

Ovingdean Hall News

From page to stage

Mousetrap
theatreprojects
inspiring young people

Pasta, pox and smelly feet were just some of the topics of plays created by deaf children as part of this year's Mousetrap Theatre Projects Playmaker's showcase.

A climb up



We have contributed toward The Ear Foundation's first activities weekend for

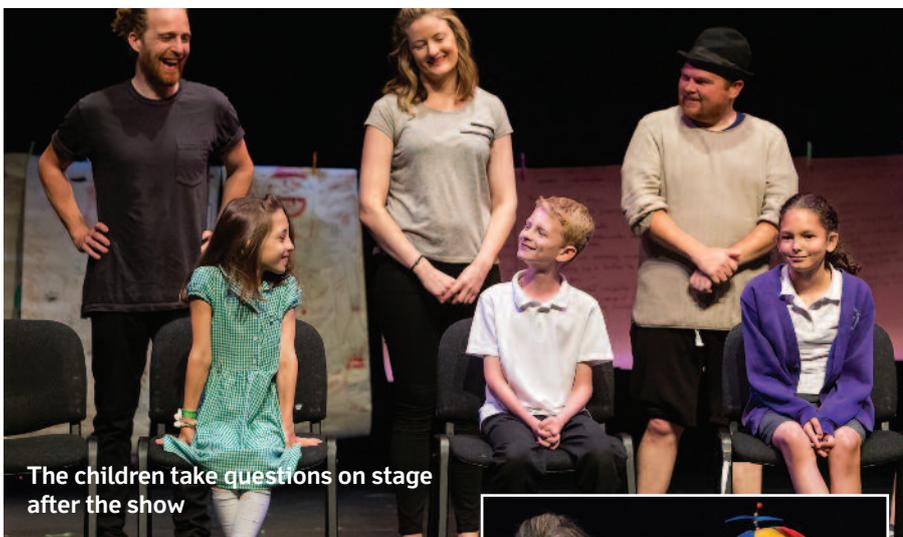
deaf children aged 8 -13 years, funding places for those who would have otherwise struggled to attend. 16 'Tweens' took part in activities which included canoeing, wall climbing and abseiling.

'Thank you for the incredible experience you shared with our daughter this weekend,' said one parent. 'We are in awe at the feats she has faced (and climbed and jumped off!), and feel indebted to all of you for helping her to find her inner courage and confidence.'

We also support the residential for older deaf children.



Children on The Ear Foundation's residential break



The children take questions on stage after the show

Over the course of six workshops, and with the support of drama practitioners and playwright Andrew Muir, children from four primary schools prepared short plays which were then performed by a company of deaf and hearing actors.

The plays, which were introduced by short films made by the children, brought to life a range of imaginative characters including a time-travelling farmer with smelly feet, a hungry pirate in search of



Actors perform the children's plays

golden pasta, and a superhero with rainbow chicken pox.

We have now been supporting Mousetrap for three years.

'Sport just makes me happy'

So said Zara, 11, who captained a boccia team in a tournament organised by sports charity Panathlon, with support from OHF.

Zara is one of a number of deaf children who have been highly commended this year for their determination and leadership. Another boccia captain, Shahayna, 10, has also been recognised. *'She is so enthusiastic,'* said her teacher Claire. *'She can lack confidence, but now she says 'I CAN do it!''*

Corby, 9, a multisports and swimming fan, was delighted with his award: *'I'm a really proud young man,'* he said. *'Winning today has made my day.'*

The charity also encourages deaf young people to go on to lead sports events in the future.



Children wear their medals at a Panathlon event

Supporting students



The University of Manchester

This Autumn, Dr Kai Uus from the University of Manchester will be seeking three students from the MSc in Audiology and Deaf Education programmes to receive funding from OHF to support their research project into Paediatric and Children's Audiology.

Dr Uus, who is the Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness teaching lead and programme director, says the funding will enable students *'to carry out better quality and more clinically meaningful projects with adequate financial and technical support.'*

The funding is also an investment in the next generation of professionals helping deaf children: *'It will promote the training of the future leaders in audiology and associated services across the country,'* adds Dr Uus.

Thank you to all our friends for helping us support these projects. If you would like to help us at this time, 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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