



## HEADLINES

### Welcome Back

A very warm welcome back and best wishes for the New Year to all our students and their families. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

This term is crucially important for us in terms of the work that we have to undertake with our examination year groups if we are to secure good GCSE and 'A' level results this summer. Students in Years 11, 12 and 13 will need to begin to increase their work rate and develop momentum as they approach their examinations. We also have a number of events to look forward to including our popular Dance Competition and the Spring Musicfest. I have no doubt that this term will inevitably be busy and demanding.

### Friends of Charles Darwin School

Last term the Friends, under the leadership of new Chair, Gillian Simons, raised a great deal of money for the school. Prior to the Christmas break the Friends supported the school production and raised an astonishing £2,000. I would like to thank the Friends for their super work in supporting our school and raising much needed funds.

Sunil Chotai

### PARENTS EVENINGS 2016/17

**Year 11:** 19 January 2017

**Year 8:** 9 February 2017

**Year 9:** 9 March 2017

**Year 10:** 26 April 2017

**Year 7:** 3 May 2017

### Important reminder for Year 10 parents

Please make sure that the signed consent form has been returned prior to the Year 10 DTP and meningitis vaccinations next week on Wednesday 11 January.

Thank you.

Miss Robertson

## Virtual exploration



Before Christmas, Google Expeditions came into the Geography Department to bring far-flung field trips from around the globe right into the classroom. Google Expeditions allows teachers to act as a guide to lead classroom-sized groups of "explorers" through collections of 360° and 3D images while pointing out interesting sights along the way.

Smart phones, viewers and tablet computers were provided to run virtual field trips for all our Year 7 and 8 students. The students went to locations such as Tolbachik volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula in the far east of Russia, the Borneo rainforest, coral reefs and Rio de Janeiro.

Students were incredibly engaged in the activities and staff had great fun watching the students' reactions to seeing various sea creatures swimming close to them on the coral reefs.

I would like to thank Mr Goss, Mr T Jones and Mrs Gillespie for helping to run these inspiring virtual field trips. **Ms Partridge, Head of Geography**

## Your views matter

We aim to continually develop and improve our school. To help us to do this, we conduct regular surveys of students, parents and staff, asking for their feedback on how the school is progressing.

We will be conducting the next survey over the coming few weeks: all students and staff will complete the questionnaire in school and parent questionnaires will be sent home on Friday 13 January to be completed for the youngest sibling attending this school. Your youngest child should bring the survey home to you. If you would like to complete more than one survey on a child in another year group, spare surveys will be available from main reception

Please take this opportunity to let us know what you think as the results are essential to help the school develop further but also to recognise what we have done to improve in the last 18 months. All returns would be appreciated by Tuesday 17 January.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Mrs Rees

The closing date for applications for entry to Sixth Form is  
**Thursday 26 January 2017.**

## Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

**Monday 9 to Friday 13 January 2017**

9 January 2017—Year 11 Science ISA day  
9 January 2017—Sixth Form Health and Social Care trip to BHCCA  
New Year Party

11 January 2017—Year 10 DTP and meningitis vaccinations

13 January 2017—Southern Science and Technology Challenge Final

### Forthcoming events

16 January 2017—Year 11 Science ISA day

24 January 2017—X-Tol compete at London Youth Games Dance competition

25 January 2017—Year 13 Work Reviews

25 January 2017—Year 12 Drama trip to “Colder than Here”

26 January 2017—Deadline for Sixth Form Applications

6 February 2017—Dance Competition 2017

9 February 2017—Year 8 Parents’ Evening

9 February 2017—Year 13 history lectures on Arab-Israeli conflict

10 to 13 February—Sixth Form photography residential to Paris

27 February to 2 March 2017—Sixth Form geography trip Dorset coast

2 March 2017—Year 8 Options Evening.

1 March 2017—Year 12 English trip to The Great Gatsby study day

10 March 2017—Year 13 History conference

13 and 15 March 2017—Dry slope skiing lessons prior to ski trip

31 March 2017 to 8 April 2017—Ski trip

15 May 2017— Start of written public examinations

## Pupils for Praise

Duty pupils of the week ending

16/12/2016

Jemma Noble and Aaron Hollis  
from 8 HCa/KSa

Mrs Mills



**History Star of the Week** is

awarded to Mason Pridham in 8RMa. Mason is hard-working, polite, enthusiastic and helpful. He is always focused in class and really wants to do well in his history lessons. He is making excellent progress this year and I look forward to monitoring his success. Well done.

Miss Zysemil

### YEAR 11 PARENTS’ EVENING AND REPORT COLLECTION

Thursday, 19 January 2017

3.15pm – 6.15pm

This is an opportunity for pupils and their families to speak to staff about their progress.

Oz Schoolwear will be present selling school uniform and PE kit.

Governors will be present conducting parent consultation so please respond to the questionnaire if you can, either on the night or later by email.

Refreshments will be available courtesy of the Friends.

### New 684 bus service

In response to concerns about overcrowding on the R8 bus route at school times, Transport for London has introduced a new 684 bus on schooldays between Orpington and Charles Darwin School and has withdrawn the schooldays only journeys on the R8 route. A timetable has been circulated with this edition of the Link and further details are available to view on the website.

Students travelling from Orpington and Green Street Green should catch the new route 684 bus to and from the school to allow students living on the route through the lanes to use the R8 service. The R8 buses will stop in Jail Lane and will not enter the school grounds.

This means that there will be three double decker buses in the school grounds at the end of the day: please try and avoid driving into the school if you can to ease congestion. Thank you.

### Attendance update

**Attend today: achieve tomorrow**

Attendance percentage: by house for the autumn term 2016

Henslow	95.6%
Grant	95.4%
Wedgwood	95.4%
Lyell	95.0%

Congratulations should go to 13SMi who came top overall amongst high attending form groups and to Henslow who came top amongst the houses.

Years 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13 are all currently above the whole school target of 95% attendance – well done to them all.

### House Point totals: autumn 2016

Grant	2826 (4th)
Henslow	2939 (3rd)
Lyell	3231 (1st)
Wedgwood	3079 (2nd)

Congratulations to 8SCu which currently has the highest form total across the school of 689 house points.

Mrs Rees

## Darwin Leisure Centre New Year, new you?



**Gold membership: £25 per month**

Offering unlimited use of the gym and member discount on other facilities and bookings

**Free inductions [normally £10] for the month of January**

**A variety of private classes, facilities and pitch hire is available**

Enquiries to 01959 540606 or email: aad@cdarwin.com

See school website for full details of classes and facilities