



20.12.2024

Issue No: 1141

The Link 

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

It has been a busy and exciting final week of term for both students and staff. From a trip to the law courts and ice skating, to Achievement Assemblies, inflatable fun as part of our reward programme, Christmas lunch, and our incredible three-day school production!

I hope those of you who had the opportunity to experience our magical school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory enjoyed it as much as I did. What an extraordinary show! From the moment the show started, I felt like a lucky golden ticket winner, immersed in a world of pure imagination and dazzling performances. My heartfelt thanks go to our incredible students, the dedicated staff, and everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this production such a success.

As we approach the Christmas break, I hope you find time to relax and enjoy a well-deserved rest with family, friends, and loved ones. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 6th January.

Aston Smith, Headteacher



PTA update

Christmas Production

It was wonderful to meet so many of our Charles Darwin Community at the production of 'Charlie & The Chocolate Factory' this week. What a fantastic show, which has become a highlight in our PTA calendar! Thanks to everyone who purchased refreshments and raffle tickets.

We managed to add around £1500 to our funds which will help us to purchase some of the items our staff have requested to enhance learning for our students and also to contribute to some new picnic benches for our external areas. Thank you!

Quiz Night Friday January 31st

Tickets are now on sale for our quiz night. Hopefully this will help us all have something to look forward to in January!

Tickets are £10 each and quiz teams can be up to 8 people.

Buy yours now: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

Fundraise as you shop, book holidays or renew your insurance

Thank you to our recent supporters who have enrolled in Easyfundraising, meaning they earn funds for us as they shop!

Our highest shopping donations as we conclude 2024, are below:

Gill B £74.52
Mel L £75.09

Kayleigh B £77.29
Caroline W £43.73.

Sule M £55.34
Sarah H £40.28

Jason H £45.51
Elaine F £28.53

Overall, our shoppers have raised an astonishing £1406.52 since we joined - WOW!

Please note, we cannot see any details about where you have shopped or what you have spent money on.

You can join them too, just by enrolling and enabling the donation reminder. It takes 2 minutes:
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta>

Finally a big THANK YOU

The PTA team would like to wish the entire Charles Darwin School Community a joyful and restful Christmas and New Year break and look forward to everything that 2025 will bring.

We would also like to thank everyone who has supported us so far this school year. See you on the other side!



The Expressive Arts Faculty would like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Charles Darwin School for their very generous donation.

Their fundraising efforts allowed us to purchase a brand-new digital sound desk which was used for the first time during the performances of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

This piece of equipment has re-placed the old sound desk we had used for many years. The new digital desk has more channels for microphones and can be programmed and operated more easily during performances.

We really appreciate the money provided by the Friends of Charles Darwin and look forward to using the digital sound desk in our future performances and concerts.

Expressive Arts Faculty



PE Food Bank Fundraiser 2024

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations to this year's Food Bank Fundraiser.

A delivery was made to the Salvation Army on Thursday, 19 December.

PE Department





Well done to **7GCu/CMe** who produced a Christmas care package for Foxbridge Care Home.

This was organised by the form group themselves and the care package included decorations, letters and treats for Christmas.

Thank you all for being so kind!

Miss Dobney



As Christmas fast approaches we wanted to let you know our arrangements for the Christmas period.

Our centres will be open to and including **Monday 23rd December** and will then close over Christmas, reopening on **Thursday 2nd January**. Please do let you referral teams and clients know this. Once we close at 1pm (Penge) and 1.30pm (St Pauls Cray) on 23rd we will not be able to provide emergency food over the Christmas period.

Our office will be open between 10am and 3pm only on 24th, 27th, 30th and 31st December

We will be able to issue supermarket vouchers by email for anyone referred from 12pm on 23rd December until 2pm on 31st December. If you are referring clients during this time then please make sure you include both a phone number and email address and let them know we will be in contact with them. Please note that this is only available to Bromley Borough residents.

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



CDarwinSchool



Mr Jones

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

Ava Brown
William Arsenie
Ethan Houghton
Josh Clarke

Enrico Molinaro
Oliver Bailey
Ivy Bird

Amelia Clark
Laila Baptiste
Adam Piechowka

Student Services Duty Pupils

Jeremiah Weah
Olivia Gabbadon
Jeremiah Weah

Simon Roe
Tillie Bexfield

Mason Nicholls
Ellie-May Friend



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**SOUTH LONDON GIRLS FOOTBALL ACADEMY
INVITES CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL TO OUR
NEW ACADEMY CENTRE**

6 WEEKS
FREE

GIRLS AGED:
6-14

AT
BROMLEY HIGH SCHOOL
STARTING IN JANUARY



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6-7PM

Register at:
www.southlondongirlsfootballacademy.co.uk

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 13 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

7SAs	96.9%
8KMa	94.1%
9PDg/MBa	92.9%
10EKa/CAh	94%
11JLa/Wr	92.7%
12FSe/KEr	95.7%
13JDa	100%



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

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.

Dates for the Diary

23rd December - 3rd January - Christmas holiday

January

6th January - Spring term starts

15th January - INSET DAY

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

30th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

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:

Wednesday 15th January 2025

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.