



22.11.2019

# The Link Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## HEADLINES

### Two Week Half Term

Attached to this week's Link is a letter informing parents of the consultation process to introduce a two-week half term during the autumn term. The consultation period runs from Monday 25th November – Friday 13th December 2019 and responses should be sent to: [consultation@cdarwin.com](mailto:consultation@cdarwin.com).

### Student Safety

During the last few weeks I have had contact from local residents expressing their concern about the inconsiderate parking and driving of parents picking up and dropping off children. I have to say that this inconsiderate attitude is sometimes seen on the school premises as well - some parents regularly ignore the yellow hatched lines despite reminders. They wait in their cars on the school drive, often blocking the way for other cars and the school buses.

During the last few weeks this has become much more of a concern for us in school. In response we have had a health and safety report undertaken to assess the perceived impact of this on the safety and well-being of our students and staff. The health and safety experts have recommended that we should consider banning all vehicles from coming onto our site during the period between 2.30pm and 3.30pm to ensure the safety of students as they exit the school. The only exceptions would be the school bus service and vehicles for our disabled students. The consultants undertaking the assessment for us suggested that we ask parents to drop/collect their children at the top of Jail Lane.

The practice of allowing parents and carers to drive onto school premises to drop and pick-up children in the way that currently occurs at the front of school is very unusual amongst secondary schools. The vast majority of schools, for safety reasons, do not allow parents to drive onto their premises at all.

In the interest of ensuring the safety of children in the context of some drivers' inconsiderate behaviour, we are considering changing our current practice and implementing the no entry onto the school premises between 2.30pm and 3.30pm. This will undoubtedly have an impact on the congestion in Jail Lane, inconvenience parents considerably and potentially add to the chaos that already exists on Jail Lane; making life even more difficult for residents and parents.

As a school we do not wish to be forced to take this course of action; action that will inconvenience everyone. So I am asking parents to be much more thoughtful when using our school drive, please ensure that you comply with regulations - please do not park or wait in the yellow hatched boxes, please do not cause damage by parking on grass verges, please do not block buses and cars and please do not park in disabled bays or risk the safety of our students in other ways.

As parents are aware we have submitted a bid to the Department for Education for funding to remodel the front of the school to try to alleviate the current situation, the outcome of which we will learn next spring. In the meantime if parents have any views on the recommendation to ban cars from our site in the way that I have suggested or have realistic ideas of how we can improve matters I would be happy to hear from you.

**Sunil Chotai**

## VICTORY FOR YEAR 8



On Monday 18 November the Year 8 boys Football team played against Mascalls School.

Charles Darwin started the game well and were pressing Mascalls very high up the pitch. It was a big pitch and this was great as we had lots of pace down the wings with Aiden, Jafari, Javian and Oli. Our wingers were able to create lots of chances and we were able to score 4 goals before half time.

The second half started and we conceded a goal. The boys kept their heads high and pressed for more goals, and ended up winning the game 7-1. A great performance from all players.

A special mention to man of the match Aiden Fletcher who scored a hat-trick and created lots of opportunities for the team. A brilliant team effort.

**Mr Bidwell**

## PARENTS EVENINGS 2019/20

- 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

## 50/50 CLUB WINNERS

Our September and October 50/50 draws have taken place. Congratulations to Karolyn Angiolini who won £45.50 in our September draw and to Helen Hanlon who won £46.50 in our October draw.

**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.**

## SCHOOL COUNCIL 2019

The School Council has now met twice this academic year. Our first task was to distribute roles within the Council and, after nominations and voting, the following roles were assigned:



- Chair: Max Derbyshire, Year 12
- Vice-Chair: Andrew Handley, Year 10
- Secretary: Erin Hartley, Year 10
- Treasurer: Niamh Robinson, Year 11
- Publicity: Paula Szczyrba, Year 11 and Niamh Robinson, Year 11

Thanks to all members for their eager participation and well done to all those appointed roles.

This year, as a Council, we aim to continue our work in both the school and our community. In addition to every member undertaking various volunteering activities, our members are giving up their time on 22nd November to pack shopping bags in Waitrose. Moreover, in the Christmas spirit, we will be giving out delicious mince pies to families outside Biggin Hill Primary School as they leave on 17th December. We will also be inviting the residents that live close to the school to a school production matinee of *Legally Blonde* on 18 December. We will be delivering letters for this to residents next week.

Collectively, we look forward to working together to continue improving our school and helping our community.

**Paula Szczyrba and Niamh Robinson**



# *Legally Blonde*

Monday 16 - Wednesday 18 December 2019

7pm, Main Hall

Tickets £7.00

Available via Parent Pay.

See below for ticket request slip.



### School Production 2019 - *Legally Blonde*

Tickets for *Legally Blonde*, just £7.00 each, will be available from Friday 22 November 2019 via ParentPay. Please book all the tickets you require for each night at the same time as we cannot guarantee that you will sit together if you subsequently book additional tickets.

Please pay, then complete this form clearly and return it to **Mrs Sheehan, via Main Reception.**

Pupil Name: .....

Form..... Date: .....

Name of parent : .....

Signed:.....

All tickets £7.00 each	No of tickets	Please indicate wheelchair or mobility access	Total cost
Monday 16 December			
Tuesday 17 December			
Wednesday 18 December			
<b>Total paid via ParentPay</b>			

**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 25th - Friday 29th November 2019

### Monday 25th November

Year 11 Pre Public Exams  
8.30am Year 10 Assembly

### Tuesday 26th November

Year 11 Pre Public Exams  
8.30am Year 7 Assembly

### Wednesday 27th November

Year 11 Pre Public Exams  
8.30am Year 10 Assembly  
3.30pm Year 12/13 Parents' Evening (1)

### Thursday 28th November

Year 11 Pre Public Exams  
8.30am Year 12/13 Assembly

### Friday 29th November

Year 8 Impact Day  
Year 11 Pre Public Exams  
8.30am Year 9 Assembly

## Forthcoming Events

### DECEMBER

**Friday 06 - Sunday 08 December** - Year 9 & 10 French & German Christmas Markets Trip

**Tuesday 10 December** - Student History Conference

**Friday 13 December** - Christmas Jumper Day

**Friday 13 December** - Christmas Lunch

**Monday 16 - Wednesday 18 December** - School Production

**Thursday 19 December** - End of Autumn Term

### JANUARY 2020

Monday 06 January - Spring Term starts

## TERM DATES 2019 - 20

### Autumn 2019

Monday 28th October – Thursday 19th December

### Spring 2020

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February

*Half Term Monday 17th – Friday 21st February*

Monday 24th February – Friday 3rd April

### Summer 2020

Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May

*(Bank holiday Friday 9th May)*

*Half Term Monday 25th – Friday 29th May*

Monday 1st June – Tuesday 21st July

### Notes:

Good Friday – 10th April 2020  
Easter Monday – 13th April 2020

**INSET Days** - School closed to students

Monday 20th July 2020  
Tuesday 21st July 2020

### Duty Pupils for Praise Week ending 22nd November 2019

Many thanks to Sophia Kenward, Olivia O'Rourke and Sam Bussy, Year 8 and a special thank you to Amy Coop and Tristan Kittoe, Year 9 for stepping in to help last minute.

**Miss Payne  
Reception**

### Top Attendance Week ending 15th November 2019

Year	Tutor group	Percentage
7	7RPI	98.6%
8	8NYe	98.7%
9	9PDg/STi	99.3%
10	10FLf	97.9
11	11RBr	100%
12	12DEc	98.3%
13	13GSh/HDo	97.9%

### History Star of the Week Week ending 22nd November 2019

#### Kirsty Hunt, Year 10

Kirsty has made an excellent start to her Year 10 History studies. Always eager to engage in question and answer sessions and consistently achieving grade 1s for the effort she puts into her History homework, Kirsty has impressed me with her commitment and dedication and is a pleasure to have in the class.

**Mr Lamb**



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.

