

Ovingdean Hall News

The gift of learning

We are proud to support Auditory Verbal UK (AVUK), a charity which teaches deaf babies and children to listen and speak using a play-based approach called Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT).

AUDITORY VERBAL^{UK}
Creating a sound future for deaf children

Children with hearing impairment typically acquire language at half the rate of their hearing peers, and AVUK's programme aims to close the gap by the time they start school.



A child learns through Auditory Verbal Therapy.

We have funded 35 AVT bursaries for Teachers of the Deaf and Speech and Language Therapists to train in this innovative, early-intervention approach. This is the first time such bursaries have been offered in the UK and, due to their success, AVUK has now been able to secure grants from other funders.

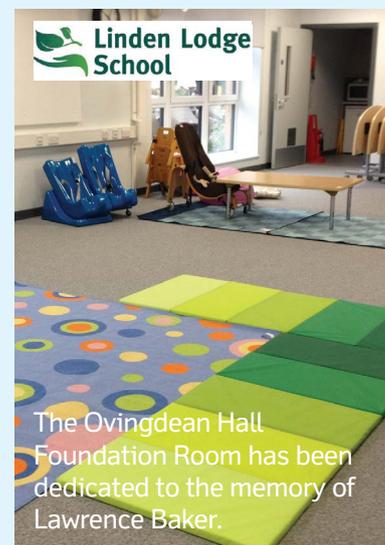
'The training has enriched my practice,' said one student, while another described the OHF bursary as, *'A true gift.'*

Exceeding expectations

This year, Linden Lodge School in Wandsworth opened The Isobel Centre, their bright and welcoming new facility for children with multi-sensory impairments and their families.

We have funded a multi-purpose room dedicated to the memory of Lawrence Baker, a supporter who left us a legacy in his will.

'What is transformative about The Isobel Centre, its true spirit, is that it has been planned for families,' said head teacher Debbie Rix. *'They can come here spontaneously, to meet each other, see professionals, and join in sessions and playgroups. It is a familiar, comfortable space which creates confidence, and has exceeded all expectations.'*



The Ovingdean Hall Foundation Room has been dedicated to the memory of Lawrence Baker.

Theatre for all

Thanks to OHF's supporters, Polka Theatre has adapted four shows for deaf children.

POLKA
Where theatre begins...

The shows, which included *The Borrowers* and *Wind in the Willows*, were either signed or captioned. 'The Stage Text captioning was popular not only with children who don't sign so well yet,' said Helen

Hughes, fundraising manager, 'but also with adults, notably grandparents, who may also have hearing impairments.' 'The fantastic signer really helped my deaf son to follow the show,' said one parent.



Polka's advert for *Wind in the Willows* (photo credit: Michael Wharley & Rebecca Pitt).

Enriching lives through music

OHF support has enabled Music and the Deaf to deliver musical inspiration days to 114 deaf children and their teachers across the West Midlands, Devon and Rotherham.



80% of the children have said they are keen to continue playing music. Instrument lessons are now being arranged for 12 students, while four are already receiving weekly classes.

'Thank you so much to OHF for making this project happen,' said artistic director Danny Lane.

'The children have been really inspired by the music,' said a member of the Rotherham Hearing Support Team.



Danny Lane (far right) delivers a musical inspiration day.

Supporting students

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

We are encouraging the next generation of professionals working with deaf children by funding a number of research grants for students on the University of Manchester's MSc in Audiology and Deaf Education programmes.

Student Emily McCabe has used her funding to investigate hearing test methods for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. 'I am delighted to have support from OHF,' she said. 'Your grant has enabled me to visit clinics and research facilities, and collaborate with NHS sites for data collection. It has encouraged me to participate in conferences in order to develop my knowledge and experience in my subject area.'

Thank you to all our friends for helping us support these new and ongoing 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

Ovingdean Hall Foundation
15 Great College Street
London
SW1P 3RX

Tel: 01273 301929
Tel / Text: 07778 599939
Email: info@ovingdeanhall.org.uk
Web: www.ovingdeanhall.org
Registered charity number: 1052478

OHF
Ovingdean Hall
Foundation