

This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 11th December 2023



In Isaiah 43:1-2, God says:

“Do not fear, for I have saved you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; ... When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned.”

For us at DCS this shows that God knows each one of us personally and that He has promised to be with us and keep us safe.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of term, we are managing to pack a great deal in to each week!

As you can imagine, the performing arts team are extremely busy and, just this week, have taken a trip to London to see the musical Hamilton, taken a small group of students to act in a performance for many of our trust primary schools and taken the choir to sing at Derby Hospital. Please do read more about some of these further in this newsletter. There will be more information and pictures of the trip to Hamilton soon!

Also in this edition is more information about the special experiences we have planned for this last week of term. We also have information about where to seek help if needed during the holiday period. For those eligible for the Holiday Activities and Food fund, you will have been sent a separate email with details of how to register and access these activities, and we have attached an additional document featuring lots of support and activities available for families with children from babies through 19 years old via Family Hubs.

I would like to thank all staff at DCS for their hard work this term. They are a very dedicated team who give so much to our students to help them learn, grow and flourish and experience ‘life in all its fullness’.

At the end of this term we say a sad goodbye to Miss Rowley, our careers officer. We wish her all the best in her new role and are extremely thankful for all that she has given to DCS. Our new Careers Lead: Miss O’Loughlin starts on 8th January.

I hope that all of our students enjoy this final week of term. I also wish you all a lovely Christmas break where you can enjoy some fun and relaxation with your family and friends.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Brown

Plans for the final week of term

Tuesday 19 December

Years 8 & 10 will attend a Christmas service at Derby Cathedral. Students will walk there in the morning and return in time for break/period 3.

Wednesday 20 December

Christmas dinner and Christmas/winter jumper day.

All students can wear a Christmas or a winter jumper instead of their school jumper/blazer. The rest of their uniform should stay the same. Donations of £1 will go to Save the Children and the YMCA. Donations can be paid via ParentPay.

All students will have a slightly longer dinner time in order for as many as possible to have the school Christmas dinner. They will have dinner within their houses rather than their full year groups. All students will also spend some time with their tutor on an activity where they reflect and act on showing gratitude at Christmas.

Our A Level Biology students have a trip to the University of Derby for a taster day experience.

Thursday 21 December

All year groups will have their end of term achievement assembly with their Head of Year and Pastoral Year Lead.

Friday 22 December

A different timetable will be in place for all year groups. During the morning, after their period 1 lesson, each year group will have a special Christmas collective worship, a Christmas quiz with their tutor and brunch. Our year 12 students will be working with years 7 – 10 supporting their tutor activities. All students finish at 12pm.

DCS Choir Singing at Royal Derby Hospital

Students from Derby Cathedral Choir were invited to sing at the Macmillan unit at the Royal Derby hospital. Students sang many different Christmas songs, ranging from Jingle Bells to Feliz Navidad! Two students showed great confidence and tenacity by performing solos: Jannine Briones (year 10) sang Jingle Bell Rock and Lindsey Doyle (year 7) sang Merry Christmas Everyone. Afterwards, the students visited two reindeer and were given a present by Santa!



Food Bank Drop Off

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, our school community has gathered an incredible amount of food and supply donations for Derby City Mission. Mr Saunders had a number of student helpers last week to help deliver the items to the local food bank. They were extremely grateful for the donations and we know these will go a long way to helping families in need. Thank you to everyone who contributed! Every single item makes a difference.



Drama Performance at Hardwick Primary School

On Tuesday 12th December, 6 of our Year 9 students were invited to perform a short piece of drama called 'Chimp Management' to Year 5 students at Hardwick Primary School. The play featured the character Professor Lightbulb and taught students techniques on how to control their emotions.

We had so many compliments about the performance and exemplary behaviour displayed from these students.

Amazing job Year 9!





Christmas Concert



We are holding our Christmas Concert on Thursday 21st December. It will include acts from all year groups from Year 7 up through Year 12, and the evening will be ran and organized by the Year 12 Music Performance students.

The concert will start at 6:30pm however all student performers are required to be at school for 5:45pm for a sound check. Refreshments will be available in the canteen from 5:45pm.

Tickets will cost £4 for adults and £2 for children/concessions.

Students will be required to wear full uniform however we are encouraging students to add a Christmas accessory (Santa hat/tinsel).

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Cycle Recycle

Since the start of November we have been running a club on Wednesdays called The Cycle Recycle. Due to the generosity of staff members, families, friends, members of the community and the recycling centres in Ilkeston and at Raynesway, we have been able to source approximately 40-50 bikes of all different shapes and sizes and in various states of disrepair. The idea behind The Cycle Recycle is that students who need a bike can learn to fix one of these bikes and then take it home with them once it is fixed, or those with their own broken bike can bring it and learn to fix it, or they can just come to learn valuable life skills, e.g. mechanics, fixing things, DIY etc.

Each week we have had several students attend from different year groups and for different reasons. We are now at the point where some of them are almost ready to take their bikes home and they have all learnt and practiced new skills and had fun along the way. One year 7 student has already said that he wants to carry on coming to The Cycle Recycle even once their bike is fixed so they can fix up a bike for someone else. This will certainly be useful because we still have lots of bikes that require some attention including some small ones more suitable for Primary School children which we plan to donate to local primary schools once fixed. The students at The Cycle Recycle will also be fixing up an old-fashioned style bike so it can be used in the school production of The Wizard of Oz.

Every week the atmosphere at The Cycle Recycle has been really positive. It's been a real coming-together of students of different ages and students who possibly wouldn't normally mix with each other socially and they have been fantastic at helping each other. In particular, some of the older students have been really good at helping the younger ones. They have all shown fantastic fellowship through the way they have worked together and tremendous aspiration by wanting to learn new skills.

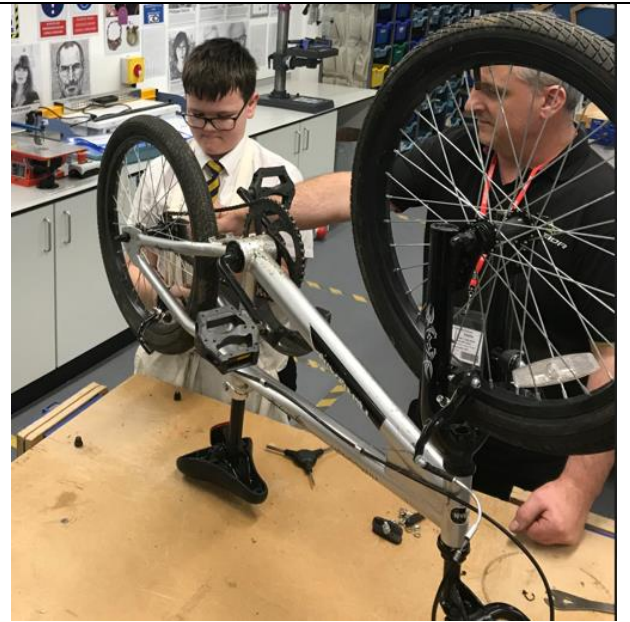
Here are testimonies from two of our Cycle Recycle students:

"The first time my form tutor told me about the Cycle Recycle I was very excited so when it started I was amazed how much information I got. Right now I've almost finished fixing a bike. When I get to take it home it will save me so much time and money travelling to school every day. I love The Cycle Recycle." – Josh, year 10.

"The Cycle Recycle has given me a new opportunity to learn and gain experience. I enjoyed going to every session because of the friendliness of everyone." – Jessica, year 9.

However, none of this would have been possible without the kindness shown by Barry Tomlinson, a professional bike mechanic from The Bike Shop, located nearby to school on Monk Street. Not only has Barry given up his time free of charge each Wednesday but he has been wonderful with the students and they have really enjoyed learning from him. So from all of us at The Cycle Recycle, thank you very much Barry!

Also, thank you to the site team for making space for us to store all the bikes, staff members who helped run The Cycle Recycle, staff members who donated a bike, or convinced family members, friends, neighbours etc to donate their old bikes. Thank you to every member of the community who donated an old bike and thank you to all the wonderful staff at the Raynesway and Ilkeston Recycling Centres for providing and transporting the majority of our bikes. Without the generosity of all of you, The Cycle Recycle would have been no more than a mere idea.



Keeping Safe in the Holidays

Safeguarding concerns

If you have any concerns related to safeguarding then please do contact either social services or the police. **If you feel that a child is in immediate danger then call 999.**

Derby City Children's Social Care First Contact Team: 9am to 5pm 01332 641172 or out of hours 01332 956606

You can also report non-urgent concerns online

https://myaccount.derby.gov.uk/en/service/report_concerns_about_a_child

If you believe that a child is at immediate risk and in need of protection then you should **call the police on 999 or if less urgent 101.**

Alternatively if you want advice from the police and the child is not in immediate need of protection, you can call them on 0845 123 33 33

You can also keep the safeguarding team informed of any concerns or issues. However, please note that they are not in work so should not be used to report safeguarding concerns to over the holidays. Please feel welcome to email just to keep them informed of any situations but be aware that they may not respond until school begins again on 8 January. safeguarding@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

The following helplines give support and advice on a number of issues including personal safety, mental health and well-being.

Childline: 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC – 0800 028 3550 www.nspcc.org.uk

Samaritans – 116 123

Shout – www.giveusashout.org Text Shout to 85258 This is a text helpline for anyone feeling anxious, worried or stressed and needing to talk to someone about it.

Kooth – www.kooth.com This is an online counselling service for young people

Mind: <https://www.mind.org.uk/> Mental Health support for people of any age.

Relate counselling – 0808 178 9363 (free helpline for couples). Available: Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am – 1.00pm. The helpline gives people the opportunity to speak directly to an experienced Relate trained counsellor, without having to make an appointment. For further information contact 01332 349177 or 07741193484 or email info@relatederby.org.uk

www.relatederby.org.uk

Online Safety Parent Support www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/11-13s/

ChatHealth – For students aged 11-19 needing advice around emotional health, contact ChatHealth on 07507327104

Lost Property

We have gathered up another mountain of lost property over this half term!

Lost Property is put out on dining room tables every Thursday after school and first thing Friday morning for students to have a look through and collect anything that may be theirs. It will also be going out every day next week to give students the best possible chance to collect their belongings.

Please encourage your children to look through this if they have lost anything.

There are coats, jumpers, blazers, bags, shoes, PE kits, and more!

IMPORTANT: All items not collected by the end of the day on the last day of term will be donated to charity over the Christmas break and all unclaimed school uniform items will be put into our donated second hand stock to support students in need.

We always check lost property for names, and any items with names in are returned to students. If parents can please ensure to put students' names into coats, bags, etc, this would greatly increase the chances of them being returned!



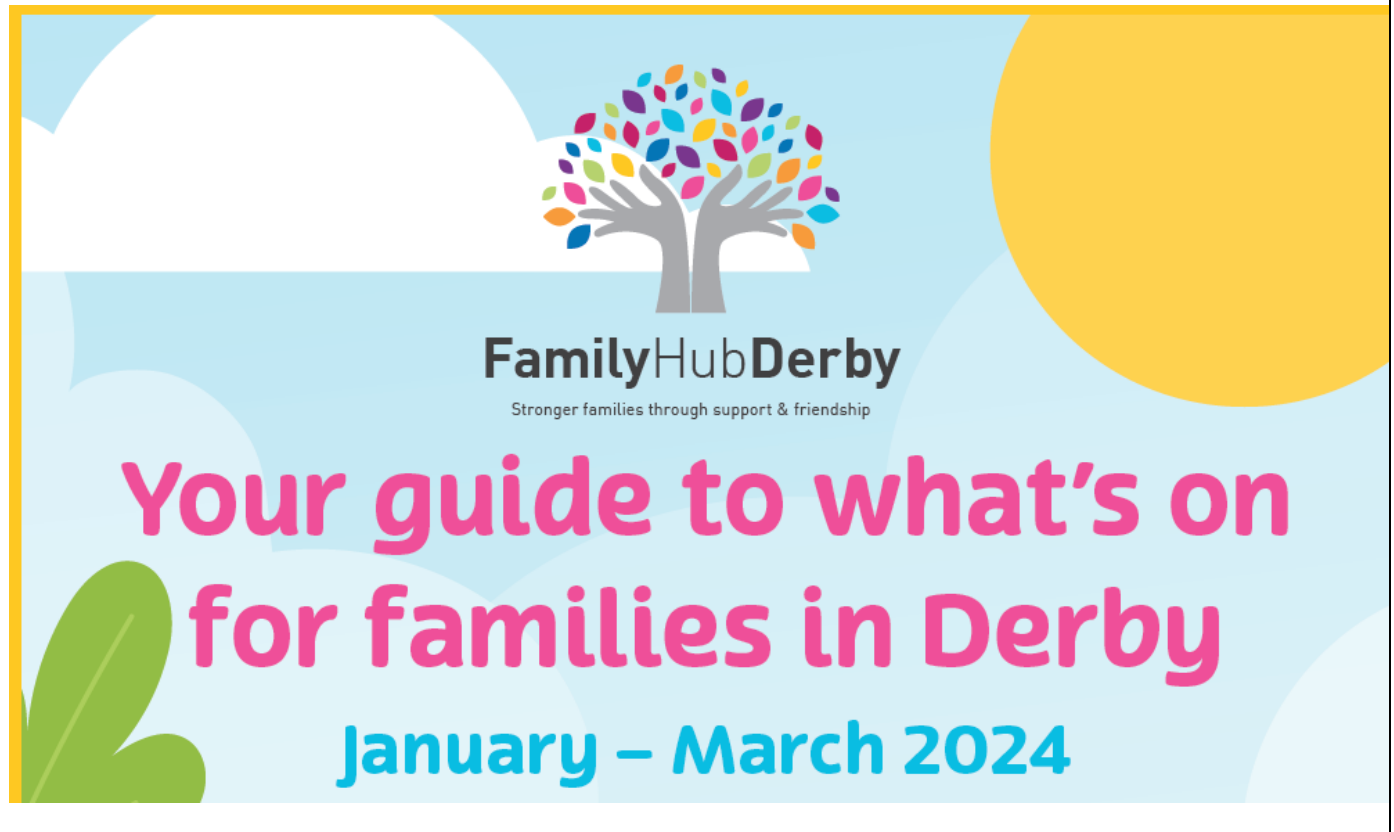
Family Hub Programme

Attached as an additional document with this newsletter is the Derby City Family Hub Programme leaflet.

This contains information of lots of different activities and support available for families through the Family Hubs, including support and activities for mums-to-be, families with babies and young children, as well as activities for students up through 19 years old.

The activities and support for 5 – 19 year olds starts on page 14.

Have a look through as there are some wonderful activities and places to go for all kinds of support, not just through the holidays but all year round as well!



Dates Ahead

Key Dates in the Autumn Term

20 December: Christmas Dinner day!

Thursday 21 December: Evening Christmas music concert

Term Dates

Friday 22 December: break up for Christmas holiday (12pm early finish for all students)

Monday 8 January: return to school

Friday 16 February: break up for Spring half term

Monday 26 February: return to school

Thursday 28 March: Break up for Easter holiday

Monday 15 April: return to school

Friday 24 May: break up for Summer half term

Monday 3 June : return to school

Tuesday 23 July: break up for Summer holiday (early finish for all students, exact time tbc)

INSET Days – school closed to all students

Friday 1st December

Monday 5th February

Friday 28th June

Term and key dates can also be found on our calendar and terms dates sections on the school website.