

# This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023



Psalm 24: 1-2

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Psalm 24 is a beautiful piece of poetry. For us at DCS it is a reminder that we have a responsibility to care for our school, neighbourhoods and city because it all belongs to God.

Dear Parents/Carers,

I just wanted to share a few items from the last week of term in this newsletter so please do take a read of the trips that many of our students have experienced towards the end of the Autumn term. It's great to see so many students have such a great time at the Hamilton musical in London. Our Sixth Formers also spent a day at Derby University in one of their biology labs; this is a great experience for enhancing their A-level course as well as giving them some careers/university aspiration.

All of our students had many fun experiences during the last week of term. The Christmas dinner was a success and so many staff were really appreciative of the thank you cards that our students wrote to them during their tutor session. We were so proud of the students who performed in the Christmas musical showcase; a big thank you to all of the audience who seemed to enjoy the evening too.

The final day was full of fun with the much anticipated staff Christmas video and amazing live staff band. These were shown during the Christmas collective worship where students were also able to reflect on the importance of this time of year to many Christians around the world.

We said a big thank you and goodbye to two members of staff at the end of term too:

Miss Rowley (Careers) and Mr Tusso (Teacher of Maths). We're really grateful for all of their support for DCS and wish them all of the best. As such, we therefore have some new staff starting with us in January:

Miss O'Loughlin – Careers Lead

Ms Benton – Year 7 Pastoral Year Lead

Mr Appiah – Teacher of Mathematics

I hope that all of our students and families have been having a restful break over Christmas and we wish everyone a very happy new year!

Just a final reminder that we return to school at the normal time (8.35am on site) on Monday 8 January.

All key term dates are at the end of this newsletter and on the school website.

Happy New Year

Mrs Brown

## Y12 Biology Trip to Derby Uni

The Year 12 Biology classes embarked on an enlightening excursion to Derby University, immersing themselves in a preview day that provided a glimpse into the life of a biological science student. Guided by current students, they experienced the campus during a comprehensive tour, delved into practical sessions exploring diverse facets such as analysing soil samples, detecting microplastics in water, and gaining first-hand experience with an electron microscope.

The students actively engaged with the experience, posing insightful questions that reflected their enthusiasm for the subject matter. This immersive day not only enriched their practical knowledge but also left them with a clearer perspective on the potential trajectory of their academic journey.





## Y10/11 Hamilton Trip

On Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 91 students from Year 10 and Year 11 went to see the musical Hamilton at Victoria Palace Theatre in London. It was an amazing experience – feedback from students below shows that they all enjoyed their day out!

“It was loads better than I expected!”

“Oh my gosh I loved it!”

“It was really good!”

“It was an out of body experience!”

“It was my first time seeing Hamilton and I loved every minute!”

“The songs and choreography were amazing!”

“Just wanted to say thank you for taking us to Hamilton. It was such a good experience, I’d definitely go again. Thank you so much.”

The experience was enhanced by Mr Coucill’s very creative facts about London (so creative that some sounded a little made up!).

See below a photo of all our students outside the theatre after the show with four of the cast!



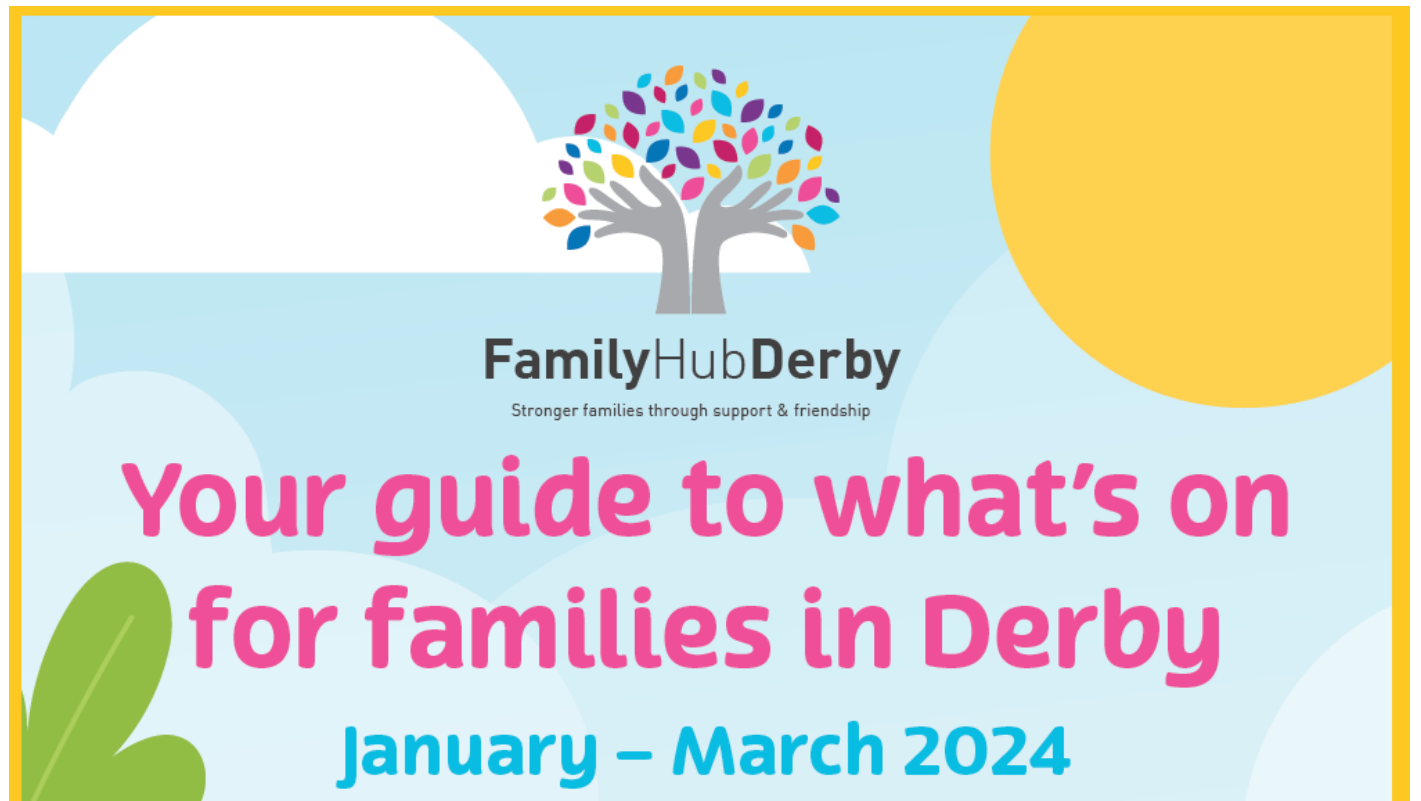
## Family Hub Programme

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!



## Mini Police Postcard Competition

Harriet (Year 7) submitted an entry to a police postcard competition last year in primary school, and a police officer came to school to let her know that she had won the competition. She was given a certificate and an art set as a prize for her submission. Well done Harriet!



## 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](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](mailto: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](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**NSPCC** – 0800 028 3550 [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

**Samaritans** – 116 123

**Shout** – [www.giveusashout.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@relatederby.org.uk)

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

**Online Safety Parent Support** [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/11-13s/](http://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

## Dates Ahead

### Term Dates

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

Monday 5th February

Friday 28th June

### Parents Evenings

Tuesday 16 January: Year 9 Options evening

Tuesday 13 February: Year 10 Parents' evening (school ends at 2.15pm for all students)

Thursday 7 March: Year 9 Parents' evening (school ends at 2.15pm for all students)

Tuesday 30 April: Year 7 Parents' evening (school ends at 2.15pm for all students)

Tuesday 25 June: Year 8 Parents' evening (school ends at 2.15pm for all students)

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