



21.12.2018



The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire—Endeavour—Achieve

## HEADLINES

### Annie

I write this after watching an excellent performance of Annie last night (Wednesday). The performance was absolutely fabulous in so many different ways. This year it was a noticeably younger cast, however the quality of performance that they produced was beyond their years.

The group of guests that we traditionally host on the penultimate school performance evening turned up in good numbers and all left at the end of the evening singing the praises of our staff and students (as well as the melodies that they could not get out of their heads). We were all, without exception, again impressed and uplifted by what we had just witnessed; the singing, the orchestra's playing, the dancing, the staging, the sound, the lighting, the level of confidence, self-assurance, everything that I can think of was super.

Over the years our school has developed a reputation for putting on some really high quality productions, so the expectation each year increases. Yet again the performance this year has not only lived up to this increasing expectation but has exceeded it in many ways. The involvement of such a large cast, the vast majority being so young must have produced many challenges for the staff, however these seem to have been very confidently overcome. A performance of this quality from a young and upcoming cast is incredibly impressive - my thanks and congratulations to everyone involved.

### Crisis at Christmas Appeal

"He or she who has no Christmas in his or her heart will never find it under a tree".

It was wonderful to be invited in to 8AWs form room a couple of weeks ago to witness the form's collection of food items that eventually made up the parcels that were delivered by the students to Crisis Donation warehouse (see article). I would like to add my thanks and appreciation to all those involved in 8AWS for this wonderful selflessness act, in a world where there is sometimes much negativity it is uplifting to see our students make such a wonderful effort for the benefit of those who are less fortunate.

### End of Term

We come to the end of yet another busy and hectic autumn term. It has been a good term overall. My thanks to all families for their support. I hope that you all have a super, well deserved, restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Sunil Chotai

## Crisis at Christmas Appeal

Over the past month 8AWs, along with a small number of students in other years have been bringing in donations of toiletries, food and towels for the Crisis at Christmas Appeal. The form responded amazingly and managed to put together 14 full boxes of donations for those that may need them over Christmas.

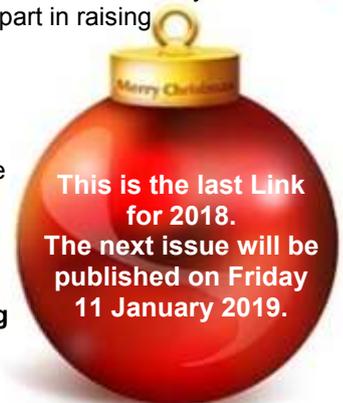


These donations were everything from food, to toiletries and towels. What was particularly impressive was that most of these donations were bought by the students brand new. On Thursday 13 December I had the enormous pleasure of taking a small group of students from Years 8, 9 and 11 up to the Crisis Donation warehouse to drop off our donations. Most had never done anything like this before and commented that this experience would make them do it again. The volunteers were overjoyed with the donations and the students got a real understanding of how far their donations would go to help those who really need it over this festive time.

As their form tutor, I am incredibly proud of 8AWs. They totally embraced this idea and were very thoughtful about the donations they made. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all but particularly Hebe del Rio, Sophie Brenton, Piper - Roseman, Soul Harris-Fazackerly and George Walker. Isabella Balloch, Sophie Witt, Mollie Mitchell and Kasi White also deserve a special mention as they also embraced this charity and took part in raising donations.

Myself and Ms Dobney had a brilliant morning with these students, as well as a few others, and they were incredible ambassadors for our school. Well done to all the students involved in this.

Mrs Whittaker-Standing



This is the last Link for 2018. The next issue will be published on Friday 11 January 2019.

## Year 7 Charity Christmas Fair

Thank you so much to all the parent/carers who donated items for the Year 7 Christmas Fair last Friday. We received a large number of items to use in the tombolas, beautifully decorated gingerbread biscuits and amazing 'Hot Chocolate' reindeer cones! We really appreciate the contributions to help make the afternoon a success. My thanks also go to the Year 7 form tutors who have given up their time during lunch and after school to prepare decorations, Christmas cards, slime, sweet cones and biscuits to sell at the fair.

The top 4 form group totals are as follows:

1st Place:	7SAI/JBi	£159
2nd Place:	7KMa	£152
3rd Place:	7LBr	£122.15
4th Place:	7PEI	£97.30

We raised an astonishing £772 during the 30 minute fair which will contribute to the Charity total for the year and be donated to Cancer Research UK and Crohns and Colitis UK. Thank you so much for the generosity shown by our Year 7 families. Merry Christmas!

Mrs Wheeler



## Attendance and House Points update 2018

**Attend today: achieve tomorrow**

The house point totals for the autumn term

Wedgwood	3375 (1st)
Henslow	3008 (2nd)
Lyell	2992 (3rd)
Grant	2886 (4th)

Attendance percentage by house for the autumn term

Grant	96.1% (1st)
Henslow	96% (2nd)
Wedgwood	95.8% (3rd)
Lyell	95.5% (4th)

Congratulations to **9RMo** with the highest form House Point total across the school, with **713**.

Congratulations to **7NWe** with the highest form attendance of **98.4%** followed closely by 7NYe with 98.3% and 7KMa with 98.2%.

Years 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 are all above the whole school target of 95% attendance – well done to them all.

Mrs Rees

## TERM DATES 2019

### Spring 2019

Monday 7th January – Friday 15th February

*Half term: Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February*

Monday 25th February – Friday 5th April

### Summer 2019

Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 24th May

*Bank holiday: Monday 6th May*

*Half term: Monday 27th – Friday 31st May*

Monday 3rd June – Friday 19th July

### INSET Days

*(school closed to pupils)*

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

### Notes:

Good Friday – 19th April 2019

Easter Monday – 22nd April 2019

## END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS – 21 December 2018

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

**Years 12 & 13 dismissed at 11:10am (no bell)**

**Years 10 & 11 dismissed at 11:30am (bell)**

**Years 7, 8 & 9 dismissed at 11:40am (bell)**

The 664 and 684 bus services will leave the school grounds at 11:45am

The R8 will leave at 12:33pm 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 7 January 2019 for the start of the Spring Term.**

## Events, Fixtures and Educational Visits

### Forthcoming events

#### Spring Term

- 11 January 2019 - Year 9 DTP/MENACWY vaccinations
- 16 January 2019 - Dance trip to see Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake
- 25 January 2019 - Deadline for Sixth Form Applications
- 30 January 2019 - Year 9 Growth Mindset
- 30 January 2019 - Dance Competition semi-final
- 2 February 2019 - Trip to WW1 Battlefields of Ypres
- 6 February 2019 - Spring Music Fest
- 7 February 2019 - Year 8 Parents' Evening
- 11 February 2019 - Dance Competition final
- 4 to 7 March 2019 - Year 12 Geography residential
- 6 March 2019 - Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 14 March 2019 - Year 8 Options Evening
- 27 March 2019 - Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening [2]
- 28 March 2019 - Year 11 Parents' Information Evening
- 2 May 2019 - Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 8 May 2019 - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 17 May 2019 - Year 7 Growth Mindset
- 23 May 2019 - Year 13 Leavers' assembly
- 24 May 2019 - Year 13 Leavers' BBQ
- 6 and 7 June 2019 - Bronze Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition
- 12 June 2019 - Year 6 into 7 induction evening
- 13 June 2019 - Year 6 into 7 induction interviews
- 18 June 2019 - Year 6 into 7 induction interviews
- 21 June 2019 - Sixth Form Ball
- 23 to 25 June 2019 — Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition
- 26 June 2019 — Year 12 Driven by Consequences
- 27 June 2019 — Year 12 ecology field trip to Westerham
- 28 June 2019 — Year 11 ball
- 1 July 2019 — Year 12 taster day
- 1 to 5 July 2019 — Year 7 penny collection



### Fundraising Quiz Night

Friday 25 January 2019  
 7pm in the Hub  
 Teams of 6 - 8  
 £5pp to include snacks.  
 BYOB, soft drinks available.  
 Email [hca@cdarwin.com](mailto:hca@cdarwin.com) for more information or to  
 book your table.  
 All proceeds to Zanzibar 2019 trip.

### Pupils for Praise

Duty pupils of the week ending  
 21.12.2018

Jimmi Botton, Sahira Ali, Siobhan  
 Dwyer Burchill and Ruby Mazouz

### Mrs Mills, Reception



### PARENTS EVENINGS 2019

Year 11: 24 January 2019 [2]  
 Year 8: 7 February 2019  
 Year 9: 6 March 2019  
 Year 12: 27 March 2019 [2]  
 Year 13: 27 March 2019 [2]  
 Year 10: 2 May 2019



### WANTED

If you have any white cotton fabric, sheeting etc, the Art Department can always make very good use of it.

Thanks

Art Department



### 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



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.