

'Progressive' school seeking permanent base Singing teacher's plans for harmony in his home town

A singing school is returning home to Folkestone.

The Harmony School, founded and run by Folkestone man Jayl De Lara, teaches hundreds of people, ranging from beginners to professionals.

It has been running in Gloucestershire for 20 years but Mr De Lara has decided to expand and move the school to his home town.

The school specialises in vocal coaching and singing therapy as well as poetry and personal development to build confidence and self-esteem.

Mr De Lara, a singer-songwriter and poet, said: "The school also promotes new and progressive teaching methods, combined with traditional techniques.

"As well as empowering people to find their voices, it has also helped many with medical conditions such as hay fever, asthma, migraines and depression."

The school has already been operating from venues throughout Folkestone and Romney Marsh.

Mr De Lara is looking for a new studio in Folkestone itself in early 2017 with "a couple of options on the table".

The school is working with Stagecoach performing arts group and teaching youngsters at the Folkestone Academy. It has previously worked with cancer sufferers and groups including Headway and the Prince's



Jayl De Lara, originally from Folkestone, has brought the Harmony singing school back to his home town

Trust. It is hoped the school will expand and come into different venues throughout Shepway and spread further out into London.

The best singers who train with the school are selected to make professional recordings on the Harmony Label, which is also run by Mr De Lara. As an intro-

duction to the area, Harmony School is running a special vocal course for all ages, aimed at budding singers in Folkestone. It will start in January.

➔ For more information go to www.harmonyschool.co.uk



Pupils with, from left, Sherrienne Spearpoint and Catherine Cotsford of Dobbies, and Beacon business development manager Sarah Reardon

Picture: Matt Bristow

Tree lights up faces at Beacon

A garden centre spread some festive cheer to a school.

Dobbies of Ashford gifted one of its real trees to The Beacon school, Folkestone, which offers educational experiences

for pupils aged three to 19 with complex needs, learning difficulties and physical and sensory impairments.

The store's reindeer mascot, Dobbie, delivered the tree

with baubles and lights, and centre manager Sherrienne Spearpoint said: "We thought it would be a lovely way to say thank you from the community for the school's amazing work."



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