



10.10.2025

Issue No: 1171

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Year 10 Geography Fieldwork

It was fantastic to receive such excellent feedback about our students on Tuesday's Geography fieldwork trip to the Olympic Park. The Year 10 geographers completed their first piece of fieldwork, which contributes to 15% of their final GCSE grade, investigating the redevelopment of Stratford using the Queen Elizabeth Park. They represented the school brilliantly throughout the day, showing great enthusiasm and maturity. The staff, Mr Ayling-Jones, Miss Partridge, Ms Kelly, Miss Buckle, Mr Goss and Mr Langdown were all impressed by students' attitudes and efforts in completing their environmental quality surveys and questionnaires. In class, students will now analyse their results and draw conclusions about the extent to which the redevelopment has improved Stratford. Well done to all involved, and a big thank you to Mr Ayling-Jones for organising the trip.

GCSE and A Level Drama Trip

On Wednesday, I joined our GCSE and A-level Drama groups for a trip to see Every Brilliant Thing, starring Lenny Henry. This deeply moving and unexpectedly uplifting play follows one person's journey to remind their mother and themselves of all the things that make life brilliant. Told with warmth and humour, it's a powerful celebration of resilience and hope. A good evening was had by all. My thanks to Ms Currie for organising.

Year 11 MADE Revision Day

A big thank you to our Year 11 team for organising the MADE Revision Day held on Thursday. It was a valuable opportunity to teach students how to revise effectively using evidence backed approaches. We encourage everyone to keep the momentum going next week by continuing to practise these strategies in class, ensuring students are well-prepared to revise productively over the October half term.

Good luck to the students who are starting their PPEs and to those students undertaking their Drama practical exam next week.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

**Charles Darwin School
Sixth Form**



**No
booking
required**

**Thursday 13th November 2025
5.30pm - 7.30pm**

Presentations in the Main Hall at 5.30pm and 6.15pm

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Email: sixthform@cdarwin.com
Web: www.cdarwin.com

Jail Lane, Biggin Hill,
Westerham, Kent, TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043

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



Black History Month 2025

Throughout October, our school community has been celebrating **Black History Month** — a time to recognise and reflect on the remarkable contributions, achievements, and stories of Black individuals throughout history and in the UK today. We are proud to be a school that celebrates diversity and recognise the positive contributions that everyone in our community makes, but in particular, those voices that may have been lost through history. We have another week to go before half term, but this is what we have been up to with BHM2025 so far:

Held SLT and year group assemblies exploring the significance of Black History Month. This includes the Bristol Bus Boycotts and 60 years since the Race Relations act was introduced in the UK.

- **Included subject-based activities**, where teachers have used starter tasks and discussion prompts to spotlight key Black figures linked to their subject areas — from pioneering scientists and artists to influential writers and activists. Teachers have been carefully crafting lessons around icons such as Colin Kaepernick, who 'took the knee' to Astronomer Royal Professor Maggie Aderin-Pocock who was dyslexic and overcame adversity to be a leading astrophysicist.
- **Displays around school** celebrating historical and contemporary role models, showcasing resilience and endeavour with some superb display artwork.
- **Facilitated discussions in form time**, encouraging students to think critically about diversity, inclusion, and representation in our society for all cultures.
- **Joined the national "Great Big Live Assembly"**, where the whole school came together to celebrate and learn as part of a shared national event on Tuesday 7th October.

We are proud of the thoughtful engagement shown by our students throughout the last 2 weeks, and we remain committed to ensuring that the celebration and understanding of all areas of diversity and protected characteristics in line with British Values plays a fundamental role in our school culture, embedded in mutual respect.

Mr R Jones

Please vote for CDS Cheerleading Club

Last academic year myself and the PTA applied for Tesco funding for new cheerleading equipment, for our Cheerleading Club. We are very excited that our application has been accepted for the in-store voting! At Tesco's in and around the Bromley area, you can vote for our school so receive the money from the grant. The deadline is 31st December to vote!



Stores you can vote in:

2203 Bromley Express BR2 0TY Express BR2 0TY
2445 Elmers End Superstore BR3 4AA Superstore BR3 4AA
3068 High Street Penge Express SE20 7QB Express SE20 7QB
3148 St Pauls Cray Express BR5 3AQ Express BR5 3AQ
4564 Bromley Plaisow Express BR1 4DS Express BR1 4DS
4779 Beckenham Chinese Garage Express BR3 3LS Express BR3 3LS
5234 Crystal Palace Express SE19 2AH Express SE19 2AH
5311 Penge Croydon Road Express SE20 7TY Express SE20 7TY
5651 Bromley Superstore BR1 2UE Superstore BR1 2UE
5904 Orpington Extra BR6 0NH Extra BR6 0NH
6147 Biggin Hill Express TN16 3BB Express TN16 3BB
6224 Beckenham Express BR3 4EP Express BR3 4EP
6496 Penge High Street Express SE20 7HB Express SE20 7HB
6981 Bromley High Street Express BR1 1LF Express BR1 1LF"

Thank you, every vote counts!

Miss Porter

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Maksym Kryvylo 11JLA who has won first place in his weight category at the British Taekwondo National Championships in Sheffield 2025.
We are so proud of you. Well done!



Well done to our Cheerleading Club at CDS!
Their student Coach has been so impressed with the progress of Year 7 and Year 8 Cheerleaders that she got them all a small gift.
Thank you, Grace!

Miss Porter



Year 7 Art

Year 7 have been exploring creatures and mark-making since the start of term. Having initially worked in pencil they have moved onto to paint using various brush techniques including dry brush, wax resist and generally brush skills to create large scale collaborative creatures linked to illustrative work of Clare Young.

Mrs Broad
Head of Art & Textiles



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/e/qSR8ju6P5C>

Charles Darwin Pre-loved Uniform
Requests 2025/2026 school year
onwards



Library Notice - Overdue Books



We currently have a large number of overdue library books, with some outstanding for several months. Despite previous reminders to students by email and notes to form tutors, many books have not yet been returned.

The library kindly asks parents and carers to encourage students to check their school emails to see if they have an overdue book and return any overdue books as soon as possible, so that other pupils have the opportunity to borrow them. At present, Year 8 have the highest number of outstanding loans.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Waite



Year 8 Duty Pupil

Theo Young
Keiki Pritchard
Josh Smith-Creed
Faerydae Severn
Izzie Berriman

Abigail Young
Charis Akioyame
Nizar Bouchikh
Abigail Young
Daniel Nemeth

Student Services Duty Pupils

Edward White
George Addison
Maxwell Hawker
Sam Tucker
Asiyah Moustapha



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

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 3 October 2025.



7HEm/KSa	99.2%
7COn	99.2%
8LWr/OLo	95.4%
9SFe	97%
10GJo/OLo	94.5%
11JAl	96.2%
12JDa	100%
13DWa	97.6%

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.

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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
Health Care Lead

Dates for the Diary

October

13th-17th October - Open Week Tours (am)

15th October - Musicfest

17th October - End of term

November

3rd November - **INSET DAY**

5th November - Closing date for Christmas Card Competition

13th November - Sixth Form Open Evening

14th November - Trip: Year 12 Photography Trip, London

17th November - Trip: The Old Operating Theatre & Imperial War Museum, London

18th November - Trip: Y12 History in Action Conference, London

21st November - Trip: Y12/Y13 Physics in Action Conference, London

21st November - PTA Quiz Night, 7:30pm

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 3rd November 2025

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026



Charles Darwin PTA
are delighted to host our popular



Quiz Night



**Friday 21st
November 2025**

Main Hall, Charles Darwin School
Doors open: 7.00pm
Trivia: 7.30pm - 10:00pm

£10 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF 2 TO 8

Scan the QR code with your camera to request tickets or
visit our online shop: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>



SCAN ME

Quiz teams, please bring your own drinks and snacks!
Raffle and extra games payable on the night



friends@cdarwin.com

Term Dates 2026-2027



Inicio Educational Trust Schools

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term 1

Start: Tuesday 1st September 2026
Finish: Friday 16th October 2026
Autumn break: Monday 19th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026

Term 2

Start: Monday 2nd November 2026
Finish: Friday 18th December 2026
Christmas break: Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027

Term 3

Start: Monday 4th January 2027
Finish: Friday 12th February 2027
February break: Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027

Term 4

Start: Monday 22nd February 2027
Finish: Thursday 25th March 2027
Spring break: Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 9th April 2027

Term 5

Start: Monday 12th April 2027
Finish: Friday 28th May 2027
Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May 2027
May break: Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027

Term 6

Start: Monday 7th June 2027
Finish: Wednesday 21st July 2027

Professional Development days will be allocated through the academic year

FREE EVENT



The SEND Local Offer Live TASTER SESSIONS!



Diversity & Inclusion in Action



An incredible gaming party experience, anywhere, anytime



From dance, football, cricket, archery, art, to sensory songs, story time, face painting, virtual gaming, and even a silent disco! Come along and join in the fun!

Thursday 30 October, 10am to 2pm



Bishop Justus School,
Magpie Hall Lane,
Bromley,
BR2 8HZ

**Register your
interest in a taster
session today! See
you there!**



Please note: parents and carers remain responsible for their children at all times.



Message from Bromley Food Bank



As from Wednesday 1st October the **value of supermarket vouchers** given to Bromley residents referred to us will be changing. When the vouchers were initially introduced we had benefited from the community's generosity during COVID and wanted to pass this on to our clients. Now as we reach a more normal level of donations we need to make sure we stay sustainable. This means a reduction of voucher value.

Starting tomorrow **voucher values** will be:

Household size	1	2	3	4	5+
Voucher value	£1 0	£1 5	£2 0	£2 5	£3 0

Please **bring carrier bags, a trolley** or even wheely suitcase to collect your food. Our supply of donated carrier bags is very low currently.

GET FIT & BE A CRACKER THIS CHRISTMAS!

NEW - BIGGIN BOOTCAMP

Our bootcamp is designed to push you, challenge you, and get you results!

Suitable for all fitness levels whether you're starting fresh or looking to level up

BURN FAT & BUILD LEAN MUSCLE

- Fun, motivating group atmosphere
- Outdoor 4g surface, so no messy trainers!

LAUNCHES SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

9.00AM AT CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL

BOOK FREE TASTER - [CRONKFITNESS.CO.UK](https://cronkfitness.co.uk)

Helping Local Families through the Power of Community



CHRISTMAS for Every Child

1 in 5 children in our borough - **over 16,000** - are growing up in **poverty**. For many, Christmas brings sadness instead of joy. Our '**Christmas for Every Child**' hampers give families the essentials and festive treats they need to feel included and celebrated

**We need your help to bring Christmas magic,
surprises and joy to these children.**



Visit the BBB online
Christmas Shop!

Buy gifts, PJs, books
& supermarket vouchers



We know times are tough,
if you can't donate,
no worries!
Just help us spread the
word on social media by
liking & sharing our posts

Donate
'pre-loved'
Christmas
Jumpers

+

unwanted gifts
(MUST BE NEW)

Visit our website link
below for donation drop-
off volunteers in your area



Get your school, group
or business involved!

Email

amy@bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk

Fundraise for us

Visit our website for ideas



Visit our website to find out more:

www.bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk



Registered charity in England and Wales no. 1210626
bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk



SECONDARY INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

Tuition-fee for QTS
£8,100

Why choose us?

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We train for a wide range of subjects:

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We believe great teachers come from all backgrounds.

We welcome applications from graduates, those in their last year at university, as well as career changers.

APPLY NOW



BROMLEY SCHOOLS'
COLLEGIATE est. 1993
Teacher Training
Excellence Through Experience