



23/02/2018

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

HEADLINES

Ofsted Inspection

As parents are aware, shortly before the half term break we had an Ofsted inspection. We have now received the final version of the Ofsted feedback letter and it is a very pleasing report; highlighting many strengths and confirming that we are a very strong good school with very many attributes. The areas that we need to work on are few and the inspectors did not point out anything that we were not already aware of and working on ourselves.

I would like to sincerely thank those parents who responded to the parental feedback request during the inspection. The lead inspector was extremely impressed with the number of parents who took the time to respond and the overwhelming number of positive comments about our school.

The final report will be published on our website next Wednesday.

Canteen Standard Rating

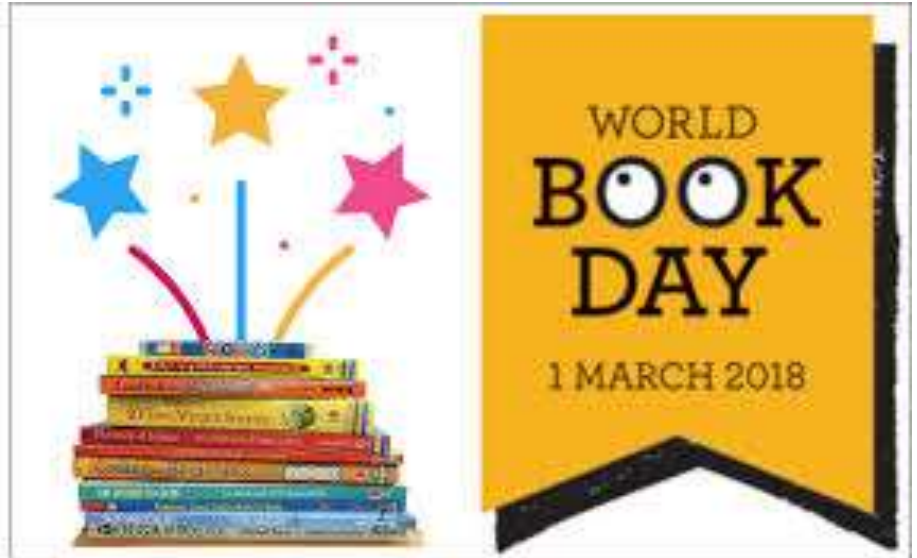
As some parents may be aware, following an inspection of our kitchen the overall standard rating was reduced and this appears to have been dramatised somewhat over social media during the half term break. I would like to reassure families that this in no way relates to the work carried out by our excellent kitchen staff. Indeed, in two of the three categories we scored Very Good (Hygienic Food Handling and Management of Food Safety) and the Improvement Required rating relates to some structural issues in the kitchen itself which are being addressed.

Sunil Chotai

STOP PRESS: Phil the Bag

The Phil the Bag textiles collection has been delayed until Tuesday 27 February. You can therefore bring donations into school on Monday if you still have anything suitable.

World Book Day 2018



World Book Day is celebrated this year on Thursday 1st March 2018 and as in previous years, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be taking part in the Big Read next week. Whatever the subject, teachers will start their lesson on Thursday by reading a specified section of a short story so that by the end of the day all Key Stage 3 students will have heard the full narrative.

“Staff have really embraced the Big Read over the last few years,” said Mrs Pitt who organises the event in school, “and pupils have fed back about how much they’ve enjoyed it. Ultimately, we want to encourage our students to read as much as possible so that their literacy skills improve and their vocabulary develops, helping them to access the curriculum in all subject areas.”

Students in Years 7 to 11 will also be given World Book Day tokens which can be exchanged at participating booksellers for one of the ten exclusive, new and completely free World Book Day books for younger readers. Alternatively tokens can be put towards one of the five full-length books for teenagers priced at only £2.50 each—that is only £1.50 with a £1 book token. These tokens are valid from Monday 26th February to Sunday 25th March 2018.

YEAR 9 PARENTS’ EVENING AND REPORT COLLECTION on Wednesday, 7 March 2018

3:15pm – 6:15pm

This is an opportunity for pupils and their families to come and speak to staff about their progress

Oz Schoolwear will be present selling school uniform and PE kit.

Governors will be present and refreshments will also be available courtesy of the Friends.

Year 7 Charity Cinema Event: Despicable Me 3

The postponed charity cinema event for Year 7 students will now take place after school on

Friday 2nd March

and will finish at approximately 5:00pm. Refreshments will be available to buy and previously purchased tickets are still valid. The event is still open for new ticket sales (available from Student Voice representatives) for just £2.00.

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:

Parents/carers must phone before 8:30am with a full reason on every day of their child’s absence.

Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

Monday 26 February to Friday 2 March

26 February 2018—Sixth Form geography residential to Bournemouth

27 February 2018—Year 9 Enterprise Day

28 February 2018—Year 13 drama trip to see *The Birthday Party*

1 March 2018—World Book Day

1 March 2018—Year 8 Options Evening

2 March 2018—Year 7 Charity cinema event

Forthcoming events: spring term

7 March 2018—Year 9 Parents Evening

9 March 2018—U13 Girls Kent Cup Final at Bromley FC

17 March 2018—Nuclear Race mud run challenge

22 March 2018—Year 12 and 13 English trip to see *Measure for Measure*

24 March 2018—8:30pm Earth Hour—turn off your lights to support climate action

26 March 2018—Year 12 and 13 drama trip to see *The Plough and the Stars*

27 March 2018—Year 12 and 13 Parents Evening

28 March 2018—Dance trip to performance of *Sutra* at Sadlers Wells

28 March 2018—Governors Open Morning

3 to 13 April 2018—Easter revision sessions

18 April 2018—Year 9 Your Choice Your Voice

1 May 2018—Year 10 Drama trip to see *DNA*

2 May 2018—Year 10 Parents Evening

16 May 2018—Year 7 Parents Evening

18 May 2018—Key Stage 3 netball tour

6 June 2018—Dance trip to performance of *XENOS* at Sadlers Wells

Health matters

A reminder that all students need to drink sufficient water during the day to aid concentration and should therefore carry a water bottle. There are fountains around school where students can refill their bottles at break and lunchtime as needed.

If, for any reason, your child needs to take pain relief during the day, they should bring their own into school, with a parent's permission. We cannot give pupils medication, including over the counter pain relief, without contacting parents first.

Alternatively medication can be held by the lead first aider in Student Services.

Students should also bring their own throat lozenges and sanitary products as the school cannot afford to provide these items routinely.

Thank you for your co-operation.

PARENTS EVENINGS 2017/18

Year 9: 7 March 2018

Year 12: 27 March 2018 [2]

Year 13: 27 March 2018 [2]

Year 10: 2 May 2018

Year 7: 16 May 2018

Wanted

The art department would welcome donations of the following items.

Plastic bottles (washed), bags (preferably the cheap 5p supermarket ones) and any bottle tops are wanted for an art project raising awareness of the impact of plastic in our oceans please.

We would also welcome any old towels and pale or white material such as sheets you may no longer need. All donations to Mrs Austin in art. Thank you.

Charles Darwin School Alumni

Are you a former student? Would you like to join our ever growing alumni? We hold a number of events across the year when students are able to hear about the many and varied career pathways of our former students. Your input would be much appreciated. Follow the link on our website:

<https://www.cdarwin.com/page/?title=News+%26amp%3B+Events&pid=3>

Thank you.

Pupils for Praise

Duty pupils of the week ending
09/02/2018

Tallulah Botton and Izzy Franklin
from 8 JSn

Mrs Mills, Reception



History Star of the Week

is awarded to Kirsty Hunt in Year 7. Kirsty is incredibly enthusiastic in class, she is keen to share her opinion and explains her answers in full. Kirsty's book is beautiful and her enjoyment of history shines through in everything she does. I look forward to monitoring her ongoing success. Well done Kirsty.

Mr Page

A huge well done to the Year 8 netball team who played in the Bromley Borough Tournament at Hayes School on Wednesday. The girls played extremely well and the results were as follows:

CDS lost to Bromley High A: 5-0

CDS beat Colfes: 7-4

CDS beat Harris Bromley: 5-3

CDS beat Langley Park B by default

CDS lost to Newstead Wood 1-2

CDS beat Hayes B 8-1

The girls were fantastic; the games were hard but they all kept focused and worked as a team. We ended up third in our pool narrowly missing out on the semi final.

Miss Case

Supporters needed

The U13 Girls Kent Cup Final has been confirmed for Friday 9th March at Bromley FC on their first team pitch against Highworth Grammar School from Ashford.

Kick off will be at 6:00pm. Tickets cost £6.00 per adult and £3.00 per child, please see Miss Curwood to purchase. Any support will be most welcome.

Miss Curwood

Holiday revision classes

This week, Year 11 students have been given the holiday revision timetable for the Easter and May half term breaks. Copies have also been emailed home. Sessions can be paid for in ParentPay and there is limited availability for some subjects, so please book early. Thank you.

Ms Kelly