



15.03.2024

Issue No: 1115

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Computing for Girls Workshop

On Monday I had the opportunity to hear the inspirational speaker Jas Singh from Nxt Gen Innovators speak to the Year 8 girls about STEM careers in technology during their Computer Science workshop. Read more about this empowering event in the newsletter.

Biggin Hill Ward Panel Meeting

On Tuesday evening, I represented Charles Darwin School at the Biggin Hill Ward Panel Meeting. The meeting was attended by a range of representatives from our community, including shop owners, local parks, police officers, local Councillors, neighbourhood watch members, and the Biggin Hill Residents Association. We discussed a range of local initiatives, such as community projects for young people, crime prevention measures, the recent reduction in crime figures, and set priorities for the future.

Aston Smith

Parent/Carer Workshop



**Online parent/carers workshop on
Thursday 21st March, 6-7pm via Zoom.**

This session will be delivered by the **Breck Foundation**, a charity that Charles Darwin School have worked closely with in the past as part of our RSE curriculum.

Aim: to raise awareness and increase knowledge around online grooming and how to effectively support young people with navigating the digital world.

If you are interested in attending this session please email Miss Currie, at gcu@cdarwin.com.

The Zoom link will be sent out from Friday 15th March.

For more information on their work, please visit <https://www.breckfoundation.org/>

Miss Currie



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.



Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

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

Learning Support Assistant 25 hours per week Monday – Friday, term time only (actual salary £15,761)

We are looking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant as soon as possible to join a well-established team supporting a range of students' needs in class, in small groups and/or specialised individual learning. Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT. Experience of working with secondary-aged students with a range of SEN and/or experience of working with students with ASD would be advantageous.

Further details and an application form are available on our website and should be sent to jho@cdarwin.com. Closing date: Friday 8th March 2024 (we reserve the right to appoint earlier should a suitable candidate be found). Please note CVs alone cannot 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 a DBS Enhanced Disclosure and full background checks.



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Exam Invigilators £11.60 per hour

We are looking for suitable persons to join our dedicated pool of Exam Invigilators responsible for the invigilation of public and internal exams and tests. Invigilators will be present throughout the main summer exam season as well as at other times in the school year and may also undertake tasks such as checking registers against scripts and packing them at the end of exams.

Applicants should be available from 08.30 for the morning session and/or from 13.00 for the afternoon session. Training will be provided.

Closing date: 15th March 2024

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.



Foodbank in Bromley is able to offer clients a choice of 3 days worth of food along with a supermarket voucher or 7 days worth of food. This is for **Bromley Borough residents only**. For out of borough residents they are able to offer 3 days worth of food. Please remember you can get help by contacting them directly on ifo@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk.

What we are learning in - Geography

Year 9 have been studying tectonics: the movement within the Earth's structure. We have investigated the formation of earthquakes and studied how wealth can be a differential factor in the social and economic effects suffered in Chile and Nepal. Being a wealthy and developed nation such as Chile means that the population can be better prepared for the hazards, although they face high economic costs due to their level of infrastructure and materials used. Whereas, Nepal suffered greater social effects than economic. We have evaluated to what extent development is an important factor in the creation of a disaster.

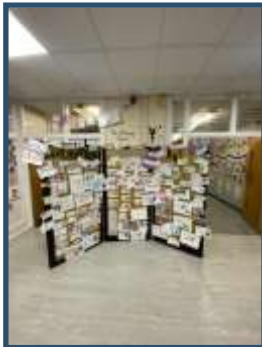
An important part in reducing the risk of a hazard is the creation of life safe or earthquake proof buildings. Students have studied the features of global examples such as Taipei 101 and the Transamerica Pyramid. Many students have then had the opportunity to become architects and design and build their own life safe buildings. Jake Bussy, Raff Hollinshead, Ronnie Loxdale and Emmanuel Oluwatayo won the competition with a structure which reached over 75cm tall and withstood the violent earthquake from a shaking table.

We hope students have seen how studying Geography can lead to careers in architecture, engineering and hazard management. It has been important for students to understand and empathise with different levels of development.

Mr Jones
Head of Geography

International Women's Day

Thank you to all the wonderful history students who created a banknote to celebrate International Women's Day. We as a department were very proud of the students who made such effort and were enthralled by visiting the display. As a history department I think this is very evident of a culture of enthusiasm we have for History at Charles Darwin School. A huge thank you to Ms Ashton for initiating this with all KS3 classes. A big well done to everyone and immensely proud how Charles Darwin celebrated this important day.



Mrs Davies
Head of History

Art and Textiles

This week 25 Year 11 Art and Textiles students undertook a one off afterschool workshop to help support their exam unit. Students sculpted in fabric on mannequins or made paper sculptures and then projected their digital manipulations onto them with really pleasing results.

Miss Doughty



Computing for Girls



On Monday, an exciting and empowering event took place as 23 girls gathered for a Computing for Girls workshop aimed at sparking interest and enthusiasm in the field of Computer Science. Led by Jas Singh from Nxt Gen Innovators, the 3-hour interactive session was a remarkable opportunity to inspire and empower young girls in the world of computing.

The workshop was designed to introduce the participants to the vast opportunities and recent trends in computing careers. Through engaging tasks and challenges, the girls delved into innovative ideas for accessibility product design and participated in unplugged computing activities. The

interactive nature of the workshop allowed the girls to showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills, with exciting prizes awaiting the best ideas. The Computing for Girls event successfully captured the imagination of the students and fueled their passion for computing through hands-on activities. It was a fantastic initiative that not only promoted computing careers but also highlighted the potential and talent of young girls in the field.

Events like these play a crucial role in breaking barriers and encouraging more girls to explore and excel in the world of technology. The enthusiasm and creativity displayed by the participants are a testament to the impact of such initiatives in empowering and inspiring the next generation of female leaders in computing. The success of Monday's workshop serves as a testament to the importance of providing opportunities for girls to explore and thrive in STEM fields, and it is a step forward in creating a more diverse and inclusive future in technology.

Mrs Elliott

GCSE Master Class Workshop

On Monday, Year 11 Computer Science students had the opportunity to participate in a GCSE Master Class workshop aimed at enhancing their revision and exam preparation skills. The two-hour event, led by subject specialist and guest speaker Jas Singh, was specifically designed to support students in boosting their confidence and readiness for the upcoming exams.

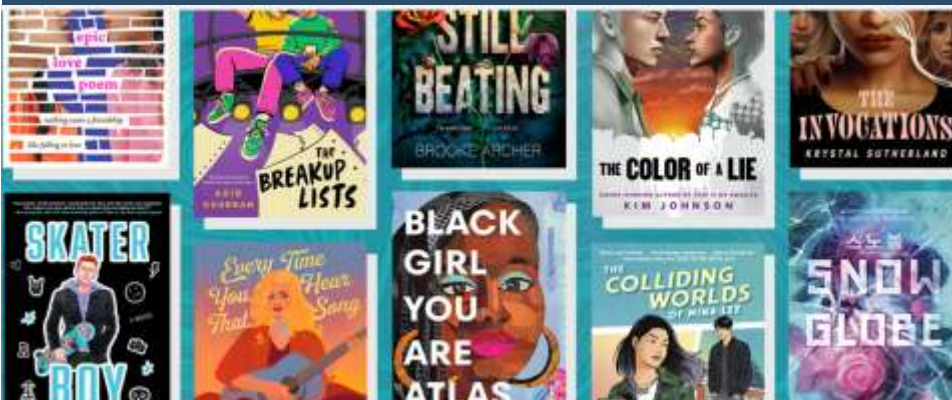
The workshop provided a focused and interactive environment for students to delve deeper into key concepts, review challenging topics, and receive valuable guidance on exam techniques. Jas Singh's expertise and insights offered students a fresh perspective and additional support in their exam preparation journey. By engaging with a subject specialist like Jas Singh, students were able to gain a deeper understanding of complex topics, clarify doubts, and enhance their overall grasp of the subject matter.

The workshop served as a valuable platform for students to consolidate their knowledge, refine their exam strategies, and build the confidence needed to excel in their upcoming Computer Science exams. Events like the GCSE Master Class workshop play a pivotal role in equipping students with the necessary tools and resources to succeed academically. The support and guidance provided by guest speakers and subject specialists contribute significantly to students' academic growth and exam success.

Overall, Monday's workshop was a productive and enriching experience for Year 11 Computer Science students, helping them feel more prepared and confident as they approach their exams. The dedication and commitment shown by both students and educators underscore the importance of tailored support and targeted interventions in enhancing students' academic performance and achievements. Congratulations to all the students who participated in the GCSE Master Class workshop, and best of luck to them as they continue their exam preparation journey towards success.

Mrs Elliott

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin



Look out for lots of exciting new releases of teen fiction:

Mrs Pitt

Red Nose Day at Charles Darwin



It gives me great pleasure to announce that Alice Boyd has been crowned Champion in the first ever Charles Darwin School Year 8 Junior Bake-Off Champion 2024. She baked an amazing sponge cake decorated with jammy dodgers.



Alice and her winning bake

All students stayed after school and provided their own ingredients. They baked amazing goods which were sold during break time today to raise money for Red Nose Day (we're still counting how much as been raised so far!). The other amazing bakers who participated were:

Kacey Chilcraft
Ellie May Friend
Freya Hartnup
Theodore Issac
Maisy King
Jenson Ladd-Talbot
George Murphy
Charlotte Silver

Well done to all of you. We hope to see you all again next year for a re-match!

We know there's a lot going on right now and for many people things are really tough. But if you can donate, every penny will add up to a life changing difference. You can donate via JustGiving or by dropping some pennies in the buckets on 15 March. Thank you for your continued support - you are amazing!

Please use the link below if you would like to donate via JustGiving:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd24-charles-darwin-school-ae67af7d-a438-4fe7-ac0c-c9b2f15886a0?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=rnd24-charles-darwin-school-ae67af7d-a438-4fe7-ac0c-c9b2f15886a0&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=f4f2f142e8964edf9c2afbda0f9ca0c

or scan the QR code:



Mrs Holloway

Survey for 11-19 years old

Bromley Youth Council members have created a survey monkey to allow young people across Bromley, aged 11-19 years old to vote on what they think are the top 2 issues facing young people in Bromley today!

The aim is to give more young people a voice and voting access to tell us what the key issues are, and what they would like the Youth Council to do to tackle this issue.

https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/BYC_2024

Voting will close at midnight on **Wednesday 20th March 2024.**

Thank you in advance

BYC Team

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 8 March 2024.



7LMc	98.8%
8PDg	98.9%
9HBu	98.2%
10KSa	96.7%
11DNe	94%
12JDa	99.3%
13RPi	97.3%

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Students Services Team

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.

If your child contacts you directly, please phone the school to confirm whether they are unwell and have permission to go home.

Thank you

Student Services Team



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

Isabella Bolton	Christian Pavlov
Jack Helyer	Rosalina Cabrera
Lily Lea Carey	James Azzopardi
Milly Rogers	Anabella Bird
Teddy Ellis-Bartholomew	Ollie Turner

Student Services Duty Pupils

Isabel Sandoe
Florence Spencer
Henry Selwood
Evan Williams
Hannah Weeden



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

Dates for the Diary

March

18th March - Trip: Day of Dance Event - Step into Dance - Greenwich
19th March - 6th Form, UCAS EXCEL Conference
20th March - Year 9 Options Evening
21st March - Online parent/carer workshop, 6-7pm via Zoom
21st March - Trip: Y13 Booster A Level Business Studies Course
22nd March-24th March - Trip: Netball Tour, Liddington, Year 8, 9 and 10
26th March - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening
27th March - Trip: Y10 & Y12 Drama Trip to Greenwich Theatre
28th March - End of term
28th March - Trip: Iceland trip - Geography, Year 10 & 11
29th March - Trip: Austria, Ski Trip
29th March - Good Friday - School Closed

April

29th March - 12th April - Easter Holiday
15th April - Summer Term starts
16th April - Trip: IET Faraday Challenge, Science
17th April - Year 7 Parents' Evening
30th April - Trip: Geography Field Trip to Rottingdean Year 10



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 29th March 2024
 Easter Monday 1st April 2024

INSET Days - School closed to students

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




HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME

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

2ND – 5TH APRIL 2024

Spitfire Youth Club, Church
Lane Biggin Hill TN16 3LB

Activities Include:

- 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>






 @BromleyYouthActivities
  @BromleyYouthActivities




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"





Charles Darwin PTA
are delighted to host our popular



FRIDAY 26TH
APRIL 2024

**SIXTH FORM HUB,
CHARLES DARWIN
SCHOOL**
DOORS OPEN: 7.00PM
TRIVIA STARTS: 7.30PM

£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](https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com)



Quiz teams, please bring your own drinks and snacks!



JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED AT WESTERHAM CRICKET CLUB

U13 (12/13 YEAR-OLDS) & U14 (13/14 YEAR-OLDS)

BEGINNERS OR EXPERIENCED

INDOOR TRAINING STARTS MARCH/APRIL 2024

KENT INVICTA JUNIOR CRICKET LEAGUE

More info and sign-up:

westerhamcc@stoneslive.com or call 07821 719818

8 TO 11 YEARS – DYNAMOS CRICKET

Tuesdays 21st May to 16th July

Info & book here: WWW.DYNAMOSCRICKET.CO.UK

5 TO 7 YEARS – ALL STARS CRICKET

Tuesdays 21st May to 16th July

Info and book here: WWW.ALLSTARSCRICKET.CO.UK

ECB QUALIFIED COACHES - LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

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.