



07.10.2022

Issue No: 1058

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### **Year 11 Parents' Information Evening**

My thanks to all families who attended the Year 11 Parents' Information Evening on Thursday. The event was well attended and gave excellent advice on how parents can support their children through the year. Those parents who I spoke with after the event wanted me to pass on their appreciation to staff for all they do in supporting their children. Parents and students really appreciated the opportunity to get an overview of the rhythm of the year, key milestones and plans, which continue with the MADE workshops next week.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Presentation**

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of attending the final presentations given by the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award students following their recent expedition to the New Forest. It was great to hear of their experiences and my congratulations to them all. My thanks also to Ms. Candy and Mr. Culver for all the work they have done with the students and for inviting me to the presentation.

*Aston Smith*

## School Social Media

A reminder to parents that as well as the LINK and the 'latest news' section on the website, you can follow the latest events happening in our school community on:

- Twitter @CDarwinSchool
- Instagram CDarwinSchool

**Mr Jones**

## **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. 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.

# School Uniform Review

School uniform review – Autumn 2022

School uniforms including PE kits are designed to break down barriers, to help every child feel they belong. A uniform can bring the school community together, and develop a sense of school identity but this can be achieved without unnecessary financial pressure on families. This is emphasised in the new statutory guidance published by the Department of Education which seeks to make school uniform more affordable for families.

Over the next half term, we will be reviewing our uniform policy. In doing so, we will:

- ◆ Prioritise cost and value for money for parents first, when setting our revised uniform policy.
- ◆ Engage with parents and pupils when developing this revised uniform policy.
- ◆ Keep the number of branded items of school uniform including PE kit to a minimum.
- ◆ Ensure second-hand uniform is easily available through a Pre-loved provision
- ◆ Make the uniform policy clear and easy to access for parents.
- ◆ Ensure uniform suppliers are good value for money, and avoid relying on single-suppliers. In doing this, we hope to ensure more items can be purchased from a variety of stores as branded items will be further reduced

We have always been very aware of financial pressures on our families. Branded items are at a minimum with the optional V-neck jumper and a blazer without a school badge already attached. However, we are aware that the PE kit has several branded items that can only be bought from one supplier.

We do have an excellent uniform supplier in Oz School wear who are frequently commended by parents/carers for their service to the school. They are accessible via a shop open 6 days a week, they attend parents evenings and Year 7 Induction days to ensure an easy access to school uniform and also have a website for on line ordering and delivery to school on a Thursday for ease of collection. However, we will be exploring other providers during this review and if we need to make new arrangements with suppliers, we must do this by December 2022.

We have already started our Pre-loved provision for 'nearly new' school uniform in school and hope to make this more accessible to purchase by working with the Friends of Charles Darwin School.

**I would appreciate your views on the cost and quality of our current school uniform and PE kit. Any views, positive or negative, would be much appreciated, sent to the email [uniformreview2022@cdarwin.com](mailto:uniformreview2022@cdarwin.com) by Monday 7 November 2022. Pupil views will be sought via the School Council and Student Voice groups.**

Many thanks in advance of your feedback

**Mrs Rees**



## BHM

### Computer Science Spotlight

#### #Who is Malorie Blackman? By Evie Bansel

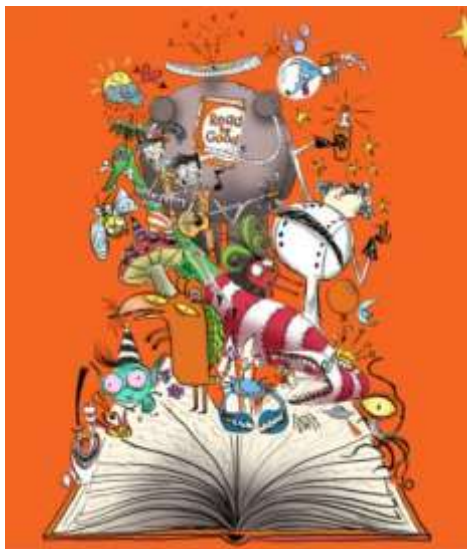
Malorie Blackman is a British children's author who writes short stories, picture books and novels. She was entitled to the name of the United Kingdom Children's Laureate in 2013.

Blackman was born on February 8<sup>th</sup> 1962 in London. She was unlucky though as her parents got divorced when she was 13 years old. It was hard to deal with so she began creating fantasies in her head and wrote down secret poems.

When Malorie Blackman was in school, she was told by her counsellor that she could not be a teacher because of the colour of her skin. Despite being told this, she was persistent about fulfilling her dreams. She studied computer science at Thames Polytechnic and gained a successful career with computers up until she was 28 years old. It was then that she published her first book in 1990 called 'Not So Stupid'.

Her books always featured black characters because she thought that they needed some recognition due to the fact that she had never read a book from her childhood that had someone black in it. Malorie wanted to solve this problem.

## Summer Readathon



A **huge** well done to **Macey Swaby-Rogers (10SAI)** who completed the school's summer Readathon. She read a whopping eight books over July and August and raised £60 for the charity ReadForGood. The money she raised will go towards providing much-needed books and storytellers to major children's hospitals in the UK. As a reward for being a super star reader, Macey will be receiving a certificate and an Amazon voucher. Keep reading, Macey! We are so proud of you.



## Wanted

For our school production of 'Elf' we are looking for any unwanted Christmas decorations and an artificial Christmas tree (6ft plus). If you are having a clear out or replacing any of your Christmas decorations please email [gcu@cдарwin.com](mailto:gcu@cдарwin.com) as we may be able to give them a new home!

**Miss Currie, Head of Expressive Arts**

# National Poetry Day

Thursday 6th October 2022 - National Poetry Day

In celebration of National Poetry Day, Mrs Adams and I were lucky enough to take a group of fantastic Y7 and Y8 students to see Lemn Sissay talk about and perform some of his poetry at Bromley Central Library. Lemn Sissay OBE is a British author and broadcaster. He was the official poet of the [2012 London Olympics](#) and has written a number of books and plays.

Sissay is now the resident poet in Bromley and one of the poems he performed was a new poem he has written about Bromley as part of the *Inspire Bromley Festival*:

## **57 Years of Light and Hope**

Our Queen has been laid to rest  
No more cameras no more crowds  
Summer left and Autumn blessed  
The frost the mist the clouds

The sleeping flowers drying  
On Orpington's memorial floor  
Were bought from weeping florists  
Who knew what they were for

We circle roundabouts round our way  
We fill our shopping bags with prayer  
We stop a moment to take in the day  
The light, the hope, the open air

This is the centre of my world  
South of the river, west of the sea  
This is my borough, my body, my heart  
The absolute whole of me

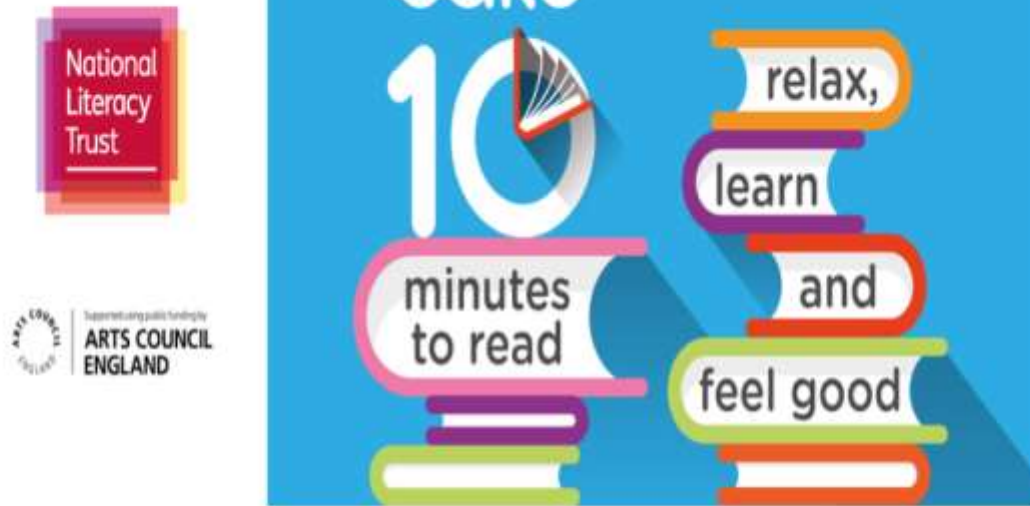
We are now the proud owners of a signed copy of this poem to be displayed in our library along with a photo of our students and Lemn Sissay himself.

The students were an absolute credit to our school throughout the trip. One of them exclaimed on the day, "I love poetry" - the words that make my English teacher's heart soar! Thank you to the students, Mrs Adams for accompanying us on the trip and Mr Burtonshaw for driving us there and picking us up in the mini-bus.

**Mrs Pitt**



## The Take 10 Challenge



The Take 10 Challenge encourages everyone to read for 10 minutes every day to improve their wellbeing and support their literacy skills.

First developed by [Read Manchester](#), Take 10 now inspires children, families, and organisations nationally as part of the National Literacy Trust's Connecting Stories campaign, proudly supported by Arts Council England.

On Monday 10 October we'll be hosting a series of activities for schools and communities to mark World Mental Health Day.

**All students are required to bring a book on Monday 10th October to take part in the Challenge.**

## Day of Languages

On the 26<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated the European Day of Languages with a languages treasure hunt. Year 7 students were set the challenge of finding members of staff within the school who speak other languages (including non-European languages). They each were given a treasure hunt card and had one day to complete the challenge. As well as finding out that many members of staff are able to speak our curriculum languages of French and German, they also discovered that there is a huge range of languages spoken across the school including Spanish, Hindi, Afrikaans, Greek, Punjabi, Welsh, Gujarati, Irish, Italian, Urdu, Twi and Cantonese.

The second challenge was to locate 5 'golden teachers' who provided them with words that they needed to use in order to decipher a secret message. A lot of fun was had by all and congratulations to overall winner Alexia Chorley for finding 36 members of staff and to Edie Plinston for being the first student to work out the secret message.



Mrs. Carraro



Palace for Life are hosting an **Opportunity Fair at Selhurst Park Stadium on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October**. The event aims to provide career support and opportunities to young people in South London.

The event offers a number of amazing opportunities including:

Education, Training and Employment Stalls  
Professional Networking  
Live Discussions

Please can you share the event to the students at your school with the flyer attached.

If anyone is interested in attending then please complete the booking form below.

[Made in South London | Opportunity Fair \(booking link\)](#)



The flyer features the Palace for Life Foundation logo at the top, which is a circular emblem with a blue eagle and the text 'PALACE FOR LIFE FOUNDATION'. Below the logo, the text 'MADE IN SOUTH LONDON' is written in black, followed by 'OPPORTUNITIES FAIR' in large, bold, red and blue letters. The background of the flyer shows a blurred stadium scene with a person in a blue shirt and a red and white scarf. The text 'WHAT'S ON OFFER?' is centered, followed by 'THE EVENT WILL HOST A NUMBER OF AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING:'. Below this, there are three bullet points: '· EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT STALLS', '· PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING', and '· LIVE DISCUSSIONS'. At the bottom, there are four icons: a calendar icon for '11TH OCTOBER 2022', a clock icon for '4PM-7PM', a location pin icon for 'SELHURST PARK STADIUM', and a group of people icon for 'AGES 16-25'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner, with the text 'TO SIGN UP SCAN HERE' above it.

**MADE IN SOUTH LONDON**

# OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

**WHAT'S ON OFFER?**

**THE EVENT WILL HOST A NUMBER OF AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING:**

- EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT STALLS
- PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING
- LIVE DISCUSSIONS

**11TH OCTOBER 2022** **4PM-7PM** **SELHURST PARK STADIUM** **AGES 16-25**

**TO SIGN UP SCAN HERE**



## Year 8 Duty Pupils

Many thanks to  
Mason Furey  
Ruby-Leigh Sheehy  
Ellis Jones  
Maksym Kryvylo  
Riley Turnbull  
Freddie Burns  
Olivia Daley  
Tristan Treasure  
Zayn Richell-Schluter  
Freya Woolcott



## Reception Team

Thank you to our duties, they have been fantastic this week, and their help has been invaluable:

Jack Smith-Creed  
Ruby Poole-Lancefield  
Olivia Lewsley-Ailles  
Daisy Lagden Vaughan

Please can I remind parents of the following which is included in the Home School Partnership - **Please** support your child's learning by NOT taking family holidays during term time. We have already received a number of requests for holidays during term time since we have returned in September. Thank you for your support.

## Students Services Team

## ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following  
Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 30  
September 2022.



7RMk	100%
8GAn	95.6%
9ZPa/JSk	96.7%
10NDy	95%
11PEi	97.2%
12FSu	97.6%
13GQu	98.8%

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## Dates for the Diary

### October

**10th October -Students Late Start 9.30am**  
**11th October** -Year 7 Photos  
**12th October** -Year 7 Settling In Tea/ Meet the Tutor  
3.30  
**13th October** -Trip to Mansfield College, Oxford (year  
11 PHa)  
**14th October** -End of Half Term  
**31st October** -Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

### November

**1st November** -Year 8 Charity Event  
**10th November** - Trip to BFI Southbank (MFL  
German), 10am -3.30pm (KWo)  
**10th November** - Trip to The Emmanuel Centre,  
London, 9.15am-3.35pm (JSi)  
**14th November** -Trip to The Emmanuel Centre,  
London 9.45am-16.15pm A Level  
**17th November** -Sixth Form Open Evening  
**24th November** -Year12/13 Parents' Evening

**Reminder:**  
**31st October - INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)**

## Term Dates 2022 - 23

### AUTUMN 2022

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September - 14<sup>th</sup> October

*Half Term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October*  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

*Christmas Holiday: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December –  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January*

### SPRING 2023

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

*Half Term: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February*  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

*Easter Holiday: Monday 3<sup>d</sup> April – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April*

### SUMMER 2023

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May

*Half Term: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 32<sup>nd</sup> June*  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

**INSET Days** - School closed to pupils

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Notes:** Good Friday 7th April 2023  
Easter Monday 10th April 2023