



28.04.2023

Issue No: 1080

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Industrial Action – 2nd May

As parents will be aware the next day of industrial action by the NEU will take place on Tuesday 2nd May. The arrangements will be the same as those for Thursday 27th April in that the school will only be open to Year 11 and Year 13 students, together with a small number of our most vulnerable students who have been contacted. NEU are keen to reduce the impact of strike action on these year groups and we have agreed here at Charles Darwin that teachers of Year 11 and Year 13 students who are taking strike action will set work for their classes on Satchel One. Work will be directly related to the work they are currently doing.

Year 11 students must be in school by 9.15am for an assembly at 9.30am ahead of lessons or where teachers are not in they will be able to work through the work set by their teachers on Satchel One in a computer room where appropriate support will be provided. **Attendance for Year 11 is compulsory and essential at this stage of their course.**

Year 13 students should be in the Hub for 8.50am. Students will attend lessons where teachers are in and for other lessons students will be supervised in the Hub while they work through the work set by their teachers on Satchel One.

School will be closed to students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Teachers not taking strike action will be in school and will be leading live lessons via Teams or setting work via Satchel One. Students should access Satchel One at 8.30am to see the work for the day.

Please note that the Year 12/13 Finance exam will go ahead on 2nd May.

Year 7 Parents' Evening

The Year 7 parents' evening on Wednesday was well attended. The evening went very well and it was great to see families coming in to school for face to face meetings. Iain Turner, Chair of Governors, and myself spoke to a number of parents and they were all extremely complimentary about the staff and the way their children had been made to feel welcome and supported.

Junior Maths Challenge

On Wednesday morning 140 students from Years 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. My thanks to Mr. Mills for organising this and I look forward to hearing the results in due course.

And finally ...

I would like to wish all students and their families a relaxing and enjoyable bank holiday weekend.

Aston Smith

Praise

This week a member of the public got in touch with us to say how proud they were to see children in Charles Darwin uniform helping a gentleman in Biggin Hill whose van had broken down.

She said it was so nice to see the younger generation running to the man's aid without being asked and wanted us to pass on the public's appreciation. It is always nice to receive comments like this from the community and whilst as yet we don't know who these students are, we would like to say a huge well done for showing such wonderful community spirit.

Mrs Rees

Thank you

All of us at Charles Darwin School want to send a huge thank you to **The Motorist Centre** in Biggin Hill for their generous donations towards our new Praise/Reward system.

Your kindness is truly appreciated and the money you have donated will go towards the purchase of the new Achievement Badges for this academic year.



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 (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not be considered.

Closing date: Monday 8th May 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.

Year 11 Leavers Book & Hoodies

Year 11 Leavers Book & Hoodies

Orders for the Leavers book and hoodies need to be in by **Friday, 28th April**.

Anyone who would like to order a book/hoodie but would like extra time to pay, please contact Mrs Gater.

Thank you

Mrs Gater

All students are requested to leave the school site promptly unless taking part in supervised activities after school. For safety and security reasons no casual or recreational activities should take place without direct supervision from staff.

The Darwin Leisure Centre fitness gym is open to student paying members only between 3.15-4.30pm who must then leave the premises as quickly as possible; from 4.30-6.00pm only School/Club bookings are allowed on the 3G, there are no casual bookings of the 3G pitch at any time during term times.

Mr Burtonshaw



Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

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

Art & Textiles Technician **25 hours a week, 40 weeks a year** **Actual Salary - £15,336**

We wish to appoint an Art & Textiles Technician to be responsible for the organisation of materials, equipment and resources in our popular and successful Art and Textiles Department. Working closely with the Head of Department the successful candidate will support staff in the department and help and promote good quality display across the school.

Applicants should be creative and have artistic flair with ideally a background involving the arts.

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: Monday 8th May 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.

Year 10 Mock Interviews – Industry Recruiters

We hold this event every year as an important part of our senior pupils' education, giving them the chance to see how they will be expected to behave in order to be successful in securing an offer of a College or University place or to be successful in the job market and encouraging them to think about a career path they may be interested in after their GCSEs.

We are looking for volunteers to take part in the Year 10 Mock interviews this year.

If you are available on Thursday 20 July 2023 to interview some of the Year 10 students or know of any industry recruiters who will be able to assist with the interviewing process please contact Mrs Franco on tfr@cdarwin.com by 22 May.

Thank you

Mrs Franco

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

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

At Charles Darwin school we aim to develop a culture where reading is valued across the curriculum.

Our three priorities:

1. Students will be given regular opportunities to read for enjoyment
2. Wider reading will be encouraged where possible across all subject areas. [Staff across the curriculum are encouraged to share what they are reading]
3. Learners will be given opportunities in lessons to read and explore complex vocabulary in order to develop a more academic style.



Visit the library – it's great! 😊

Reading and life chances

- Reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development and life achievement than socio-economic background.
- 16-year-olds who choose to read books for pleasure outside of school are more likely to secure managerial or professional jobs in later life.
- Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.
- Reading is proven to enhance relaxation, calmness, concentration, quality of life.
- Studies have found that reading for pleasure enhances empathy, understanding of the self, and the ability to understand one's own and others' identities.
- Regular readers for pleasure reported fewer feelings of stress and depression than non-readers, and stronger feelings of relaxation from reading than from watching television or engaging with technology intensive activities
- People who read for just 30 minutes a week are 20% more likely to report greater life satisfaction.

Book Club

Come along to Book Club

Every Monday lunch time in the library with Mrs Pitt 😊



Mrs Pitt

Computer Science Spotlight

As part of revision, we have switched up revision techniques in class by testing students' knowledge in another way, through group activity and competition. We ran a Bank Heist session, where students worked in teams of 4 to get inside a bank, empty out as many of the 90 safety deposit boxes by answering a computer science related question. If they got it correct, the team added money to their pot, if they got it wrong, the money disappeared! The teams had 30 minutes to empty as many boxes before they triggered a silent alarm, where they needed to use their exit strategy to get out of the bank. This was really putting their programming skills to test as teams needed to decode and unscramble a word which would release them out of the bank in time! This was a great activity our year 11s enjoyed and only three teams made it out! The winning team's final score was £29,110, although they couldn't take that in reality and split it four ways, the students were rewarded with a £20 Amazon voucher. Our winning team were: Grace Kelly, Lewis Longley, Emma Pini and Tabi Isaac.

Another session we ran, was testing the students' knowledge through a murder mystery. Students worked in teams of 2s and 3s to solve the murder within 45 minutes. Again, for students to progress through the different characters to interview and work out who the murderer was and the weapon used, students had to answer computer science related questions without the aid of their notes. From our 7 teams, only 4 teams solved the murder however, the team with the lowest points won the competition, our winning team, with zero points were: Luke Rice, Lucy Pitt and Ferne Harrison.

Mrs Elliott
Head of Computer Science & IT

SIXTH FORM PREPARE TO CLIMB THE O2 FOR CHARITY

Sixth Form Staff and Students will be climbing the O2 on Wednesday 3rd May in aid of a local charity, The Chartwell Children's Cancer Trust.

The Chartwell Children's Cancer Trust is a small charity with a big commitment to improving the lives of cancer and leukaemia patients and to helping the NHS to go above and beyond in their provision of care and their standards of excellence.

Please donate if you can and share our Fundraising link with family and friends. Every pound makes a big difference!

https://www.justgiving.com/page/cds-staff-students-1681990342225?utm_term=pBnJ5G6Ga

You can find out how our climb went in next week's Link.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Kearney and the Sixth Form 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.

Achievement Points



Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 01.09.2022 – 27.04.2023

Catherine Seidler	7RBr/RSi	220
Alexander James Hannaford	8JHd	181
Lucas Nagle	7RMk	178
Leo Currier	8HBu	164
Harriet Downer	8RMo/STe	158
Phoebe Vincent	8RMo/STe	158
Jenson Ladd-Talbot	7TMi	146
Chloe Cocker	8RMo/STe	145
Leo Nagle	7RMk	144
Hannah White	8GAn	143



Top highest achievers per each year for the period 01.09.2022 – 27.04.2023

Catherine Seidler	7RBr/RSi	220
Alexander James Hannaford	8JHd	181
Deborah Chapman	9SCu	125
Rex Antepim	10IJo	110
Chloe McGonigal	11KWo	116
Ciara Bain	12Mcr/MMe	76
Abbey Leonard	13ARo/MMe	32



Are you aged 10-17?

Interested in gaining new Skills, Qualifications and Experiences?

Want to meet new people and make new friends?

Join us Monday and Thursday evenings 19.00-21.30



Contact us to arrange a visit:

E: oiic@bromleyseacadets.co.uk

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SeaCadetsBromley) / SeaCadetsBromley

sea-cadets.org/bromley



If you would like more information please visit our website at www.sea-cadets.org/bromley

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.



Please place your orders using our QR code or the attached link
<https://forms.office.com/r/EYNuVcZpsa> to our order form or alternatively email us with your requirements (size, gender, specific item) to preloveduniform@cdarwin.com.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 21 April 2023.



7RMk	99.3%
8SAr	95.7%
9COh	94.8%
10ADo/GJo	96.4%
11NYe	97.1%
12FSu	100%
13GQu	98.1%

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

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

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

Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Ruby Sheehy
Dani Tomkinson
Bailey Sale
Olivia Daley

Riley Turnball
Ralph Pratt
Ellis Jones
Maksym Kryvylo



Thank you to our duties:

Seren Malcomson
Jack Lynch
Joseph Fullagar

**They have been fantastic this week, and their help has been invaluable.
Student Services Team**

Dates for the Diary

May

1st May - Bank Holiday

2nd May - NEU Industrial Action

3rd May - Trip: 6th Form Climb the O2 ,Yrs12/13

5th - 6th May - Trip: DofE Yr10 Bronze practice expedition

8th May - Bank Holiday

10th May - Year 10 Parent's Evening ,3.45pm

25-26 May - Trip: DofE Yr9 Bronze qualifying expedition

29th May - Bank Holiday

29th May - 2nd June - Half Term

KS3 Exams Dates

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

Year 9 – Monday 12 June to Friday 26 June

June

6th June - Trip: UCAS Conference , Excel Centre, London ,Yr12

7th June - New Year 7 Induction Evening,7pm

Term Dates 2022 - 23

SUMMER 2023

Monday 17th April – Friday 26th May

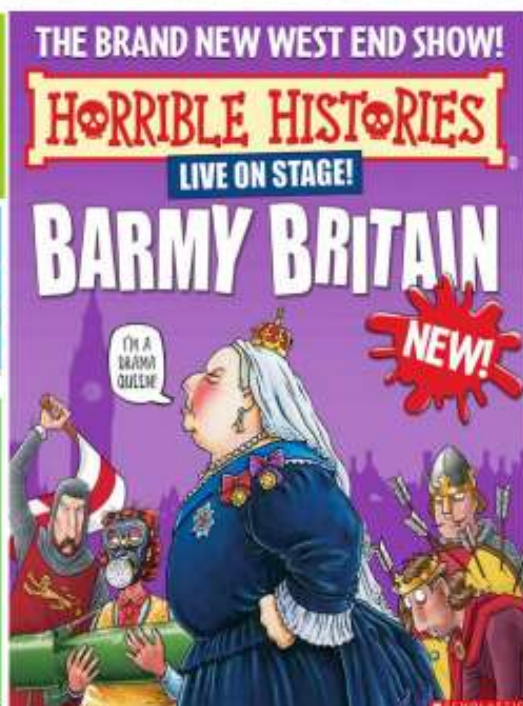
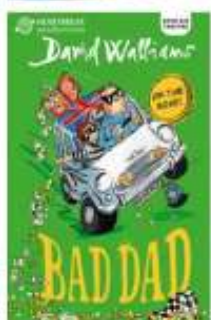
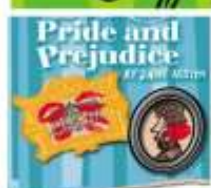
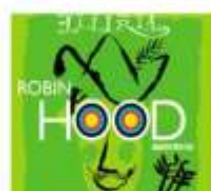
Half Term: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

Monday 5th June – Friday 21st July

CDS INSET days:

Tuesday 4th July 2023

Please find attached the details of the family shows coming to The Festival Theatre at Hever Castle between May and the very last day of the holidays in August 2023.



AND, FOR THE 1ST TIME EVER, CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE TOO!

BOXOFFICE@HEVERFESTIVAL.CO.UK

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge in Bromley Libraries will be from **Sat 8th July-Sat 2nd Sept 2023.**

We are going to recruit SRC volunteers to help with the Summer Reading Challenge this year and will now start recruiting. Anyone showing an interest will need to email srcvolunteers@gll.org and we will send them an application form and information.

The closing date for applications is Monday 26th June and we will be in touch with you to let you know how many volunteers you will be having. There will be awareness sessions organised by the Children's Team held at Central Library before the Challenge starts on the 8th July.

Applicants will be expected to volunteer for a minimum of 20 hours over the holiday and will not be asked to volunteer for more than 4 hours a day.
If they complete 20 hours volunteering we will give them a certificate and a reference if they require one.

Kind Regards

Bromley Children's Team

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Aged 14—18?

Can you spare 20 hours this summer?

Could you talk enthusiastically to children about books?

Be a Summer Reading Challenge volunteer in Bromley libraries

Ask at your local library or email srcvolunteers@gll.org