



28.06.2019

The Link Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

HEADLINES

Ecology Garden

On Wednesday morning I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Ecology garden, masterminded by Mr. Burtonshaw. Key contributors to the Ecology garden development project were also in attendance and it was good to be able to thank them for their generosity and contribution towards this new initiative. It was a really pleasant occasion during which the gathered party of about fifteen of us listened to the story behind the Ecology garden's development, acknowledged key contributors and viewed the garden. The garden itself is splendid. My thanks to all those who have helped this come to fruition and especially The Friends of Charles Darwin School, it is very much appreciated.

Sixth Form Ball

Last Friday's Sixth Form Ball was a super occasion. The students from Years 12 and 13 were superb and it was great to see them enjoying themselves having finished their final exams. This year's Year 13 have been a fantastic cohort and I would like to wish them all the very best for the future.

Sunil Chotai

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.

ECOLOGY GARDEN OPENS



Charles Darwin School and its voluntary fund raising arm 'The Friends of Charles Darwin' officially opened its ecology garden on Wednesday 26 June, a project which has been 18 months in the design and creation.

The garden boasts trees, shrubs, wood piles, rockeries and a pond and is stocked with a range of garden plants and wild flowers over a 35m length; it is to be used as an area for the Science department to conduct ecological surveys and investigations, the school's Art department to use for observational studies and significantly the garden is also intended to be a place for quiet contemplation, study and counselling.

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The project has been funded by the 'Friends' group who work tirelessly on behalf of the school as well as donations from Cooling's Nurseries, local community groups and residents, the London Tree Scheme, Provender Nurseries and generous contributions from individuals who have supported the scheme with their labour and expertise.

The school would welcome any enquiries from local residents who would like to make a contribution to the garden or even lead a small volunteer group to help nurture the interest of young people in the skills of gardening.

Mr Burtonshaw



School Diversity week 1-5th July

This year, we have been proud to recognise Black History month, National Anti-bullying Week and Mental Health Awareness Week, along with other national days across the school as part of our Personal, Social, Health and Emotional education. School Diversity Week, organised by the charity Just Like Us (justlikeus.org), was launched with the support of the Department for Education.

Alongside our anti-bullying and safeguarding policies, taking part in School Diversity Week is an important way of actively supporting LGBT+ young people in our school, and of demonstrating our commitment to an inclusive school environment. It is a chance to explain to all our pupils the importance of diversity in the world we are preparing them for. Merchandise will be sold during the week, and assemblies, lessons and tutorial activities may also increase awareness of diversity.

Mrs Rees

Congratulations

to Amelia Porter, Year 12 who passed her Level 1 Women's Artistic Gymnastics Coach qualification on Sunday. She also received her certification for Level 1 Swim Teaching Assistant. In November Amelia will be progressing on to her Level 2 Trampoline Coaching qualification and next summer hopes to pursue her Level 2 Swim Teacher qualification.



Well done Amelia.

Miss Case

Magic Show

On Wednesday 19th June the school held a Magic Show by Mr Daws to raise money for Charles Darwin School. It was a fantastic evening which showcased the very best in magic. The event raised over £900 for the school. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Daws for hosting an excellent show which both children and adults were enthralled with.

Mrs Ruth and Mrs Davies



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.

Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

Forthcoming events - Summer Term 2019

JULY

- 1 July - Year 12 Taster Day
- 1 to 5 July - Year 7 Penny - Collection
- 3 July - Sports Awards
- 5 July - Sports Day
- 8 to 10 July - Silver Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition
- 17 and 18 July - Enrichment days
- 17 July - Year 10 Mock interviews
- 19 July - Year 12 trip to Zanzibar
- 19 July - Celebration of Success Assemblies
- 19 July - End of Term
- 22 July - INSET Day - School closed to students
- 23 July - INSET Day - School closed to students

AUGUST

- 15 August - A Level results day
- 22 August - GCSE results day

SEPTEMBER

- 2 September - INSET Day - School closed to students
- 28 September - Open Day

Pupils for Praise

Duty pupils of the week ending
28.06.19

Sakira Ali and Holly Heron

Mrs Mills, Reception

Year 11 Leavers

If you are a Year 11 student we would be very happy if you would consider donating your school uniform at the end of the Summer term.

Blazers, trousers and skirts **only**, can be handed in to Student Services.

Mrs Paterson

Year 11 and Year 13

If you have revision guides or textbooks in good condition that you will no longer need, we would be grateful if you would consider donating them to the school so that other students could use them.

If you do, please leave them in Main Reception.

Ms Kelly

Social Media Updates

Social media sites are regularly being updated and new Apps launched that target our Young People, making it very difficult for parents/ carers to keep up to date with. Schools often receive information updates regarding such sites and guidance on acceptable use so that we can share this information with our pupils and take steps to encourage them to be responsible with staying safe online. The most recent information received includes the following two sites/ Apps:

1. <https://tellonym.me/> The App states that it 'Allows you to receive anonymous and honest feedback from everyone who is important to you'. It is only available on Apple devices at this time. It is aimed for older teens and with anonymity as the point of the app, the potential for cyberbullying is high. Unfortunately anyone can find you on Tellonym not just your contacts, and information/ comments can be shared on Instagram. The App can be deactivated, or senders blocked so messages do not appear in the receivers inbox. Parents should be vigilant with this form of social media as there is the potential to receive hurtful remarks without being able to identify who is making the comments.
2. **Calculator+** : after downloading the app, users simply tap in a numerical code and enter in the percentage symbol to unlock the app and access their hidden files. **Calculator+** allows users to transfer photos and videos directly from their device's gallery into the vault app or take photos and videos directly within the app. This app provides the user to be secretive with the contents of their device and can break safeguarding regulations. Parents should be aware that this can be used to hide images and details of their child's life from them.

As a school we will continue to remind our students about staying safe online: blocking profiles and reporting unknown contacts to their parents/ carers, police/ CEOP (if necessary) and informing form tutors/Year team if impacting on school life. As mentioned previously, please can we encourage parents to keep lines of communication open with their children regarding what they are doing on line and their 'virtual' lives.

Mrs Wheeler

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