



# Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## HEADLINES

### Next Half Term

I wrote to all parents and carers this week regarding our plans for next half term, including the use of specialist rooms and the re-introduction of detentions. One area where I would like parents' support is that of students having a school jumper or suitable equivalent V-neck plain dark blue jumper to wear in the classroom if required. After half term students will not be allowed to wear coats in classrooms should the room be cold due to doors/windows being open. Hoodies and tracksuit tops are not acceptable.

I do hope that all families are able to enjoy the half term break, albeit with the latest coronavirus restrictions. The two-week break this year is very much needed by staff and students alike after the challenging start to the new school year.

Sunil Chotai

## Year 9 Geography Field Trip

The Year 9 Geography students have been walking to the woodland at Downe Activity Centre to investigate ecosystems, which is the first unit of the GCSE course.

We investigated what species of plants, insects and animals there were in a typical British deciduous forest ecosystem and then used that to create food webs. We did some field sketching and identified biotic and abiotic features of an ecosystem as well as considering how the nutrient cycle works in this type of ecosystem. It was a good time of year to see some interesting fungi and on one trip we were lucky to see a deer.

The students are now looking out for local birds of prey - sparrowhawks, red kites and buzzards as we didn't see any while we were there.

Ms Kelly



## The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award

This is an international programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills. Through a series of online challenges, students can win career-enhancing badges, unlock new opportunities and, ultimately, gain industry-recognised awards that help them stand out from the crowd. This works very similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award. There are four award levels, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. It's quite simple and easy, you get awarded badges for completing challenges and you can access this on any device with an internet connection. You might discover a new talent, interest or potential career you didn't know about!



To sign up please contact Mrs Elliott via email through your school email, [pel@cdarwin.com](mailto:pel@cdarwin.com) – there is a special code you will need to enter in your registration as well as being a part of our school on the iDEA page. This is currently aimed at Year 9 and 12 students, we are hoping to open to all year groups soon. If you are interested but not currently a Year 9 or 12 student please email me at [pel@cdarwin.com](mailto:pel@cdarwin.com)

GOODLUCK!

Mrs Elliott

**REMINDER:** Please can we ask all parents/carers to ensure that your child has a mask with them before coming to school each day.

We do have a limited amount of masks for emergencies, however, we have had an increasing amount of students requesting masks from us during the school day as they have forgotten them.

Thank you for your support.

Student Services



## Attendance

Winning Tutor Groups week ending 09.10.20

TUTOR GROUP	ATTENDANCE
7LDa	99.6%
8SOon	99.2%
9PEI	97.8%
10EOI	98.3%
11SAr	99.1%
12IMr	98.6%
13ARu/MDi	98.1%

## CALLOUT!

Are you an innovator? Do you have an idea which could make life easier, simpler or better? Do you have a skill that you would like to showcase? Or do you have an interest in an area that you would like to research?

The TeenTech Awards are for students aged 11 to 16 (Years 7 to 11) and 17 to 19 (Years 12 to 13) and you can work individually, or in a team of up to three. They present a wonderful and powerful opportunity to develop your potential and showcase qualities which are appreciated by both employers and further education.

The best projects go forward to the TeenTech Awards Final for judging and the winning school in each category will receive a cash prize.

If you are interested in this, Mrs Elliott is looking for individuals or a team to submit their entry to TeenTech Awards, please email her for further details: [pel@cdarwin.com](mailto:pel@cdarwin.com)

## Music Department

We are planning to do some units of work with Years 7-9 involving the use of ukuleles. We are quite hopeful that this will bring some more practical music back into our classrooms while we are away from our music department rooms. We will be buying a set of 60+ instruments that will of course be sanitised between different lessons. However, it did occur to us that as the ukulele is a relatively low cost instrument students may prefer to purchase their own and bring these in for our music lessons. I have myself taken delivery of my own new ukulele complete with its Welsh Flag design earlier today!!

We will be using soprano sized ukuleles at school, but the concert sized ukuleles are definitely more comfortable if your finances can stretch to it - we are talking somewhere between £17-25 for a budget instrument. Good budget brands are octopus and mahalo. Please find some links below and there are of course plenty on Amazon. If you do buy your own instrument, please bring it to school with you on days you have music lessons.

[https://www.thomann.de/gb/harley\\_benton\\_hbuk12\\_blue.htm](https://www.thomann.de/gb/harley_benton_hbuk12_blue.htm)

[https://www.thomann.de/gb/mahalo\\_kahiko\\_soprano\\_trans\\_blue.htm](https://www.thomann.de/gb/mahalo_kahiko_soprano_trans_blue.htm)

[https://www.bax-shop.co.uk/ukulele/fazley-k23w-w-concert-ukulele-white?gclid=CjwKCAjww5r8BRB6EiwArcckC7Tx\\_VMakXMkf7u6Vsxes9gj9Q0r6gA9r4S\\_trgnhLm3pxGn4XlwmBoCSVoQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.bax-shop.co.uk/ukulele/fazley-k23w-w-concert-ukulele-white?gclid=CjwKCAjww5r8BRB6EiwArcckC7Tx_VMakXMkf7u6Vsxes9gj9Q0r6gA9r4S_trgnhLm3pxGn4XlwmBoCSVoQAvD_BwE)

[https://www.bax-shop.co.uk/ukulele/fazley-k23sb-w-concert-ukulele-sunburst?gclid=CjwKCAjww5r8BRB6EiwArcckC\\_N7BBckdE8c1RD\\_KFTdxEmY\\_5RDvJwvckU2tcI92IA2LzCR14nPaBoCA4QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.bax-shop.co.uk/ukulele/fazley-k23sb-w-concert-ukulele-sunburst?gclid=CjwKCAjww5r8BRB6EiwArcckC_N7BBckdE8c1RD_KFTdxEmY_5RDvJwvckU2tcI92IA2LzCR14nPaBoCA4QAvD_BwE)

**Miss Mace**

## Year 7 student raises over £600 for Charity

Well done to Joe Fullagar, Year 7, who was nominated by his Judo Sensai Bob Marshall for the Jack Petchey Award for his achievement in raising a whopping £682.

Joe had been growing his hair for nearly 3 years for the Little Princess Foundation which helps provide beautiful, real hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their own hair as a result of cancer treatment, as well as enabling them to fund vital research which leads to kinder and more effective treatments for childhood cancers.

Well done Joe, we are really proud of you.

**Ms Gillespie**



## Vacancies



### Day-time Cleaners Required £9.31 per hour

We are looking to increase our team of day time cleaners. Hours are 10.00am – 4.00pm Monday – Friday, term time only. Those appointed will be on a casual contract in the first instance.  
Application forms are available on the school website: [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com).

*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.*

## Term Dates 2020-21

### Autumn 2020

Tuesday 1st September - Friday 16th October  
Half term: Monday 19th October – Friday 30th October  
Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December

**Christmas Holiday:** Monday 21st December 2020 - Friday 1st January 2021

### Spring 2021

Monday 4th January – Friday 12th February  
Half term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February  
Monday 22nd February – Thursday 1st April

### Notes:

**Good Friday – 2nd April 2021**  
**Easter Monday – 5th April 2021**

**INSET Days** - School closed to students  
Monday 4th January 2021  
Friday 29th January 2021  
Thursday 22nd July 2021  
Friday 23rd July 2021

**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.**