



Summer

Term 2011



SEDGEHILL SCHOOL

HIU NEWSLETTER

# HEARING IMPAIRED UNIT



## NEWS FOR THE SUMMER TERM

At this point in the year, we are looking back over the past three terms and looking forward to changes and new ideas for September.

This year we have welcomed five new students and three new members of staff!

Maria Elena joined Year 9, Renee joined Year 8 and there were three new students in Year 7.

In April, we also said farewell to JeJe in Year 8, who gained a place at Mary Hare Grammar School in Berkshire.

Ms. Allen and Ms. Trew joined us in September and Ms. Beschizza joined us in April. We also dragged Mrs. Kowalczyk out of retirement to help us for two mornings a week.

### **This year we have experienced several "firsts" for the HIU:**

Ms. Beschizza is our first Deaf teacher who has joined us to help with the development of BSL. With the exception of Ms. Trew, who starts her course in September and Mrs. Bradshaw, who we have decided is a hopeless case, all our staff are now able to sign to at least Level 2!

Ms. Collier has completed her first year as our first Communication Support Worker.

Reshay is the first student to undertake a BSL qualification in school.

The HIU took part in "Life and Deaf"

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, a small group of HIU students enjoyed a positive and creative day at the "Life and Deaf" poetry workshop in Greenwich. All six students wrote excellent poems! They all had a chance to transform their poems into Art and Sign Language, whilst also learning about their voices and how to project them through fun and exciting games. All of the staff involved in organising the event and the staff from other schools were greatly impressed with our students' hard work and impeccable behaviour.

The newest member of our team, Ms. Beschizza, has been working closely with Ms. Warburton from the Music Department. They have been developing signing and singing for the first time with Madonna's "Like a Prayer" for the end of term concert.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, Michelle Quayle, from the Youth Development Office of the British Deaf Association, came to the school to talk to the students about activities that might interest them. The BDA is trying to encourage young Deaf people to become a strong and influential part of the organisation and the wider Deaf community



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## Well Done to:

- ★ Eden - for completing a year at secondary school and overcoming so many problems and for achieving a Jack Petchey Award and for her nomination for a Lewisham Achievement Award. In addition, the wheelchair seems to be sitting, neglected, outside my office for most of the day, which means that Eden is walking everywhere!!
- ★ Elisha - for successfully completing his first year at secondary school, when all of his friends went somewhere else!!
- ★ Renee - for settling so well in a new school this term!!
- ★ Maria Elena - for coping in a new school, in a new country and for learning so much sign language so quickly!!
- ★ Khia and Mignone - for supporting one another, for working hard and for taking on the responsibility for representing the HIU on Student Voice!!
- ★ Dominic - for sporting achievements.
- ★ Praveen - for achievement in Maths
- ★ Tyrone - for doing well in his college course.
- ★ Reshay - for her Lewisham Achievement Award.
- ★ And to Dominic, Kimberly and Tity for successfully surviving their GCSE exams!!

Well done!



## HIU Day Out:

We will be taking our day out on July 13<sup>th</sup>. We are going to Greenwich again - but with a difference - we are going by boat. The Thames Clipper allows you to view lots of famous landmarks and tourist sites, which links into the National Curriculum for Years 7 and 9, and then travels at high speed to Greenwich Pier. We are hoping for fine weather so that we can have a picnic lunch in the park before catching the 54 bus back to school.



## SIGNtific:

The Science Museum are holding free Deaf led family events at the weekends and in the school holidays and shows are run during Black History Month and National Science and Engineering week. They are performed in BSL with a voice over interpreter. If you would like more information, please feel free to email [charlotte.robinson@sciencemuseum.org.uk](mailto:charlotte.robinson@sciencemuseum.org.uk) or visit the website [www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/signtific](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/signtific).



**News for September:**

Ms. Childs will take over as Lead Teacher of the Deaf in September. Mrs. Bradshaw will be around to help out and probably get in the way.

Ms. Allen, who has really given all our Maths a boost this year, starts her two year Teacher of the Deaf Diploma in September - she will need lots of TLC!

While we are reflecting on the past and looking forward to the future, we would welcome your comments on what went well this year and what we could improve in the future. Please take a few minutes to fill in the attached evaluation form and ask your son or daughter to return it to us in the HIU.

Thank you for all your support this year and we wish everyone a good summer.

Mrs. M. A. Bradshaw

July 2011

