We are committed to a multi-sensory approach to learning. This approach utilises all of our senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch, vestibular (gravity, movement and balance), proprioception (the position of one’s body in space) and interoception (awareness of what is happening inside our bodies such as thirst, hunger, hot and cold). With this in mind, we often teach a new concept through music or movement and provide sensory cues such as scent or tactile objects to help locate a particular place or cue an activity. We provide our learners with a rich “diet” of sensory inputs. Some of our learners are hypersensitive (they cannot tolerate touch, loud noises or bright lights, etc.), others are hyposensitive (they may not respond to cues such as heat and cold and may therefore need support to be safe in the environment). We need to be aware of each learner’s “sensory sensitivities” to ensure that they are given just the right amount and type of sensory input. The photos in this newsletter demonstrate some of the wonderful sensory learning opportunities that can be seen every day at Cherry Oak School, Victoria School and Victoria College.

Julie Fardell - Executive Head Teacher
Pupils at Cherry Oak attended a relaxed performance of Alice in Wonderland thanks to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.
Victoria School pupils enjoyed a multisensory Colourscape workshop for a week in March. Children were able to create their own music using simple movements and voice whilst also controlling the colour and intensity of light in the space.
The curriculum at Victoria College is full of opportunities for sensory exploration. Big Top have visited this term and worked with the students focusing on listening to and exploring musical instruments. The students respond really well to these sessions demonstrating curiosity, responsiveness and persistence in the activities. Sensory cookery sessions enable the students to explore the ingredients through taste, touch, sight and smell. The community fire officer is a regular visitor and brings the fire truck. The students love the feel of the water and the noises of the pumps and different sirens used. They also get to explore the smokey smelling uniform and kit!

Pupils at Cherry Oak have been working on Shape, Space and Measure using a range of sensory resources to support their learning.