



27.01.2023

Issue No: 1070

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Industrial Action

I wrote to families yesterday regarding the industrial action being taken by members of the National Education Union and consequently my decision to close the school to all students on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**, with the exception of a small number of our most vulnerable students who we are contacting directly. A full copy of my letter is available on our website: www.cdarwin.com

I am sorry that many families will have to make alternative arrangements for their children at short notice and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with mutual respect.

Teachers that are not taking strike action will be in school and will be leading live lessons via Teams or setting work via Satchel One. Students should log into Satchel One at 8.30am to see the work for the day. All of the information for lessons will be provided on Satchel One as a first port of call. Staff who are hosting live lessons on Teams will publish instructions via Satchel One. To access a live lesson, students should open their Teams calendar and click to join the live lesson at the start. Students should have their camera off at all times and turn on their microphone when instructed to do so by teachers. Any work that needs to be submitted should be done by following teacher instructions during the lesson. Students can also access a range of web-based resources that support the curriculum which can be found on our website through the 'student independent learning' tab or by accessing it here: <https://www.cdarwin.com/page/?title=Student+Independent+Learning&pid=403>

Teachers that are taking strike action are withdrawing labour and are therefore under no obligation to set any work, although some may choose to set work for their Year 11 or 13 classes.

If your child receives a free school meal and would like to have one on Wednesday 1st February this can be collected from school between 11.30 and 13.00. However the catering providers will need to know in advance by emailing charlesdarwin@harrisoncatering.co.uk at least 24 hours before. Please include the name of the child/children in the e-mail.

Achievement Badges

On Monday I had the pleasure of presenting the first set of Achievement badges to our Year 7 students. It was lovely to see how much they really appreciated these badges and it is fantastic that we have been able to gain financial support for these from the following local business:

Autoflame Engineering Limited
Limpsfield Combustion Engineering Ltd
Biggin Renovation Group Ltd
Howdens –Biggin Hill

Jack Petchey Awards Evening

On Monday evening Mrs. Rees and I went along to the Jack Petchey Awards evening at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley. It was a really fantastic event and one which made me very proud of our students. We also had the highest number of students present on the night receiving Achievement Awards. My congratulations to:

Maisie Loxdale
Jack Lynch
Amelia Mackay
Ellis Jones
Hannah Gurney
Charlie Coburn

Pierreice Powell
Brody Iliffe
Jesscia Champion
Sebastian Thompson
Rex Amankwah-Antepin
Lily Steen

Speak Out Challenge

On Wednesday I went along to see some of the work being done by the Year 10 students involved with the Speak Out Challenge. There were 27 students taking part in a workshop to develop their public speaking and communication skills. Sophia Jones from Speakers Trust was a sensation and provided an amazing workshop throughout the day.

From the final presentations I saw it was clear how proud the students were of their achievements in being able to develop their public speaking skills. For many this had been a personal fear that has been overcome. The whole day was clearly a very moving experience for those involved. My thanks to Mr. Nunn and the English Department for coordinating this workshop.

Aston Smith



Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

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

Exam Invigilators £11.00 per hour

We are looking for suitable persons to join our dedicated pool of Exam Invigilators responsible for the invigilation of public and internal exams and tests. Invigilators will be present throughout the main summer exam season as well as at other times in the school year and may also undertake tasks such as checking registers against scripts and packing them at the end of exams. Applicants should be available from 08.30 for the morning session and/or from 13.00 for the afternoon session. Training will be provided.

Closing date: 10th February 2023

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.

Personal Development– Building Character

For Personal Development, we understand that building character, especially after the time lost through the pandemic is essential to preparing students for young adult life. Building character is done in many ways but there are 5 key attributes to good character; Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication. On Wednesday morning we focused on Leadership where every class was off their normal timetable. Each key stage explored a different aspect of leadership; leadership styles, personal attributes of leadership, being a leader in difficult situations and introvert vs extrovert leadership. All students were off timetable for the first part of the morning to explore this at the same time with their form tutors. Students gained experience of leadership styles and worked in groups to explore their own leadership attributes and reflected on others. Please do check out the photos on Twitter and Instagram from the morning.

Mr Jones

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

Did you know we have a preloved uniform shop with a variety of nearly new school uniform and PE kits?

SUGGESTED DONATIONS

Please do not ever feel you must pay more than you think an item is worth, and likewise please do not feel you have to pay this amount (or at all) if times are tough – we are here for you.

If you are feeling generous and the item/s are of brand new quality we would never say no to a bit of extra cash for the children. There is NO OBLIGATION to pay the suggested amounts below:

£5 for a blazer
£3 for a logo navy jumper
£3 for trousers or a skirt
£2 White shirts/blouses
£2 for PE shorts
£1 for a Logo polo shirt
£5 for a logo red and black rugby top
50p for sports socks

For other miscellaneous items please use your discretion, all donations are greatly received as always, thank you for your support!

Payments can be made using PayPal on the QR Code below or Link as follows
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=YLY4A4L7E8E2S preferable but we do accept cash. Any money raised will go to The Friends of Charles Darwin School.



Football and school shoes needed!

Parents/Carers

We have had a quite substantial number of requests about football and school shoes. 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**.

Praise/Reward



Top highest achievers per each year for the period 01.09.2022 – 26.01.2023

Catherine Seidler	7RBr/RSi	160
Alexander James Hannaford	8JHd	125
Robert Brooks	9HCa	86
Daniel Davis	10DNu	91
Chloe McGonigal	11KW0	89
Amelia Turner	12IMr	26
Abbey Leonard	13AR0/MMe	25

Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 01.09.2022 – 26.01.2023

Catherine Seidler	7RBr/RSi	160
Lucas Nagle	7RMk	131
Alexander James Hannaford	8JHd	125
Phoebe Vincent	8RM0/STe	121
Hannah White	8GAn	118
Chloe Cocker	8RM0/STe	117
Jenson Ladd-Talbot	7TMi	110
Leo Nagle	7RMk	107
William French	7EOI/ALe	106
Leo Currier	8HBu	103



ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 20 January 2023.



7BDe/ZHa	97.1
8ECs/RGe	96.3
9NKO	96.9
10SDa	93.8
11PEI	97.8
12IMr	97.1
13GQu	98.1

Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Henry Clark
Jenson Witt Morris
Harry Skinner
Sofia Raulinaitis
James Reid
Nicholas Browning
Ryaan Sheraz
Leila Wilson

**THANK
YOU**

A huge thank you, you all have been super amazing.

Reception Team

Thank you to our duties, they have been fantastic this week, and their help has been invaluable:

Queenie Nsiona, Morgan Elrick, Leo McGeehan, Max Beswick

Student Services Team

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 day's 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

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 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



SIXTH FORM VALENTINE'S FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

Tickets: £1 for 1 strip or £2 for 3 strips

Lots of prizes to be won...

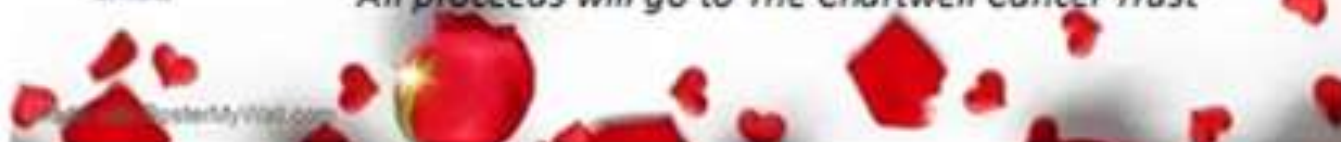
Chocolates, Cuddly Valentines Bear, Candles, Sweets, Gift Sets,
Gym Membership and lots more!

**TICKETS ON SALE ON PARENTPAY AND IN
SCHOOL FROM MONDAY 30 JANUARY 2023**



Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 9th February

All proceeds will go to The Chartwell Cancer Trust



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

Dates for the Diary

February

1st February - NEU Industrial Action

7th February - Parents MADE Revision Information Evening (time tbc)

8th February - Year 8 Parents' Evening

9th February - Early Finish (14.30)

9th February - Year 10 History Trip to Auschwitz

12th February - Trip: Berlin A level , EKa,

13 –17 February - Half term

28th February - Year 9 Parents' Evening

March

2nd March - NEU Industrial Action

14th March - Trip; Bromley Central Library, Year 12/13

15th March - NEU Industrial Action

16th March - NEU Industrial Action

20th March - Year 8 Reward Trip

22nd March - Year 9 Options Evening , 6pm

29th March - Year12/13 Parents' Evening

29th March - Trip: Austria, Saalbach, Ski trip

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

INSET Days - School closed to pupils

Friday 27th January 2023

Tuesday 4th July 2023

Notes: Good Friday 7th April 2023
Easter Monday 10th April 2023

CDS INSET days:

Monday 31st October 2022

Friday 27th January 2023

Tuesday 4th July 2023

+ 2 inset days as twilights

DOG HOUSE Channel 4

Is there space on your sofa for a rescue dog?

Do you want help finding your perfect pooch?

We're looking for people who can offer a lifelong home to a rescue dog, and would be happy to share their reasons for doing so. If this sounds like you, then [CLICK HERE TO APPLY](http://www.channel4.com/4viewers/takepart/the-dog-house).



**THE DOG HOUSE
IS BACK!**

Could you offer
a rescue dog
a loving home?

Applications now open

www.channel4.com/4viewers/takepart/the-dog-house



the Dog House

**Could you
adopt a dog
like me?**

APPLY NOW

www.channel4.com/4viewers/takepart/the-dog-house



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

Wrestling

To book the tickets please click on the link bellow:

<http://www.kapowwrestling.co.uk/event/live-wrestling-in-biggin-hill/>



KAPOW & SWF
PRESENT

WRESTLING

KIDS FOR £5
WITH PAYING ADULT - LIMITED OFFER
FRIDAY **3RD** FEBRUARY

BIGGIN HILL

CHARLES DARWIN ACADEMY - TN16 3AU
DOORS OPEN: 6.30PM | SHOW START: 7PM

TICKETS - FRONT ROW WITH MEET & GREET £16 | GENERAL £14 | CONCESSION £12 IF FAMILY OF 4 £48
FOR TICKETS SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT [KAPOWWRESTLING.CO.UK](http://www.kapowwrestling.co.uk)

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA | CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE | DASHING DESIGNS 2023

QR CODE

KAPOW! WRESTLING
SWF