



Headlines

Christmas Card Competition Winners

My thanks to Helen Hartley, Chair of Governors, for judging the Christmas Card Competition with me. We're delighted to announce this year's winners:

Ben Smith (7HEm)
Jennifer Adaeze Chikezie (12TJo)

Their imaginative designs will become our official Charles Darwin School Christmas cards.

With so many brilliant entries, the judges also selected eight runners-up:
Rebel Almeida (7COn), Daisy Chikezie (7MHu/Ayo), Frank Sullivan (7MHu/Ayo), Dylan Jones (7LBr), Nathaniel Newberry (7BRr), Adam Piechowka (9LMc), Sydney Daniels (9LMc) and Pola Tokarska (10ADo).

Well done to our winners and runners-up and thank you to everyone who entered.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation Evening

On Thursday evening, it was a privilege to celebrate our students' Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award achievements alongside their families. Congratulations to all the students who took part and received their awards. We hope many of you will continue your DofE journey, further developing the valuable skills, attitudes, and character that the programme fosters. This year, over 100 students participated, and I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the staff involved, particularly Mr Culver, Mr Mills, and Ms Emmett for their hard work and for making this incredible opportunity possible for so many students.

Choir

The school choir will be performing at 4:00pm on Saturday for the Biggin Hill Lights switch-on at New Life Church. Many thanks to Miss Mace for her dedication in preparing our students for this lovely festive community event. Do come along and support them.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

We are now approaching the season where we may expect more extreme winter weather. With this in mind I would like to remind parents of our procedures in case of adverse weather.

It is our duty to remain open if at all possible. A decision to close the school in adverse conditions is thus seen as a last resort and is only made if there are concerns regarding the welfare and safety of staff and students. The weather conditions in Biggin Hill can often be very different to those in the more built-up areas and the number of hills and narrow roads in the vicinity compounds the problem. However the bus companies do keep us informed of the transport situation and students will be alerted to any transport difficulties. There is a specific policy for the school minibus service of which parents and the students concerned are aware.

If the weather deteriorates during the school day students may be allowed to go home early and parents will be alerted by text message via Call Parent. In this regard please can parents ensure that the school has up-to-date contact details. The decision whether to send pupils into school or to collect those already at school rests with parents themselves. When exceptional weather is expected the following guidelines should be noted.

Mr Smith, Headteacher

Severe Weather Conditions

Charles Darwin School will stay open if at all possible when there is snow. The decision to close is not taken lightly and will be made with the health and safety of children and staff, many of whom do not live locally. We will try to make a decision by **7:30am** and communicate this through:

- * **The school website - www.cdarwin.com (not the main school switchboard)**
- * **X - [x.com/CDarwinschool](https://twitter.com/CDarwinschool)**
- * **Instagram - www.instagram.com/CDarwinschool**

All students are expected to check Satchel One to complete school work from home

Otherwise - Students should wear appropriate clothing i.e. coat, hat, gloves and come to school. Suitable footwear to cope with pavements may be necessary if snow and /or ice are on the ground.

School shoes must be brought to change into.

Keep warm and safe on your journey

Transport

You are advised to check local transport information if you go to or from school by bus. The school will liaise with school bus companies to check whether the services are likely to be disrupted.

If weather conditions deteriorate whilst the school is in session, we will endeavour to contact parents via the website, social media and Call parent (txt).

There is a policy for users of the school minibus which parents/students concerned should be aware.



Well done to Jack who has had an amazing weekend, has not had a game under 80 average. Last competition of the weekend he went and won it. There were 256 men in the competition and he came out the winner.
 What an amazing achievement Jack!
 We are so proud of you.

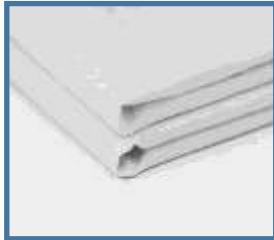
New Books at the CDS Library



New Books have arrived!
 Our library has a fresh selection of titles and ready for readers.
 Come and explore our newest arrivals.

Mrs Waite
Library Supervisor

ART Department Appeal



The Art department rely heavily on donations. We currently have a shortage of the following, White cotton sheets/ bed linen.
 Magazines of all genres.
 Please leave all donations at the main reception.
 Thank you

Art Department

7LBr Candy Cane Fund Raiser



7LBr will be taking orders next week for secret (or not so secret) candy cane delivery. Each candy cane will cost 50p and will be delivered to forms by the 'Candy Cane Crew' from 1 December. Orders can be placed direct with 7LBr in Ar3 during lunchtime or when the crew come to visit forms. If you include a message it must be all you can be secret (or not so secret). Money raised will be going to school charity.

Mrs Broad



Nativity!

The Musical

Coming soon to Charles Darwin ...

Tickets for Nativity the Musical will be on sale from **Friday 28th November.**

Details about how to purchase will be in the Link next week.

Be sure to buy quickly as they will sell out fast!



Preloved Uniform Shop Promoting a positive eco-friendly culture of reusing

**Did you know we have a preloved uniform shop
with a variety of nearly new school uniform and
PE kits?**

If you are interested in checking stock, please send an email with your requirements (size, gender, specific item) to preloveduniform@cdarwin.com you can also use the link below or scan the QR code.
<https://forms.office.com/e/qSR8ju6P5C>

Charles Darwin Pre-loved Uniform
Requests 2025/2026 school year
onwards



Year 8 Duty Pupil

Arianna Adigun	James Coley
Oliver Anderson	Haleigh Hemple-Rest
Emily Aldrich	Ellis Gordon
Baran Bulut	Archie Hartnup
Bella Cook	Kasiar Hewitt

Student Services Duty Pupils

Frankie Allen
Rosha Afshar
Alfie Stevenson
Edward Bell
Katie Dauris
Aurel Kaziu



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

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 14 November 2025.

7CO _n	99.2%
8LBy	95.2%
9LMc	96.9%
10PDg/JSt	97.7%
11JAI	98.9%
12ARu	97.9%
13MNo	97.8%



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.

Students Services Team

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence **before 8.30am**, clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

If you wish to report your child's absence, **OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS**, please call the school on **01959 574043** and when prompted to enter the extension number, please **dial 1** and you will be taken through to the student absence line where you can leave a message regarding your child's absence. This ensures we know your child is safe and their absence is authorised where possible.

Thank you for your support.



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.

Mrs Booth
Health Care Lead

Dates for the Diary

November

28th November - Trip: A Level PE Revision at Bromley High School

December

2nd December - Trip: Y12/Y13 Design in Action Conference, London

3rd December - Christmas Concert 6-7-45pm, St Mark's Church, Biggin Hill

5th December - CDS Choir singing Christmas songs in Waitrose, Biggin Hill, 11-12pm

8th December - Trip: Y12/13 Chemistry Live, London

9th December - Year 13 Parents' Evening

12th December - Own Clothes Christmas Jumper Day, Donations for PTA payable via ParentPay or cash on the day to form tutor, min £1

12th December - Christmas Lunch

15th December - School Production

16th December - School Production

17th December - School Production

19th December - End of term, early finish

The SEN team at Charles Darwin:

Mrs L Thom, SENDCo
Mr B Frost, Assistant SENCo
Mrs J Patten, Senior Learning Support Assistant
Miss R Higgins, SEN Administrator

Should you need to make contact with us, please use
the inbox below:
send@cdarwin.com



Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn 2025

Half term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January

Spring 2026

Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

Half term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Notes:

Good Friday 3rd April 2026

Easter Monday 6th April 2026

Summer 2026

Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

[Monday 4th May Bank Holiday]

Half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July

INSET Days:

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

PE FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER 2025

This Christmas, Miss Owen is appealing for donations to support our local food bank.

Rather than donate money, students have been asked to donate items to our appeal.

Each year group have been allocated a recommended list of items to donate, listed as urgently needed by the food bank.

Please can students' hand in donations to Miss Owen in PE **before Friday 5th December 2025.**

Thank you for your support!



Donations will be donated to a local food bank that serve our community:

New Addington Foodbank

Recommended donations

Year 7

Treats (chocolate/sweets, hot chocolate, pringles, sponge puddings, desserts and Xmas goodies)

Year 8

Essentials (sanitary products, toilet paper, baby's nappies, long life milk and household items)

Year 9

Essentials (tinned foods, sauces - ketchup, jars of sauces, biscuits and tinned soups)

Year 10

Toiletries and Cleaning Products (cloths, foil and cling film, washing up liquid, washing up powder, shampoo and conditioner)

Year 11

Tinned items (tinned fruit, long life juice, tinned vegetables, tinned ham/salmon and jars)

6th Form

Toiletries and Cleaning Products (tinned items, washing up liquid, washing up powder, shampoo and conditioner)



ALL FOODBANK DONATIONS TO BE HANDED INTO MISS OWEN IN PE BY THE 5TH OF DECEMBER!

Term Dates 2026-2027



Inicio Educational Trust Schools

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term 1

Start: Tuesday 1st September 2026
Finish: Friday 16th October 2026
Autumn break: Monday 19th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026

Term 2

Start: Monday 2nd November 2026
Finish: Friday 18th December 2026
Christmas break: Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027

Term 3

Start: Monday 4th January 2027
Finish: Friday 12th February 2027
February break: Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027

Term 4

Start: Monday 22nd February 2027
Finish: Thursday 25th March 2027
Spring break: Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 9th April 2027

Term 5

Start: Monday 12th April 2027
Finish: Friday 28th May 2027
Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May 2027
May break: Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027

Term 6

Start: Monday 7th June 2027
Finish: Wednesday 21st July 2027

Professional Development days will be allocated through the academic year



Winter Coats Appeal 2025

We NEED your pre-loved Winter Coats, Scarves, Hats and Sleeping Bags!!!



Donations will support people in London's poorest borough, Tower Hamlets - which has a 47% child poverty rate.

Please hand your donations to your school.

Youth United For Good and Tower Hamlets Youth Council will distribute donations over the festive period.

Deadline: Thursday 27th November

If you have any questions please contact Eythan Soysa at youthunitedforgood@gmail.com.

Donated items must be clean and good, wearable condition, meaning no major damage, heavy stains, or broken zips.

Collection point Main Reception between 8.30am and 3.30pm.



THE MUSIC KLUB
CREATIVE ARTS
AND DEVELOPMENT

HAF

WINTER PROGRAMME

WWW.THEMUSICKLUB.COM/HAF

OUR PROGRAMME

Our Winter HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) Programme offers young people aged 11-16 an inspiring space to learn, create, and connect through music and the arts.

WHERE

Holy Trinity Church
South Hall
Church Lane
Bromley
BR2 8LB

WHEN

Monday 22nd December
2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday 23rd December
2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Monday 29th December
2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday 30th December
2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM



As Christmas approaches, we're reminded that while it's a happy season for many, it can be especially difficult for families, children and young people who are grieving the death of someone they love.

At Living On, we provide free, one-to-one bereavement support in schools — helping children navigate loss with compassion and understanding. We're proud to offer this vital service at no cost, but sadly, due to the current economic climate, we're facing serious financial challenges. If things don't improve, we may have to consider making our support chargeable — something we deeply hope to avoid.

This Christmas, we're asking for your help.

📁 Ways you can support us this season:

- **Make a donation** in place of sending Christmas cards
- **Spread the word** about our work and the difference we make by sharing our details. Follow us on our Facebook and Instagram pages where we promote all our events and fundraising and will keep you up to date on all we do:

[Living On Bereavement Service | Facebook](#)

[Living On Bereavement Service \(@livingonbereavementservice\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Every little contribution helps us continue offering free, specialist support to grieving children — giving them a safe space to talk.

You can donate here:

[Living On Bereavement Service - Online Social Fundraising](#)

PULSE SOCIAL
EST: 2018

Community Sports Club

Bromley

For D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people aged 8 to 17

Weekly Sessions
Tuesday Evenings
(Term time only)
5:00pm - 6:00pm

ENQUIRE NOW!

Make Friends **Inclusive Games** **Enjoyable Activities**

Register Today!

Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley, BR1 3NS

📞 0208 191 8507 📞 07375 594 559

✉ info@pulsesocial.co.uk

Access Sport

www.pulsesocial.co.uk

The poster is a vibrant purple and blue graphic. At the top left is the Pulse Social logo, a shield with stars and icons, and the text "EST: 2018". To the right, the title "Community Sports Club" is in large white font, with "Bromley" in a blue box below it. A white banner across the middle contains the text "For D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people aged 8 to 17". Below this, a white oval contains the session details: "Weekly Sessions Tuesday Evenings (Term time only) 5:00pm - 6:00pm". To the right of the oval is a QR code with the text "ENQUIRE NOW!". Three circular images show people participating in activities: a person in a wheelchair, two people playing basketball, and two people playing tennis. Below these images are the labels "Make Friends", "Inclusive Games", and "Enjoyable Activities". A pink banner at the bottom says "Register Today!". The contact information includes the address "Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley, BR1 3NS", two phone numbers, and an email address. Logos for "Access Sport" and "Smile of Hope" are in the bottom right corner. The website URL "www.pulsesocial.co.uk" is at the very bottom in a large white font on a blue background.