



16.05.2025

Issue No: 1157

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Parent Governor Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen on the Local Governing Body for a Parent Governor, and we are seeking nominations from parents of students in the school. The term of office for a Parent Governor is four years and the role is diverse and interesting. Governors have wide ranging responsibilities and the work, though sometimes demanding, is very rewarding. We have been very fortunate in having a stable Governing Body and this has contributed greatly to the success of the school. Meetings, of which there are five a year, are fixed well in advance and take place on a Monday evening.

Full details can be found in the attached letter from Helen Hartley, Chair of Governors. Please note, nominations should be returned to Julie Hodgkinson, Clerk to the Governors at jho@cdarwin.com by 12 noon on Friday 6th June.

Exams

The exam season is now well underway for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. We're incredibly proud of the dedication and focus being shown - with students demonstrating excellent behaviour and a strong work ethic. Keep it up! Alongside your in-class revision sessions, don't forget to check Satchel One regularly for additional revision resources and guidance from your teachers. We're here to support you every step of the way.

Revision Tips

- **Make a revision timetable** Plan your study time in advance. Spread your revision evenly and give more time to subjects you find tricky.
- **Set mini goals** Break your revision into small, daily goals. It helps track progress and keeps things manageable.
- **Mix it up** Use different revision styles – visual, auditory, reading/writing or hands-on – to keep things interesting and effective.
- **Revise with others** Studying with friends or teaching others can highlight gaps in your knowledge and bring new revision ideas.
- **Practice papers** Familiarise yourself with exam formats by using past papers. Time yourself to build exam confidence.
- **Take breaks** Short, regular breaks boost focus and help prevent burnout. Use them to recharge with exercise or a snack.
- **Move around** Light exercise like a short walk can refresh your mind, improve focus, and make revision more effective.
- **Eat healthy** Fuel your brain with nutritious snacks like fruit or nuts. Balance is key - treats are fine in moderation.
- **Sleep** Aim for 7 - 9 hours of sleep. It boosts memory, focus, and helps your brain absorb what you've learned.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE - Whether you've just begun or are well underway, it's never too late to make progress!

Aspire, Endeavour and Achieve

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thank you to all the families who attended the Year 10 Parents' Evening this week. It was great to see so many positive conversations taking place. These evenings are a vital part of supporting our students as they prepare for their year 11 examinations.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the parent survey. We will feedback with you after the half term break.

Aston Smith, Headteacher



World Day of Cultural Diversity

On Thursday 22nd May during period 5 all form groups will have a dropped session with their form tutor **to celebrate 'cultural diversity' with a focus on music and food.**

Students are all invited to **bring in some food that is a nod to their background.** This could be a home-made dish, a cake or even some typical crisps or biscuits that are important to you. We would **welcome your support** in encouraging your child to join in.

The main aim is to celebrate and share what is important to us and it should be an enriching and fun way to end this half term.

Students will have lots of fun activities to do including music quizzes, staff sharing their cultural background and we will share and celebrate our different cultural backgrounds with each other.

There is also a **poster competition** and there will be prizes for the best entries. We will also display enlarged versions of the posters around school.

We are a nut-free school and we would ask that any dishes or food brought in do not contain nuts. Pupils with any allergies or food intolerances should be mindful before sampling any food.

Thank you for all your support with this.
Miss Kaye, Mrs Tigoue and and Ms Fitzgerald



After 2 successful terms of Cheerleading club, we have designed Cheerleading bows that they our students could purchase and proudly wear around school.

Thank you to local small business **Just Add Glitter** for making these Charles Darwin bows! 🥰🐶

Miss Porter

A reminder to parents that as well as the LINK and the 'latest news' section on the website, you can follow the latest events happening in our school community on:

CDarwinSchool



Charles Darwin School

Preloved Uniform Shop
Promoting a positive eco-friendly culture of reusing

Did you know we have a preloved uniform shop with a variety of nearly new school uniform and PE kits?

If you are interested in checking stock, please send an email with your requirements (size, gender, specific item) to preloveduniform@cdarwin.com you can also use the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/r/EYNuVcZpsa>



PTA Update



Bingo Night now Friday 18th July

Our first bingo night date will now be on Friday 18th July to coincide with the final days before the summer break.

Tickets are now available for £10 per person via our online shop: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/>

Your ticket includes your entry and one book of tickets. Additional books will be available to purchase on the night.

Funding Requests

Our staff have recently requested funding to help enhance the learning of our students.

We have allocated £3078 of our funding to the following projects:

- £2100 laser cutting machine for Design & Technology
- £500 for portable lighting and printing for Media and Film Studies
- £478 for a new plan chest for Art

This brings our funding total to £8400 so far this school year, thanks to the generosity and support of our community.

Monthly Cash Prize Draw

Congratulations to the following winners of our recent monthly draws:

- Kayla K winning £67.50
- Mel L winning £66.50

If you would like the chance to join our winners, please visit our website now: : <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/>

Easy-fundraising Update

We were paid £178.00 via Easy-fundraising for the last three months of shopping!

Thanks to everyone who has enrolled and helped us boost our funds.

We are a very small team, and this is a low administration way for us to boost our funds so we are very grateful to anyone who enrolls using our link: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=304171&invite=graab1&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral



[You spend, brands donate to Charles Darwin School PTA - Kent.](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=304171&invite=graab1&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral)

Help us when you shop with 7,000+ brands. Join now.
www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Thanks to our recent shoppers: Gill B, Jason H, Caroline W, Deborah R, Ana B, Sule M, Mel L, Sarah H



Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

Jail Lane
Biggin Hill
Westerham
Kent TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043
enquiries@cdarwin.com

Year 8/9 Pastoral Manager
36 hours a week, 40 weeks a year
Actual salary £27,699 – pay award pending

We wish to appoint a Pastoral Manager to join our committed and hardworking Pastoral Team from September 2025. We are looking for an enthusiastic and empathetic individual who can display a conscientious and thoughtful approach to our students. The successful candidate will work closely with the Year 8 and 9 Achievement Co-ordinators in supporting the school's pastoral objectives as well as with the wider Pastoral Team. The successful candidate should be willing to train to act as a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We are a "good" school (Ofsted 2023) with an ethos that encourages academic rigour, high expectations and a well-disciplined approach to learning.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: Tuesday 20th May 2025

Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: 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.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974. It is an offence to apply for this role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

Library Supervisor
Monday – Friday (11.30am – 4.00pm)
Term time only
Actual salary £15,324

We wish to appoint a new Library Supervisor to manage the day to day operation of our school Library. The successful candidate will supervise students using the Library and will also manage the computerised loan system (Oliver), and be responsible for cataloguing, classification etc. of books. Knowledge of SIMS and experience of a similar role in a school would be advantageous.

We are a "good" school (Ofsted 2023) with an ethos that encourages academic rigour, high expectations and a well-disciplined approach to learning.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 23rd May 2025

Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: 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.

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 9 May 2025.

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES Per day =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES Per day =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES Per day =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES Per day =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES Per day =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE

7GCu/CMe	96%
8LMc	97.7%
9PDg/MBa	97.1%
10DNu	95.5%
11JLa/LWrr	99.5%
12SMe	97.5%
13GQu	94.1%

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 clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence **before 8.30am**, clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

If you wish to report your child's absence, **OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS**, please call the school on **01959 574043** and when prompted to enter the extension number, please **dial 1** and you will be taken through to the student absence line where you can leave a message regarding your child's absence. This ensures we know your child is safe and their absence is authorised where possible.

Thank you for your support.



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.

Hay Fever Season - Medication for Students

Hay Fever and the symptoms for children studying at school can be very uncomfortable, please ensure that if your child suffers with Hay Fever that they take any relevant medication/antihistamine before school. The school is unable to provide this medication to students.

Thank you

**Mrs Booth
Lead First Aid**



CDS DANCE CLUB

**Come and join for some fun
after school**

**Wear your PE kit and bring
water**

Thursday 3-4

DA1



Year 8 Duty Pupils

Jed Addotey
Charlotte Bateman
Ronnie Kent
Georgia Hall
Alfie Stevenson

Maggie Noad
Callum Wade
Chloe Priestley
Eloise Osenton
Jack Woolcott



Student Services Duty Pupils

Morgan Mitchell
Ollie Mitchell
Dylan Mooney
Jamie Niblock
Theo Skillern

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

Dates for the Diary

May

21st-23rd May - Trip: Y10 Silver DofE Practice Expedition, Cudham Shaws Outdoor Centre

23rd May - INSET DAY

26th May - BANK HOLIDAY

26th–30th May - Half term

June

2nd June - Summer Term 2 starts

2nd June - Trip: GCSE Kayaking at Danson Park

3rd June - Trip: GCSE Kayaking at Danson Park

4th June - New Year 7 Induction Evening

4th June - PTA Metting, The Crown

16th June - Trip: GCSE Cycling at Cycloparl

20th June - Sixth Form Summer Ball

26th June - Year 11 Prom

26th-28th June - Trip: Year 10 Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition, Adamswell Scout Campsite

July

9th July - PTA meeting, The Crown

18th July - PTA Bingo Night

18th July - Personal Development Day 1

21st July - Personal Development Day 2

22nd July - End of Summer Term



As the weather is getting warmer please can all students bring in a reusable water bottle to school each day. The water bottles can be refilled at the canteen and near to Students Services at break time and lunchtime. We only have a limited supply of plastic cups for First Aid and use of students who forgot a water bottle.

Student Services Team

Internal Exams Dates

Year 7	9-13 June,	16-20 June
Year 8	19-23 May,	2-6 June
Year 9	19-23 May,	2-6 June
Year 10	16-20 June,	23-27 June
Year 12	16-20 June,	23-27 June

Term Dates 2024-2025

Summer 2025

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

[Monday 5th May Bank Holiday]

Half term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Monday 2nd June – Tuesday 22nd July

INSET Days:

Friday 23rd May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th June 2025

The SEN team at Charles Darwin:

Mrs L Thom, SENCo
Mr B Frost, Assistant SENCo
Mrs J Patten, Senior Learning Support Assistant
Miss R Higgins, SEN Administrator

Should you need to make contact with us, please use the inbox below:

send@cdarwin.com

Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn 2025

Monday 1st September – Friday 17th October

Half term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January

Spring 2026

Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

Half term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Notes:

Good Friday 3rd April 2026

Easter Monday 6th April 2026

Summer 2026

Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

[Monday 4th May Bank Holiday]

Half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July

INSET Days:

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

Please find attached to this week's Link a letter produced by Bromley regarding unauthorised leave/holidays taken during term time. This is just a reminder to avoid any disappointment when holidays are refused or if penalties distributed.



Part Time Gym Set up Assistant

Part Time Gym Set up Assistant required for our Wednesday and Saturday classes at Charles Darwin Leisure Centre.

Hours:

Wednesday: 4.00pm – 4.30pm and 7.15pm-7.45pm

Friday: 7.30pm - 8.00pm

Saturday: 11.50am – 12.20pm

Hourly rate: £7.55 (or MLV dependant on age)

Please send CV to enquiries@gymclub.org.uk



As from next Monday 19th May Foodbank **Monday** sessions at the Oak Community Church, St Mary Cray will be changing hours. Sessions will now run from **12.30pm - 2.30pm**. We hope this will give you more time to make referrals on a Monday morning and give clients longer to come down to collect food.

Wednesday sessions at St Mary Cray, and all other centres remain unchanged. All up to date centre locations and hours can be found here [Locations](#) | [Bromley Borough Foodbank](#)

Please find below links for Bromley Y webinars:

For Young People

[Managing academic stress – Dealing with Exam Stress](#)
[Stress and worry management](#)

For parents and carers of primary school aged children

[Helping your child with fears and worries](#)
[Emotionally based school avoidance](#)
[Changing from primary to secondary school](#)
[Helping your child with sleep problems](#)

For parents and carers of young people at secondary school

[Helping young people with fears and worries](#)
[Changing from primary to secondary school](#)



Please see attached a flyer for a webinar for parents around supporting their own mental health and wellbeing when navigating the challenges of parenthood: '**How to look after YOU**'

South East London Mind

Bromley Parenting Hub

The Bromley Parenting Hub has teamed up with South East London Mind.

Join our **FREE** webinar where we'll be talking about mental and emotional wellbeing, as well as coping and resilience to help you deal with the stresses of parenthood.

If you have any questions or need assistance with booking, please reach out via email to:
Magdalena.Dziedzina@bromley.gov.uk

SCAN ME

Don't miss out and book your space!



Please do join us!

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Advisory Team (SENDAT) will be running a series of parent workshops over the summer term.

The sessions will be for parents and carers of school aged children and young people on the diagnostic pathway for an assessment and possible diagnosis of Autism. They will have had their first paediatric appointment and have been referred onto the CCDS. They may also have received their autism diagnosis.

Parents/carers will attend all 3. They will run for 2 hours between the hours of 6.00pm-8.00pm.

The sessions will run on:

19th/26th June and 3rd July from 6.00pm-8.00pm

There are a maximum of 12 spaces.

The sessions will be run at the Blenheim Children's centre. Please contact the team using the email address below for further information and to book a space.

Emma.Donovan-brown@bromley.gov.uk

These sessions will involve sharing of information about autism and social communication differences including sensory differences. We will discuss how to support children with their communication, independence, learning, relationships and other areas of development.

We will be sharing time and space to support you.

We are aiming for you to support each other and to share your lived experiences.

We will provide hot drinks and biscuits.



BROMLEY SHORT BREAKS PROGRAM



St Mary Cray Primary School
High Street 239B, Orpington
BR5 4AR

MAY 28 & 30, 2025

ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Fun and friendship session
- ✓ Includes a variety of sporting activities
- ✓ Arts and crafts available
- ✓ Sensory equipment provided



SCAN ME

FREE

Due to the number of sessions, families are asked to book only one day.



This program is for children aged 5–18 with an EHCP. Referrals must be made by Bromley Council and bookings are through Book When only.

For more information please contact: charlie.faux@sportworksltd.co.uk

