



23.02.2024

Issue No: 1112

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Appointments

Helen Hartley, Chair of Governors, is now the Safeguarding Governor. Further details on safeguarding at Charles Darwin School can be found on the school's website.

Mobile Phones In Schools

This week the government have released "Mobile phones in schools Guidance for schools on prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day February 2024". The full guidance along with our mobile phone policy and sanctions has been sent to parents for information. Please do take time to discuss with your child at home. If you need to get a message to your child it should be via the main school office. Please do not contact your child on their mobile phone. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Blue Light Safety Day

On Tuesday I had the opportunity to attend some of the sessions delivered as part of the Blue Light Safety Day for our Year 8's. Thanks to Miss Gillespie for organising. These events are such worthwhile opportunities for students to learn valuable life skills. Further details are mentioned in the newsletter.

Aston Smith

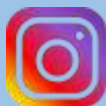


Easy fundraising

Just a reminder to sign up to Easyfundraising if you haven't already done so. You can log in using the link below or if you install the Easyfundraising App, enrol our school as your charity and then switch the online donation reminder, a proportion of your online shopping will automatically be paid to our fund. This is such a super source of funds for our school and requires us to do very little except shopping! The PTA team will have no visibility of where you have shopped but there is a league table of our biggest contributors which is quite exciting. During promotional periods, we receive a donation just for you installing the app and adding us as your charity so if you would be prepared to just do that, we would be very grateful. www.easyfundraising.org.uk

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

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.



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.

Year 8 Blue Light Safety First Day

On Tuesday, year 8 attended personal development sessions delivered by London Fire Brigade, the Met Police and London Ambulance Service. Students learned some valuable lessons and insights on fire safety, antisocial behaviour, violence against women and girls, and knife crime. It was fantastic to see how well behaved and engaged students were, sharing their thoughts, asking and answering important questions. My thanks to parents and staff for their support.

Miss Gillespie



Support Mr Brown

I am taking part in a sky dive later this year in order to raise money for CASPA, an autism charity. Any donations, however big or small, would be greatly appreciated. You can donate using the following webpage:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/beth-grant-1702834026244?
utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fbeth-grant-
1702834026244&utm_source=whatsapp&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp](https://www.justgiving.com/page/beth-grant-1702834026244?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fbeth-grant-1702834026244&utm_source=whatsapp&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp)

Thank you in advance!

Mr. Brown

Oxford University Trip

On the last day of half term a group of year 10 students were invited to Oxford University through our partnerships with one of the larger colleges; Mansfield College. We have a long standing partnership with Oxford through our belief that with effort and hard work, students can achieve entry to the best universities in the country.

The day consisted of an introduction to the college and tutorial system at Oxford, from their admissions officer and current students. This was followed by a tour of the college including the beautiful libraries. Students then enjoys lunch in the college restaurant which resembled something from Hogwarts, where students and leading lecturers from Oxford University dine together.

The afternoon was a lecture from Dr James Munro – which was an introduction to Repetition and Chaos Theory. The lecture was pitched as it would be for year 3 undergraduates but generated interesting discussions around the mathematical world of chaos theory.

Students can get the opportunity to visit a range of universities through our links with AIM Higher and our deep partnerships with local universities. Many students will choose university as a route to a particular career or aspiration. In addition to the fascinating knowledge and experiences for the students, there was a clear message that university can be affordable to so many more families through loans, bursaries and scholarships.

Mr Jones



Please see the MENU Week 1 for the week commencing 26th February 2024 by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.cdarwin.com/site/data/files/files/admissions/6172426794F8ECFF6E15F1D6A9A133EA.pdf>



Maths Revision Classes

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"



Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

On Friday 23rd February during P3 we enjoyed our third DEAR [Drop Everything and Read] session of this academic year. In order to promote reading for pleasure, everyone had the chance to stop and read for twenty minutes. Thank you to everyone who took part – and please keep reading! Remember:

- * Children who read books more than once a week gain **higher results** in GCSEs across all subjects than those who read less regularly.
- * 16-year-olds who choose to read books for pleasure outside of school are more likely to secure managerial or **professional jobs** in later life.
- * Studies have found that reading for pleasure enhances empathy, understanding of the self, and the ability to understand one's own and others' identities.
- * Regular readers for pleasure reported fewer feelings of stress and depression than non-readers, and stronger feelings of relaxation from reading than from watching television or engaging with technology intensive activities.

Also in school, feel free to take part in:

- ♦ The Hundreds and Thousands reading challenge [details on our school website or see Mrs Pitt]
- ♦ Book Club with Mrs Lamb every Thursday lunch time.

World Book Day –Thursday 7th March 2024

We will be celebrating World Book Day with our annual Big Read. There will also be activities in the library. Book tokens have been distributed via form tutors so that students can choose a free book from participating book stores. Digital tokens and more information can be accessed here:

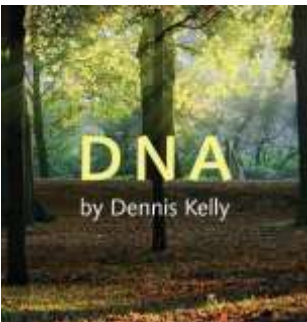
<https://unity-college.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-digital-token-UK.pdf>



Thank you

Mrs Pitt

Year 9 - DNA by Dennis Kelly



Year 9 students are currently studying the play “DNA” by Dennis Kelly in their Drama lessons. Students were invited to take part in a series of after school workshops to deepen their knowledge of the characters, explore the relationships presented in the play and continue to develop their performance skills.

On Wednesday 21st February, a professional actor came into school to work with a group of the year 9's and introduced them to several rehearsal exercises that he had experienced when performing the play with the National Youth Theatre. The students involved were fantastic, embracing the practical work with energy and commitment as well as discussing their thoughts on the themes presented in the text.

Well done to all of the students involved for some impressive work.

Thank you.

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.

PTA Update

Appeal: Amazon Wish-List

We have received a number of funding requests from our Charles Darwin School staff coming to a total of over £7000.

The PTA will fund as many as possible via current money raised already but we have also opened an Amazon wish-list, in case anyone is in the position to contribute in any way. Please share this list with anyone you think might be able to support in some way including anyone who works for a company who might be able to help our school.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2TZHW0F4X88KA?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_wsN8SEMK94wLr



[Check out my list on Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2TZHW0F4X88KA?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_wsN8SEMK94wLr)

www.amazon.co.uk

Thanks in advance for any help with our wish-list.

Easy Fundraising

Thank you to all families, staff and community members for adding the Easy Fundraising App to their devices. We have 16 people actively taking part and we have currently raised £600, just by shopping!

We would like to thank the following for enrolling and adding the donation reminder to their device and contributing to our school:

Jason H, Melanie L, Sarah H, Elaine F, Nicola T, Kayleigh B, Graham P.

- One of our members told us that they just renewed their home insurance for the next year and received a donation of £25, just by using one of the insurance search engines.
- One of our PTA team just booked their next holiday through TUI and secured 2.5% of their total spend to our cause.

Monthly Draw

If you would like to take part in our monthly draw, please visit our online shop to take part. Half of the prize pot each month goes to our winner and half goes to our school. Our winner last month received £75 in winnings!

Our online store is available here: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

You can also set up a monthly standing order if you would prefer by e-mailing us at friends@cdarwin.com

Social Media

Please help us to raise our profile on our social media platforms.

Instagram	charles_darwin_pta
Linked In	www.linkedin.com/in/charles-darwin-pta
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/friendscharlesdarwinschool
X (Was twitter)	@PTA_Darwin

Support

If you would like to help us in any way you can, we would love to have a chat. Please contact us at friends@cdarwin.com. We are currently missing some key members so any help would be super!

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 9 February 2024.



7SHu/CHt	98.3%
8TMi	92.5%
9JHd	87.5%
10SFe	90.7%
11SDa	91.9%
12MMe	96.3%
13DWa	95.5%

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

Demi Walker-Starks
Aston Fey-Abrehart
Charlotte Weller
Mia Stathopoulos

Charlie Ince
Max Spears
Stanley Hillman
Oliver Anderson

Student Services Duty Pupils

Ashleigh Chilcraft
George Faktor
Jennifer Kerr
Jolyon Coombs
Dawson Bergmann



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

Dates for the Diary

February

29th February - Year 8 Parents' Evening

March

7th March - World Book Day

8th March - Year 9 HPV2 vaccinations

14th March - Trip: Science Live KS Emmanuel Centre, London, Year 8 & 9

20th March - Year 9 Options Evening

22nd March-24th March - Trip: Netball Tour, Liddington, Year 8, 9 and 10

26th March - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening

28th March - End of term

29th March - Good Friday

April

29th March - 12th April - Easter Holiday

15th April - Summer Term starts

17th April - Year 7 Parents' Evening



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)