

14.07.2023

Issue No: 1090

The Link Charles Darwin School Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Horizons

Our Year 12 students enjoyed some really memorable learning experiences this week as part of their "Horizons". I went along to see some of the events and one of the most memorable images for me were the looks of focus and concentration when watching them learning to iron a shirt! My thanks to Mrs. Kearney and the Sixth Form team for organising the events and well done to all the students involved.

Year 9 Day

On Monday our Year 9 students were off timetable as they enjoyed an alternative sports day. Fortunately, the weather was kind and the students had a wonderful time. In his usual meticulous manner, Mr. Lamb had organised a range of team-building events such as tug-of-war, rounders, relay races and water games and after lunch the students ran (or walked) 5K around the field, followed by some well-deserved ice-pols. It was a great day all round.

Year 8 Safety First Day

My thanks to Mrs. Tsang for organising the safety first day for our Year 8 students on Wednesday. Representatives from the Metropolitan Police, the London Fire Brigade and the London Ambulance Service came along to deliver a range of sessions which included Arson, Drugs and Alcohol, Road Safety and Sexting. I spoke to a number of students who said they found the day really helpful and informative. Days such as these are so important for our young people and my thanks to the organisations who gave up their time to be in school.

Achievement Assemblies

It has been a pleasure to attend the achievement assemblies this week. I have been so proud to see our students receive commendations for a huge range of achievements reflecting what has overall been a fantastic year. My thanks to all the Achievement Co-ordinators, Form Tutors and the Pastoral Team for the incredible work they do with all our students and my congratulations to all those who received awards.

Aston Smith

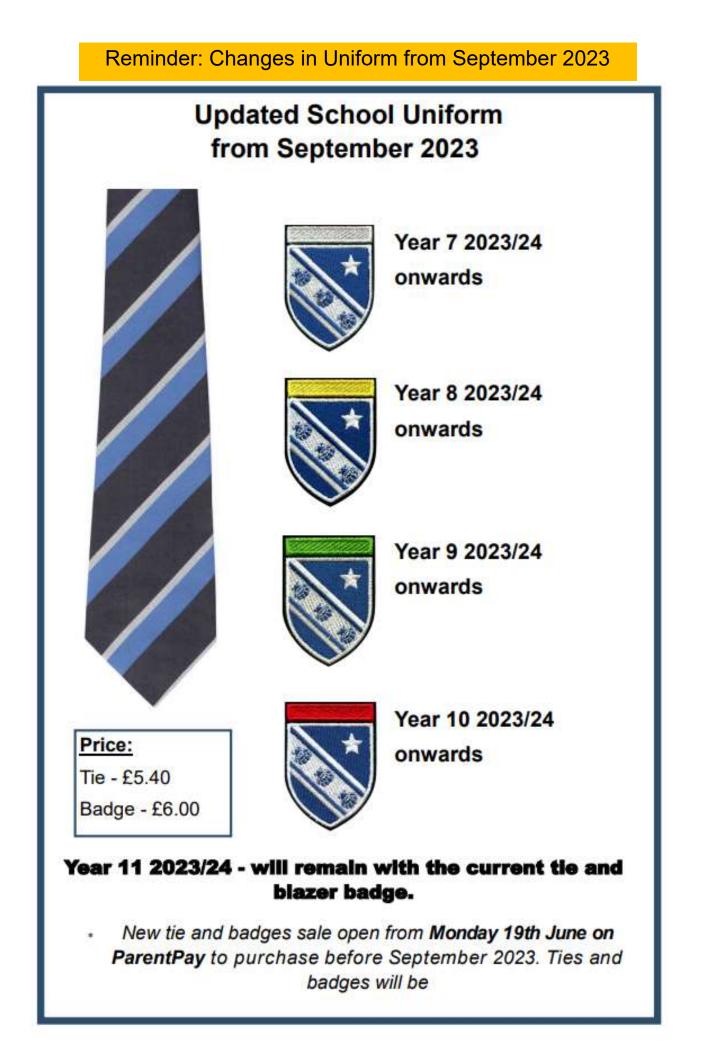
Uniform September 2023

Thank you so much for the great response from Year 7 – 9 parents/carers and their ordering of the new badges/ties in advance of September. As parents will know from the text this week, our second distribution has been completed meaning you now have one more week to order ties/badges before the summer holidays. These can now be collected from main reception at lunchtime once paid for so please ask your son/daughter to go at this time. Once we have finished on Friday, all purchases will need to be via the school uniform shop, Oz Schoolwear in Petts wood, in order to be ready for the first day in September.

Please also be reminded that following the whole school uniform review this year, we have 2 versions of the school skirt and blazer at different price points. The school uniform shop website gives full details of the range of our uniform including PE kit on sale. Please remember to book your time at the shop in the summer holidays via the website https://ozschoolwear.co.uk/ as it serves many schools in the area and they may run out of slots. Please don't leave this too late!!

Any concerns regarding ties/blazer badges or regarding uniform in general, please do contact me at the school

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very healthy, happy summer break.





Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Jail Lane 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 <u>jho@cdarwin.com</u>. 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

Get reading this summer!

I would love to be able to award students with some reading badges in September

The average book contains approximately 300 pages. If you read one book each half term, you could be well on the way to reading over a thousand pages.

Can you join our Hundreds and Thousands Club?.

Print the form below from our website or collect one from Mrs Pitt's office on the ground floor in the English corridor. When you reach 1000 pages bring your grid to Mrs Pitt and collect a reading badge:



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If you do not have a book, visit the school library before the end of term or a local library. You can also access free books online:

Go to <u>https://www.myon.co.uk</u> and enter your login information:

School Name: Summer Reads Username: SUM Password: SUMR123!

Click the 'Sign In' button, select a book, and start reading! [For age-appropriate reading you may like to start by clicking 'genres' and then 'classics and literature']

Breck Foundation

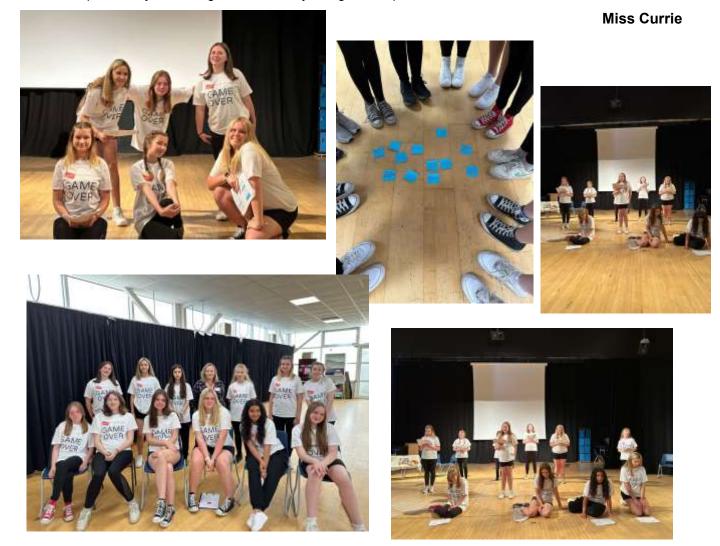
On Tuesday 11th July, Sarah Smith from the Breck Foundation came into Charles Darwin School to work with 13 year 9 and 10 Drama students.

The students have been working after school for the last 8 weeks, rehearsing for a performance of the play 'Game Over' by Mark Wheeler. This play tells the real life story of Breck Bednar and how he was tragically groomed online. The students spent the day rehearsing the performance piece, developing their understanding of the characters and took part in a workshop, exploring the key issue the play raises about how young people can ensure they stay safe online.

The students were brilliant and the piece is really taking shape.

In the autumn term, they will perform the piece to an audience and plans are underway for them to also present to primary students about online safety, acting as ambassadors and passing on their knowledge. A big well done to Tillie Bansel, Lois Clark and Eva Ruby in year 10 and Leila Alfarra, Avaleigh Atkins, Emily Bazneh, Jess Dorsett, Karen Elsey, Sophie Mason, Millie Priestley, Alyssa Weaver and Allanah Whitby in year 9.

Finally, well done to all students in the Drama class 8X2, who also took part in the workshop in the afternoon. Particular praise goes to Phoebe Vincent, Luke Berry, Emily Hartfield, Ted Broader and Henry Selwood who all contributed particularly well and gave some really thoughtful responses.



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.

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.

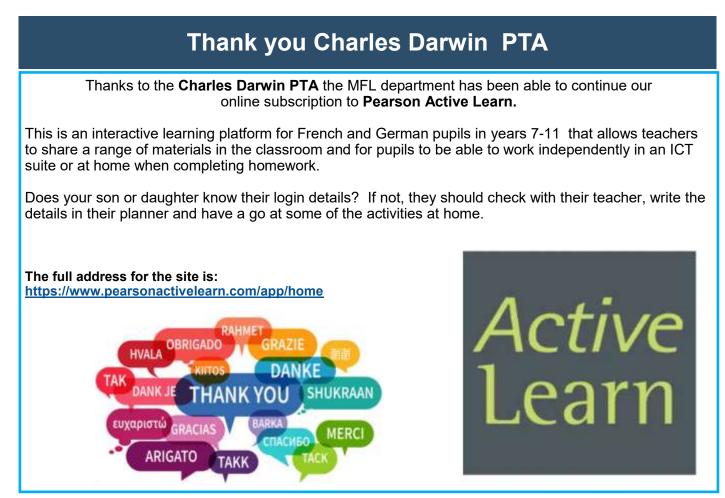
Preloved Uniform Shop Team

50th Anniversary Mural Competition

Congratulations to Leo Currier in 8HBu who won the competition to design the 50th Anniversary Mural. We are very excited to start painting his intricate and thoughtful design on the canteen annexe wall next week.

Thanks also to the other students for their competition entries-they made it a tricky job to choose the winner: Maggie McCarthy, Daine-Louise Ioannou, Sam Young, Jack Rice, Edie Plinston, Charlotte Duncombe.

Ms Kelly



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:

Amber-Rose Bradshaw Lola Brett Tom Fox James Doyle Alexander Hannaford Aoife Teehan Ellie Cocker Jess Khan



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

Student Services Duties:

Harvey McPhillips

He has been fantastic this week, and their help has been invaluable. Student Services Team

Start of term arrangement Autumn 2023

The return days for children at the start of term are as follows: Year 7 only on Wednesday 30 August Years 7-12 on Thursday 31 August (no Year 13) All year groups in school – Friday 1 September

Please remember that all Years 7-10 should be wearing the new year group related blazer badge and school tie for their return. Year 11 remain in the current House blazer badge and tie for their final year.

Mrs Rees

Dates for the Diary

July 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

Sports Day 2023



Tuesday 18th July 2023

On Friday 21st July only following groups will be at school: Year 7, 8 and 9.

Finishing times:

Year 7: 12:30pm

Year 8: 12:45pm

Year 9: 11:30am

Anyone competing in Sports Day can wear PE kit all 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





To enter please click on the link below.

WIN £1,000/€1,000 for your school's library! (nationalbooktokens.com)

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



GT Scholars presents #GirlMeetsCode

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

Location: London



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!

https://gtscholars.org/programmes/girlmeetscode

