

Special School - Primary PRU - Secondary PRU - Hospital Medical



My role is simply cricket says our England captain

Teaching assistant Paul Allen is bowling students over after they discovered he is not only a trailblazer for disability sport but also represented his country at cricket.

As captain of the England Deaf Cricket Team, Paul, 37, a higher level teaching assistant, is now preparing for the first season of the new Disability Premier League he helped to establish and also to take the England Deaf cricket team to Australia for the Ashes next month.

As a deaf player, the pinnacle of Paul's career came in 2016 when he captained the England Deaf team at the World Series in Dubai. Deaf cricketers must have hearing loss in both ears and, on the playing field, they must play without their hearing aids or cochlear implants. "Representing your country in any sport at any standard is a huge deal for any player," said Paul, who also travelled to Australia to play for England. "My international caps sit proudly in my living room."

Now Paul is preparing to take the new generation of England Deaf players back to Australia in June for two weeks as their Assistant Head Coach and he is grateful to the support he received from Kingsmead for helping to make it happen and giving him the time off work.

"The backing of the senior leadership team here has been second to none," he said. "I have tremendous support and there are no words to really express how grateful I am to the school."

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Duke of Cambridge puts the King into Kingsmead

Our students from the special school visited the National Memorial Arboretum, in Staffordshire this term. They are currently reading 'Owen and the Soldier' by Lisa Thompson so a visit to the site was perfect to help inspire their learning...and look who else decided to visit on the same day!



Micah dishes up a feast with creative cookery



At The Kingsmead School, we're always keen to encourage the development of valuable life skills.

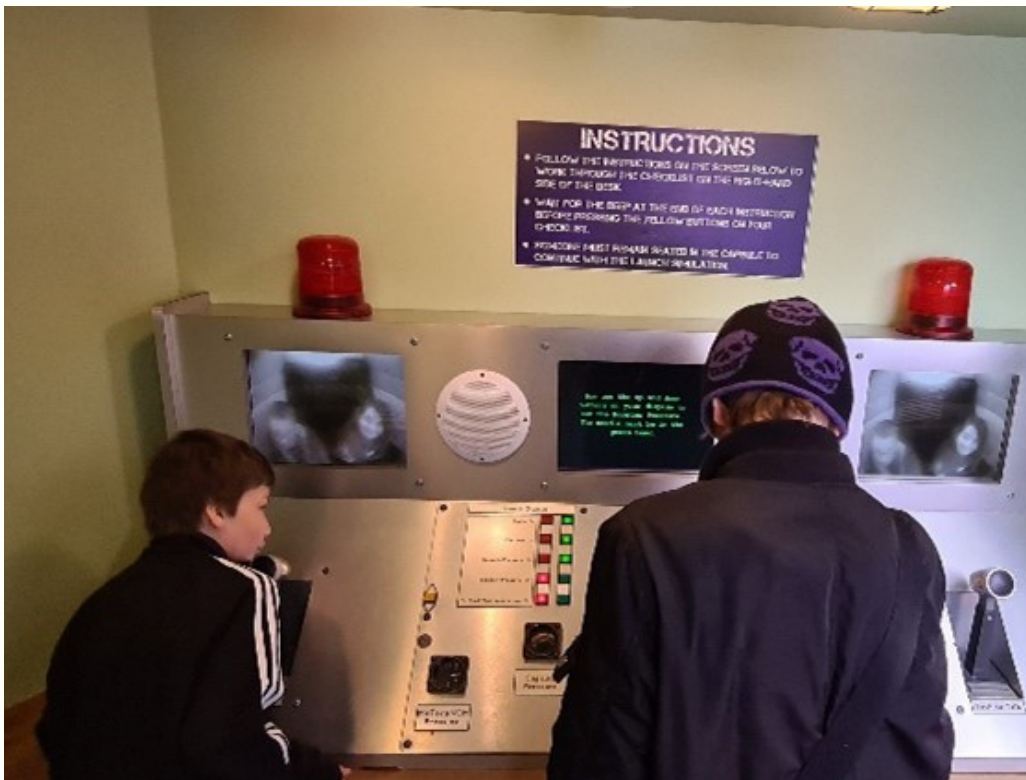
One of our young people, Micah, has been attending creative cookery sessions at Inspirative Arts, honing his skills in the kitchen and making an array of different dishes each week.

In his final session, he made this epic toad in the hole with onion gravy, which he was rightly very proud of!



One small step for Kingsmead

At the end of last term, our Year Seven students at the special school went on a visit to The National Space Centre. Covid meant that we were forced to cut back on visits to ensure the safety of our students and staff so this trip was a real milestone. We did lots of planning, including visual timetables of the day, social stories and a virtual tour of the centre to limit the anxiety that can be caused by change. Everyone had a fantastic time exploring the exhibits and watching our first planetarium show in the domed theatre.



Teaching staff work together to tackle attendance issues



Staff attended the Derby County Community Trust Inclusion Programme this half term and heard all about the recent Social Impact Report.

The conference was attended by over 200 of the city's teachers and local organisations who work with young people and was aimed at looking at the work that has shown the need for further intervention to increase attendance in school and tackle both permanent and fixed term exclusions.

Throughout the day the conference looked at the success of the Opportunity Area Inclusion Programme by showcasing the Social Impact Report as well as launching the new Inclusion Charter. The charter contains five key principles that all schools in Derby will look to implement. Broadcaster and activist Carrie Grant then delivered a passionate keynote address, discussing her experiences of adoption, SEND children and inclusion in schools.

The day ended with a marketplace where education providers could meet organisations, including SHED, Baby People and Safe and Sound, that support young people across Derby, and how they can work together as well as a round table discussion held by the University of Derby.



LEARNING TO TALK ABOUT OUR MENTAL HEALTH

In May it was Mental Health Awareness Week and this year the theme was loneliness. Our pupils were told that loneliness is a normal part of life, but that it can eat away at a person's sense of self-worth and make them question whether they belong.

Loneliness is not about how many friends you have, loneliness is the feeling that we experience when there is a mismatch between the social connections that we have and the connections that we want.

This means that it can look and feel different for all of us. We discussed loneliness and its effects during PSHE lessons in the hope of reducing the stigma that surrounds it and challenging the stereotypes about those who experience it.

Here are some contacts for anyone who might need help or support:

Kooth

Free anonymous online counselling and support for young people.

www.kooth.com

Samaritans

Advice and Support around Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

www.samaritans.org

Tel: 116123



OUR JAYDEN IS MOTORING TO SUCCESS

Our Year 9 student Jayden recently took part in the junior drivers tournament. Jayden took came first in this competition and took 'Top Junior' in 17.5 and the team now look forward to round two of the championship at the Cotswold track later this month.

Following the event, Jayden brought in his car to show the staff and students at Castle Education Centre and took pride in demonstrating his interest in and knowledge of electric model cars. We look forward to hearing about the results of Jayden's upcoming races and wish him the best of luck!