



Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

HEADLINES

This week

This week has been positive as we have continued to bed in our routines with students. There is a feeling that most students are becoming more accustomed to their year group zones and their designated routes around the school. Whilst the arrangements we have put in place are complex, it does seem that everyone is now beginning to understand the need to ensure that we all do as much as we can to limit transmission of the virus.

One area where I would like to enlist the support of parents is the wearing of masks in communal areas. The majority of our students are now wearing masks and recognise that in doing so they are being socially responsible. I would be grateful if parents would reiterate this to their children as some do need to be reminded.

Front of School

The work at the front of school is progressing well and the designated bus lanes should be fully operational by next week. With the closure of Jail Lane for a few more weeks I would like to thank those parents who are dropping off their children at the top of the road thereby reducing the congestion in Jail Lane.

Governors Meeting

On Monday we held the first meeting of the school's Governing Body for this academic year. Governors were particularly appreciative of the arrangements we have put in place for the reopening of the school and the way in which the whole school community has embraced this "new normal".

At the meeting we also agreed our Link Governors for the year. The role of the Link Governor is to monitor specific areas in the school to ensure that we are doing our utmost to support the students. My thanks to all our Governors for their continued support of the school, the work they do is very much appreciated.

LINK Governor	Mr. Turner
Safeguarding	Mr. Turner
SEN/PHA	Councillor Botting
School Council	Mrs. Wilson
Attendance	Miss Currie
Pupil Premium	Mr. Coop

Virtual Open Day

Clearly this year we are not going to be in a position to have our normal Open Morning for prospective new Year 7 parents. So like many other schools we will need to put together a virtual Open Day presentation. We are working on this to structure videos and other elements onto our website for prospective parental access.

Sunil Chotai

THANK YOU

Year 7 have made an exceptional start at Charles Darwin School and have really risen to the new challenges they are facing at secondary school. In Year 7 we are really excited that we are soon going to be able to use specialist classrooms for some of our subjects over the coming weeks where possible without breaking our bubble. Practical PE lessons are being planned so make sure you bring your PE kit next week.

Thanks again for all your hard work so far.

Mr Woods

HEALTH MATTERS

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.

If your child contacts you directly, please phone the school to confirm whether they are unwell and have permission to go home.

Thank you.

Student Services

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

Ms O'Neill

Hello to all parents. I am very happy to be joining Charles Darwin School as a teacher of Drama. I have already spent some time with some of your children and I am enjoying getting to know them whilst encouraging them to explore their creativity. I am a mother of four children myself, 3 of which are at school age, so I understand the importance of knowing that your child is happy and learning whilst at school. I look forward to getting to know some of you over the forthcoming year.



Ms Medhurst

I am so pleased to be teaching at Charles Darwin School and am enjoying meeting everyone! I teach French and German and I look forward to exploring some of the wonderful things these two languages and cultures bring to the world in my lessons.

Outside school I love to paint and I also love music, gardening and anything to do with the natural environment. À bientôt -bis bald!



Miss Davies

My name is Miss Davies and I'm excited to be joining the English Department at Charles Darwin School. I am an avid reader and have a keen interest in post-colonial literature. I feel it is important to engage students in English lessons and try to get them to find an area they enjoy. Outside of school, I enjoy being in the countryside, as well as spending time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing all the work you produce over the next year.



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

Summer 2021

Monday 19th April – Friday 28th May
Half term: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Notes:

Good Friday – 2nd April 2021
Easter Monday – 5th April 2020

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.**