

# Ovingdean Hall News

## Setting the scene

With the help of our friends, we have recently supported four theatre events for deaf and hard of hearing children which have been organised by Mousetrap Theatre Projects.

Two events were built around the musical *School of Rock* with 60 children taking part. A further 157 children attended performances of *Romeo and Juliet* at The Globe. Each event included a pre-show drama workshop exploring the story and its characters and themes, an onstage tour and a matinee performance which was either British Sign Language interpreted or captioned.



Children take part in a *School of Rock* workshop

*'The workshop was fantastic because it was so interactive and personal,'* said one teacher. *'Everything was broken down and pitched at the right level, and motivated every child to get involved. The communication needs were met and the students loved that humour was used.'*

### Reaching out to families

We are delighted to be working with The Elizabeth Foundation again, contributing towards their *Let's Listen and Talk* programme for deaf children from 0-5 years.

The online, interactive programme helps parents support their child in developing listening, speaking and communication skills, and is designed to reach and help families who live far from the charity's Hampshire headquarters.



*'This is such a valuable resource for our whole family,'* said one parent. *'We love the information and videos which are useful for everyone involved with my son. We feel very positive for the future. Thank you for all your support.'*

# 'A fabulous experience'



This spring, children and young people from across the country have taken part in sports days supported by OHF.

The swimming and boccia tournaments, which were organised by sports charity Panathlon, brought students together to have fun and develop their strength and social confidence.

Panathlon's events have been described as, 'a fabulous experience for deaf children who can often feel isolated.' One teacher from Hertfordshire talked about the benefits: 'Students enjoy the competitive nature of events which is good for their overall development, and they also teach them transferable skills such as respect, team work, communication and leadership.'

A teacher from Yorkshire said the events broke down barriers between deaf and hearing children: 'Doing this gives them that extra confidence to go out and play sport with the hearing pupils. It gives them the belief in themselves that they can participate in sporting activities.'



Children and young people celebrate taking part in Panathlon.

## Another 'Outstanding' year!

Once again, we were delighted to support The Ear Foundation's most recent Outdoor Activities Challenge in the Derbyshire Dales.

The summer residential brought 31 children and young people together for five days of climbing, canoeing and abseiling. The activities holiday focused on developing skills and friendships and the effective use of hearing technology.

One young person said: 'I felt more independent and free – it helps me focus more on my responsibilities.' Another teenager added: 'I feel very proud of being deaf and that I am to communicate with loads of people.'

Ofsted carried out an inspection and once again awarded it the top rating of 'Outstanding'.

We look forward to supporting The Ear Foundation in this their 30th year.



The Ear Foundation®  
#EarFoundation30  
#30for30

A HUGE thank you to all of our friends for funding these amazing projects for deaf children. If you would like to help our work, you can donate online at [www.ovingdeanhall.org/support-us](http://www.ovingdeanhall.org/support-us) or please send your cheque or CAF voucher (payable to Ovingdean Hall Foundation) to the address below:

## Thank you very much!

Ovingdean Hall Foundation  
15 Great College Street  
London  
SW1P 3RX

Tel: 01273 301929  
Tel / Text: 07778 599939  
Email: [info@ovingdeanhall.org](mailto:info@ovingdeanhall.org)  
Web: [www.ovingdeanhall.org](http://www.ovingdeanhall.org)  
Registered charity number: 1052478

**OHF**  
Ovingdean Hall  
Foundation