



29.11.2024

Issue No: 1138

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Biggin Hill Christmas Lights Switch-on

My thanks to Miss Mace for organising our younger students to sing at the Biggin Hill Christmas Lights Switch-on last Saturday. Despite Storm Bert the event went without a hitch and our performers received some excellent praise from members of the public.

Uniform

We've noticed that some students have been coming to school in tracksuit hoodies. They are not part of our school uniform policy and will be confiscated until the end of the day if worn.

With the consistently cold weather, we kindly ask that you remind your child to wear a warm and waterproof coat suitable for the winter conditions. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring students are dressed appropriately for school and the weather.

Pre-public Examinations (PPEs)

Well done to our year 11 and 13's who have been completing PPEs. They have been revising hard and their focus during exams has been excellent. We will want to learn from this experience as we move into next year and closer to the real exams.

Aston Smith, Headteacher



Tickets on sale via Parent Pay.

Cost: £8.50 each

Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th December, 7pm

CHARLES DARWIN PTA
PRESENTS

ONLY

£1

**FESTIVE
FRIDAY**

FRIDAY 13TH

DECEMBER

**FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOL
PROJECTS, INCLUDING
ENHANCING OUR OUTDOOR
RECREATIONAL AREAS**

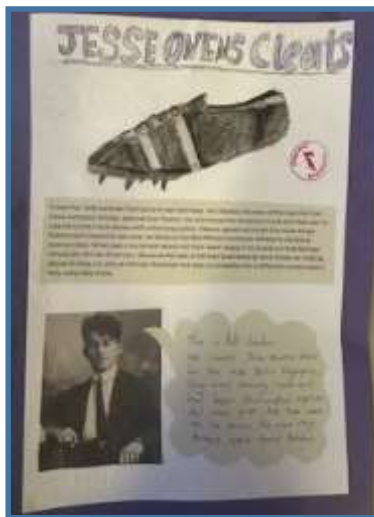
**CASUAL CLOTHES - CHRISTMAS
JUMPERS OPTIONAL**

Payable in advance on ParentPay or to form tutors on the day

Year 9 Amazing Homework

9YHI3 and 9YHI1 - have been completing an enquiry on the Berlin Olympics of 1936. Students were looking at the racism and prejudice towards Black African Americans in the USA as well as the Prejudice towards the Jews in Germany. Students were given a free choice homework to create or research something they were interested in. Here are a few pictures of the amazing homework! We had many more. I am so proud of the Historians you are becoming
A huge well done

Ms Davies



Congratulations!



Millie Austin 7SAs was invited to attend the Bromley SEND Star Awards on Thursday 28th November as she had been nominated for an award.

She came 2nd out of hundreds for her bravery and for her courage in everything she has been through.

Millie deserves to be extremely proud of herself as are we here at CDS!
A huge achievement!

Mrs Thom

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)
- ❖ Twitter – [twitter.com /CDarwinSchool](https://twitter.com/CDarwinSchool)
- ❖ Instagram – [www.instagram.com /CDarwinSchool](https://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.

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.



Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

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

Learning Support Assistant **36 hours a week, 38 weeks a year** **8am to 4pm Monday to Friday** **Actual salary £23,631**

We wish to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to join a well-established team supporting a range of students' needs in class, in small groups and/or specialised individual learning. Applicants should ideally have experience of working with students with a range of Special Educational Needs and experience of working with students with ASD and ADHD would be an advantage. Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT.

We are a "good" school (Ofsted 2023) with an ethos that encourages academic rigour, high expectations and a well disciplined approach to learning.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: 18th December 2024 (interviews will be held in the new year)

Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: www.cdarwin.com (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not 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 an Enhanced Disclosure with the Disclosure and Barring Service and full background checks.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974. It is an offence to apply for this role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

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. Please clearly say your child's name and form he/she is in. 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.



Foodbank in Bromley is able to offer clients a choice of 3 days worth of food along with a supermarket voucher or 7 days worth of food. This is for **Bromley Borough residents only**. For out of borough residents they are able to offer 3 days worth of food. Please remember you can get help by contacting them

PE FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER 2024

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

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

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

Please can students' hand in donations to their PE teacher **before Friday 13th December 2024.**

Thank you!



**Donations will be shared
between 2 local food banks
that serve our community:**

Bromley Foodbank

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 13TH OF DECEMBER!

GCSE and A Level ART coursework collection

Students from the 2024 GCSE and A level cohort can now collect their ART coursework and final pieces from the ART office.

Please contact Miss Thomas at nth@cdarwin.com to arrange your collection. Siblings can also collect work for students that no longer attend the school.

Ms Doughty

PTA Update

Funding requests

We have written to our staff to ask if there are any projects they would like us to fund to enhance the learning of our students, that is outside of their current budgets. We have received some requests already and look forward to considering each request.

Meeting

Our monthly meeting will be at The Crown in Keston on Wednesday 4th December at 7.30pm.

We would love you to join us, even if you just want to just listen to our update and have a Christmas drink with us.

Fundraising as you shop

We received a payment of £502.80 from Easyfundraising direct to our funds earlier this month. A big thank you to our shoppers!

Our top shoppers in the last 30 days have been as follows:

1. Sam K
2. Gill B
3. Sule M
4. Helen H

It takes 2 minutes to sign up using our link – friends and family can get involved too:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta/>

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Aurel Kaziu	Chloe Figg
Daisie Kerr	Charlie Webb
Frankie Allen	Maisy Huntley
Danii-Jo Kelly	Ollie Jones
Stanley Webb	Angel Mensah



Student Services Duty Pupils

Troy Gray	Kacey Chilcraft
Ellie-May Friend	Amalie Clark
	Theo Garry

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

School jumpers and PE hoodies needed!

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of school jumpers and red and black PE hoodies. If you have any lying around that your daughter/son has outgrown, we would greatly accept donation of these. We also welcome any other parts of school uniform like school and football shoes.

All donations can be left at **Main Reception**.

Thank you in advance for your kindness.



Preloved Uniform Shop Team

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 15 November 2024.

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES Per day =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES Per day =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES Per day =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES Per day =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES Per day =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE

7HCo/VMa	95%
8LMc	97.8%
9HKe	93.6%
10DNu	96.8%
11JLa/LWr	97.3%
12DWa	96.4%
13GQu	96.5%



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

But every **minute** is equally important!

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

First Aid

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**

Dates for the Diary

December

2nd December - Trip: Year 12 & 13 A Level Chemistry Lectures, Emmanuel Centre, London, RPi
4th December - Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church
4th December - Year 7-11, Flu vaccinations
4th December - PTA Meeting, 7.30pm, The Crown
6th - 8th December - Christmas Market Trip
11th December - Year 13 Parents' Evening
13th December - Christmas Jumper Day
16th December - Trip: Year 12 Supreme Law Courts & Somerset House
16th, 17th, 18th December - School Production 7pm
18th December - Christmas lunch
20th December - End of Term, early finish
23rd December - 3rd January - Christmas holiday

January

6th January - Spring term starts
15th January - **INSET DAY**

Term Dates 2024-2025

Autumn 2024

Friday 30th August – Friday 18th October
Half term: Monday 21st October – Friday 1st November
Monday 4th November – Friday 20th December
Christmas Holiday: Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January

Spring 2025

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February
Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February
Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April
Easter Holiday: Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April

Notes:

Good Friday 18th April
Easter Monday 21st April

Summer 2025

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May
[Monday 5th May Bank Holiday]
Half term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May
Monday 2nd June – Tuesday 22nd July

INSET Days:

Wednesday 15th January 2025
Monday 24th February 2025
Friday 23rd May 2025
All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th June 2025