



30.06.2023

Issue No: 1088

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Industrial Action

Parents will have seen from my letter earlier this week that after assessing the risk of the situation, I have made the decision to **open the school on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July only to Year 12 students**, together with a small number of other students.

Year 12 students should be in the Sixth Form 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. Home Study where lessons are not timetabled may be observed as usual.

School will be closed to students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Teachers that are not taking strike action will be in school and will be leading live lessons via Teams or setting work via Satchel One. Please ask your child to access Satchel One at 8.30am to see the work for the day. All of the information for lessons will be provided on Satchel One as a first port of call. Staff who are hosting live lessons on Teams will publish instructions via Satchel One. To access a live lesson, students should open their Teams calendar and click to join the live lesson at the start. Students should have their camera off at all times and turn on their microphone when instructed to do so by teachers. Any work that needs to be submitted should be done by following teacher instructions during the lesson.

Students can also access a range of web-based resources that support the curriculum which can be found on our website through the 'student independent learning' tab or by accessing it here <https://www.cdarwin.com/page/?title=Student+Independent+Learning&pid=403>

I am sorry that you will have to make alternative arrangements for your child at short notice and that they will experience disruption to their education. I understand that this situation may be frustrating and ask that all members of our school community continue to treat each other with mutual respect.

If your child receives a free school meal and would like to have one on **Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July** this can be collected from school between 11.30 and 13.00. However the catering providers will need to know in advance by emailing charlesdarwin@harrisoncatering.co.uk at least 24 hours before. Please include the name of the child/children in the e-mail.

Charles Darwin School remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our pupils and delivering high-quality teaching. We are working closely with our staff union representatives to keep up to date with the situation, and I will inform families as soon as possible if arrangements change further. At present, there is no further planned industrial action.

Sixth Form Ball

My thanks to Mrs. Kearney and the Sixth Form team for organising last Friday's Sixth Form Ball at Cherry Lodge Golf Club. It really was a fantastic evening and it was wonderful to spend some time celebrating with this wonderful cohort and hearing of their plans for the future. My very best wishes to you all.

Theatre Trip

On Tuesday I joined the Year 12 drama department trip to see 2.22 Ghost Story at the Apollo Theatre. It was a really enjoyable occasion, expertly organised by Gemma Currie and the students were amazing.

Inicio

I wrote to all families last week regarding the discussions between Charles Darwin Academy Trust (CDAT) and Inicio Educational Trust, to explore potentially merging into a single trust to grow and improve what we offer to our schools. Inicio Educational Trust will initially be made up of Bullers Wood School for Girls, Bullers Wood School for Boys and Chislehurst School for Girls and the notion is that the two schools within CDAT, Charles Darwin School and Biggin Hill Primary School, will merge to create a formidable educational institute of learning that will benefit all concerned without compromising the established identities of each school. Comments or questions on the proposed merger should be emailed to merger@cdarwin.com by Wednesday 7th July.

Aston Smith

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, 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.

WELL DONE!



At the weekend Elizabeth Merredew entered into the Kent international competition in Medway. The under 52kg 13-15 year olds was made up of 10 young ladies from some of the top clubs in the country. After a first round pass, she won the quarter final, and semi final to set up a tough fight with a top seeded player in the final. After avoiding a huge attack, she put one in of her own to take Gold after only 20seconds of time gone, following last weeks Gold at the London Youth Games for Bromley. This puts Elizabeth in great stead for the National Teams next weekend where she is first pick for the Southern Area.

Well done Elizabeth! An amazing achievement



Rain Downer took part in Swim England Diving National Age Group Championships in Sheffield and we are very pleased and proud to announce that Rain and her partner Sadie are the National Age Group Synchro Champions for 2023.

Massive congratulations Rain!

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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 - £24,750

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.

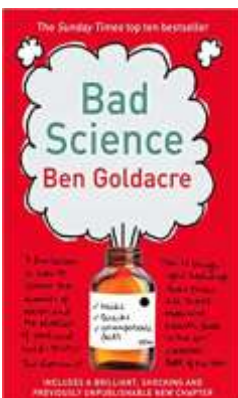
For further details and an application form please visit our website: www.cdarwin.com (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not be considered.

Closing date: Friday 7th July 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.

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

The following book comes highly recommended by the Science department:



Summary

Ben Goldacre's wise and witty bestseller, shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize, lifts the lid on quack doctors, flaky statistics, scaremongering journalists and evil pharmaceutical corporations.

Since 2003 Dr Ben Goldacre has been exposing dodgy medical data in his popular Guardian column.

Full spleen and satire, Ben Goldacre takes us on a hilarious, invigorating and ultimately alarming journey through the bad science we are fed daily by hacks and quacks.



Book Club

Come along to Book Club

Every Monday lunch time in the library with Mrs Pitt ☺



Wellbeing in the Summer

Could all students please bring a refillable water bottle to school. These can then be re-filled at break, lunchtime or before and after school.

It is very important to remain hydrated for concentration in this warmer weather.

Please remind your son/daughter that we do not allow "energy drinks", e.g. Monster and Red Bull or high sugar and caffeinated drinks, e.g. Lucozade, Lucozade Sport, Coke, Dr Pepper for students in year 7-11 as they are unhealthy and have a negative impact on behaviour and concentration.

Ms Kelly

ParentPay Canteen payments

Did you know you can set up an alert on ParentPay to notify you when your son/daughter's balance is running low? On the page that shows the balances for each person, underneath your current balance is the option to "Set up low balance alerts". You can then select which amount you want to be notified on, e.g. £5 and then you can select whether you want to be notified by text or e-mail. This will help students to avoid going to the till with food and having no money left in their account to pay for their food.

You can also see what your son/daughter has bought every day by looking at "lunchtime meal activity" at the bottom of the home page.

Ms Kelly

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

Mural Competition

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Charles Darwin School, we are redecorating the covered annexe area next to the canteen. As part of this, we will be painting a tropical mural celebrating the work of Charles Darwin to brighten the area up.

A competition to design the mural has been launched this week and the design brief is being set by Art teachers in years 7, 8 and 9 as a homework task. A copy is attached in case any other students would like to submit an entry. The deadline for this will be Wednesday 5th July by e-mail or to Ms Kelly on paper before that date. We would be grateful if you could mention this at home if you think this is something your son/daughter would be keen to do.

Ms Kelly

Rainbow Cake Sale for Pride

With some money still to come in, so far we have raised **£92.35** for Justlikeus.org, a charity who work with schools and young people to support the challenges of LGBTQ+ young people.

Thank you all for your support and buying the ice poles, cookies and cake but particular thanks to Parisha, Edie, Isabella, Maggie, Alice, Jade, Tom, Daisy and Rosalina for their help and enthusiasm. Thanks to Leo for the musical entertainment provided. Thanks to Amelia for her expertise in cake sale management and to Ria, Leah, Abby, Chloe, Leiko, and Hannah for your amazing presence; it was very much appreciated!

Miss Sampson

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 23rd June 2023.



7BDe/ZHa	95.9%
8GAn	95.4%
9COn	93.1%
10ADo/GJo	93.2%
12RPI	96.9%

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.

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



Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Eden Oakes	Ryan Moody
Bethany McGonigal	Darja Domkova
David Vizitu	Angel Osei-Nkansah
Ollie Wilkie	Bella Harding
Harry Haslett	Bethanni Fasoyiro

THANK YOU

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

Student Services Duties:

April Arslan

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

Dates for the Diary

July

4th July - INSET DAY (school closed to students)

5th July - NEU Industrial Action

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

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

7th July - NEU Industrial Action

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

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



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

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

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Thank you for your support.

What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Amino



Expressing ourselves and interacting online can be fun - but only if it's safe for everyone 🗨️👉 The social networking platform Amino offers opportunities to exchange views on countless hobbies and interests ... but its lack of age verification represents an obvious risk for younger users ⚠️

With inappropriate content, the possibility of messages from strangers and rewards for repeated daily usage front and centre among the potential dangers that parents and carers should know about, this week's **#WakeUpWednesday** guide gives Amino the acid test.

Please see the Guide attached separately.

PERFORMANCES TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

Stay & play in the castle gardens (for free) after the daytime events finish, or book joint discounted tickets and enjoy the castle all day.

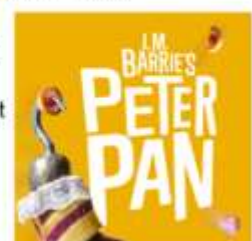


AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

'This was my 9 and 11 year olds first experience of a live Shakespeare performance. And what a fantastic introduction in the most spectacular setting! They're hooked and I couldn't have asked for more. We'll be coming again.'



'The play was brilliant!'
'Excellent entertainment for everyone.'



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