



10.01.2025

Issue No: 1142

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

A warm welcome back to all students, and Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break, and that students have returned refreshed and ready for the Spring term.

The start of a new year is often a time for reflection and goal-setting. At school, we encourage students to take this opportunity to review their achievements from last year and set personal targets or New Year's resolutions for the months ahead. These could include joining a new club, maintaining attendance above 95%, improving their attitude to learning, or dedicating more time to wellbeing, sports, and healthy eating. I encourage you to discuss these ideas with your child and explore ways to help them stay committed to their goals as the year progresses.

This term promises to be a busy one, particularly for students preparing for public examinations in the coming months. Staff are working closely with these students to ensure they feel confident and have a structured approach to their revision. To further support them, we will once again be offering a range of revision interventions, including an Easter Revision school. I strongly encourage parents to sign up for these valuable sessions - further details will be shared soon.

I want to extend a big thank you to our incredible PTA for their fantastic support last term, particularly with the recent Charlie and the Chocolate Factory school production. Sales of refreshments and raffle tickets totalled an amazing £1,688. If you'd like to get involved, feel free to email friends@cdarwin.com. You can participate in one-off events and contribute as little or as much as you'd like.

A reminder that the school will be closed to students on Wednesday 15th January for an inset day for mandatory all staff training. Work will be set for Year 11 and 13 via Satchel One.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Home Learning

In the event of any school closure for example in severe weather conditions learning will still continue. Teachers will set work via Satchel One and or deliver live lessons via Teams. The links to the Teams lessons will be found in Satchel One. Students are of course expected to log in and complete work as normal.

Mr Boyden
Deputy Head

School Council

The School Council are a group of students (2 from each year group) who represent the student body. School Council meet twice a half term with a purpose of being an important link between staff and students. Last year the team worked on an anti-bullying charter and plans to set up a drop-in for year 7 students.

In recent meetings the school council have been discussing the impact of the SLANT behaviour curriculum in the classroom as well as how the introduction of Do Now activities at the start of lessons to engage and check for understanding are supporting student learning.

They have also been discussing how teachers have used mini white boards to check for understanding in the class. This year, school council are working on plans and ideas to develop resilience and character by sharing their needs with staff and taking part in the design of the personal development curriculum. You will often see School Council at parents evenings selling cakes for charity. Do drop by to discuss their important work when you are visiting for a parents evening.

Mr R Jones

Severe Weather Conditions

Charles Darwin School will stay open if at all possible when there is snow. The decision to close is not taken lightly and will be made with the health and safety of children and staff, many of whom do not live locally.

We will try to make a decision by **7:30am** and communicate this through:

- ❖ The school website – www.cdarwin.com (not the main school switchboard)
- ❖ Twitter – twitter.com/CDarwinSchool
- ❖ Instagram – www.instagram.com/CDarwinSchool

All students are expected to check Satchel One to complete school work from home

Otherwise - Students should wear appropriate clothing i.e. coat, hat, gloves and come to school. Suitable footwear to cope with pavements may be necessary if snow and /or ice are on the ground. School shoes must be brought to change into.

Transport

You are advised to check local transport information if you go to or from school by bus. The school will liaise with school bus companies to check whether the services are likely to be disrupted.

If weather conditions deteriorate whilst the school is in session, we will endeavour to contact parents via the website, social media and Call parent (txt).

There is a policy for users of the school minibus which parents/students concerned should be aware.



Charles Darwin PTA
are delighted to host our popular



Quiz Night

???

**Friday 31st
January 2025**

Sixth Form Hub (by front gate),
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

School jumpers and PE hoodies needed!

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of school jumpers and red and black PE hoodies. 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

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Bonnie Coward
Maxwell Hawker
Edward White
Livia Maria Assola

Sam Tucker
Tommy-Lee Page
Angel Goksal

George Addison
Jake Gimenez
Sydney Daniels



Student Services Duty Pupils

Dylan Adams
Alfie Kent
Christian Pavlov
Skyla Colvin
James Azzsopardi

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



Bromley's SEND Local Offer website has recently undergone some changes, and we'd love to hear from parents and carers about their experiences with the updated platform.

Your input will help to ensure the SEND Local Offer meets your needs and continues to improve.

Please click the link below to access the feedback form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/G6eMKK8etv>

Thank you for your time and support!



We wanted to let you know about a slight change to operating hours at our Bromley URC Centre in 2025.

New opening hours are:

Tuesdays 11am - 1.15pm

Thursdays 12pm - 2.15pm

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 20 December 2024.

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

7SDa/CZy	95.7%
8LMc	94.7%
9ADo	95.1%
10CHa	94.4%
11NKO	94.2%
12DWa	94.5%
13JDa	96.1%



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS
But every **minute** is equally important!

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.

First Aid

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

Dates for the Diary

January

15th January - INSET DAY (school closed to students)

16th January - DofE parents' information evening - 5pm

22nd January - Year 9 Drama Trip to National Theatre & Lion King, Lyceum Theatre

30th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

31st January - Trip: Year 7-10 Dance Competition at Langley Park School for Boys

31st January - Quiz Night

February

12th February - Year 9 Parents' Evening

14th February - Year 9 vaccination

17th February– 21st February - Half term

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

Notes:

Good Friday 18th April

Easter 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 Days:

Monday 24th February 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th June 2025

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.