



WHAT'S NEXT?

What about after school?

A Handbook for d/Deaf Pupils
and their Families -
Updated February 2024



This handbook was designed to support deaf pupils and their families, to give clear details of what clubs, groups and other facilities are available in the local area (Thanet) outside of school and for the future when school is finished.

With thanks to all that have given permission and contributed to the making of this handbook

Produced by Andrea Kite (QToD) for pupils and their families at Foreland Fields School

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After school activities

★ Art4All

A privately run art studio based in Acol. Very experienced qualified art tutor, who uses British sign language.

Contact: Sandra

sahampton32@hotmail.com

07528755431

★ Foreland Fields school – after school activities

Run on a weekly basis during term time. Information about these clubs will be sent out to parents.

For further information on clubs please speak to Sharon Bremner FLO.

★ Inspiration Creative

An inclusive theatre/arts company (based in St. Peter's in Thanet and Newington, Ramsgate), building participants' skills in theatre performance, sing-and-sign, art and dance, working inclusively and collaborating as a 'multi-abled' group. All workshops include British Sign Language as do all performances. Environments and workshops are all totally accessible

Contact: Zoe & Peter

inspiration-inc@hotmail.co.uk

07792 684227

What about the weekends?

★ **Deaf Friends Book Club**

A *Books Beyond Words* Book Club for the d/Deaf and those who are interested in signing.

A biweekly Saturday Book Club giving an opportunity for Deaf people to get together, have a cup of tea and chat and share a chosen book. The book club will also be hosting people in the community, who will visit to give talks. Such as a Disability Nurse to back up some of the books we have shared about health and mental health.

Held at Birchington Baptist Church, Crescent Road, Birchington CT7 9DJ

11am to 3pm.

11am On arrival, tea and coffee

11:30 Book Club

12:30 lunch for £3.00

1pm News

1:30 - 3pm games

Cost £3.00

Supported by Stephanie Park, Mary Mohanaei - Deaf lead, Liz Mincer - Interpreter and Sue Carmichael from Books Beyond Words.

Contact Stephanie

Email: Stephaniepark20@gmail.com

★ Deaf Friends Creatives

Deaf Friends Creatives run one Saturday a month from 11am- 3pm. Hosting creative activities such as scrapbooking. Resources are provided. Games are available after lunch but crafts can continue.

Held at Birchington Baptist Church, Crescent Road, Birchington CT7 9DJ

11am to 3pm.

11am On arrival, tea and coffee

11:30 crafts

12:30 lunch

1pm News

1:30 - 3pm games

Cost £3.00

Contact Stephanie, Zoe or Peter

Email: Stephaniepark20@gmail.com

inspiration-inc@hotmail.co.uk

Zoe & Peter 07792 684227

★ Sign language classes with Leigh

A biweekly Saturday signing class (BSL) An opportunity for friends and families to learn a new skill

Held at Birchington Baptist Church, Crescent Road, Birchington CT7 9DJ

1:15 - 2:45pm £5. a session.

Contact Stephanie

Email: Stephaniepark20@gmail.com

★ Liz Mincer

Interprets at church service - at the moment it's Holy Trinity Cliftonville but is willing to travel to other churches that Deaf people are interested in attending.

Liz is rooted in the Deaf Community and knows everything that is going on. Liz is very generous with her time and committed to the Deaf community.

Contact Liz via Facebook.

★ Turner Contemporary Gallery

The Turner Contemporary Art Gallery in Margate have BSL tours from time to time.

Working to develop a series of BSL videos about exhibitions and specific artwork. These videos will be available online and throughout the gallery via QR codes. iPads will be available to book out too.

Further information on exhibitions available on the website

<https://turnercontemporary.org/>

contact Turner Contemporary

email: info@turnercontemporary.org

★ Omnibus project

The Omnibus Project offers a range of services which support parents, carers and their extended families engage children and young people, through the use of a variety of different creative and enjoyable sessions, to develop their communication, social, interaction, attention and engagement skills.

Groups include sensory sessions, messy play, signing (Makaton), interactive story-telling, training and arts and crafts to name but a few. Offer also includes bespoke sessions which cater directly around need, classes for adults to learn how to create own games and visual resources for use at home, learn Makaton sign language and a club for siblings who may need some time away from the stresses and strains of everyday life

Contact Sarah Wheeler

(01843) 309762 – (please note during term time this line is only manned Fridays and Saturdays

E-mail: sarah@theomnibusproject.co.uk

<https://www.theomnibusproject.co.uk/>

Visit at: Unit 6 Crossways Business Park, Canterbury Road,
St. Nicholas at Wade, Birchington, Kent CT7 0AA

★ Wheelability

Your Leisure's amazing Wheelability volunteers are proud to provide a variety of fully accessible bikes for disabled and non-disabled people alike to enjoy cycling together along the beautiful Minnis Bay Coast.

The cost to use the bikes as often as you want is only £25 for individuals and £100 for groups for a whole year!

The bikes are located in Minnis Bay Car Park, The Parade, Minnis Bay, CT7 9QP

Contact Wheelability- Your Leisure

0333 366 0834 email wellbeing@yourleisure.uk.com

<https://yourleisure.uk.com/wheelability/>

★ Westgate cinema

Committed to offering maximum accessibility and facilities that meet the requirements of all our customers

This includes – but is not limited to – Autism and Sensory Friendly Screenings of popular family films on a regular basis,

Subtitled Screenings are held regularly which clearly display dialogue and essential sound cues on screen. For more information, contact the Box Office.

The Carlton Cinema is all on one level. There is a disabled toilet and wheelchair access is excellent.

[Contact Carlton Cinema Westgate

<https://www.westgatecinema.co.uk/contact.php> (using the enquiry form)

29 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-On-Sea, CT8 8RE

[01843 834290](tel:01843834290)

School holidays

★ **B.S.L Community** (funded to provide activities in the local area)

Working towards improving communication between Deaf and hearing people, and to see Deaf people being able to access their local community as anyone would.

They have five different projects:

- Deaf Together project – they meet in Margate
St. James Church, Canterbury Road, Margate, CT9 5JU
(They also meet in Ashford and Gravesend.)
- Parenting support group
- Parent and Toddler group
- Youth project
- BSL community events

Contact BSL community www.bslcommunity.org.uk/contact-us

★ **Deaf Corner**

'Deaf Corner' – meet twice a month This is a social get together for Deaf people/signers to have a chat and be notified of any events happening in the area. They also have visitors from time to time come and do talks (E.g.: the police service, fire service etc.)

Westgate on the first and Cliftonville on the third Friday of the month;

- The Lodge Westgate- 64 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-On-Sea, CT8 8SN
- Holy Trinity Church Community Cafe- St Mary's Avenue, Margate, CT9 3TN

Contact Megan Palmer

Call / text [07960254958](tel:07960254958) email- hello@palmdeaf.co.uk

★ KDCS (Kent Deaf Children's Society)

Kent Deaf Children's Society has been successfully supporting deaf children and their families, throughout Kent and the bordering counties for over 20 years.

Currently offering an extensive program including short courses in British Sign Language, dedicated youth groups, seasonal activities, family events, signposting, a forum in which to access our community and much more, KDCS welcomes new members.

Contact KDCS

E: office@kdcs.org | T: 07557 334 347

The Maidstone Studios, New Cut Road, Vinters Park, ME14 5NZ

★ NDCS (National Deaf Children's society)

The National Deaf Children's Society are available to help all families and professionals supporting a deaf or hearing impaired child. They offer a range of opportunities, clubs, in-person and residential events for young people. (Please note that currently some of these are not running due to Covid.) Current offers include;

Buzz website: this is the only website for deaf young people in the UK. It's exclusively for them, and is a place where they can safely connect, learn and share: <https://buzz.org.uk/>

Online events: NDCS run a number of events for deaf children and young people, including cooking workshops, careers information, family events, toddler sessions. For further information please take a look at the events page and have a browse, (bearing in mind that it changes all the time). There are sections for parents/carers as well as for deaf children and young people: <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/our-events/>

Your Community: this is one for the parents and carers. It's an online forum where parents can ask questions and support each other,
<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/your-community>

NDCS can be contacted for support and information on any aspect of raising a deaf child:

Contact NDCS:

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-families/helpline/>

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Contact Sarah

sarah@theomnibusproject.co.uk

<https://www.theomnibusproject.co.uk/>

Unit 6 Crossways Business Park, Canterbury Road, St. Nicholas at Wade, Birchington, Kent CT7 0AA

★ Turner Contemporary Gallery

The Turner Contemporary Art Gallery in Margate have BSL tours from time to time.

Currently, they are working to develop a series of BSL videos about the next exhibition and specific artwork which opens in October. These videos will be available online and throughout the gallery via QR codes. iPads will be available to book out too.

Further information on exhibitions available on the website

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for further information

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info@turnercontemporary.org

★ Wheelability

Your Leisure's amazing Wheelability volunteers are proud to provide a variety of fully accessible bikes for disabled and non-disabled people alike to enjoy cycling together along the beautiful Minnis Bay Coast.

Based at Minnis bay Birchington. The cost to use the bikes as often as you want is only £25 for individuals and £100 for groups for a whole year!

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[01843 834290](tel:01843834290)

What about when I leave school?

★ Achieve together

This organisation has over 25 years of expertise in supporting people with Hearing Impairment, complex needs, autism spectrum conditions, behaviours which may challenge, mental health conditions, profound and multiple learning disabilities and associated complex health needs.

They have several supported living/ residential accommodations based in Westgate-On-Sea and a day service provision as described below;

St Christopher's

Supporting men and women, aged 18 and over, who are deaf or have hearing loss and additional support needs such as learning disabilities. We provide housing-related support to enable people to live as independently as possible in a safe and homely environment.

Dane End

A specialist care home providing 24-hour care and support to five people aged 18 and over who are deaf or have hearing loss and have a range of diverse additional support needs including autism, epilepsy, learning difficulties, sight loss and mental ill-health.

Chapel Flats

A specialist supported housing service, supporting men and women, aged 18 and over, who are deaf or have hearing loss and have additional support needs. People are enabled to live as independently as possible in a safe and happy environment, including supporting them to go to college, find a job, stay fit and healthy and provide support with benefits and managing money.

St Gabriel's

A specialist care home which provides 24-hour care and support to eight people aged 18 and over who are deaf or have hearing loss. The people we support have a wide range of additional support needs

Westcliffe House

A specialist care home providing 24-hour care and support to 13 men and women aged 18 and over who are deaf, deafblind or have hearing loss and have a range of additional, and sometimes complex, needs including learning disabilities, mental ill-health, autistic spectrum disorders, behaviour that can be described as challenging, and medical needs including specialised diets.

St Gabriel's Day Services

Provides a range of activities for men and women aged 18 and over who are deaf, deafblind or have a hearing loss, and additional needs. The day centre is based on the ground floor of one of the care homes and provides opportunities for the people who live there as well as others in the community. The open and inclusive environments offer a wide range of activities to suit everyone. Highly trained and experienced staff will support people to develop new skills and try out completely new activities they may never have considered before, helping people to enjoy and express themselves, be creative and feel part of a community.

Activities include:

- ❖ Art
- ❖ Games
- ❖ Cooking
- ❖ Use of our cinema lounge

- ❖ Outdoor activities such as gardening and road safety
- ❖ Swimming
- ❖ Take part in community activities such as going to the gym, volunteering and more.

Contact Achieve together (Formally RNID)

info@achievetogether.co.uk

★ Broadstairs college

The college offer a range of courses that are based within their supported learning department (as detailed below). The aim is to ensure your young person gets the best education and the right support to continue their progression

Discovery

This course is to enable students to develop independent living skills and to prepare them for adulthood.

Explore

The curriculum will be delivered from our specialist facilities, which include a Sensory and Intensive Interaction room. This is a multi-sensory curriculum which includes sensology, Tacpac, intensive interaction, and sensory story massage. The students access the local community as a resource to develop social skills.

LEAP

The course includes preparation for work, independent living skills and teaching to improve maths and English Students will undertake a work experience placement one day per week

Learning for Life

This course is to enable students to develop their independent living skills and to prepare them for adulthood. As well as building confidence and improving social skills, students will be working to improve their maths and English skills.

Skills for Work

This course is to introduce students to the world of work, to increase confidence and social skills, as well as improve their maths and English. The course will be accredited and students will gain an Entry 2 Certificate in Progression into Employment.

Step into Work

The focus of this course is to prepare students for employment, increasing their confidence and social skills, as well as improving their maths and English. The course will be accredited and students will gain an Entry 3 Certificate in Progression into Employment.

Support available for those who are Deaf or have a Hearing Loss:

- ❖ Teacher of the Deaf,
- ❖ Communication Support Worker
- ❖ Note-taker
- ❖ Tutorials
- ❖ Adaptations of materials
- ❖ Technical aids - loop, radio aid, Hearing Aid batteries
- ❖ Exam access arrangements – signer, extra time, direct and indirect support
- ❖ British Sign Language tuition
- ❖ Portable hearing loop to assist with hearing impairments

The full list of support offered by the college can be found using the following link; <https://www.ekcgroup.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Accessibility-Statement-Updated-March-21.pdf>

Contact Broadstairs college

Broadstairs College Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, CT10 1PN Tel: 01843 605040

broadstairs@eastkent.ac.uk

★ Margate Adult Education Centre

Margate Adult Education offers everyday English and Maths classes for adults with additional learning needs and hearing impaired learners. They provide classes ranging from Entry level 1 up to Entry level 3 through to GCSE level in both English and Maths.

The courses run usually for 3 hours with a break in between and are run by a tutor and teaching assistant and a signer if required. They tailor the provision to meet the learning aim of each student and encourage them to take pride in their work and achievements. The courses run throughout the academic year but they also offer an ongoing enrolment process. The courses are free and run at different days and times depending on what level the learner is assessed at.

Contact

Nessie Kendell Skills for Life Lecturer

Community Learning & Skills

(Kent Adult Education- Kent Training & Apprenticeships-Skills Plus)

[Margate Adult Education Centre](#)

[1-3 Hawley Square](#)

[Margate](#)

vanessa.kendell@cls.education

★ Mencap

Mencap provide a range of services including a selection of brand new online services for people with a learning disability, including Virtual Day Resource sessions.

The Margate Day Resource is on Northdown Road, in the heart of Cliftonville and a stone's throw from the sea. Members can take part in fun activities, learn life skills and meet new friends. Members are also supported to access services in the community. (Please be aware that currently provision is limited due to COVID and that services may not provide access to signing)

Contact;

<https://www.eastkentmencap.co.uk/day-resources/margate/>

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sarah@theomnibusproject.co.uk

<https://www.theomnibusproject.co.uk/>

Visit us at:

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Canterbury Road,

St. Nicholas at Wade, Birchington, Kent CT7 0AA

★ Viking Care

Viking Care provide bespoke, life care pathway services to all, and are dedicated to caring for those with Autism and Learning Disabilities. The enthusiastic and experienced team are NVQ trained with staff available who use British Sign Language. Services are tailored to suit unique requirements, including education, skills for life, and activities of daily living, personal care, and behavioural support. Viking Care provide both day and residential packages.

Within the Educational Day Centre, the focus is Life Skills

- Physical Health and Wellbeing services – Healthy Eating, Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies – Mapping physical health interventions and observations to Wellbeing and Behaviours
- Physical Health, Exercise, Daily Pulse Raisers (morning and afternoon) 'Hello and Welcome' sessions each morning, Yoga and meditation in the afternoon
- Home Skills (cooking, cleaning, gardening)

To be found at Viking Care;

- ★ SENSORY ROOM
- ★ MUSIC ROOM
- ★ FOCUSSED ACTIVITY ROOM
- ★ ART ROOM
- ★ KITCHEN
- ★ GARDEN
- ★ LIFE SKILLS ROOMS

★ RESPITE

On-site respite services, 1:1 service in a homely environment

Preparation for Supported Living in the future

Sleep in or awake night carers

Addition to Day Centre Services, or instead of (stand-alone)

Community support – trips, shopping, social support, leisure activities

Personal care

Contact Viking Care

Email info@vikingcare.co.uk

Tel. 01843 294265 / 07956 839822

Who can help?

★ KCC Sensory Services,

Support for d/Deaf, sight impaired and Deafblind people. This is a government organisation.

The service holds drop in surgeries at the Gateway, Margate. They also have a Facebook page, which is monitored on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am – 5pm.

Contact: Sarah Martin

Facebook: KCC Sensory Services

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support/disability/deaf-blind-or-deafblind>

★ KDCS (Kent deaf children's Society)

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Currently offering an extensive program including short courses in British Sign Language, dedicated youth groups, seasonal activities, family events, signposting, a forum in which to access our community and much more, KDCS welcomes new members.

E: office@kdcs.org | T: 07557 334 347

The Maidstone Studios, New Cut Road, Vinters Park, ME14 5NZ

★ NDCS (National Deaf Children's society)

The National Deaf Children's Society is the leading charity for deaf children. They provide support for every deaf child who needs them – no matter what their level or type of deafness or how they communicate.

NDCS can give expert support on childhood deafness, raise awareness and campaign for deaf children's rights, so they have the same opportunities as everyone else

NDCS can be contacted for support and information on any aspect of raising a deaf child:

Contact NDCS:

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-families/helpline/>

★ **BSL community**

B.S.L Community is led by deaf people. Who have personal experience of the challenges and barriers that deaf people face every day. B.S.L Community is a Community Interest Company, so the profits are used for projects that support, empower and engage the deaf community.

Our services and projects include;

- Supporting Adults
- Supporting Children & Young People
- Family Support Services (Parenting)
- Deaf Together Project
- Youth project
- Community events

Website: <https://www.bslcommunity.org.uk/about-us>

Social media

★ **Art 4 All**

Facebook: Sandra Art4All

Instagram: Sandra_art4all

Twitter @SArt4all

★ **B.S.L Community**

Facebook: B.S.L Community

Instagram: communitybsl

#bslcommunity #deaftogether

Twitter: @Communitybsl

★ **Inspiration Creative**

Facebook; inspiration Creative

Instagram: @inspirationcreativethanet

★ **Kent Deaf Children's Society**

Facebook: KDCS

Instagram: kdcs_uk

Twitter: @KDCSorg

★ **KCC Sensory Service**

Facebook: KCC Sensory Services

★ **National Deaf Children's Society**

Facebook: National deaf Children's society

Instagram : ndcs_uk

Twitter: @ NDCS_UK

★ **What's on in Deaf Kent (Facebook)**

A Facebook page set up to improve the social life and to share news relevant to Deaf.

News, events and activities which are happening in Kent can be found on here, they would also like you to promote any event or share any news you know about.

★ **Wheelability**

Facebook: Wheelability Minnis Bay

Other Information

★ BSL Zone

BSL Zone is the home of British Sign Language TV programmes and short films for everyone!

Watch their award winning programmes at www.bslzone.co.uk

★ Books beyond words

Books Beyond Words are award-winning wordless picture stories covering topics including physical and mental health, lifestyle and relationships, abuse and trauma, grief and bereavement, employment, and criminal justice.

Each story is co-created with and for people who find pictures easier to understand than words

Contact Hannah

admin@booksbeyondwords.co.uk

Tel: 020 7492 2559

★ Adult Education Centre (Broadstairs or Margate)

People can attend 2 free courses a year under their free scheme for unemployed/volunteers.

For further information

contact

<https://www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

Tel: +443000412222

★ Liz Mincer

Liz is rooted in the Deaf Community and knows everything that is going on. Liz is very generous with her time and committed to the Deaf community.

Liz regularly moves around to sign services at churches that Deaf people are interested in attending.

Contact Liz via Facebook.

★ NDCS

Inclusion grants: The National Deaf Children's Society's inclusion grants of up to £150 can support deaf young people accessing activities and events that might be difficult for them otherwise. Here's the webpage with more info: <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-families/apply-for-a-grant/>

★ Palm Deaf

Offer courses Levels 1-6 in British Sign Language. The days of courses vary depending on the level. They also deliver Deaf Awareness Training to help people communicate with those who are Deaf or have a hearing loss.

Contact Megan Palmer

Call / text [07960254958](tel:07960254958) email- hello@palmdeaf.co.uk

<http://palmdeaf.co.uk/>

★ Sign Health Charity

A Deaf health charity, working towards a future where there are no barriers to good health and wellbeing for Deaf people.

Contact Sign Health

Facebook: SignHealth Charity

<http://www.signhealth.org.uk/>

★ Your Leisure

Inclusive activities such as a BSL Yoga

for further information

email wellbeing@yourleisure.uk.com