



Headlines

Year 9 Options Evening

Thank you to all the families who attended the Year 9 Options evening on Thursday and to the pupils who helped out at the event. The turnout was excellent and there was a real buzz in the air throughout the evening. We hope that the event was helpful to you and your child in making a decision regarding which GCSC's they should choose.

Uniform

As we move towards warmer weather, I would like to remind parents that hoodies are not allowed as part of the school uniform. Students should have a coat if they feel cold, and they should always wear a blazer. Additionally, trainers should never be worn. If for any reason a student is unable to wear a full uniform, parents should provide a note on the very first day explaining why and we will follow up as appropriate. We do not allow nose studs as part of the school uniform, and we strongly advise against getting them done during term time as they can take some time to heal and must be removed for the time they are in school.

Our uniform rules have not changed since the point your child entered Charles Darwin school and we appreciate your support to ensure that our rules are adhered to.

Personal Development Drop morning

On Thursday we had our Personal Development Drop morning which is a part of our school wide personal development programme. The event was successful and provided great learning experiences for our students. It was wonderful to hear about how engaged the students were during the event where they explored a range of topics based on their year groups. The topics included positive relationships, growth mindset, and the importance of refining for improvement.

Moped Incidents

I have been made aware of some young people who have been circulating the area on mopeds at various times of the day, evenings and weekends. We are certain that the young people involved are not part of Charles Darwin school. If you or your child has information relating to such behaviour I would encourage you to share this with the police on 101 as recommended at a recent Biggin Hill Ward Panel meeting I attended. Students were spoken to during form time and we advised students to travel with at least one other person if they can and to avoid travelling through Biggin Hill Recreation Ground.

Aston Smith

A general reminder to all students for keeping safe on the way to and from school.

As previously advised by the Bromley Youth Policing Team (BYPT), young people should:

- Try not to walk alone – find a friend to walk with.
- Do not walk down a lane or unlit road that isn't busy with traffic or pedestrians for a short cut. Take a longer route which is safer.
- **Run, yell and tell.** If you are approached by someone and don't feel safe start to run, yell loudly at the same time and head towards where there are people such as shops.
- Safe places include shops, schools, libraries, restaurants, take away shops, stations and bus stops where people are waiting.
- Speak to an adult you know, if you have concerns about your safety.
- Do not walk around with headphones in and a phone out on display.
- Call police on 999 in an emergency.

A reminder to parents that as well as the LINK and the 'latest news' section on the website, you can follow the latest events happening in our school community on:



Parent webinar– Online safety and Breck foundation

Parent webinar – Online safety and the Breck Foundation

Thank you to Ms Currie and Ms Sampson for their help and support hosting our latest parent support webinar as part of our Relationships and Sex education offer. This webinar focussed on Online safety with the aim to raise awareness and knowledge around online grooming. Those that had signed up for this webinar but were unable to attend will receive the presentation digitally via Ms Currie.

This parent webinar links with the Breck Foundation presentation to all of Year 9 on Monday 25 March. If you have a child in this year group, please can you ask them about the impact of what they hear and see on Monday as it is highly relevant and hard hitting message that will be shared.

Mrs Rees

Parent Voice – Anti bullying charter

The School Council have been working on a new Anti bullying charter for the last 3 months. They have gathered views from their year groups around what interventions and support children feel they want if they have a concern around bullying.

Key suggestions from students have been :

- An online method to report concerns
- A space for Yr 7's and 8's to go to at lunchtime to speak to Peer Mentors or Senior Prefects who may be able to offer support and guidance and signpost as to what to do next

Moving forward, the School Council had peers support training this week which will enable them to host a room when taking this forward.

The pastoral team of teachers have also given their feedback as part of the review on support for bullying. The next stage is asking parents for their views on what they feel as a school we could do better in this area of support.

If you have any views or ideas you would like to share, please do email me on ire@cdarwin.com by the end of the first week back after Easter. I can then discuss these moving forward to create our new Anti bullying charter ready for September 2024.

Many thanks in advance for your views. They really are important as we move forward having an Anti bullying policy that combines children, staff and parent/carers views.

Mrs Rees

Equipment

Students should be coming to school with full equipment everyday which includes:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Reading book
- Refillable water bottle
- Planner

If planners have been lost, a replacement planner must be purchased by the end of next week 28th March. These can be purchased at the reduced price of £3 from students services.

Equipment checks will be carried out by form tutors upon returning from Easter Holidays, so please ensure to source any missing equipment over the break. Failure to have equipment, as always, may result in a WSD. If there are any issues or concerns in sourcing these materials, please contact the relevant form tutor.

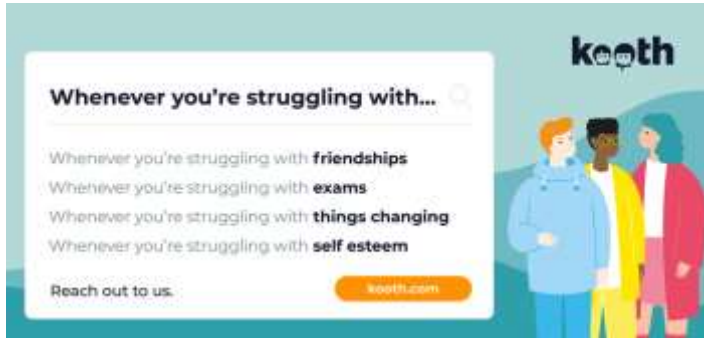
Achievement Coordinators Team



As we approach the Easter holidays, we would like to remind you that **Kooth will be available for students to access throughout the Easter period.**

Kooth is a free online mental health and wellbeing service available to all young people in Bromley aged 10-25.

At Kooth, we offer free support with no waiting lists. Kooth is a safe and anonymous space for young people to talk about their wellbeing without the fear of judgement. We have clinical practitioners on hand to offer one-to-one support through text-based counselling, operating after school hours, on weekends, and during school holidays. Students can access the immediate help they need without a formal referral. Please see attached separately poster about how to sign up to kooth.



Thanks to your generosity, we are delighted to donate £5000 to fund the following for Charles Darwin School:

- Digital Sound Desk for Expressive Arts
- Headphones for the School Library
- BookBuzz Scheme for English
- A donation towards History books
- Mini whiteboard sets for English
- A donation towards a plan chest for Art
- Gardening products for Science Club
- Magnets, ECG monitors, power supplies and glassware for Science
- New chairs for the student Counselling area



Foodbank in Bromley is able to offer clients a choice of 3 days worth of food along with a supermarket voucher or 7 days worth of food. This is for **Bromley Borough residents only**. For out of borough residents they are able to offer 3 days worth of food. Please remember you can get help by contacting them directly on ifo@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk.

Speak Out Challenge

Maci Hughes attended the regional finals last night at Chislehurst Girls School, representing Charles Darwin School in the Speak Out Challenge national competition. Maci was truly inspiring – her personal speech about the emergency services and the impact of their help on her and her family left no dry eye in the auditorium. Although not winning this time, she was commended for her bravery and attitude to such adversity. Last year's winner made a special comment for how amazing Maci was. She was just amazing, considering how nervous and reluctant she was to begin with, she personifies resilience and perseverance – two pillars of the 'Darwin way'. Well done.

Mr Nunn



School jumpers, PE kits and school bags needed!

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of navy school jumpers, red and black PE hoodies, white polo shirts, red socks and school bags. If you have any lying around that your daughter/son has out-grown, we would greatly accept donation of these. We also welcome any other parts of school uniform like school and football shoes.



All donations can be left at **Main Reception**.

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Preloved Uniform Shop Team



All students are requested to leave the school site promptly unless taking part in supervised activities after school. For safety and security reasons no casual or recreational activities should take place without direct supervision from staff.

The Darwin Leisure Centre fitness gym is open to student paying members only between 3.15-4.30pm who must then leave the premises as quickly as possible; from 4.30-6.00pm only School/Club bookings are allowed on the 3G.

For students booking the astro pitch, bookings must be made in advance (no walk-ins) and a parent must be present on arrival. A limit of 16 students per booking applies.

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 8 March 2024.



7SHu/CHt	96.7%
8LBr	96.3%
9JHd	94.3%
10JLa	93.3%
11DNe	96%
12JDa	94.7%
13FSu/MEd	94.7%

As you are aware attendance is linked to a student's attainment and at Charles Darwin we work closely with the parents to keep students' attendance levels as high as possible. Please could we ask that if your child feels unwell in the morning (headache etc.) and they do feel better later on, that you send them in. This will benefit them as they will not miss a whole days learning.

Please can we also remind parents to call in before 8.30am for each day of your child's absence and not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

Thank you for your continued support.

Students Services Team

A reminder that pupils **should not** contact home if they feel unwell but should be seen and assessed by Mrs Booth, our Health Care Lead.

Parents should be aware that pupils will not be sent home without being seen by Mrs Booth in the first instance.

If your child contacts you directly, please phone the school to confirm whether they are unwell and have permission to go home.

Thank you

Student Services Team



Parents should be advised that the school does not provide students with Paracetamol unless it is a medical emergency.

We have a limited supply in school and prefer that medication wherever possible is administered at home.

Many thanks for your support.

**Mrs Booth
Lead First Aid**

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Charlotte Bourne
Alfie Brocking
Stanlee Burden
Scarlet Doherty
Oscar Campbell

Millie Ford
Josh Clements
Evie Gooding
Carlo Chatterton
Maisy King

Student Services Duty Pupils

Shakai Henry
Molly Booth
Lillie Dell
Olivia Gabbadon
Emily Bumstead



They have been fantastic this week, and their help has been invaluable.

Dates for the Diary

March

26th March - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening

27th March - Trip: Y10 & Y12 Drama Trip to Greenwich Theatre

28th March - End of term

28th March - Trip: Iceland trip - Geography, Year 10 & 11

29th March - Trip: Austria, Ski Trip

29th March - Good Friday - School Closed

April

29th March - 12th April - Easter Holiday

15th April - Summer Term starts

16th April - Trip: IET Faraday Challenge, Science

17th April - Year 7 Parents' Evening

20th April - DofE Year 9 Practise walk

30th April - Trip: Geography Field Trip to Rottingdean Year 10



As the weather is getting warmer please can all students bring in a reusable water bottle to school each day. The water bottles can be refilled at the canteen and near to Students Services at break time and lunchtime. We only have a limited supply of plastic cups for First Aid and for students who forgot a water bottle.

Thank you

Student Services Team

2023-24 Term Dates

Autumn 2023

Tuesday 29th August – Friday 13th October

Half Term: Monday 16th October – Friday 27th October

Monday 30th October – Friday 15th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 18th December - Monday 1st January

Spring 2024

Tuesday 2nd January – Friday 9th February

Half Term: Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Monday 19th February – Thursday 28th March

Easter Holiday: Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April

Summer 2024

Monday 15th April – Friday 24th May

(Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday)

Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Monday 3rd June – Friday 19th July

Note:

Good Friday 29th March 2024

Easter Monday 1st April 2024

INSET Days - School closed to students

Friday 28th June 2024 - INICIO Day (home learning for students)




HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
AGES: 8 - 18 YEARS OLD
AND RECEIVING BENEFIT RELATED
FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

2ND - 5TH APRIL 2024
Spitfire Youth Club, Church
Lane Biggin Hill TN16 3LB

Activities Include:

- Baking
- Arts & Crafts Workshops
- Discovery Projects
- Team Sports & Games
- T-shirt making
- IT skills & fun

To see the dates, times & book a place please scan the QR code or use the link below:
<https://www.Bromley.gov.uk/xfp/form/228>






 @BromleyYouthActivities
  @BromleyYouthActivities

 Department for Education

BROMLEY YOUTH
Support Programme

The mathematics department are holding revision classes after school on the following days from 3.15 to 4.15:

Higher Tier

Monday MA7 Mr Yerassimou
Wednesday MA2 Mr Watson

Foundation Tier

Monday GE2 Ms Harris"



Ticket purchases can be made via our website: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>



Charles Darwin PTA
are delighted to host our popular



Quiz Night



FRIDAY 26TH
APRIL 2024

**SIXTH FORM HUB,
CHARLES DARWIN
SCHOOL
DOORS OPEN: 7.00PM
TRIVIA STARTS: 7.30PM**

£10 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF UP TO 8

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA TO
REQUEST TICKETS OR VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOP:

[HTTPS://FRIENDS-OF-CHARLES-DARWIN-
SCHOOL.SUMUPSTORE.COM](https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com)



Quiz teams, please bring your own drinks and snacks!



JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED AT WESTERHAM CRICKET CLUB

U13 (12/13 YEAR-OLDS) & U14 (13/14 YEAR-OLDS)

BEGINNERS OR EXPERIENCED

INDOOR TRAINING STARTS MARCH/APRIL 2024

KENT INVICTA JUNIOR CRICKET LEAGUE

More info and sign-up:

westerhamcc@stoneslive.com or call 07821 719818

8 TO 11 YEARS – DYNAMOS CRICKET

Tuesdays 21st May to 16th July

Info & book here: WWW.DYNAMOSCRICKET.CO.UK

5 TO 7 YEARS – ALL STARS CRICKET

Tuesdays 21st May to 16th July

Info and book here: WWW.ALLSTARSCRICKET.CO.UK

ECB QUALIFIED COACHES - LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence before 8.30am. This ensures we know your child is safe and their absence is authorised where possible. Our Attendance Officer is having to spend an increased amount of time each day chasing for responses.
Thank you for your support.