



28.03.2025

Issue No: 1152

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Achievement Assemblies

It has been a pleasure to attend Achievement Assemblies that started this week and run until the end of term. These assemblies are important in recognising a wide range of achievements for so many students. The students should be very proud of themselves as we are of them.

Year 9 Options Evening

Thank you to all the families who attended the Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday and to the pupils who helped at the event. It was a busy and well attended evening and several parents have taken time to say what a useful event it was for them and their child in deciding which choices they should choose. Please remember to complete and return option choices forms by the end of term, Friday 4th April.

Rising Stars

It was wonderful to share break with cake with so many fantastic rising stars today to present them with their Bronze badges. This shows their dedication and commitment to school and progressing in their studies by attending these extra sessions to enrich their experiences at school. Keep up the good work!



Duckling Update

I know there has been much interest in the ducklings by students and their families as well as staff, and I am pleased to share that at the end of term they will all be going to forever homes with experienced people, who are excited to provide the proper environment and care that these animals need to thrive as they grow from ducklings into ducks. Each duckling is being looked after with the utmost attention to their well-being and comfort. Extensive research was made into the hatching company and we follow all their guidelines in terms of handling and raising in these early days.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

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:

CDarwinSchool



Personal Development Days 18-21st July 2025

Many families will be aware that the last few days of the summer term are devoted to personal development and a wide range of school trips.

We want these days to be memorable moments in the year so have planned a range of trips for years 7-9. Year 10 have a careers focus, with a mock interview from a local business leader as well as English speaking exam for the GCSE. Year 10 come into school in smart business dress on the Friday and are work shadowing on Monday.

Year 7-9 will receive a letter in the first few days of the Summer term outlining all of the trips available. We are just finalising these at the moment and will send out a final list of the trips including meeting points, start and finish times as well as costs. There are free trips as well as paid for trips. All trips will be posted on ParentPay and we will communicate to you via email and CallParent the date and times that the trips open. Spaces are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis so unfortunately we are not able to reserve places for friendship groups. When the trip is full, it will disappear from ParentPay. We always encourage trying something new or different! Some trips are open to one year group and some to multiple year groups. Opening times for ParentPay for each year group will be staggered to support booking for parents with students in different year groups.

Mr R Jones

Minibus Driver

We are looking for a relief minibus driver. On a number of occasions across the year we have been in need of a minibus driver to cover absent staff when required and potentially other driving duties. Drivers will require a D1 on their driving licence and have to clear a medical test and take a minibus familiarisation test. The post will be a paid post. For further details please contact Mr Jones rjs@cdarwin.com

Dance and Wellbeing in Biggin Hill

Dance and Wellbeing opportunities in Biggin Hill this Easter Holiday and Summer Term.

On Thursday 17th April at BHPS qualified teachers and wellbeing therapists will be running a **Girls day** to promote friendships and connections- this is a **free event 1-4pm. Years 5- 8.**

This day will include sports, dance, drama, music, yoga and coaching on how to deal with tricky friendships. Please email: siobhan1980uk@yahoo.com to sign up for a free place.

Join Our
Inclusive Fun
Dance Class!
11-18 years



Wednesday 6-7pm
On The Beach - Dance studio Main
Road Biggin Hill

Qualified teacher and Health and
wellbeing coach. Enhanced DBS.

Email for booking:
abbottdance5@gmail.com

We are excited to announce that Abbott Movement will be launching a new dance class in Biggin Hill starting on April 23rd! This inclusive class is for young people aged 11-18 and will explore a variety of dance styles. There will also be time to develop your own creative ideas and choreography. No experience necessary.

The class will be led by Ella, a qualified secondary school teacher and Health and Wellbeing coach, with over 20 years of experience working in both mainstream and SEN settings. As a former Head of Performing Arts, Ella is passionate about using movement to help young people develop transferable skills, confidence, and resilience—skills they can take into everyday life.

We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting new Wednesday dance class, where you can make healthy connections with like-minded dancers!

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please don't hesitate to email abbottdance5@gmail.com. Classes are priced at £7 per session and are payable in half-term blocks.

We hope to see you there!



Charles Darwin School

Preloved Uniform Shop

Promoting a positive eco-friendly culture of reusing

Did you know we have a preloved uniform shop with a variety of nearly new school uniform and PE kits?

If you are interested in checking stock, please send an email with your requirements (size, gender, specific item) to

preloveduniform@cdarwin.com

you can also use the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/r/EYNuVcZpsa>



Trampoline Interschool Competition

On Monday 24th March, 23 students took part in a Trampoline Interschool Competition, Congratulations to the students who placed Top 3 in their category:

Year 7 - Evie 1st Place, Kristen 2nd Place

Year 8 - Chloe 1st Place

Year 10 - Robyn 1st Place, Amy 3rd Place

Year 11+ - Keighlee (Yr13) 1st Place, Ellie (Yr12) 2nd Place

Charles Darwin also took home Overall Highest scoring school!!!

Well Done to all the students for taking part!

Miss Porter



PTA Update

Events

Tables are on sale for our next quiz night which takes place Friday 25th April in the Main school hall. Tickets are £10 each and you can bring your friends, family too. Tickets are available on our website: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/>

We usually run a raffle at our quiz night and would therefore welcome any raffle prize donations. We can collect from you if helpful. If you can donate something, please let us know by e-mail: friends@cdarwin.com or bring it to our monthly catch up at The Crown in Keston on Wednesday 2nd April @ 7.30pm.

We are provisionally booking Friday 4th July for our FIRST Bingo night. Tickets and pricing to follow soon. If any of our community have run a Bingo event before, we would be very interested in hearing from you: friends@cdarwin.com

Can you help? Fundraising for free

Thank you to all the families and staff who have shopped in Easyfundraising in recent days, raising lots of money to boost our funds:

Mel L, Ana B, Sule M, Gill B, Jason H, Georgie S, Helen H, Graham P, Caroline W, Sarah H
We would like you to join our free and easy fundraising initiative too!



If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 8,100 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta>

Monthly Cash Prize Draw

Congratulations to Collette K (ticket 2) for winning £67.50. in our February monthly cash prize draw. You could also be in with the opportunity to join Collette as a winner by purchasing your ticket/s, from £1 per month, via our online store: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/>

If you prefer, you can set up a monthly standing order from £1 per month - let us know if this is your preference by email: friends@cdarwin.com

The March draw currently has 135 tickets meaning the cash prize will be £67.50.

Next PTA Meeting

We are meeting at The Crown in Keston (Leaves Green Road) on Wednesday 2nd April. We would love to see you there at 7.30pm for a catch-up and a drink. We don't need all our volunteers to attend each meeting but if you might be able to offer us a bit of time here and there, we would be eternally grateful.

PTA Committee Vacancy:

We have one person covering 3 roles at the moment so do let us know by sending us a message via any of our channels. Any enthusiasm or experience of book-keeping, running events, websites or creating posters/visuals would be a great help to our very small but friendly team. One to two hours of input per month would make a big difference!

Social Media

We are trying to enhance our social media offering by adding date reminders for events like parents evening, term dates etc. Facebook is currently the most popular platform for our community so we aim to post at least once per week.

Please follow us to receive these updates:

Instagram: [charles_darwin_pta](https://www.instagram.com/charles_darwin_pta)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/friendscharlesdarwinschool>

We are also on the following:

X (formerly Twitter): [PTA_Darwin](https://twitter.com/PTA_Darwin)

Linked In: www.linkedin.com/in/charles-darwin-pta



Year 7 Easter Raffle

Got to be in it to win it!

Get your name added to the draw;
be in a chance to win an Easter
prize.



£1 per entry

Multiple entries allowed

Year 7 Cash or pay on ParentPay

Years 8-11 Cash Only

**Get tickets at Break time
outside student services**



DO NOT MISS OUT



Names will be drawn out of the Hat
Thursday lunchtime – Good Luck!



Design Technology Appeal for Donations

Design Technology Appeal for Donations for a new Laser Cutter

Our Laser cutting machine has come to the end of its life and needs urgent replacement. We are now without this amazing resource that almost all GCSE and A-Level pupils use as part of their coursework. It has served us well for over 13 years and so now we need to raise funds for a replacement.

We aim to raise around £4,000 and so are asking all parents and staff for donations.

This can be found on ParentPay where we ask for a donation of £3.

Any help is massively appreciated by all pupils and staff in DT.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Baker



The poster is for a Quiz Night event. It features a central graphic with the words 'Quiz Night' in a stylized font, with 'Quiz' in black and 'Night' in purple. Below the text are three pink question marks. The graphic is framed by a blue speech bubble shape with pink light effects. At the top, the Charles Darwin PTA logo is shown on both sides, with the text 'Charles Darwin PTA are delighted to host our popular' in the center. The event details are listed in a pink-bordered box: 'Friday 25th April 2025', 'Main Hall, Charles Darwin School', 'Doors open: 7.00pm', and 'Trivia: 7.30pm - 10:00pm'. Below this, the price is stated as '£10 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF UP TO 8'. A QR code is provided for ticket requests, with the text 'SCAN ME' below it. At the bottom, there is a message about bringing drinks and snacks, and an email address 'friends@cdarwin.com' with an envelope icon.

Charles Darwin PTA
are delighted to host our popular

Quiz Night

**Friday 25th
April 2025**

Main Hall, Charles Darwin School
Doors open: 7.00pm
Trivia: 7.30pm - 10:00pm

£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>

Quiz teams, please bring your own drinks and snacks!

 friends@cdarwin.com

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 21 March 2025.

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES Per day =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES Per day =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES Per day =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES Per day =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES Per day =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE

7APr	95%
8LMc	98.5%
9PDg/MBa	96.2%
10DNu	98.2%
11JLa/LWr	98.2%
12SMc	97.3%
13JDa	98.6%

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 clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do 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.

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence **before 8.30am**, clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

If you wish to report your child's absence, **OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS**, please call the school on **01959 574043** and when prompted to enter the extension number, please **dial 1** and you will be taken through to the student absence line where you can leave a message regarding your child's absence. This ensures we know your child is safe and their absence is authorised where possible.

Thank you for your support.



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.

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.

Thank you

**Mrs Booth
Lead First Aid**



Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

Jail Lane
Biggin Hill
Westerham
Kent TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043
enquiries@cdarwin.com

School Caretaker
Monday – Friday (6.30 am – 2.30pm)
£27,729– £28,125

We wish to appoint a full-time Caretaker to join our committed and hardworking Site Team from June 2025. We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who can display a conscientious and logical approach to a variety of tasks necessary to contribute to the smooth running of the school. Good practical skills and a flexible approach to work are essential for this post.

We are a “good” school (Ofsted 2023) with an ethos that encourages academic rigour, high expectations and a well-disciplined approach to learning.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: Friday 28th March 2025

Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: www.cdarwin.com (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not be considered.

The 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 an Enhanced Disclosure with the Disclosure and Barring Service and full background checks.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974. It is an offence to apply for this role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

Learning Support Assistant
36 hours a week, 38 weeks a year
8am to 4pm Monday to Friday
Actual salary £23,631

We wish to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to join a well-established team supporting a range of students' needs in class, in small groups and/or specialised individual learning. Applicants should ideally have experience of working with students with a range of Special Educational Needs and experience of working with students with ASD and ADHD would be an advantage. Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT.

We are a “good” school (Ofsted 2023) with an ethos that encourages academic rigour, high expectations and a well-disciplined approach to learning.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: 28th March 2025 (interviews to be held the following week)

Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: www.cdarwin.com (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not be considered.

The 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 an Enhanced Disclosure with the Disclosure and Barring Service and full background checks.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974. It is an offence to apply for this role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Suzannah Gower	Tillie Bexfield
Sadie Gordon	Nathan Raszga
Reece Edwards-Hann	Violet Price
Samuel Smith	Lewis Huggins
Frankie Ewins	George Henn



Student Services Duty Pupils

Catherine Seidler
Harrison Smart
Jade St John
Charles Ward
Callum Wooldridge
Ellie Delaney for helping out in Student Services – very much appreciated.

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

Dates for the Diary

April

3rd April - Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening
4th - 12th April - Trip: Austria, Ski Trip:
4th April - End of Spring term
7th - 21st April - Easter Holiday
21st April - Easter Monday (school closed)
22nd April - Summer term starts
24th April - Trip: Farraday Challenge - STEM, Darrick Wood School
25th April - PTA Quiz Night, 7pm
29th April - GCSE Cycling at Cyclopark
29th April - Year 7 Parents' Evening

May

1st May - GCSE Cycling at Cyclopark
1st May - Trip: Year 10 Geography Trip to Rottingdean
2nd- 3rd May - Trip: Y9 Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition, Wadhurst/Bewl Water



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 use of students who forgot a water bottle.

Student Services Team

Term Dates 2024-2025

Spring 2025

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February
Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February
Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April
Easter Holiday: Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April

Summer 2025

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May
[Monday 5th May Bank Holiday]
Half term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May
Monday 2nd June – Tuesday 22nd July

INSET ays:

Friday 23rd May 2025
All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th June 2025

Notes:

Good Friday 18th April
Easter Monday 21st April

The SEN team at Charles Darwin:

Mrs L Thom, SENCo
Mr B Frost, Assistant SENCo
Mrs J Patten, Senior Learning Support Assistant
Miss R Higgins, SEN Administrator

Should you need to make contact with us, please use the inbox below:
send@cdarwin.com

Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn 2025

Monday 1st September – Friday 17th October

Half term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January

Spring 2026

Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

Half term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Notes:

Good Friday 3rd April 2026

Easter Monday 6th April 2026

Summer 2026

Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

[Monday 4th May Bank Holiday]

Half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July

INSET Days:

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

GREEN GARDEN WASTE SITE:

Biggin Hill: Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane
Sundays 8am - 12noon, open 2 March to 26 October 2025.

Details

All green garden waste must be bagged and residents must bring their council tax bill, drivers licence or a form of identification that includes their address.

Please do not put your garden waste in builders' sacks, as these are too heavy to be lifted safely. No commercial garden waste will be accepted.

Yes please	No thanks
Grass cuttings	Tree trunks and large branches
Prunings (no bigger than 2 inches round)	Soil and rubble
Dead plants	Garden furniture, flower pots and plastic debris



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME

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

- East Hub @ The Link Youth Centre, Midfield Way, St Pauls Cray BR5 2QL
- North Hub @ Castlecombe Youth Club, Castlecombe Rd Nottingham SE9 4AT
- South Hub @ Spitfire Youth Club, Church Rd, Biggin Hill TN16 3LB
- West Hub @ Streetwise Youth Club, @ Melvin Halls, Melvin Rd, Penge, SE20 8EU

Each day will include a meal & fun activities!

- 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>



YouthSupportProgramme@bromley.gov.uk



[@BromleyYouthActivities](https://www.facebook.com/BromleyYouthActivities)



[@BromleyYouthActivities](https://twitter.com/BromleyYouthActivities)



Department
for Education

BROMLEY
YOUTH SUPPORT
PROGRAMME



Bromley Experts by Experience



Local Deaf and Disabled People's Organisation

Upcoming events in March/April 2025

FREE



Bromley Accessibility Forum

Thursday 27th March 2025 2pm to 4pm

Community House Bromley, BR1 1RH and on Zoom



Access Champions working group

Thursday 3rd April 2025 1.15pm to 2.45pm

Community House Bromley, BR1 1RH



Coffee and Chat

Thursday 10th April 2025 2pm to 4pm

Community House Bromley, BR1 1RH



Greener & Cleaner

Gardening Workshop with Greener & Cleaner

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 10.30am to 12pm

Southlands Road Allotments, Baths Road, BR2 9RB



Bromley Independent Living Forum

Thursday 24th April 2025 2pm to 4pm

Community House Bromley, BR1 1RH and on Zoom

Find out more and book a FREE place



www.xbyxbromley.org.uk/events



info@xbyxbromley.org.uk



0208 650 2102