



# Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## HEADLINES

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I am writing with regard to two key issues that I need your support and assistance with.

You will be aware that more and more schools are having to send home significant numbers of students to reduce the potential of Covid-19 virus transmissions when a case has been identified amongst pupils. Over the last two weeks we have had to send home for isolation a group in Year 11 and a group in Year 13. Thankfully, relative to some schools, the impact on us of this virus so far is small. However going forward, following the experience of managing recent cases, we need to ensure that our plans and processes in place to deal with reported cases where swift and timely action is necessary are more known by parents and carers so that swifter communication can be facilitated.

In preparation for any future cases we need all parents and carers to please help us with the following:

1. On notification of a case we may need to send home all children in the affected bubble, in our case this will be a year group. This is so that we can deep clean all rooms in the bubble and minimise contact between those students who have potentially had contact with the reported case and others.

**In order for us to be able to send home children we will need the children to contact home and clear this with families. We will do this by asking the children to contact parents/carers via their mobile phone. We will therefore need you to ensure that your child has your phone details to hand and any other necessary contacts should you not be available. Children will only be allowed to leave the premises once permission from a parent/carer has been secured and we are confident that this is genuine.**

2. We will notify all parents in the relevant bubble by parentmail – this is an email. We will inform them that a case has been confirmed and we need to send your son/daughter home.
3. We will then undertake an analysis of who needs to isolate for a longer (14 day) period after taking the appropriate advice from the public health authorities. A letter will be sent by parentmail to those impacted asking them to isolate for the longer period.
4. A letter to the whole school community informing them of the case will also be sent.

The key help that we need from parents/carers is to ensure that your son/daughter is able to contact you (or a nominated person) urgently to inform you that they are about to be sent home. You may of course also need to make some provision for child care if your children are young and need supervision at home.

The other issue I need parents help and some support with is to do with a change to the staggered start to the school day. We have noticed that the vast majority of children in Years 8 and 9 are in school much earlier than the 9.00am start time initially published as part of the staggered start arrangements.

In response to this early arrival, the impending cold weather and the fact that pandemic related routines in school have become much more established, we would like to start the day earlier with lesson 1 commencing for students in Years 8 and 9 as follows:

**Year 9 students 08.45**

**Year 8 students 08.50**

Parents/carers will agree, I hope, that starting the day earlier will enable more learning time and in colder weather is more beneficial for our students. We intend to commence this arrangement from **Monday 30th November 2020**, this will mean that all Year 8 and 9 children will need to be at school in their play areas by 8.45 at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

Sunil Chotai  
Headteacher

## The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award Update

Congratulations to Abheetha Singhara-Mudalige for achieving the Bronze Award! We are very proud of our second Year 9 student to achieve this award and cannot wait to see you achieve Silver! We have a total of 114 students participating and a total of 545 badges being achieved! This includes our 3 Bronze Award winners (Carlos Year 12, Scarlett Year 9 and Abheetha Year 9) and Silver Award Winner, Carlos Year 12!



If you missed my previous article on what this is about, please see below and do get involved!

This is an international programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills. Through series of online challenges, students can win career-enhancing badges, unlock new opportunities and, ultimately, gain industry-recognised Awards that help them stand out from the crowd. This works very similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award. There are four award levels, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. It's quite simple and easy, you get awarded badges for completing challenges and you can access this on any device with an internet connection. You might discover a new talent, interest, potential career you didn't know about!

To sign up please contact Ms Elliott via your school email, [pel@cdarwin.com](mailto:pel@cdarwin.com) – there is a special code you will need to enter in your registration as well as being a part of our school on the iDEA page. This is currently aimed at Year 9 and 12 students, we are hoping to open to all year groups, soon. If you are interested but not in Year 9 or 12, please email me, [pel@cdarwin.com](mailto:pel@cdarwin.com)

GOODLUCK!

Ms Elliott

### Year 7 Charity Fundraising



Year 7 have started their charity work ordering a large number of face masks from Cancer Research UK. They are £3 and available in the colours of the Cancer Research logo - light blue, dark blue, and pink.

Many of the students have pre-ordered and have already brought the money in. All proceeds will go to Cancer Research UK.

Mr Woods

Following Government guidelines, staff and pupils at secondary schools (Year 7 and above) must wear face coverings in communal areas outside the classroom. It is disappointing how many of our students do not have them.

Please can we ask all parents/carers to ensure that your child has a mask with them before coming to school each day). If students use the disposable masks, please ensure they have a few of these in case they break. Our students should not be travelling on public transport without these.

We do have a limited amount of masks for emergencies, however, we have had an increasing amount of students requesting masks from us during the school day as they have forgotten them.

Thank you for your support.

Student Services

### Year 9 Anti-Bullying Competition

On Thursday Year 9 will be uniting against bullying. This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge.

In recognising the importance of channelling our collective power to reduce bullying, Miss Zysemil is asking all students in Year 9 to identify and design their own piece in the puzzle to display and explain how we are uniting against bullying. Prizes will be awarded for the best piece in the puzzle.

***'We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.'***



## How to enter school pedestrian gate

1. Use the arrows on the intercom provided
2. Select 'Reception'
3. Press the 'green bell' button
4. When the screen states the gate is open – please push the pedestrian gate manually to enter

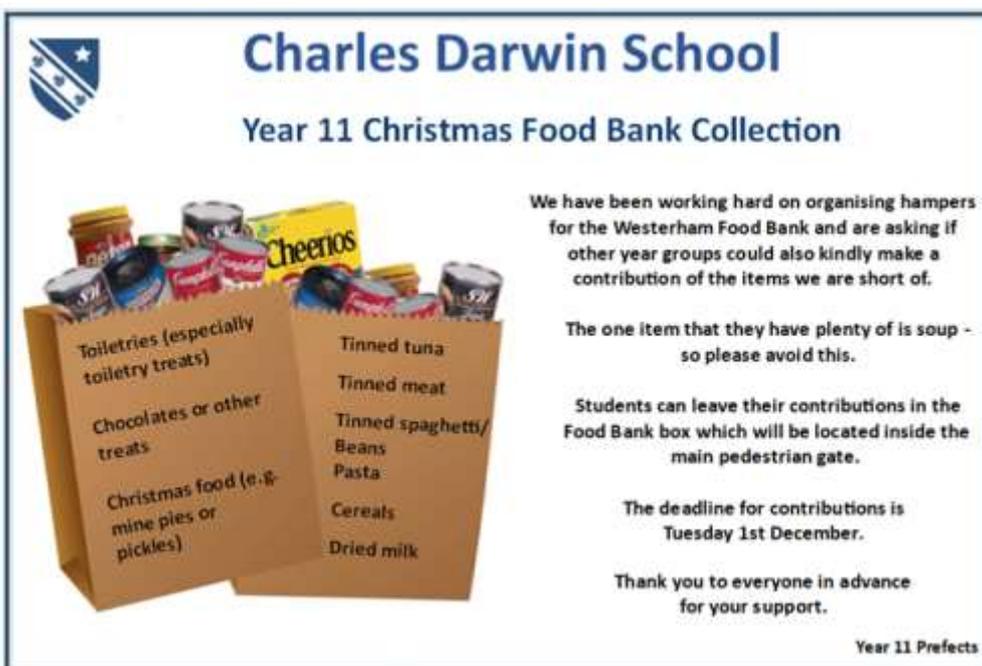
## How to exit school pedestrian gate

1. To exit the school at the 'Front' and 'Bus' green gates there is a green 'press to exit' button that will open the gates
2. This button is on the left side panelling when approaching both gates (separate button for each gate)
3. The pedestrian gates will not automatically open when pressing the 'green press to exit button', this will need to be pressed and then the gate will need to be manually pulled open by the student

## Attendance

Winning Tutor Groups week ending 13.11.20

| TUTOR GROUP | ATTENDANCE |
|-------------|------------|
| 7SFe        | 99.3%      |
| 8GCu        | 99.7%      |
| 9PEI        | 98.6%      |
| 10MCr       | 98.5%      |
| 11DNu       | 100.0%     |
| 12SMc/CLu   | 98.0%      |
| 13ACh       | 98.8%      |



**Charles Darwin School**  
Year 11 Christmas Food Bank Collection

We have been working hard on organising hampers for the Westerham Food Bank and are asking if other year groups could also kindly make a contribution of the items we are short of.

The one item that they have plenty of is soup - so please avoid this.

Students can leave their contributions in the Food Bank box which will be located inside the main pedestrian gate.

The deadline for contributions is Tuesday 1st December.

Thank you to everyone in advance for your support.

Year 11 Prefects

**Items needed:**

- Toiletries (especially toiletry treats)
- Chocolates or other treats
- Christmas food (e.g. mince pies or pickles)
- Tinned tuna
- Tinned meat
- Tinned spaghetti/Beans
- Pasta
- Cereals
- Dried milk

## LOST PROPERTY

We already have a build up of lost property. If your child has lost anything please encourage them to come to Student Services.

We do check for names and get items back to students wherever possible, however, many items particularly coats and PE kits do not have names.

Please can I ask that these items always have the students' names clearly written in them.

Many thanks.

**Mrs Paterson**  
Student Services

It is important that if any household member develops symptoms of COVID-19 all household members, including students, must stay at home. Any household member displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should take a test and all household members must remain in isolation at home until the test result is received. If the test is positive the school must be informed and the student must not attend school. If the test is negative the student may return to school.

## Term Dates 2020-21

### Autumn 2020

Tuesday 1st September - Friday 16th October  
Half term: Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October  
Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December

**Christmas Holiday:** Monday 21st December 2020 - Friday 1st January 2021

### Spring 2021

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February  
Half term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February  
Monday 22nd February – Thursday 1st April

### Notes:

**Good Friday – 2nd April 2021**  
**Easter Monday – 5th April 2021**

**INSET Days** - School closed to students  
Monday 4th January 2021  
Friday 29th January 2021  
Thursday 22nd July 2021  
Friday 23rd July 2021

**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.**

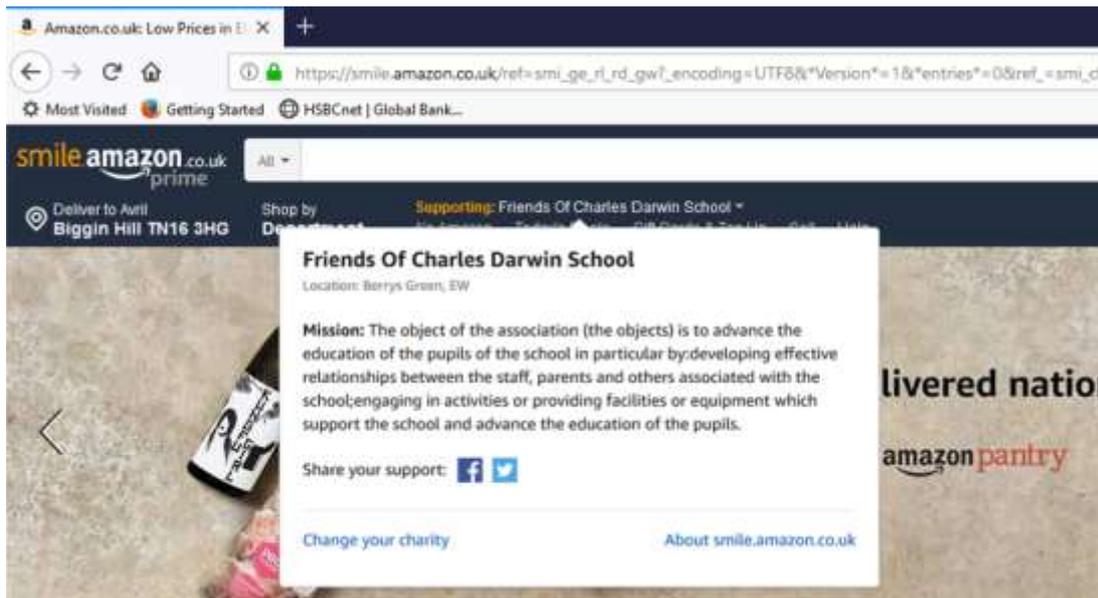


## Amazon Smile – Easy and free to donate to the Friends of Charles Darwin each time you shop at Amazon!

Amazon.co.uk has a designated site that you only link to once which will then donate a percentage of your amazon spend directly to a charity of your choice. The Friends of Charles Darwin have a set up a specific page and a very brief “how to” is shown here.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/charity/homepage.html>

Access the smile web page (this should bring up your home amazon page but with the addition of a “Supporting Link”) – here you will see Friends of Charles Darwin School selected. If a different charity is listed simply click the down arrow to the left of the charity name and then select [Change Your Charity](#)



This is a one-off procedure! From now on always shop at [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) (instead of [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)) and the donations will be raised automatically. With Christmas on the horizon there is no easier way to raise free funds for the school. All of your amazon account information will automatically be linked to the amazon smile site.

**THANK YOU**

### **Shopping by Phone? Amazon App users:**

*Unfortunately as yet you cannot use Amazon Smile with the Amazon App on the iPhone/Android. However, the good news is that you can set up a shortcut to the Amazon Smile website which gives a near identical experience to the app. It's very quick and easy to do.*

- 1. If you have the Amazon App installed you should remove it. To do this, tap and hold the app icon until it starts to jiggle. Tap the cross at the top left of the icon and confirm that you want to delete it. Don't worry, this will not delete your Amazon account or any of your settings.*
- 2. Now open your internet browser and go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk)*
- 3. Tap the 'share' button  on the bottom of the screen.*
- 4. Tap the 'Add to Home Screen' icon. You may need to swipe to the left to see this. Note: you can use the 'Add to Home Screen' option on android phones.*
- 5. You will now have an Amazon Smile icon on your home screen which you can use in exactly the same way you used the Amazon App.*

*We hope as many of you as possible will subscribe to this site.  
Thank you*

*[Friends of Charles Darwin School](#)*



## 6th Form Christmas Charity Walk/Run

A sponsored Christmas themed charity walk/run (fancy dress advised) for our two chosen charities;

London Air Ambulance  
and Teenage Cancer Trust.

Wednesday  
16th December  
2pm



See RfE to sign up and for  
sponsor form asap