



23.06.2023

Issue No: 1087

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Ofsted Inspection

As I said in my letter to parents earlier this week, I would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the Parent View survey as part of our Ofsted inspection and to those who sent in messages of support.

I am not allowed to provide feedback on the judgements at this point, due to legal technicalities. The report has yet to be written followed by a period of consultation and Ofsted need to carry out their own quality assurance. In most circumstances Ofsted will publish the final report on the Ofsted reports website within 38 working days of the end of the inspection. Once the final report has been received, we will ensure that all parents of registered pupils in the school receive a copy within 5 days. This will be either via email or published on the school website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all families for their continued support and I look forward to sharing the full details with you in a few weeks' time.

Year 11 Leavers' Event

I enjoyed attending the Year 11 leavers' event on Thursday morning. It was a lovely atmosphere and the admiration shown towards staff demonstrates what a fantastic job has been done. I spoke to the students about the journey they have been on and how this can be used to drive them forward. Holding our Aspire, Endeavour, Achieve values will support them as they consider what life balance looks like. My very best wishes to them for the future.

KS3 Drama Showcase

Tuesday's KS3 Drama Showcase was a real highlight of the week. The standard of acting was excellent for their age group and it is clear that there is a great of talent amongst our students. The showcase was led by the Year 12 drama students and had been incredibly well organised. It was also great to see parents cheering on the students. My congratulations to all involved.

GCSE Art Exhibition

I went along to the GCSE Art Exhibition this week and was incredibly impressed with the high standard of work on display. There was a wide variety of styles and the students should be congratulated on their excellent work.

Industrial Action

The latest round of industrial action by the NEU is proposed to take place on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July. I will update parents early next week as to whether we will be able to open the school to certain year groups.

Aston Smith

Bus and Community Information

Over the past few weeks we have been contacted by the Police and some bus users about antisocial behaviour on the buses including damage and poor behaviour in and around the community. It has transpired that some of the images from CCTV shared with us show that the perpetrators are not current Darwin students that are waiting to get the bus with friends from school. These young people have been identified by the Police. Please do note that the conduct of students to and from school remains a priority for us and we have regular meetings with the Police, TfL and the bus companies. We regularly remind students that when they are travelling to and from school in uniform to maintain good standards of behaviour and to continue to make the school proud.

We do have feedback from bus companies and they continue to remind us that a number of students are not tapping in their Oyster card. Despite the pressures on buses at key times, especially routes to and from school, we have it reported to us that the numbers tapping in their cards are low. This data is recorded and could impact future planning of services. Do make sure your child has an Oyster and is tapping on every journey.

Mr Jones

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



Mr Jones

Updated School Uniform from September 2023

You will have read in previous additions of the Link, and if you have been part of our new Year 7 Induction events, that the school uniform from September will be changing. This follows the whole school review of uniform in the Autumn term (staff, students and parents) which looked at reducing costs of certain key items of school uniform and PE kit and increasing choice of where some items could be bought by removing branding where appropriate.

You will know that the main changes are to have two price bands for skirts and blazers, and to update the House ties /blazer badges as the four Houses no longer exist across the school community as they did previously. There are other changes to the PE kit to remove branding/colour of some items in an effort to reduce cost and increase choice as to where items can be purchased. Girls can also choose to wear the school tie providing it is worn with a shirt collar from September 2023

The new uniform and kit is now available to purchase in advance of September via Oz Schoolwear, Petts Wood. Families should be advised to book an appointment time at the school shop asap as August slots go quickly and we are not the only school that Oz Schoolwear provide for. Families should not leave it until the end of the summer and assume there will still be items available.

Some of you may have already seen the new school ties and year badges to be worn by Years 7 – 10 in September 2023. There is now one school tie for these year groups based around the school colour of blue, and a blazer badge with a different band of colour for each year group (which year groups keep as they go up through the school, identifying the cohort ie year group, no longer the House).

For current students ie Years 7-9 now, ready for Years 8-10 in September, the new school ties and blazer badges can be ordered and paid for from the school via Parent pay from Monday 19 June. There will also be assemblies from this date explaining these changes. We will then deliver badges/ties to individuals in the week following order/payment, with an aim to get all students ready this side of the summer holiday in advance of September 2023. The new Year 7's 2023 can continue to purchase their badges/ties from the school uniform shop or at Induction meetings in the school as they will not have a ParentPay account linked to their child until September.

The new tie and relevant colours of badges for year groups from September 2023 are as below:



Price of the new tie and badges:

Tie - £5.40
Badge - £6.00

Year 11's Sept 2023 will maintain the current House badges and ties, with any replacements at just £2. This is to minimise the need to change for just 2 ½ terms before the end of the academic year and of course to reduce cost. The girls can also wear their house ties if they choose to.

Y9 and 10 Relationships and Sex Education lessons

Students in Year 9 and 10 will have a few lessons following their exams taught by their Science teachers to discuss and learn, in an age appropriate way about topics from this list:

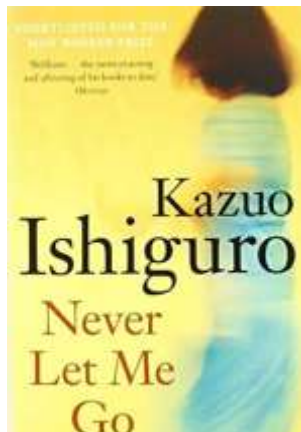
- The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women and menopause.
- The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage.
- The facts about contraceptive choices.
- How the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing if at risk.
- The concepts of, and laws relating to, FGM, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, pornography and how these can affect current and future relationships.
- That all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, for example physical, emotional, mental, sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing.

If you would like to discuss these sessions please contact Miss Kate Sampson, ksa@cdarwin.com. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from part or all of sex education until three terms before the child turns 16. Please contact me if this is what you would prefer.

Miss Sampson

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

The following book comes highly recommended by the English department:



Summary

Narrated by Kathy, now 31, *Never Let Me Go* hauntingly dramatises her attempts to come to terms with her childhood. Set in a chilling dystopian future (you may have seen the film) in a school, which at first seems safe and nice, Kathy faces the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world.



Book Club

Come along to Book Club

Every Monday lunch time in the library with Mrs Pitt 😊





Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

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Westerham
Kent TN16 3AU
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enquiries@cdarwin.com

Assessment Secretary **36 hours a week, 40 weeks a year** **Actual Salary - £24,750**

We wish to appoint an Assessment Secretary to join our committed and friendly Administration team. The successful candidate will assist the school's Examinations and Assessment Officer and will be responsible for the input of statistical data, creation and management of assessment reports, the analysis of data and will support the school's Exams and Assessment Officer in all aspects relating to the setting up and running of exams.

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. The school uses the SIMS Assessment Manager package and a working knowledge of SIMS together with Microsoft Word and Excel is essential. Previous experience of a similar role in a school would be advantageous.

Whilst this is a term time only role, the successful candidate will be expected to attend for four days in August for the examination results days.

For further details and an application form please visit our website: www.cdarwin.com (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not be considered.

Closing date: Friday 7th July 2023 – we reserve the right to appoint prior to this date if a suitable candidate is found

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.



Well done to our amazing GCSE Year 10 students who completed a 2 day moderation in kayaking at Danson Park this week. They represented the school with such pride and were a real credit to the course.

Kemi Fasoyiro
Harriett Pickett-Cooke
Issy Buck
Frankie Humphries
Kayden Plinston
Louis Simons
Zara Lewis
Evie McKenna
Izzy Shorter
Sofia Newton
Charlie Brown
Sascha Rawlins
Ruben Bell
Freddie Sinclair
Sasha Newton

Miss Owen



Wellbeing in the Summer

Could all students please bring a refillable water bottle to school. These can then be re-filled at break, lunchtime or before and after school.

It is very important to remain hydrated for concentration in this warmer weather.

Please remind your son/daughter that we do not allow "energy drinks", e.g. Monster and Red Bull or high sugar and caffeinated drinks, e.g. Lucozade, Lucozade Sport, Coke, Dr Pepper for students in year 7-11 as they are unhealthy and have a negative impact on behaviour and concentration.

Ms Kelly

ParentPay Canteen payments

Did you know you can set up an alert on ParentPay to notify you when your son/daughter's balance is running low? On the page that shows the balances for each person, underneath your current balance is the option to "Set up low balance alerts". You can then select which amount you want to be notified on, e.g. £5 and then you can select whether you want to be notified by text or e-mail. This will help students to avoid going to the till with food and having no money left in their account to pay for their food.

You can also see what your son/daughter has bought every day by looking at "lunchtime meal activity" at the bottom of the home page.

Ms Kelly

Blazers, school jumpers and PE kits needed!

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of school blazers, jumpers and PE kits. If you have any lying around that your daughter/son has outgrown, we would greatly accept donation of these. We also welcome any other parts of school uniform like school and football shoes.



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

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Preloved Uniform Shop Team

Mural Competition

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Charles Darwin School, we are redecorating the covered annexe area next to the canteen. As part of this, we will be painting a tropical mural celebrating the work of Charles Darwin to brighten the area up.

A competition to design the mural has been launched this week and the design brief is being set by Art teachers in years 7, 8 and 9 as a homework task. A copy is attached in case any other students would like to submit an entry. The deadline for this will be Wednesday 5th July by e-mail or to Ms Kelly on paper before that date. We would be grateful if you could mention this at home if you think this is something your son/daughter would be keen to do.

Ms Kelly

WELL DONE!



Sasha Morrell was competing at the Kent Schools Athletics Championships on 10 June, representing Charles Darwin. Sasha won the bronze medal in the Under 17s 400mH (despite still being 14). As such, he was selected to represent Kent schools at the South East England championships on 17 June. Sasha came 4th in the 400mH and Kent won both the under 17s boys competition and overall.

He will be competing again next year at under 17s, when we hope he can go all the way to the national finals.

Well done Sasha!
We are very proud of you !



On Saturday, Elizabeth Merredew fought in a judo competition for Charles Darwin School as part of the Bromley team at the London Youth Games. We are pleased to report that in the girls u52kg 12-15 year olds, Elizabeth came away with the gold medal.

Currently, Elizabeth has been flying in her judo career being part of the England Development Team. She currently is number 1 in Surrey, number 1 in the Southern Area, number 2 in England and number 2 in the UK.



On the 11th of June Pola Tokarska ran 5 km in Alexandra Park (Hastings) for Cancer Research #Race for life. She finished her run in incredible time 34 min. We are very proud of her attitude. She got in a family project supporting Cancer Research.



**Charles Darwin School,
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3AU**

**Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
Tel: 01959 574043
www.cdarwin.com**

Darwin Leisure Centre – Leisure Assistants

£9.50 per hour

We are looking to appoint a number of Leisure Assistants for our busy Leisure Centre. Applicants should have good inter-personal skills, a professional attitude to work and be able to work both independently and as part of a team. Successful candidates will be required to work during the afternoon and evening, including some weekends. Previous experience of working in the leisure industry would be advantageous, although training will be given.

Application forms and details of the post can be found on our website: [www.cdarwin.com/key information - vacancies](http://www.cdarwin.com/key-information-vacancies). Please note all applications must be made on the Charles Darwin Academy Trust application form – CVs alone will not be considered. Please return completed application forms to Mrs. J. Hodgkinson, Personnel & Administration Manager, Charles Darwin School.

Closing date: **28th June 2023**

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.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to year 7 Student Charlotte Weller who received a Jack Petchey award this week, having been nominated by the Spitfire Youth Club. Well done Charlotte!

Year 7 and 8 Drama Showcase

On Tuesday 20th June, 25 year 7 and 8 students performed a short scripted extract as part of a showcase event. Students had been working on these pieces for a few weeks with the help and support of year 12 Drama students and this was the first time many of them had performed in front of a larger audience and in the school hall. They very much rose to occasion!

They performed with confidence and energy, communicating their characters brilliantly and really entertained the audience. I'm really proud of all who took part.

Miss Currie



There will be a cake, cookie and ice pole sale on
Wednesday 28th June for the LGBTQ+ charity Justlikeus.org.

Any donations of rainbow themed cakes, cookies or sweets would be wonderful and students should bring some money with them if they would like to purchase anything.

Why is Pride important?

Today's LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, queer, questioning or ace) children and young adults are growing up in a time of dynamic social and political change with regard to LGBTQ+ rights and visibility. Social surveys indicate a consistent improvement in attitudes towards LGB people and their relationships. Laws enacted now offer protection for LGBTQ+ people and their families (*Marriage Act 2013; The Equality Act, 2010*). Culture, media, and politics offer mainstream visibility of LGBTQ+ people. Yet despite these changes, ever-mounting research has established that LGBTQ+ youth remain at risk of compromised mental health when compared with their heterosexual and cisgender peers.

LGBTQ+ health inequities are linked to experiences of stigma, prejudice, and discrimination. Studies demonstrate the potential psychological consequences and impact of bullying and prejudice on young LGBTQ+ people's mental health and wellbeing, which include self-harm and depression. Research indicates that adolescents who have same-sex attractions, or have same-sex romantic or sexual relationships, or who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual are more likely than heterosexual adolescents to self harm, to experience depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation, and to make suicide attempts. Further research reports on the consequences of homophobic or transphobic bullying in schools, which include: absenteeism, early school dropout, and poorer academic performance.

Charles Darwin School has a duty to protect the health and psychological wellbeing of its students. For children who are LGBTQ+, research by Stonewall (one of the UK's leading LGBTQ+ charities) found that feeling included at school is a crucial part of wellbeing. June is Pride Month and Charles Darwin School will be celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.

Hay Fever Season - Medication for Students

Hay Fever and the symptoms for children studying at school can be very uncomfortable, please ensure that if your child suffers with Hay Fever that they take any relevant medication/antihistamine before school. The school is unable to provide this medication to students.

Thank you

Mrs Booth

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 16th June 2023.



7BDe/ZHa	96.7%
8HBu	97%
9COn	95.2%
10ADo/GJo	92.9%
11WCa/LWr	100%
12FSu	97.2%
13TJo	100%

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

We need your help!



To enter please click on the link below.

[WIN £1,000/€1,000 for your school's library! \(nationalbooktokens.com\)](https://nationalbooktokens.com)

Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Harry Douglas	Maddie Lee
Tomi Omoyele	Holly Saunders
Taylor Ayling	Jack Penny
Tahlia Bell	Oliver Hollman

THANK YOU

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

Dates for the Diary

June

27th June - Trip: Drama - Apollo Theatre (2.22 Ghost Story), Yrs12

28th June - Rounders Tournament

July

4th July - INSET DAY

5th July - NEU Industrial Action

6th July - Trip: Science & Technology Challenge Day at Bromley College Yr9

6th July - Trip: Science Yr8 KS3 Stem in Action, London

7th July - NEU Industrial Action

14th July - Trip: Year 7 reward trip: Vue Cinema Bromley

16th - 21st July - Trip: Normandy & Paris KS3 History

19th July - Trip1: Boulogne (MFL day trip)

20th July - Trip2: Boulogne (MFL day trip)

Term Dates 2022 - 23

SUMMER 2023

Monday 17th April – Friday 26th May

Half Term: Monday 29th May – Friday

2nd June

Monday 5th June – Friday 21st July

CDS INSET days:

Tuesday 4th July 2023



As the weather is getting warmer please can all students bring in a reusable water bottle to school each day. The water bottles can be refilled at the canteen and near to Students Services at break time and lunchtime. We only have a limited supply of plastic cups for First Aid and use of students who forgot a water bottle.

Thank you
Student Services Team

2023-24 Term Dates

Autumn 2023

Tuesday 29th August – Friday 13th October

Half Term: Monday 16th October – Friday 28th 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

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.



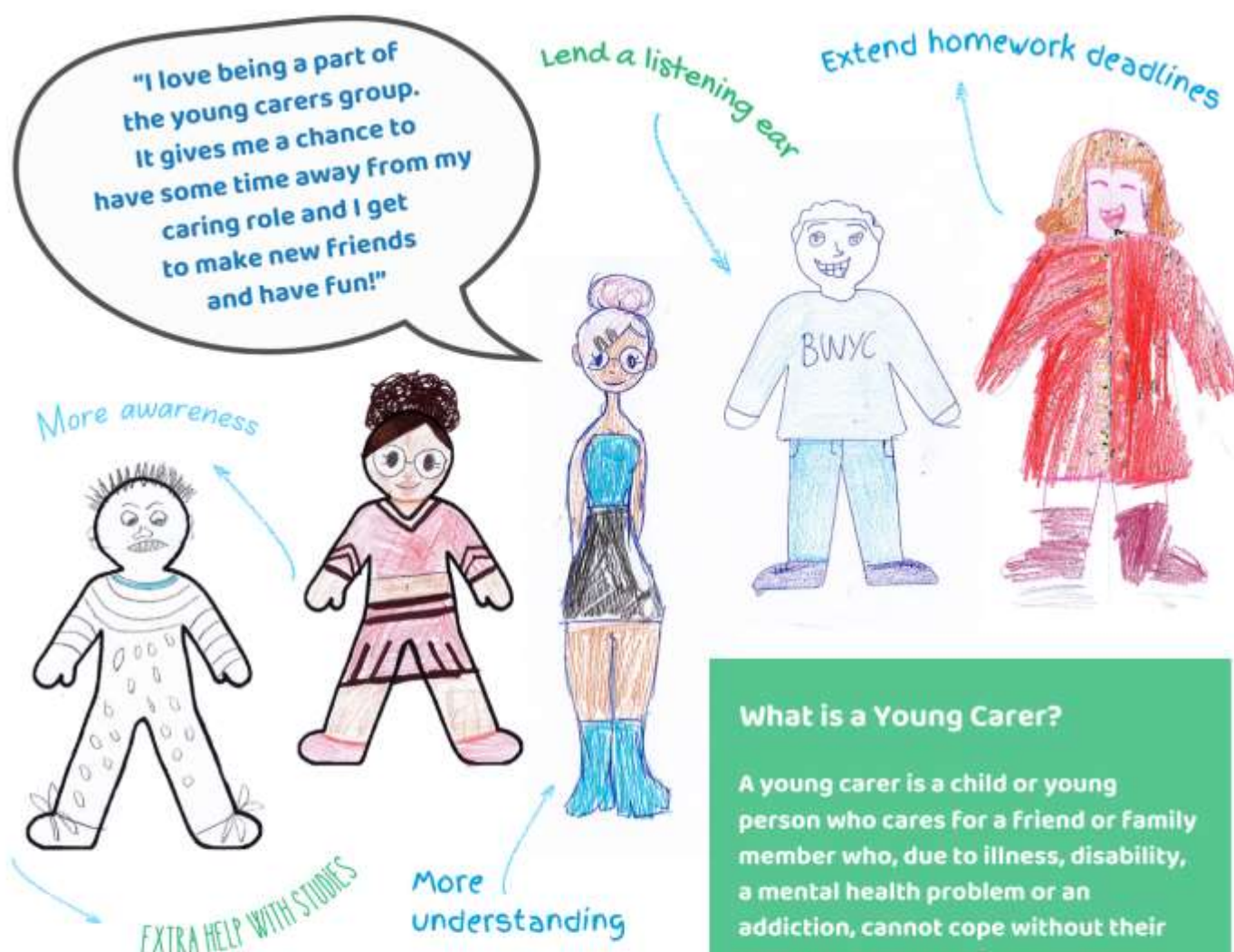
Young Carers are hidden

Help us find and support them

Did you know as many as one in five children and young people are young carers?*

Bromley Well

Young carers are taking on responsibilities way beyond their years. Many struggle with their emotional health or with keeping up with schoolwork. With the right support, these young people can thrive but we need your help to lighten the load.



What is a Young Carer?

A young carer is a child or young person who cares for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without their support.

Their caring role might include helping around the house, running errands, cooking, planning the shopping, administering medication, helping with siblings and supporting emotionally.

About Bromley Well Young Carers Service



Scan QR code to follow account

TikTok

Follow Us +



BROMLEYWELLYOUNGCARERS

Instagram

We support Young Carers aged 4 to 19 to manage caring relationships whilst enjoying childhood. To find out more about our service or to make a referral, contact the Single Point of Access.



0808 278 7898



spa@bromleywell.org.uk

*Research conducted by the University of Nottingham, September 2018.