



13.12.2019

The Link Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

HEADLINES

Break with Cake

On Thursday this week I had the pleasure of spending my break with eleven Year 7 students who had been nominated by Mrs. Wheeler and the Year 7 Form Tutors for their super progress. They were an absolutely delightful bunch and it was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion listening to their thoughts on their first term at Charles Darwin. My thanks to all the students who attended.

Two Week October Half Term Consultation

Parents will be aware that this consultation is due to come to an end this week. So far the response from parents across both Biggin Hill Primary and Charles Darwin School has been largely in favour of the proposal for the two week half term break to commence from October 2020. If parents have not yet responded to the consultation then I would ask that you do register your preference by emailing consultation@cdarwin.com by the end of today. I will inform parents of the outcome in next week's LINK.

Sunil Chotai

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2019/20 Kindness in the Community



On 22nd November, School Council members volunteered to pack shopping bags in Waitrose during their lunchtime. The team rose to the occasion and managed to pack a multitude of shopping, and carried bags to the car as well as giving out chocolates as an act of kindness.

Members of the local community said, "it is nice to see young people doing something with nothing in return", "we need more people doing things like this" and the Council were frequently complimented for "creating a good image for the school." The Chair of the Council, Max Derbyshire (Year 12) stated, "I'm very proud of my team".



On Tuesday 17 December after school, the Council will be visiting Biggin Hill Primary School to hand out mince pies to wish the school community a very Merry Christmas.

Paula Szczyrba

Building Character Passports

Students in year 7-10 have a 'Building Character' Passport which should be kept in the back of their planners. There are 99 steps to Building Character - a collection of activities and experiences both in and out of school that we believe will add value and build some resilience, grit, character and give students some immersion into wider cultural experiences outside of school.

Why have we introduced this? Developing character is such an important aspect of young people's development, in a fast changing world.

There are lots of activities that focus on developing communication and team building skills, as well as the sorts of opportunities that are good when considering careers, application to 6th Form and University as well as CV writing.

Christmas is of course a busy family time, but if you do get chance over the festive season, see if you can collect some of the challenges. They just need to be signed with a few words of the detail of what was done.

Students are rewarded in end of term assemblies in each year group with certificates and badges.

Mr R Jones



END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS Thursday 19 December 2019



Pupils will be dismissed early on the last day of term as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Year 13 | dismissed from 9.50am |
| Year 12 | dismissed from 10.30am |
| Years 10 & 11 | dismissed at 11:30am |
| Years 7, 8 & 9 | dismissed at 11:40am |

The 664 and 684 bus services will leave the school grounds at 11:45am
The R8 will leave at 12:28pm (normal timetable) from Jail Lane (outside school grounds)
The R2 will leave at 12:24pm on Main Road towards Petts Wood

All students should register as usual at 8:30am on Monday 6 January 2020 for the start of the Spring Term.

**Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:
Parents/carers must phone before 08:30 with a full reason on every day of their child's absence.**

Monday 16th - Thursday 19th December 2019

Monday 16th December

No Assembly - School Production (Primary Matinee)

Tuesday 17th December

8.30am Year 7 Christmas Praise and Reward Assembly

Wednesday 18th December

8.30am Year 11 Christmas Praise and Reward Assembly

Thursday 19th December

8.30am Year 12/13 Christmas Praise and Reward Assembly

End of Term

Forthcoming Events

JANUARY 2020

Monday 06 January - Spring Term starts

Thursday 23 January - Year 11 Parents' Evening (2)

Thursday 30 January - Dance Competition Semi-Final

Friday 31 January - INSET DAY - School closed to pupils

Attendance and House Points update

Attend today: achieve tomorrow

The House Point totals for the Autumn term are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Henslow | 4200 (1st) |
| Wedgwood | 4037 (2nd) |
| Grant | 3735 (3rd) |
| Lyell | 3600 (4th) |

Congratulations to the highest scoring form from each Year Group:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Year 7 | 7FSu with 1098 house points |
| Year 8 | 8JLa with 734 house points |
| Year 9 | 9ADo with 315 house points |
| Year 10 | 10CAh with 498 house points |
| Year 11 | 11CZy with 196 house points |

Congratulations to the highest scoring students from each Year Group: **Michael Gewitzke, 7FSu** with **83** house points, **Jack Maslin, 8LBr** with **55** house points, **Liam Wescott, 9ADo** with **37** house points, **Freya Philip, 10CAh** with **43** house points and **Jack Longbottom, 11CZy** with **25** house points

The Attendance percentages by Year for the Autumn term are as follows:

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Year 12 | 96.8% |
| Year 7 | 96.4% |
| Year 8 | 95.9% |
| Year 11 | 95.7% |
| Year 13 | 95.3% |
| Year 9 | 95.1% |
| Year 10 | 95% |

11SCu and **12ARo** had the highest form attendance of **97.9%**, followed by **7FSu** on **97.3%** and **8JLa** on **97.1%**. Years 7 and 12 are currently above the whole school target of 96% attendance – well done to them all.

Mrs Rees

Duty Pupils for Praise Week ending 13th December 2019

Many thanks to Aiden Fletcher, Oscar Goodchild, Sophie Halliday and Rose Bell, Year 8.

Miss Payne
Reception

Top Attendance Week ending 6th December 2019

| Year | Tutor group | Percentage |
|------|-------------|------------|
| 7 | 7FSu | 97.5% |
| 8 | 8JLa | 97.2% |
| 9 | 9NDy | 95.9% |
| 10 | 10CGr | 97.5% |
| 11 | 11SCu | 97.8% |
| 12 | 12ARu | 97.9% |
| 13 | 13GSh/HDo | 96.4% |

Overdue Books

The Library currently has over 150 books overdue which need to be returned to the Library asap.

Please can all students check if they have any books in their bags or at home. Students can renew the books if they have not finished reading them, they need to come to the Library to do this.

Many thanks

Mrs Adams

50/50 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to Matthew Woods who won £45.50 in our November 50/50 draw with No. 191

Christmas Raffle

With the Christmas Draw taking place on the final night of the Production, we hope that everyone already has or is in the process of returning their ticket stubs, monies and/or unsold tickets to the school. If you haven't as yet, please ensure sure that these are returned early next week so as not to miss out.

We hope that you will support this great fundraiser and wish you the very best of luck in the draw.

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:

Parents/carers must phone before 08:30 with a full reason on every day of their child's absence.