



04.04.2025

Issue No: 1153

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of another term, with many of the practical exams already underway or completed, and it will not be long before our Year 11 and 13 students enter the full examination season. It is wonderful to see the students studying so hard and wanting to be the best that they can be.

Visit to Oaklands Primary School

This week, I had the pleasure of visiting Oaklands Primary School in Biggin Hill, a school that we welcome many students from each year. It was fantastic to meet the staff and children, particularly the Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September. Their enthusiasm and excitement about starting their journey with us at Charles Darwin School was truly wonderful to see.

Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening

On Thursday I attended the Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening. I would like to thank our families for their continued commitment to attend these important events. The students success is underpinned by strong home/school partnership. As our students take their final steps in secondary education and prepare for life beyond Charles Darwin School, their hard work and determination are evident. It is always a pleasure to share in their progress and future aspirations.

Achievement Assemblies

Over the past week and a half, we have celebrated an incredible amount of student success during our Achievement Assemblies. It is truly inspiring to see so many students embodying our school values: Inspire, Endeavour, and Achieve. They should all be incredibly proud of their achievements - as we certainly are. Well done!

Progress Pens

It has been a pleasure to meet with individuals this week to celebrate personal successes of some students through the awarding of progress pens.

Uniform

As we hopefully see the return of warmer weather, I would like to remind all students that they are expected to bring their blazer to school every day. Please note that a jumper is not a replacement for a blazer. Additionally, as we near the end of term, we have seen an increase in students wearing trainers. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents that trainers are not permitted as part of our uniform policy. Please ensure that your child is equipped with the correct uniform ready for the start of the Summer Term.

Year 11 and 13 Easter Revision

There is a programme of revision sessions for students which will take place over the two weeks of the Easter holiday. I thank the staff that have volunteered to give some of their holiday to run these sessions. I am sure the students will all be working hard during the break in preparation for their exams but I hope that they also take time to relax, recharge their batteries and enjoy some free time.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a happy, restful Easter break. I look forward to welcoming our students back on Tuesday, 22nd April.

Best wishes,
Aston Smith, Headteacher

Online Safety



Please see attached to this week's Link safety poster about TikTok.

Uniform Year 7-11

Parents/carers will be aware that **Oz Schoolwear** is our school outfitters. They are open every week day and Saturday and will be open throughout the Easter holiday except Bank holidays. Please contact them directly on: 01689 824767 or click on the link below to access their website
[Charles Darwin School | School Uniforms - Oz Schoolwear](#)

Address:

6 Chatsworth Parade, Queensway, Petts Wood, Kent, BR5 1DF

Closest train station: Petts Wood

Bus Routes: 208, N199, R3, R7, 273, 661

Remember, if you know sizes, Oz Schoolwear will take online and phone orders which can be delivered straight to the school for collection Thursday from lunchtime. This helps many families who don't live as local to Petts Wood where they are based. You or your son/ daughter can collect purchased items from main reception after delivery, normally late morning.

A reminder of our school uniform policy as we come to the end of the spring term and the weather changes:

- Blazers remain a compulsory item of school uniform Year 7-11 and should be in school every day
- V neck blue school jumpers remain an optional additional item and can be worn with the blazer
- Hoodies should not be worn in school and will be confiscated if they are seen
- Shoes should be worn in school, not trainers unless a medical note has been signed by the Achievement co-ordinator in the planner
- Jewellery should not be worn in school. This includes earrings. If seen, these items will be confiscated.
- Make-up [should be discreet including lashes].
- No bandanas, hoods, caps and hats.

Students can and do ask teachers to remove blazers if classrooms are warm. When the weather is consistently hotter, the Headteacher will notify the school community when blazers can be left in lockers for the day.

We will continue to remind students of our uniform expectations via tutors, teachers and in assemblies. Please can families ensure any missing items of uniform are replaced asap and at the latest before the return in the summer term. Remember we have a very well stocked PreLoved uniform shop which has good quality barely used uniform based in school which all our families can use. Contact details are via the school website or Student Services. Blazer badges and ties can be collected from main reception, having been paid for via ParentPay.

Finally as we expect to see the weather change, please remind your son/daughter that water should be brought into school in a refillable bottle. Students can refill water bottles at fountains in their breaks and lunchtimes but will not be permitted to leave classrooms to do so unless in an emergency.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Rees



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 you can also use the link below or scan the QR code.

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



Parent Forum

A questionnaire went out to parents about setting up a Parent Forum – please see a summary of the questionnaire.

Summary of Parent Forum

1. 70% of parents who answered questionnaire agreed or strongly agreed that participating in parent forum will benefit them as a parent.
2. 93% of parents who answered questionnaire have not been involved with PTA.
3. Majority of parents want to or may participate in parent forum 29% yes 39% maybe
4. 61% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the goals and objectives of the parent forum are clear.
5. 47% of parents would rather the meeting happen online where as 32% would prefer the meetings to be after school. There were very few parents who wanted the meetings during the school day.
6. 81% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that the Parent Forum could be a valuable initiative for parents to help shape the future direction of the school.

The first meeting of The Parent Forum will be on **Thursday 1st May at 4.30pm**. We will meet in **Main Reception**.

The topic for discussion will be the following – this is based on the feedback provided from parents.

1. Homework – This will include items such as: frequency, challenge, types of H/W
2. Communication – The Link, communications policy, website, satchel one, reports.

If you would like to attend this meeting and did not complete the questionnaire or did not leave your email address please email parentforum@cdarwin.com to let me know if you would like to attend.

If you left your email you will have received an email from me to reply to.

I look forward to working with you and meeting you on 1st May at 4.30pm.

Mrs N Tsang

School Council

The school council represent the voice of the student body. School Council have at least 2 representatives per year group and meet to discuss important issues facing our students and look at how we can improve the learning and the environment of the school. School Council meet with a member of the leadership team. You will see school council at cake sales on parents evenings. Over the course of the next year you will hear from all of the council.

Hello, my name is Viktorija, I'm in year 7 and part of school council. This term, in our regular monthly meeting we discussed improvements at school. We have been working on developing careers and character. As well as that, we spoke about the Bromley Youth Council and the manifesto that was happening the following day. We were deciding how we were going to pick then new student to represent our school in Bromley youth council.

On Thursday last week 5 members of the school council went to Bromley Youth Manifesto. This is a conference for over 150 representatives from schools across the borough who discuss and debate important issues for young people across schools. The following excerpt is written by Jasmine in year 12.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Bromley Council manifesto experience, as it allowed me to enhance my teamwork skills while engaging with individuals from various schools, each bringing unique cultures and perspectives. This diversity fostered enriching debate and conversations during group activities, contributing to a positive atmosphere. Additionally, I made new friends and had overall positive experiences that not only deepened my understanding of Bromley Council but also inspired me to consider how I can actively contribute to improving my community. -Jasmine O'Brien.

Mr R Jones

Year 7 Easter Raffle



Thank you to all the students, parents and staff who donated to the Easter Raffle – we raised an amazing **£251!** Wow! What an amazing achievement. I also want to thank the students who helped sell the tickets and also distribute them around the school for the lucky winners.

Also, a MASSIVE well done to 7SDa/CZy for winning the form competition to raise the most. They collected in **£59!**
Great job!

Ms Quinn/Miss Monk

Year 7 Rising Stars



The Stars have had a brilliant term – so many different sessions with great chances to access topics they might not cover in the classroom. Thank you to the staff who take these sessions after school in their own time.

Happy Easter!

Ms Quinn

Thank you



A huge thank you to **Jason O'Connell at Voxifi Networks Ltd** for being our new shirt sponsor for the new Year 7 football team!

Your generous support ensures that our players take the pitch with confidence whilst looking smart and professional. We have a proud history of sporting success, and we are excited to continue that tradition with you by our side. At a time when budgets are tight, your sponsorship provides crucial support while also fostering a sense of pride and unity among our students. It is partnerships like yours that strengthen our school community and make a real impact.

If there are any businesses that would like to get involved and support any of our sporting teams... please get in touch! We would love to collaborate with you.

Miss C Owen
Head of Physical Education

Geography trip to National History Museum

We were delighted to take 17 year 9 geographers to the Natural History Museum last week as a reward for their hard work this term. The trip was to look at the 'red zone' in line with the student's current topic of tectonics. We had a great day, and the students were particularly excited about the earthquake simulator from the Kobe earthquake in 1995. The students were so fantastic that two members of the public contacted the school to congratulate them on their etiquette.

Miss Buckle



A reminder to parents that as well as the LINK and the 'latest news' section on the website, you can follow the latest events happening in our school community on:

CDarwinSchool



Achievement Points Leader Board

Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 02.09.2024 - 04.04.2025

Jamie Niblock	9PDg/MBa	272
Lyla Chapman	7SAs	242
Arabella Purdy	8JWi	223
Lorenzo Burrows	7APr	210
Kristen Stander	7MHu/VKi	205
Isabel Berriman	7SAs	204
Freya Chandler	7APr	204
Mia Dyer	7SAs	204
Joshua Ivaldi	7APr	204
Lily-Ray Gilder	7SAs	203



Top highest achievers per each year for the period 02.09.2024 - 04.04.2025

Lyla Chapman	7SAs	242
Arabella Purdy	8JWi	223
Jamie Niblock	9PDg/MBa	272
Sonny Dering	10DNu	180
Maci Hughes	11JLa/LWr	141
Jasmine O'Brien	12RPi	73
Emmy Vince	13ACh	40



GymClub
Gymnastics

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

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 28 March 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

7HCo/VMa	97.7%
8LMc	98.1%
9ADo	96.8%
10JAI	94.2%
11JLa/LWr	96.5%
12MCR	96.2%
13JDa	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 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

Austyn Garrod	Lily Ford
Leah Benwell	Bradley Burbeck
Gen Bonome	Layla Wattie
Elliot Johnson	Sonny Nye
Thomas West	Iris-Grace Penfold

Student Services Duty Pupils

George booth
Kian Evans
Rory Daniels
Jason Panzi
Stevie Ruggins
Zekay Gok



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

Dates for the Diary

April

21st April - Easter Monday (school closed)
22nd April - Summer term starts
24th April - Trip: Farraday Challenge - STEM, Darrick Wood School
26th April - Trip: GCSE & A level Classical Concert Trip, United Reformed Church, Petts Wood
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



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

Term Dates 2024-2025

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:

Friday 23rd May 2025
All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th 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

Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn 2025

Monday 1st September – Friday 17th October

Half term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January

Spring 2026

Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

Half term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Notes:

Good Friday 3rd April 2026

Easter Monday 6th April 2026

Summer 2026

Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

[Monday 4th May Bank Holiday]

Half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July

INSET Days:

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

GREEN GARDEN WASTE SITE:

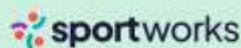
Biggin Hill: Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane
Sundays 8am - 12noon, open 2 March to 26 October 2025.

Details

All green garden waste must be bagged and residents must bring their council tax bill, drivers licence or a form of identification that includes their address.

Please do not put your garden waste in builders' sacks, as these are too heavy to be lifted safely. No commercial garden waste will be accepted.

Yes please	No thanks
Grass cuttings	Tree trunks and large branches
Prunings (no bigger than 2 inches round)	Soil and rubble
Dead plants	Garden furniture, flower pots and plastic debris



EASTER EVENT

APRIL 7TH 8TH, 14TH
AND 15TH

ST MARY CRAY SCHOOL, 239B
HIGH ST., ORPINGTON BR5 4AR

10 AM TO 3 PM

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 18

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 18.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
CHARLIE.FAUX@SPORTWORKSLTD.CO.UK



Incorporating Bromley Scope

EASTER CRAFT FUN

Suitable for children and young people with
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families

Wednesday 16 April from 10am to 12pm

**Station Road Training Centre, Station Road,
Bromley, Kent, BR1 3LP**

Come along and enjoy some Easter-themed
crafting with us. This event is exclusively for
Bromley Mencap members. Membership is free
for the first year, so sign up now!

Booking essential.

Please request a booking form by contacting
Sarah Garner, Short Breaks Coordinator.
Final bookings must be received by
Friday 4 April as spaces are limited.

Suitable for ages 5-11.
Siblings welcome to attend.

Parents/carers must
accompany their children.

Cakes and drinks will be
provided.

BOOK NOW!

020 8466 0790

sarah.garner@bromleymencap.org



Upcoming events in March/April 2025



Bromley Accessibility Forum

Thursday 27th March 2025 2pm to 4pm
Community House Bromley, BR1 1RH and on Zoom



Access Champions working group

Thursday 3rd April 2025 1.15pm to 2.45pm
Community House Bromley, BR1 1RH



Coffee and Chat

Thursday 10th April 2025 2pm to 4pm
Community House Bromley, BR1 1RH



Gardening Workshop with Greener & Cleaner

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 10.30am to 12pm
Southlands Road Allotments, Baths Road, BR2 9RB



Bromley Independent Living Forum

Thursday 24th April 2025 2pm to 4pm
Community House Bromley, BR1 1RH and on Zoom

Find out more and book a **FREE** place



www.xbyxbromley.org.uk/events



info@xbyxbromley.org.uk



0208 650 2102