

## Dover Collaboration of Schools Music Extravaganza- July 2024

Our Sing and Sign Choir took part in the Music Extravaganza at The Duke of York's Military School on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

45 children accompanied Mr Hawkins to the event, which was held in the Nye Hall.

We met up with choirs from Langdon, River, Charlton and Whitfield Schools.

Once we had sorted ourselves into height order and worked out where we would be standing on the stage, we began our rehearsal. The schools had all been learning 6 songs which we would sing together.

We really enjoyed learning the songs with Mr Hawkins, but singing them with all the other choirs was something special. The sound was amazing, and it also meant we got to sing some of the songs in 4 parts!

The rehearsal was hard work, and we were all ready for lunch!

After we'd eaten our lunch, we got to practise our songs, which we would be performing in front of an audience of nearly 200 parents. First, we got to watch the other schools practise their songs. We were really impressed with their singing and the song choices were really varied.

After some playtime, it was time for the concert. We were all quite nervous, but Mr Hawkins helped us to feel confident and we were all ready to perform.

The concert began with a drum performance by Harrison from Langdon School- he was brilliant, then children from Charlton School sang I am Earth and Samba Samba. There were only 12 children in their choir, but their energy and enthusiasm was contagious. Whitfield School followed next, with I am Power. We were really impressed that they also signed this song, using Makaton.

The River teacher told Mr Hawkins that the children were really impressed that we sign with BSL and that we signed nearly every song!

Next, it was our turn! We took to the stage and sang our hearts out. Our signing was spot on and we were all really proud of our performances. We sang and signed 'A million dreams' and 'Both Sides Now'. As we sang and signed, the audience were spell-bound. There wasn't a sound from them until the end when they burst into a huge round of applause! Some people were crying!

Mr Hawkins told us he was so proud and that we had all done brilliantly.

We returned to our seats and watched Langdon School sing Thank You for the Music. The two girls who sang solos were amazing.

It was now time for us all to sing together. We took to the stage once more and sang our 6 songs:

Tue Tue

Janey Mama

Ain't gonna let nobody

Roller Ghoster

True Colours (we signed this song too)

We finished with Waterloo, which we also signed.

WE had a brilliant day and can't wait to start our sing and sign club again next term, when we'll start learning songs for our Christmas Concert!