

## **HEARING RESOURCE CENTRE**

### **Department Aims**

- to promote and support hearing impaired students' full access to, and inclusion in, the curriculum and the life of the school
- to develop hearing impaired students' independence in school with regard to managing their hearing loss and being members of the community
- to prepare hearing impaired students for moving on to further education and employment

### **Department Ethos**

The Secondary Hearing Resource Centre (HRC) is part of the local authority's People Department. It is centrally-funded and managed by the Croydon Sensory Support Service for children and young people (CSSS).

The HRC caters for students who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for severe to profound hearing loss and who need a level of specialist teaching which is greater than would normally be available in a mainstream secondary school.

The centre follows a natural aural approach where students' language and communication skills are developed through speaking and listening; however, packages of support are also offered to meet the needs of hearing impaired students with other communication modes, for example, British Sign Language (BSL) and Sign Supported English (SSE).

Hearing impaired students attending Shirley High are first and foremost members of the school and are based and taught in mainstream classes. Their in-class support and individual withdrawal teaching is organised and delivered by Teachers of the Deaf and Specialist Teaching Assistants who are trained to work with deaf students.

The school gives priority admission to students identified as meeting the criteria for entry. Any student with a hearing impairment who does not have an EHCP, but who is accepted as part of the school's admission policy, receives support from CSSS as directed by an assessment of need.

### **Facilities and Equipment**

The HRC is based within the school and has two acoustically treated rooms which are used for teaching. The school also has a number of acoustically treated classrooms and sound field systems, one of which is in the Assembly Hall.

Students and staff, who gain benefit from them, use personal FM systems in lessons. FM systems can be linked into most of the sound field systems in the school to allow access to multimedia information that is delivered using interactive whiteboards. Hand-held microphones are also available for each hearing impaired student and these connect to their FM systems to enable them to hear other students' contributions in lessons, as well as the teacher's voice.

Students and staff also have the use of a pager which provides a vibrating alert when the fire alarm is activated.

### **Department Staff**

#### **Head of Centre and Teacher of the Deaf**

Miss Cindy Paulding

## **Teacher of the Deaf**

Mrs Renee Diamond

## **Specialist Teaching Assistants**

Mrs C Akrimi (part-time)

Mr S Jagdeo

Mr J Stovell (part time 2 days)

Mrs A Saul

## **Key Stage 3 & 4 Information**

All hearing impaired students follow the mainstream curriculum and are supported by specialist staff in lessons. In addition to this, most students who are attached to the HRC have 'one to one' or small group tutorials with a Teacher of the Deaf. These tutorials replace one or more of their KS3 or KS4 curriculum subjects. Tutorials can be for 2, 3 or more lessons a week depending on the need of the student. Programmes of work carried out in tutorials are designed to develop language and communication skills and to support the work done in the mainstream curriculum.

## **Key Stage 5 Information**

Hearing impaired students in the 6th Form who have an EHCP will be supported by centre staff both in-class for their chosen courses and for 'one to one' tutorials in the HRC, depending on their needs.

## **Lunchtime Activities**

Sign Language Club

## **Other information**

For further information, or to arrange a visit to the school and HRC, please contact Cindy Paulding on 020 8656 2987 or at [cindy.paulding@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:cindy.paulding@croydon.gov.uk)

## **Useful links**

National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) - [www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)

Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID) - [www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk)

Equality and Human Rights Commission - [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

Croydon Deaf Children's Society - [www.croydondeafchildren.org.uk](http://www.croydondeafchildren.org.uk)

Croydon Hearing Resource Centre - [www.croydonhearing.org.uk](http://www.croydonhearing.org.uk)

British Deaf Association (BDA) - [www.bda.org.uk](http://www.bda.org.uk)

Connevans Limited (equipment) - [www.deafequipment.co.uk](http://www.deafequipment.co.uk)

Forestbooks.com: resources for deafness and deaf issues - [www.forestbooks.com](http://www.forestbooks.com)