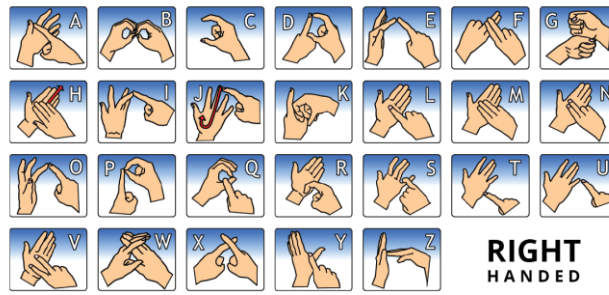


SIGN UP FOR SIGN LANGUAGE (part of Castle School's End of Year Creative)

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE - FINGERSPELLING



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Students were invited to sign up for a one-day workshop with Mr Scotney to learn the basics of sign language.



Inspired by the Oscar-winning British film, *A Silent Child*, Mr Scotney had enrolled on a course himself to learn more about sign language. Encouraged by his success, he felt pupils could benefit too, not only by learning a new skill, but also gaining a better insight into how a deaf pupil might feel isolated and how to help welcome them into the school community by knowing a few basics.

The students were taught using British Sign Language and given the opportunity to learn a language without the luxury of sound. Although nervous to begin with, Mr Scotney soon had them signing and was impressed by how quickly they picked things up saying they took to it like a duck to water.



A highlight for Mrs Cowell, the school's head, came when she was showing round some visitors. They walked into the English room to witness a group all talking to each other in sign language about the weather. Mr Scotney had realised that such was their appetite to learn more they could move on to whole phrases and sentences. By the end of the workshop, they could ask basic questions to start and hold an introductory conversation with someone.