



07.02.2020

Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

The Link

HEADLINES

Launch of GCSEPod

On Monday 10th February we will launch GCSEPod at Charles Darwin School. GCSEPod is an online resource which aims to provide students with an award winning mobile revision and study package. We have recently subscribed to GCSEPod for the benefit of our Year 11 and 10 pupils. Other pupils will eventually have access to this – probably commencing September 2020.

We are told that GCSEPod is a particularly successful revision and study package; pupils who make regular and extensive use of GCSEPod typically achieve 1 grade higher or more in their GCSE subjects.

This online resource uses podcasts to revise and reinforce key concepts and skills that are essential for GCSE success across all subjects in the curriculum, the pod casts cover all levels and are thus suitable for students of all abilities.

How does it work?

Pupils have unlimited access to 12,000+ hours of curriculum relevant GCSE learning and revision material delivered in the unique 'Pod' format. Each podcast delivers a concentrated burst of knowledge lasting between 3 to 5 minutes. They are audio and visual in format meaning that they are accessible to all pupils and are clear for all pupils to understand. Students are able to download this content to their mobile phones and/or pcs at home and listen to the pods where and when they wish. The podcasts do not take up huge amounts of memory and being mobile, pupils can plug in their personal headphones and revise on the way to and from school, as they ride on the bus, at home at any time and even on holiday. Basically, it's available to them 24/7. The podcasts have all been mapped to the specific exam specifications for each subject taught at Charles Darwin School.

Once launched on Monday to Year 11 and then later on to Year 10 we are hoping that all students will make regular and extensive use of this valuable resource. I would be grateful if parents could encourage their children in Years 11 and 10 to please make full use of this really innovative way to revise and ensure even better progress.

Sunil Chotai

SAFER INTERNET DAY TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY

Safer Internet Day promotes the safe and positive use of digital technology, especially among children and young people. It aims to create both a safer and better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.



Safer Internet Day encourages everyone to come together and play their part. There are many ways to do this:

- Children and young people can help to create a better internet by being kind and respectful to others online, by protecting their online reputations (and those of others), and by seeking out positive opportunities to create, engage and share online.
- Parents and carers play a crucial role in empowering and supporting children, whether it is by ensuring an open dialogue with their children, educating them to use technology safely and positively, or by acting as digital role models.
- Teachers, educators and social workers can help to create a better internet by equipping their pupils and students with digital literacy skills and by developing their critical thinking skills, which will allow them to better navigate the online world. They can empower them to create their own content, make considered choices online, and can set a personal example of positive online behaviour for their pupils and students.



Advice sheets for Parents/Carers on WhatsApp and Instagram were attached to last week's Link. This week we are advising on TikTok, an online app where users share short video clips. Please read them and help keep your children safe.

Mrs Rees

REMINDER:

Early close for all pupils on Thursday 13th February (end of P5: 2.10pm)

Monday 10th - Friday 14th February 2020

Personal Development

This week, we have a series of important assemblies being led by external speakers as part of our Personal development programme:

Monday 10th February

8.30am Year 11 Assembly - GCSEPod launch
Dance Competition Final (Main Hall)

Tuesday 11th February

8.30am Year 7 Assembly - Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 12th February

8.30am Year 11 Assembly - National Citizen Service, encouraging our Year 11s to be part of the NCL summer engagement programme, building skills for work and life.

Thursday 13th February

8.30am Year 9 Assembly - Road Safety
Early finish for all pupils (end of P5: 2.10pm)

Friday 14th February

8.30am Year 10 Assembly - Drug Education workshop - Interactive presentation by the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation
End of Half Term

Forthcoming Events

FEBRUARY 2020

Monday 24 February - New Half Term starts

MARCH 2020

Wednesday 04 March - Year 9 Parents' Evening

Monday 09 March - Head Prefect Application closing date

Thursday 12 March - Year 8 Options Evening

Wednesday 25 March - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening

APRIL 2020

Friday 03 April - Ski trip to Austria departs

Friday 03 April - End of Term

Monday 20 April - Summer Term starts

Wednesday 29 April - Year 10 Parents' Evening

SPRING TERM DATES 2020

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February

Half term: Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Monday 24th February – Friday 3rd April

Notes:

Good Friday – 10th April 2020

Easter Monday – 13th April 2020

Summer Term starts Monday 20th April 2020



Duty Pupils for Praise Week ending 7th February 2020

Many thanks to Kaitlin Ricketts, Cameron Edwards – Hann, Teagan Jansen, Stanley Pratt and Jessica Eede, Year 8.

**Miss Payne
Reception**

Top Attendance Week ending 30th January 2020

Year	Tutor group	Percentage
7	7SDa/WDa	99.1%
8	8AGi	100%
9	9NDy	100%
10	10CGr	97.9%
11	11SCu	99%
12	12-Dec	98.4%
13	13RPi	97.1%%

Parents Evenings 2020

Year 9: 4 March 2020

Year 12: 25 March 2020 (2)

Year 13: 25 March 2020 (2)

Year 10: 29 April 2020

Year 7: 7 May 2020



Learning Support Assistant (term time only)
20 hours per week Monday – Thursday
(£9,717 per annum)

We are looking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to join a well-established team supporting a range of **students' needs in class, in small groups and/or specialised individual learning**. Applicants should ideally have experience of working with secondary-aged students with a range of SEN and *experience working with students with ASD would be an advantage*.

Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT.

Further details and an application form are available on our website and should be sent to jho@cdarwin.com. Closing date: 21st February 2020. Please note CVs alone cannot be considered.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS Enhanced Disclosure and full background checks.

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.