



Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Year 11 Events

My thanks to Miss Zysemil and Mrs. Gater for organising the Year 11 Celebration Assembly and Parents' Information Evening on Wednesday. At the assembly it was fantastic to recognise the students' achievements and progress from Year 10 and a really nice way to start the new academic year. Last year the students were awarded with 10493 Achievement Points and they are keen to beat this total this year.

It was also great to see so many parents attending the Parents' Information Evening and many were keen for their son/daughter to have specific revision on Satchel One and homework set to ensure their child makes better progress. The event was busy and parents left with lots of practical advice for a successful year.

Governors Meeting

On Monday I attended the first full Governors' meeting of the new academic year. It was great to be able to see everyone again, albeit virtually, and to welcome a new Governor, Roy Coleman. Roy has an educational background and now runs his own business as a Celebrant.

The first Governors' meeting of the year is primarily to elect officers and it was agreed that Iain Turner should continue as Chair and Roy will act as Vice Chair.

Link Governors were agreed as follows:

Link Governor	Kate Lawrence
Safeguarding	Iain Turner and Paul Showell
Curriculum	Sarah Coop
IT/Cyber Security	Roy Coleman
SEN/HPA	Kate Lawrence and Karen Dwyer-Burchill
School Council	Mike Botting/Kate Lawrence
Attendance	Georgina Quinn
Children looked After/	
Pupil Premium	Gemma Currie
Careers	Gemma Currie

My thanks to all our Governors who devote much of their time supporting the school

Aston Smith

Satchel One Parent Logins

Thank you to all the parents who have now set up their parent logins on Satchel One (either on the APP or through a browser) so they can see achievement and behaviour points as well as timetables and homework. If you have not yet set yours up, please e-mail LKe@cdarwin to receive your Parent code. Up to 5 accounts can be set up with each code so if more than one parent wants access, they just need the code.

If you already have an account and haven't used it for a long time, you can just reset your password through the APP.

Ms Kelly



Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Charles Darwin Academy Trust

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Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH



Open Morning - Saturday 30th September 2023

Parents of prospective students are invited to visit our high performing school to view and sample the exciting opportunities we have to offer. Pre booking for a tour only (9am) or Headteacher's presentation followed by a tour (9am, 10am or 11am) is essential by lunchtime on Thursday 28th September. Priority will be given to Year 6 children. Presentations will start promptly at the advertised time so please leave sufficient time for parking. (There will be very limited on-site parking available).

Early Tour only

9.00am

Email to book your place

earlytour@cdarwin.com

Presentation & Tour 1

9.00am

Email to book your place

hallandtour1@cdarwin.com

Presentation & Tour 2

10.00am

Email to book your place

hallandtour2@cdarwin.com

Presentation & Tour 3

11.00am

Email to book your place

hallandtour3@cdarwin.com

Please email the relevant tour/presentation with your name, **your child's name, their current year group, their current school and the number of places required.**

Open Week - Tuesday 3rd - Friday 6th October

If you wish to attend one of our Open Week tours you can pre-book a tour at 8.45am or 9.00am. Open week tours offer the opportunity to see the school in operation and to observe teaching taking place. This will be followed by a short Q & A session with the Headteacher.

Please leave time for parking (none available on site).

Pre-booking essential by 12.00pm on Monday 2nd October.

Tuesday 3rd October - book via tuesdaytours@cdarwin.com

Wednesday 4th October - book via wednesdaytours@cdarwin.com

Thursday 5th October - book via thursdaytours@cdarwin.com

Friday 6th October - book via fridaytours@cdarwin.com

Please see our recent Ofsted Report



Jail Lane

Biggin Hill

Westerham, Kent

TN16 3AU

Tel: 01959 574043

Email: enquiries@cdarwin.com

Website: www.cdarwin.com



The Chartwell Charities



Charles Darwin School Biggin Hill

Year's 12 & 13 2022/2023
raised **£3,973.77** for The Chartwell Charities.

Well done and thank you to everyone that raised funds
and supported us, we are truly grateful!

Thank you!

"You have made a real difference to cancer care"

September 2023



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

Learning Support Assistant
25 hours per week Monday – Friday, term time only
September 2023
(actual salary £14,424 – pay award pending)

We are looking 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 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 29th September 2023. 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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School Cleaners (£12.68 per hour)

We are looking to appoint a number of school cleaners to join our committed Site Team. Hours are negotiable but are likely to be between 3.00pm – 7.30pm Monday – Friday during term time. Some additional hours may be available during school holidays. Applicants should complete the non-teaching staff application form on our website (www.cdarwin.com) and return this to

Julie Hodgkinson, Personnel & Administration Manager

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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.

Year 8 Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

This term year 8 are studying RSE as part of their personal development lessons.

To keep you informed, this will involve **exploring different family relationships, what commitment means and challenges that happen at home. We will explore how to handle it when we argue and fall out, what healthy boundaries are, consent and the impact of social media on our self-esteem.**

Please do chat to your young person about what they are learning.

Kate Sampson (ksa@cdarwin.com)

Thank you,

Ms Sampson



On Saturday the 2nd of September Lizzy Merredew Year 9 entered the English closed, this was a big deal due to the fact that as she is now in year 9 she fights in the Cadets age group, this means she can be fighting up to 18 year olds.

In a group of 18 young ladies she absolutely dazzled showing great strength and just what can be achieved by training 4 times a week, she won 4 of her 6 fights beating a blue belt, a brown belt (who at 15 years finished ranked 4 in the country last year) and amazingly after a 6 minute contest, beat a 17 year old Black belt, despite this she narrowly missed out on the bronze so finished in 5th place.

Lizzy has impressed the coaches for British judo who have eagerly invited her to resume training with the England Development Squad where she will no doubt be asked to represent them in more international competitions in the next year. Watch this space.

Next up, the Welsh Open in October.



Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 8 September 2023.



7STe	100%
8JSt/HKe	96.7%
9HBu	97.8%
10KSa	98.4%
11ADo	96.1%
12MMe	100%
13RPi	98.7%

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



Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Harrison Stimson
Jenson Ladd-Talbot
Isabella Saunders
Hermoine Trimmings
Franky Daubney

Holly Meheux
George Lyons
Millie Lucas
Logan Allison
Jai Harper

THANK YOU

Student Services Duty Pupils:

Lenny Turner
Harley Webster
Jess Khan
Savannah Stitson
Tom Fox

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

Dates for the Diary

September

19th September - Trip: Evening Theatre Trip, 'Oh What a Lovely War', Churchill Theatre Bromley, Yr10 & 11
19th September - Trip: GCSE PE Kayaking at Danson Park 8.20am - 4pm
21st September - Trip: GCSE PE Kayaking at Danson Park 8.20am - 4pm
20th September - Trip: Evening Theatre Trip, Jack Studio, Brockley, Yr12 & 13
25th September - Year 9 Charity Event
26th September - Trip: Geography Field Trip to Stratford
28th September - Trip: Geography Field Trip to Stratford
28th September - Year 7 and 12 School Photo
29th September - early Close for Open day
30th September - Open Morning

October

3rd October - 6th October - Open Week Tours
3rd October - Year 7 Settling-In Tea, 3:30pm
16th October - 27th October - Half term
30th October - INSET DAY

November

17th November - Quiz Night, 7pm

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 – Thursday 18th July

Note:

Good Friday 29th March 2024
Easter Monday 1st April 2024

INSET Days - School closed to students

Tuesday 29th August 2023
Monday 30th October 2023
Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Friday 26th January 2024

