



## Headlines

### Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to all our students. I hope all families enjoyed the Easter break and that students have returned refreshed for this final term of the school year. It was good to see so many year 11 and 13 students attending the Easter revision sessions and I am very appreciative of staff who had given up their break to support students in their final push towards the summer examinations. This is a vital term for our examination students and we will be doing all we can to prepare them for their public examinations.

### Trips during Easter break

I'm sure like me you enjoyed following the Iceland and Austria ski trips on social media. Thanks to staff that gave up some of their holiday for our students to make these trips possible, creating life long memories for them.

### Year 7 Parents' Evening

It was lovely to meet many families again on Wednesday and hear how well their child has settled in and is enjoying their time here at Charles Darwin. Thank you to everyone that went out of their way to pass on compliments of the school and staff, I have passed these on.

### Parent Survey

A survey for parents will be sent out next week. It will only take a few minutes to fill out. We will use the data and feedback to better understand the views of parents on a range of areas. Thank you in advance for your time in completing this survey.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please feel free to share any comments or suggestions with us in the free text section of the parent survey so we might adapt and improve our newsletter to provide you with what you want.

*Aston Smith, Headteacher*

## Revised 2024-25 Term Dates

<b>Autumn 2024</b>	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October
Half term	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
<b>Spring 2025</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
Half term	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February
	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Holiday	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April - Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April
<b>Summer 2025</b>	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May [Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday]
Half term	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May
	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June – Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

Notes: Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

### INSET Days:

#### Charles Darwin School

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

# Personal Development Week

A reminder to parents that our enrichment activities are on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Year 10 will take part in work related learning with work shadowing and mock interviews/English speaking assessments for GCSE. Years 7-9 take part in a range of on-site activities in addition to trips and visits to enrich and develop their character, as well as developing teamwork, independence and increase their cultural capital. I will be going in to assemblies to speak with the year 7, 8 and 9 students about the range of activities both in-school and off-site.

Parents of year 7 students will not be familiar with this but parents of year 8 and 9 will recall that these days are 'own clothes days' and we change the school timetable just for these two days. Each year group has a choice of trips which include trips up into London and trips such as Chessington. I am delighted to announce that we have trips available to Chessington for every year group this year. As you might expect, some of these trips book out very quickly. There are many ways in which we have tried to make this as fair as possible for booking, so we try and do this after work, rather than during school time to allow parents to book trips. Everything is booked through ParentPay and will be done on a first-come, first served basis. We will give parents reminders as to when the trips will be opened with a date and a time. Trips are often much cheaper than going to the venue on your own so provide good value for money, so please do try something different.

The activities that we run in school as well as the subsidised trips come at a cost to the school. Each year we ask for a voluntary core contribution to help provide visiting guests such as the martial arts training, bouncy castle assault courses, the resources for team-building and the like. We appreciate that we are all looking after the wallets and purses more these days, which is why we have kept that core contribution at £8 for the 2 days, which supports all of the memorable work that students get involved with. Do take a look at some of the images on our social media pages from last July. It was a time that memories were made.

Letter and booking details as well as trip details will be out in early May.

Mr Jones

## New Bromley Y Webinars Summer Term 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

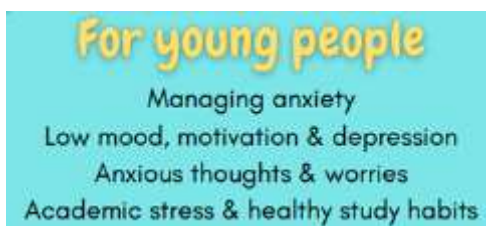
The Summer Term is with us and many of our young people are preparing for imminent exams whilst others will be transitioning to secondary schools, so we attach links to our emotional wellbeing webinars which are there to support young people and parents through these difficult months.

**These webinars are facilitated by our practitioners live** on Teams. Participants' **cameras and microphones are off**, but attendees are encouraged to participate through the chat function.

**Joining our webinars is easy** – just click on the links below, **scan the QR code in the posters or visit our website calendar**. They will take you to **Eventbrite** where you can book your place. Alternatively, you can book via our [website](#) calendar.

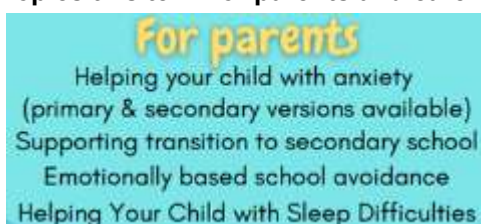
**Please do share with anyone living in Bromley who you feel may benefit.**

**Topics this term for young people include:**



Click [HERE](#) for posters about young people's webinars with QR codes for easy access to booking on Eventbrite.

**Topics this term for parents and carers include:**



Click [HERE](#) for posters about parents' and carers' webinars with QR codes for easy access to booking on Eventbrite.

Bromley Y Team

# Competition for Year 8/9

We are working with Transport for London to engage students in the development of sustainable travel. We want to invite students in year 8 and 9 to take part in this Challenge. The Challenge is a training opportunity for 12-14 students to design and deliver a project to engage their school community in safe and sustainable travel, contributing to a reduction in carbon emissions. As TfL Pioneers Ambassadors, the student team deliver activities, competitions and events to influence their peers and instigate change. They receive 5 workshop sessions to develop their skills in presentation, leadership and project planning, with 10 travel challenges to complete by July. If you would like to take part in this, please submit a single side letter of application to Mr Jones about what you would like to do to improve our move towards better transport to and from school.

Mr Jones

## Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

Congratulations to the even more students who have achieved their Hundreds and Thousands reading badges:



### Gold Badges

Jade St John 8RSi  
Pallika Devi Ramnath 7SMa



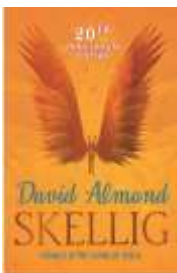
### Silver Badges

Taylor Ayling 9SAR  
Nyah Newberry 7SHU  
Sophia Edwards 7SHU



### Bronze Badges

Tom Halliday 8LBr	Tomas West 7SHU
Sophia Edwards 7SHU	Frankie Lee Winters 7SAS
Liam Delany 7NYE	Bobby Joe Hamilton-Brown 7SHU
Alexander Mack 7SMA	Jack Roberts 7SHU
Emily Whitby 8ZHa	Sydney Daniels 7LMC
Adam Piechowka 7LMC	Zoe Ritchie 7CMO
Alexander Buxton-Wilmott 7SHU	Jay Ngyou 7KMA
Lily Ford 7SHU	Jeremiah Kunitse 7KMA
Elijah Gordon 7CMo	Tobi Ulman 7CMO
Oliver Bailey 7LMC	



**Bobby-Joe recommends 'Skellig'**  
by David Almond as a great book to read:

Please ask your reading teachers, Mrs Adams, our librarian, or Mrs Pitt for more information about The Hundreds and Thousands Reading Club or see the school website:

[70C8C973BF1F084E12593DCB9D83EDA0.pdf \(cdarwin.com\)](https://www.cdarwin.com/70C8C973BF1F084E12593DCB9D83EDA0.pdf)

Save the date...



Our next big reading event will be our fourth 'Drop Everything and Read' event during P4 on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April**. All students should have a reading book with them every day – but especially on DEAR days! Visit the library at lunch time or see your English teacher if you need a book. Happy reading!

Mrs Pitt

# Year 8 Faraday Challenge Day

On Tuesday, amidst the vibrant halls of Darrick Wood School, the air was charged with creativity and innovation as twelve bright minds from Charles Darwin School participated in the prestigious national 'IET Faraday Challenge Day'. Tasked by the National Highways Agency, teams of 6 embarked on a thrilling journey to engineer solutions elevating road safety. Guided by the ethos of environmental stewardship, elegance in design, and technological finesse, these young engineers meticulously crafted ideas while weaving together the intricate dance of simple circuits. From adept project managers to astute accountants, each role was vital in sculpting their vision into reality. Though victory gracefully eluded them, their journey was a testament to youthful ingenuity and collaborative fun spirit.

Mr Doig



**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.

# PTA Update

## Easy Fundraising - easy as 1 2 3!

Thanks to the following for enrolling in Easyfundraising, just by completing their name and e-mail address using this link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=304171&invite=graab1&referral-campaign=c2s>

- Sule M, Deborah R,

We now have 46 people enrolled. Big thanks to the following for recently raising funds, just by shopping!

- Sule M, Sarah H, Jason H, Mel L, Kayleigh B, Helen H, Graham P, Caroline W, Georgie S, Gill B, Oliver W

Remember it is absolutely free to join and we have now raised £628 via this source in the 12 months, simply by shopping! You don't need to shop via an App to raise funds, as long as you have the donation reminder enabled. Imagine the difference we could make if we could grow this group of 46.

## Quiz Night

There is just one week to go until the return of our Quiz Night. The event is almost full so we will look to arrange another one in the near future.

We are very much looking forward to hosting so many parents and staff - the teams are sounding very competitive with everyone wanting to win the trophy and no-one wishing to win our wooden spoon for the last place, which will be decided by Quiz Master Chris!

Our event starts at 7.00pm and should finish by 10.00pm.  
Thanks to everyone who has supported this event.

## Next PTA Meeting

Our next PTA update is at The Crown in Keston on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

We are a small team so please consider joining us if you can - every pair of hands is a great help and we have all enjoyed increased engagement with the school, staff and other families. If you would prefer an informal chat about our current PTA activities, you can contact us at [friends@cdarwin.com](mailto:friends@cdarwin.com)



**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



## **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 outgrown, 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**

## **PE Department Appeal**

We are in need of football shoes and trainers for our spare PE kits. If you have any lying around that your child has outgrown, we would gladly take them off your hands.



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

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

**PE Department 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.**

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"



# Attendance

**Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 28 March 2024.**



7KMa	94.2%
8PDg	97.3%
9HBu	92.4%
10JLa	94.9%
11DNe	100%
12JDa	98.3%
13DWa	97.7%

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.**

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Students Services Team**

# First Aid

## Hay Fever Season - Medication for Students

Hay Fever and the symptoms for children studying at school can be very uncomfortable, please ensure that if your child suffers with Hay Fever that they take any relevant medication/antihistamine before school. The school is unable to provide this medication to students.

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

Dylan Mooney  
Amy Pearce  
Mollie West  
Jamie Niblock

Lana Wyatt  
Josh Opara  
Richard Plowman  
Jack Stacey



## Student Services Duty Pupils

Katie Hall  
Shane Corrigan  
Anoosha Fathi Ahadbegloo  
Harley Lloyd

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

## Dates for the Diary

### April

**20th April** - DofE Year 9 Practise walk

**26th April** - Drop Everything and Read

**26th April** - Quiz Night, 7pm

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

### May

**2nd May** - Trip: Geography Field Trip to Rottingdean

**2nd May (evening) - 4th May** - DofE Silver Year 10 practise

**6th May** - **BANK HOLIDAY**

**8th May** - Year 9 Reward Trip

**9th May** - Year 10 Parents' Evening

**10th May** - Year 10 Reward Trip

**16th-17th May** - Year 9 Qualifying Expedition

**27th-31st May** - Half term

**30th May** - Trip: Geography Field Trip to Rottingdean

### June

**4th-7th June** - Trip: NEA Geography Field Trip, Dorset, Year 12



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 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

**INSET Days** - School closed to students

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

**Monday 22nd July 2024**