



# Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## HEADLINES

### Break with Cake

On Wednesday I spent my break with some of our Year 7 Rising Stars. It was a real pleasure to meet this delightful group of students and to present them with their Bronze Rising Star badge. The conversation at this break concentrated on their experience of Year 7; how they have settled and how they have felt about the challenges and opportunities being in a secondary school provides.

### Exam Preparation

When we return after the half term break our focus will very much be on our Year 11 and Year 13 students who will have less than 10 teaching weeks before some of the public examinations begin. The period between now and the start of the examination season in May is of course a crucial time, our expectation is that students will be working with determination and focus to maximise their examination success chances. With this in mind we will be organising holiday revision classes and information about this will be available soon after the half term break. I would advise students and families to begin to consider how they might wish to use this revision opportunity.

Year 13 core PPE exams commence on 24th February and Year 11 PPEs on 6th March and again our expectation is that students will need to spend time over the holiday revising and working diligently for these. I would be most grateful if all parents and carers could encourage students to spend as much time as possible in this break undertaking revision and preparation for these important PPEs. To help with independent study and revision we recently made available to all students in Year 11 a very comprehensive online resource called GCSE Pod. If parents and carers could encourage students to use this then it would be most appreciated.

### Half Term

And finally we come to the end of what has been a very busy half term. I do hope all students and their families enjoy the break and I look forward to seeing students return refreshed after the holiday.

Sunil Chotai

## DANCE COMPETITION 2020



The final of Charles Darwin School's twenty third annual Dance, Choreography and Performance Competition was held on Monday 10 February in front of a very supportive audience.

This year 12 different dance acts from Years 7 to 12 competed for the Year Group medals and the overall Key Stage 3 and combined Key Stage 4 and 5 trophies. Mrs Rees, Deputy Headteacher, Dance teacher, event organiser and one of the judges was joined on the panel by staff members Miss Abbotts (Head of Dance) and Mrs Kearney (Assistant Headteacher and Music teacher).

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## RISING STARS BREAK WITH CAKE

On Wednesday at break with cake 13 Year 7 Rising Stars met with Mr Chotai, to discuss their success in achieving their Bronze Rising Star badge for taking part in all sessions since September and recording the progress they made in learning journals.

These Year 7s are our potential high achievers and welcome the extra challenge these sessions give. These are just some of the extra activities the students took part in; making electricity with fruit in Science, finding innocence or guilt in a Witch trial in History, fighting cybercrime in IT, designing and making a wooden box in Technology, solving a murder in Science, becoming Alan Sugar apprentices in Geography, decorating cakes for Christmas and this week they discovered the gruesome truth behind St Valentine's Day.



Well done Bronze Award winners, before we know it they will be on their way to achieving their Silver Award.

Ms Quinn

This year's guest judge was Georgia Gallagher, one of our ex A-Level 'A' grade Dance students. Georgia entered this competition for seven years in succession and showed a much appreciated commitment to Dance whilst at Charles Darwin School. Georgia is now in her second year at Bird College.

"What is particularly inspiring is that the students organised all the choreography, costumes and music by themselves and had clearly spent many hours rehearsing, some, since the summer" said Mrs Rees.

Whilst the judges made their decisions, the audience was entertained by performances from two ex-Charles Darwin School GCSE Dance students, Nikita Taylor and Kennice Palmer who are both now studying A Level Dance or equivalent, and by Thrive, the School's Elite Dance group who danced a piece entitled 'In the Dark'.

"It is particularly rewarding to see several ex pupils back here tonight to perform during the judges' deliberations, or as a judge themselves. It is the lasting legacy of this competition that many of the entrants study dance post 16 and continue to perform as young adults" said Mrs Rees.



Year 9 Medal winners and KS3 Cup winners: Amy Coop, Keira Dukes, Daisy-May Kittlety and Olivia Howe.



Year 12/13 Medal winners and KS5 Cup winners: Annelise Persson and Emily Wilson.

Congratulations to all this year's winners:

Year 7 Medal winners: Keira Williams and Olivia James

Year 8 Medal winner: Olivia Persson

Year 9 Medal winners and KS3 Cup winners: Amy Coop, Keira Dukes, Daisy-May Kittlety and Olivia Howe

Year 10 Medal winners: Abbey Parker and Amelie Morbey

Year 11 Medal winner: Jess Barton

Year 12/13 Medal winners and KS4/5 Cup winners: Annelise Persson and Emily Wilson



Year 8 Medal winner: Olivia Persson.



Year 10 Medal winners: Abbey Parker and Amelie Morbey.

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:  
Parents/carers must phone before 08:30 with a full reason on every day of their child's absence.

"The night really showcased the dancing talent that we have at Charles Darwin School. Thank you so much to those who supported us on the night; Mr Andy Chubb for Photography, Mr Colin Andrews for Music, William Reeves, Year 9 for Lighting, Miss Gemma Currie for Front of House and Molly Farmer and Bethany Evans, Year 12 for Stage support. Most of all, a big thank you to the families in the audience who supported us on the night, funded or made costumes and created rehearsal space at home. We couldn't do it without them," concluded Mrs Rees.

All money raised from ticket sales and the raffle will go back into developing dance further in the school.



Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:  
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In advance of two assemblies on Money Laundering to Year 9 and Year 10 after half term, please find below a letter from the Metropolitan Police regarding this concern. Please speak to your son/daughter about never giving bank details or cards to anyone else, even if there is no money in the account.

**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We need your help to warn young people about the dangers and consequences of becoming a Money Mule.

### **What is a Money Mule?**

A Money Mule is someone who transfers stolen money through their own bank account on behalf of someone else and is paid for doing so.

Criminals need money mules to launder the profits of their crimes.

Young people are increasingly being targeted to become money mules. They are approached online or in person, including through social media, at school, college or sports clubs, sometimes people they know persuade them to take part, often because they are also acting as money mules. Mules will usually be unaware of where the money comes from – commonly fraud and scams – and that it can go on to fund crimes such as drug dealing and people trafficking.

### **Being a Money Mule is illegal**

When someone is caught, their bank account will be closed, and they will have problems getting student loans, mobile phone contracts and credit in the future. They could even face arrest for money laundering which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

### **What to look out for**

Tell-tale signs that someone might be involved could be them suddenly having extra cash, buying expensive new clothes or top-of-the-range mobile phones and gadgets with very little explanation as to how they got the money. They may also become more secretive, withdrawn or appear stressed.

You and your child can learn more and get advice by visiting [www.moneymules.co.uk](http://www.moneymules.co.uk) together.

If you are worried that someone close to you might be caught up in money muling, you can contact **Crime Stoppers** anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

Please do not attempt to contact any individual you suspect of organising money muling.

Yours Faithfully

**PC Bruce Anton 1303SN**  
**Safer Schools Officer for Charles Darwin School**  
**Bromley Police Station**



### **Learning Support Assistant (term time only)** **20 hours per week Monday – Thursday** **(£9,717 per annum)**

We are looking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to join a well-established team supporting a range of students' needs in class, in small groups and/or specialised individual learning. Applicants should ideally have experience of working with secondary-aged students with a range of SEN and *experience working with students with ASD would be an advantage*.

Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT.

Further details and an application form are available on our website and should be sent to [jho@cdarwin.com](mailto:jho@cdarwin.com).

Closing date: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020. Please note CVs alone cannot 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 a DBS Enhanced Disclosure and full background checks.*

## Year 9 GCSE Business Enterprise Valentines Event

Over the last 5 weeks the Year 9 GCSE Business students have been developing a Valentines Business from scratch. They have had to develop their product/service and come up with ideas on how to add value, along with working on their strategies for their pricing, promotion and production.

To gain their funding they had to pitch their idea to their teacher 'Dragon Den' style, where some groups were successful and even had more funding than was on offer due to the quality of their business proposition and meeting the Valentine's Day theme.

Some of the business ideas have been solid and have evolved from the start; some groups completely changing their idea at the 12th hour, but for the better. This week is selling week, and so far most businesses are doing well and making sales, some already making a profit. On Valentine's Day some businesses will be delivering the 'surprise product' to someone's Valentine, so romance may be in the air for some lucky students.

There are some mini Lord Sugars (without the beard) within Year 9 that we all will have to keep an eye on.



**Mr Manchester  
Business and Finance**

## RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

Please find attached to this week's Link, a Government issued guide for parents about how Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is changing for schools in England.

During the next half term, we will share our proposals with you and in the Summer term of this year there will be an opportunity for you to attend a meeting and discuss the changes.

Thank you.



**Ms Sampson**



**Minibus Driver (job share)  
£12.80 per hour – term time only  
3.5 hours per day  
(07.00 – 08.45 and 15.00 – 16.45 – alternate weeks)**

We are looking to appoint a Minibus Driver from April to transport students on a home-to-school route collecting children from the local area and to assist with the boarding and alighting of those students where required. The post holder will act as a point of contact for parents and teachers on matters relating to the transport of children and must have a professional attitude to work. Personal qualities such as good people skills and a smart appearance are essential criteria. Applicants must be in good health and have a full clean driving licence with category D1. A MIDAS training certificate would be an advantage.

This post is offered on a job-share basis and will require the successful candidate to work flexibly with our existing minibus driver to ensure that all school days are covered. The current working schedule is Wednesday – Tuesday alternate weeks. Some additional hours on an ad hoc basis may be available.

Application Forms are available on our website [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com) and should be emailed to Julie Hodgkinson at [jho@cdarwin.com](mailto:jho@cdarwin.com). Please note CVs alone will not be considered.

Closing date: Friday 6th March 2020

*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.*

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## Monday 24th - Friday 28th February 2020

### Monday 24th February

8.30am Year 10 Assembly

### Tuesday 25th February

8.30am Year 7 Assembly

### Wednesday 26th February

8.30am Year 10 Assembly

### Thursday 27th February

8.30am Year 12/13

### Friday 28th February

8.30am Year 9 Assembly

## Forthcoming Events

### MARCH 2020

**Wednesday 04 March** - Year 9 Parents' Evening

**Monday 09 March** - Head Prefect Application closing date

**Thursday 12 March** - Year 8 Options Evening

**Wednesday 25 March** - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening

### APRIL 2020

**Friday 03 April** - Ski trip to Austria departs

**Friday 03 April** - End of Term

**Monday 20 April** - Summer Term starts

**Wednesday 29 April** - Year 10 Parents' Evening

### MAY 2020

**Thursday 7 May** - Year 7 Parents' Evening

**Friday 8 May** - Bank Holiday

**Friday 22 May** - Year 13 Leavers' BBQ

**Friday 22 May** - End of Half Term

### JUNE 2020

**Wednesday 03 June** - Expressive Arts Showcase

**Friday 12 June** - Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

**Friday 19 June** - Sixth Form Leavers' Ball

### Duty Pupils for Praise Week ending 14th February 2020

Many thanks to Jafari Lanquedoc, Sid Powley, Alarna Valins and Louise Brake, Year 8.

Miss Payne  
Reception

### Top Attendance Week ending 7th February 2020

Year	Tutor group	Percentage
7	7FSu	99.2%
8	8AGi	99.3%
9	9CLu	98.5%
10	10FLf	97.9%
11	11ZPa	99.2%
12	12ARu	98.3%
13	13GSh/HDo	97.9%

### Parents Evenings 2020

Year 9: 4 March 2020  
 Year 12: 25 March 2020 (2)  
 Year 13: 25 March 2020 (2)  
 Year 10: 29 April 2020  
 Year 7: 7 May 2020



## DARWIN LEISURE CENTRE

Pay as you go (*gym use*)  
£5 per session

Centre Member (*gym use & membership rates*)  
£25 a year & £4.50 per session

**GOLD Membership** (*unlimited gym use & membership rates*)  
£25 a month

**A variety of private classes, facilities and pitch hire is available**

Enquiries to 01959 540606  
 email: leisurecentre@cdarwin.com  
[www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com)



## SPRING TERM DATES 2020

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February  
*Half term: Monday 17th – Friday 21st February*  
 Monday 24th February – Friday 3rd April

### Notes:

Good Friday – 10th April 2020  
 Easter Monday – 13th April 2020



Summer Term starts Monday 20th April 2020