



04.10.2024

Issue No: 1132

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### Van Wrap Design Competition

Congratulations to Adam Piechowka, Year 8, who was the overall winner of the Van Wrap Design Competition held by Bristol Street Motors Ford Orpington. Bristol Street Motors said Adam's design was not only bold and colourful but truly captured the essence of the brief. 2nd place went to Florence Adler, Year 8, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Archie Hartnup, Year 7. A massive well done to everyone who took part and I can't wait to see the unveiling of Adam's design on the van at the School.

### Driven by Consequences

On Tuesday the Year 12's attended Driven by Consequences a thought-provoking event presented by the London Borough of Bromley's Road Safety Team working in partnership with a number of organisations including London Air Ambulance, London Fire Brigade, Metropolitan Police and Kwik Fit as well as a hard-hitting Coroner's Inquest workshop to explore how human factors affect driving, helping pupils to make informed decisions about their own and other people's safety on the road. Workshops also included Lillian's Law and Driving with Grace. We are very grateful for the incredible response from so many professionals who agreed to be part of this event. Who knows how many lives have been saved from this day. The professionals were very positive about the attitude of our students which was pleasing to hear. My thanks to Mrs Johnson, KS5 Pastoral Support Manager for organising the event and the Sixth form team for their support.



### Cyber attack update

It has been a positive week for progress with a step forward with the canteen till system now back online as per my earlier letter. The catering company has asked that the food costs for all students be cleared by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November so we would be grateful if you could add the money to your Parentpay account to clear the last 3 weeks' food costs. We hope to soon have greater access to electronic student files and there are no further planned early closures due to the cyber attack. Currently, there is no confirmed release of data. If we find it has been released, we will notify parents and students.

### Open Morning

Open event preparations are now well underway for our Open Morning on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October. It will be a very busy day and my thanks to those students who are helping with the preparations and to those who will be with us on the day itself. **There will be an early close on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to allow for the Open Morning preparation and students will be dismissed at 12.20.**

### Christmas Card Design Competition

I know it might seem early, but with Christmas only 11 weeks away I am delighted to be launching the Charles Darwin Christmas Card Competition for 2024! The winning design will be printed on the front of the Christmas cards Charles Darwin sends out in December, both in traditional card format and electronic.

Designs are to be inspired by the spirit of Christmas. Given the high standards of entries to the recent Bristol Street Motors van wrap design competition, I can't wait to see the amazing artwork of our talented students. Please encourage your son/daughter to take part. The winner will receive a prize!

The deadline for entries is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. For further details, see the poster below.

Aston Smith, Headteacher





## Charles Darwin School

Operated by the [njc] Educational Trust  
Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve



### Open Morning - Saturday 12th October 2024

Parents of prospective students are invited to visit our high performing school to view and sample the exciting opportunities we have to offer. Pre booking for a tour only (9am) or Headteacher's presentation followed by a tour (9am, 10am or 11am) is essential by lunchtime on Thursday 10 October. Priority will be given to Year 6 children. Presentations will start promptly at the advertised time so please leave sufficient time for parking. (There will be very limited on-site parking available and parking in the local community gets very busy).

<b>Early Tour only</b> <b>9.00am</b> Email to book your place <a href="mailto:earlytour@cdarwin.com">earlytour@cdarwin.com</a>	<b>Presentation &amp; Tour 1</b> <b>9.00am</b> Email to book your place <a href="mailto:hallandtour1@cdarwin.com">hallandtour1@cdarwin.com</a>	<b>Presentation &amp; Tour 2</b> <b>10.00am</b> Email to book your place <a href="mailto:hallandtour2@cdarwin.com">hallandtour2@cdarwin.com</a>	<b>Presentation &amp; Tour 3</b> <b>11.00am</b> Email to book your place <a href="mailto:hallandtour3@cdarwin.com">hallandtour3@cdarwin.com</a>
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Please email the relevant tour/presentation with your name, **your child's name**, **their current year group**, **their current school** and the **number of places required**.

### Open Week - Monday 14th - Thursday 17th October

If you wish to attend one of our Open Week tours you can pre-book a tour for 8.45am or 9.00am. Open week tours offer the opportunity to see the school in operation and to observe teaching taking place. This will be followed by a short Q & A session with the Headteacher. Please leave time for parking (none available on site). Pre-booking essential by 12.00pm on Friday 11th October.

Monday 14th October -

Tuesday 15th October -

Wednesday 16th October -

Thursday 17th October -

FULLY BOOKED

FULLY BOOKED

FULLY BOOKED

FULLY BOOKED

Please see our recent Ofsted Report



Jail Lane  
 Biggin Hill  
 Westerham, Kent  
 TN38 3AU

Tel: 01959 574043  
 Email: [enquiries@cdarwin.com](mailto:enquiries@cdarwin.com)  
 Website: [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com)



# Charles Darwin School Sixth Form Open Evening



No  
booking  
required

Thursday 14th November 2024  
6pm - 8pm

*Presentations in the Main Hall at 6pm and 7pm*

*Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve*

Email: [enquiries@cdarwin.com](mailto:enquiries@cdarwin.com)

Web: [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com)

Jail Lane, Biggin Hill,  
Westerham, Kent, TN16 3AU  
Tel: 01959 574043

"Students in the Sixth Form benefit from an individualised approach and achieve well" **Ofsted 2023**





## Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

Jail Lane  
Biggin Hill  
Westerham  
Kent TN16 3AU  
Tel: 01959 574043  
enquiries@cdarwin.com

### Assistant Data Manager/Assistant Examinations Officer

**Required for November 2024**  
**36 hours a week, 40 weeks a year**  
**Actual salary £26,370**

We wish to appoint an Assistant Data Manager/Assistant Examinations officer to join our committed and friendly Administration team. The successful candidate will support the school's Data Manager & Examinations Officer and will be responsible for the input of statistical data, creation and management of assessment reports and the analysis of data.

Applicants should have excellent organisational and inter-personal skills together with experience of working in a pressurised environment. Applicants are expected to have strong IT skills, especially Excel with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. A working knowledge of SIMS would be advantageous.

We are a "good" school (Ofsted 2023) with an ethos that encourages academic rigour, high expectations and a well disciplined approach to learning.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com) – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com) (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not 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 an Enhanced Disclosure with the Disclosure and Barring Service and full background checks.*

*This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974. It is an offence to apply for this role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.*

## Black History Month

This week marked the start of Black History Month, something which we celebrate in school. The theme is 'reclaiming narratives' this year and this focuses on learning about icons and stories that may have been lost over the years as up until recently in history, black people did not always have prominent roles in society. We believe in celebrating diversity in our school. Each year group has had or will have an assembly; students will be reading about prominent black authors in tutor time; learning about subject specific role models; displays around the school; and key stage 3 students will have a PSHE lesson on Black History month.

**Mr Jones**



Foodbank in Bromley is able to offer clients a choice of 3 days worth of food along with a supermarket voucher or 7 days worth of food. This is for **Bromley Borough residents only**. For out of borough residents they are able to offer 3 days worth of food. Please remember you can get help by contacting them directly on [ifo@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:ifo@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk).

# PTA Update

## Quiz Night October 2024

We look forward to welcoming over 70 guests to our quiz night tonight! If you have purchased online raffle tickets, we will contact you if you win one of the super prizes.

Thanks to all our quizzers, our PTA volunteer team and quiz master Chris for keeping us all in check for our evening.

## Easy-fundraising Update

We have just passed an incredible £1200 raised via your shopping!

To join our 63 shoppers, please take 2 minutes to enrol: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta>.

Please encourage friends and family to join too, to really help boost our funds. The latest league table for the last 30 days is as follows:

1. Gill B
2. Ana B
3. Mel L
4. Deborah R

## Monthly Draw

There are 147 tickets in the draw, and we are all ready to pick our September winner of £73.50 live tonight at Quiz Night. Monthly draw tickets are available via our online shop: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>.

## PTA Gathering

Our next PTA meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th October at The Crown Inn in Keston. Please join us if you can to review our current progress and activities and have a drink with us!

### Year 8 Duty Pupils

Nana Gyamfi	Maisie-Leigh Ince
Callum Wade	Chloe Priestley
Ronnie Kent	Valour Martins
Harley Murphy	Isla-Rose Morhan
Jed Adote	Georgia Hall



### Student Services Duty Pupils

Thank you to all the students who helped out this week in Student Services.

**They have been fantastic this week, and their help has been invaluable.**

### Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence before 8.30am. Please clearly say your child's name and form he/she is in. This ensures we know your child is safe and their absence is authorised where possible. Our Attendance Officer is having to spend an increased amount of time each day chasing for responses.

Thank you for your support.





# Charles Darwin Charity Golf Day



**Price: £68 PP gets you**

**Breakfast: Tea/ Coffee**

**Bacon Roll – 8.30 am arrival**

**Golf: 18 Holes from 10am tee time**

**Lunch: Provided**

**Bring cash as the day will include...**

**£10 pp - Beat the Pro**

**£5 pp- Longest Drive**

**£5 pp- Nearest the Pin**

**£5 – Buy a mulligan or as many as you want!**

**Golf Course: West Kent  
Golf Club**

**Address: Milking Ln, Downe,  
Orpington BR6 7LD**

Come and be a part of **Charles Darwin Charity Golf Day!** We are looking to raise money to go towards our **PE DEPARTMENT**. This will go a long way in helping support your local school in being able to enhance your child's learning and experiences during their time in PE.

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO!**

Create a team of four and register the names and contact details of your team on the registration form. Once you have registered and been sent a confirmation email, you will be required to transfer the fee of **£272** pounds for your teams entry to **CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL ACCOUNT – Sort Code: 60 02 48 Account Number: 69648468** with **REFERENCE: GOLFDAY**

We would love for you to sponsor a hole for a **£100**. Please provide a sign and we will place this at your designated tee box for everyone to see.

Even better – You can sponsor the golf day for **£500** where your business will be promoted and highlighted.

**!!PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD...WE WANT AS MANY FOURBALLS AS POSSIBLE!!**

Please see the poster attached separately with the information you need to provide to register your team.

## Attendance



**EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS**  
But every **minute** is equally important!

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES Per day =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES Per day =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES Per day =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES Per day =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES Per day =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE

As you are aware attendance is linked to a student's attainment and at Charles Darwin we work closely with the parents to keep students' attendance levels as high as possible. Please could we ask that if your child feels unwell in the morning (headache etc.) and they do feel better later on, that you send them in. This will benefit them as they will not miss a whole days learning.

**Please can we also remind parents to call in before 8.30am for each day of your child's absence and clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.**

A reminder that pupils **should not** contact home if they feel unwell but should be seen and assessed by Mrs Booth, our Health Care Lead.

Parents should be aware that pupils will not be sent home without being seen by Mrs Booth in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued support.

## First Aid

Parents should be advised that the school does not provide students with Paracetamol unless it is a medical emergency. We have a limited supply in school and prefer that medication wherever possible is administered at home.

Many thanks for your support.

**Mrs Booth**  
**Lead First Aid**

## Dates for the Diary

### October:

9<sup>th</sup> October - PTA meeting, The Crown, 7:30pm  
11<sup>th</sup> October - Early Close, 12.20pm - Open Morning preparation  
12<sup>th</sup> October - Open Morning  
14<sup>th</sup> October - 17<sup>th</sup> October – Open Week Tours  
18<sup>th</sup> October - INSET Day (school closed to students)  
21<sup>st</sup> October - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Half term

### November:

4<sup>th</sup> November – INSET Day (school closed to pupils)  
13<sup>th</sup> November - A Level Physics Lectures - Emanuel Centre - 9.30am - 4pm  
14<sup>th</sup> November - Sixth Form Open Evening, 6pm  
21<sup>st</sup> November - DofE Celebration Event

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Autumn 2024

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October

*Half term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November*

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

*Christmas Holiday: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January*

#### Notes:

**Good Friday 18th April**  
**Easter Monday 21st April**

### Spring 2025

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

*Half term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February*

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

*Easter Holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April*

### Summer 2025

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

*[Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday]*

*Half term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May*

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

### INSET Days:

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025





## Fundraiser Black Tie Ball

**Saturday 26th October**

*Location: The Warren, Coney Hall, BR2 7AL*

*Arrival: 6:15pm for pre drinks; Doors close at 7:00pm*

*Carriages: midnight*

*3 course meal, auction, entertainment and more...*

*£80 pp scan QR code below to book*



*Raising money with  
Betsi at the Marsden for  
children's cancer adapted pyjamas from Real Eazy*

# REAL E A Z Y

We founded Real Eazy after our 9 year old daughter, Betsi, was diagnosed with a rare cancer called Ewing Sarcoma in November 2021.

You can find out more about Betsi's journey on Instagram @betsiatthemarsden and check out our website [www.realeazy.uk](http://www.realeazy.uk)



### 'We all fight together'

For every feel good hoodie purchased we will give a pair of adapted pyjamas to a child undergoing cancer treatment in the UK.

Using premium soft cotton fabric our pyjamas have been specially adapted to ensure easy access for central lines such as port-a-cath, Hickman, PICC and other procedures, which sadly are a key and intrusive part of daily life for all cancer patients.

Visit the website to have a look at our range of adapted pyjamas, alongside hoodies, non-adapted pyjamas and more items added throughout the year so keep looking out!



Or alternatively, scan here for our just giving donation page.



THANK  
YOU  
REAL EAZY



Our Goal - To support every child in the UK affected by cancer through our one 4 one promise. Visit our website [www.realeazy.uk](http://www.realeazy.uk)

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T OPEN THE BOX...



JAMIE DAWS PRESENTS

# WHAT LIES INSIDE?

AN EVENING OF GHOST STORIES, ILLUSION AND SCARES

CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL THEATRE, BIGGIN HILL  
FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2024 - 7.00PM

BILSINGTON PRIORY, ASHFORD  
29TH, 30TH & 31ST OCTOBER 2024 - 7.00PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
[WWW.WHATLIESINSIDE.CO.UK](http://WWW.WHATLIESINSIDE.CO.UK)