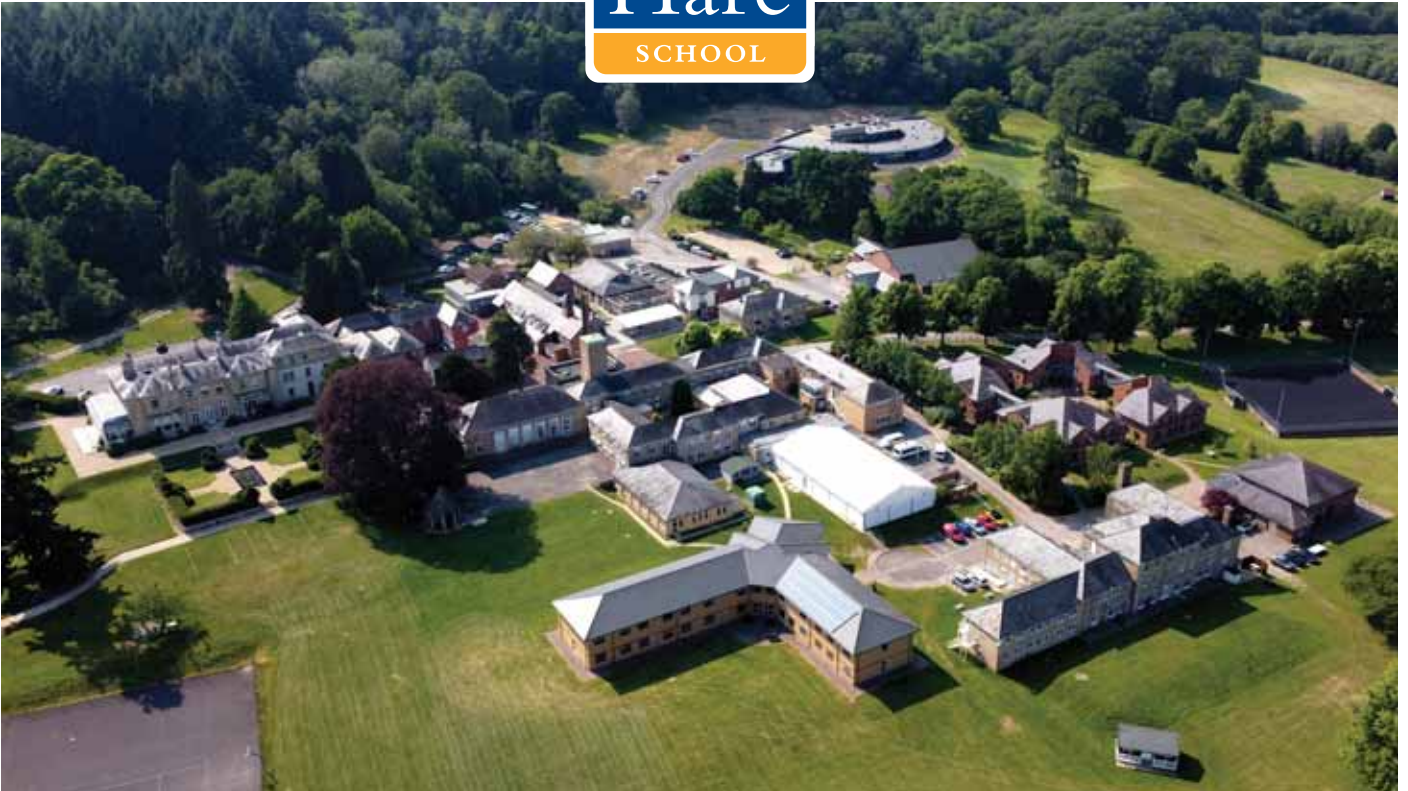
Friday 22 March, 10am Music Therapy

Friday 10 May, 10am Baby-singing

Friday 7 June, 10am Sensory Play

Friday 5 July, 10am NDCS Support





Securing the future of deaf children & young people