



13.09.2019

# The Link Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## HEADLINES

### New Year 7

It has been really good at the start of this academic year seeing our new Year 7 intake of students make a superb effort to settle into their new environment at Charles Darwin School, make new friends and do their utmost to make an excellent first impression. Settling into a much larger secondary school atmosphere is not always easy, however parents and students can be proud of how these significant challenges have been handled by the vast majority of our new arrivals.

Going in to Year 7 lessons it has been good to see the students rising to the increased demands around self-organisation, levels of expected maturity and independence. My congratulations to all Year 7 students and parents. We now just need to make sure that this excellent start is maintained and the positivity sustained.

Sunil Chotai

### Open Morning 2019

**Saturday 28 September**  
9.30am - 12.30pm

Headteacher's talks at  
9:30am and 11:15am

#### Open Week:

**Tuesday 1 – Friday 4 October**

A daily guided tour of the school in action at 08.40 followed by a Headteacher talk at 09.30am.

#### PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:

On **Friday 27 September** the School will close at 12.40pm so that staff can prepare for Open Morning on Saturday. Pupils eligible for free school meals should collect sandwiches from the Canteen at break time.

On **Monday 30 September** there will be a late start for pupils who should be in school for 9.30am

## Year 7 Ready to Learn Induction

Year 7 have done particularly well in their first two weeks and are beginning to feel more confident with finding their way around school. All of the testing has been completed and we are now analysing the results to ensure students have been placed in the correct teaching groups. The year group have had several assemblies over the two week induction period covering everything from our expectations to in school support, behaviour in the community (delivered by our Schools Police Officer) to E-Safety. Next week students will no longer be escorted between lessons and the real hard work will begin. Please expect the amount of homework to gradually increase over the next few weeks and please ensure the individual Show My Homework accounts have been activated with the student PIN. Parents/Carers can also download the App and access their child's account via the Parent PIN.

There have been a few concerns raised over the Year 7 students safely crossing the road and walking home safely. We would appreciate Parents/Carers speaking with their children about being sensible and aware when walking near and crossing roads. The Bromley Road Safety team will be delivering their annual talk to Year 7's about keeping themselves safe in the next few weeks.

Individual school photographs for Year 7 will take place on Tuesday 17th September and will be available to purchase at the Year 7 Settling in Tea on Thursday 10th October. The Year 7 tutors are looking forward to meeting all of the Year 7 Parents and Carers then.

Mrs Wheeler

## WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

### Miss Playle

As an English teacher, I am always going to advocate my love of reading. A couple of my favourite reads are Donna Tartt's 'The Secret History' and Helen Zenna Smith's 'Not So Quiet'. I have a keen interest in war literature and modern texts. If ever given the opportunity, I love to ski. I completed a skiing season in the Arctic as one of my bucket list moments before I came into the world of teaching! I also love eating out, seeing friends and going to live comedy/music shows. I am training to complete a Halloween 10km race at the moment, so running is a firm hobby of mine! I look forward to the oncoming academic year with all its opportunities for growth and learning!



### Mr Darwin

Hello, my name is Mr. Darwin and I have joined Charles Darwin's exceptional Geography department.

You might be interested to know that I have lived in New Zealand and in Brazil, and that I can speak Portuguese! (Nos podemos fala no Portuguese se voces quizer!)

I grew up in Pratts Bottom and Chelsfield and I am really excited to be teaching at Charles Darwin, the school that I built alone, brick by brick, and had named in my honour all those years ago!



## Job vacancies at Charles Darwin

### Evening Caretaker

27.5 hours a week

Hours: 2.30pm – 8.00pm Monday - Friday

Actual salary £17,043 rising to £18,303 per annum

We are looking to appoint an Evening Caretaker to undertake general handyman duties each night after school from November 2019. The successful candidate will join our committed and hard working Site Team. The Site Team is managed by the Premises Manager who is assisted by two Senior Caretakers, two Assistant Caretakers and a team of cleaning personnel.

The role of the Site Team is to ensure that the learning process of the pupils is underpinned by the effective discharge of duties and certain personal qualities are expected. Above all else the successful candidate is expected to have good practical skills, be honest and willing to work hard. A full driving licence and use of a vehicle is essential.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com) – key information – vacancies. Please note CVs alone will not be considered.

Closing date 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

*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.*

### Darwin Leisure Centre – Leisure Assistants

£8.50 per hour

We are looking to appoint a number of Leisure Assistants for our busy Leisure Centre. Applicants should have good inter-personal skills, a professional attitude to work and be able to work both independently and as part of a team. Successful candidates will be required to work during the afternoon and evening, including some weekends. Previous experience of working in the leisure industry would be advantageous, although training will be given.

Application forms and details of the post can be found on our website: [www.cdarwin.com/key-information - vacancies](http://www.cdarwin.com/key-information-vacancies). Please note all applications must be made on the Charles Darwin Academy Trust application form – CVs alone will not be considered. Please return completed application forms to Mrs. J. Hodgkinson, Personnel & Administration Manager, Charles Darwin School.

Closing date: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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## Learning Support Assistants (term time only)

25 hours per week Monday – Friday (£12,146)

We are looking to appoint a number of Learning Support Assistants 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: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019. 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.*

## Friends of Charles Darwin

The Friends of Charles Darwin give their time to raise funds to support the pupils. Please see attached to this week's Link, a brief overview of what we do and also forms to enrol in our popular 50/50 club.



Each year as some pupils leave to go to new adventures, we invariably lose a few members of our team. Without new volunteers coming forward to replenish our numbers our ability to assist at events will become restricted.

Our next meeting will take place on

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30pm**

in the Sixth Form Hub (next to exit gate) – if you are able to spare even a few hours over the school year this would enable us to keep on with our fundraising. Please consider coming along, by yourself or with a friend and meeting us and seeing if you are able to give a little time to this worthy cause.

Please visit our Facebook page for more details (*Friends of Charles Darwin School*). Thank you.



## 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](mailto:leisurecentre@cdarwin.com)  
See school website  
[www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com) for full details



## Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

### Forthcoming events - Summer Term 2019

#### SEPTEMBER

**Tuesday 17 September** - UCAS Evening (Hub)  
**Wednesday 18 September** - Thrive Auditions (Hall)  
**Thursday 19 September** - Year 11 Parents' Evening  
**Wednesday 25 September** - Darwin's Got Talent Auditions  
**Friday 27 September** - Early close for pupils (Open Day Prep)  
**Saturday 28 September** - Open Day  
**Monday 30 September** - Late start for pupils at 9.30am

#### OCTOBER

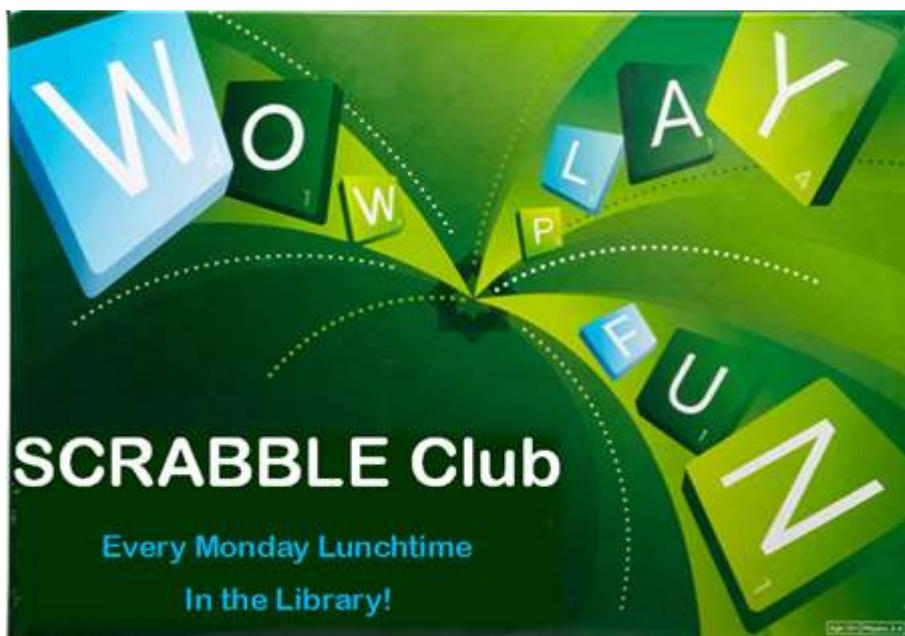
**Monday 7 October** - Year 10 Geography trip to Stratford  
**Monday 7 October** - Year 10/11 Theatre Trip (evening)  
**Wednesday 9 October** - Autumn Music Fest  
**Thursday 10 October** - Year 7 Settling in Tea  
**Monday 14 October** - Year 10 Geography trip to Stratford  
**Wednesday 16 October** - Year 7 Growth Mindset Parents' Evening  
**Thursday 17 October** - Presentation Evening  
**Friday 18 October** - INSET Day - School closed to students  
**21 - 25 October** - Half Term  
**Monday 28 October** - INSET Day - School closed to students  
**Wednesday 30 October** - Darwin's Got Talent

#### NOVEMBER

**Thursday 7 November** - Year 11 Parents' Evening (1)  
**Thursday 14 November** - Sixth Form Trip to Chemistry in Action  
**Thursday 21 November** - Sixth Form Open Evening  
**Saturday 23 November** - Choir - Biggin Hill Christmas Lights 4pm  
**Wednesday 27 November** - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening (1)

#### DECEMBER

**Monday 16 December** - Wednesday 18th - School Production  
**Thursday 19 December** - End of Autumn Term



### Pupils for Praise

#### Duty pupils of the week ending 13.09.19

Many thanks to William Curran, Layla Allen, Jasmine Brown, Ben Evans, Jane Cooper, Sam Hards, Jack Maslin, Mia Freeman, Olivia Hall and Javian Le Neveu-Scott

Reception

### PARENTS EVENINGS 2019/20

Year 11: 7 November 2019 (1)  
 Year 12: 27 November 2019 (1)  
 Year 13: 27 November 2019 (1)  
 Year 11: 23 January 2020 (2)  
 Year 8: 6 February 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



If you have not already done so, please ensure you activate your ParentPay account.

A range of items will be available on ParentPay including trips, revision guides and workshops. When places are limited, you may miss out on something popular for your child if you have not activated your account before you can book. Thank you.

Finance Department

### Presentation Evening Thursday 17 October

The Year 11, 12 and 13 students from 2019 and their parents are cordially invited to attend this celebration of exam results and academic achievement.