



06.12.2024

Issue No: 1139

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Christmas Concert

On Wednesday evening I had the pleasure of attending our annual Christmas Concert which took place at St. Mark's Church. It was a delightful event with some outstanding performances from the students. I would like to thank all families who supported the occasion and particularly the students who took part.

Uniform

As we approach the end of term this is a good time to check that your son/daughters uniform still fits them, their blazer badge is attached and any new uniform or school shoes are purchased ready for the January start of term. Blazer badges and ties can be purchased via ParentPay. We also have a PRE-LOVED Uniform shop based in school, further details can be found on the school website. Thank you for your support with this.

Festive Friday

Please don't forget to support Festive Friday by donating as much as you can to our PTA. In return, students can come to school wearing festive/casual dress. All proceeds go directly back to benefit our school.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Visit from ex students

On Monday 2nd December 7 ex students came into school to talk to our current GCSE Drama, Dance and Music students about careers in the arts industries and the various pathways they have taken since a-level study. The year 10's and 11's heard about the universities and arts colleges they studied at when they left Charles Darwin and the experiences they had on their course. They also talked about the different job opportunities they have had and the specific skills that studying arts subjects gave them.

All of the ex students spoke confidently about their career experiences to date and the wide variety of things they have gone on to do including voiceover work, acting on stage and in film, sound design for West End Musicals, starring in Pantomimes, marketing for a cyber security company, performing in immersive theatre productions and presenting to corporate clients. They are all doing very exciting things and I look forward to hearing what they go on to do next in their working life. A big thank you to them all for coming in to inspire our current students.

Miss Currie



Admission Policy 2026/27

Please be advised that Charles Darwin School is consulting on the Admissions Arrangements for 2026/27. Whilst there are **no changes** to our Admissions Policy, in accordance with our statutory duty set out in the School Admissions Code 2021 we are required to consult under the 7-year limit allowed.

The draft Admissions Policy 2026/27 is attached and is also available on our website: www.cdarwin.com/admissions.

The consultation period will run from Monday 9th December 2024 until Monday 27th January 2025.

We are consulting with:

- Parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen
- The Local Authority
- Parents of pupils currently attending the School
- Other persons in the relevant area who, in the opinion of the admission authority, have an interest in the proposed admissions arrangements
- All other admissions authorities in the local area
- Adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority

If anyone wishes to respond to the consultation, please note that there are two ways in which you can do so:

By email: admissions@cdarwin.com

In writing: Admissions, Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent, TN16 3AU.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, the Admission Authority will consider any comments received and the Governing Body will determine the Admission Arrangements by 28th February 2025.

The final Admission Arrangements for 2026-27 will be published on the school website by 14th March 2025.

Julie Hodgkinson
Clerk to the Governors
Charles Darwin School

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.



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

CHARLES DARWIN PTA
PRESENTS

**ONLY
£1**

**FESTIVE
FRIDAY**

FRIDAY 13TH

DECEMBER

**FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOL
PROJECTS, INCLUDING
ENHANCING OUR OUTDOOR
RECREATIONAL AREAS**

**CASUAL CLOTHES - CHRISTMAS
JUMPERS OPTIONAL**

Payable in advance on ParentPay or to form tutors on the day

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 (not the main school switchboard)
- ❖ Twitter – twitter.com/CDarwinSchool
- ❖ Instagram – 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.

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.

WIN great prizes and fundraise for our students at Charles Darwin School...



- **£100** cash from Mortgage Evolution
- A Christmas Hamper (Valued at **£100**)
- **£50** cash from Mortgage Evolution
- **£50** voucher from Choi Pin, Biggin Hill
- Wine and £25 voucher from The Crown Inn, Keston
- A turkey saddle from Jacob's Ladder, Biggin Hill
- Bespoke cookie from Goodbuns, Biggin Hill
- Bottle of Cava from Waitrose, Biggin Hill
- Bottle of prosecco & cuddly toy from Tesco, Biggin Hill
- £20 for Benjamin's Dry Cleaners, Biggin Hill
- £10 for The Westerham Brewery

BUY RAFFLE TICKETS ONLINE FOR
£5 PER STRIP OF 5 TICKETS:

<https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>



Raffle drawn at school production interval –
Wednesday 18th December 2024

Celebrate Christmas

HARRISON
food with thought

Join us on 18th December 2024 to
Celebrate Christmas

Main Course

Roast Turkey with Sage & Onion Stuffing
Served with Herb Roasted Potatoes, Peas, Carrots, Brussel Sprouts, Sausage and a Rich, Gravy Sauce.

Main Course (v)

Festive vegetable wellington
Served With Herb Roasted Potatoes, Peas, Carrots, Brussel Sprouts, Sage & Onion Stuffing and a Rich, Gravy Sauce.

Dessert

Festive Fruit Cookie or Frosted Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate sauce.

Meal - Main Meal - £2.35

Meal Deal 1 - Main Meal, Dessert or Small Water - £2.50

GCSE and A Level ART coursework collection

Students from the 2024 GCSE and A level cohort can now collect their ART coursework and final pieces from the ART office.

Please contact Miss Thomas at nth@cdarwin.com to arrange your collection. Siblings can also collect work for students that no longer attend the school.

Ms Doughty



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 **36 hours a week, 38 weeks a year** **8am to 4pm Monday to Friday** **Actual salary £23,631**

We wish 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 students with a range of Special Educational Needs and experience of working with students with ASD and ADHD would be an advantage. Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT.

We are a "good" school (Ofsted 2023) with an ethos that encourages academic rigour, high expectations and a well disciplined approach to learning.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: 18th December 2024 (interviews will be held in the new year)

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.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974. It is an offence to apply for this role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

School jumpers and PE hoodies needed!

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of school jumpers and red and black PE hoodies. 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

PE FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER 2024

This Christmas, Miss Owen is appealing for donations to support our two local food banks.

Rather than donate money, students have been asked to donate items to PE appeal.

Each year group have been allocated a recommended list of items to donate, listed as urgently needed by the food banks.

Please can students' hand in donations to their PE teacher **before Friday 13th December 2024.**

Thank you!



**Donations will be shared
between 2 local food banks
that serve our community:**

Bromley Foodbank

New Addington Foodbank

Recommended donations

Year 7

Treats (chocolate/sweets, hot chocolate, pringles, sponge puddings, desserts and Xmas goodies)

Year 8

Essentials (sanitary products, toilet paper, baby's nappies, long life milk and household items)

Year 9

Essentials (tinned foods, sauces - ketchup, jars of sauces, biscuits and tinned soups)

Year 10

Toiletries and Cleaning Products (cloths, foil and cling film, washing up liquid, washing up powder, shampoo and conditioner)

Year 11

Tinned items (tinned fruit, long life juice, tinned vegetables, tinned ham/salmon and jars)

6th Form

Toiletries and Cleaning Products (tinned items, washing up liquid, washing up powder, shampoo and conditioner)



ALL FOODBANK DONATIONS TO BE HANDED INTO MISS OWEN IN PE BY THE 13TH OF DECEMBER!

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Dilan-Kaan Dervish
Mia Kirkpatrick
Jayson Mutaguby
Sophie Strange
Edward Bell

Katie Dauris
Tyler Gregson
Rosha Afshar
Eva Lawson
Layla Marsh

Student Services Duty Pupils

Katie Dauris
Tyler Gregson
Rosha Afshar
Eva Lawson



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 29 November 2024.

| MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL | IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5 MINUTES Per day = | 3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE |
| 10 MINUTES Per day = | 6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE |
| 15 MINUTES Per day = | 10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE |
| 20 MINUTES Per day = | 13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE |
| 30 MINUTES Per day = | 20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE |

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| 7HCo/VMa | 98.9% |
| 8LMc | 97.8% |
| 9HKe | 93.9% |
| 10SAr | 94.2% |
| 11JLa + LWr | 98.2% |
| 12MCr | 97.1% |
| 13JDa | 92.3% |



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS
But every **minute** is equally important!

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.

First Aid

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

Dates for the Diary

December

11th December - Year 13 Parents' Evening
13th December - Festive Friday - Casual clothes/Christmas Jumper
16th December - Trip: Year 12 Supreme Law Courts & Somerset House
16th, 17th, 18th December - School Production 7pm
18th December - Christmas lunch
20th December - End of Term, early finish
23rd December - 3rd January - Christmas holiday

January

6th January - Spring term starts
15th January - INSET DAY
30th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

Term Dates 2024-2025

Autumn 2024

Friday 30th August – Friday 18th October
Half term: Monday 21st October – Friday 1st November
Monday 4th November – Friday 20th December
Christmas Holiday: Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January

Spring 2025

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February
Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February
Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April
Easter Holiday: Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April

Notes:

Good Friday 18th April
Easter Monday 21st April

Summer 2025

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May
[Monday 5th May Bank Holiday]
Half term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May
Monday 2nd June – Tuesday 22nd July

INSET Days:

Wednesday 15th January 2025
Monday 24th February 2025
Friday 23rd May 2025
All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th June 2025