



13.12.2024

Issue No: 1140

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### Achievement Assemblies

Achievement assemblies commenced this week with Years 11, 12 and 13 and will continue until the end of term. It has been great to attend and hear about the many excellent achievements of the students. My congratulations to you all!

### School Production

I am eagerly looking forward to next week's school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! This promises to be a spectacular performance, showcasing the incredible talent and hard work of our students.

A special thank you goes to the cast, staff, and orchestra, who will be giving up their Saturday to perfect the final dress rehearsal. We are so proud of their dedication, and I know it will result in a truly memorable show.

Thank you as well to all the parents who have helped with line learning, costumes, and driving/picking up from rehearsals. Your support has been invaluable in bringing this production to life.

### Festive Friday

Today was Festive Friday, and it was fantastic to see so many students and staff dressed up to raise money for our very own PTA.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

### WIN great prizes and fundraise for our students at Charles Darwin School...



- £100 cash from Mortgage Evolution
- A Christmas Hamper (Valued at £100)
- £50 cash from Mortgage Evolution
- £50 voucher from Choi Pin, Biggin Hill
- Wine and £25 voucher from The Crown Inn, Keston
- A turkey saddle from Jacob's Ladder, Biggin Hill
- Bespoke cookie from Goodbuns, Biggin Hill
- Bottle of Cava from Waitrose, Biggin Hill
- Bottle of prosecco & cuddly toy from Tesco, Biggin Hill
- £20 for Benjamin's Dry Cleaners, Biggin Hill
- £10 for The Westerham Brewery

**BUY RAFFLE TICKETS ONLINE FOR  
£5 PER STRIP OF 5 TICKETS:**

[Christmas Raffle Ticket December 2025](#)

**Raffle drawn at school production interval -  
Wednesday 18th December 2024**

## Sixth Form – Autumn Update

### WizeUp with Jack Petchey



Charles Darwin Sixth Form recently hosted a series of impactful tutorials on financial literacy, delivered by WizeUp Financial Education in partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation. These engaging sessions, led by WizeUp CEO Mike Flack, focused on equipping students with essential financial skills and knowledge critical for navigating the modern world.

Mike Flack, a passionate advocate for improving financial literacy among young people across the UK, brought his expertise and enthusiasm to the classroom. The tutorials covered a range of vital topics, including understanding credit cards, effective budgeting, the basics of tax and pensions, and the evolving world of cryptocurrencies.

Students gained valuable insights into managing personal finances, an area of growing importance for both current and future generations. Through real-world examples and interactive discussions, the sessions empowered students to make informed financial decisions and prepare for life beyond school.



The collaboration with WizeUp and Jack Petchey reflects Charles Darwin Sixth Form's commitment to delivering life-ready education.

**Mrs Johnson**  
**KS5 Pastoral Manager**

## Next Steps for Year 11 Bullers Wood Boys



On Thursday Charles Darwin School Sixth Form staff and students made a notable appearance at Bullers Wood Boys School's Year 11 Parents' Evening. This collaborative event underscored the unity and shared vision within the Inicio Trust, of which both schools are proud members.

The evening provided an invaluable platform for Charles Darwin Sixth Form to showcase its outstanding post-16 education opportunities to prospective students and their families. Staff and current sixth form students were on hand to engage with Year 11 pupils, offering detailed insights into the breadth of A Level and vocational courses available, the supportive learning environment, and the extracurricular enrichment programs on offer.

For more information on Charles Darwin School Sixth Form, visit [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com)

## You Never Know!



Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Sheehan from Charles Darwin School proudly attended the recent 'You Never Know' talk hosted by the Biggin Hill Community Care Association. The event, designed to engage the elderly community, featured a fascinating talk about household items from past generations.

The speaker, whose appearance was funded by the incredible fundraising efforts of Charles Darwin Sixth Form students, captivated the audience with a blend of nostalgia and new insights. From vintage tools to forgotten gadgets, attendees enjoyed reminiscing about items that once played a central role in daily life, sparking laughter, conversation, and shared memories.

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Sheehan expressed their pride in seeing the positive impact of the Sixth Form's contributions, emphasising how meaningful community connections enrich both the students and those they support.

The Biggin Hill Community Care Association was delighted with the event's success, praising the efforts of Charles Darwin students and staff for their role in making the event possible. This partnership exemplifies how small acts of kindness can create lasting positive effects.



# Geography Reward

Congratulations to below students who have been selected by their geography teacher for a special reward, recognizing their outstanding effort and enthusiasm during our recent lessons on China. This achievement reflects their hard work and dedication to their studies, and we are incredibly proud of their accomplishment.

To celebrate this success, we will be hosting a Chinese buffet during lunchtime on **Tuesday, 17th December**. This event will give students an opportunity to enjoy a variety of Chinese dishes while connecting with their peers in a celebratory atmosphere. Well done everyone.

Maya Thompson	Jamie Niblock
William Aspinall	Millie Ford
Thomas Rice	Elliot Leonard
Simon Roe	Ava Reilly
Kacey Chilcraft	Jade St John
George Murphy	Sam Young
Pola Tokarska	Emily Spencer
Lola Clarke	Olivia Catley



**Mr T Ayling-Jones**  
Head of Geography

## PTA Update

### Quiz Night Friday January 31st

We look forward to welcoming our quizzers to our next quiz night on Friday 31st January. We are also going to release details of our first Bingo night very soon.

### Funding requests

We have received some funding requests from staff and look forward to sharing these with you. The total currently exceeds our funds but we are hoping to fund as many as we can.

### School Production

We look forward to serving refreshments to you at the Charlie & The Chocolate factory production from Monday - Wednesday evening next week. Do come and see us!

We will be drawing our Christmas raffle on Wednesday 18th December - thank you so much to everyone who has already bought tickets.

Our thanks to the local businesses who have helped to, especially Mortgage Evolution for sponsoring our top prize of £100 cash! We would also like to thank The Crown Inn, Choi Pin, Jacob's Ladder, Goodbuns, Waitrose, Benjamins Dry Cleaners, Tesco and Westerham Brewery.

### Fundraising as you shop

A big thank you to our shoppers!

Our top shoppers in the last 30 days have been as follows:

1. Gill B
2. Sam K
3. Helen H
4. Sule M

It takes 2 minutes to sign up using our link – friends and family can get involved too:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta/>

There is no separate link to click before you shop if you have your donation reminder enabled. This is such a great source of funds for us and requires very little administration by our volunteers.

**Next Thursday** is the Year 7 Christmas Extravaganza! Raising money for Year 7 & the Year 7 Charities!  
To take part in the event, students must donate either **£3, £5 or £10 via Parent Pay**.  
Students can also come to school in their CDS PE kit!

**Miss Porter & Mrs Davies**

A festive poster for a Christmas event. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes. At the top, two crests are visible. The main title 'CHRISTMAS Extravaganza!' is in large white and yellow fonts. Below it, a silhouette of Santa's sleigh pulled by three reindeer is shown. The date 'THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER' is prominently displayed in blue and red. Below the date, 'PERIOD 5' is written in blue. A red banner with white text lists activities: 'INFLATABLES · BENCHBALL · SWEET SALE'. A dark blue banner below that says 'COME TO SCHOOL IN YOUR PE KIT!'. At the bottom, a light blue banner states: 'TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT, STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO DONATE EITHER, £3, £5 OR £10 VIA PARENT PAY'. The background also features stylized green pine trees and white snow-covered hills.

7SDA & 7APR FORM CHARITY EVENT

# CHRISTMAS Extravaganza!

THURSDAY  
**19 DECEMBER**  
PERIOD 5

❄️ INFLATABLES · BENCHBALL · SWEET SALE ❄️

**COME TO SCHOOL IN YOUR PE KIT!**

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT, STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO DONATE EITHER,  
£3, £5 OR £10 VIA PARENT PAY

# Congratulations!



Congratulations to the following students who competed in a local trampoline competition last weekend. Lucie Kempster (Yr8) , Miah Keegan, Kristen Stander, Matilda Edmunds, and Layla Gardner (Yr7) ! And Well Done to Robyn Ashkettle (Yr10) who volunteered at the event as a Judge!  
Well done girls!





**Miss Porter**

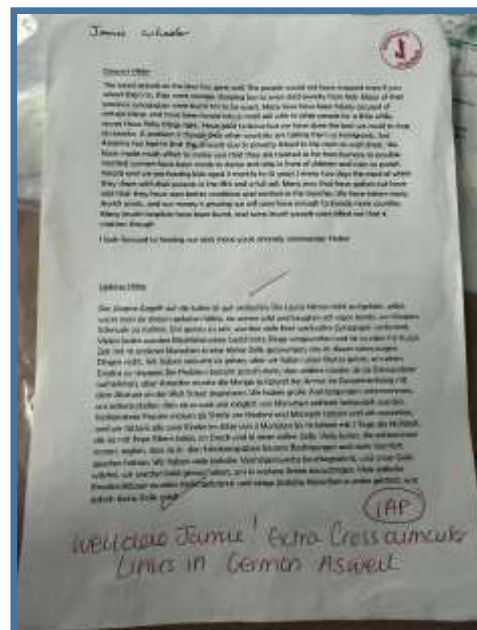
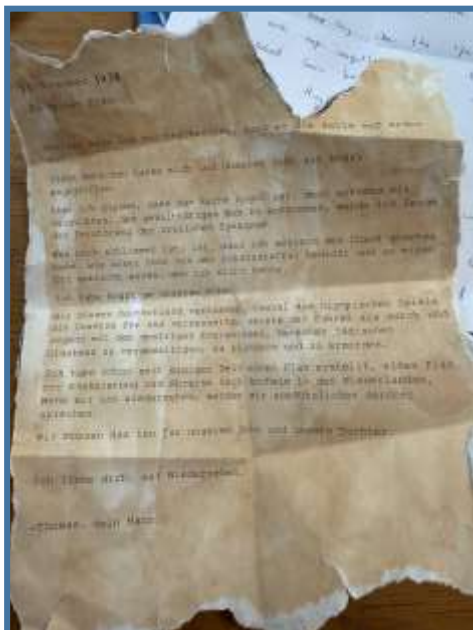
## PE Department Social Media

The Charles Darwin PE Department are now on Instagram & Twitter!

**Instagram - cdarwin\_pedept**  
**Twitter - CDarwinPE**

Follow along to keep up to date with

-  Sharing all news PE & Sport
-  Fixture Results
-  School Sport Events
-  PE lesson highlights



Huge well done to Theo Issac and Jamie Wheeler who used their cross curricular links to write their Kristallnacht homework in History, translated into German, to practice their language skills.

Well done to Jenson Ladd Talbot for this historical research on this topic as well!

**Mrs Davies**



# 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](http://www.cdarwin.com) (not the main school switchboard)
- ❖ Twitter – [twitter.com/CDarwinSchool](https://twitter.com/CDarwinSchool)
- ❖ Instagram – [www.instagram.com/CDarwinSchool](https://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.

# Celebrate Christmas

**HARRISON**  
food with thought

Join us on 18th December 2024 to  
Celebrate Christmas

## Main Course

Roast Turkey with Sage & Onion Stuffing  
Served with Herb Roasted Potatoes, Peas, Carrots, Brussel Sprouts, Sausage and a Rich, Gravy Sauce.

## Main Course (v)

Festive vegetable wellington  
Served With Herb Roasted Potatoes, Peas, Carrots, Brussel Sprouts, Sage & Onion Stuffing and a Rich, Gravy Sauce.

## Dessert

Festive Fruit Cookie or Frosted Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate sauce.

Meal - Main Meal - £2.35

Meal Deal 1 - Main Meal, Dessert or Small Water - £2.50

### 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**





## Charles Darwin School

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

Jail Lane  
Biggin Hill  
Westerham  
Kent TN16 3AU  
Tel: 01959 574043  
[enquiries@cdarwin.com](mailto:enquiries@cdarwin.com)

### **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](http://www.cdarwin.com) – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (interviews will be held in the new year)

**Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: [www.cdarwin.com](http://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.*



## **NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER?**

We are recruiting graduates for our next Initial Teacher Training cohort starting Sept 25.

Contact 020 8300 6566  
or visit [www.bsteach.co.uk](http://www.bsteach.co.uk)



# Competition



## Enter the 2025 Grantham Climate Art Prize

Young people age 11 – 25 are invited to enter the 2025 [Grantham Climate Art Prize](#) by designing a mural to draw attention to the climate crisis. Two murals will be unveiled in 2025 at Imperial College and designs for the first a mural – at the South Kensington campus – are now being sought.

Students from schools, colleges and universities can submit a design for the mural with the theme From Grey to Green – focusing on the importance of boosting nature and green innovation to allow us to have a more sustainable future, which will be better for the planet and for our physical and mental health

The winning design will be transformed into a large-scale (9.4m by 2m) mural by a professional artist while runner-up designs will be exhibited on the campus.

The art prize is a biennial competition and previous themes have included British Biodiversity Loss (2021) and A Greener, Cleaner, Cooler World (2023), inspired by the Grantham Institute's [9 things you can do about climate change](#). As well as the 12 murals across Great Britain – from Brighton to Glasgow – we have had exhibitions of winning and runner-up designs, including at COP26, in museums, and on billboards in London's transport hubs.

Further details of the competition are available on the [Grantham Climate Art Prize webpage](#) where you can enter the 2025 art prize. If you have any difficulties accessing the webpage you can send a clear photograph of your landscape

## Year 8 Duty Pupils

Ollie Jones	Bobbie Davies
Daisie Kerr	Aurel Kaziu
Frankie Allen	Solliyah Matthews-Jarrett
Danielle Scally	Stanley Webb
Tyler Gregson	Daisie Kerr

## Student Services Duty Pupils

Safiye Morley  
Jessie Osborne  
Kamara Porteous-Ellington  
Danielle Osafo  
Mason Nichols



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

## 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.

# Attendance

**Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 6 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

7LBy	97%
8KMa	98.3%
9HKe	92.1%
10ORo	94.6%
11CO n	91.7%
12MCr	96.5%
13JDa	91.9%



**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

### December

16<sup>th</sup> December - Trip: Year 12 Supreme Law Courts & Somerset House

16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> December - School Production 7pm

18<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas lunch

**20<sup>th</sup> December - End of Term, Early finish**

**Sixth Form - from break time onwards**

**Years 7-11 - 12pm**

23<sup>rd</sup> December - 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Christmas holiday

### January

6<sup>th</sup> January - Spring term starts

**15<sup>th</sup> January - INSET DAY**

30<sup>th</sup> January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Autumn 2024

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*

### Spring 2025

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*

#### Notes:

**Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**Easter Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

### Summer 2025

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

### INSET Days:

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