



09.06.2023

Issue No: 1085

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to all students after the half term break. I hope everyone managed to enjoy the good weather and refresh batteries ready for this last half term of the school year. Many of our examination students were in school last week attending revision lessons. My thanks to those staff who gave up their time to support these students who I know really do appreciate the support they receive from staff.

Uniform

Our focus from Wednesday this week has been on uniform. As a reminder of our policy, the following items will be **confiscated** until the end of term (unless collected by parents) if seen being worn in or around school (including break/lunchtime, corridors or in detentions):

Hooded tops, tracksuit tops
Air pods or any headphones
Jewellery

- **Blazers** to be worn – this item is compulsory. They can be removed in class at the teacher's discretion and must be put back on at the end of lessons and after break/lunchtime. Coats should not be worn instead of a blazer and students should have blazers on at all times. The Headteacher will make whole school decisions regarding blazers in hot weather.
- V necked jumpers are an option when colder, worn with a blazer, not instead of
- Short white socks (no logo) or black tights with a skirt.
- **No fake lashes or nails.** They will need to be removed. Nail varnish should not be worn and will need to be removed.
- Trainers can only be worn with a medical note from home. This must be seen by the relevant ACO who will make a note in the planner confirming when trainers can be worn and the date when the student will need to be back in shoes.

Joyful June

Included with this week's Link is the Joyful June poster which is also displayed around school. Parents may wish to discuss this with their children over the weekend. As a school, we take mental health matters very seriously and conversations at home would support our work in this area.

Year 7 Induction Evening

It was a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7s and parents into school this week. After my presentation it was nice to meet so many new families in person to hear of the excitement they have about joining our Charles Darwin Family.

Aston Smith

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



CDarwinSchool



Mr Jones

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 this week, 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.

Mrs Rees

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

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

Charles Darwin School Hundred's and Thousands Reading Club				
This average book has approximately 300-400 pages. By reading a book each term, you could easily read over a thousand pages per year... keep a log of the books you read in space below. When you reach 1000 pages, collect your reading badge from Mrs Pitt.				
Book title	Author	No. of pages	Comments (Date, rating out of 5, What did you think of the book?)	Signature (Write name at school)



Exams Time

Please see below ideas for a healthy, fulfilling snacks.

This week's recipe for Mediterranean Vegetable Pasta Bake is attached separately.



SNACK RECIPES

TRY SOME OF THESE DELICIOUS AND REALLY EASY TO MAKE SNACKS TO TAKE A BREAK AND BOOST YOUR BRAIN POWER....

EDIBLE PLANT POTS

150g cottage cheese
50g wholemeal croutons, buy them and blitz them to a powder in the food processor
your choice of vegetables; carrots, cucumber, things you can eat raw or lightly cooked.

METHOD:

Layer the cottage cheese into a glass, mug or even a clean plant pot, top with the crumb to make the 'soil'. Push in the veggies to make it look like a garden, simple! Pretty to look at and tasty to eat, plus it'll give you a boost!



SOFT BOILED EGGS AND MARMITE SOLDIERS

2 eggs
2 slices toasted wholemeal bread
Marmite



METHOD:

Heat a saucepan of salted water until it boils, add the eggs and set a timer for 6 minutes. Take your warm toast, spread with butter and Marmite and slice into 'soldiers'. Take the tops off the eggs and get dipping!

HONEY, FRUIT AND NUT GRANOLA BARS

Pre-heat the oven to 160°C.
100g butter, melted
200g porridge oats
200g mixed nuts and seeds, buy them already done to save time and money
100g bag mixed dried fruit, cranberries, golden raisins etc.
85ml runny honey



METHOD:

Mix everything in a large bowl, pour the mix into a baking paper lined baking tray and bake for 30 minutes, allow to cool before slicing.

COCONUT CHIA POT AND FRUIT COMPOTE

30g chia seeds
100ml coconut milk
Your favourite selection of berries, lightly dusted with caster sugar and left for about an hour to macerate (they will create their own syrup).
Toasted coconut shavings



METHOD:

Soak the chia seeds in the coconut milk for about 20 minutes. Arrange the fruit on a plate or top the chia seeds with them and finally top with the toasted coconut.

CINNAMON BAKED PLUMS AND APPLES, OAT CRUMBLE, CRÈME FRAICHE

2 ripe plums, stone removed and quartered
2 red eating apples, cored and 1cm diced
45g caster sugar
100ml water
75g porridge oats
15g butter, melted
¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
80ml crème fraiche



METHOD:

Preheat the oven to 180°C.
Boil the water and sugar until half of the water has gone, add the plums and apples, remove from the heat and leave for 5 minutes. Mix the melted butter and the oats. Put the apple and plum mix into an ovenproof dish and top with the oats. Bake for 15 minutes. Stir the vanilla extract into the crème fraiche. Spoon the crème fraiche on top of the crumble and get stuck in!

PEANUT BUTTER AND BANANA WHOLEMEAL TOASTIE

Toast 3 slices of wholemeal bread and make a triple decker, layering crunchy peanut butter with thinly sliced bananas.





CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL PTA
**MONTHLY
DRAW**



WIN cash AND fundraise for our school

Card payments or bank transfers accepted

To join, scan here with your device camera:



Or add this text to your browser: <https://tinyurl.com/34ys3t3v>

RSPCA Young Photographer Competition



Love animals? Enjoy taking photographs? Then you're in the right place. Our amazing competition is open to anyone aged 18 or under. Help us create a kinder world for animals by sharing your inspiring images.

It doesn't matter whether you're an experienced photographer or a keen beginner, you've entered before or you're not sure where to start. You enter your image online, please see the website for more details

For more info: <https://young.rspca.org.uk/ypa/home>



Don't forget to read the [rules of entry](#) before you enter and have a look at the [galleries](#) section for inspiration.

Good luck!

Miss Doughty

Winner of last years 12-15 Mobile phone and devices category

Film Studies Trip to the BFI

On Tuesday I took 9 Film Studies students to the BFI London to watch a very special screening of Blade Runner. The screening was part of the BFI's 'Film on Film' festival, where they are delving into the archives to show celluloid versions of film as opposed to digital copies. We experienced Blade Runner in beautiful 35mm - the BFI have not shown this copy in over a decade. It was a very special moment for a film geek like myself, and one that the students also appreciated.

The film was prefaced with a talk from a BFI film theorist; linking key concepts of the film's themes and visual style to aspects of student studies.

Apart from experiencing a bit of anti-social behaviour from other school students in the cinema, it was a brilliant day. Our students demonstrated real maturity and engagement with what is quite a challenging film. I was very proud to have accompanied them to the BFI on this memorable trip, and even prouder of their calm response to others who had very poor cinema etiquette!



Miss Hurding

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.



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 - £22,811**

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 23rd June 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.

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

**Charles Darwin School,
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3AU**

**Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
Tel: 01959 574043
www.cdarwin.com**

Darwin Leisure Centre – Leisure Assistants

£9.50 per hour

We are looking to appoint a number of Leisure Assistants for our busy Leisure Centre. Applicants should have good inter-personal skills, a professional attitude to work and be able to work both independently and as part of a team. Successful candidates will be required to work during the afternoon and evening, including some weekends. Previous experience of working in the leisure industry would be advantageous, although training will be given.

Application forms and details of the post can be found on our website: www.cdarwin.com/key information - vacancies. Please note all applications must be made on the Charles Darwin Academy Trust application form – CVs alone will not be considered. Please return completed application forms to Mrs. J. Hodgkinson, Personnel & Administration Manager, Charles Darwin School.

Closing date: **22nd June 2023**

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.

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

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.

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

Achievement Points



Top highest achievers per each year for the period 01.09.2022 – 08.06.2023

Catherine Seidler	7RBr/RSi	233
Alexander James Hannaford	8JHd	205
Deborah Chapman	9SCu	130
Tillie Bansel	10SAI	133
Chloe McGonigal	11KW0	120
Ciara Bain	12MCR/MMe	77
Abbey Leonard	13AR0/MMe	32



Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 01.09.2022 – 08.06.2023

Catherine Seidler	7RBr/RSi	233
Lucas Nagle	7RMk	211
Alexander James Hannaford	8JHd	205
Harriet Downer	8RM0/STe	180
Phoebe Vincent	8RM0/STe	179
Leo Currier	8HBu	178
Jenson Ladd-Talbot	7TMi	169
Leo Nagle	7RMk	169
Chloe Cocker	8RM0/STe	167
Elliott Leonard	7SH0/ALe	158

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 26th May 2023.



7VHa	95.9%
8RM0/STe	92.9%
9COn	94.8%
10AD0/GJo	92.5%
11JLa	100%
12FSu	96.5%
13TJo	100%

Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Shakai Henry
Harry Holden

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



Thank you to our duties:

Elrick Morgan
Amelia Waddington

Ekene Agwu
Leo McGeehan

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

Dates for the Diary

June

13th June - Trip: Bournemouth, NEA Fieldwork (Geography), Yr12

14th June - Trip: Drama - Jack Studio Theatre, Brockley
(Yrs 12 and 10)

16th -17th June - Trip: DofE Yr10 Bronze qualifying expedition

21st June - Rounders Tournament

20th June - Trip1: PE Year 10 Kayaking, Danson Park Lakes (GCSE practical grades)

21st June - Rounders Tournament

22nd June - Trip2: PE Year 10 Kayaking, Danson Park Lakes (GCSE practical grades)

27th June - Trip: Drama - Apollo Theatre (2.22 Ghost Story), Yrs12

28th June - Rounders Tournament

KS3 Exams Dates

Year 7 and 8 – Monday 5 June – Friday 16 June

Year 9 – Monday 12 June to Friday 26 June

July

4th July - INSET DAY

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

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

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

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

"Do you know someone that would make a great teacher? Bromley Schools' Collegiate is recruiting graduates to join their primary and secondary Initial Teacher Training programme for a September 2023 start. If you know someone who could be that inspirational and caring teacher that will help our young people locally to flourish and grow, then ask them to get in touch."

Bromley Schools' Collegiate

Established in 1993

Outstanding Initial Teacher Training for Primary and Secondary (Ofsted November 2015)



If you would like to join the next cohort of primary or secondary teachers that will be starting in September 2023, call 0208 300 6566 or email your CV to administrator@gradteach.uk to see if you meet the entry requirements to make a formal application