



06.03.2020

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## HEADLINES

### Coronavirus Update

This week our pupils were all informed in their tutor groups about the precautions we can all take to minimise the risks associated with the spreading of the Coronavirus. Form Tutors have gone through messages about hand washing, maintaining social distance, respiratory hygiene, the need to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth and what to do if a student feels unwell with fever, breathing difficulty and a cough.

In addition, various parts of the school have had appropriate signage put on display and hand sanitizer made available to ensure improved awareness and improved hygiene. Parents will appreciate that it is important to inform pupils to help protect them whilst at the same time keeping a good sense of proportion; not engendering a panicky response.

I have to say that the response from the vast majority of our school community has been superb; mature and sensible in the face of the potential challenges and anxieties following the constant news reports about the spread of this virus. My thanks to all pupils, staff and parents for their good sense and support.

This week we also received more detailed guidance from the Department of Education in relation to managing any suspected virus related incidents. The guidance is detailed and outlines a consistent approach to school closure amongst other things. It says that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless directed to do so by Public Health England. We have used parts of this new guidance to produce a school protocol should we need to manage a suspected case.

Parents and carers will be aware that there are a number of decisions about school trips and visits that are likely to be influenced by this Coronavirus outbreak. At the moment we have decided that we will only cancel school trips and visits if it is absolutely necessary and only after taking appropriate advice. Depending on how things progress nationally and internationally over the next few weeks we may need to change this stance and it may affect trips where the wellbeing of our pupils and staff is likely to be compromised.

Sunil Chotai

## SPEAK OUT REGIONAL FINALS

Congratulations to Erin Hartley, Year 10, who took part in the regional Speak Out Final held at Coopers School on the evening of Thursday 5th March 2020.

The Speak Out Trust, through the Jack Petchey Foundation, work with young people on improving their confidence and technique in public speaking.

This year, 502 students across Bromley took part in the Speak Out Challenge. Of these hundreds of students only 18 students representing 17 Bromley Schools took part in the regional final. The competition was fierce, but Erin delivered an excellent speech and won 2nd place, out performing fellow competitors from schools including Langley Park, St Olaves and Newstead Woods.



I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Hartley and Mr Lamb who joined me to support Erin at the regional finals. As Erin was runner-up she will be one of the student judges at next year's regional finals in 2021. If you would like to see Erin in action, the video of her speech will be posted on the Speak Out website and on You Tube in the very near future.

Well done, Erin – we are all extremely proud of you!

Mrs Pitt



### SAM JUMPS FOR GOLD

Congratulations to Sam Kempster, Year 7, who won Gold at the Kent County Level H Boys under 15s Trampolining in Gillingham on Sunday.

Sam won enough points to skip Level G and qualify for Level F and will compete again in May.

Keep up the good work Sam.

## CAR PARK CLOSURE

Apologies for any inconvenience but the car park next to the Hub will be unavailable to staff or pupils on Thursday 19th March as we have visitors from Kingston University utilising the space with their 'Lab in a Van' student outreach experience.

Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards

Dr R Piercy

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.

## UNICO LIVE online app

Dear Parents & Carers

I am writing to let you know that the school has been informed of an online safeguarding concern involving a new live-streaming app recently released.

I would ask you to be alert for signs of your child downloading the UNICO LIVE app from social media sites. This app has been found to have high levels of engagement from adults instructing children to engage in sexualised activity.

This app is potentially very dangerous. The advice from the Safer Schools Team is that parents should check that your child hasn't downloaded this app, and if they have, help them remove it.

Please remain vigilant and check what apps your daughter/son has downloaded. Please continue to remind them to only engage with other people that they know on line.

Many thanks



Mrs Rees

## MRS BRAZIER IS ON THE RUN!

I'm running the London Landmarks half marathon on March 29th and have chosen Tommy's, the premature baby charity, because I have had three early babies.

My youngest was born 13 weeks early and spent her first 8 weeks in hospital. She received amazing care and, thankfully, apart from her first year being plagued with bronchiolitis and even pneumonia, she is now 15 years old and perfectly healthy. It doesn't work out well for everyone though so I want to raise as much money as I can for this excellent charity.

I've never run so far before - it will be a huge challenge! Please come and cheer me on, you can also help raise money for this great cause by donating directly to my fundraising page -

<https://www.justgiving.com/Kate-Brazier1>

JustGiving sends your donation straight to Tommy's, the baby charity so that they can put your generosity to good use!

Thanks for any donations you can spare.



Mrs Brazier

### DARWIN LEISURE CENTRE

Pay as you go (*gym use*)  
£5 per session

Centre Member (*gym use & membership rates*)  
£25 a year & £4.50 per session

**GOLD Membership** (*unlimited gym use & membership rates*)  
£25 a month

**A variety of private classes, facilities and pitch hire is available**

Enquiries to 01959 540606  
email: [leisurecentre@cdarwin.com](mailto:leisurecentre@cdarwin.com)  
[www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com)



### TERM DATES

#### Spring 2020

Monday 24th February – Friday 3rd April

#### Summer 2020

Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May  
(Bank holiday Friday 8th May)

Half Term Monday 25th – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Tuesday 21st July

#### Notes:

Good Friday – 10th April 2020  
Easter Monday – 13th April 2020

**INSET Days** - School closed to students

Monday 20th July 2020  
Tuesday 21st July 2020

## Monday 9th - Friday 13th March 2020

### Monday 9th March

8.30am Year 9 Assembly  
Head Prefect Application closing date

### Tuesday 10th March

8.30am Year 10 Assembly

### Wednesday 11th March

No assembly to due to Finance Exam

### Thursday 12th March

8.30am Year 12/13 Assembly  
Year 8 Options Evening

### Friday 13th March

8.30am Year 9 Assembly

## Forthcoming Events

### MARCH 2020

**Wednesday 25th** - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening

### APRIL 2020

**Friday 3rd** - Ski trip to Austria departs

**Friday 3rd** - End of Term

**Monday 20th** - Summer Term starts

**Wednesday 29th** - Year 10 Parents' Evening

### MAY 2020

**Thursday 7th** - Year 7 Parents' Evening

**Friday 8th** - Bank Holiday

**Friday 22nd** - Year 13 Leavers' BBQ

**Friday 22nd** - End of Half Term

### JUNE 2020

**Wednesday 3rd** - Expressive Arts Showcase

**Friday 12th** - Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

**Thursday 18th** - Year 9/10 Rounders' Tournament

**Friday 19th** - Sixth Form Leavers' Ball

**Wednesday 24th** - Driven by Consequences

**Thursday 25th** - Year 7/8 Rounders' Tournament

**Friday 26th** - Year 11 Prom

### JULY 2020

**Wednesday 1st** - Sports Awards Evening

**Thursday 2nd** - Dance Show

**Friday 3rd** - Sports Day

**Friday 10th** - Year 6/7 Disco

**Wednesday 15th** - Personal Development Day

**Thursday 16th** - Personal Development Day

### Duty Pupils for Praise Week ending 6th March 2020

Many thanks to Emily Bellemy, Solly Yelding and Lilly-Louise Gooch, Year 8.

**Miss Payne  
Reception**

### Top Attendance Week ending 28th February 2020

Year	Tutor group	Percentage
7	7SAI	98%
8	8AGi	98.6%
9	9NDy	98.6%
10	10CGr	98.8%
11	11RBr	97.3%
12	12ARu	98.3%
13	13RPi	99.2%

### Parents Evenings 2020

Year 12: 25th March 2020 (2)  
Year 13: 25th March 2020 (2)  
Year 10: 29th April 2020  
Year 7: 7th May 2020

### 'Act of Kindness'

This week's 'Act of Kindness' goes to

**Vincent Thompson, 8LBr**

### 50/50 Club Winners

Well lightning does strike twice!! Congratulations to L Barrack whose no. 41 was drawn as the winner of the February 50/50 draw. Another £48.50 is on its way!

### Friends of Charles Darwin School

Please take the time to read the attached letter to parents from the Friends of Charles Darwin - we are now finding ourselves primarily made up of parents with children in the last couple of school years and in order to continue our support, new members are needed.

Many thanks.

**The Friends**