



Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Remembrance

Today we held our Remembrance Ceremony in the quad and I would like to thank Miss Mace, Head of Music, for organising such a moving service. I will be at the Biggin Hill Act of Remembrance on Sunday to lay a wreath on behalf of the school. All are welcome to attend.

SHARP Project

My thanks to Mrs. Rees for overseeing the SHARP project day on Tuesday. It was a hard hitting and immersive day enabling the students to see into an operating theatre as staff treated a victim of a stabbing, talk to ambulance drivers and learn first aid protocols. Students also learnt of the devastating impact knife crime has on families and the community and were given the opportunity to speak to ambassadors who had themselves been a victim of knife crime. Students were also given contact details of individuals they could speak to should they have concerns about knife crime. I was very impressed by the maturity shown by the students on this extremely important and emotive topic.

PD Drop Morning

Thursday's Personal Development drop morning went very well indeed with every year group taking part. Along with other members of the SLT and Achievement Coordinators, I dropped into some of the classes and it was great to see the students so focused on their particular topics. The atmosphere was really positive and productive with high levels of student engagement.

Year 7 and 8 students worked on Growth Mindset with Year 7 participating in activities called Synapse Strengtheners ..., learning a new skill and learning from mistakes. Year 8 took part in a communication workshop to develop skills in managing how we speak and communicate with each other and the Year 9 and 10 session was a 'consequences of drugs' workshop which not just outlined the dangers of drugs in the short term, but the impact on the social aspects and wellbeing of young people.

Students in Year 11 worked on PiXL revision skills whilst Year 12 and 13 students spent time on a revision programme for their upcoming PPEs or UCAS applications.

Year 10 BIMA Day

On Wednesday, 60 students from Computer Science and Business Studies came together to take part in the annual BIMA Digital Day which gives 11-16 year olds an insight into a world of digital careers. The students worked with an external agency, met digital experts and competed in a sponsored, nationwide digital challenge on behalf of their virtual client for the day, Vue Cinemas. Their work has then been entered into a National Competition for a chance to win £500 cash for the school and some fantastic prizes for themselves. Fingers crossed!!

Aston Smith

Closure of Westerham Hill

Some parents will be aware of plans to close Westerham Hill in order to connect a water supply to the new build site at the top of the Hill. It has now been confirmed that Westerham Hill will be closed between 16th December and 30th December. Works will be carried out every day apart from Christmas Day and the intention is that they will be completed in time for the new year. Road diversions will be in place but as yet we have not been informed as to the details, it is thought a one-way system will be introduced in the lanes.

Thames Water are holding a drop in session for residents in the ground floor meeting room at Biggin Hill Memorial Library on Monday 13th November between 12 noon and 7.00pm.

Mrs. Hodgkinson



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Sixth Form Open Evening

Tuesday 14th November 2023

6pm - 8pm

Presentations in the Main Hall at 6pm and 7pm



No
booking
required

Prospective students and parents are welcome to meet current subject staff and students to discuss the exciting opportunities our Sixth Form has to offer between 6pm and 8pm.

"Students in the Sixth Form benefit from an individualised approach and achieve well"



SCAN ME



Tel: 01959 574043

Email: sixthform@cdarwin.com

Website: www.cdarwin.com

Charles Darwin School,
Jail Lane,
Biggin Hill,
Kent,
TN16 3AU

100% of students wishing to attend university gained a place.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Parent and Carer workshop

20/11/23

You are invited to a special meeting on Monday 20th November from 6-7pm ONLINE via Teams. The meeting is with Miss Sampson, Mrs Rees and Miss Currie.

In this session we would like to share with you and hear from you. The themes are:

- **How Charles Darwin School gained Healthy Relationship Champion School status from Tender**
- **Understanding the changes to the Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum**
- **Exploring the challenges facing you as parents and carers**
- **Understanding what additional information you might need to support your young people to have healthy relationships**

Email me to register your interest and for the meeting link: ksa@cdarwin.com



WELL DONE!

On 5th November James Shanks took part in BSGA London Trampoline Championships at Chessington Sports Centre and he came 1st with almost 4 whole marks between him and 2nd place. He has now qualified to compete in the Southern Zonal event in Worthing on the 28th January.

Well done James. We are really proud of you!

The Chartwell Charities
Presents
STRICTLY 2023
Saturday 2nd December
Tatfield Village Hall

£60 Per Person
Inclusion of: Free Reception
Two course meal & drinks
Raffle & Auction

TO BOOK:
Call 01959 570322 / Scan QR code
E: info@chartwellcancertrust.co.uk

"People cannot wait help improve the lives of cancer and long-term patients and oncology communities by making a real difference to cancer care."

The Chartwell Cancer Trust, Alton Millage Building, Westmore Green, Tatfield, TN16 2AG
chartwellcancertrust.co.uk Reg Charity No 1109784

Charles Darwin PTA....
fundraising for our school

Quiz Night

**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.

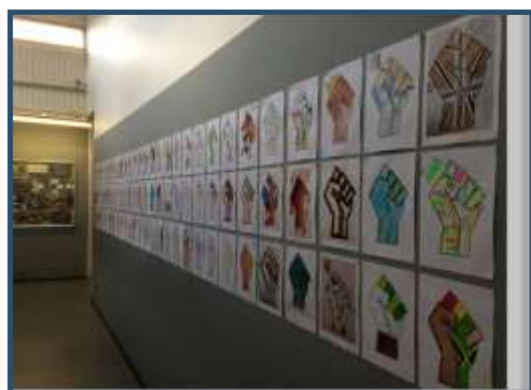
Black History Month - October 2023

Over the past month students and staff have been celebrating and developing our knowledge and understanding of Black History. There has been a wide range of activities and learning experiences to mark this important event. Year groups have had assemblies dedicated to this theme led by staff and students.

Y8 for example had an assembly led by **Owen Asemota** from 8SHO. Owen also produced the BHM display in the library that featured in The Link a few weeks ago. The display included information on the BHM theme for this year of Saluting Our Sisters. The theme Saluting our Sisters pays homage to black women who had contributions ignored, ideas appropriated, and voices silenced. His contributions didn't end there either; Owen also organised a cake sale in support of BHM! To recognise these efforts, we have re-published the picture of Owen from last time.



Elsewhere students have been learning a great deal about the contributions of people of African-Caribbean descent both in the UK and beyond. In Art lessons students looked at **Althea McNish**, a textile designer who was amongst the first, if not the first, designer of African-Caribbean descent to achieve international recognition. Her designs injected much-needed colour and life into the post-war fashion and textiles industry from the 1950s onwards. Students created oil pastel mono prints of her designs which have been put on display in school. Design Technology embraced BHM and has been looking at the power of graphic design throughout history from the beginning of the Black Power movement through to Black Lives Matter. The clenched fist has been a common symbol and students have been adapting the design to represent issues that they care about. The students' work is shown on display below.



English covered a range of different areas. For KS3 students looked at a range of poems from **John Agard's** 'Checking out me history' to 'Strange Fruit' by **Abel Meropol**.

Y10 looked at an extract from 'Thank you Ma'am' by **James Mercer Langston Hughes**. Year 11 debated whether 'Black History Month' needed to be integrated into school curriculums more fully instead of celebrated in a stand-alone month.

In Maths students explored the female NASA mathematicians **Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson** that were shown in the film Hidden Figures. The same theme was picked up and discussed further in Science. Katherine Johnson was nicknamed the "human computer" for her incredible mathematical skills. She was one of the first African American women to work for

NASA and contributed to the Apollo 11 mission to the moon and back. **Bessie Coleman** is another black woman whose story was delved into. She was an American pilot (the first female Native American pilot) and carried out daring acrobatic manoeuvres that earned her the name "Brave Bessie". Both of these women have inspired future generations.

During PE students have been celebrating many great black sporting heroes. Students have competed during their PE lesson and extra-curricular clubs in teams named after a BHM hero. Within these lessons, they have discussed their background, achievements and impact on society. Students have also gained bonus Achievement Points for those who knew the most about their teams' sporting hero. These included amongst others: **Tiger Woods, Serena Williams, Jesse Owe, Alex Scott and Dina Asher-Smith**.

The Music department gave students the opportunity to identify and listen to the work of black composers via a BHM calendar and linked Spotify for students to playlist. This provided a great opportunity to explore the work of inspiring figures from **Quincy Jones to Ella Fitzgerald** and right up to more recent composers and artists such as **Lauren Hill and Stormzy**.

Finally, the History department organised a poster competition for the best designed poster explaining the significance of BHM. Some examples are shown here. Well done to all those who entered.

The above are just a few highlights of the types of learning experiences that our school community had been involved in with regard to BHM. This important theme fits very well of course with our own school ethos of mutual respect.



Mr Boyden
Deputy Head

Part Time Gym Set up Assistant

Part Time Gym Set up assistant required for our Wednesday and Saturday classes at Charles Darwin Leisure Centre in Biggin Hill.

Hours:

Wednesday: 4.14pm - 4.45 pm and 7.15pm - 7.45pm

Friday: 7.00pm - 7.30pm

Saturday: 12.15pm - 12.45pm

Hourly rate: £7.49

Please send CV to enquires@gymclub.org.uk



Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

The following book comes highly recommended by the Business Studies Department:



Strong Woman: The Truth About Getting To The Top - Karen Brady

An inspiring and real look at work life, Karen Brady defies convention as a directional business women in a male industry. This is the truth about how she does it, her drive and her skills – it offers brilliant advice on how you can do it too.

Coming soon ...



Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 3 November 2023.



7NYe	98.1 %
8PDg	99.1%
9STi	96.6%
10CO n	92.2%
11SDa	99%
12TJo	99.2%
13FSu/MEd	97%

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**

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Theo Garry	Megan Mansell
Joseph Holton	Safiye Morley
Theodore Isaac	Troy Gray
Olivia Locking	Mason Nicholls
James Lawson	Danielle Osafo



Student Services Duty Pupils

Dhru Wells
Hannah White
Katie Winter
Freddie Terry
Ralph Meah

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

THE CHRISTMAS PE FUN RUN 2023

FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER

This Christmas during one PE lesson, students will take part in a "PE Fun Run" in order to support our 2 local food banks.

Rather than donate money, students have been asked to donate items to our 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 form tutor or PE teacher **before Friday 1st December 2023.**

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)



**THE FUN RUN WILL TAKE PLACE DURING ONE PE LESSON
DURING THE WEEK COMMENCING 20th NOVEMBER!**

Harrison Catering

Please see below MENU Week 3 for the week commencing 13 November 2023

WEEKLY MENU Charles Darwin Week 3				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spaghetti Bolognese	BBQ Chicken with Rice	Roast Turkey, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Mexican Style Soft Chilli Beef Taco with Toppings & Mexican Style Rice	Fish & Chips
Mixed Bean and Vegetable Chili	Indian Style Vegetable Biryani with Chickpea Dhal	Vegetable Moussaka	Sweet Potato Stir with Spiced Vegetable Rice	Veggie Finger & Chips (V) (2)
Pesto Pasta	Vegetable Tagine	Roast Vegetable & Tomato Pasta	Mac'n'Cheese	Chilli Bean Wrap & Salsa with Chips
Sweetcorn or Peas	Garlic Green Beans / Roasted Vegetables	Broccoli / Herb Roasted Butternut	Broccoli / Carrots	Beans or Peas
Berry Swirl Sponge with Custard	Marble Sponge & Custard	Glazed Carrots / Green Beans	Apple & Berry Oat Bar with Custard	Fruit Flapjack

Available daily
Jacket Potatoes, Salad Bar available daily.

HARRISON
food with thought

In partnership with...



Biggin Hill's longest established resident company, Falcon Flying Group who has supported the community since 1977.



PTA Silent Auction
CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL

AUCTION LOT: ONE HOUR FLYING LESSON

Our generous partners at Falcon Flying Group are offering a one hour introductory flying lesson with EFG Flying School, based at Biggin Hill Airport.

The lucky top bidder of this incredible donation will experience a typical first lesson format with the emphasis on the winner taking the controls and flying!

To place your bid for a one hour flying lesson, please e-mail friends@cdarwin.com
Auction closes @ 20:00 on Friday 17th November 2023

(Some flying lesson restrictions may apply)



Want a chance to win great prizes
AND fundraise for Charles Darwin School?



PTA RAFFLE
CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL

BUY YOUR TICKET/S VIA OUR ONLINE PTA SHOP NOW:

<https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/>

FABULOUS PRIZES FROM OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES:

- £50 voucher for Napoli Westerham
- £20 voucher for Cooling's Garden Centre
- Paradox Parlours - Escape room for 2
- 1 x Albie's Valet (full valet worth £120)
- 1 x Adult haircut from H1 Barbers
- 1 x Free trampolining lesson from Revolve
- 1 x £20 voucher for Benjamin's Dry Cleaners
- 1 x Family Swim from Biggin Hill Pool
- 1 x Canvas from ThinkPad, Biggin Hill
- 1 x Coffee mug and biscuits from Costa Coffee
- Coffee and Cocktails - Bottle of Whispering Angel and 2 cocktails each
- PLUS** meal vouchers from Salisbury's fish and chips, Caffè Isabella, Biggin Hill Fish & Chips, Flames Kebab and The Orplington.

Raffle drawn during quiz night on Friday 17th November 2023

friends@charlesdarwin.com

Dates for the Diary

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

13th December - Trip: Supreme Court and Somerset House - History & Politics, Yrs 12 & 13

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

INSET Days - School closed to students

Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Friday 26th January 2024

Note:

Good Friday 29th March 2024

Easter Monday 1st April 2024