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William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England)

Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs H Britten



15th February 2024

Dear Year 4 Parents/Carers

I am writing to share with you an exciting project that we would like your child to be part of next term. Josh Jones, proprietor of the Josh Jones Academy, who performed at our Christmas Fayre and runs his choir in Duffield, has approached our school with an exciting opportunity. He already teaches at various communities and schools across Derbyshire, including primary, high school, alternative provision, and SEND schools. He would like to introduce the academy choir within our school and in the first instance, with Year 4 pupils.

He will provide weekly sessions, for eight weeks during the school day. Pupils will come together and have a weekly check-in to express their feelings through singing. They will be singing genres such as pop, gospel, and musical theatre to name a few as well as engaging in fun singing warm-ups to work on breathing and mind-set.

Each session will run for an hour, with a feeling/emotions check-in at the beginning and end of each session. This will be tracked on their own personal feelings' tracker. There will also be fun icebreakers and drama games at the beginning of each lesson. Each lesson will be themed, such as Your Happy Place, Affirmations, Confidence, and Song writing/Spoken Word.

We are delighted that Josh has offered this first block of 8 sessions for free, so will cost the school, and you the parents, nothing at all! What a wonderful opportunity to develop pupils' emotional literacy, address any anxieties or worries and boost self-confidence through music. Music is the art of all the things we can't see or touch. It is feelings and thoughts, offerings of generosity, vulnerability, and openness. It has the power to capture us, to make us feel many complex things. It can lift us high into optimism and accompany us during feelings of hurt and pain. The making of music can be described as healing, invigorating, exhausting and all-consuming. We hope you will see this exciting programme as an opportunity for your child to grow in self-awareness and equip them with further ways to manage the range of emotions they face as they grow and develop.

The first session will begin on Tuesday 27th February. Josh would like each parent/carer to complete a consent form ahead of the first session. Please follow the link to complete the short form. You can find the form "The Academy Choir Year 4" at: <https://form.jotform.com/240451509992360> Please also find attached the Academy Choir leaflet for your information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in getting in touch.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E H Britten
Headteacher

