



## Welcome to our 10th anniversary newsletter

Thank you for subscribing to newsletters sent out by the DSM Foundation, a drugs education charity founded in 2014 by Fiona and Tim Spargo-Mabbs after the death of their 16 year old son Daniel from an accidental overdose of ecstasy. This has been a bittersweet year for all at Team Dan, as it marks a decade since losing Dan but also a decade of hard work to try and reduce the risks of the same tragedy befalling other young people and their loved ones, by supporting informed, empowered and safer decisions about drugs.

In this newsletter, we are looking back at all we have done during 2024 to mark the DSM Foundation's 10th anniversary... and it has been busy!

## Our tenth year of... fundraising

As a small charity, we simply can't do what we do without having the funds to pay for it, and we have had some very significant fundraisers this year:



- Our [BBC Radio 4 Appeal](#) was a huge opportunity for us, which we worked hard to make the most of, and it certainly paid off – at the time of writing, over £44,000 had come in, including matched funding and donations.

- [Christmas in the Barn](#) at the beautiful [Larchfield Estate](#) in Lisburn was another massive fundraiser, this one to support our first play tour in Northern Ireland.



- Our [Friends of the Foundation](#) are our lifeblood, and this year we launched a "£10 for 10 years" campaign to attract more of these precious monthly donors. We are thrilled and grateful to have 25 new regular donors as a result!

- Our [school fundraising pack](#) was launched this year and we'd love for more schools and colleges to use it! We are always happy to support efforts, so do get in touch if you'd like to explore fundraising opportunities.



We know lots of schools and staff members financially support us, and encourage others to do so by spreading awareness of our work.

This is invaluable to us. We keep the amounts we charge to schools and colleges as low as possible and some aspects (notably the play) cost far more than we are know settings can pay, so always have to be subsidised by other pots of money. Thank you for helping us in this way!

## Ten years of... events

Some other events this year have also been fundraisers, but have had an additional focus:

- The [10 mile walk](#) to King's College Hospital was a very special day on which a group of special people made a pilgrimage to the place where Dan spent his last days, and remembered the boy who is at the heart of everything we do.
- Our annual quiz night – held, as ever, at Emmanuel Church in Croydon, which Dan grew up in and his parents still attend – had the 10 year theme running throughout.



## Our tenth year of... drug education

- The play that tells Dan's story, Mark Wheeler's ['I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die'](#), built on the success of previous Theatre in Education tours, with Wizard Theatre performing in schools and colleges in London and Tie It Up visiting Scotland. These meant that over 35,000 young people immersed themselves in the words of Dan's friends and family... and many more have engaged with the play by studying, performing or reading it, including pupils sitting GCSE Drama exams with this as a set text for the first time.
- Speaking of Scotland, our work north of the border has continued to grow, with Moray and Aberdeenshire Councils allocating funding so we can do more with more schools. This was on the back of our [successful pilot in the Grampian region](#), and we now have a new base in the northeast and a small but dedicated team working in Scotland.
- [Workshops](#) can feel like our bread and butter, and we have been super-busy this year. Over 43,000 students and nearly 2,900 adults in their lives have had a session from us, and appreciate our non-judgemental, evidence-based, practical approach.





## Our tenth year of... Fiona leading the way

Our [10 Years in the Life](#) event was an emotional evening that laid bare how much love Fiona has poured into the Foundation that bears her son's name, and how far she has taken his legacy. We are very fortunate to have someone as driven, inspirational and big hearted as Fiona at the helm of the charity. Here are a few other things she has somehow found the energy to do this year:



- [The Drug Education Forum](#) is an organisation that brings together practitioners and other interested parties from across the sector. It launched in February and has already had three events that allow best practice to be shared and valuable networks to be formed, and without Fiona none of it would have happened.



**Middlesex  
University  
London**

- The [National Institute for Health and Care Research](#) has awarded us government funding for our drug education to be evaluated by research teams at Middlesex and Bangor Universities. This is so valuable for adding to the evidence base for drug education, which all of our work is centred around.

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- For a look back at how the DSM Foundation has grown from a very bad thing to something very very good, please look at our [10 year Impact Booklet](#). And thank you for your continued support that means the sycamore seeds continue to swirl and scatter far and wide, spreading Dan's legacy and meaning that ever more young people are able to navigate situations involving drugs and alcohol knowledgeably... and safely.

