

Charles Darwin School
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CHARLES
DARWIN
SCHOOL

ALL VISITORS
MUST REPORT
TO RECEPTION

CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL
Main Hall & Student Services
Reception



“The school has a safe and orderly learning environment where pupils can flourish”



Message from the Headteacher

School days are the foundations on which our future lives are built – a time when opinions are formed, enthusiasms are awakened, friendships are made and characters are shaped. I know that choosing a secondary school for your son or daughter is a time of excitement, adventure and of course some anxiety over making the right choice. As a parent you obviously want the very best for your children and you will be looking for a school where they will experience success, be happy and fulfilled.

Charles Darwin is a school where students thrive both academically and socially. We believe in making the most of every ability and talent. We do this by offering a broad and balanced curriculum with a strong emphasis on the vital, core subjects of English, Maths, Science and the Humanities and by engendering an environment where talent can be nurtured through focus and dedication.

Examination success is very important to us, but we also value other achievements. Participation in extra-curricular activities such as our high quality school productions, sports teams and community activities is very much encouraged and highly valued.

Our students tell us that they take pleasure in coming to school - a place where they are challenged by the work, where the staff and fellow students support them and where achievement is part of their everyday experience.

I hope that something of Charles Darwin School's vitality will reach you from these pages and encourage you to see the school in action. We welcome visitors during the school day - just telephone to let us know that you would like to be shown around.

I look forward to meeting you.

Sunil Chotai
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sunil Chotai".

A Commitment to Excellence

At Charles Darwin School we expect the very best from each and every student and in return we will give of our very best to help them achieve their ambitions.

Our belief is that there should be a strong sense of purpose to all activities throughout the school, from the science lab to the rugby pitch to raising money for charities.



That purpose has the objective of raising standards and the aspirations of all our students. With clear targets and goals comes an increased sense of self-belief: no dream or aspiration is beyond reach; no talent or ability needs to remain unfulfilled.

There are no barriers to success at Charles Darwin. There are no soft options either: to be successful requires focus, drive and, of course, all the encouragement, support and guidance we can offer.

It is in this determined, rigorous and demanding atmosphere that we work with students to turn potential into reality.

CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL	
HEAD	PREFECTS
2009-10 NICOLAS IVES KELLY ALLUM RYAN WARE LUCINDA PRATT	2015-16 JOSHUA REID DANIELLA SMITH HARVIE HUDSON ELLIE GRIFFIN
2010-11 JAMES BRETT BROOKE LYNE MATTHEW CLEGG SCARLETT WELLING	2016-17 CALLUM KENNEY MOLLIE HARRIS ALFIE LEIGHTON NATALIA DALENTKA
2011-12 RYAN RAMDAS STEVIE ASHTON LUKE FROST BOBBIE GODSELL	2017-18 LIAM McFARLAND JEMMA SARGEANT SHAHAB MUHAMMAD TONI ABIODUN
2012-13 NICHOLAS WALPOLE LAUREN SONGHURST CONNOR DAWSON BOBBI QUINN	
2013-14 GREGORY COOPER AIMEE HAYWOOD THOMAS INSLEY LUCY BALE	
2014-15 BRADLEY CLEGG LAUREN WILSON HARLEY GERMAN JESSICA BURRELL	

Success: The Result of Committing to Excellence

The result of our commitment to excellence can be seen in many different aspects and areas of the school.

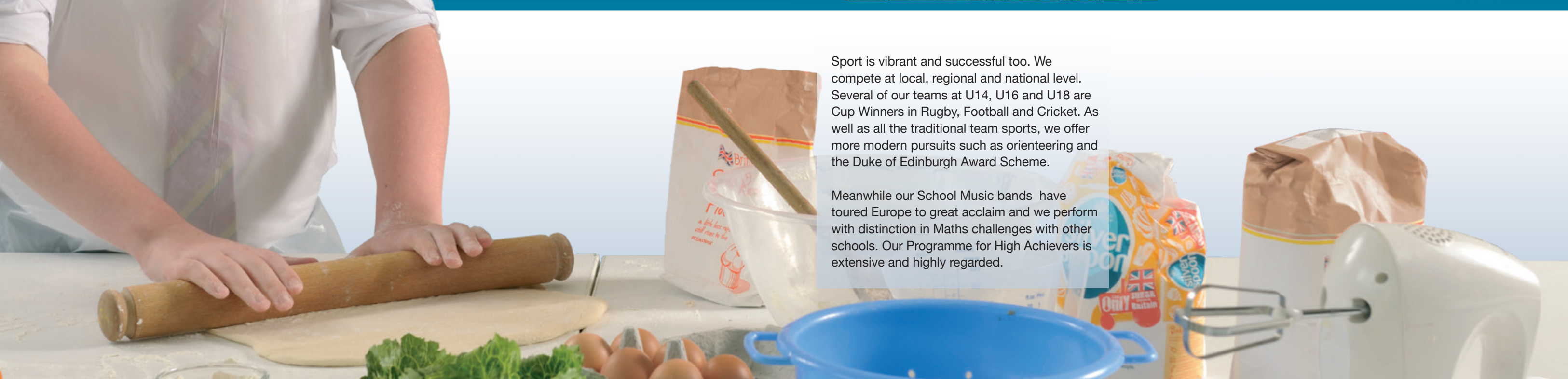
Our examination results are high both at GCSE and 'A' level. We regularly secure impressive results well above national averages, ranking the school in the top quartile of schools in the country. Many of our Sixth Form students go on to prestigious universities to study demanding degree courses.

We measure success in many other ways as well. Our outstanding drama productions not only provide spectacular entertainment but the production and staging engenders the leadership qualities and organisational skills we value.



Sport is vibrant and successful too. We compete at local, regional and national level. Several of our teams at U14, U16 and U18 are Cup Winners in Rugby, Football and Cricket. As well as all the traditional team sports, we offer more modern pursuits such as orienteering and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Meanwhile our School Music bands have toured Europe to great acclaim and we perform with distinction in Maths challenges with other schools. Our Programme for High Achievers is extensive and highly regarded.



“Students’ relationships with staff are good and high levels of mutual respect are very evident. This is a direct response to the high quality of care and support staff provide.”

Ofsted

“Pupils are courteous and respectful both to staff and each other”

Ofsted

Care and Guidance

Charles Darwin is a warm and welcoming school which forms a happy and inclusive community.

We expect and encourage a high degree of personal conduct, courtesy, consideration and kindness to all. Our Personal Development Programme offers catch-up classes when extra help is needed; no one needs to be left out of, or miss out on, the excellent all-round education we offer.

We value highly a system of Mentoring. Carefully selected and trained students encourage, guide, support and befriend new arrivals at the school. Younger children appreciate a friendly face, while older students benefit by taking on responsibility, at the same time developing confidence and empathy towards others.



“Inspectors observed very high standards of behaviour in classrooms and across the school”

Ofsted

The Curriculum Opportunities for Everyone

Our philosophy at Charles Darwin School is underpinned by the belief that by motivating students to aspire to higher standards everyone can achieve something of value through hard work, dedication and attention to detail.

We can deliver this by offering a curriculum that includes a full range of subjects catering for all abilities and capabilities.

There is a balance between the traditional subjects of English, Maths (both particular strengths of the school), Science, ICT and Humanities and the more contemporary

subjects such as Music Technology, Film Studies, Photography and Sports Studies. This blend of traditional and contemporary is also reflected in our overall teaching strategies.

How these courses are chosen and combined is based on a careful assessment of capabilities, interests and future needs. We understand how individuals learn. Whatever the combination of subjects and courses we ensure that everyone performs to the utmost of their ability and maximum potential.

Our highly dedicated and committed staff features four nationally-recognised and qualified Lead Practitioners. Throughout the year academic achievement and personal development is the priority of Head of Year Achievement Co-ordinators.

They monitor progress and liaise closely with students and parents at every stage, keeping students on track towards their agreed objectives, goals and ambitions.

The constantly developing curriculum at Charles Darwin allows students to access subjects that will maximise their learning and future options.

We value learning outside the classroom and students participate in many and varied school trips and visits. Examples include ski-ing in Austria, Aim Higher visits to Cambridge University and Medicine at Kings College, Painting Workshops at the Saatchi Gallery, Public Speaking at Chartwell, the British Music Experience at the O2, Kew Gardens, Stratford Upon Avon and many more.



“Sixth Form students have a tremendous thirst for knowledge.”

Ofsted



“Teachers use highly skilled questioning” and “provide a wide variety of interesting and thought-provoking tasks”

Ofsted



Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Charles Darwin is the culmination of everything that we aspire to in promoting and encouraging achievement and progress in an atmosphere that celebrates success.

That is why we are immensely proud that Ofsted commented on the thirst for knowledge that our Sixth Formers display.

The majority of our students go on to study degree courses in a range of subjects from

the traditional such as Mathematics, English Literature, Medicine and Architecture to the more contemporary such as Film and Animation, Graphic Design and Computing.

Our philosophy of success places a high value on the development of student leadership skills and all Sixth Formers have many opportunities to advance and hone their capacity for leading and working constructively with others.

Students develop confidence and further key skills necessary for success in their future study or in the world of work.



“A comprehensive range of school trips, sporting activities, school productions, fund raising opportunities and an enrichment week make a positive contribution to students’ personal development”

Ofsted

“The school has engendered very high levels of support for the school from pupils, parents and carers”

“A significantly high number of parents responded to Parent View – they are extremely positive about the school”

Ofsted



Tomorrow's Skills Tomorrow's Leaders

At Charles Darwin we believe our students should not just be equipped with qualifications but with the vital skills and mental processes required to play a significant role in an ever-more challenging and complex world.

All lessons, subjects and courses across the curriculum are supported by the very latest technology, from our extensive Information Communication Technology suites to the laser-cutting equipment and 3D printer in the Design Technology Department.

We aim to instil the flexible, transferable and adaptable skills relevant to the ever-changing and evolving work environment.

One of the greatest attributes we can give is the confidence and self-reliance to contribute significantly and positively to society as a whole. We encourage the skills of leadership, the ability to stand out in a crowd and to think for oneself.

From Year 7 students have the opportunity to play a significant role in the development of school policy through an elected Student Voice and School Council. Year 11 students can apply to become Prefects and in the Sixth Form Year 13 Senior Prefects support our whole-school elected Head Boy and Head Girl.

We host inspiring and informative leadership talks from representatives of business, industry and the armed forces.

More importantly, we get to know every individual student, their abilities and their ambitions. By doing so we can encourage, inspire and unlock their potential enabling our students to be the very best they can be.