



24.11.2023

Issue No: 1102

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### YEAR 13 Parents Evening

My thanks to all families and students who attended the Year 13 parents' evening on Wednesday. The evening was well attended and it was great to hear the meaningful conversations and advice our students were receiving. With the upcoming PPEs, these conversations offered a valuable opportunity for students and everyone was grateful for the precise and bespoke guidance they received.

### Winner of the Poetry Competition

As you may remember from a previous edition of The Link, the English Department ran a poetry competition to support National Poetry Day and to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Charles Darwin School. There were lots of excellent entries. Well done to everyone who took part.

The winning poem was written by Jade St John in Year 8 who is now our Charles Darwin Poet Laureate for this year. It was a pleasure to present Jade with her trophy.

Well done, Jade!



### Toilets

Recently the number of students using toilets during lesson time has been reaching unmanageable levels. Aside from students with medical passes we shouldn't be seeing this number of students out using toilets. Students will be reminded to use the toilets at break and lunch so they don't need to go during the lesson time. We will never refuse someone but we are trying to minimise disruption to learning and the number of students out of lessons. Thank you for your help and support with this.

### Mobile Phone Policy

May I take this opportunity to remind everyone that mobile phones should never be out in lessons unless explicit permission is given by the teacher as a way of supporting learning. If a phone is seen in lesson time it will be confiscated. Outside of the classroom phones should remain out of sight.

### Choir

The Year 7 choir will be singing at 4.15pm on Saturday for the Biggin Hill Lights switch-on. My thanks to Miss Mace for all her hard work in getting the younger students ready for this community event.

*Aston Smith*



**Performance dates:**  
Monday 11th December  
Tuesday 12th December  
Wednesday 13th December  
Time: 7pm  
Venue: Main hall

**Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID**

Price of the ticket: £8  
Tickets available via ParentPay

# Character Passport

Students in year 7, 8 and 9 will come home this week with a 'Character Passport'. This is to support our whole school Personal Development programme. Even though the pandemic seems to be in the past, we want to make sure that students gain experiences to develop their resilience, to develop skills in leadership, organisation, communication and initiative. We also place a high value of students gaining extra-curricular development through social and cultural experiences. Do have a read through the passport and sign off any of the experiences that your child has taken part of or achieved. We celebrate achievements through certificates and badges at Celebration of Success Assemblies.

Mr Jones

## Summary of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Parent/Carer Meeting Monday 20th November 6-7pm.

We are awaiting the latest Gov. review of the RSE statutory guidance but our current Relationships and Sex Education policy can be found here: <https://www.cdarwin.com/site/data/files/files/CBCFD03E8E3E42E62944CFA88E3B9470.pdf>

In the session we shared the link to the RE:SET project explaining our Healthy Relationship Champion school status. Click to view an explanation of the project and a video featuring some of our Healthy Relationship ambassadors: <https://tenderreset.org.uk/>

We also shared the Evening Standard article further highlighting the project work and the importance of this in the curriculum: <https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/sex-education-sadiq-khan-new-workshops-sexism-everyones-invited-soma-sara-b1043073.html>

Thank you to those parents who attended and contributed to the meeting on Monday. We truly value your feedback and input, so please do continue to share your thoughts about the impact of our programme.

Ms Sampson, Mrs Rees and Miss Currie

## Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

Massive congratulations to the following students who have achieved their Hundreds and Thousands reading badges.

To achieve the bronze badge, students read 1000 pages and write one book review on the book they've enjoyed most.

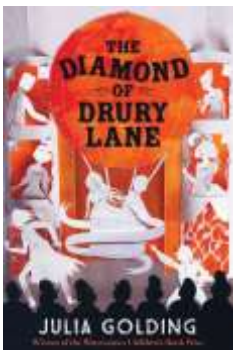
To achieve the silver badge, students start again but this time read 2000 pages and write two book reviews.

To achieve the gold badge, students read 3000 pages and write three book reviews. At least one of the books they read must be a more challenging text and/or from the English literary canon.

Here are our winners so far:

- Pallika Devi Ramnath – 7SMA – GOLD
- Jade St John – 8RSI/RBR – SILVER
- Lily Ford – SHU/WCA - BRONZE
- Alexander Mack - 7SMA - BRONZE
- Nyah Newberry – 7SHU/WCA - BRONZE
- Adam Piechowka – 7LMC - BRONZE
- Alexander Buxton-Wilmott – BRONZE
- Safiya Onayemi - BRONZE
- 

A selection of their book reviews will be published over the coming weeks. Here is a review from Lily Ford:



'The Diamond of Drury Lane' by Julia Golding

The book is about the tale of Cat Royal, an orphan, four foot with long red hair and not a penny to call her own. She lives in the Theatre Royal on Drury Lane, a place filled with dramatic characters, theatrical spectacles and now a secret treasure which Cat has been asked to protect. Her new friend Pedro, a former slave and gifted violinist, is eager to help, and so is the theatre prompter Jonathan, who is hiding secrets of his own. But when the ruthless gang leader Billy Shepherd knows about the treasure, Cat thinks she's going to lose it for sure.

How is she going to keep it safe?

## Attendance

**Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 17 November 2023.**



7LMc	98.8%
8PDg	96.6%
9HBu	95.6%
10ZPa	93.3%
11SDa	92.7%
12JDa	98.8%
13FSu/MEd	97.6%

*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

Catherine Seidler  
Rosie Kelly-Johnson  
Poppie Hemple  
Mia Bailey  
Freddie Dodson

Gene Downer  
Harry Bedford  
Jack Pini  
Ana Cavanagh Wood  
Hollie Hudson



### Student Services Duty Pupils

Lyam O'Sullivan  
Riley Turnbull  
Jemiah Gravensande-Brown  
Ellis Jones  
Ruby Sheehy

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

# THE CHRISTMAS PE FUN RUN 2023

## FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER

This Christmas during one PE lesson, students will take part in a "PE Fun Run" in order to support our 2 local food banks.

Rather than donate money, students have been asked to donate items to our 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 form tutor or PE teacher **before Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.**

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)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Form

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



**THE FUN RUN WILL TAKE PLACE DURING ONE PE LESSON  
DURING THE WEEK COMMENCING 20th NOVEMBER!**

**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.



# PTA Update

## PTA Quiz Night

We had a really fun and enjoyable quiz night last Friday night, joined by over 70 Charles Darwin School family, friends and staff members.

We are still counting the donations but raised over £1000 for our school, via ticket sales and our raffle.

Big thanks to Miss Buckle for organising our 'Heads and Tails' during the interval and also to all our local businesses for their generous raffle prize donations.

Congratulations to our winning quiz team 'The Lionesses and the Lamb' and our runners up 'The PTA & Friends' who narrowly missed out on the tie breaker. Commiserations to the 'Library Club' who were delighted with their consolation prize.

Thanks to Mrs Johnson in the Sixth Form team for setting up the tables and making the hub look so inviting. Thank you also to Quiz Master Chris who definitely presented a fabulous quiz with a great variety of rounds to test our 9 teams.

We hope to organise our next quiz in March 2024 so watch this space!



## Charles Darwin School PTA Quiz Night & Raffle | Friday 17th November 2023



Thanks to everyone who supported us and to all the local businesses for donating such amazing raffle prizes!

We look forward to our next Quiz Night in March 2024.

## Christmas Raffle

The PTA rapidly now turn their attention to our Christmas Raffle. There are some amazing prizes available once again and raffle tickets are now available online via our PTA shop: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/>

The raffle will be drawn at the interval at the last night of the production on Wednesday 13th December.

Hope to see you at the production, where we will be serving refreshments. Do come and say hello!

## Silent Auction

We still have our silent auction item available. If you would be interested in bidding for a one hour flying lesson, please e-mail us at [friends@cdarwin.com](mailto:friends@cdarwin.com).

### Easy fundraising

We have recently been paid £168.80 to our school fund, just by shopping! If you install the Easyfundraising App, enrol our school as your charity and then switch the online donation reminder, a proportion of your online shopping will automatically be paid to our fund. This is such a super source of funds for our school and requires us to do very little except shopping! The PTA team will have no visibility of where you have shopped but there is a league table of our biggest contributors which is quite exciting. During promotional periods, we receive a donation just for you installing the app and adding us as your charity so if you would be prepared to just do that, we would be very grateful. [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Big thanks to our recent shoppers who have perhaps been starting their Christmas shopping: Mel L, Jason H, Elaine F, Sarah H, Kayleigh B, Nicola T and Graham P.

### School Projects

We are writing to all staff in December to ask them if there are any projects they would like us to fund to help support their teaching and enhance the learning experience for our students at Charles Darwin School. We look forward to sharing this with you in January.

PTA





# Harrison Catering

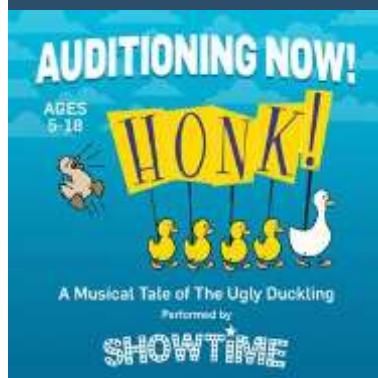
Please see below MENU Week 2 for the week commencing 27 November 2023

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 Potatoes and Salad Bar available daily.

**HARRISON**  
food with thought

## HONK Auditions



Showtime Performing Arts are looking for talented students to take part in our production of HONK! Previous experience isn't vital, just a willingness and enthusiasm to take part.

Here are the trial dates:

- SATURDAY 25th November and 2nd December at Sevenoaks, Weald of Kent, Sevenoaks Annexe, TN13 3SN
- SATURDAY 9th December at Strood Academy, Strood, ME2 2SX
- SATURDAY 9th December, at The Malling School, West Malling, ME19 6DH
- SATURDAY 6th January Churchill School, Westerham, TN16 1EZ
- SUNDAY 7th January in Oxted School, Oxted RH8 0AB

You must be part of Showtime to audition for a main part.

Honk! will take place on Sunday 9th June 2024 at the Stag Theatre, London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ.

Please contact [hello@showtime.london](mailto:hello@showtime.london) with your child's name, DoB, contact number and saying which date/venue you would like to attend.

The time is from 10am to 1pm, you must wear suitable clothing (i.e. t-shirt & leggings) to move in and bring a snack and drink.

## Dates for the Diary

### November

**27th November** - Trip: National Theatre, 'The House of Bernarda Alba' - Drama, Yrs 12 & 13

**27th November** - DofE Celebration Evening

**29th November** - Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church, 6.30pm

**30th November** - Sixth Form Presentation Evening

### December

**1st December** - Trip: German Christmas Market - MFL, Yrs 9, 10, 12&13

**1st December** - Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations

**8th December** - Own Clothes day (£1 donations to go to form tutors)

**11th December** - School Production, 7pm Main Hall

**12th December** - School Production, 7pm Main Hall

**13th December** - School Production, 7pm Main Hall

**13th December** - Christmas Lunch

**13th December** - Year 10 Award Trip

**13th December** - Trip: Supreme Court and Somerset House - History & Politics, Yrs 12 & 13

**15th December** - End of Term - Early Close

**Sixth Form** from break time onwards

**Year 7-11** - 12pm

### January

**2nd January** - **INSET DAY** (school closed)

**3rd January** - Spring Term starts

## 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 – Thursday 18th July

### Note:

Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

**INSET Days** - School closed to students

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024





# **15% OFF ALL ONLINE SALES**

**use code: blackfriday23**

**Our 2023 Black Friday sale is live from  
Monday 20th - Sunday 26th November.  
Spend £60.00 or more online and receive  
15% off your entire order.**

**Offer applies to website transactions only and is not redeemable in store.  
Offer valid from 20.11.23 - 26.11.23.**

**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.  
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