



26.01.2024

Issue No: 1109

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### Year 11 Parents Evening

My thanks to all the families who attended the Year 11 parents' evening on Thursday. The evening was well attended and is an invaluable opportunity to engage with parents and students on making sure plans are in place for the next few months in preparation for the summer term examinations.

### Gold for Kayden!

Congratulations to Kayden Plinston, Year 11, who fought in the Southern England Regional School Judo Championship last Saturday. Kayden was fighting for Charles Darwin School and won GOLD making him Southern England schools champion! Dad will keep us posted on how Kayden does for the National Schools Championship happening in March.

We are all incredibly proud of this achievement and it's great that he is flying the Charles Darwin flag too!



### Early Closure – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

This is a reminder to parents that the school will be closing early, with students leaving at 2.00pm, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. This is to allow borough wide teacher training to take place.

*Aston Smith*

## Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence before 8.30am. This ensures we know your child is safe and their absence is authorised where possible. Our Attendance Officer is having to spend an increased amount of time each day chasing for responses.

Thank you for your support.

## A general reminder to all students for keeping safe on the way to and from school.

As previously advised by the Bromley Youth Policing Team (BYPT), young people should:

- Try not to walk alone – find a friend to walk with.
- Do not walk down a lane or unlit road that isn't busy with traffic or pedestrians for a short cut. Take a longer route which is safer.
- **Run, yell and tell.** If you are approached by someone and don't feel safe start to run, yell loudly at the same time and head towards where there are people such as shops.
- Safe places include shops, schools, libraries, restaurants, take away shops, stations and bus stops where people are waiting.
- Speak to an adult you know, if you have concerns about your safety.
- Do not walk around with headphones in and a phone out on display.
- Call police on 999 in an emergency.



## Canteen Feedback

Harrison Catering now have a comment box in the canteen with cards for the students to complete if they want to give feedback on aspects of the food or canteen provision. The catering manager is particularly keen to have some feedback on what food the students like and any suggestions for food that they would like to have more often. They can add this in the large box at the bottom of the form or just drop a slip of paper in with their suggestions. If they do this it would be helpful if they could add their name and form group.

**Ms Kelly**



## Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Jail Lane  
Biggin Hill  
Westerham  
Kent TN16 3AU  
Tel: 01959 574043  
[enquiries@cdarwin.com](mailto:enquiries@cdarwin.com)

## 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: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: [www.cdarwin.com](http://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.*



Florence Adler got on in the Kent County Cross Country Championships that took place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Dartford.

Florence ended up finishing 27<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 83 runners, and contributed to Team Bromley winning the Year 7 girls Team Event. A massive achievement and a massive well done to Florence.

Well done to James Shanks in Year 11 who came first in his group at the BSGA Southern Zonal Trampoline Competition in Worthing. He has now qualified to the BSGA National Finals in Telford on 16<sup>th</sup> March. He is representing Charles Darwin School.

We are very proud of his efforts! Keep up the work James.



Congratulations to Elliott Johnson on passing his piano grade with a distinction.

**Miss Mace and Mr Rollings**



A huge thank you to the Dilling family who have donated flowers for our eco garden club which currently runs on Monday lunch times in Sc10.

**Miss Sirett**



## Apprentice Information Event

**TUESDAY 6 February 2024 | 4.30pm – 6.30pm**

**Bromley Campus: Rookery Lane, Bromley, BR2 8HE**

**Apprenticeships are a great way to start a career, boost your skills, and take the next step in your chosen career.** Hosted by our Apprenticeship Team, the event will include:

Employer guest speakers

- Information on what an apprenticeship is and who can apply
- What roles are available for an apprenticeship, and what current Vacancies we have in a wide range of sectors, such as:
  - Construction
  - Engineering
  - Business and management
  - Service industries
  - Health, care, and education
  - Experience economy
  -

If you don't know what industry you'd like to work in, don't worry! Our apprenticeship team will be on hand to provide you with some inspirational ideas.

This event targets people interested in starting an apprenticeship or parents interested in learning more about apprenticeships for their son/ daughter.

**Get your tickets now**

Please visit the website for more information: <https://www.lsec.ac.uk/events/3770-naw24>

## School jumpers and PE kits needed!

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of navy school jumpers, red and black PE hoodies, white polo shirts and red socks. 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**

Please see below MENU Week 2 for the week commencing 29th January 2024.

WEEKLY MENU				
Charles Darwin Week 2				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Tikka with Rice	Cottage Pie with Gravy	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Sausage & Mash with Onion Gravy	Fish & Chips
Vegetable Tikka Stuffed Peppers with Rice	Carrot & Chickpea Falafel Pitta with Tomato Relish	Mexican Style Vegetable Fajita with Toppings & Mexican Style Rice	Vegetable Chow Mein	Cheese & Onion Pasty with Chips
Tomato Pasta	Broccoli / Herb Roasted Butternut	Thyme Roasted Carrots / Savoy Cabbage	Wholemeal Cheddar Cheese & Spinach Quiche with Chips	Red Pepper & Sweet Potato Pattie, Sweetcorn Rice
Sweetcorn or Green Beans	Green Beans or Sweetcorn	Roasted Seasonal Vegetables	Peas & Carrots	Beans & Peas
Raspberry Sponge & Custard	Banoffee Pie	Carrot & Orange Cake with Custard	Red Velvet Cake with Chocolate Sauce	Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Available daily  
Jacket Potato and Salad Bar available daily.

**HARRISON**  
food with thought



## Attendance

**Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 19 January 2024.**



7NYe	96.7%
8PDg	97.6%
9HBu	93.9%
10NKO	95.4%
11SDa	93.8%
12JDa	96.9%
13DWa	97.3%

*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

Lucas Nagle  
Leo Nagle  
Rose Spencer  
Grace Sargent

Samuel Young  
Tom Halliday  
Kaleb Gillam  
Daniel Drew

### Student Services Duty Pupils

Holleigh-Rae Lavin  
Ashleigh Chilcraft  
Jennifer Keene  
Naomi McKenzie



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

# 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](http://www.cdarwin.com) (**not the main school switchboard**)
- ❖ Twitter – [twitter.com /CDarwinSchool](https://twitter.com/CDarwinSchool)
- ❖ Instagram – [www.instagram.com /CDarwinSchool](https://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.

**Keep warm and safe on your journey**

## 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.

## Dates for the Diary

### January

**31st January** - Year 9 Parents' Evening

### February

**8th February** - Early close - 2pm

**12th - 16th February** - HALF TERM

**23 February** - Year 9 DTP Vaccinations

**29th February** - Year 8 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 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

**INSET Days** - School closed to students

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

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

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# *Charity Swimalong*

for



## **Rotary Beckenham**

at West Wickham Leisure Centre  
Station Road, West Wickham, BR4 0PY  
on Sunday 21 April 2024 between 9am and noon

Swimmers of any ability to take part in our challenge to swim a cumulative marathon. We welcome individuals or teams to help us reach our target in three hours and to raise funds for Foal Farm Animal Rescue. You can swim at West Wickham (or elsewhere by arrangement). In 2023 36 swimmers easily achieved the marathon target, so help us do it again.

for more details contact Peter Braithwaite 07757 058929  
[peter.braithwaite45@gmail.com](mailto:peter.braithwaite45@gmail.com)