



09/02/2018

# The Link Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## HEADLINES

### Dance Competition

The twenty first annual Dance Competition on Monday was absolutely superb [see right and inside for a full write-up].

There were some outstanding performances and my thanks to everyone who has been involved with this over the years.

This is a competition that has grown into a very prestigious and popular event and it is noticeable how many ex-students are keen to return to school to participate.

My congratulations to the many students who took part, both on stage and behind the scenes, you are all stars.

### Break with Cake

On Thursday I spent a most enjoyable break with some selected Year 7 students. They were a lovely bunch and it was great to listen to them talk about how their confidence has grown since joining the school in September.

### Year 8 Parents Evening

The Year 8 parents evening seemed to go very well on Wednesday with just over 90% attendance. I spoke to a number of parents during the evening and looked at several pupil reports and a good number communicated their happiness with their children's progress. Where there was a need for improvement from a pupil it was pleasing to see that the reports were very clear about the detail of what was needed.

The Year 8 magazine that had its inaugural publication to coincide with the parents evening was impressive, my thanks and congratulations to the students who produced this excellent piece of work.

### End of half term

We come to the end of a half term that has overall been both very busy and productive. My best wishes to students and their families for a restful half term break.

Sunil Chotai

## Annual dance competition comes of age



The final of Charles Darwin School's twenty first annual *Dance, Choreography and Performance Competition* was held on Monday 5 February in front of a capacity audience of 250 people. This year 13 different dance acts from Years 7 to 13 competed for the year group medals and the overall Key Stage 3 and combined Key Stage 4 and 5 trophies. Mrs Rees, Deputy Headteacher, dance teacher, event organiser and one of the judges was joined on the panel by staff members Miss Abbotts, Head of Dance and Mrs Kearney, Assistant Headteacher and music teacher. This year's guest judges were ex-student Ellie Griffin, who regularly competed as a student in the Dance Competition winning year group medals and the KS4/5 trophy, and Amy Robinson, contemporary dance artist, mentor and teacher, currently working with the school through the Jack Petchey "Step into Dance" programme.

*continued overleaf*

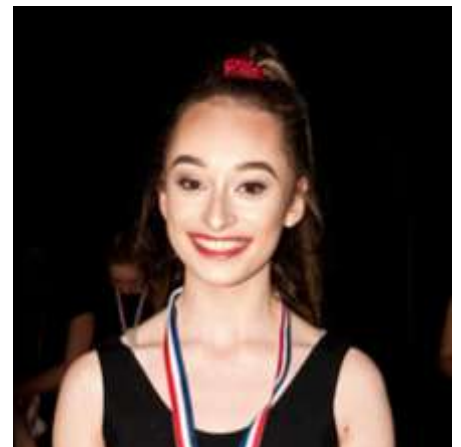
## U13 girls reach Kent Cup final

*see back page for full write up*





**Congratulations to all this year's winners:** Year 7 medal winner and KS3 cup winner: Amy Coop.  
Year 8 medal winners: Poppy Boost, Amelie Morbey and Abbey Parker. Year 9 medal winner: Jessica Barton.  
Year 10 medal winners :Annelise Persson and Emily Wilson. Year 11 medal winner: Nikita Taylor.  
Year 12/13 medal and KS 4/5 cup winners: Chloe Ardley, Chloe Bezer, Nicole Blackwood and Katie Nolan





“What is particularly inspiring is that the students organised all the music choreography and costumes by themselves and had clearly spent many hours rehearsing,” said Mrs Rees. “Many pupils had been working on their competition routines for months without teacher direction.”

Whilst the judges conferred the audience was entertained by performances from local dance group PDM, ex GCSE and A Level dance student Jordan Quinn-Hillier and Thrive, the School’s more able dance company.

“I started the competition 21 years ago to inspire students to express themselves through dance,” said Mrs Rees, “and it is particularly rewarding to see several ex pupils back here tonight to perform during the judges’ deliberations, either as individuals or as part of a group. It is the lasting legacy of this competition that many of the entrants study dance post 18 and continue to perform as young adults.”

“The judging really does get harder every year,” added Mrs Kearney. “All those that bravely took part in the show should be congratulated. I really appreciate the time, effort and commitment that went into making the competition so close.”

“The night really showcased the dancing talent that we have at Charles Darwin School. Thank you so much to those who supported us on the night; Mr Andy Chubb for photography, Mr Colin Andrews for music, sixth formers Rachel O’Hanlon for lighting and Anna Haskins and Allana Ludgrove for backstage support. Most of all, a big thank you to the families in the audience who supported us on the night, funded or made costumes and created rehearsal space in the lounge at home. We couldn’t do it without them,” concluded Mrs Rees.



### Ski trip—5 to 13 April 2019



Places are now available on next year’s ski trip to Austria over Easter 2019. The trip is open to Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 and costs £970. If you are interested, please collect a letter from Mr Simpson in PE. If you are accepted onto the trip then a £150 deposit is payable via ParentPay by 30th March 2018. Please see Mr Simpson for further details.

### Police Commissioner seeks students’ views

Matthew Scott, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner has been talking to young people across Kent who have raised concerns about cyber-bullying. He wants primary and secondary school pupils up to the age of 18 to help him learn more so that he can lobby government ministers and social media companies for real change.

Mr Scott, along with some of Kent Police’s Volunteer Police Cadets, has created a short Cyber-Bullying Survey which is available online at

[www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/consultations)

and he wants you to help by completing the questionnaire.

If you are under 18 and have time over half term, please go on-line to complete the survey and have your say. The survey is entirely anonymous, so you can answer the questions completely honestly and the answers will help to develop general policing good practice in this area. Thank you.



## Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

12 to 16 February—Half term

### Monday 19 to Friday 23 February

19 February 2018—Year 12 drama trip to see *Hanna*

20 February 2018—*Beauty and the Beast* cast perform at the Bromley Schools Festival of Music

22 February 2018—World Thinking Day 2018

23 February 2018—GCSE PE conference

### Forthcoming events: spring term

26 February 2018—Sixth Form geography residential to Bournemouth

27 February 2018—Year 9 Enterprise Day

28 February 2018—Year 13 drama trip to see *The Birthday Party*

1 March 2018—Year 8 Options Evening

7 March 2018—Year 9 Parents Evening

17 March 2018—Nuclear Race mud run challenge

22 March 2018 —Year 12 and 13 English trip to see *Measure for Measure*

24 March 2018 — 8:30pm Earth Hour—turn off your lights to support climate action

26 March 2018 — Year 12 and 13 drama trip to see *The Plough and the Stars*

27 March 2018 — Year 12 and 13 Parents Evening

28 March 2018 — Dance trip to performance of *Sutra* at Sadlers Wells

28 March 2018 — Governors Open Morning

3 to 13 April 2018 — Easter revision sessions


## Pupils for Praise

Duty pupils of the week ending

02/02/2018

Mitchell Quigley-O'Mara and  
Amelie Morbey from 8 GQU

**Mrs Mills, Reception**

 **History Star of the Week** is awarded to Frankie Rodway in Year 8. Frankie continues to be a super student, he concentrates hard in lessons, he gets involved with class discussions and tries really hard with all his work. But what makes Frankie a superstar is his continued effort with homework – it is always of high quality and I can see he always puts huge amounts of time into it. Well done Frankie. Keep being fab!  
**Mrs Quinn**

**Well done** to the Year 8 and 9 netball teams who beat Bullerswood this week 15-5 and 12-3 respectively. The girls played fantastic netball despite temperatures of 0° and snow during the second quarter. The opposition nominates a player of the match for each game and chose Isabella Antepim in the U13 game and Mia Kirby in the Year 9 game. Well done to both students and both teams for another win.

### U13 girls reach Kent Cup Final

Congratulations to our U13 girls football team who were victorious in their Kent Cup semi-final on Saturday morning to reach the final of the county cup. The girls played some excellent attacking football but their opponents, Harris Falconwood, were becoming increasingly difficult to break down. A goalless draw at the end of normal time, the game went to an extra 10 minutes each way. In the second half of extra time, with about 5 minutes to go until penalties, Emma Spear beat the last defender and sent the ball across the keeper into the back of the net. The girls continued to attack and managed to see the final minutes out, ending with a well deserved victory. This is the first time in six years a girls football team at Charles Darwin School has reached a Kent Cup Final, with our last triumph in 2012. A real achievement for a very talented group of hard-working and committed young girls. Details of the venue and date for the final will be released as soon as it is confirmed.

**PE Department**

## The return of Phil the Bag



Phil the Bag, the textile recycling specialists will be collecting from us again so if you are having a bit of a spring clean over February half term please think of us.

All kinds of adult and childrens' clothing, handbags, hats, shoes, belts and household textiles including sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers, curtains and towels [if you have not already donated your towels to the art department], can be brought into school from Monday 19 to Tuesday 20 February, ready for collection on

### Wednesday 21 February

All donations **MUST BE DRY**. No bedding [pillows and duvets], bric-a-brac, or ripped or stained clothing.

Phil the Bag no longer provides plastic bags: you can use any type of bag, but black sacks are best. Or, to be really environmentally friendly, why not fill up an old pillow case or duvet cover? Thank you for your support. **Gillian Simons, The Friends**

## PARENTS EVENINGS 2017/18

**Year 9:** 7 March 2018

**Year 12:** 27 March 2018 [2]

**Year 13:** 27 March 2018 [2]

**Year 10:** 2 May 2018

**Year 7:** 16 May 2018

## Wanted

The art department would welcome donations of the following items.

Plastic bottles (washed), bags (preferably the cheap 5p supermarket ones) and any bottle tops are wanted for an art project raising awareness of the impact of plastic in our oceans please.

We would also welcome any old towels you may no longer need.

All donations to Mrs Austin in art. Thank you.

## World Thinking Day

Students who are guiders may wear their badge of promise on their uniform on 22 February if they wish to mark World Thinking Day, which celebrates the impact the guiding movement has on the lives of its members and their communities.