

# This Week at Derby Cathedral School

wc 8 January 2024



In Ephesians 4:32, St. Paul says:

**“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”**

This is good advice for us at DCS – let us make sure that we are ‘kind and tenderhearted’ in the way we communicate with each other

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a good Christmas and New Year. It’s been lovely to see all of our students again looking refreshed and ready for the Spring term.

This term is the last full term that our year 11 students will have in school and they are only about 12 school weeks away from their final exams. It is critical that they now attend the intervention sessions that staff are delivering for them; they make a big difference to grades. As a rough guide, nationally, year 11 students will now be studying for about 1.5 - 2 hours every evening on average. This will be to complete their set homework and completing extra revision to ensure they are confident with exam practice.

They will be starting their final mock exams in a few weeks and all should now be revising for these important assessments. These will be the grades that are submitted in case any exams are cancelled. Legally, they have to be conducted in the same way as final exams and are an excellent opportunity to practice exam skills. Mr Emberley will be providing lots of further information for all parents/carers of year 11 students over these remaining weeks in order for our students to be best supported at both home and school.

Likewise, our year 12 students will also be completing their first set of assessments in the next few weeks. We continue to be impressed with their attitude towards their studies and wish them all the best in their assessments next week.

With both of these year groups having some really important times ahead, the Bible verse of the week reminds us that is certainly is a time to be kind and supportive as they face times ahead that really do make a difference for their futures.

Our year 9 students also have an important term ahead as they will soon be making decisions about their GCSE courses for key stage 4. Please see the notice below for more details.

All term dates for the next two terms are in this newsletter and on our school website. Please do make a note of any events that are relevant to your child/children. Just as a reminder, we have an INSET day this half term on Monday 5 February.

I hope that you all have a good week and a good start to the new year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Brown

## Movement Music

You may already know that we use music to indicate the end of lessons rather than a school bell. This is designed to give a nicer sound and atmosphere throughout the day. We change the music each term and give students information about the chosen piece and the composer. We also give this information and play the music for students in advance so that they are prepared for the change. This is especially helpful for any students who may have a special educational need or find it helpful to be made aware of any changes in school routines.

In the lead up to Christmas we played the Christmas carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and this term will be the Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar.

Here's some information that will be shared with our students about this piece:

Edward Elgar was an English composer (1857-2934 and held the position of Master of the King's Music, which meant that he guided and advised the monarch of England, directed the court orchestra and commissioned music as required.

The Enigma Variations are a set of pieces of music based on a theme. There are 14 variations and each one is based on one of Elgar's friends!

This music is written for orchestra of 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets in Bb, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, 4 horns in F, 3 trumpets in F, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, side drum, triangle, bass drum, cymbals, organ (ad lib) and strings.

It was written in 1899 which is in the Romantic period. Features of the Romantic period are: lots of emotion and expression, large orchestras, lot of volume changes, rich and varied chords and harmony. Many of these features can be heard in our current transition music.

If you would like to listen to it, please find the piece on YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9uN\\_intmKU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9uN_intmKU)

## Year 9 Options Evening

It's an important time of year for our year 9 students as they consider their next steps onto their GCSE pathways. This will be the first time they make a decision about their own future education and it is important that they are well-informed.

We have a careful plan of support and information during this half term to help them. One of the main events is the options evening on Tuesday 16 January. Following this, there will be videos to watch on our website as well as the options booklet to read through. We encourage all students to take this time to think and consider what is best for them to maximise their results and to continue experiencing a broad curriculum that helps them to move onto whatever career pathway they choose.

Ultimately the choices they make at this stage won't stop them from following pathways in the future as all students need the core subjects that they will continue with.

We hope to see all of our year 9 students with parents/carers on Tuesday. We very much look forward to seeing you all and having the opportunity to talk about the courses on offer. You will receive an email with details of the timings for the evening.

## Love4Life Community Group

The poster below provides information about a community group for girls that runs in the Stockbrook area of Derby. One of our students at DCS currently attends this group and is getting on really well and enjoying their experience.

The group runs from 3.35 – 4.35 every Thursday during term time and is free to attend, and there are drinks and snacks provided.

Please feel free to share with friends in other schools as well, referrals can be made by schools, parents or young people over the age of 16 using the following link: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4950894>



### FIND YOUR LOCAL GROUP!



\*Love4Life welcomes ALL girls

### Who We Are

Love4Life by TwentyTwenty

Love4Life's mission is to give young people aged 11-18 the tools to build confidence and resilience to make positive choices for their health and relationships.

We offer groups and 1-2-1 sessions to young people who are referred to us by professionals, schools and parents. Young people aged 16+ may self-refer.

- ✓ Confidence Building
- ✓ Digital Safety
- ✓ Consent
- ✓ Periods & Puberty
- ✓ Body Positivity
- ✓ Understanding Healthy Relationships
- ✓ Emotional Wellbeing
- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Growing Self-Esteem
- ✓ Healthy Coping Techniques

"I like how they always include everyone; it feels like a family!"  
Past Love4Life Attendee

### What We Do

How can Love4Life help?

Our Love4Life girls\* groups are safe, creative, and supportive spaces to discuss important topics through fun activities. We aim to build self-esteem, confidence and knowledge of healthy relationships through engaging group sessions which vary week to week.

Our Love4Life groups are led by experienced youth workers and mentors and are completely free to attend.

### YOUR LOCAL LOVE4LIFE VENUE:

Boyer Street Community Rooms, Boyer Street,  
Derby, DE22 3XD  
Thursday evening (term-time only)

Contact Fawn Kitson 07951706036 for more info



← SCAN QR CODE TO REFER NOW!

Love4Life is a registered charity under number 1120694 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 06245103  
love4life@Love4life.charity | Registered office: Unit 15, 30 Meadow Lane, Loughborough, LE11 1JY

## Manna (Hot Meals & Fellowship)

Manna (Hot Meals & Fellowship) is a programme run by the parents of two Derby Cathedral School students.

They provide hot meals and food donations to homeless and marginalized people out of the family's own money. They not only provide food for their bodies but also fill their hearts with the word of God and provide a homely atmosphere.

Manna is run at Ozzy Road Church, Charnwood Street, Derby, DE1 2GU every Thursday 12:30 to 2:00pm.

Manna is registered with Derby City Council and all safety measures are followed in accordance with the Food Standard Agency. If you or anyone you know is struggling for food, please share and feel welcome to come and join them on Thursdays!



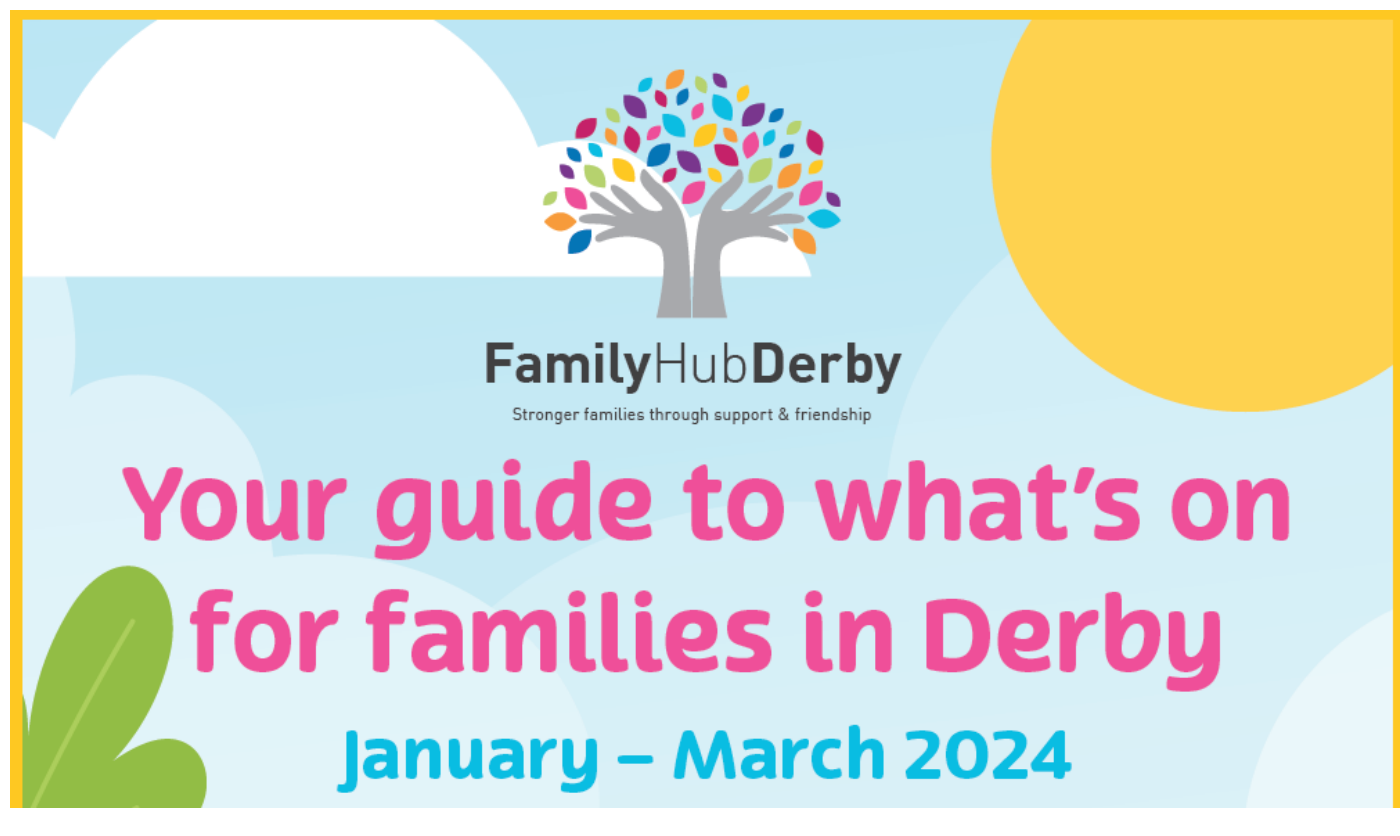
## Family Hub Programme

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 all year round!



## Dates Ahead

### Term Dates

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.