



16/6/2017

The Link Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

HEADLINES

Head Boy / Head Girl Hustings

On Tuesday the six candidates putting themselves forward for Head Boy / Head Girl delivered their speeches to over 60 members of staff. It must have been extremely daunting for the students but they coped remarkably well and were all very impressive. This rigorous selection process for our next Head Boy and Head Girl where they present to staff and all pupils via an assembly has become a bit of a tradition here and works extremely well. Irrespective of the result I would like to congratulate the candidates on their very polished performances.

Expressive Arts Showcase

On Monday evening we held our Creative Arts Showcase. The evening showcased performance work across Music, Dance and Drama from students in Years 7-12. The performances were a mixture of classwork and assessments developed throughout the year as well as work created through extra-curricular provision. Unfortunately despite planning on being in the audience, I was not able to see it as a meeting overran considerably. I have however heard that the evening was a great success – the performances from the students were of a very high quality and the variety was impressive. My congratulations to all who took part.

Creative Explosion

On Wednesday evening the annual Creative Explosion exhibition held in our Library was a great success. As always the exhibits on display were outstanding. The art work, the technology practical pieces and written work, the photography all demonstrated the rich creativity that is abundant in our school. Indeed, this demonstration was so effective that a couple of parents took the opportunity to express how impressed they were. The students should be incredibly proud of their work, I know I certainly am.

Sunil Chotai

Students outstanding at Technology Challenge Day



On 14 June a select group of 12 year 9 pupils attended the *Bromley Gifted and Talented Science and Technology Challenge Day* at Greenwich University alongside pupils from seven other Bromley schools. The pupils involved were Andrew Stevens, Arthur Doe, Blake Bonthron, Hannah Baird, Helen Cotzias, Jake Lynch, Karim Lagder, Louie Cook, Lucy Coop, Maria Smith, Ortvín Meskelevicius and Rosie Ford

Teams, comprising two students each from two of the eight schools competing, were given three challenges [out of a possible four] and were judged on how well they worked together as a team and planned their response to the tasks as well as on how they performed.

The four challenges included: building a light and colour seeking robot that could move around a winding course gaining points for stopping and performing special manoeuvres on designated areas (Robot Challenge); building the fastest vehicle possible from a limited supply of connectors, axles, wheels, rubber bands and a battery (Vehicle Challenge); undertaking CPR, medical diagnostics and putting victims into the recovery position (Medical Challenge); and using police-accredited E-Fit software to create the facial image of a 'criminal' (E-fit Challenge).

At the end of the event the Mayoress of Bromley, Cllr Kathy Bance MBE, presented prizes to the winners of each of the events and said how impressed she was with the team work and skills on display. She also highlighted the importance of enrichment in STEM subjects and the change in gender ratio in STEM roles in recent years.

Throughout the day our pupils were exceptional – they collaborated well with their team colleagues from other schools and they used the skills they had developed through their science and technology classes to succeed in the tasks set them. This hard work was rewarded by success with the team containing Helen Cotzias and Blake Bonthron winning the Robot Challenge. All winners received plaques or cups celebrating their success, and all participants receive a certificate for completing the challenges.

It was fascinating watching our pupils through the day, observing the different strengths they brought to each of the (very varied) challenges and seeing how they dealt with being placed in teams with unknown pupils from other schools – a situation they coped with extremely well and which augurs well for similar situations they will be faced with when they leave school.

Our thanks go to the pupils involved for their outstanding contribution to the day and their excellent representation of the school and to Dr Piercy for organising the schools' participation in the event.

Mrs K MacKay

Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

Monday 26 to Friday 30 June

28 June 2017 — Driven by Consequences

30 June 2017 — Year 11 Leavers' Breakfast and Ball—late start of other year groups

30 June 2017 — Year 6 CATs tests

Forthcoming events

3 July 2017 — Year 11 into 12 taster day

3 July 2017 — Year 11 into 12 Parents' Information Evening 6.45pm

4 July 2017 — Year 6 CATs tests

4 July 2017 — Year 9 Young Enterprise finals in Telford

4 to 6 July 2017 — Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition

6 July 2017 — Year 6 singles day

10 to 14 July 2017 — Sixth Form Horizons

10 July 2017 — Bromley Health Bus on site in the upper car park

11 July 2017 — Year 9 drama performance of Too Much Punch for Judy

13 July 2017—Young Carers bowling trip,

16 to 20 July 2017—Year 7, 8 and 9 trip to Germany

17 July 2017—Step Live! Dance Festival—X-Tol performing

17 to 19 July 2017—Silver Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition

17 to 19 July 2017—Year 7 and 8 trip to PGL Liddington

17 to 20 July 2017—Year 7, 8 and 9 trip to France

19 and 20 July 2017—SMSC enrichment days for Years 7, 8 and 9

20 July 2017—Year 10 Mock Interview Day

21 July 2017—Celebration of Success for Years 7 to 10 and end of summer term

Key dates for autumn term 2017

14 September 2017—Presentation Evening

29 September 2017—Early close for Open Morning

30 September 2017—Open Morning

2 October 2017—Late start for students

3 to 6 October 2016—Open Week

Pupils for Praise

Duty pupils of the week ending

16/6/2017

Another disjointed week. Thank you again to everyone who served as a duty pupil last week, for however brief a period: your help was much appreciated.

Mrs Mills

 **History Star of the Week** is awarded to Scarlett Brazier in 8MGr. Scarlett is a pleasure to have in the lessons, she is polite, regularly contributes to discussions and works on independent tasks when the opportunity arises. Scarlett is a conscientious and hard-working student evidenced in her recent end of year exam result.

Miss Zysemil

Where are they now?

Congratulations to Natalie Sutton who is graduating from Westminster University with a first class degree in Film and TV production. She starts her new role in Warsaw this month as a Production Assistant.

Congratulations to Lucy Brooke who graduates from Roehampton University with a 2:1 in Primary Education. As many of you may know, Lucy was the victim of a car crash at the end of her second year but has bounced back and starts her teaching career in September.

Huge congratulations to Danielle Lovelock who has achieved a first class honours degree in Psychology and Counselling from Greenwich University.

Mrs Green

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Year 11 Leavers' Breakfast takes place on Friday 30 June. There will therefore be a late start for all other year groups who should register at 10.30am ready for lesson three.

WANTED

Parent volunteers

We need a dedicated team of volunteers to make costumes for the school production: performances are in December.

If you are interested and can help, please email Miss Currie, Head of Expressive Arts on

gcu@cdarwin.com.

Thank you.

WANTED

Cleaning Staff (£11.00 per hour)

We are looking to appoint a number of cleaning staff from September 2017 to join our committed Site Team. Various hours are available and will be between 2.30 pm – 7.30 pm Monday – Friday during term time. Some additional hours may be available during school holidays. Applicants should complete the non-teaching staff application form on our website (www.cdarwin.com) and return this to Julie Hodgkinson, Personnel & Administration Manager by Friday 7th July.

Charles Darwin School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS Enhanced Disclosure and full background checks.



Each year, Teenage Cancer Trust is one of the Sixth Formers' chosen charities. On Monday, 26 June at 7.30pm, as part of the Our Lives series, BBC1 will show a one-off documentary which focuses on the

Teenage Cancer Trust Unit at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow where young people find a retreat at one of the most difficult times of their lives.

The programme, called 'Growing up with Cancer', follows three young people through their treatment and features interviews with hospital staff including the Trust's Youth Support Coordinator.

Watch, if you can, to see how the money we raised is used.