



20.09.2019

# The Link Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## HEADLINES

### UCAS Information Evening

My thanks to all families who attended Tuesday's UCAS Information Evening. The evening went extremely well and it is good to see that a large number of our students are considering applications to university. This term staff will be interviewing students and writing references for their applications.

### Merger with Impact Trust

As parents will be aware, Charles Darwin Academy Trust (CDAT) has been in negotiation with Impact Trust (Hayes and Ravens Wood Schools) regarding a possible merger. I have to inform parents and carers that our plans for merging have not progressed as envisaged. After undertaking the parental consultation, the due diligence and after considering in detail the advantages and disadvantages the Trustees of both Trusts decided late last academic year not to proceed with the merger.

At the end of last term the CDAT Trustees discussed in detail the progress made on the merger thus far and considered again the many emerging consequences of the merger. Their decision not to proceed with the merger at this late stage was made after much detailed consideration of the proposed scale of change the merger would necessitate and its benefits and disadvantages for the CDAT schools.

The CEOs of CDAT and Impact have discussed the details of the reasons behind this decision and whilst they are both disappointed they fully accept and respect each Trust's position.

Sunil Chotai

## MR CULVER RACES IN LAUSANNE FOR TEAM GB



Over the last few years a few observant students have spotted me running down Jail Lane on my way home in the evening or getting into an aerodynamic tuck on my bike as I try to get a new personal record on my way past the airport. I explain to students that this is my idea of fun after a busy day at work and that carrying a set of books on my back is how I will gain the edge over my competitors!

I've never been able to shake the competitive streak I developed on the squash court as a child and over the last couple of years I've set my sights on making the GB age group world championship triathlon team. In June 2018 I swam 2 laps around Leeds Castle moat, relished the lactic acid burn on the bike leg and pushed hard around the hilly grounds on the run. It wasn't a race winning performance but this was a qualifying event and I had done enough to make the team. I ordered my GB tri-suit and booked flights to Switzerland, I was going to the world championships!

Now I'm hoping that a few students will be reading this so I'd like to mention a few of the hardships of remaining focused on an aspirational goal over a year away and working on my main weakness – the swim. I will leave parents to fill in the gaps and parallels to GCSE exams! Sorry to those swimmers out there but endurance swimming training is boring! I might do 15 x 100m or 8 x 200m as a main set. Or perhaps a long swim of 2000m broken into sets of 400m but it's all about following the black line up and down the lane, it's all about repetition. However just staring at the black line isn't enough, swimming is a technical sport and I've watched hours of instructional videos, taken advice from those faster than me and done lots of practice questions, sorry I mean race efforts, in order to improve. I visualised coming out of the swim with the time/ grade I had been aiming for and feeling strong for the rest of the event. I persisted and come race day I was ready to fight (sometimes in triathlon a mass swim start

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can involve a foot to the face or quick dunking!) for my position at the front of the lead swim pack.

My World Championship race was on Sunday 1st September and involved a 1500m swim, 40km bike and 10km run. Over the weekend Lausanne had become a triathlon haven with athletes from all over the world proudly wearing their nation's colours and talking of nothing but swim conditions and bike splits. The televised professional race the day before had enjoyed crystal clear conditions but we weren't so lucky. Within about 10 strokes of the starting gun I found myself buffeted about and unable to sight the buoys over the crest of the waves. Perhaps I should have trained more in the Biggin Hill pool at the same time as the water aerobics class! Adrenaline got me through and everyone had a tough swim so I didn't lose much ground. The bike course was hilly and I found myself in an overtaking battle with an American rider who passed me on the flats but my light build gave me the edge on the climbs and we yoyo'd back and forth until we hit transition and headed out on the run – my strongest discipline.



The run course was also hilly but I knew that if I was finding it tough, so was everyone else. There was brilliant support for GB athletes along the course and this really spurred me on. At one point I heard a yell of "Go on Culver!" I had a moment's panic as I wondered which student had spotted me out of a shirt and tie in my sweaty, delirious state as I pushed towards the finish line, but quickly remembered that my name was printed across my back! I managed to push ahead of the Mexican and Spanish athletes had been running alongside in the last kilometre but couldn't quite catch the red Swiss tri suit ahead of me in a sprint finish. I don't think I will be taking to the start line with either of the Brownlee brothers any time soon but I was proud to have finished in the top half of what was a very competitive international field.

I've now got my sights on next season's events and am looking forward to more exercise book based bike training and spending more time with that black line in the pool to achieve new personal bests.

**Mr Culver**



## 50/50 WINNERS

The Friends are pleased to announce the winners of our July and August 50/50 Club draws.

July No. 50 Elizabeth Anderson who wins £46.00

August No. 186 Natasha Vince who wins £45.50

We would like to thank all participants for their generous support and wish them good luck for future draws.



**The Friends**

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.

**PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:**

On **Friday 27 September** the school will close at 12.40pm so that staff can prepare for Open Morning on Saturday. Pupils eligible for free school meals should collect sandwiches from the Canteen at break time.

On **Monday 30 September** there will be a late start for pupils who should be in school for 9.30am. Please note that the 664 and 684 buses are running an hour later to accommodate the late start after Open Morning.

Thank you.

**Year 9 Computer Science Class Showcase: Paper Bridges Challenge!**

Last week the new Year 9 class were asked to use their problem solving skills to build a paper bridge using only one sheet of A4 paper and 5 paperclips across a distance of 20cm between the computer boxes in the computer lab.

Students worked in pairs and small groups of threes to devise a plan, implement it and then finally put it to the test in front of their peers. The paper bridges had to be able to hold the weight of as many coins before collapsing!

Students used their creativity, problem solving, teamwork and competitive skills to overcome this challenge! The winning team's paper bridge was able to hold 37 one pennies and 2 two penny coins! Well done to Tristan Kittoe and Rio Jones!

Mrs Elliott

**LOST PROPERTY**

Please could we remind all parents/carers, particularly Year 7s, to ensure your child has their Uniform and PE Kit labelled with their name.

We have had lots of lost property over the last two weeks that is not named which is taking considerable time to make its way back to its owner. Many thanks

Student Services

**Student drop off/collection**

Please note that for the safety of all children, staff and visitors to the school, there is no parking/stopping permitted on any of the yellow lines within the school grounds. Thank you.

**Open Morning 2019**

**Saturday 28 September**  
9.30am - 12.30pm

Headteacher's talks at 9:30am and 11:15am

**Open Week:**  
**Tuesday 1 – Friday 4 October**

A daily guided tour of the school in action at 08.40 followed by a Headteacher talk at 09.30am.

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Please can we request families of any ex students who have recently graduated, completed an apprenticeship or found employment to send a photo and a few details for our "wall of fame" and "where are they now" book.

We are always interested in where our ex pupils are and what they are up to. Please spread the word too. Info and photos to be sent to [kal@cdarwin.com](mailto:kal@cdarwin.com)

Mrs Allum  
Sixth Form Team

## Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

### Forthcoming events - Summer Term 2019

#### SEPTEMBER

**Friday 27 September** - Early close for pupils (Open Day Prep)

**Saturday 28 September** - Open Day

**Monday 30 September** - Late start for pupils at 9.30am

#### OCTOBER

**Monday 7 October** - Year 10 Geography trip to Stratford

**Monday 7 October** - Year 10/11 Theatre Trip (evening)

**Wednesday 9 October** - Autumn Music Fest

**Thursday 10 October** - Year 7 Settling in Tea

**Monday 14 October** - Year 10 Geography trip to Stratford

**Wednesday 16 October** - Year 7 Growth Mindset Parents' Evening

**Thursday 17 October** - Presentation Evening

**Friday 18 October** - INSET Day - School closed to students

**21 - 25 October** - Half Term

**Monday 28 October** - INSET Day - School closed to students

#### NOVEMBER

**Thursday 7 November** - Year 11 Parents' Evening (1)

**Thursday 14 November** - Sixth Form Trip to Chemistry in Action

**Thursday 21 November** - Sixth Form Open Evening

**Saturday 23 November** - Choir - Biggin Hill Christmas Lights 4pm

**Wednesday 27 November** - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening (1)

#### DECEMBER

**Monday 16 December - Wednesday 18th** - School Production

**Thursday 19 December** - End of Autumn Term

## Evening Caretaker

27.5 hours a week

Hours: 2.30pm – 8.00pm Monday - Friday

Actual salary £17,043 rising to £18,303 per annum

We are looking to appoint an Evening Caretaker to undertake general handyman duties each night after school from November 2019. The successful candidate will join our committed and hard working Site Team. The Site Team is managed by the Premises Manager who is assisted by two Senior Caretakers, two Assistant Caretakers and a team of cleaning personnel.

The role of the Site Team is to ensure that the learning process of the pupils is underpinned by the effective discharge of duties and certain personal qualities are expected. Above all else the successful candidate is expected to have good practical skills, be honest and willing to work hard. A full driving licence and use of a vehicle is essential.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com) – key information – vacancies. Please note CVs alone will not be considered.

Closing date 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

*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.*

## Pupils for Praise

**Duty pupils of the week ending 20.09.19**

Many thanks to Daniel Merredew, Ferne Harrison, Alex Horner, Vincent Thompson, Lily-Rose Holder, George O'Neill, Ruby Jordan, Lucy Pitt and Denzel Joseph.

Reception

## PARENTS EVENINGS 2019/20

Year 11: 7 November 2019 (1)  
Year 12: 27 November 2019 (1)  
Year 13: 27 November 2019 (1)  
Year 11: 23 January 2020 (2)  
Year 8: 6 February 2020  
Year 9: 4 March 2020  
Year 12: 25 March 2020 (2)  
Year 13: 25 March 2020 (2)  
Year 10: 29 April 2020  
Year 7: 7 May 2020  
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## HISTORY STAR OF THE WEEK



**Ruby Farmer and  
Grace McDonald, Year 8**

Started Year 8 with a very positive attitude and have really impressed me with their hard work and resilience in History, in particular with their classwork.

Well done, keep this up.

Miss Zysemil

## Presentation Evening Thursday 17 October

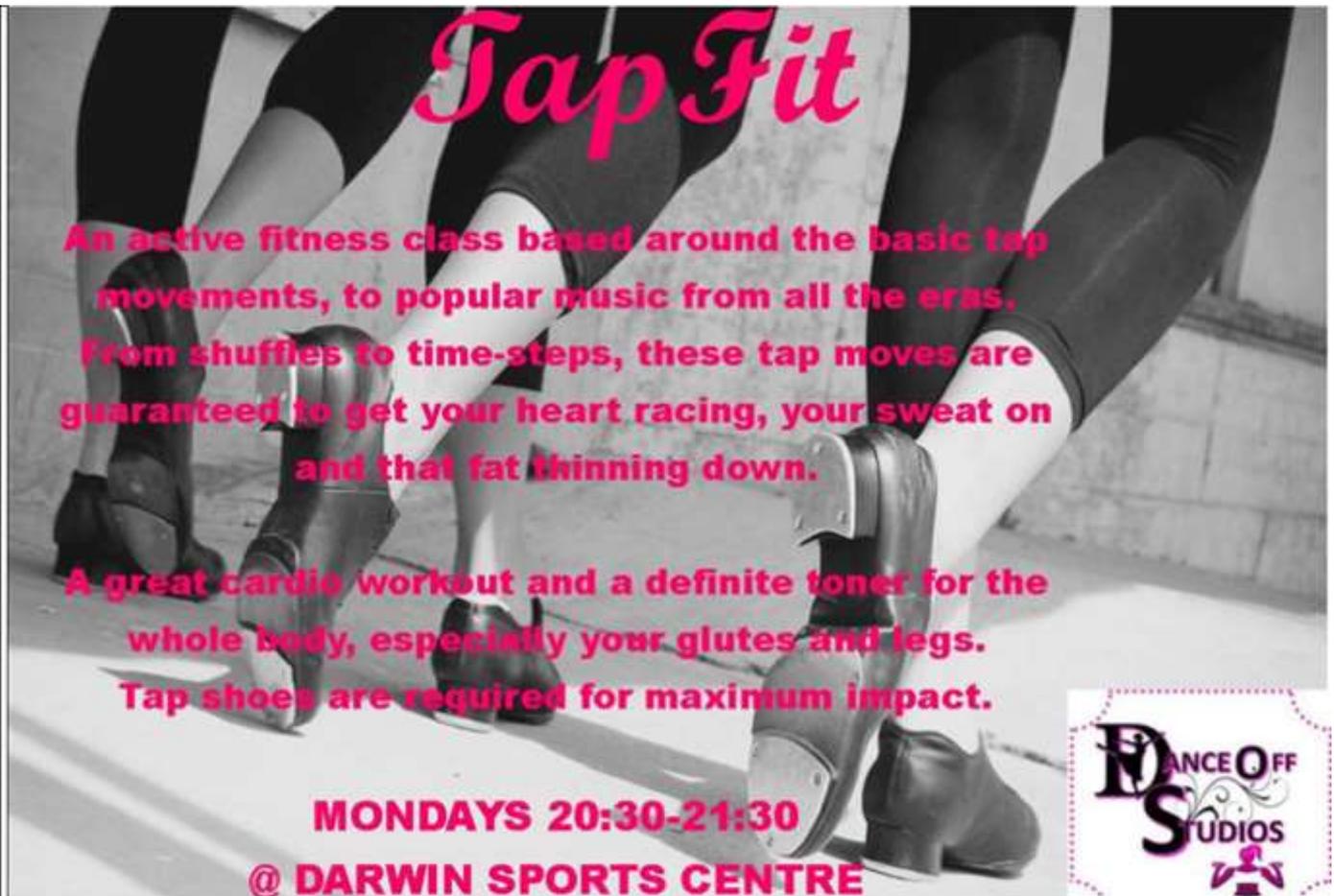
The Year 11, 12 and 13 students from 2019 and their parents are cordially invited to attend this celebration of exam results and academic achievement.

**More details to follow.**

**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.**

## ★ ★ ★ ★ NEW CLASSES AT DARWIN LEISURE CENTRE ★ ★ ★ ★



**TapFit**

**An active fitness class based around the basic tap movements, to popular music from all the eras. From shuffles to time-steps, these tap moves are guaranteed to get your heart racing, your sweat on and that fat thinning down.**

**A great cardio workout and a definite toner for the whole body, especially your glutes and legs. Tap shoes are required for maximum impact.**

**MONDAYS 20:30-21:30**  
**@ DARWIN SPORTS CENTRE**






**HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS**

**DANCE OFF STUDIOS**

**Free Trials**

Classes in Ballet, Tap, Street Jazz, Musical Theatre, Private Singing, Adult dance and fitness classes and more.

**Various Venues!**  
Students registered from 2 years old.

Teachers - ex **Brit School** Students with over 10 years teaching experience. All teachers are fully insured and DBS checked.

Want to appear at **The Stag Theatre**? Register now to participate

[www.danceoffstudios.com](http://www.danceoffstudios.com) / [www.facebook.com/danceoffstudios](http://www.facebook.com/danceoffstudios)  
[danceoffstudios@googlemail.com](mailto:danceoffstudios@googlemail.com)  
07583085145



# CARDIO CLUBBERS

Wednesdays  
8:15pm

Thursdays  
7:15pm

@ Charles Darwin  
Sports Centre

Do you miss  
your clubbing  
days?

Do you want to  
get fit whilst  
having fun?

Are you too  
self-conscious  
to go to  
classes?

A fun - packed dance aerobics class in a club setting that's bound to get your blood pumping, heart racing and calories dropping.

Dance away to club classics, wave your glow sticks in the air—all whilst getting fit.

The best way to spend any night out!

Great Moves! Great music! Great vibes! Great results!



# Ballet Bootiful



EVERY Thursday  
18:00-19:00  
@ DARWIN SPORTS CENTRE



A stunning fitness class based around the techniques of classical ballet, you will find muscles you never knew existed. Taught by fully trained ballet teachers, this fitness class will have you shaking, clenching and squeezing!  
This brilliant art form will work on toning your muscles, working especially on your legs, arms and booties!