



06.12.2019

The Link Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

HEADLINES

Christmas Concert

On Wednesday evening I had the pleasure of attending our annual Christmas Concert at St. Mark's Church. It was once again an absolutely wonderful occasion. The various performances by the children were superb. Over the last couple of weeks our students have performed at a couple of events locally and have raised the profile of our school enormously. My thanks to all those families who attended and a very special thank you to our students who performed so beautifully.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

We are now approaching the season where we may expect more extreme winter weather. With this in mind I would like to remind parents of our procedures in case of adverse weather.

Whilst recognising that it is our duty to remain open if at all possible, the health and safety of staff and students battling through adverse weather conditions must be weighed against the health and safety of students who, for whatever reason, expect to be in our care during school time. A decision to close the school in adverse conditions is thus seen as a last resort and is only made if there are concerns regarding the welfare and safety of staff and students. The weather conditions in Biggin Hill can often be very different to those in the more built-up areas and the number of hills and narrow roads in the vicinity compounds the problem. However the bus companies do keep us informed of the transport situation and students will be alerted to any transport difficulties. There is a specific policy for the school minibus service of which parents and the students concerned are aware.

Should the school need to be closed due to extreme weather a message will be posted on the school website and an announcement recorded on the school answerphone. Both the website and answerphone are updated regularly. If the weather deteriorates during the school day students may be allowed to go home early and parents will be alerted by text message via Call Parent. In this regard please can parents ensure that the school has up-to-date contact details. The decision whether to send pupils into school or to collect those already at school rests with parents themselves.



Sunil Chotai

On Saturday the 23rd November the Charles Darwin School Year 7 Choir performed Christmas songs alongside three of the local primary schools (Biggin Hill, Oaklands and Downe) to celebrate the switching on of the Christmas lights in Biggin Hill. All of the students from all of the schools performed beautifully to a packed crowd.

Mrs Mace



Attached to this issue of the Link you will find instructions on how to sign up for Amazon Smile.

This is the simplest way to raise funds for the Friends of Charles Darwin School. Your Prime membership will still work from this site. Please take 2 minutes to read it (and a couple more to sign up).

Many thanks.

Friends of Charles Darwin



END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS Thursday 19 December 2019



Pupils will be dismissed early on the last day of term as follows:

Year 13	dismissed from 9.50am
Year 12	dismissed from 10.30am
Years 10 & 11	dismissed at 11:30am
Years 7, 8 & 9	dismissed at 11:40am

The 664 and 684 bus services will leave the school grounds at 11:45am
The R8 will leave at 12:28pm (normal timetable) from Jail Lane (outside school grounds)
The R2 will leave at 12:24pm on Main Road towards Petts Wood

All students should register as usual at 8:30am on Monday 6 January 2020 for the start of the Spring Term.

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.

Monday 9th - Friday 13th December 2019

Monday 9th December

Year 7 Penny Collection
8.30am Year 8 Assembly

Tuesday 10th December

Year 7 Penny Collection
Student History Conference
8.30am Year 9 Christmas Praise and Reward Assembly

Wednesday 11th December

Year 7 Penny Collection
8.30am Year 10 Christmas Praise and Reward Assembly

Thursday 12th December

Year 7 Penny Collection
8.30am Year 8 Christmas Praise and Reward Assembly

Friday 13th December

Year 7 Penny Collection
Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Lunch

Forthcoming Events

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY 2020

Monday 06 January - Spring Term starts
Thursday 23 January - Year 11 Parents' Evening (2)
Thursday 30 January - Dance Competition Semi-Final

Christmas Raffle

With the Christmas Draw taking place on the final night of the production, we hope that everyone already has or is in the process of returning their ticket stubs, monies and/or unsold tickets to the school. If you haven't as yet, please ensure sure that these are returned early next week so as not to miss out.

Year 7 Charity Christmas Fair

Any donations in preparation for the fair next week would be gratefully received. All proceeds to Alzheimer Society. Bottles/cans (non-alcoholic) and chocolates (all shapes and sizes) for a tombola. Cakes and biscuits to sell (homemade or shop bought). Sweets to sell (all shapes and sizes). Donations to the Year 7 office please!

Thank you for your support!

Mrs Wheeler

Duty Pupils for Praise Week ending 6th December 2019

Many thanks to Sophia Kenward, Toby Teather, Ruby Craker and Ana Salazar, Year 8.

**Miss Payne
Reception**

Top Attendance Week ending 29th November 2019

Year	Tutor group	Percentage
7	7FSu	98.6%
8	8NYe	95.7%
9	9EOI	95.8%
10	10SAr	98.3%
11	11KSa/HCa	98.1%
12	12ARu	98.7%
13	13SMe	95.2%

History Star of the Week Week ending 6th December 2019

Lily Davies, Year 7

Lily has made a fantastic start in History, her book is beautifully kept and she has constantly impressed me with her engagement and effort put into all work set. Lily has been an absolute pleasure to teach and a wonderful example for the rest of her class.

Miss Borhani

Christmas Jumper Day Friday 13 December 2019

Students are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on Friday 13 December for a minimum £1 donation. If everyone gave £1, the total raised would be £1,300 and if everyone donated just £3, the total would rise to £4,000.

Remember, you don't have to wear a jumper to donate. The chosen charities this year are:

- Year 7 - Alzheimer's
- Year 8 - Prostate Cancer
- Year 9 - Aoife's Bubbles
- Year 10 - Independent Aid
- Year 11 - Terrence Higgins Trust
- Year 12/13 - Teenage Cancer Trust



Please support the day, feel festive and give generously.
Thank you.

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