



Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

HEADLINES

Changes to the school day from 30th November

Can I please remind parents of students in Years 8 and 9 that from Monday 30th November their start times have been adjusted as follows:

Year 8: should arrive from 8.40 for 8.50 start
Year 9: should arrive from 8.35 for 8.45 start

Class teachers will, of course, be supervising students until their classes are led in to school.

Ventilation in classrooms

As parents are aware we recently had a visit from the Health & Safety Executive to inspect our Covid-19 arrangements. Whilst the visit went extremely well and the inspector was impressed with the elaborate arrangements we have put in place, one area which was commented on was that windows were closed in a few classrooms. Whilst I appreciate that the colder weather is approaching it is really important that windows remain open and therefore classrooms will be colder than usual. Coats/hoodies are not acceptable in the classroom and students are encouraged to wear a school jumper, or similar, with their blazers. I do hope that parents understand this requirement and support us in this matter.

Sunil Chotai

Attendance

Winning Tutor Groups week ending 20.11.20

TUTOR GROUP	ATTENDANCE
7KSa	98.5%
8SDa/WDa	98.5%
9JLa	96.9%
10MHu	97.6%
11SAr	98%
12GSh/JBy	98.6%
13ARu/MDi	100%

Thank You Message

Dear Charles Darwin School

A huge thank you to all the staff for doing a fantastic job in these difficult teaching times.

My child is so glad to be back at school (though he doesn't show it) and I know the added 100 things teachers and support staff have to consider every day are making things very difficult and tiring - but thank you to all for continuing and providing a safe and happy school life for our not so little ones.

Kind regards

Charles Darwin Parent

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

PLEASE



WEAR A
MASK

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

REMINDER:

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.



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

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.



Friends of Charles Darwin School – An Urgent Request

AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 9th December at 8pm via Zoom

Dear Parents,

This letter is an urgent request for new members to swell our ranks. In a difficult year our numbers continue to dwindle and next year become perilously low, this is due to a number of factors;

1. The high number of “Friends” with children in the later age groups who will be leaving our ranks.
2. The family and work commitments of current members.

In order to continue to be a thriving and successful PTA, the Friends need a yearly influx of members. Our current numbers have over 80% of members with children in Year 11 and above. This means that without new members joining, within a couple of years the Friends are unlikely to be able to continue.

Ideally 4 parents from each of the year groups (7-11) would enable the Friends to continue to be a vital and supportive addition to the school on a continuing basis.

For those parents (particularly in Years 7-9) who may have been members of their respective Primary School PTA, we cannot emphasise the difference in responsibilities enough. The Friends only require a few hours once or twice a year at events. A lot of our events are co-ordinated remotely via our WhatsApp group.

Due to current restrictions we have found it increasingly difficult/impossible to meet up. We have recently trialled a meeting via Zoom which although tricky did give us the chance to get together. Our AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 9th December at 8pm via Zoom. If you have been considering coming along (and even if you haven't!) please do consider joining us at this one. Please email us at friends@cdarwin.com or message via our Facebook page (Friends of Charles Darwin School) to be issued an invitation to this event.

Attendance is not a commitment to join, but we are a very friendly lot and think you will be surprised at how little time commitment is needed to ensure that the Friends continue in supporting the school at events and donating funds to improve the welfare and education of our children.

Events:

Discos/Parents Evenings / Football Tournament / Non-Uniform Day / Christmas Raffle / After School Events / Quiz Nights

Financial Assistance:

Eco Garden / Printer / Art Project Drawers / Library Furniture / Recording Studio Support / Canopy-shelter by tennis courts / Food Tech Equipment

Thank you

The Friends of Charles Darwin School

Who are we?

The Friends of Charles Darwin School is an organisation made up of parents of current students, members of the teaching facility and members of the local community.

What we do...

We fundraise to support the school with donations:

- * *Quiz Nights*
- * *Christmas Raffle*

We support the school at various events with the provision of refreshments, (primarily at parents' evenings, open days and at school productions)

We hold events for the pupils (these events raise around £1600 per year)

- * *Yr 7 and 8 Yearly Football Tournament*
- * *Non Uniform Day*
- * *Easter Egg sale*

We actively fundraise through the internet and with monthly/yearly fundraisers

- * *Smile.amazon.co.uk*
- * *www.thegivingmachine.co.uk*
- * *50/50 Club*
- * *Christmas Raffle*

We assist at events

- * *Refreshments at School Parents Evenings*
- * *Refreshments at School Productions*
- * *Year 6/7 School disco*

Why we do it...

To promote the education and well-being of all of our children

What do we spend our funds on?

- * *Recent donations have included the following:*
- * *Provision of catering items for the Domestic Science department*
- * *Provision of printing equipment for the photography department*
- * *Donations towards the creation of the Ecology garden (opposite tennis courts)*
- * *New comfortable seating and coffee tables in the library*



Are you interested/curious?

We are actively recruiting new members as each year, as students leave the school to go on to further education or employment we do sadly lose some experienced members of our group.

When do we meet?

We aim to have a short meetings (term time only) which are held in the Sixth Form hub. (Due to restrictions these are currently taking place via WhatsApp or Zoom)

- * Members are not expected to attend every meeting
- * Much of our organisation is done via email and our WhatsApp Group
- * Many hands make light work and if you can help at 1 event per year this would ensure we are able to continue to support our children.

If you would like some further information and cannot make this meeting, please visit our *Facebook page (Friends of Charles Darwin School)* or email us at: **friends@cdarwin.com**

Thank you.

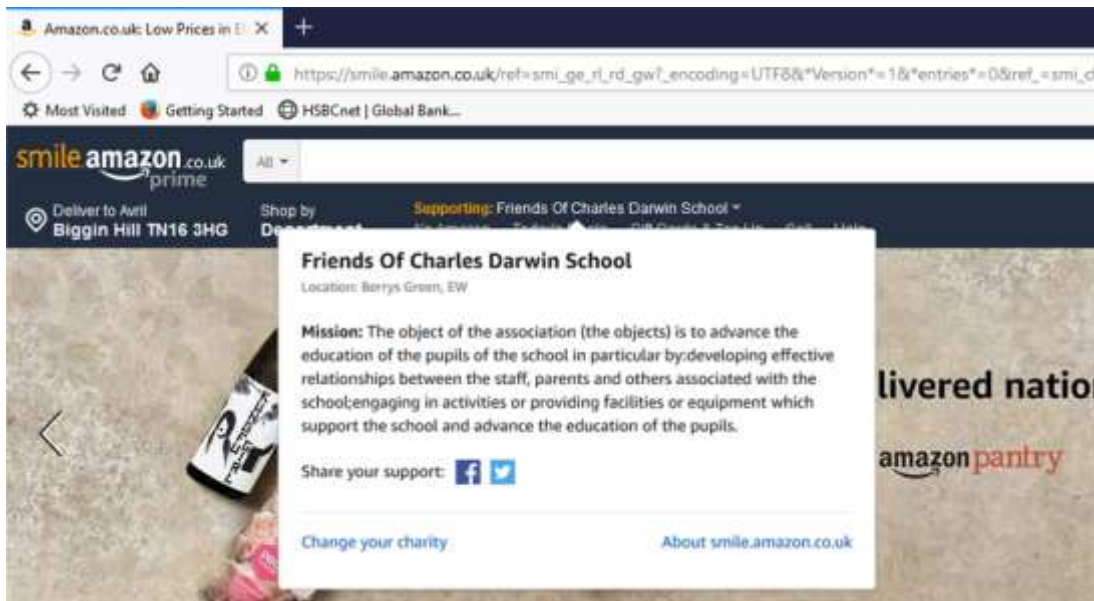


Amazon Smile – Easy and free to donate to the Friends of Charles Darwin each time you shop at Amazon!

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 (instead of 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*
- 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](#)