



18.10.2024

Issue No: 1134

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

As we reach the end of a busy half term, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your ongoing support. Despite the challenges brought on by the cyber attack, we continue to make positive strides to restore our systems and are confident that we will keep progressing in the right direction next term.

Feedback from our Open Day and subsequent tours has been overwhelmingly positive. I would especially like to thank the students who played a key role in both the preparations and the tours themselves, as well as the staff for their hard work. Their efforts ensured that this important event ran smoothly, and we were delighted to welcome so many prospective families.

A reminder that there's still time over the half-term holiday for students to take part in our Design a Christmas Card Competition. The winning design will feature on our official Charles Darwin School Christmas card, and the winner will receive a special prize!

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break, whatever your plans may be, and look forward to welcoming students back on **Tuesday 5th November at 8:15 am**.
Warm regards,

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Golden Tickets - 6 weeks reward scheme Autumn term 2024



One student per class can be rewarded each lesson for:

- ◆ following SLANT and STEPS
- ◆ Being fully engaged in their learning
- ◆ 'Thinking hard' – really challenging themselves to think and work harder

If you are rewarded with a golden ticket, you hand it to your ACo at break/lunchtime/after school.

- ◆ Each week, 3 golden tickets will be drawn from each year group Yr 7- 6th form
- ◆ The 3 winners get a special ticket for Friday in the canteen (break or lunch) to claim an exclusive Giant Golden Ticket cookie to share with their friends

- ◆ For the final draw in December, 1 winner per year group will get a free ticket for them and a guest to see Charlie and the Chocolate factory on premier night at CDS

Mrs Rees

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



DESIGN A

CHRISTMAS CARD

FOR CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL

PRIZE FOR THE WINNING DESIGN!

**DESIGN TO BE
A5 SIZE**

**ENTRIES
TO RECEPTION**



**CLOSING DATE
5 NOV**



**FULL NAME & FORM REQUIRED
ON BACK OF DESIGN**

Charles Darwin School Sixth Form Open Evening



No
booking
required

Thursday 14th November 2024
6pm - 8pm

Presentations in the Main Hall at 6pm and 7pm

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Email: enquiries@cdarwin.com

Web: www.cdarwin.com

Jail Lane, Biggin Hill,
Westerham, Kent, TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043

"Students in the Sixth Form benefit from an individualised approach and achieve well" **Ofsted 2023**





Last weekend Rain Downer competed, as a guest, for Charles Darwin School in the East Region Schools Diving Competition in Southend. We are pleased to say she came first and on the strength of this has been selected to dive for the London region, representing Charles Darwin School in the National Schools Diving Finals in Birmingham in December. Well done Rain. What an achievement!



Well done to the following students, fantastic effort in your end of unit assessment for geography. Keep up the fabulous work as you prepare for your PPE.

Georgia Butterworth
Adam Iles
William Payne
Assiya Rayyon

Sophie Ross Read
Ruby Varney
Hayden Young
Tristan Zeelie

Ms Partridge



Congratulations to Arabella Purdy (8JWi) and Daniel Nemeth (7SAs) for winning the Geography Open Morning competition! Daniel's engaging poster on what makes a good geographer and Arabella's powerful letter to the Prime Minister about the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals truly impressed the Geography department and parents that saw the entrees on open morning. Your work reflects both creativity and a deep understanding of geography's relevance in today's world. A huge well done to everyone who took part in the competition, your hard work, enthusiasm, and innovative ideas showcased an incredible passion for geography. You've all contributed to making Open Morning a great success, as we laid out the top 10 for parents to see!



Keep up the excellent work, future geographers!

Ms Buckle



Charles Darwin School

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

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

Assistant Data Manager/Assistant Examinations Officer **Required for November 2024** **36 hours a week, 40 weeks a year** **Actual salary £26,370**

We wish to appoint an Assistant Data Manager/Assistant Examinations officer to join our committed and friendly Administration team. The successful candidate will support the school's Data Manager & Examinations Officer and will be responsible for the input of statistical data, creation and management of assessment reports and the analysis of data.

Applicants should have excellent organisational and inter-personal skills together with experience of working in a pressurised environment. Applicants are expected to have strong IT skills, especially Excel with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. A working knowledge of SIMS would be advantageous.

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 – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: 25th October 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.

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.

Exam Invigilators **£11.60 per hour**

We wish to appoint a number of Exam Invigilators to join our dedicated pool responsible for the invigilation of public and internal exams add tests. Invigilators will be present throughout the whole exam and may also undertake tasks such as checking registers against scripts and packing them at the end of the exams. All successful candidates will receive appropriate training.

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Charles Darwin School

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Assistant SENCO **36 hours a week, 40 weeks a year** **Actual salary £30,745**

We wish to appoint an Assistant SENCO to provide support to the school's SENCO and the Learning Development Department in the provision for pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs. Applicants should have experience of working in an SEN department, supporting children with various special educational needs, teaching in small groups and undertaking relevant interventions.

This post would suit someone with HLTA experience with SEN students. We would welcome applications from those already holding the JCQ Access Arrangement Assessor Qualification or be eligible and willing to undertake the training in order to gain this.

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Learning Support Assistant **36 hours a week, 38 weeks a year** **Actual salary £22,360**

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.

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PTA Update



Open Day - Saturday 12th October

We enjoyed meeting so many positive current and future families at Open Day on Saturday morning. Thanks to everyone who stopped by for a hot drink and a pain au chocolat on a chilly morning.

Fundraising for free

Thank you to all the families and staff who have enrolled in Easyfundraising in recent days:

Stacy W.	Helma N	Yvonne C	Alison R	Liz W
Lee P	Helen B			

You can join our free and easy fundraising initiative too: [https://](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta)

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta

Here are our current top fundraisers for the last 30 days....just by enrolling and then shopping as usual:

Kayleigh B	£14.98
Gill B	£11.61
Deborah R	£8.75
Helen H	£8.50

Monthly Cash Prize Draw

Congratulations to Wendy W (ticket 68) for winning £73.50 in our September monthly cash prize draw. You could also be in with the opportunity to join Wendy as a winner by purchasing your ticket/s, from £1 per month, via our online store: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/>

Welcome to our new joiner: Sandra C

The October draw currently contains 151 tickets so the prize pot is estimated at £75.50!

Charles Darwin School is not responsible for the content from external websites.

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Lola McCaughey
Aneelia Bent-Halil
Milo Rietmeijer
Jack Wolcott
Owen Gibbs
Denis Calancia
Eloise Osenton
Leah-Jade Bradshaw

Student Services Duty Pupils

Tom Halliday
David Turbureanu
Harry Dixon
Sam Benton



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



BROMLEY FC WOMEN COMMUNITY DAY



SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER BROMLEY FC WOMEN vs ACTONIAN RESERVES
OPEN 11AM - KO 1PM THE HAYES LANE STADIUM, HAYES LANE BR2 9EF

- Face painting - Football Inflatables - Stadium Tours
- Meet and greet with players, photos and autograph signings
- Fun activities led by our proud partners London Biggin Hill Airport

All activities included in match ticket - Adults £5 - Under 18s £2



General
Tickets



Community Group?
FREE tickets



Proudly supported by



Attendance



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

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

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

October

21st October - Friday 1st November – Half term

November:

4th November – INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

5th November - Closing Date for Christmas Card entries

13th November - School photo's

13th November - A Level Physics Lectures - Emanuel Centre - 9.30am - 4pm

14th November - Sixth Form Open Evening, 6pm

20th November - Year 10 Information Evening, 6-7.30pm

21st November - DofE Celebration Event

December

4th December - Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church

4th December - Year 7-11, Flu vaccinations

6th - 8th December - Christmas Market Trip

11th December - Year 13 Parents' Evening

13th December - Christmas Jumper Day

16th, 17th, 18th December - School Production 7pm

20th December - End of Term

Term Dates 2024-2025

Autumn 2024

Friday 30th August – Friday 18th October

Half term: Monday 21st October – Friday 1st November

Monday 4th November – Friday 20th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January

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:

Friday 30th August 2024

Friday 18th October 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Monday 24th February 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th June 2025



As part of the SEND Local Offer there is a live event taking place on Friday 1st November, from 11am to 3pm, at The Warren in Hayes. This is a free event and will include taster and information sessions from providers such as Access Sport, Magpie Dance, Maypole Active, Remix Theatre, Bromley Y, ISAT and SENDAT teams, Bromley Mencap and many more.



Community: Met encouraging take up of Autism Alert Card across the capital (and how to apply for them)
August 30, 2024 jerrygreen85Community, Health, News, YouthAutism cards Greater London, Met Police



Autism Alert Card

Please be patient
and avoid touching me

A scheme funded by the Met to help autistic people better interact with police officers is being reinvigorated across the capital.

The Autism Alert Card can be used by all autistic people and includes basic information such as the person's name and contact details for an appropriate adult. The card also details information about autism and provides practical advice for the officer.

There is also an A5 sized booklet version of the card, which goes into more detail about how the officer should communicate with the person, including how to help the person and any relevant information about them.

Commander Simon Messinger, the Met's lead for neuro-diversity, says: "An interaction with the police may make autistic people feel anxious, they may need more time to process and understand what is happening or have difficulty in communicating.

"The Autism Alert Card is a fantastic way for autistic people to let police know that they may need extra support and to help explain their feelings and reactions. "The visual tools on the passport can also help them to describe and communicate their feelings, with added written information that can guide officers as to what specific accommodations the autistic person may benefit from."

Tim Nicholls, at the National Autistic Society's Tim Nicholls says:

"Autistic people can find communication difficult and can become anxious and overwhelmed, particularly in a stressful situation like an encounter with the police.

Advertisement

Privacy Settings

"These cards mean police officers will know if someone is autistic and be able to adapt their communication and actions to ensure they treat autistic people fairly, appropriately and with respect."

"It's vital that police and all staff in the criminal justice system understand autism and that specialist support is available when needed" added Mr Nicholls, the society's assistant director of policy, research and strategy.

In addition to assisting autistic people engaging with officers, who could be struggling in an unexpected or emotional situation, the card can also assist officers in explaining why someone may be having difficulty communicating with them.

The scheme is the result of a collaboration between the Metropolitan Police Service, City of London Police and British Transport Police. It has been developed following extensive consultations with autistic people and their parents, the National Autistic Society, Autism Partnership Boards and other partner agencies and is supported by the National Police Autism Association.

You can find out more about autism [here](#).

Both versions of the alert cards will be made available to autistic people through autistic partnership boards and local police across the capital. You can find more information [here](#).

Members of the public can apply for them through the email address: autism@met.police.uk

(Source: Met Police press release)

Charles Darwin School is not responsible for the content from external websites.

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. Please clearly say your child's name and form he/she is in. 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.

Walking Football for Young People with SEND



- Walking Football sessions are for D/deaf and/or disabled and neurodivergent young people aged 16-25.
- Inclusive sessions delivered by a qualified coach called Mike.
- All abilities/disabilities welcome.



Where: The Warren, Croydon Rd, Bromley, BR2 7AL
When: Thursdays (term time only)
Time: 10:45am - 11:45am
Ages: 16-25
Cost: £5 (Your first session is FREE)

Register here:



<https://bit.ly/WalkingFootballTheWarren>

Or scan the QR code:



For more information, please contact:



07880 786323



hello@need2change.org

Supported by:  **Need 2 Change**  **Access Sport**

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T OPEN THE BOX...

JAMIE DAWES PRESENTS

WHAT LIES INSIDE?

AN EVENING OF GHOST STORIES, ILLUSION AND SCARES

CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL THEATRE, BIGGIN HILL
FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2024 - 7.00PM

BILSINGTON PRIORY, ASHFORD
29TH, 30TH & 31ST OCTOBER 2024 - 7.00PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.WHATLIESINSIDE.CO.UK