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The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### Jack Petchey Awards Evening

On Monday evening Mrs. Rees and I went along to the Jack Petchey Awards evening at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley. It was a really fantastic event and one which made me very proud of our students. We also had the highest number of students present on the night receiving Achievement Awards. My congratulations to:

Nyah Tomlinson-Allen  
Aoife Teehan  
Amelia Waddington  
Khushi Sinha

Jasmine O'Brien  
Clara Bain  
Jensen Ladd-Talbot  
Leo Currier

Jessica Grace  
Nyasha Dombojena  
Danny Rufford  
Ava Reilly



### The Rotary Clubs of Bromley Youth Award Ceremony

Congratulations to our two Rotary Club Community Service Award winners, Callie Louise Fossey and Alex Withers. Each year the Bromley Rotary Club ask local schools for nominations for students who we are aware go above and beyond for families and the local community outside of school as well as within it. We are delighted for our two very deserving winners this year.

### Communication Policy

At Charles Darwin School we aim to have clear, effective communication with parents and the wider community. Effective communication enables us to share our aims and values, school successes and information about the school. We have been working on a Communications Policy and a draft is attached to this newsletter. We are asking parents to forward any comments or feedback on the draft policy to Julie Hodgkinson, Personnel and Administration Manager, via email to: [jho@cdarwin.com](mailto:jho@cdarwin.com) **by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**. We really appreciate parents taking the time to respond to this important policy.

### Inicio Update

I am pleased to inform parents that as no formal objections were received regarding the transfer during the consultation period, it has been confirmed that the transfer will take place on 1st April 2024 as originally envisaged.

*Aston Smith*

## INSET DAY 26th January 2024

A reminder to families that school is closed for pupils on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January as this is an INSET day. There is information that has gone into the planner that states that there is an INSET day on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January which is incorrect. This is a normal school day.

**Mr Jones**

## A general reminder to all students for keeping safe on the way to and from school.

As previously advised by the Bromley Youth Policing Team (BYPT), young people should:

- Try not to walk alone – find a friend to walk with.
- Do not walk down a lane or unlit road that isn't busy with traffic or pedestrians for a short cut. Take a longer route which is safer.
- **Run, yell and tell.** If you are approached by someone and don't feel safe start to run, yell loudly at the same time and head towards where there are people such as shops.
- Safe places include shops, schools, libraries, restaurants, take away shops, stations and bus stops where people are waiting.
- Speak to an adult you know, if you have concerns about your safety.
- Do not walk around with headphones in and a phone out on display.
- Call police on 999 in an emergency.

## GCSE POD

Student account details were changed before Christmas to simplify the number of different logins across our online packages. Students now have only one log in for everything. They can now access GCSEPOD.com using their [abcd001.305@cdarwin.com](mailto:abcd001.305@cdarwin.com) and the same password they use for logging into their email.

GCSEPOD is a highly effective revision tool. Studies show that students using Pod for an hour a week can increase GCSE grades by up to a grade per subject. Some students use the pod videos to support their learning in year 10 and 11, whilst others use the 'check and challenge' sections to test their knowledge. Teachers can set GCSE pod via the SatchelOne app or students can find topics in each subject independently. A how-to guide can be found here <https://www.gcsepod.com/student-resources/>

**Mr Jones**



### Charles Darwin School

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[enquiries@cdarwin.com](mailto:enquiries@cdarwin.com)

## Exam Invigilators £11.60 per hour

We are looking for suitable persons to join our dedicated pool of Exam Invigilators responsible for the invigilation of public and internal exams and tests. Invigilators will be present throughout the main summer exam season as well as at other times in the school year and may also undertake tasks such as checking registers against scripts and packing them at the end of exams.

Applicants should be available from 08.30 for the morning session and/or from 13.00 for the afternoon session. Training will be provided.

Closing date: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: [www.cdarwin.com](http://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.*

## Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

Congratulations to Nyah Newberry of 7SHU for becoming a silver Hundreds and Thousands Club badge winner. To achieve the bronze badge, students read 1000 pages and write one book review on the book they have enjoyed most. To achieve the silver badge, students start again but this time read 2000 pages and write two book reviews. To achieve the gold badge, students read 3000 pages and write three book reviews. At least one of the books they read must be a more challenging text and/or from the English literary canon. See Mrs Pitt, Mrs Adams [our librarian] or your English teacher for more information. Here is one of Nyah's book recommendations...

**Mrs Pitt**



*Becoming* [adapted for younger readers] is one of my favourite books. I have a particular interest in Michelle Obama, which is why I love this book; it is her autobiography. There is an adult version of *Becoming* and it became such a best seller that Michelle made it for children – it is still a large book with exactly 500 pages.

Michelle Obama tells her story from childhood until adapting to life after leaving the White House. You read about her view on the struggles she had as a lawyer, mother, wife and First Lady – and the little things that shaped her character as she grew up.

Michelle looks back on 'the discomfort of that moment now' to recognise the more universal challenge of figuring out - how who you are fits where you came from and where you want to go. I [also] realised that I was a long way, still, from finding my voice. I enjoyed this book so much the first time I read it, I've re-read it twice since then.

It is very well written and I really recommend it.

## Canteen Feedback



Harrison Catering now have a comment box in the canteen with cards for the students to complete if they want to give feedback on aspects of the food or canteen provision. The catering manager is particularly keen to have some feedback on what food the students like and any suggestions for food that they would like to have more often. They can add this in the large box at the bottom of the form or just drop a slip of paper in with their suggestions. If they do this it would be helpful if they could add their name and form group.

**Ms Kelly**

## ParentPay canteen payments

Did you know you can set up an alert on ParentPay to notify you when your son/daughter's balance is running low?

On the page that shows the balances for each person, underneath your current balance is the option to "Set up low balance alerts". You can then select which amount you want to be notified on, e.g. £5 and then you can select whether you want to be notified by text or e-mail. This will help students to avoid going to the till with food and having no money left in their account to pay for their food.

You can also see what your son/daughter has bought every day by looking at "lunchtime meal activity" at the bottom of the home page.

**Ms Kelly**

## School jumpers and PE kits needed!

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of navy school jumpers, red and black PE hoodies, white polo shirts and red socks. 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**

Please see below MENU Week 1 for the week commencing 22nd January 2024.

WEEKLY MENU				
Charles Darwin Week 1				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Korma with Rice	Lasagne & Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken Pie & Mashed Potato	Fish & Chips
Vegetable Curry with Rice	Vegetable Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Shepherdess Pie	Chilli Bean Wrap & Salsa	Vegan Sausage Roll with Chips
Mac'n'Cheese	Tomato & Basil Penne Pasta	Vegan Jambalaya	Tuscan Style Tomato & Bean Pasta	Vegetable Samosa with Chips
Green Beans or Sweetcorn	Carrots or Broccoli	Cauliflower or Green Beans	Peas or Carrots	Beans or Peas
Apple Pie & Crumble with Custard	Chocolate Brownie with Chocolate Sauce	Jam & Coconut Sponge	Fruit Sponge	Apple & Berry Oat Bar with Custard

Availability from:  
Jacket Potatoes and Salad Bar available Daily

**HARRISON**  
food with thought



## Year 7 Rising Stars - HPA students

What a wonderful first term had and this term is already looking great with the planned sessions. The selected Year 7's have made really impressive efforts to attend their Rising Star sessions after school each week. They have had the chance to complete a wide game in History, survive a volcanic eruption in Geography, experience St Martin's holiday in German, made beautiful birds in Art, make Christmas crafts for their trees and also Fire Writing in Science. This term they have already taken part in a Beetle Drive, and over the next few weeks they will be looking at Moving Images in Science, taking part in a Drama workshop, doing Team building in PE, working out who sunk the Titanic in History, debating on philosophical topics in RE, avoiding a Zombie apocalypse in Geography and to finish off make Easter animals out of crème eggs! What fabulous line up of sessions!! This wouldn't be possible only for all the teachers who give up their time after school which is really appreciated. Thank you!

**Ms Quinn**  
**KS3 HPA Co-ordinator**



## Benjamin Zephaniah



Following the passing of Benjamin Zephaniah (15 April 1958 – 7 December 2023), Author, Poet, Playwright and Actor, we have a display of his books in the Library. At his funeral requests were made to plant a tree or plant in his memory therefore an Oak tree has been planted in a forest in the Midlands in memory of Benjamin from Charles Darwin School Library and the certificate is on display in the library.



**Mrs Adams**

## Attendance

**Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 12 January 2024.**



7LMc	97.1%
8JSt/HKe	96.2%
9RMo	96.7%
10ZPa	94.1%
11SDa	92.3%
12JDa	100%
13DWa	95.5%

*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

Daisy Pointer  
Amelia Baines  
Connor Gainey  
Samuel Benton  
Abby Young

Emily Lake  
Albie Vian Rooke  
David Turbureanu  
Daniel Drew  
Khyran Dixon

### Student Services Duty Pupils

Luke Berry  
Teddy Markland  
Evie Radford  
Jolyon Coombs



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

# 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](http://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.

**Keep warm and safe on your journey**

## 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.



## Dates for the Diary

### January

25th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

26th January - **INSET DAY (school closed to students)**

31st January - Year 9 Parents' Evening

### February

8th February - Early close - 2pm

12th - 16th February - HALF TERM

29th February - Year 8 Parents' Evening

## 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 – Friday 19th July

### Note:

Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

**INSET Days** - School closed to students

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Friday 28th June 2024** - INICIO Day (home learning for students)

## 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.





## Apprentice Information Event

**TUESDAY 6 February 2024 | 4.30pm – 6.30pm**

**Bromley Campus: Rookery Lane, Bromley, BR2 8HE**

**Apprenticeships are a great way to start a career, boost your skills, and take the next step in your chosen career.** Hosted by our Apprenticeship Team, the event will include:

Employer guest speakers

- Information on what an apprenticeship is and who can apply
- What roles are available for an apprenticeship, and what current Vacancies we have in a wide range of sectors, such as:
  - Construction
  - Engineering
  - Business and management
  - Service industries
  - Health, care, and education
  - Experience economy
  -

If you don't know what industry you'd like to work in, don't worry! Our apprenticeship team will be on hand to provide you with some inspirational ideas.

This event targets people interested in starting an apprenticeship or parents interested in learning more about apprenticeships for their son/ daughter.

**Get your tickets now**

Please visit the website for more information: <https://www.lsec.ac.uk/events/3770-naw24>

