



16.06.2023

Issue No: 1085

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### Ofsted

My thanks to all families who completed the Parent View survey for our Ofsted inspection this week. As I write this the inspection is on-going and we will not be able to share feedback for some weeks.

### Uniform

Thank you to families for supporting us with our focus on uniform. Students have looked incredibly smart and overall the standard of uniform is much improved. We will continue with this focus for the remainder of the school year.

### A Level Private View

The A Level Private View exhibition on Tuesday was absolutely fantastic and my congratulations to the staff and students involved. The displays were simply amazing and it was so good to have a number of the A Level students on hand, ready to discuss their work which further enriched the experience. There was a real sense of pride and as one Governor wrote afterwards "what a privilege it is to see young artists' honesty and openness in tackling complex and very personal themes." Well done everyone.

### Natural Wildlife Project

A few weeks ago some of our Year 10s worked with Mr Burtonshaw in installing a new pond as a part of a natural wildlife project and earlier this week it was lovely to see Ms Sirett adding some new plants that had been grown as part of her Science Club. Ms Sirett said that Year 7 Science Club were excited to plant their sunflowers and nasturtium that they had grown from seed in the eco-garden this week. It's been great to see them grown in the greenhouse we have in Science Department and hopefully they will make a good addition to the garden. Any 'green fingered' year 7s and 8s are welcome to join the Science Club on Tuesdays in Sc10.

*Aston Smith*



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 this week, 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.

**Mrs Rees**

# 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](mailto: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

## Exams Time

Please see below ideas for a healthy, fulfilling snacks.

This week's recipe for Mexican Chicken Enchiladas is attached separately.



## SNACK RECIPES

TRY SOME OF THESE DELICIOUS AND REALLY EASY TO MAKE SNACKS TO TAKE A BREAK AND BOOST YOUR BRAIN POWER....

### EDIBLE PLANT POTS

150g cottage cheese  
50g wholemeal croutons, buy them and blitz them to a powder in the food processor  
your choice of vegetables; carrots, cucumber, things you can eat raw or lightly cooked.

#### METHOD:

Layer the cottage cheese into a glass, mug or even a clean plant pot, top with the crumb to make the 'soil'. Push in the veggies to make it look like a garden, simple! Pretty to look at and tasty to eat, plus it'll give you a boost!



### SOFT BOILED EGGS AND MARMITE SOLDIERS

2 eggs  
2 slices toasted wholemeal bread  
Marmite

#### METHOD:

Heat a saucepan of salted water until it boils, add the eggs and set a timer for 6 minutes. Take your warm toast, spread with butter and Marmite and slice into 'soldiers'. Take the tops off the eggs and get dipping!



### HONEY, FRUIT AND NUT GRANOLA BARS

Pre-heat the oven to 160°C.  
100g butter, melted  
200g porridge oats  
200g mixed nuts and seeds, buy them already done to save time and money  
100g bag mixed dried fruit, cranberries, golden raisins etc.  
85ml runny honey

#### METHOD:

Mix everything in a large bowl, pour the mix into a baking paper lined baking tray and bake for 30 minutes, allow to cool before slicing.



### COCONUT CHIA POT AND FRUIT COMPOTE

30g chia seeds  
100ml coconut milk  
Your favourite selection of berries, lightly dusted with caster sugar and left for about an hour to macerate (they will create their own syrup).  
Toasted coconut shavings

#### METHOD:

Soak the chia seeds in the coconut milk for about 20 minutes. Arrange the fruit on a plate or top the chia seeds with them and finally top with the toasted coconut.



### CINNAMON BAKED PLUMS AND APPLES, OAT CRUMBLE, CRÈME FRAICHE

2 ripe plums, stone removed and quartered  
2 red eating apples, cored and 1cm diced  
45g caster sugar  
100ml water  
75g porridge oats  
15g butter, melted  
¼ teaspoon vanilla extract  
80ml crème fraiche

#### METHOD:

Preheat the oven to 180°C.  
Boil the water and sugar until half of the water has gone, add the plums and apples, remove from the heat and leave for 5 minutes. Mix the melted butter and the oats. Put the apple and plum mix into an ovenproof dish and top with the oats. Bake for 15 minutes. Stir the vanilla extract into the crème fraiche. Spoon the crème fraiche on top of the crumble and get stuck in!



### PEANUT BUTTER AND BANANA WHOLEMEAL TOASTIE

Toast 3 slices of wholemeal bread and make a triple decker, layering crunchy peanut butter with thinly sliced bananas.







## Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

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

### **Assessment Secretary** **36 hours a week, 40 weeks a year** **Actual Salary - £22,811**

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](http://www.cdarwin.com) (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not be considered.**

**Closing date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 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.*

### **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**

# Update from Charles Darwin PTA

## **'EasyFundraising' Update: Raising money for shopping** <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Thank you to the following for being our top shoppers via Easyfundraising and for raising money for our school: Elaine F, Jason H, Melanie L, Sarah H.

Welcome to our new supporters who have recently joined to build our total to 20 supporters: Nicola T, Toby J, Georgina A.... Amazing!

Our 20 joiners have already helped to contribute £119.02 to our funds.

Please make sure you tick the browser extension which acts as a donation reminder – this saves you remembering to do anything as you shop.

## **Latest funding requests**

We have received 6 new requests for funds and hope to fund as many of these as possible. Your continuing support is helping us to support many of these requests, as long as they are in line with our objectives. The latest funds requests have come from: Library, Languages, Pastoral team, Maths, Art & Textiles and Humanities. We look forward to reporting back on these requests.

## **Social Media**

Please like and follow our pages on social media as it really helps to extend our growing network and helps us to communicate with you.



Facebook

@friendscharlesdarwinschool



Instagram

charles\_darwin\_PTA



Twitter

@pta\_Darwin

## **Next Meeting**

The PTA team are meeting at The Crown Inn, Leaves Green on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm to conclude this school year and start planning for our next school year. Everyone is welcome! We will also be drawing our monthly cash prize draw winner for June. If you haven't joined our draw yet, please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/34ys3t3v>

We are still a fairly small and new team so please make contact with us if you have fundraising ideas or suggestions for social events to benefit our school community. We are already planning our second quiz night for after the summer holiday break.

## **New year 7 cohort**

We were delighted to be invited to the new year 7 induction evening last week and enjoyed meeting so many new parents. We shared a video with the audience which is available to view online: <https://vimeo.com/830561223?share=copy>



Congratulations to Mia Stathopoulos in year 7 who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the Shetland Pony Grand National competition taking place in Aachen, Germany.

Mia is one of 10 jockeys taking part and has been working extremely hard to achieve this accolade alongside her studies.

**Well done Mia!**

## Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

The following book comes highly recommended by the PE department:



### Summary

From being placed in the local boys' team as a child because her mum wanted her to run off her boundless energy, to joining Middlesbrough FC's Centre of Excellence and making her professional debut at Sunderland, Beth and women's football have come a long way.

Now, Beth shares the challenges that shaped her, what she faced on the journey to the top, and the life events that made her stronger - from being dropped from the England squad and receiving devastating family news, to finding her best form under the guidance of Jonas Eidevall and Sarina Wiegman. Filled with positive lessons and an exclusive account of England's triumphant Euros campaign, Beth offers readers of all ages a heartfelt, behind-the-scenes look into her remarkable journey to glory.



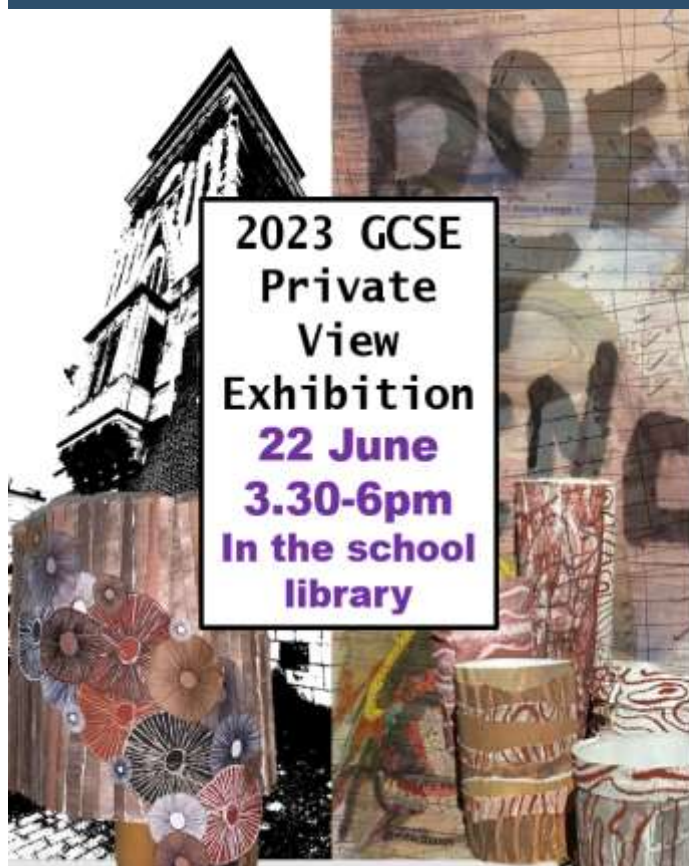
## Book Club

Come along to Book Club

Every Monday lunch time in the library with Mrs Pitt ☺



## 2023 GCSE Private View Exhibition



**2023 GCSE  
Private  
View  
Exhibition  
22 June  
3.30-6pm  
In the school  
library**

We are pleased to invite you to attend our GCSE Art and Textiles Private View exhibition

We are proud of how our students have matured and developed as individuals as well as designers and artists. The work on show will display the diverse range of skills, talents and techniques, not to mention hard work and dedication.

We look forward to seeing you at this event.

Polite reminder that photos taken of artwork are NOT ALLOWED on social media, this is an exam board stipulation as grades may be compromised

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

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH  
Tel: 01959 574043  
[www.cdarwin.com](http://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: **22nd 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.*

## Trip to Brockley Jack Theatre

On Wednesday 14th June, year 10 GCSE Drama students and year 12 A-Level Drama students went to the Brockley Jack theatre to see a production of the Mark Wheeler play 'I Love You, Mum- I Promise I Won't Die'. The play tells the real life story of Dan, a popular schoolboy from Croydon, who took ecstasy at an illegal rave and tragically died as a result. The performance was powerful and emotionally charged, re-calling what happened to Dan, the choices he made and the impact on his friends and family. All of the dialogue we heard was taken from interviews that the playwright did with family and friends of Dan.

The students were a pleasure to be with from start to finish and I look forward to going on another theatre trip with them soon.

**Miss Currie**

### **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**

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**



# ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 9th June 2023.



7BDe/ZHa	97.8%
8JHd	93.6%
9LDa	95.9%
10IJo	91.3%
11JLa	100%
12FSu	97.1%
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**

## 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.



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**



## Dates for the Diary

### June

**20th June** - Trip1: PE Year 10 Kayaking, Danson Park Lakes (GCSE practical grades)

**21st June** - Rounders Tournament

**22nd June** - Trip2: PE Year 10 Kayaking, Danson Park Lakes (GCSE practical grades)

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

**28th June** - Rounders Tournament

### KS3 Exams Dates

**Year 7 and 8** – Monday 5 June – Friday 16 June

**Year 9** – Monday 12 June to Friday 26 June

### July

**4th July** - INSET DAY

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

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

**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)

**21st July** - End of Term

## Term Dates 2022 - 23

### SUMMER 2023

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May

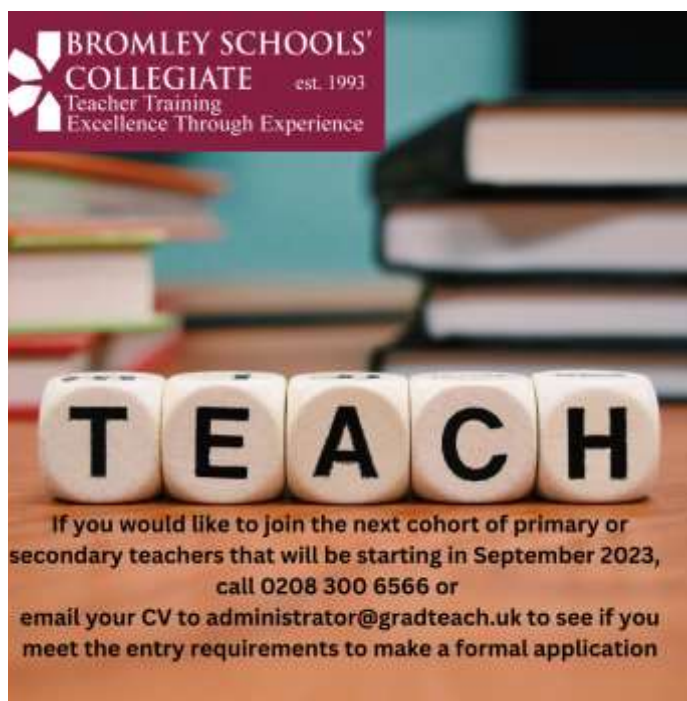
*Half Term: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday*

*2<sup>nd</sup> June*

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

### CDS INSET days:

Tuesday 4th July 2023



**BROMLEY SCHOOLS' COLLEGIATE** est. 1993  
Teacher Training  
Excellence Through Experience

**TEACH**

If you would like to join the next cohort of primary or secondary teachers that will be starting in September 2023, call 0208 300 6566 or email your CV to [administrator@gradteach.uk](mailto:administrator@gradteach.uk) to see if you meet the entry requirements to make a formal application

"Do you know someone that would make a great teacher? Bromley Schools' Collegiate is recruiting graduates to join their primary and secondary Initial Teacher Training programme for a September 2023 start. If you know someone who could be that inspirational and caring teacher that will help our young people locally to flourish and grow, then ask them to get in touch."

*Bromley Schools' Collegiate*

*Established in 1993*

*Outstanding Initial Teacher Training for Primary and Secondary (Ofsted November 2015)*

## Holiday Activities & Food (HAF)

# SUMMER ACTIVITY CLUB

AGES 5-15



Different Sports | Fun Games | Football Tournaments | Healthy Lunch

Monday to Thursday from 10am-2pm at 2 locations!



Gray's Farm Primary Academy, Grays Farm Road, Orpington, BR5 3AD  
Manor Oak Primary School, Sweeps Lane, Orpington, BR5 3PE

- ★ Week 1 - 24th to 27th July
- ★ Week 2 - 31st July to 3rd August
- ★ Week 3 - 7th to 10th August
- ★ Week 4 - 14th to 17th August



Scan QR code to book

\*FREE places and lunches are available during the summer holidays for children and young people entitled to Pupil Premium (Benefit-related Free School Meals).

FREE PLACES  
AVAILABLE\*



020 8138 9663 / 07756 826105



admin@dynamicmail.co.uk





## COST

**FREE** places and lunches are available during the summer holidays for children and young people entitled to Free School Meals (Pupil Premium), subject to availability and eligibility.

The cost for non-eligible children and young people is stated below. Please provide a packed lunch (no nuts) and a drink if paying for a place.



**£15 per day**



**£55 for all 4 days  
(this works out at £13.75 per day)**

We are proud to work in partnership with the London Borough of Bromley to improve the lives of children and young people.



THE LONDON BOROUGH  
[www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)