



25.04.2025

Issue No: 1154

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### Welcome Back

Welcome back to all our students following the Easter break. I hope that all students and their families had a good Easter and are feeling refreshed and recharged for the term ahead.

### Uniform

As we begin the new term, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind families about our expectations regarding school uniform. Our uniform is a key part of our school's identity and helps us promote a sense of pride and belonging. We set high standards for all our pupils, and this starts with wearing the correct uniform. Students are expected to arrive and leave school in full school uniform, looking neat and presentable.

I would like to highlight a couple of aspects which have caused unnecessary conflict at the start of term, which we would appreciate your support on through discussion with your child:

- Trainers are never allowed without medical reason (note required)
- False nails and nail varnish are not allowed
- Jewellery is not allowed
- Hoodies are not allowed
- Blazers must always be brought into school
- False eyelashes are not allowed

Full details of our uniform policy can be found on school website and these rules have been in place for many years.

### Summer term clubs and activities

We have a variety of clubs and extra curriculum activities being run this term. Details can be found on our website or click the link [Charles Darwin School - Extra Curricular](#)

### Website

Our [school website](#) is full of useful information such as [curriculum](#), [policies](#), [SEN](#), [student independent learning](#), [uniform](#) and our new [Anti-bullying charter](#). Please do take time to have a look.

### Parent Survey

A parent survey was sent out to parents and carers on Thursday via email. The survey will be open until Monday 12th May. Thank you to everyone who has completed it so far. Your feedback is really important to us. Here is the link again. [Click here to take the survey](#)

Aston Smith, Headteacher



## Charles Darwin School

### 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](mailto:preloveduniform@cdarwin.com) you can also use the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/r/EYNuVcZpsa>



# PTA Update

## Funding requests

We have had a number of funding requests. We look forward to providing more information on these soon. Hopefully our funding will enable us to provide funds for as many of these as possible.

## Quiz Night Tonight

We are hosting 9 tables of staff, parents and other members of our school community at our popular quiz night tonight.

For those of you joining, quizzing will start at 7.30pm and we hope to conclude by 10.00pm.

See you in the main hall from 7.00pm.

## Next Event: Bingo

Our next event is Bingo on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Tickets will be on sale soon.

## Easyfundraising

Welcome to our new joiner, Joanna C.

Thanks to our recent shoppers who have helped us to raise £1586 to help us release funds to benefit our students, just by enrolling and shopping:

Sule M, Ana B, Melanie L, Jason H, Gill B, Deborah R, Sarah H, Caroline W, Helen H, Georgie S

Please enrol if you can! You don't even need to download an app.

As long as you have enrolled and have the donation reminder switched on, you don't need to log in to anything separate to raise the funds:

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

## PTA Gathering

Our next gathering is at The Crown, Keston on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. If you would like to join us, see you there.

If you are considering volunteering with us or are unsure, please do contact us via our various social media platforms or email us at [friends@cdarwin.com](mailto:friends@cdarwin.com). We promise we won't commit you to anything except meeting other parents and supporting our students as they navigate their way through their years at Charles Darwin.

## Girls U14 Final - Bullers Wood vs Charles Darwin

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of May** - Girls U14 Final - Bullers Wood vs Charles Darwin, 4pm kick off (pitch 4) at Bromley FC.

**Entry will be £1 for children and £3 adults.** They accept cash or card (although cash is preferred).



# Attendance

**Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 4 April 2025.**

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

7LBy	92.6%
8JWi	96%
9ADo	98.2%
10JAI	90%
11JLa/LWr	97.4%
12MNo	96.4%
13JDa	93.2%

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.

## 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.

### Hay Fever Season - Medication for Students

Hay Fever and the symptoms for children studying at school can be very uncomfortable, please ensure that if your child suffers with Hay Fever that they take any relevant medication/antihistamine before school. The school is unable to provide this medication to students.

Thank you

**Mrs Booth  
Lead First Aid**

## Year 8 Duty Pupils

Alex Mack  
Nyah Newberry  
Jack Roberts  
Tiana Torrance  
Sonny Nye  
Faith Boye  
Liam Pearce  
Francesca Wilson

## Student Services Duty Pupils

Charlotte Bourn  
Alfie Brocking  
Scarlet Doherty  
Oscar Campbell



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

## Dates for the Diary

### April

**29th April** - Trip: GCSE Cycling at Cyclopark  
**29th April** - Year 7 Parents' Evening

### May

**1st May** - Trip: GCSE Cycling at Cyclopark  
**1st May** - Trip: Year 10 Geography Trip to Rottingdean  
**2nd-3rd May** - Trip: Y9 Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition, Wadhurst/Bewl Water  
**5th May** - **BANK HOLIDAY**  
**6th May** - Trip: Year 10 Geography Trip to Rottingdean  
**7th May** - PTA Meeting, The Crown  
**15th May** - Year 10 Parents' Evening  
**21st-23rd May** - Trip: Y10 Silver DofE Practice Expedition, Cudham Shaws Outdoor Centre  
**23rd May** - INSET DAY  
**26th May** - **BANK HOLIDAY**  
**26th-30th May** - Half term

### June

**2nd June** - Summer Term 2 starts



As the weather is getting warmer please can all students bring in a reusable water bottle to school each day. The water bottles can be refilled at the canteen and near to Students Services at break time and lunchtime. We only have a limited supply of plastic cups for First Aid and use of students who forgot a water bottle.

**Student Services Team**

## Internal Exams Dates

<b>Year 7</b>	9-13 June,	16-20 June
<b>Year 8</b>	19-23 May,	2-6 June
<b>Year 9</b>	19-23 May,	2-6 June
<b>Year 10</b>	16-20 June,	23-27 June
<b>Year 12</b>	16-20 June,	23-27 June

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Summer 2025

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

[Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday]

Half term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

### INSET Days:

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### The SEN team at Charles Darwin:

Mrs L Thom, SENCo  
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](mailto:send@cdarwin.com)

# Term Dates 2025-2026

## **Autumn 2025**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

*Half term: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October*

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

*Christmas Holiday: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January*

## **Spring 2026**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

*Half term: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February*

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

*Easter Holiday: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April*

### **Notes:**

**Good Friday 3rd April 2026**

**Easter Monday 6th April 2026**

## **Summer 2026**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

*[Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday]*

*Half term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May*

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

## **INSET Days:**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026



### **Part Time Gym Set up Assistant**

Part Time Gym Set up Assistant required for our Wednesday and Saturday classes at Charles Darwin Leisure Centre.

#### **Hours:**

Wednesday: 4.00pm – 4.30pm and 7.15pm-7.45pm

Friday: 7.30pm - 8.00pm

Saturday: 11.50am – 12.20pm

Hourly rate: £7.55 (or MLV dependant on age)

Please send CV to [enquiries@gymclub.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gymclub.org.uk)





# Charity Football Match & Mini Ball

24 May 2025

Darwin Leisure Centre, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, TN16 3AU

Raising money to support children with cancer and their families and funding research into childhood specific tumours in partnership with the ICR!

Donate



## Tickets:

- £28 (play in the match + Ball entry). Kick off 4pm, kit provided.
- £20 Ball only. Doors 6pm-10.30pm Includes 3 course meal and all night entertainment.

**Book:** [treasurer@aoifesbubbles.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@aoifesbubbles.co.uk) or message us on socials

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