

Ovingdean Hall News

Reaching out to families during the pandemic

We continue to support The Elizabeth Foundation's *Let's Listen and Talk* programme for deaf babies and toddlers.



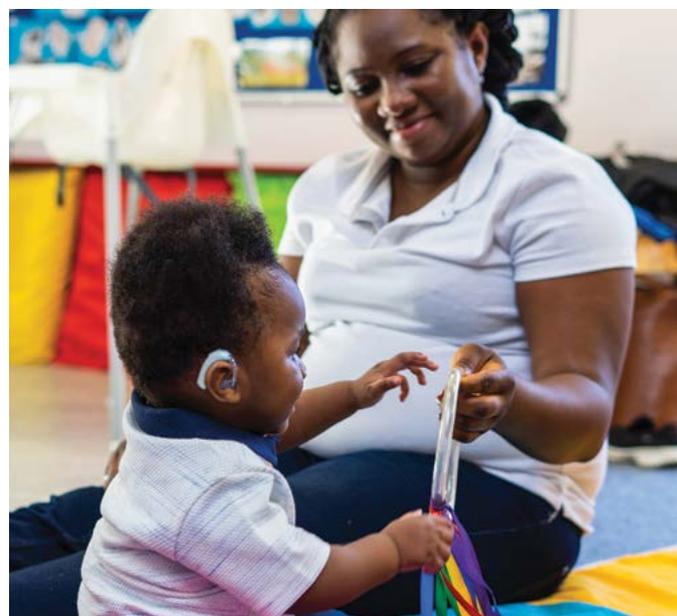
Supporting deaf children at
The Elizabeth Foundation

The online, interactive programme helps parents to develop their child's listening, speaking and communication skills. The service has been incredibly important during the pandemic because it has reached families in the home.

Our grant has enabled The Elizabeth Foundation to employ a new Teacher of the Deaf (ToD) for one and half days per week to deliver the project. Parents have reported that the teacher's guidance has motivated them to stay on track: *'The support of our ToD has meant that families feel less isolated or overwhelmed at home and, as one parent told us recently "means that I don't feel like giving up!"*, says Karen Vaughan, Deputy Chief Executive of The Elizabeth Foundation.

Demand for the *Let's Listen and Talk* programme is growing, with referrals coming from hospital audiology departments and cochlear implant centres as well as word of mouth. The service is helping the families of children with a variety of needs: *'We have seen more families with deaf children who have needs relating to Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder, Downs syndrome, microtia, atresia and immune deficiencies seeking our support, and telling us that without the programme they would simply "feel lost",*' says Karen.

In order to reach as many families as possible during the pandemic, The Elizabeth Foundation have waived all fees, providing free access to their home learning and support programme.



Official Panathlon Partner



We have become an official sponsor of Panathlon Challenge, the disability sports charity. Our grant supports their programme for deaf children, with a record 30 competitions taking place in 2019/20.

Tony Waymouth, Chief Operating Officer of Panathlon, said: 'We are extremely grateful to Ovingdean Hall Foundation for funding our deaf programme and continuing our partnership into its eighth year and beyond. Our deaf events have positively impacted over 1,500 young people in the last year alone, giving them a vital platform to fulfil their potential and thrive in an environment where they feel safe and supported. This would not have been possible without OHF's support.'

Children at a Boccia event funded by OHF



Sports for St John's

St John's
Catholic School for the Deaf



We are delighted to renew our support for St. John's Catholic School for the Deaf in Boston Spa, West Yorkshire, funding the resurfacing of their outdoor court.

'Please pass on our sincere thanks for the grant to resurface our outdoor area. It has been an absolute godsend,' said Ann Bradbury, Head Teacher. 'Our students can use it for breaks but also for PE as a large nonslip area.'

The new court has been especially timely because, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the school has not been able to offer sports indoors this term.

Like Ovingdean Hall School, St John's is non-maintained, and as a special school for the deaf, it has been a natural fit for us since our launch in 2012. Since then, we have funded the refurbishment of their music suite and library, and added two sensory rooms for children with multi-sensory impairments.

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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 or please send your cheque or CAF voucher (payable to Ovingdean Hall Foundation) to the address below.

Thank you very much!

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