



Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Sixth Form Taster Day

It was great to see many of our Year 11 students return for the Sixth Form Taster Day on Thursday. We were also pleased to be able to welcome a number of external students. The students attended a range of lessons to give them a flavour of life in our Sixth Form and those that I spoke to said they had had a very enjoyable and informative day.

Parent Survey

Attached with this Bulletin is a summary of the Parent Survey we undertook in May. The feedback will form an important part in shaping our priorities for next year. Whilst there are a few areas on which we can make some improvements, overall the response was very pleasing and my thanks to all those who completed the survey.

Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom took place at Lingfield Racecourse last Friday evening and was a fantastic success. It was lovely to hear so many comments and thanks from parents to the staff for their work in supporting their son/daughter.

My very best wishes to all our Year 11 students; whilst some of you will be going on to pastures new, we look forward to seeing the majority of you in our Sixth Form in September. Whatever you are doing, have a wonderful summer break.

Aston Smith

Personal Development Days - 19th and 20th July

It seems that this year we have been affected by circumstances beyond our control with our usual range of trips and visits at the end of term. With the Shard cancelling our 3 separate visits, Bewl and Bedgebury cancelling and the RMT train strikes putting paid to a whole day of London trips for years 7, 8 & 9 it seems that we haven't had the best of luck this year. Many staff have gone above and beyond to organise events at the last minute. When we plan trips and visits, there is a lot of work put in to make sure everything is risk assessed, logistically planned and resourced. We have had to put on a greater range of in-school activities this year.

By the end of next week, students in years 7-9 will have an individualised timetable of events, either in school or through trips or local experiences. There are exploratory walks to high Elms and Chartwell that need to be booked (but are free) on ParentPay.

Students do not need to be in uniform on 19th and 20th July. We do recommend that they wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the events that they are taking part in. Please do keep an eye on the weather as it seems to be changing on a daily basis. We have booked a visiting theatre company, martial arts training, a bouncy castle assault course, axe throwing (don't worry, the inflatable variety!) and a team of circus performers to teach circus skills.

All of these have cost quite a lot of money which we hope can go ahead. We have always asked parents for a voluntary contribution to support this superb end to the term. Whilst we understand that money is tighter for everyone this year, these events where students can develop character and learn in different ways and gain life experiences. We do rely on the support of parents to make this happen.

If you have not contributed to the voluntary contribution on ParentPay – just £7, we would kindly ask if you would help support this fantastic end to the term.

Mr Jones

Reminder: Changes in Uniform from September

Updated School Uniform from September 2023



Price:

Tie - £5.40

Badge - £6.00



**Year 7 2023/24
onwards**



**Year 8 2023/24
onwards**



**Year 9 2023/24
onwards**



**Year 10 2023/24
onwards**

Year 11 2023/24 - will remain with the current tie and blazer badge.

- New tie and badges sale open from **Monday 19th June** on **ParentPay** to purchase before September 2023. Ties and badges will be*

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



Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

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

Learning Support Assistant **25 hours per week Monday – Friday, term time only** **September 2023** **(actual salary £14,424 – pay award pending)**

We are looking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to join a well-established team supporting a range of students' needs in class, in small groups and/or specialised individual learning. Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT. Experience of working with secondary-aged students with a range of SEN and/or experience of working with students with ASD would be advantageous.

Further details and an application form are available on our website and should be sent to ijo@cdarwin.com. Closing date: Monday 17th July 2023. Please note CVs alone cannot 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 a DBS Enhanced Disclosure and full background checks.

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

The following book comes highly recommended by the MFL department:



Summary

A French/English Parallel Text

[Each chapter has text in French along with an accompanying English translation]

Élise and Julien are a happy young couple, despite the fact they live in different cities. To celebrate their anniversary, Élise decides to surprise Julien. But things don't go the way she had planned...



Update from Charles Darwin PTA



Recent fundraising

We have been delighted to release £1757 of funding for some new projects, all due to everyone who has supported our various fundraising activities this year:

- Library refurbishments £540.00
- Languages Subscription £600.00
- Maths algebra tiles £166.00
- Art paper trimmer £252.00
- Humanities fieldtrip items £200.00

Sincere thanks to everyone who has participated.

Easy Fundraising

Big thanks for the following for being our biggest money raisers of this week, just by shopping: Elaine F, Nicola T & Jason H.

Don't forget to add the donation reminder to any Iphones, I pads or desktop browsers.

Can you join our 21 supporters by signing up: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_source=social&utm_medium=whatsapp&utm_content=rm-gs-w1

We can't see where you are spending your money so the fundraising information is completely confidential.

Events for our next school year

We are busy planning another quiz night, a younger years school disco and a virtual balloon race. Do please let us know if you can contribute anything to these events by e-mailing us at friends@cdarwin.com.

Monthly Draw

If you would like to enter our monthly prize draw with an opportunity to win our growing cash prize pot, please click here: <https://tinyurl.com/34ys3t3v> You can pay by standing order or use a card. For everyone who joins the monthly draw, the monthly prize grows a bit bigger!

Large project for 2023/2024

We have been asked to potentially support a large project next school year which will provide an investment to one of our outdoor areas. If anyone belongs to a company who can offer funding for our project, we would love to hear from you! If you have experience or ideas on how to tackle this ambitious fundraiser, we would also love some help: friends@cdarwin.com

Donation Appeal

If anyone has any of the following items available to donate to our school, we would be very pleased to hear from you. We can probably arrange collection from you.

IT items: Computer monitors or screens, computer mice, headphones or head sets

Stationery: Reams of paper, laminators and/or pouches

Furniture: Sets of tables or chairs for classrooms, office chairs, outdoor benches

We will create a wish-list in September.

Please e-mail us if you have anything you can donate, let us know by e-mailing us friends@cdarwin.com

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

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

Fancy Dress 5K FUN RUN

Year 8 will be taking part in a fancy dress 5K fun run on Friday 14th July during period 5. They will be raising money for Cancer Research UK. Any donations/sponsorship would be greatly appreciated and this can either be done via the just giving page www.justgiving.com/page/cds-year8 or pupils can bring sponsorship money in and hand in to their form tutors, Mrs Tsang/Miss Pitt or Mrs Haywood.

Thank you all in advance for your support for this amazing charity.

Mrs Tsang



Congratulations to Mia Stathopoulos in year 7 who won her race in Aachen, Germany, representing Great Britain at the Shetland Pony Grand National.



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.

Can you or your business spare...



IT EQUIPMENT

... Computers, Laptops, Mice, headsets, headphones, pc monitors/ screens

STATIONERY

...Paper, laminator, laminator pouches



FURNITURE

...Sets of chairs and tables, office chairs



We can arrange for local collection, if helpful.

Contact us

FRIENDS@CDARWIN.COM

Thanks in advance

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 30th June 2023.



7RMk	98%
8HBu	95.2%
9LDa	91.5%
10ADo/GJo	93.2%
12FSu	97.1%

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

Holidays

Please support your child's learning by not taking family holidays during term time. Holidays during term time will not be authorized and a penalty notice may be issued by the local authority.

Student Services Team



Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Olivia Gabbadon
Gemma Merredew
Nathan Smith
Alfie Hayter

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

THANK YOU

Student Services Duties:

Benjamin Barlow
Ruby Poole- Lancefield

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

Dates for the Diary

July

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

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

18th July - Sports Day

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

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

21st July - End of Term

August

28th August - Bank Holiday

29th August - INSET DAY

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



GT Scholars presents
#GirlMeetsCode

Join the FREE Summer Programme
for Girls aged 12-16
Starts: August 2023
Location: London



<https://gtscholars.org/programmes/girlmeetscode>

Sponsored by: 

Discover

- Learn more about careers in coding and technology

Create

- Discover how you can design a game or app

Connect

- Connect with industry mentors & role models
- Dive into team building and build your coding & tech skills!

Applications are open for @gtscholars' Girl Meets Code Programme!

This free coding programme has been designed to help young girls aged 12-16 across London learn about the world of coding and technology and network with industry role models and mentors! Applications close on Tuesday 25th July 2023. Click below to apply: <https://gtscholars.org/programmes/girlmeetscode>

We need your help!



**HELP US
WIN £1,000
FOR OUR LIBRARY!**



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To enter please click on the link below.

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