



**Welcome to Ashton Community Science College
Deaf Support Department**



'a school to be proud of'

2021-22

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About the Deaf Support Department

The Deaf Support Department (DSD) is a specialist unit (SERF) within Ashton CSC. The unit provides resources and the support necessary to facilitate the inclusion of profoundly and severely D/deaf students into a mainstream secondary school environment. The unit was set up in 1990 to serve the whole of Lancashire. Currently and in the past, we have had students travel to us from all areas of Lancashire, including Lancaster, Nelson and Lytham. We also have students travel from the Blackburn & Darwen and Wigan authority. Our D/deaf students are members of mainstream forms, have the same uniform and disciplinary code as the mainstream students and are encouraged to enter fully into the life of the school, alongside the support, interventions and provision provided by the unit.

The department is based in the Hive building and has two dedicated DSD classrooms. However, the members of staff within the Deaf Support Department also support students in their mainstream lessons. Staff ensure that lessons are delivered at a level commensurate with each student's linguistic abilities, so that they are able to understand lesson content and undertake set tasks, adapted as required. In many cases, lessons are signed using Sign-Supported English and BSL, combined with oral and written methods, alongside full use of students' residual hearing. This 'Total Communication' approach ensures that every child has the fullest possible access to the mainstream curriculum.

We have strong links with our feeder primary school, Royal Cross. Many students transition from Royal Cross to Ashton. However, we strive to make transition as comfortable for both students and their families, whichever school they have attended. Positive relationships are at the root of all that we do.

We strive to provide a caring, secure and supportive environment where students with hearing difficulties can develop as individuals, academically, socially and emotionally, within school and beyond.

Our Staff



Mrs Cheryl Parker

Associate Assistant Headteacher, SENDCo



Mrs Jennifer Price

Teacher of the Deaf



Miss Sophie Haslam
Level 3 TA



Mr Thom Murphy
Level 3 TA



Miss Karen Parsonage
Level 3 TA



Mrs Sue Kennedy
Level 2 TA



Mrs Amanda Thompson
Level 2 TA

Structure of the day

8.00am – 8.35am – Taxis arrive for student drop off. Breakfast club is available for morning refreshments before the school day.

8.40am – 9.00am – Form Time

9.00am – 10.00am – Period 1

10.00am – 11.00am – Period 2

BREAK

11.20am – 12.20pm – Period 3

12.20pm – 1.20pm – Period 4

LUNCH

2.00pm – 3.00pm – Period 5

Taxis arrive for student pick up

Support for our students

Our six staff members support students in their mainstream lessons, using whichever method of communication is most appropriate for the child concerned. Our staff ensure that lessons are delivered at a level commensurate with each individual students' linguistic abilities, so that they are able to understand lesson content and undertake set tasks (adapted as required). In many cases, lessons are signed using Sign-Supported English, in combination with oral and written methods, alongside full use of students' residual hearing. This 'Total Communication' approach ensures that every child has the fullest possible access to the mainstream curriculum.

Mainstream versus Deaf Support Department

At Ashton, it is normal practice for our KS3 deaf students to be taught in mainstream classes, with the exception of English and Modern Foreign Languages. For most of our students, their language needs mean that it is a more appropriate pathway to follow our own scheme of work, which is taught within the Deaf Support Department, leading to Edexcel Entry Level English.

In KS4, our Year 10 and Year 11 students follow Entry Level qualifications in Maths, English and Science. Although there have been circumstances where some students have followed a GCSE course where this has been appropriate. Students also get the opportunity to follow 'tailor-made' KS4 courses in such subjects such as Art, Food Technology, Textiles and Photography in mainstream.

All students will also take part in Deaf Studies lessons, where a wide range of topics are covered, including life skills such as money and budgeting, shopping and health and lifestyle.

All staff at Ashton are Deaf Awareness trained.

Primary school links

Strong links exist between the Deaf Support Department and its main, feeder primary school, Royal Cross School for Deaf Children. Information is regularly shared and links continue long after Year 6 to Year 7 transition.

It is normal practice to invite Year 6 students to visit the Deaf Support Department a number of times before the start of Year 7. After the restrictions of 2020 due to COVID when the visits could not take place, we are now very much looking forward to reintroducing transition sessions.

What a student can expect from our department

In addition to following the school curriculum, we strive to provide many opportunities for our students, from inviting guest speakers in to talk to the students and working in our fabulous school garden, 'The Diggery'.

We encourage our students to;

- Develop their skills, knowledge and self esteem
- Make full use of their residual hearing
- Integrate as fully as possible with their hearing peers
- Take part in extracurricular activities
- Make full use of the excellent sporting and technology facilities



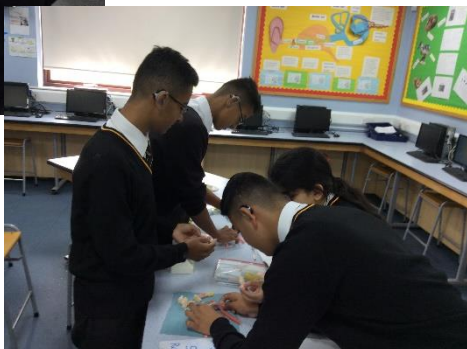
Life Skills – Building Furniture



Fun in The Diggery



Mainstream lessons



Getting Creative!



What our current students have to say about us

"I like Maths. Interesting lessons. I like all the teachers. Kind friends. I like the Diggery"

Neha - Year 9

"I like different subjects, like PE, Art, English, Maths and everything. Teachers are nice"

Adi – Year 10

"I like PE and Art. I love Art because I love drawing. I love PE because I like running and I like dancing. I like that teachers help in Hive with work. All teachers have good signing"

Cadey - Year 10

"It's quiet. I like Art because it's fun and you can learn new things. There are kind teachers and if you need any help, there's staff around to support and they are funny. We can teach you sign if you want us to?"

Courtney - Year 10

"I enjoy PE, English, Art and cooking. I like my friends and I like the teachers"

Sarah – Year 11

"I like to draw so I like Art. I like Maths too "

Daniella - Year 7

Life beyond Ashton

We have strong links with our Post-16 feeder college's; Preston's College and Blackburn College, but with a healthy careers programme here at school, we endeavour to make links with other college's too that are appropriate to our student's future plans and needs.

We have a successful history of our students moving onto further career paths and feel proud to tell you of a few of our most recent successes;

Our 2013 leavers went onto Warwick College then onto Warwick University and Blackburn College respectively, both gaining degrees in their chosen fields.

Following on, our 2015 leavers going onto Blackburn College and Lancaster and Morecombe College to study in the fields of Art and Design and Stage Management and Performance, pursuing further qualifications whilst still at the respective colleges.

Leavers of 2017 and 2018 went onto Preston's College to study Art and Design with Graphics, pursuing further qualifications in this area and to Cardinal Newman College to study A Levels.

To date, our leavers of 2019 to 2021 went onto Preston's College and Blackburn College to study courses such as Art and Design, Graphic Design, Plastering, Hair and Beauty to name a few.



Important Information

- Ashton open evening takes place on **Thursday 23rd September 2021.**
- Secondary Schools Admissions deadline is **Sunday 31st October 2020.**
- Applications can be completed by accessing the Lancashire County Council School Admissions website.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

- Look out for invitation for all Year 5 and Year 6 parents, to attend a virtual Zoom meeting, to introduce you to the Deaf Support Department. Details will be issued soon.

Contact Details

Ashton Community Science College

Aldwych Drive
Ashton on Ribble
Preston
PR2 1SL

Phone: 01772 513002

E mail: equiries@ashtoncsc.lancs.sch.uk

For further information contact;

Mrs Jennifer Price

Phone: 01772 513002 Ext: 223

E mail: jprice@ashtoncsc.com

We support our students in whatever way we can on their journey through school and to reach their full potential and their own identity. We give them an all-round communication experience to prepare them with the skills to move forward in their chosen path. Ashton really is a school to be PROUD of.

Deaf Support Department Team and the Ashton family.



Ashton
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