



Headlines

Open Day/Open Week

Last Saturday's Open Day was a fantastic success with a large number of families touring the school. The feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive, emphasising how warm and caring our staff are and the students themselves were the most wonderful ambassadors. Open Week ran from Tuesday – Friday this week, and again the tours were full with parents commenting on the calm and purposeful atmosphere in the school. My thanks to all the students who attended on Saturday – you were all amazing.

Student Behaviour

It was pleasing to receive yet another email this week from a member of the public commending the behaviour of our students on the bus. We do receive a number of such emails and I have reproduced below some of the comments he made:

"As the bus drove through Biggin Hill, it picked up more passengers at the several stops, including school children, at around 3:30 pm. Soon, there were two dozen or so school children boarding the bus. In terms of behaviour, I was expecting the worse - my local bus service is a nightmare due to feral children. Then, I gradually became aware of something quite unexpected: these children were all incredibly well behaved. In particular, I observed these things about them.

- ♦ *First, very few of them were holding or using mobile phones; they actually conversed face-to-face with each other!*
- ♦ *Secondly, they were softly spoken and courteous to each other, in both words and facial expression.*

Indeed, their whole demeanour showed empathy, genuine respect and kindness. And when the time came for them to alight at New Addington Tram Station, they did so in an orderly fashion, with no pushing or shoving. It was so lovely and refreshing to witness this behaviour. I wish more children - and adults - were like this."

Trust Merger Update

Last week we received formal approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office regarding the proposed merger of CDAT and Inicio Trusts as per the joint letter sent to parents in June. This approval means that we can now move on to the next stage of this proposed merger in earnest.

Aston Smith

Geography Fieldwork

This term the year 10 Geographers got their fieldwork experience underway, visiting the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford. Fieldwork is an important part of the Geography curriculum and we would like to thank the Charles Darwin PTA for their generous donation towards equipment. Each student had a new clipboard, making those detailed notes easier to make. Students investigated whether the regeneration had improved Stratford for its local residents. Emmanuella Opara, Abhinav Bollineni, Jess Dorset, Liam Stacey and Henry West were excellent at completing questionnaires with the general public; showing the passion and politeness of Darwin's students. Later in the year, Geography students will be visiting Rottingdean and Iceland for further fieldwork experiences.



Mr Ayling-Jones
Head of Geography

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

Drop Everything and Read [DEAR]



Our first whole school DEAR 'Drop Everything and Read' session for this academic year took place on Friday 29th September 2023.
Thank you to everyone who dropped everything and read for pleasure together for the first 20 minutes of period one.

National Poetry Day – 5th October 2023

Thank you to the English Department for running a poetry competition to support National Poetry Day and the 50th Anniversary of CDS. There were lots of excellent entries. Well done to everyone who took part. The winning poem was written by Jade St John in Y8 who will be our Charles Darwin Poet Laureate this year. Here is her poem:

*Charles Darwin is like an oak tree
That was planted in 1973
An oak tree that helps
Even the smallest branch succeed.
For 50 years you've welcomed
Students with open arms and open minds.
For 50 years you've treated them equally
By being caring and by being kind.
And now I stand at the base of the oak tree
Ready to cling to the branches of success
And I know you'll help me
Because you want the best.
With my aspirations at my side
And my endeavours as my guide
I will achieve and I will thrive.
Today we celebrate the day you started your journey
Where you have helped children become artists, doctors and attorneys.
So thank you Charles Darwin School
For all that you've done
For 50 years in your care there have been journeys
That have begun.*

Mr



Sunday 1st October saw Lizzy Merredew and Gemma Merredew enter the Surrey Open Champs.

Gemma was in a tough group of 4 and fought hard to come away with a silver, Lizzy had a group of 6 hardened fighters, she had some tough fights (one fight lasting 11+ minutes) but won all to take Gold winning one with an armlock.

Well done girls!



50th Anniversary Courtyard Renovation

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the school, we decided to renovate the courtyard area outside the canteen which had become rather run-down so that students can have another pleasant place to sit at break and lunch and so that it looks as smart as the recently renovated canteen.

Students and staff have been involved throughout the process, starting with a competition to design a mural for the wall. The design brief was to create a mural design for the large wall that celebrated the work of Charles Darwin and had a tropical botanical garden vibe.

Students from several year groups entered the competition and the winning design was created by Leo Currier in 8HBu, who, as usual with all of his homework, put lots of thought and effort into producing a creative and thoughtful design. Well done Leo and thanks to the other students who sent in entries: Maggie McCarthy, Daine-Louise Iannou, Sam Young, Jack Rice, Edie Plinston and Charlotte Duncombe. Thanks also to Miss Doughty, Miss Stroud and Mrs Doig for their help with the planning, judging and organising of materials for the mural.

The next step in the renovation was to redecorate the whole area so we enlisted the help of some year 10 students who had some decorating experience - Presley Burns, Vinnie Edwards, Lucas Rutledge, Ruby Baker, Kendall Henry and Tyrell Fulton. They did a great job painting all the walls a pale grey colour to match the canteen. Thanks to Mrs Newall for helping to collect the paint and to Oliver Molsher for cleaning the roof of the canopy.

On the 2 enrichment days at the end of term, we started phase 2 of the project, which was the creation and painting of wooden planters to go in the corners of the courtyard. The was led by Mr Baker with support from Adam Iles, Oliver King, Billy Green, Liam Stacey, Sky Goksal, Blake Taylor and Brooke Taylor. Thanks to Mr Dunn for his assistance with collecting materials and helping to complete the final planter and to Mr Baker for his support throughout all the stages of the project. Thanks to Aston Fay-Abrehart for his help painting the planters.

At the same time as the planters were being created, Mr Chubb started the mural painting off with planning how to turn Leo's idea into a mural we could execute and then supervising day 1 of painting. On the second day, Mrs Doig led the year 10 students in completing the painting and making it look beautiful - what talented artists our teachers are! Thanks to the year 10 (mostly) Art students who did the painting- Tillie Bansel, Neve Ladd-Talbot, Olivia James, Georgia Robinson, Matilda Hewitt, Mia Cazalet-Smith, Millie Walker and Sonny Roberts as well as Charlotte Molsher. They did an amazing job really showcasing their artistic skills and creating something to be proud of and thanks to Tillie for coming in on the last day of term to get the painting finished.

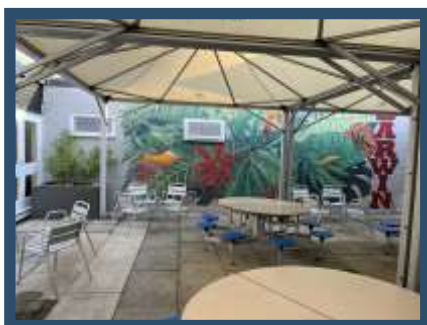
Throughout the project, Shay Royle, Peter Moseling, John Cowburn, Dean Lovatt and Roy Smith have been really helpful in providing equipment, moving furniture, collecting materials and generally being supportive. Thanks also to Mrs Stimson in finance and Mr Smith for helping to find the money for the project and his enthusiasm and encouragement throughout all the stages.

The final stages were helped tremendously by the donation of soil through a link by ex-student and parent James Bamber who put me in touch with Dawn Wales at DWP Recycling, a local business (and another ex-pupil), who very generously donated soil to fill the planters. Caiden and Jake Thwaites in year 11 were incredibly helpful moving the tonne of soil from the back of the school into the planters and we were really grateful to Miss Edwards who kindly gave up part of her time off to jetwash the courtyard.

Thanks to Alfie Rapley, Nehemiah Mensah and Freddie Burns for helping to complete the final planter in time for Open Day.

It has been lovely to be able to complete this project commemorating 50 years of Charles Darwin School by involving so many different members of our community- students, teachers, support staff, parents and former pupils. Charles Darwin School is very much a community school and we are so grateful to all the people who helped to transform this space into somewhere that students are already enjoying during their social time and hopefully will do for many years to come.

Ms Kelly
Assistant Headteacher



Please click on the link below if you would like to view the journey from the beginning to finish:

<https://www.cdarwin.com/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=290>

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 29 September 2023.



7CMo	99.6%
8JSt/HKe	96.4%
9RMo	95%
10SFe	92.6%
11SDa	95%
12JDa	99.3%
13RPi	97.3%

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 not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

Thank you for your continued support.

Students Services Team

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.

If your child contacts you directly, please phone the school to confirm whether they are unwell and have permission to go home.

Thank you

Student Services Team



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**

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.



Game On is the Palace for Life Foundation's employability programme that offers the guidance, training and practical skills needed to help you take the next steps in your career.

Please take a look at the upcoming activities part of Game On:



Kick Off to Hospitality

This is a short course for those wanting to work in hospitality without any previous experience.

Our 6-day training course will help you gain a qualification in Food Hygiene and let you experience what it's like to work in the industry.

During the course, you will meet professionals working in the field and develop knowledge of coffee, wine, food and breweries.

Open to anyone aged 18+ looking for part/full-time work in partnership with local restaurants and cafes across South London.

Dates:
30th Oct - 4th Nov
Times Varied



Kick Off to Security:

This is a short course for those wanting to work on matchdays in security as a steward.

Our 4-day training course will help you gain a qualification in Spectator Safety and let you experience what it's like to work at a football stadium.

After the course, you will get a guaranteed interview with CPFC and the opportunity to develop your career.

Open to anyone aged 18+ looking for part/time work. Places are subject to postcode due to funding allocations.

Dates:
27th Nov - 30th Nov
10 am to 3 pm



Trip to TFL:

Gain a great understanding of facilities management by coming with us on a trip to the Head Offices of Transport for London (TFL).

Get excellent knowledge about facilities management careers and understand what an entry-level job looks like at TFL.

See behind the scenes at the London Transport Museum and see first-hand how it runs and the types of jobs that it provides.

Perfect for anyone aged 16 - 25 wanting to work in the transport industry. Roles vary from engineering to digital marketing.

Date:
26th Oct
9 am to 4 pm



Insight into Corporate

We are partnering with S&P Global - a market intelligence company - to support young people in the corporate world.

Our 4-day training course will help you gain an insight into the corporate industry and prepare for an interview.

Successful applicants will be taken around different departments and receive guidance from S&P Global employees.

Please note, this programme is only open for 16-25-year-olds who show a commitment and capability to work in the corporate environment.

Dates:
Mid-Nov TBC
10 am to 3 pm

If you're interested in taking part in any of the above, please contact Tom Richardson at ETE@palaceforlife.org for an initial chat about what's best for you.

Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Elijah Falvey
Freya Hartnup
Frank Gornall
Acacia Henry
Preeya-Kasapi Roseman

Jacob Johns
Elliott Leonard
Lily Lewis
Aaron Lock
Erin Light



Student Services Duty Pupils

Rylee Newell
Graham Finley
Raff Hollinshead
Ronnie Loxdale
Marone Kellyman

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

Game Over

On Monday 25th September, 12 GCSE Drama students presented and performed to 60 year 6 students from Biggin Hill Primary School. They performed the opening of the play Game Over by Mark Wheeler, which tells the true story about what happened to Breck Bednar, who was groomed online by a teenage boy. The students were amazing and they had the year 6's attention straight away. They presented skilfully, questioning the year 6's about the online world. They then performed the opening of the play before returning to the presentation and summing up what happened to Breck. The final part of their workshop involved an collaborative activity, with the year 10's and 11's working with small groups of year 6's to come up with an online superhero.

Following on from this, the students shared the opening of Game Over to year 7 in an assembly this week. They did a great job and rose to the challenge of performing in front of an audience of 200 students and staff.

The project ended on Wednesday with a performance to parents and friends. This time, students were able to share the piece in full and communicate the tragic consequences of what happened to Breck and the impact on his family.

The cast have worked fantastically, sustaining their efforts and energy in rehearsal since the summer term. They have been great Healthy Relationship Ambassadors, spreading the important message about online safety and what grooming looks like, in an accessible and engaging way.

A big well done to....

Millie Priestley	Avaleigh Atkins
Allanah Whitby	Leila Alfarra
Alyssa Weaver	Sophie Mason
Jess Dorsett	Tillie Bansel
Emily Bazneh	Eva Ruby
Karen Elsey	Lois Clark

Miss Currie



Singing Lessons

Singing lessons available at Charles Darwin. Please use the link below to apply.

<https://ukbromley.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=738#/Course/113/0/0>

Dates for the Diary

October

10th October - Trip: Cyclopark Gravesend, Yr11 GCSE Cycling - Practical grades

12th October - Trip: Cyclopark Gravesend, Yr11 GCSE Cycling - Practical grades

16th October - 27th October - Half term

30th October - INSET DAY

November

14th November - **Sixth Form Open Evening**

17th November - Quiz Night, 7pm

17th November - Trip: Chemistry in Action Lectures at the Emmanuel Centre

21st November - Trip: Science Live (Physics), Emmanuel Centre, London, Yr12 & 13,

22nd November - Year 13 Parents' evening

24th November - Trip: Art & Textiles Alexander McQueen and V&A Trip, Yr12 & Y13

27th November - Trip: National Theatre, 'The House of Bernarda Alba' - Drama, Yrs 12 & 13

December

1st December - Trip: German Christmas Market - MFL, Yrs 9, 10, 12&13

1st December - Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations

11th December - School Production

12th December - School Production

13th December - School Production

15th December - End of Term

2023-24 Term Dates

Autumn 2023

Tuesday 29th August – Friday 13th October

Half Term: Monday 16th October – Friday 27th October

Monday 30th October – Friday 15th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 18th December - Monday 1st January

Spring 2024

Tuesday 2nd January – Friday 9th February

Half Term: Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Monday 19th February – Thursday 28th March

Easter Holiday: Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April

Summer 2024

Monday 15th April – Friday 24th May

(Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday)

Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Monday 3rd June – Thursday 18th July

Note:

Good Friday 29th March 2024

Easter Monday 1st April 2024

INSET Days - School closed to students

Tuesday 29th August 2023

Monday 30th October 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Friday 26th January 2024



Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

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

Laboratory Technician (Biology/Chemistry)
36 hours per week Monday – Friday, term time only
November 2023 (actual salary £21,725 – pay award pending)

We are looking to appoint a Laboratory Technician to join a friendly and hard-working team of technicians preparing practical lessons for our Science department. Applicants should have a background in Science, preferably with A Level/GCSE Biology/Chemistry.

Experience of a similar role in a school or laboratory *would be advantageous*.

Further details and an application form are available on our website and should be sent to jho@cdarwin.com.
Closing date: 10th October 2023. Please note CVs alone cannot 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 a DBS Enhanced Disclosure and full background checks.



Charles Darwin PTA....

fundraising for our school



FRIDAY
17TH
NOVEMBER
2023

SIXTH FORM HUB,
CHARLES DARWIN
SCHOOL, TN16 3AU
DOORS OPEN: 7.00PM
TRIVIA 7.30PM - 10.00PM

£10 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF UP TO 8

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH
YOUR DEVICE CAMERA TO
BUY TICKETS:



Please bring your own food and drink (corkage included in ticket price).
Please bring cash and change for our raffle and other activities.



Join our monthly draw during October for just £1 per month and be in with a chance to...

WIN £100



SCAN ME!

Or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/34ys3t3v>

Enter our prize draw AND raise money
to support our school.

All current participants will be included
in the October £100 draw.