



# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

As we reach the end of a wet and soggy week I want to reflect on how fantastic it has been to see so many students involved in extra curricular clubs and trips this week from success in football, rugby, geography trips, performing arts, dance, cheerleading, lacrosse and more! Thank you to the staff for organising these opportunities for the students. Please encourage your child to get involved, if they are not already, as it creates cultural capital and memorable, enjoyable school experiences. Don't forget to follow us on our social media to stay updated on our school events, clubs and activities.

### Year 11 Celebration of Success Assembly

As a school, we have a mantra of Aspire, Endeavour and Achieve, and the Celebration of Success Assembly is a chance to celebrate this. This is a moment to honour the achievement we've seen throughout our school community and to recognise the power of high aspirations and endeavour hard work in reaching those accomplishments. The Year 11 Celebration of Success Assembly on Tuesday recognised the students' achievements and progress from year 10 and is a nice way to start the new academic year. For their year group, they were awarded 17397 achievement points compared to 10493 of year 10 the previous year and they should be proud of this achievement. Another area I wish to congratulate this year group on is the improving picture of attendance. The data linking attendance to good examination outcomes, especially for year 11, is clear. Those who make equal or better progress than the national average have an attendance of over 95%. I want to wish all our Year 11's a very successful year ahead and we look forward to working with you and your parents to help you achieve your very best.

### Early closing on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Parents and students have received a letter today to advise I have decided to close school **at 2pm on Wednesday 2nd October**. This is to support staff and IT restoration work. The library will remain open to students to complete homework after school. Bus companies have been notified. As mentioned in my letter please ensure that there is enough money on your child's ParentPay account to reflect their canteen purchases. Thank you for your continued patience with this ongoing situation.

Aston Smith, Headteacher



## Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Inicio Educational Trust  
Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve



### Open Morning - Saturday 12th October 2024

Parents of prospective students are invited to visit our high performing school to view and sample the exciting opportunities we have to offer. Pre booking for a tour only (9am) or Headteacher's presentation followed by a tour (9am, 10am or 11am) is essential by lunchtime on Thursday 10 October. Priority will be given to Year 6 children. Presentations will start promptly at the advertised time so please leave sufficient time for parking. (There will be very limited on-site parking available and parking in the local community gets very busy).

<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Early Tour only</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">9.00am</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Email to book your place <a href="mailto:earlytour@cdarwin.com">earlytour@cdarwin.com</a></p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Presentation &amp; Tour 1</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">9.00am</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Email to book your place <a href="mailto:hallandtour1@cdarwin.com">hallandtour1@cdarwin.com</a></p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Presentation &amp; Tour 2</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">10.00am</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Email to book your place <a href="mailto:hallandtour2@cdarwin.com">hallandtour2@cdarwin.com</a></p>	<b>FULLY BOOKED</b>
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Please email the relevant tour/presentation with your name, **your child's name, their current year group, their current school and the number of places required.**

### Open Week - Monday 14th - Thursday 17th October

If you wish to attend one of our Open Week tours you can pre-book a tour for 8.45am or 9.00am. Open week tours offer the opportunity to see the school in operation and to observe teaching taking place. This will be followed by a short Q & A session with the Headteacher. Please leave time for parking (none available on site). Pre-booking essential by 12.00pm on Friday 11th October.

<p><b>Monday 14th October - FULLY BOOKED</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 15th October - FULLY BOOKED</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 16th October - FULLY BOOKED</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 17th October - book via <a href="mailto:thursdaytours@cdarwin.com">thursdaytours@cdarwin.com</a></b></p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">Please see our recent Ofsted Report</p> 
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# PTA Update



## Raffle Tickets

Quiz Night for Friday 4th October has SOLD OUT! We look forward to welcoming our 11 tables of CDS community quizzers on the night. We have a super raffle available to all CDS families and friends for just £5 per raffle ticket strip.

Please go to website: [friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com](https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com)

If you buy your tickets online, we will send you your numbers and ensure they are all included in the draw.

Raffle Prizes include:

- £100 'Into the Blue' Experience Day Voucher
- £50 Shampain at The Spinning Wheel Indian Restaurant Voucher
- £30 Field Brew, Farnborough voucher (coffee, tea, frappes and simply amazing bacon rolls)
- £20 Coolings Garden Centre voucher
- A Halloween hamper

And many more prizes!

## Easy-fundraising Update

We have just passed our first £1000 raised via your shopping!

To join our 63 shoppers, please take 2 minutes to enrol.

The latest league table for the last 30 days is as follows:

1. Gill B
2. Melanie L
3. Hazel C
4. Jason H

A big thank you and welcome to our new shoppers:

Alison. R

Liz W.

## School Funding requests

We are writing to the full staff community in October to see if there are any projects or initiatives we can support using our current funding pot. We look forward to updating you on the requests and demonstrating how these donations will help to enhance student learning.

## Monthly Draw

Congratulations to the following winners of our monthly cash draw, available from just £1 per ticket, per month via our online shop: [friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com](https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com)

July £75.00

Joy G

August £75.00

Kayleigh

We will draw our September winner of £72.50 live at Quiz Night on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

## PTA Gathering

Our next PTA meeting is on Wednesday 9th October at The Crown Inn in Keston. We would like to our parents and carers to join us for a drink and chat at 7pm, prior to our meeting - hopefully we can share some of our experiences as parents of CDS students and help you with any questions you have.

## 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. Please clearly say your child's name and form he/she is in. 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.



Henry has been competing against all the top riders in the UK, he had travelled to Wales, Cumbria and many more places. He has won races, got podiums and lap records under his belt and the last race of the season was the decider.

He won a race and came second in one and they secured him a place in the final where he will compete against all the other top riders from around the world: Spain, Italy, America, Australia, Japan and many more. He will compete in Valencia in November at the final round of the MotoGP (bike version on Formula1)

His bike reaches speeds of up to 95 miles per hour so you can imagine the danger of the sport.

Well done Henry what an achievement!



### Year 8 Duty Pupils

W/C 16/9

Bobby-Joe Hamilton  
Brown

Sophia Edwards

Bradley Burbeck

Faith Boye

Jett Johnson

Layla Wattie

Sonny Nye

Tiana Torrence

Harrison Poulton

Francesca Wilson

W/C 23/9

Alex Mack

Jack Roberts

Max Garrard

Thomas West

Liam Pearce

Frankie-Lee Winters

Austyn Garrod

Nyan Newberry

Jett Johnson

Francesca Wilson



### Student Services Duty Pupils

Thank you to the students from **9TMI** who helped this week in Student Services.

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



# Charles Darwin Charity Golf Day



**Price: £68 PP gets you**

**Breakfast: Tea/ Coffee**

**Bacon Roll – 8.30 am arrival**

**Golf: 18 Holes from 10am tee time**

**Lunch: Provided**

**Bring cash as the day will include...**

**£10 pp - Beat the Pro**

**£5 pp- Longest Drive**

**£5 pp- Nearest the Pin**

**£5 – Buy a mulligan or as many as you want!**

**Golf Course: West Kent  
Golf Club**

**Address: Milking Ln, Downe,  
Orpington BR6 7LD**

Come and be a part of **Charles Darwin Charity Golf Day!** We are looking to raise money to go towards our **PE DEPARTMENT**. This will go a long way in helping support your local school in being able to enhance your child's learning and experiences during their time in PE.

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO!**

Create a team of four and register the names and contact details of your team on the registration form. Once you have registered and been sent a confirmation email, you will be required to transfer the fee of **£272** pounds for your teams entry to **CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL ACCOUNT – Sort Code: 60 02 48 Account Number: 69648468** with REFERENCE: **GOLFDAY**

We would love for you to sponsor a hole for a **£100**. Please provide a sign and we will place this at your designated tee box for everyone to see.

Even better – You can sponsor the golf day for **£500** where your business will be promoted and highlighted.

**!!PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD...WE WANT AS MANY FOURBALLS AS POSSIBLE!!**

Please see the poster attached separately with the information you need to provide to register your team.

# Attendance



**EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS**  
But every **minute** is equally important!

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES Per day =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES Per day =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES Per day =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES Per day =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES Per day =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE

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 clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.**

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

# First Aid

Parents should be advised that the school does not provide students with Paracetamol unless it is a medical emergency. We have a limited supply in school and prefer that medication wherever possible is administered at home.

Many thanks for your support.

**Mrs Booth  
Lead First Aid**

## Dates for the Diary

### October:

1<sup>st</sup> October - Year 7's Meet the Tutor, 3.30pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> October - Early close, 2pm  
4<sup>th</sup> October – PTA Quiz Night, 7pm, Sixth Form Hub  
9<sup>th</sup> October - PTA meeting, The Crown, 7:30pm  
11<sup>th</sup> October - Early Close, 12.30pm - Open Morning preparation  
12<sup>th</sup> October - Open Morning  
14<sup>th</sup> October - 17<sup>th</sup> October – Open Week Tours  
18<sup>th</sup> October - INSET Day (school closed to students)  
21<sup>st</sup> October - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Half term

### November:

4<sup>th</sup> November – INSET Day (school closed to pupils)  
13<sup>th</sup> November - A Level Physics Lectures - Emanuel Centre - 9.30am - 4pm  
14<sup>th</sup> November - Sixth form Open Evening, 6pm

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Autumn 2024

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October

*Half term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November*

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

*Christmas Holiday: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January*

#### Notes:

**Good Friday 18th April**  
**Easter Monday 21st April**

### Spring 2025

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

*Half term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February*

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

*Easter Holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April*

### Summer 2025

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

*[Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday]*

*Half term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May*

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

### INSET Days:

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025