



20.05.2020

Year 11 Newsletter

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## Dear Year 11

I hope you and your families are well and still coping with this difficult situation we find ourselves in. This is our 2nd Newsletter which I hope will be informative and give you some things to do to keep yourself busy and active.

Mrs Tsang

## Next Steps

We hope you are all keeping well and coping with this unusual situation in what would be the start of the GCSE exams. Form tutors have been in touch with lots of families and it has been good to hear from so many of you. Hopefully this Newsletter will help to answer many of the questions that you have raised with your form tutors. In order to prepare the students who have applied for places in our School Sixth Form and to help you to understand how the process will work, please see the information below (this has also been sent to parents by email):

## Introduction to Sixth Form Learning Activities and Information

On both Show My Homework and in the Sixth Form area of the school website, students and parents have access to a range of information and subject specific activities preparing students for post 16 study:

- Sixth Form Information Booklet
- Sixth Form Entry Requirements and Subject Specific Entry Requirements
- Wider Reading Document
- Subject specific overviews and recommended activities for all courses offered

It is recommended that students who have applied to the Sixth Form look at between 4-6 different subjects that they may be interested in and have indicated on their application form. We are very aware that some students may have changed their minds and will probably continue to do so up until results day and enrolment and so understanding the content and requirements of more than 3 courses is advisable. The attachments include a document with wider reading and other resources which will help understand the subjects as well as a course outline with recommended tasks for each subject. Detailed instructions for students are on Show My Homework.

As we approach the Summer holidays many subjects will begin to set specific 'bridging units' in addition to the work included in these resources. If students are keen to follow these courses upon entry to the Sixth Form it will be essential that the bridging units are completed. Parents and Students will be notified when these are available for students to begin working on.

It is wise to have a reserve choice and retain some flexibility as combinations of subject may be compromised by option blocking as well as class size restriction. Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate wishes it is sometimes necessary to consider suitable alternative subjects. Students also sometimes change their minds when they see their GCSE grades.

## Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment

Results Day and Enrolment will aim to be as efficient as possible. Further details will be released nearer the time regarding how this will work in practice as we may well be affected by the social distancing arrangements but essentially we will aim to keep this process as 'normal' as we are able to. On or around Results Day students who have met the entry requirements for the Sixth Form and their chosen subjects will have a very brief enrolment opportunity to confirm their Sixth Form place. For students who require a more in depth discussion, appointments will be made with a member of staff.

The Sixth Form team will begin to get in touch with students and families who have applied to the Sixth Form over the coming weeks. If however students or parents have any queries at all please do not hesitate to email [rke@cdarwin.com](mailto:rke@cdarwin.com) (Mrs Kearney)

If you have a concern regarding your mental health or that of another student please email  
Mrs Tsang: [nts@cdarwin.com](mailto:nts@cdarwin.com) or Mrs Gater: [jga@cdarwin.com](mailto:jga@cdarwin.com)

### Careers Work

Miss Candy has created a fantastic careers task for all pupils to do regardless of whether you are planning on staying on at a Sixth Form, going to College or doing an Apprenticeship. This will be on SMHW as Careers Research.

### Careers Advice

If you would like to speak with a Careers Advisor please contact Mrs Gater: [jga@cdarwin.com](mailto:jga@cdarwin.com) and she will try to arrange it for you.

### Feeling Anxious?

If you are feeling anxious and would like to talk to someone about how you are feeling please email Mrs Tsang: [nts@cdarwin.com](mailto:nts@cdarwin.com) or Mrs Gater: [jga@cdarwin.com](mailto:jga@cdarwin.com) so we can pass on your details to our School Counsellor.

### Results Day - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August

Some of you will know that usually on Results Day, students come in to school during a 2 hour period in the morning to collect their envelopes. The current situation with Covid-19 means we are likely to have to organise this very differently. We will let you know how this will work by email to parents when we know what the arrangements are likely to be. If your parent doesn't get emails from the school, ask them to send their email address to [dpa@cdarwin.com](mailto:dpa@cdarwin.com) so we can update your details as we don't want you to miss out on important information.

### Show My Homework (Satchel One)

Hopefully lots of you have noticed that the Show My Homework APP has changed and is now called Satchel One. When you update the APP, the logo will change to the Satchel One logo. It still works in the same way but the company are now offering other services to schools and so have changed their branding.

It would be useful if all of you could still check your APP regularly (at least weekly). This is the best way for us to communicate with all of you and we can put the Newsletters and other useful information on there. Email your form tutor or Ms Kelly if you need your login details again. You can reset your own password if you remember the email address you used as your username.

### Prom Update

At the moment Prom is postponed. We will continue to review whether we will be able to go ahead with the Prom at a different time based on how Government guidelines on social distancing develop and change over the coming weeks.

### Phone Calls from Tutors

You all should have had some contact by the end of this week from your form tutors either via a phone call or if they can't get hold of you by phone then an email. They have been feeding back to me what you have been up to and your plans for September. It is good to hear that so many of you are organised and have things in place for September. We are looking forward to seeing lots of you in the Sixth Form.

### Stay Active

Hopefully you have been trying to remain active during lockdown, some of you may have got up at 9am every day to do PE with Joe, however, I'm guessing most of you are in bed still at 9am. So what have you been doing? Is anyone out running or walking every day? Do you have any recommendations for YouTube work out programmes?

I have been trying to walk every day, 5K on weekdays and 10K on weekends so 45K per week. I've managed to stick to it for the last 2 weeks and have really enjoyed it. As well as that I have been using Joe Wicks on YouTube. There is a wide variety of workouts on his channel so I tend to pick and choose and mix it up a little. I would like to see what activities you have been doing to stay active. Please share via email and if you would like to join my challenge of walking 45K per week that would be great!



As well as this I have decided to do jigsaw puzzles, the idea is I leave it on the dining room table and every time anyone passes they have to put a piece in place, that idea didn't work and I ended up doing most of it with just my eldest daughter. This is the first one we did.

We are now working on a Disney puzzle which we thought would be easy but it is so difficult! This is what we have so far and we have been working on it for a week.....



In a world where you can be anything, Be Kind!

The following pupils have celebrated their 16th Birthday since the last Newsletter. So from all of us . . .

*Happy Birthday*

Rebecca Hall, Gemma Read, Oliver Julian, Jessica Barton, Evie Ince, Isabelle Kirk, Jada Turner and Daniel Grace.

We hope you were able to celebrate in some way. Keep well and get in touch if you need any further advice:

Mrs Tsang: nts@cdarwin.com  
 Mrs Gater: jga@cdarwin.com  
 Ms Kelly: lke@cdarwin.com



**A bit of fun**

1. What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?
2. What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?
3. A man calls his dog from the opposite side of the river. The dog crosses the river without getting wet, and without using a bridge or boat. How?
4. What can fill a room but takes up no space?
5. If you drop me I'm sure to crack, but give me a smile and I'll always smile back. What am I?

**Say what you see - a little game of Dingbats.....**

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**Answers will be posted on SMHW.**