

# Signature. inspire



**Deaflympics Special**



**Inside:**

Christof Niklaus - Chef de Mission

Lewis Fletcher - Tennis

Steven Cafferty - Golf

Bethan Lisman - Hammer

Claire Stancliffe - Football

and much more...



**DeaflympicsGB**

Tuesday 18th July - Sunday 30th July 2017

Samsun, Turkey

## Welcome

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Welcome to the third issue of Signature Inspire magazine, the online magazine aimed at raising deaf awareness amongst young people, and inspiring young people to learn sign language.

In this issue, we focus on the DeaflympicsGB athletes who are heading to Turkey to compete in this year's Deaflympics.

They share with us their experiences and the obstacles they have had to overcome throughout their lives. What inspired them to become athletes and to compete for Great Britain, and what aspirations they have for the up and coming Deaflympics.

## Lindsay Foster - foreword

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Welcome to the newest edition of Signature's Inspire magazine, written to give you an insight into deafness, sign language and communication, on top of what you're learning in class.

We care immensely about our learners. Our certificates are more than just a piece of paper. The quality of our qualifications means that our candidates go on to become the most confident communicators in everyday life and highly-skilled professionals.

Inspire allows us to share real life stories with you so that you can understand the impact that learning BSL and other communication skills can have on people's lives, whether they are deaf or hearing, and why our qualifications are so important in improving communication between deaf and hearing people.

This Deaflympics special edition will show you how important communication is to athletes, and how some of our athletes came to represent Great Britain at this year's games in Samsun, Turkey.

Good luck to all our DeaflympicsGB athletes competing at this years event.

To our students, I wish you the best of luck with your studying, and I hope you enjoy putting your new skills into real life practice.

Lindsay Foster  
Executive director, Signature



## What is British Sign Language (BSL)?

One in six people have some degree of hearing loss in the UK. That's about 10 million people. It is also estimated that there are around 250,000 people who are deafblind or have sensory impairments. This means that you are likely to come into daily contact with people who are deaf or deafblind.

British Sign Language (BSL) was recognised by the government as a language in its own right in March 2003. BSL is the first or preferred language of an estimated 70,000 Deaf people in the UK. BSL is a visual-gestural language, with its own grammar and principles, which are completely different from the grammatical structure of English.

## Learning with Signature

With more than 36 years experience we are the leading awarding body for qualifications in deaf Sign Language. Signature is the leading awarding body for deaf communication qualifications in the UK.

We're dedicated to about improving communication between deaf, deafblind and hearing people, and creating better communities in the process. Since we began our work to promote and teach British Sign Language in 1982, we've enabled and helped more than 400,000 people to learn British Sign Language (BSL).

We employ highly skilled people and experts as staff, consultants and suppliers to make sure that our centres and learners gain the strongest qualifications on the market, and receive the best service. We are proud of the challenges our qualifications provide, giving our learners the skills they need to communicate better in everyday situations.

Alongside our qualifications, we're also helping employers and schoolchildren learn more about BSL and deaf awareness so that everyone has the opportunity to become a better communicator.

We're committed to supporting deaf-led businesses, by using a range of consultants and regulated communication and language professionals, like translators and interpreters.

**Start your journey**

[signature.org.uk/where-can-i-learn](https://signature.org.uk/where-can-i-learn)

**Support your studies**

[SignatureLearningHub.co.uk](https://SignatureLearningHub.co.uk)

## Fingerspell



A a



B b



C c



D d



E e



F f



G g



H h



I i



J j



K k



L l



M m



N n



O o



P p



Q q



R r



S s



T t



U u



V v



W w



X x



Y y



Z z



# DEAFLYMPICS SCHEDULE

## SAMSUN, TURKEY 2017



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

# Games Schedule

JULY

Sport	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Athletics													
Badminton													
Basketball													
Beach Volleyball													
Bowling													
Cycling Road													
Football													
Golf													
Handball													
Judo													
Karate													
Mountain Bike													
Orienteering													
Shooting													
Swimming													
Table Tennis													
Taekwondo													
Tennis													
Volleyball													
Wrestling Freestyle													
Wrestling Greco-Roman													

# Where can I learn British Sign Language?

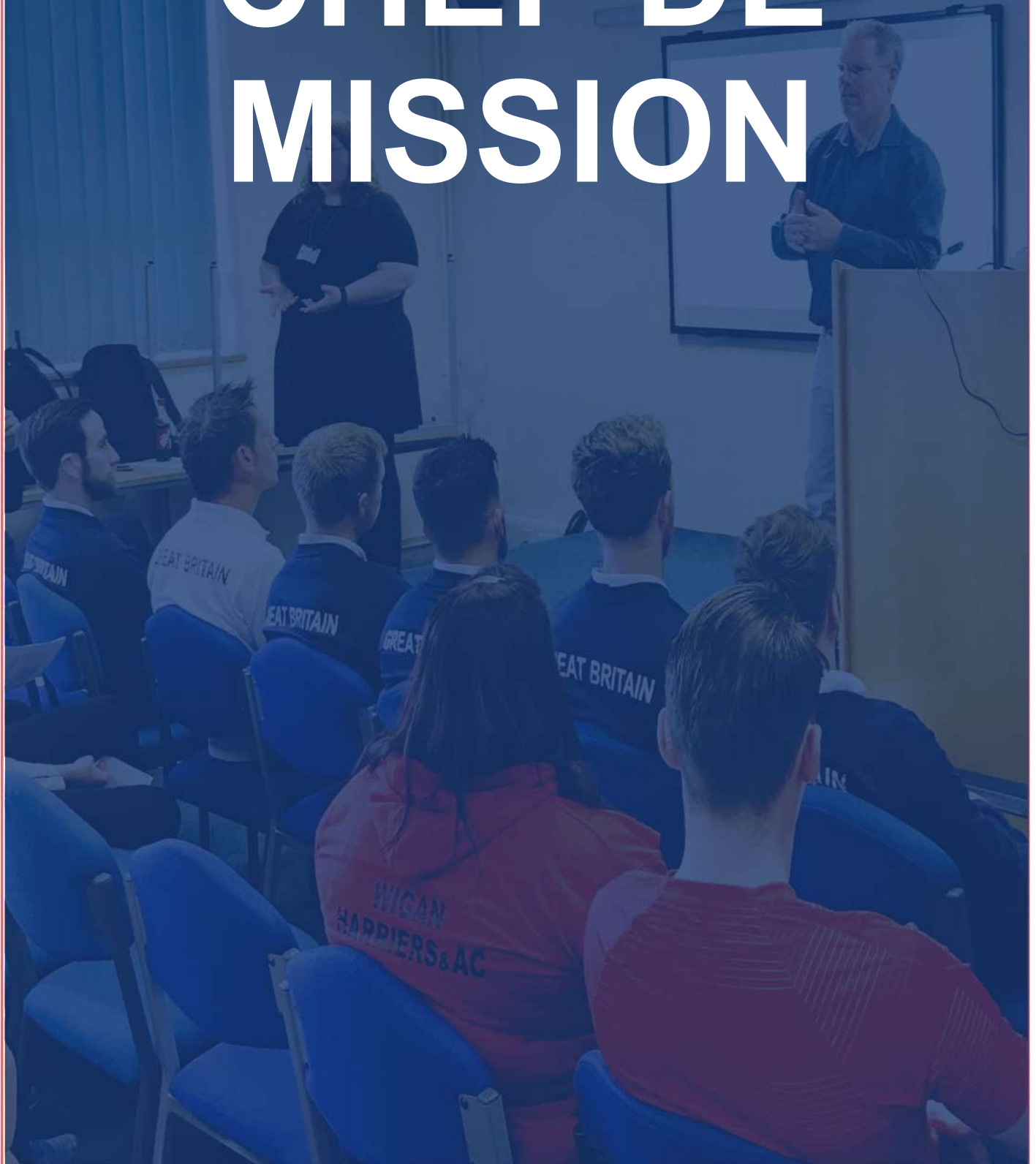


*With our easy to use search function finding  
your local Signature centre is easy*

**[www.signature.org.uk/where-can-i-learn](http://www.signature.org.uk/where-can-i-learn)**

**Your local centre might be  
closer than you think**

# MEET CHEF DE MISSION





# Chef de Mission

## Christof Niklaus

*Christof is the chef de mission for DeaflympicsGB, the person in charge of the whole DeaflympicsGB team in Turkey.*

**Christof, can you explain your role within the DeaflympicsGB team?** I'm the chef de mission for the 2017 DeaflympicsGB team going to Samsun. In essence, I'm in charge of the DeaflympicsGB team at Samsun for all the athletes, officials and UKDS (UK Deaf Sport).

**Can you give us a little background about yourself and how you became involved in deaf sports?** I've been involved in deaf sports for almost 18 years now at different levels from coaching to strategy planning now. I used to be Fulham Deaf FC's Manager before becoming Honorary President and also used to be the Football Technical Director for ten years solely responsible for the management of the Deaflympics Football Competitions, World Deaf Football Championships and World Deaf Futsal Championships.

I also now work as a Freelance Consultant/Associate in deaf, disabled and mainstream sports. I'm also a member of the UKDS board.

**What hopes do you hold for DeaflympicsGB in this year's event?** After undergoing a strict selection process, I expect our DeaflympicsGB athletes to do well in Samsun and be right up there amongst the best of the best. We have entered in five different sports: athletics, football (men and women), golf, swimming and tennis and I am quietly confident we will return from Samsun with at least three medals across three different sports, if not more.

Amongst our team of athletes, we have a current European Champion in golf; a swimmer who has broken several world deaf records in the past year; a defending Deaflympian champion in the shot putt. The Great Britain Deaf football men's team are European Champions bronze medallists while the Great Britain Deaf football women's team will be looking to better their bronze medal position at the last Deaflympics.



**DeaflympicsGB**  
**edition**



**What advice would you give to a young deaf person looking to get into sports in the UK?** Always look at your passion into your chosen sports, not your own deafness, and build up from there. Sport is a great level playing field for everyone involved.

**You recently took on this role, what has been the most challenging part of your journey so far and why?** To date, the most challenging part has been to get all the athletes' information together onto one database! It has also been a challenge for our athletes and officials to raise the funds required to go to the Deaflympics which is £2,050 per person.

**What's your greatest achievement to date? What would you like to achieve in the future?** My greatest achievement to date was to deliver the 2013 Deaflympics in nine months when I worked as the Sports Manager for ICSD (International Committee of Sports of the Deaf) because of logistic difficulties as it normally takes six years to deliver a Deaflympics. We did not drop one single sport or event for the 2013 Deaflympics and it was the largest Deaflympics to date.

What I would like to achieve in the future is for every deaf athlete to be recognised in their own right and compete on equal terms to mainstream community in terms of support, coaching and funding.

**How would you like to see deaf sport develop?** Ideally, deaf sport would be adopted and embraced by every sport national governing body (NGBs) from grassroots to the international level.

**Finally, what's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?** The camaraderie, togetherness and the team spirit along with other countries involved in the Deaflympics. You just cannot beat it!

BSLHomework3 Introduction Dictionary Study Document Library Glossary Quiz Assessments



Consumer Issues and Daily Living



Deaf History and Culture



Education and Training



Employment



Home Life



Social and Recreational Activities



Deaf Comedy

IF

Conditional



Timelines



Fingerspelling Practise

- Hours of BSL conversations and clips to support your learning;
- Traffic light levels of difficulty to build confidence and knowledge;
- Glossary with examples of linguistic and grammar terms;
- Quizzes for testing your knowledge and progress as you study;
- Practice assessments to help you prepare;
- BSL dictionary of over 4000 signs to enhance your vocabulary;

# BSLHomework3

## Signature Learning Hub

[www.signaturelearninghub.co.uk](http://www.signaturelearninghub.co.uk)

**BSLHomework1 & 2 coming soon**

# MEET THE DEAFLYMPICS ATHLETES





# Golf

## Steven Cafferty

*Steven is a 27-year-old Scottish golfer who is representing the UK in his first Deaflympics.*

**Can you tell us a little about yourself, and how your preparation is going for the Deaflympics?** Well, I'm a 27-year-old originally from Perth, now living in Glasgow. As well as being a golfer I also play football for Glasgow Deaf AFC. I have a 5-year-old daughter Ruby and work in American Golf.

I train most days before or after work. The complex I work at has a driving range, 9 hole golf course and gym which is perfect for me helping me to prepare.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete, and who has impacted you most in golf?** I've always been an active person who attempted any sport I could play, golf turned out to be the most effective one. Being active keeps me fit and healthy as well as socially interactive with hearing and deaf people.

I'd have to say, Kevin Hall, he returned to the PGA tour a few months ago despite being deaf, it just goes to show that deafness doesn't affect performance.



**What advice would you give to a young deaf person who is looking to follow in your footsteps?** Don't give up, work hard and work on the right things (your weaknesses) to get better and improve ability and confidence.

**What opportunities has DeaflympicsGB given you?** It's allowed me to showcase my abilities as a golfer on the international stage, as well as meeting up with some old and new faces.

**What has been the most challenging part of your journey so far?** Balancing my work and family life alongside my training has been difficult. Being part of the Deaflympics is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and my family understand that.

**What's your greatest achievement to date?** My greatest achievement I think is winning the club championship. I've had three years off since the birth of my daughter, and in my first year back I won. Seeing my name on the board alongside other champions dating back to the early 1900's is an honour.

**How would you like to see DeaflympicsGB develop?** I'd love to see more awareness of the Deaflympics, more equality. The Olympics and Paralympics get £300m of funding between them, Deaflympics gets nothing. We have as much ability.

**Tell us what the best part of heading to the Deaflympics is?** Hopefully we'll get some nice sunny days, unlike we do in Scotland. But on a serious note, I'm looking forward to challenging myself against top amateurs and pros. I'd love to win a medal!

**Good Luck Steven!**



**DeaflympicsGB**  
**edition**

# Athletics

## Asnath Losala and Bethan Lishman



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Asnath Losala is a 22-year-old athlete heading to Turkey to represent DeaflympicsGB*

*Signature caught up with Asnath to find out more about her training and hopes for the up and coming Deaflympics.*

**Can you tell us a little about yourself, and what motivated you to become an athlete?** As well as being an award winning hairdresser, I'm also a lover of athletics. I'm following in my daddy's footsteps who was also an athlete.

**How's your training come along?** It's hard work but I'm putting in the hours to achieve a gold medal in my first Deaflympics.

**What opportunities has DeaflympicsGB given you and what is the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?** DeaflympicsGB has allowed me to do something that I love and that I'm passionate about. I've also had the chance to travel as well as winning 2 silver medals in the European U23 champions.

I'd say to anyone who is looking to follow in my footsteps that believe in yourself, believe that you can do anything. Going to the Deaflympics has given me the opportunity to be the best in the world!

**Go for gold Asnath!**



*Bethan is competing in her third Deaflympics, representing DeaflympicsGB in the hammer.*

**You've been training hard for your third Deaflympics can you tell us about what is involved in preparing for a championships?** My training takes many different forms, everything from ballet and water to weights, throwing and running.

**What gave you the desire to become an athlete?** My twin sister has an Olympic bronze medal, and I want to do better than her. **Who has impacted you most in hammer?** My coach has also given me the self belief to be the best I can be.

**What advice would you give to a young deaf person who is looking to follow in your footsteps?** Never let anyone tell you that you can't, just because you're deaf.

**What's your greatest achievement to date, and what's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics in Turkey?** My greatest achievement has to be finishing fourth at the world championships, as well as winning the North gold. The best thing for me is being 'One Team' and seeing the team as one succeed.

**Good Luck Bethan!**



# Tennis

## Lewis Fletcher

*Lewis Fletcher is a tennis player representing Great Britain at his third Deaflympics.*

*Signature caught up with Lewis to find out more about his training and hopes for the up and coming Deaflympics.*

**Lewis please can you tell us a little about yourself, and your tennis career to date.** I'm 31 and for the last 17 years I have been playing deaf tennis, in competitions around the world. I'm a multinational champion in singles, doubles and mixed deaf tennis.

In 2016 I won a bronze medal at the European Championships, I was a runner up in a world team event and my highest world ranking is number six (number one in the UK). My wife is a national coach, and I also have two children who are deaf.

**How many deaflympics have you competed in?**

This will be my third deaflympics. **Fantastic, and how's your preparation going?** I get to meet up with squad once every four or five weeks for a weekend of training. Personally I train at least twice a week and have matches during the holiday to coincide with work and my family.



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

# CAN WILL WANT DO

**Who has impacted you the most in your sport?** My ex-coach Roger Jones. He gave me so many memories and a lot of advice on sport and life.

**What advice would you give to a young deaf person who is looking to follow in your footsteps?** I'd say see the life I have and try and do better and further it - just remember - can, will, want, do.

**How would you like to see DeaflympicsGB develop?** I would like to see it on a bigger stage similar to the Paralympics. I'd like to see Sport England get involved. It would be fantastic to see top deaf athletes competing at the main Olympic or Paralympic games.

**Finally what's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?** Getting to represent Great Britain.

**Good Luck Lewis**



# Athletics

## John Ruddy and Malachi Oram

*John is a 26-year-old 100m and 200m runner representing DeaflympicsGB in Turkey. John holds the British record for the 60m, 100m and 200m.*

**Is this your first Deaflympics?** No this will be my third, I've previously competed in 2009 & 2013. **How are you preparing for this summer's event?** I train eight times per week, splitting my time between the gym and the track.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete?** I've always been a good runner, in my first year at school I broke the school record and got recommendations for a local athletics club, so that's why I decided to stick with it.

**Who has impacted you most in sport?** My first coach instilled my work ethic, and my current coach has taken me further in the pursuit of a Deaflympics medal.

**What has been your greatest achievement to date?** I'd say it's winning two European medals and setting the British record. I'm hopeful I will be able to add a Deaflympics medal to that.

**Good Luck John!**



**DeaflympicsGB**  
**edition**



*Malachi Oram is a 200m and 400m sprinter representing DeaflympicsGB in his first Deaflympics.*

**Malachi, can you tell us a little about yourself?** I'm profoundly deaf, and use BSL to communicate. I'm from North London, and have been competing as an athlete for the last eight years.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete?** I wanted to get fit, and becoming an athlete has helped me to be positive and to work hard. **How have you been preparing for the Deaflympics?** I go to the gym three times a week, and then get onto the track twice a week.

**What advice would you give to a young deaf person looking to follow in your footsteps?** I want all young children to achieve what they want and never give up. Hard work, eat right and look after your health.

**What are your hopes for the Deaflympics?** That I get a medal, I stay healthy and don't sustain any injuries.

**Bring home a medal Malachi!**

# Athletics

## Mitchell Graham



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Mitchell is a Scottish 200m and 400m runner for Great Britain, who has also represented Great Britain as a basketball player.*

**Can you tell us a little about yourself?** I'm from Sauchie a small village in Scotland, I'm currently studying youth work in community sport at Canterbury Christ Church University. I also work for Forth Valley Disability Sport as a youth worker.

**Is this your first Deaflympics? What's involved in your preparation and training plans?** Yes this will be my first Deaflympics, I'm excited! Training has been really good so far. I've recently been away for two weeks doing warm weather training. During the winter my training involved losing weight, in Spring I wanted to improve my endurance and now I'm working on improving my speed.

**What was your inspiration for becoming an athlete?**

It was the passion to be a role model for young athletes, someone they can look up to. I want to become a top international athlete.

**Who has impacted you most in your sport?** The person who has impacted me most, and who has inspired me would have to be the South African 400m runner Wayde Van Niekerk.

**What advice would you give to a young deaf person looking to follow in your footsteps?** As Ed Moses says 'Ain't no use worryin bout things beyond your control, cos if they're beyond your control, ain't no use worryin. Ain't no use worryin bout things within your control, cos if you've got them under control, ain't no use worryin'. I'd say anything is possible as long as you are prepared to work for it.

**What opportunities have you had since being involved with DeaflympicsGB?** An opportunity to win a gold medal, and become a champion. **What would you like to achieve in the future?** I want to become an international athlete, my aim is to compete in mainstream events like the Commonwealth Games.

**What's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics, and how would you like to see it develop?** The best part is the chance to meet other deaf athletes from around the world. One day I hope that all deaf athletes are funded and that the UK will host the Deaflympics.

**Good Luck Mitchell!**



# DEAF AWARENESS TRAINING

Straightforward training wherever you are

## What is Get Deaf Aware?

All our Get Deaf Aware products and training are designed to improve understanding, awareness and communication skills with people who have a hearing loss.

We understand the demands on time and resources, especially for training. Get Deaf Aware offers a range of training methods to support individuals and entire organisations, from online training to self-deliverable packs.

We can also create bespoke training packages for your organisation..

## What we do



Get Deaf Aware  
Online



Get Deaf Aware  
Training pack



Get Deaf Aware  
Bespoke Training

## Why should I Get Deaf Aware?

- Increase communication skills with deaf people;
- Reduce staff embarrassment and increase confidence;
- Meet the demands of the UK Equality Act;
- Improve customer service, loyalty and retention;
- Improve understanding and awareness of deafness;
- Flexible training that is time and cost effective.

**Find out more:** [www.getdeafaware.org.uk](http://www.getdeafaware.org.uk)





# MEET THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM



# Women's Football



## Jennifer Evans and Emma Brown

DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Jennifer is an 18-year-old A Level student, she has played football for Deaflympics GB since 2015.*

**Jennifer, you are currently studying your A Levels, what subjects are your studying?** I'm studying politics, history and religious studies.

**This will be your first Deaflympics, how has your training and preparation been going?** It hasn't been going too badly, I train at home on weekends and get to meet up with the team twice a month. That training involves building up my fitness, bonding and playing matches.

**What opportunities has being involved with DeaflympicsGB given you, and what advice would you give to someone who is wanting to follow in your footsteps?** DeaflympicGB has allowed me to travel, and see many different countries. I have the opportunity to play with and against the best players. If you are thinking about following in my footsteps my advice would simply be to enjoy the journey.

**What's your greatest achievement to date and what do you hope to achieve in the future?** My greatest achievement is probably winning the Lincolnshire disabled young sports person of the year in 2016 and winning a bronze medal in Italy. I want to achieve winning gold for DeaflympicsGB.

**Good luck bring home the gold!**



*Emma has represented GB since 2011 and will be competing in her second Deaflympics.*

**Can you us a little about yourself?** I've represented Great Britain since 2011 winning two bronze medals. As well as football I enjoy boxing, and generally keeping fit.

**How have you been preparing for the tournament in Turkey?** I have a mixture of different training methods that I use, I do speed training twice a week, a couple of aerobic sessions and three strength sessions. So a busy schedule.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete, and what advice would you give to a young deaf person looking to follow in your footsteps?** My motivation is winning medals and representing my country. I'd say to anyone looking to follow in my footsteps to work hard towards your dreams, and never give up.

**What's been the most challenging part of your journey so far?** I injured my knee and had to get an operation. The recovery from that has been the most difficult part, I've worked very hard to get playing again.

**What's the best part of going to the Deaflympics?** Meeting other teams, and playing against the top players.

**Good luck Emma**

# Women's Football



## Alex Bush

DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Alex is an 18-year-old midfielder from Letchworth, representing DeaflympicsGB in Turkey this summer.*

**You're currently studying your A levels, what subjects are you taking?** Yes I'm in year 13 at sixth form, I'm studying sociology, psychology and English. **How long have you been playing football, and what how long have you represented Great Britain?** I've been playing since I was 12, and I've represented Great Britain for around a year. I'm also taking part in the FA emerging talent programme.

**How's your preparation going for the Deaflympics?** It's going well, we meet up with the squad one or twice a month for training. Personally, I try to eat well, and make sure I get a good nights sleep.

**Who has impacted you on your journey to get to where you are now?** My family, they provide me with the support, as well as the coaches and my teammates.

**What motivated your to become an athlete?** It's fun, it helps me have a healthy lifestyle, I get to meet a lot of new people and make a lot of new friends. It's also a great experience.

**What has been the most difficult part of your journey so far?** The training, I've been working so hard to make sure I was in the DeaflympicsGB team selection. It was worth it!



**What advice would you give to a young deaf person who wants to follow in your footsteps?** Believe that you can achieve anything. Push yourself as hard as you can to achieve these goals.

**What opportunities has DeaflympicsGB given you?** So many different experiences, I've been able to travel the world doing the thing I love, playing football for Great Britain.

**What's been your greatest achievement to date?** **What do you hope to achieve in the future?** In 2016 I won bronze at the Deaf World Cup. My aim for this tournament is to bring home the gold medal.

**How would you like to see DeaflympicsGB develop?** Receiving some funding would be a huge benefit, it would give deaf people more opportunities. We could get more sports involved, and see deaf sport expand.

**Finally, Alex what's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics in Turkey?** Playing football for Great Britain, it's a great experience. Knowing I'm representing my country and making people proud.

**Bring home the Gold Alex!**



# Women's Football



## Lucy Durham and Rachael Mallard

DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Lucy is a 17-year-old student playing in her first Deaflympics in Turkey this summer.*

**Can you tell us a little about yourself, and what you are studying?** I'm 17 years old, I'm studying a sports programme. I'm passionate about all sports, and have been playing football since I was four. **This is your first Deaflympics, what other tournaments have you competed in for Great Britain?** Last year I took part in the Deaf World Cup, I was 16 and one of the youngest in the tournament.

**How has the preparation for the tournament been going?** Unfortunately at the minute my training is on hold, I have an ankle injury so I'm working on getting back playing. Since the last tournament I competed in I have improved a lot on my strength and skill.

**Who has impacted you most in your sport, and what motivated you to become a footballer?** The people who influence and inspire me most are my family, and grandparents, they are big football fans. I'm very passionate about football, so that motivated me to succeed.

**What would you say your greatest achievement is to date, and what would you like to achieve in the future?**

I won a bronze medal in the World Cup last year. Playing for Southampton Saints and Oxford United was a great achievement. In the future, I want to win many more caps for Great Britain, and win more medals.

**Good luck Lucy!**



*Rachael is a 21-year-old goalkeeper, fulfilling her dream of playing at the Deaflympics.*

**Can you tell us a little about yourself, and how the training has been going so far?** I'm 21, I'm a student studying physical education and sports psychology. I'm a goalkeeper, and ready to play in my first Deaflympics in July. I was selected in the squad four years ago but unfortunately I got injured three weeks before the tournament so I had to pull out. I've been training really hard, I've put a lot of effort into making sure I'm fit for this year's tournament.

**Who has had the biggest impact on you and why?**

**What motivated you to be a footballer?** I was motivated by watching football, I then realised I had a natural talent for it so I took it up. The person who has had the biggest impact on me would be my PE teacher at school, he is now my manager. Also my dad, and as professional (and of course my crush) it would have to be Cristiano Ronaldo.

**What opportunities had DeaflympicsGB given you, and what are you looking forward to most about this year's Tournament?** It's given me the opportunity to travel with my second family, which is my Deaflympics teammates. The best part about going is representing my country, and my team. They are a brilliant set of girls.

**Go for gold Rachael!**

# Women's Football



## Claire Stancliffe

DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Claire is the 28-year-old captain of DeaflympicsGB women's football team competing in her third Deaflympics.*

**Claire, can you tell us a little about yourself, and what you do?** I'm a profoundly deaf athlete, I work as a senior sports coach working in primary schools, I also play as a defender for Northampton LFC and DeaflympicsGB.

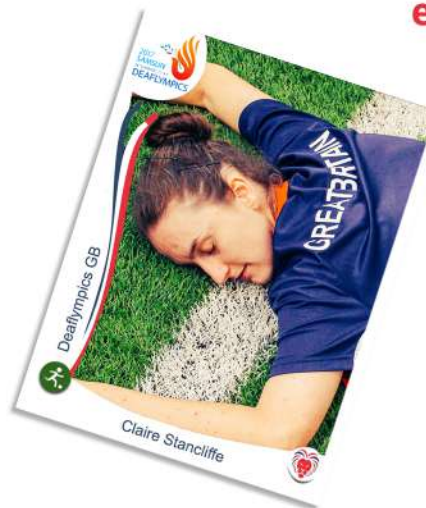
In 2016 I won the SkySports Sportswomen of the Month award for July, which was a great achievement. I'll be competing in my third Deaflympics, we'll be looking to win gold in Turkey following our bronze in Deaf World Cup 2016.

**Tell us a little about your training and preparation?**

I train four times a week with my club and personal trainer, and we play every Sunday. I also work alone on my core, strength and conditioning to be ready for Turkey.

**What was your motivation for becoming a DeaflympicsGB athlete?** I love representing my country, I always strive to be the best I can be.

**What advice would you give to a young deaf person, inspired to follow in your footsteps, and who impacted you most on your journey?** Never give up, if you want something badly enough you will find a way to get it. The people who have had the biggest impact on my sporting career has to be my parents.



**What's your greatest achievement to date, and what do you hope to achieve in the future?** Winning bronze at the Deaf World Cup in 2016. Our aim is to achieve gold in Turkey!

**What opportunities has DeaflympicsGB given you?**

It's opened up a lot of opportunities. I have become a role model for many young children, it's also beneficial in my role as a sports coach.

**Finally how would you like to see DeaflympicsGB develop?** I hope that one day DeaflympicsGB will become fully funded by the government.

**Bring home the gold Claire!**



2017 the LEEDS  
**SUPERSTARS**  
SIGNATURE ANNUAL AWARDS

This year's Signature Annual Awards celebrate the individuals who are making positive changes and putting others first to improve communication and experiences for deaf and deafblind people.

It's important to commemorate the unsung heroes, the people whose support can help us all achieve bigger and better things, and those who are a constant source of support and inspiration.

Send us your nominations, and tell us all about the superstars that you know. Our eight award categories are:

- Emerging Teacher Award
- Experienced Teacher Award
- Professional Contribution Award
- Supporting Education Award
- Employee Champion Award
- Community Spirit Award
- Leadership Award
- Signature Lifetime Achievement Award

**Deadline for Nominations:** 5pm Monday 31st July 2017

We hope to see you at our prestigious awards ceremony  
on Friday 10th November 2017 in Leeds.

**Make a nomination**

[www.signatureannualawards.org.uk](http://www.signatureannualawards.org.uk)



# MEET THE MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM



# Men's Football

## Marios Costi and Daniel Mace



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Marios is a BSL teacher, he plays football for St Johns DFC, England Futsal and Great Britain. He's also an actor on 'Life & Deaf'*

**Is this your first Deaflympics? How's the training going?**

Yes, this will be the first time I have competed in the Deaflympics. I train every day, I go to the gym and train with my clubs. I go on the bike, do speed, agility and quickness training as well as playing futsal.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete and who has impacted you within the sport?**

My family love sport especially football - football is my wife! The person I've always looked up to in football is Diego Maradona.

**What advice would you give to someone looking to follow in your footsteps?**

Be positive, have that winning mentality and strive to become a role model. It's important to remember these things.

**What's been the most challenging part of your preparations so far?**

Pushing myself to the highest levels to improve my fitness.

**What's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?**

The chance to win a gold medal, I'll get to meet a lot of new people and enjoy football with my friends and teammates.

**Good Luck Marios**



*Daniel is a Great British defender and midfielder playing in his first Deaflympics.*

**You are representing the men's team for Great Britain for the first time, can you tell us about your past experience?**

Yes, this is my first time playing with the men's team, and playing in my first Deaflympics. I've been playing with the U21 deaf team.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete?**

My family love football, especially my dad. They are what motivate me.

**What would your advice be to anyone who is looking to follow in your footsteps?**

Keep going. I want to see more young deaf people playing football, and competing for Great Britain.

**What's your target for the Deaflympics?**

I'm going for gold! I want to return home with the gold medal.

**What's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?**

I'm excited to see what the Deaflympics is like. I've never been before and to be actually involved in it is exciting. I want the experience to be good, and to win a medal.

**Go for Gold Daniel!**

# Men's Football

## Oliver Manoochehni



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Oliver is a 27-year-old footballer playing in his first Deaflympics, who promises to give blood, sweat and tears for our country in a bid to win the gold medal for the Men's Deaf Football Team.*

**Oliver, can you tell us a little about yourself and what you do?** I'm a deaf footballer playing semi-professionally. Formerly played in Zamaretto (Evo-Stick) Leagues, I am a secondary school maths teacher.

**How many times have you taken part in the Deaflympics? Tell us about your training and preparation.** This will be my first Deaflympics I have played in Deaf World Cup in 2016. It is very difficult to train around work to keep at the peak of fitness, but I manage five sessions a week and two matches in preparation for Deaflympics. It takes a lot of sacrifices.

**What was it that motivated you to become an athlete?** I have always had a passion for being a winner, I always wanted to be better.

**Who has impacted you most in your sport?** There have been many football idols over the years. Zidane, Henry, Ronaldo are some of the great players I take inspiration from. But the biggest impact probably my Mam and Dad for always taking me to football every weekend when I was little.



**What advice would you give to a young deaf person looking to follow in your footsteps?** I would advise them to take it seriously. There is an opportunity to travel the world and represent your country. Work hard, train hard and always try to improve your game. One day you could be playing at the Deaflympics wearing the kit.

**What opportunities has DeaflympicsGB given you?** Travel and life experience. This is an opportunity that not many people have. I am very lucky and thankful for the opportunity to take part, including the sponsorship, I have received.

**What has been the most challenging part of your journey so far and why?** In 2012 in the run up to the European Championships, unfortunately I broke my leg two weeks before the tournament in training. A non-contact freak injury. I am pleased to say I have come back stronger.

**Good Luck Oliver!**





# Men's Football

## Rylan Casey and Adam Thomas



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Rylan Casey is a 17-year-old footballer, representing Great Britain in his first Deaflympics.*

**Rylan can you tell us a little about yourself and your preparations for your first Deaflympics?** I'm a 17-year-old student, studying level three football at Myerscough college. I play football for Great Britain, as well as AFC Blackpool a hearing club, and Doncaster Deaf FC. I've been training hard to prepare for the tournament, I train every day at college for a couple of hours per day, and train with AFC Blackpool twice a week to make sure I'm ready for Turkey.

**What and who inspired you to become a footballer?**

I've always loved playing football. The challenge from other teams and the support of my family inspired me to succeed.

**People will be reading this and looking to follow in your footsteps, what advice would you give them?**

I'd tell them to never give up on your dreams, believe you can do anything.

**What has been the most challenging part of your journey so far and why?** Meeting a lot of new faces, it's a lot different from college. It's been a great way to improve my confidence.

**What's the best thing about competing in Turkey at the Deaflympics?** Representing my country, playing the game I love. Hopefully coming home with a gold medal.

**Good Luck Rylan**



*Adam Thomas is a student at the University of Southampton, he plays in goal for DeaflympicsGB.*

**Can you tell us a little about yourself?** I'm 19, I play in goal from Southampton Solent University as well as for DeaflympicsGB.

**Who has impacted you most in football, and what inspired you to become a footballer?** Petr Cech inspires me to play football as a goalkeeper. Coming through from serious injury and the courage to carry on playing is a tremendous thing to see. Wearing the rugby style helmet also made me think that I can wear my cochlear implant whilst playing for a hearing team. I wanted to become a footballer because I aspire to be the best for not just myself, but also my team.

**What would you say to someone looking to follow in your footsteps?** I'd tell them to never give up, there's always a way to achieve your goals.

**What opportunities has DeaflympicsGB given you, and what do you hope to achieve with the team?** It allowed me to progress to the elite level, it's given me the opportunity to represent my country. I want to become one of the best young players at the tournament and become a deaf champion.

**Enjoy the tournament Adam**

# Men's Football

## Fil Kamps and Matthew Byfield



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Fil Kamps is a 23-year-old footballer, living and playing in America and representing DeaflympicsGB.*

**Fil can you tell us a little about yourself, and what you do when you're not playing football?** I'm 23, I have 5 GB caps. I currently live in America and play football out there. I also love to sing.

**How many Deaflympics have you competed in? How's the training and preparation going?** This will be my first Deaflympics but I have played in the Deaf World Cup. My training is going well, I've been training at home in America and returning for the Great Britain training camps.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete and who has impacted your most in your sport?** My biggest motivation is the enjoyment I get from playing football, I love competing. The person who impacted me most was my coach from when I was young.

**If a young deaf person asked you for advice to follow in your footsteps, what would that be?** Dream big, work hard and stay humble. **What opportunities have you had from playing for DeaflympicsGB?** I've had great exposure, I've got to do a lot of travelling. I've also got to meet some amazing athletes from around the world.

**Finally, what's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?** Competing at the very highest level.

Good Luck Fil



*Matthew Byfield is a DeaflympicsGB footballer, he plays in defence.*

**Matthew can you tell us a little about yourself?** I'm a Deaflympics centreback, and rarely concede goals. I won a bronze medal in 2015 when we beat Ukraine 2-1.

**How many Deaflympics have you competed in? How's the training and preparation going?** This will be my second Deaflympics, I played in Taiwan in 2009. Training is full on, I train to a high standard and go running every day.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete?** Being the best, and aiming high to win gold. It is all the motivation that I need.

**If a young deaf person asked you for advice to follow in your footsteps, what would that be?** Always work hard on your weaknesses. **What opportunities have you had from playing for DeaflympicsGB?** I've had the chance to meet players from around the world, competing against the worlds best deaf players.

**What's your greatest achievement to date?** I'd probably say winning bronze in 2015. I've also won the Champions League with my current club.

Bring home the Gold Matthew!

# SignSpell



SignSpell is a collection of story books and online resources that encourages primary school children to enjoy reading and develop their key language and literacy skills through an introduction to BSL.

There are 12 books in total, each with a separate adventure and theme. Themes covered in the books are: greetings, colours, numbers, school, animals, seaside, party, weather, countryside, transport, sport and emotions.

Each book is supported by four lesson plans to support the recognition, repetition and recall of up to 10 signs, with more signs and phrases available to view and learn online.

With the stories, lesson plans and online resources and media, children learn strategies to help their communication skills, use of language, spelling and remembering words.



12 story books



48 Lesson plans



online features



120 flashcards



# Men's Football

## Jeremy Millensted and Danny Rea



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Jeremy is a full time joiner, currently playing for Radcliffe Olympics and Doncaster Deaf.*

**Jeremy, what position do you play?** I play in midfield.

**Is this your first Deaflympics? How's the training and preparation going?** Yes this is my first Deaflympics, I've been training hard, trying to get plenty of rest, eating well giving my body the right fuel. I've been concentrating on pilates to build up my strength.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete and who has impacted your most in your sport?** I'm passionate about football, football is my life. The people who have impact me most would be my family, especially my two older brothers.

**If a young deaf person asked you for advice to follow in your footsteps, what would that be?** Never give up. Work hard and follow your dreams.

**What has been the most challenging part of your journey so far and why?** I've had a long term injury, so I've had to battle back from that to make sure that I come back fitter and stronger than before.

**Finally, what's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?** Getting the chance to win a gold medal, playing at the highest level and competing with the best players around the world.

**Good Luck Jeremy**



*Danny is a 21 year old footballer from Belfast.*

**Matthew can you tell us a little about yourself?** I'm 21 from Belfast. I've been representing DeaflympicsGB since I was 19, and this year's tournament will be my second tournament competing. I play for Belfast Deaf United and Barnet DFC. I play as a winger/forward.

**How many Deaflympics have you competed in? How's the training and preparation going?** This will be my first Deaflympics. The training's hard, I train with my club twice a week, then go out cycling and do extra cardio work myself. I also play two matches almost every weekend. I've also been on a strict diet getting myself in shape for the Deaflympics.

**What opportunities has DeaflympicsGB gave you?** I've been able to go onto the next level in my sport, I have even more options of playing football now.

**What has been the most challenging part of your journey so far and why?** It's been difficult with living in another country (Northern Ireland), and not getting any funding.

**What's do you hope to achieve during the Deaflympics** I'm going to enjoy the experience, and gain as many new experiences as I possibly can.

**Enjoy the experience Danny!**

# Men's Football

## Thomas Allen and Tom Boyle



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Thomas is a Welshman living in England, playing in this summers Deaflympics.*

**Can you tell us a little about yourself, is this your first Deaflympics?** I play in midfield. I'm a father of two gorgeous kids, and husband to an amazing wife. This will be my second Deaflympics, I also competed in 2009 in Taiwan.

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete and who has impacted your most in your sport?** My motivation for succeeding comes from when I was young, my brother and I would compete against each when we were growing up to be better than each other. The people who have impacted me most is my father, and my friends that I grew up with.

**If a young deaf person asked you for advice to follow in your footsteps, what would that be?** Strive to be the best, work hard. Most importantly, always enjoy yourself.

**What has been the most challenging part of your journey so far and why?** Funding has been a real challenge, that alongside trying to organise the training as a team in preparation for the tournament.

**Finally, what's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?** Having the opportunity to challenge yourself and others. I'm looking forward to enjoying the company of my team mates and other athletes.

**Good Luck Thomas**



*Tom is a self employed watch dealer, he's a 27 year old goalkeeper for DeaflympicsGB.*

**Tom can you tell us a little about yourself?** I'm 27 I play in goal and have done for the last 20 years. I've played semi professionally for many clubs including Bogner Regis Town. I currently play for Fulham DFC.

**How many Deaflympics have you competed in?**  
**How's the training and preparation going?** This will be my first Deaflympics. I have been preparing for this since the beginning of the year. I go to the gym 5 times per week, I also have a one on one goalkeeper coach who I work with to improve.

**What was your motivation for becoming a goalkeeper?** When I was 7 I was put in goal for a penalty shootout, and I didn't concede one, it sort of stemmed from there.

**Who has impacted you most in your sport?** I met a coach whilst I was at college called Robbie Yates, he worked with me and helped me to improve my game. Lately my new goalkeeper coach has been instrumental in helping me believe in myself ahead of these games.

**What's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?** Wearing the Union Jack on my chest!

**Have a great tournament Tom!**

# Men's Football

## Jamie Clarke



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Jamie Clarke is the men's football captain, he currently holds the record as the top British goalscorer.*

**Jamie can you tell us a little about yourself, and what you do when you're not playing football?** I'm 27 I work as a model, travelling around the world. I play football semi professionally. I was one of the first people to get a cochlear implant when I was six years old.

**How many Deaflympics have you competed in? How's the training and preparation going?** I've competed once at the Deaflympics in Taipei in 2009. We missed out for the last Deaflympics in Sofia after we lost 2-0 to Greece during qualification. My training is going well, I train with my club twice a week, and play two to three matches a week. It keeps me really fit!

**What was your motivation for becoming an athlete?** There's nothing bigger than playing for your own country, it's a massive honour to captain the side. The Deaflympics is the biggest and most exciting tournament to compete in.

**Who has impacted your most in your sport?** The person who has impacted me most has been my grandad and my dad. In football, it would have to be David Beckham.



**If a young deaf person asked you for advice to follow in your footsteps, what would that be?** It's all about being confident, never stop believing in yourself. Be positive about what you can do, just remember that anything is possible if you have the belief.

**What's been the most challenging part about getting to this years Deaflympics?** It has to be the fundraising. It's a lot of hard work, but in the end, it's all worth it.

**You've had a successful career so far, what's been your greatest achievement? What do you hope to achieve this time round?** Winning the bronze medal in 2015 at the European Championships has been my career highlight. This time round I'm going for gold!

**How would you like to see the Deaflympics develop?** Funding. We take a lot of our time out of training to fundraise. If we got the funding we'd be able to focus on the sport we love!

**Finally, what's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?** Playing the sport I love for my country in the biggest deaf tournament. Nothing is better than that.

**Good luck Jamie!**





# Men's Football

## Damien Wood and Benjamin Lampert



DeaflympicsGB  
edition

*Damien is a 30-year-old father, playing for DeaflympicsGB in his first Deaflympics.*

**Can you tell us a little about yourself, and what other tournaments you have played in for Great Britain?**

I'm 30 years old, I coach for Wolves FC under 12's. I also play pro-football at a high level. I played in the Euros in Germany in 2015, I was also part of the squad for the World Cup in Italy in 2015.

**Who has impacted you most in your sport?** My grandad was my biggest inspiration, we used to always go to the park for a kick about.

**How has it felt to play for Great Britain in previous tournaments?** I'm immensely proud to have represented Great Britain, it's the best feeling in life.

**What's your greatest achievement to date, what do you hope to achieve in Turkey?** Winning third place in Hannover, Germany was a great feeling. I'd love to have that gold medal around my neck when we return from Turkey.

**Finally, what's the best thing about going to the Deaflympics?** The best thing about going to Turkey is going to win, it's the stuff that dreams are made of. I can't wait!

**All the best Damien, bring home the gold!**



*Benjamin is a DeaflympicsGB footballer who is playing in his second tournament.*

**Benjamin, you've played in Deaflympics before, how was that for an experience?** That's right, I have been playing for DeaflympicsGB for 14 years and this will be my second Deaflympics tournament. It's such an amazing experience, and unreal environment.

**How's the training and preparation going?** I look after myself like all the boys, we put in lots of time and effort. We eat well and make sure we recover well. I control my pace. I make sure I prepare well, I think that's one of the most important aspects to avoid injury.

**What advice would you give to a young deaf person looking to follow in your footsteps?** Work hard, be very disciplined, train a lot. Most importantly, enjoy it and have fun.

**What has been the most challenging part of your journey so far and why?** The training. I've worked extremely hard in training taking it step by step. It is not easy but high discipline and sacrifice has given me this opportunity.

**What's the best thing about competing at the Deaflympics in Turkey?** Aiming to win a gold medal, I'm looking forward to competing, the challenge and the experience it will give me.

**Enjoy the tournament Benjamin**





## What next?

Interested in learning more about deaf communication?

In the UK one in six people have some degree of hearing loss. That works out as about 10 million people. This means that you are more than likely to come into daily contact with a deaf person, either at school or college, or at social events and after school activities.

Signature has more than 36 years experience in the sector and are the leading awarding body for qualifications in deaf and deafblind communication techniques. We have supported over 400,000 students to learn British Sign Language.

Our qualifications can help you become deaf aware and develop your communication skills with deaf and deafblind people. Learning a new language can even lead to a career you hadn't thought of before; as a communication professional, working with deaf sports and acting groups, music interpretation and many more.

Visit the Signature website ([www.signature.org.uk](http://www.signature.org.uk)) now to learn more about the qualifications we offer, and how we can help you to start learning today.



## We need your stories!

Have you been inspired to learn sign language by reading this magazine?

Have you already started to learn sign language, and want to tell us more about what motivated you to learn? Are you deaf and want to tell us more about yourself?

We need your stories for Issue 4 of Signature Inspire magazine. We want to know what you love about sign language or how you have helped to raise deaf awareness.

If you want to be included in the next issue, please email your stories directly to [Matthew.Ford@signature.org.uk](mailto:Matthew.Ford@signature.org.uk)





# DeaflympicsGB

Tuesday 18th July - Sunday 30th July 2017  
Samsun, Turkey

Signature would like to thank Christof Niklaus and Danny Lee for their support in organising interviews and photographs of all the athletes.

Good luck to all of the athletes competing in the Deaflympics from around the world.