



10.03.2023

Issue No: 1075

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

NEU Industrial Action

Parents will be aware that the National Education Union have called for 2 days of industrial action on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. **On these days the school will be open to students in Years 11 and 13 who should attend school from 9.30am, some Year 11 students will need to be in earlier for a trip on Thursday but these will be contacted separately.** Year 11 students should report to the school hall and Year 13 to the Hub. Where possible students will receive live lessons but if their teacher is on strike they will be supervised by members of the senior team. **Attendance is mandatory for these year groups.** School will be closed to students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 who should log on to Satchel One at 8.30am each day for either live lessons or set work. I do understand how disruptive these days are for families but this dispute is with the government and is out of our control. I will keep you updated with any further developments.

50th Birthday Celebrations

I would like to thank the many people who approached me over a number of months with ideas to mark Charles Darwin School's 50th birthday year. Unfortunately I have taken the **difficult decision not to go ahead with the event on Saturday 8th July** in favour of a range of other events and projects throughout this year. We hope this will provide a series of positive things to celebrate throughout 2023. After discussions with colleagues in school and with the Friends PTA it has become clear that we just do not have the capacity to organise such a large single vent as we had hoped.

Whilst the celebratory fete planned for Saturday 8th July **will not be going ahead**, we will have a number of positive things we can develop to mark this special year and perhaps make some existing events even more special.

Drama visit to BHPS

On Tuesday Miss Currie and I accompanied 16 Year 8 students to Biggin Hill Primary School where they performed to some Year 6 children. We have been exploring the style of Theatre in Education in their Drama lessons and created educational pieces for a primary audience. The pieces focused on anti bullying, stranger danger and kindness. My thanks to Miss Currie who has been working very hard with the Year 8 students to get them performance ready and my congratulations to the students themselves, you were all fantastic.



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

Trip to Berlin

Wir lieben Berlin! - We love Berlin!

During half term Miss Wood and I had the pleasure of accompanying our six A Level German students: Abbey, Oscar, Daisy S, Evie, Maddie and Daisy P to Berlin, the capital city of Germany. Our three days spent there were packed with cultural delights and historical insights.

We stayed in a central area of Berlin, aptly named 'Mitte' which meant that we could visit most sights by foot. Saying that we also had to navigate our way around on a number of different forms of transport: plane, train, automobile, metro, tram, local train and national train. All great experience!

Day One

We paid a visit to the German Parliament Building, **The Reichstag** where we climbed up the spiral stairway of the glass dome, took in the 360 degree views of Berlin and learnt all about the Reichstag and the surrounding important state buildings. Not far from there we visited the **Brandenburg Gate**, a famous symbol of Germany both from nowadays and reflecting Germany's past. Then we lost ourselves quietly in thought in the outdoor **Jewish memorial**.

Lunch of **'Currywurst'** beckoned and this gave us the energy to head to **Checkpoint Charlie** (former crossing point between East and West Berlin) and then on to the **Ampelmann** (traffic light men) shop. Such a fun and vibrant place. We chose to take in the views from the top of the **Fernsehturm** (TV tower) just before sunset to see Berlin both by day and night. This tower is the highest in Germany. We had a capital cities quiz courtesy of Oscar to help some of us cope with the 42 second lift ascent! The Fernsehturm was our highlight of the day and we loved spotting the tower throughout the rest of our trip as it popped up between buildings!

Day Two

Highlights included: Exploring the many exhibits in the **Judisches Museum** (Jewish museum), followed by an amazing **Turkish kebab** in the Kreuzberg area. Berlin has more kebab shops than Istanbul! We walked along the longest remaining part of the Berlin Wall. This is called The **Eastside Gallery** and is an art exhibition featuring work from 175 different artists. The evening was spent at **Potsdamer Platz** which has an ultra-modern collection of buildings on the former No Man's Land and then onto the **Hackesche Höfe**, a collection of courtyard buildings.

Day Three

We started today off at **Bernauer Straße**, where a former death strip section of the Berlin Wall still remains and you can climb a platform to see what it would have looked like. Next we headed to **West Berlin** to the **Gedächtniskirche** (Memorial Church), where the Stalingrad Madonna painting is to be found. The luxurious department store: **Kaufhaus Des Westens** (KaDeWe) still managed to highlight the contrast between life in West and East Germany. We were lucky to find yet another exciting view of Berlin. This time from the top of a hotel (**Bikini 25 Hours**) that has a restaurant that overlooks the monkey and giraffe enclosures of the **Tiergarten** (zoo). We made our final journey back past the **Siegsäule** (the victory column) that lit up the sky with its sunlit golden angel on the top.

We all had such an fantastic time. Pupils prepared presentations and presented them to the group at each major tourist attraction, we all spoke as much German as possible and are looking forward to returning to Berlin, but next time, in the summer!

I felt truly honoured and privileged to be back in this great city with our lovely 6th Formers for their first ever experience of Berlin, it was so wonderful for Miss Kaye and I to be a part of and share their excitement and enthusiasm - it was so infectious! I felt like I had come full circle as my own A Level German teachers also took me to Berlin for the first time (a while back now!) so it really was such a special trip for me with memories I will always cherish.

Miss Wood, MFL

Some of the feedback from students below:

I really enjoyed our trip to Berlin because I was able to experience everything we have studied in class. The cultural aspects and exploring the city's landmarks will allow me to speak about them more personally in exams! Seeing the difference in the East and West really interested me as the history is still relevant, especially at the Berlin Wall (my favourite bit was the East Side Gallery).

It was amazing being in Berlin because everything we have been learning in the classroom, came to life in the history, the culture and the architecture we saw. I'm hoping to go back with my parents because I know that they will love it too.

One of the key highlights of our trip to Berlin for me was being up the TV Tower during the day and night! The panoramic view was picturesque at both times. Being able to experience in person the places we read about in our textbooks and form our own opinions on them was so beneficial for our learning.

My favourite part about Berlin was getting to see the difference between the east and west. Even though it's much more modernised now, you can still see the difference between them. Also getting to see to the Berlin wall as it's such a huge part of history.

Berlin was an experience I would love to have over and over again. As soon as I returned to England, the one place I wanted to be was back in Berlin. Every day was packed with the most wonderful sights and laughter amongst us, which I think is shown perfectly in the photos! The memories made are the ones I won't forget, from the moment we boarded the plane to when I returned to Gatwick. My favourite part was the TV Tower, watching the sunset was surreal. Embracing the culture was great too, especially the food.

My favourite part of the trip was the Jewish Memorial Museum – it was so moving and was beautifully designed with lots of amazing art and culture. Of course the whole vibe of Berlin was amazing, especially in the east. I adored it and can imagine working and living there.



Urgently required

Blazers, school jumpers and PE kits needed!

Parents/Carers

We have had a quite substantial number of requests about school blazers, jumpers and PE kits. If you have any lying around that your daughter/son outgrown them, we would greatly accept donation of these.

All donations can be left at **Main Reception**.

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Preloved Uniform Shop Team

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, there are no casual bookings of the 3G pitch at any time during term times.

Mr Burtonshaw

World Book Day - Big Read

We celebrated World Book Day here at Charles Darwin at the end of the week with our annual 'Big Read'. Students across Y7, Y8 & Y9 each read a section of 'The Landlady' by Roald Dahl. By the end of the day everyone had read the full story and enjoyed the clever twist!

A big thank you to our students and all staff who embraced the day and enjoyed reading for pleasure together. Also, a big thank you to our librarian, Mrs Adams who ran a range of activities for World Book Day in the library.

Here are some comments from the day:

"My Year 7s this afternoon were brilliant - they were all over the story and did a complete run down for me and then an impromptu discussion around their favourite Roald Dahls stories! Brilliant stuff, lovely end to the week!" [Music]

"Great choice - all mine loved it!" [English]

"I have to say- I have really been enjoying this story, I love a short story. My students absolutely LOVED it and we spent quite a lot of time talking about it which was lovely, they were very invested!!!" [MFL]

"We have all joined in today. Great job in PE"

As a school we are committed to encouraging students to read for pleasure, not just through events like the 'Big Read' but also regularly in form time and the library.

The research shows that:

- Reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development and life achievement than socio-economic background.
- 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.
- Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.
- Reading is proven to enhance relaxation, calmness, concentration, quality of 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.
- People who read for just 30 minutes a week are 20% more likely to report greater life satisfaction.

Please look out for the subject reading lists shortly to be posted on our website and encourage as much reading for pleasure as possible at home.

Mrs Pitt

Football game against Farringtons

On Tuesday 7th our year 7 girls had a fantastic game against Farringtons. The girls had a great run out and showed a lot of resilience and determination!

Starting the first half we went 1-0 down. But with a great team goal scored by Maisy we gain an equaliser 1-1. The first half ended 2-1 to Farringtons. Although, we fought right through to the end of the 2nd half, the girls stayed really strong and supportive of each other. Preeya our goalie put in a great shift and saved lots of goals. Our midfield and strikers worked really hard round the defence and put up some good shots on target. Our defensive players stayed really strong and didn't shy away from any attacker. Really proud of the girls ending on 4-1 to the away side, which does not reflect the game we put on! Well done year 7!

Also a massive thank you to Ruby, Demi and Pheobe for refereeing and running the line.



Miss Gentry



Charles Darwin School PTA Monthly Draw

Enter for £1 per month.

Just fill in our online form to take part:

<https://forms.gle/XCHSgkZhyadTGspc7>

Scan here:



**Why not share
with friends
and family too?**

**WIN WIN: Half the winnings to our lucky winner
and half towards fundraising for our school!**



friends@cdarwin.com

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 3 March 2023.



7PDg/STi	98.7%
8EKa	96.2%
9LDa	98.7%
10SDa	93.1%
11PEI	97.4%
12RPi	98.1%
13CAb	95%

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 I 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

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.

**A huge thank you, you all have been super amazing.
Reception Team**

Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Harry Reilly	Rylee Newall
Ezekiel Owusu-Prince	Ralph Meah
Raff Hollinshead	Zara Rowden
Dhru Wells	Ronnie Loxdale



Thank you to our duties:

Emily Bazneh	Jimmy Lee Doman
Joshua Barber-Ellis	Cory Cooper

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

Dates for the Diary

March

14th March - Trip; Bromley Central Library, Year 12/13
14th March - Trip: Cyclopark Gravesend, Year 11, GCSE
15th March - NEU Industrial Action
16th March - NEU Industrial Action
16th March - Trip: Cyclopark Gravesend, Year 11, GCSE
20th March - Year 8 Reward Trip
21st March - Trip: Cyclopark Gravesend, GCSE Practical grades
22nd March - Year 9 Options Evening , 6pm
23rd March - Trip: Cyclopark Gravesend, GCSE Practical grades
28th March - Trip: UCAS Conference Excel Centre London, Year 12
29th March - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening
30th March - Trip: Churchill Theatre Bromley, Year 11
31st March - Trip: Geography - Stratford (Urban Fields) , Year 12/13
31st March - Trip: Austria, Saalbach, Ski trip
31st March - End of Term

April

17th April - Summer Term start

Term Dates 2022 - 23

SPRING 2023

Wednesday 4th January – Friday 10th February

Half Term: Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February
Monday 20th February – Friday 31st March

Easter Holiday: Monday 3^d April – Friday 14th April

SUMMER 2023

Monday 17th April – Friday 26th May

Half Term: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
Monday 5th June – Friday 21st July

Notes: Good Friday 7th April 2023

CDS INSET days:

Tuesday 4th July 2023
+ 2 inset days as twilights

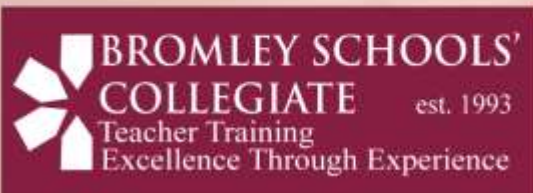
Bromley Schools Collegiate

Do you want to make a lasting difference to the lives of young people?

Train to teach with us and be ready for a career as a teacher.

Email administrator@gradteach.uk for more details.

TEACH



Want to find out more about teaching as a career?

We are holding a teaching information event at Hayes Secondary School on Tuesday 14th March from 4pm to 6pm.

To book a place please email: administrator@gradteach.uk





Charles Darwin PTA....

fundraising for our school



Quiz Night

Over 18s only

**FRIDAY 24TH
MARCH 2023**

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

£8 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF UP TO 8
TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS!

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO REQUEST
TICKETS OR CLICK **HERE**:**

<https://forms.gle/tMQKVqCupnaKskLA7>



Drink and Snack packs available, including pre-orders - more information to follow. Quiz teams can also bring drinks if they wish. Card machine available!