



Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Mobile phone assemblies

Further to communication to parents last week students had an assembly to explain how our rules fit with national guidance. It seems to have had a positive impact outside of lessons. My thanks to staff for consistently enforcing our policy on mobile phones. If you need to get a message to your child it should be via the main school office. Please do not contact your child on their mobile phone. We thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Year 8 parents evening

Thursday's Year 8 parents evening was well attended. Although I was busy talking to parents from my own classes, I could hear lots of positive conversations about student progress, academic performance and overall development. Parent evenings are an important feature of our school year to foster communication, collaboration and a better understanding of the child's educational journey. Thank you to staff, parents and students for making this such a productive evening.

Aston Smith

Year 10 Brechtian influenced performance

On Monday evening the year 10 class shared by Mr Smith, Miss Currie and Mrs Suttun performed their Brechtian influenced performances with their parents and friends. Thank you to those that attended and well done to all students involved.



Mr Smith/Miss Currie/Mrs Suttun

Year 8 performance for Biggin Hill Primary

On Wednesday, selected year 8 students went to Biggin Hill Primary School to perform to year 6. During their Drama lessons, year 8 have been working on an educational piece of Drama with a clear moral or message. They have learnt specific techniques associated with this style of performance e.g. how to effectively interact with the audience and how to role swap onstage. Groups that had created a particularly strong piece were invited along to perform their work to the year 6. For many, this was the first time they had performed in front of a bigger audience and they rose to this challenge brilliantly. Pieces focused on road safety, differences, friendship changes, bullying and feeling left out.

A big well done to all students involved.

Leila Jones	Megan Hansell	Joshua Opara
Chloe Budd	Jessie Osborne	Jack Heyler
Mia Marks Belaon	Safiye Morley	Benjamin Lamb
Tillie Cole	Ellie May Friend	Jake Kirkby
Aston Fay Abrehart	Lola Clarke	Jade St John
Milly Rogers	Amelie Lin	Emily Whitby
Isabella Bolton	Rosalina Cabrera	Jessica Watson
Annabella Bird	Alfie Kent	James Azzopardi
Jason Panzi	Lily Lea Carey	

Miss Currie





Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Jail Lane
Biggin Hill
Westerham
Kent TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043
enquiries@cdarwin.com

Learning Support Assistant 25 hours per week Monday – Friday, term time only (actual salary £15,761)

We are looking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant as soon as possible to join a well-established team supporting a range of students' needs in class, in small groups and/or specialised individual learning. Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT. Experience of working with secondary-aged students with a range of SEN and/or experience of working with students with ASD would be advantageous.

Further details and an application form are available on our website and should be sent to jho@cdarwin.com. Closing date: Friday 8th March 2024 (we reserve the right to appoint earlier should a suitable candidate be found). 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.



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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: 11th March 2024

Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: 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.

Support Mr Brown

I am taking part in a sky dive later this year in order to raise money for CASPA, an autism charity. Any donations, however big or small, would be greatly appreciated. You can donate using the following webpage:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/beth-grant-1702834026244?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fbeth-grant-1702834026244&utm_source=whatsapp&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp

Thank you in advance!

Mr. Brown



Well done to all the students who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge before half term. Student behaviour was exemplary throughout and the challenge was a great success. I look forward to receiving the results of the challenge in the weeks to come and sharing them with you all.

Mr. Brown

Kooth

With the Ramadan fast approaching, as we prepare for this sacred month, it's essential to consider the unique challenges that our young Muslim population may face, particularly concerning their mental health.

Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and heightened devotion for Muslims worldwide. However, it can also bring about increased stress, anxiety, and mental health concerns, especially for young individuals balancing academic responsibilities alongside fasting and other religious observances.

A study by the Muslim Youth Helpline revealed that over 60% of young Muslims have suffered from anxiety, 52% have suffered with depression and over 30% have suffered through suicidal thoughts. These statistics underscore the urgent need for proactive measures to support the mental well-being of young Muslim, particularly during Ramadan. Kooth can provide a safe space for young individuals to take control of their well-being, free of stigma.

Please see the link below if you would like more information:

https://www.kooth.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=kooth-uk-en-gg|srch-br-brand-protection&utm_adgroup=154290433885&utm_term=kooth&matchtype=e&device=c&gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaQobChMI5-ix9OPNhAMVEJJQBh3oRQDgEAAAYASAAEgljfD_BwE

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved their bronze Hundreds and Thousands reading badges:

Tobi Ulman 7CMO

Tobi particularly enjoyed the wonderful book 'Pax' by Penny Packer. He describes it as a "really heart touching story of a fox and a boy who have a strong connection"

Jeremiah Kumitse 7KMA

Jeremiah particularly enjoys Michael Morpurgo's books and has also read Marcus Rashford's book.

Jay Ngyou 7KMA

Jay liked 'The Brilliant World of Tom Gates' by Liz Pichon and 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid – The Thirs Wheel' by Jeff Kinney.

Zoe Ritchie 7CMO

Zoe is a Harry Potter fan and has read several of J K Rowling's books. She also liked reading 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio.

Sydney Daniels 7LMC

Sydney has also enjoyed 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' and the 'Heartstopper' books by Alice Oseman.

Jack Roberts 7SHU

Jack has enjoyed many books. One of them being 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' by Rick Rordan. He says "This book is so cool and exciting!"

Sophia Edwards

Sophia has enjoyed her book about 'Forgotten Female Artists' by Zing Tsjeng. She says "This book was very inspirational".

Well done to all of you bronze badge winners!

Watch out for The Big Read on World Book Day – Thursday 7th March 2024...

Mrs Pitt



To mark Jack Petchey Foundation's 25th anniversary, we want to learn **how young people view their futures**.

This survey is their chance to tell us what their ambitions are and shape the opportunities we offer to young people in London and Essex.

The survey takes 10 minutes to complete and is open to everyone **aged 11-25 in the London and Essex area** and **closes Saturday 16th March 2024**.

Each young person who fills out the survey will be entered into a **prize draw for £200!**

If 15 or more young people from a school or youth group complete the survey, that could also win a **£500 grant**.

Please scan the QR code or click on the link below to complete the survey :

[Bright Futures: The Jack Petchey Survey of Young People's Ambitions \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BrightFutures)



Foodbank in Bromley is able to offer clients a choice of 3 days worth of food along with a supermarket voucher or 7 days worth of food. This is for **Bromley Borough residents only**. For out of borough residents they are able to offer 3 days worth of food. Please remember you can get help by contacting them directly on ifo@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk.

PTA Update

Easyfundraising for Charles Darwin School

Thanks to the following 4 new supporters who enrolled in EasyFundraising in the last 7 days:

* Oliver W, Karen L, Caroline W, Georgie S

You could join them too by clicking the link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta>

or scanning our QR code with your device camera:



Update: You can now get the @easyuk Donation Reminder on your Samsung phone. Shop as normal and easyfundraising will pop up when a brand will donate to Charles Darwin School PTA - Kent. It works with thousands of brands, and you can get a FREE donation in one tap.

Funding Requests

We have been asked by our staff if we can help with sourcing some items to enhance learning and student experience. Our funds are healthy currently due to your recent generosity but we can't cover all of the requests at the moment so anything you can think of to help us would be gratefully received.

If anyone is able to help us with purchasing or sourcing the following items, please do let us know at friends@cdarwin.com.

- History Books (we have a list of preferred texts from our History team)
- Comfortable chairs for our counselling room
- Headphones (Library)
- AA batteries for calculators (Science)
- Alnico Magnets (Science)

Some items are available on our new Amazon Smile list. Please share this list with anyone you think might be able to support in some way including anyone who works for a company who might be able to help our school.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2TZW0F4X88KA?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_wsN8SEMK94wLr



[Check out my list on Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2TZW0F4X88KA?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_wsN8SEMK94wLr)

www.amazon.co.uk

Monthly cash draw

Join 150 others by taking part in our monthly cash draw, available for £1 per entry, per month. Half of your £1 goes to the school funding and half goes to our winner.

Congratulations to our recent winners: Karen A, Rebecca W & Helen H

If you would like to take part in this fun draw, please visit our online shop: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

You can also set up a monthly standing order if you would prefer by e-mailing us at friends@cdarwin.com

Social Media

Please help us to raise our profile on our social media platforms.

Instagram
Linked In
Facebook
X (Was Twitter)

charles_darwin_pta
www.linkedin.com/in/charles-darwin-pta
<https://www.facebook.com/friendscharlesdarwinschool>
@PTA_Darwin

Support

If you would like to help us in any way you can, we would love to have a chat. Please contact us at friends@cdarwin.com. We are currently missing some key members so any help would be super! Our next PTA meeting/update will take place at The Crown, Leaves Green Rd, Leaves Green, Keston BR2 6DQ on Thursday 7th March at 7.30pm. Do come for a drink, a chat and an update!

Support Miss Winter

In just under two months I will be running the London marathon for a charity called WAGGGS, the World Association of Girls Guides and Girl Scouts. They are the largest voluntary movement dedicated to empowering girls and young women in the world. If you would like to sponsor me I would be truly grateful, please use the link below.

Thank you so much!

https://2024tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/judith-winter?utm_content=f-thankyou&utm_campaign=website&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EnthuseSendGrid

Miss Winter



All students are requested to leave the school site promptly unless taking part in supervised activities after school. For safety and security reasons no casual or recreational activities should take place without direct supervision from staff. The Darwin Leisure Centre fitness gym is open to student paying members only between 3.15-4.30pm who must then leave the premises as quickly as possible; from 4.30-6.00pm only School/Club bookings are allowed on the 3G.

For students booking the astro pitch, bookings must be made in advance (no walk-ins) and a parent must be present on arrival. A limit of 16 students per booking applies.

Achievement Points Leader Board

Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 01.09.2023 - 01.03.2024

Ivy Bird	7LMc	186
Milly Rogers	8ZHa	176
James Azzopardi	8ZHa	171
Leah Benwell	7SHu/CHt	163
Jade St John	8RSi/RBr	158
Pallika Ramnath	7SMa	150
Samuel Young	8LBr	148
Daniel Assemien	8SHo	147
Phoebe Vincent	9RMo	144
Jimmy Johnson	7JWi	140



Top highest achievers per each year for the period 01.09.2023 - 01.03.2024

Ivy Bird	7LMc	186
Milly Rogers	8ZHa	176
Phoebe Vincent	9RMo	144
Jack Lynch	10ZPa	109
Khushi Sinha	11ADo	110
Scarlett Towersey	12JDa	82
Harry Burch	13DWa	58



Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 23 February 2024.



7SMa	97.1%
8PDg	98.6%
9RMo	95%
10NKO	94.5%
11DNe	96%
12JDa	100%
13DWa	99.1%

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

Pola Tokarska	Oliver Turner
Milly Rogers	Skyla Colvin
Alfie Kent	Jessica Watson
Jake Kirby	Ben Lamb
Christian Pavlov	Harry James

Student Services Duty Pupils

Charlie Boost
Molly Booth
Ted Broder
Kemp Brown
Noah Clarke



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

Dates for the Diary

March

7th March - World Book Day

7th March - PTA Meeting, 7.30pm

8th March - Year 9 HPV2 vaccinations

14th March - Trip: Science Live KS Emmanuel Centre, London, Year 8 & 9

20th March - Year 9 Options Evening

22nd March-24th March - Trip: Netball Tour, Liddington, Year 8, 9 and 10

26th March - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening

28th March - End of term

28th March - Trip: Iceland trip - Geography, Year 10 & 11

29th March - Good Friday

April

29th March - 12th April - Easter Holiday

15th April - Summer Term starts

17th April - Year 7 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 29th March 2024

Easter Monday 1st April 2024

INSET Days - School closed to students

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



FOR CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL - IT'S AS EASY AS 1 2 3!

1

ENROL!



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta>

Also install the APP on your device if you can so you can watch donations grow!

ADD REMINDER

Just add or toggle the 'Donation Reminder' on any device/s you use for shopping and eligible retailers will automatically donate. No separate site to visit!

2

START SHOPPING

Start shopping and see your donations building!

3



You spend,
brands donate.



Help your cause
Sign up and choose a cause
you care about.



Shop as normal
The Donation Reminder will
pop up when a brand will
donate as you shop online.



7

WEB DESIGN

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur adipiscing elit nam, imperdiet nulla gravida ullamcorper tempor pulvinar accumsan conubia euismod, etiam metus venenatis himenaeos habitasse risus dictum.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consectetur adipiscing elit nam, imperdiet nulla gravida ullamcorper tempor pulvinar accumsan conubia euismod, etiam metus venenatis himenaeos habitasse risus dictum.

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