



12.01.2024

Issue No: 1107

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

As we reach the end of our first week back it is pleasing to see such an excellent attitude to learning from the students. It feels great to be back and it has been a pleasure to hear some of the fantastic new year's resolutions the students have been setting themselves.

The Department for Education (DfE) has launched its campaign to improve attendance in schools and we continue to work hard with students and families in helping students stay above 95% attendance.

Excellent attendance is one of the biggest influences over academic outcomes and we thank parents for their support on this, especially at this time of the year when winter bugs are circulating and the cold, dark weather is not the most appealing!

Year 11 PPE Results

This week was a big week for our Year 11s collecting their PPE (you might remember them as 'mocks') results. It is important to remember that these results are only a snapshot in time to capture how they performed in that exam at the end of November/early December. Students will have already made significant progress since then and they have another 5 months to go. The excellent assembly on Wednesday by Ms Kelly explained clearly how things can change significantly for better or for worse depending on attitude over the coming months. We appreciate parental support in helping us get the very best out of the students over the coming months.

Uniform

I ask for your support in reminding your child that they should not be wearing any jewellery at school (no bracelets, necklaces, rings, nose studs or earrings are to be worn) other than a watch. Trainers are not allowed without a medical reason (a note should be provided) and hoodies are not allowed to be worn in school. This reminder comes as a few students have returned from the Christmas break with such infringements and this is taking a significant amount of time to resolve with students and parents. We feel this time would be better spent on helping students pastorally and academically. Thank you for your support.

Aston Smith

ParentPay canteen payments

Did you know you can set up an alert on ParentPay to notify you when your son/daughter's balance is running low?

On the page that shows the balances for each person, underneath your current balance is the option to "Set up low balance alerts". You can then select which amount you want to be notified on, e.g. £5 and then you can select whether you want to be notified by text or e-mail. This will help students to avoid going to the till with food and having no money left in their account to pay for their food.

You can also see what your son/daughter has bought every day by looking at "lunchtime meal activity" at the bottom of the home page.

Ms Kelly

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



CDarwinSchool



Mr Jones

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

The Most popular book in the library!

Currently, the most popular books to be borrowed from the library are the Heartstopper Series. We have a waiting list for the most recent book in the series, Heartstopper 5:



Heartstopper Volume 5

Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. The bestselling LGBTQ+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between: this is the fifth volume of the Heartstopper series.

Nick and Charlie are very much in love. They've finally said those three little words... But with Nick going off to university next year, is everything about to change?

By Alice Oseman, winner of the YA Book Prize, *Heartstopper* encompasses all the small moments of Nick and Charlie's lives that together make up something larger, which speaks to all of us.

Contains discussions around mental health and eating disorders, and sexual references [recommended age 12+].

Hundreds and Thousands Reading Club

Once again, massive congratulations to the 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.

See Mrs Pitt, Mrs Adams [our librarian] or your English teacher for more information...

Mrs Pitt

Please find below updated PE Extra-Curricular Timetable Spring Term 23/24

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPRING TERM 23/24

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Lunch 1.10 – 1.50					Trampolining Year 7 Only (Boys/Girls) <u>PAID VIA PARENT PAY</u> TAB	
	Basketball Training Y7/8 (Boys) <i>Sportshall</i> ORO/JBI	Netball Training Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 (Girls) <i>Courts</i> LWR/CHT/NDO	Basketball Games All years (Boys) <i>Sportshall</i> JBI/ORO	Football Training Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 (Girls) <i>Field/3G</i> CON/CHT	Rugby Training Y7 ONLY (Boys) <i>Field/3G</i> SHU	
		Rugby Training Y8/Y9 (Boys) <i>Field/3G</i> SHU	Bromley Cup Football Games All years (Girls/Boys) <i>Home/Away</i> ALL STAFF	Basketball Training Y9/10 (Boys) <i>Sportshall</i> ORO/CON/SHU	FIXTURE CATCH UP DAY	
	ALL FIXTURES WILL BE ARRANGED ON A WEEK BY WEEK BASIS FOR ALL TEAMS. THIS COULD BE DIFFERENT EACH WEEK DUE TO THE DIFFERENT LEAGUE AND COMPETITIONS.					
		Basketball Games All years (Boys) <i>Sportshall</i> JBI/ORO		Trampolining Year 8-13 (Boys/Girls) <u>PAID VIA PARENT PAY</u> TAB		

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 3 for the week commencing 15th January 2024.

WEEKLY MENU Charles Darwin Week 3				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spaghetti Bolognaise	BBQ Chicken with Rice	Roast Turkey, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Mexican Style Soft Chilli Beef Taco with Toppings & Mexican Style Rice	Fish & Chips
Mixed Bean and Vegetable Chilli	Indian Style Vegetable Biryani with Chickpea Dhal	Vegetable Moussaka	Sweet Potato Stir with Spiced Vegetable Rice	Veggie Finger & Chips (V) (2)
Pesto Pasta	Vegetable Tagine	Roast Vegetable & Tomato Pasta	Mac'n'Cheese	Chilli Bean Wrap & Salsa with Chips
Sweetcorn or Peas	Garlic Green Beans / Roasted Vegetables	Broccoli / Herb Roasted Butternut	Broccoli / Carrots	Beans or Peas
Berry Swirl Sponge with Custard	Marble Sponge & Custard	Glazed Carrots / Green Beans	Apple & Berry Oat Bar with Custard	Fruit Flapjack

Available daily
Jacket Potato, Salad Bar available daily.

HARRISON
food with thought

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 5 January 2024.



7STe	97%
8RSi/RBr	94.6%
9RMo	98.8%
10JLa	98.7%
11SDa	91.7%
12JDa	99%
13SMe	93.5%

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

Amy Holton	Jacob Staines
Emily Spencer	Juno Bradbury
Niamh Paton	Olivia Catley
Jessica Cummins	Ameera Halil
Harry Dixon	Nancie Bamber

Student Services Duty Pupils

Isabelle Lavin-Bates
Holly Saunders
Ronnie Richardson
George Faktor
Betsy O'Neill



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 (not the main school switchboard)
- ❖ Twitter – twitter.com/CDarwinSchool
- ❖ Instagram – 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

25th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

26th January - **INSET DAY (school closed to students)**

31st January - Year 9 Parents' Evening

February

8th February - Early close - 2pm

12th - 16th February - HALF TERM

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 29th March 2024

Easter Monday 1st April 2024

INSET Days - School closed to students

Friday 26th January 2024

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

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.

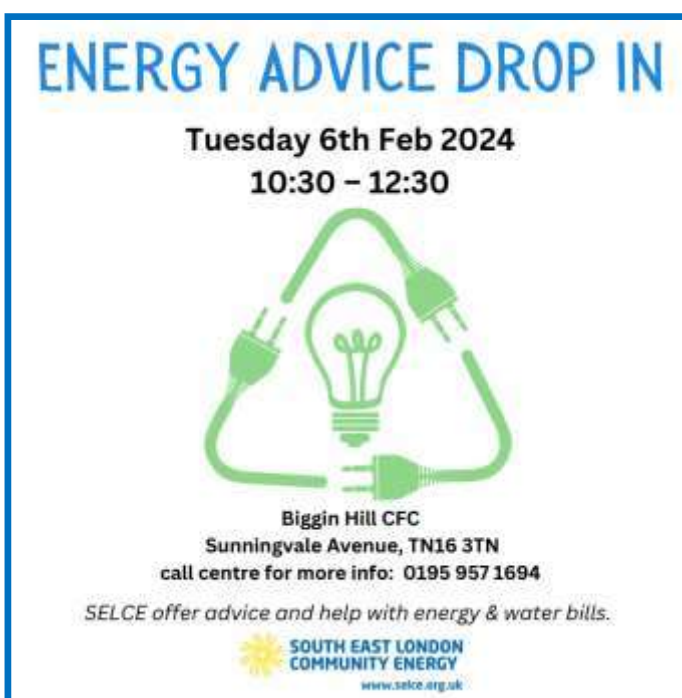
Please find below posters from Biggin Hill Children and Family Centre regarding their upcoming courses.




ADULT FIRST AID
WEDNESDAY 21ST FEB 2024
09:30 - 14:30



BIGGIN HILL CFC
SUNNINGVALE AVENUE, TN16 3TN
CALL CENTRE FOR MORE INFO: 0195 957 1694




ENERGY ADVICE DROP IN
Tuesday 6th Feb 2024
10:30 - 12:30



Biggin Hill CFC
Sunningvale Avenue, TN16 3TN
call centre for more info: 0195 957 1694

SELCE offer advice and help with energy & water bills.

 **SOUTH EAST LONDON
COMMUNITY ENERGY**
www.selce.org.uk



TEACHING CHILDREN FIRST AID (AGES 4 - 11)*
*Parent to accompany their child into and during the session
WEDNESDAY 14TH FEB 2024
10:00- 12:30



FIRST AID

BIGGIN HILL CFC
SUNNINGVALE AVENUE, TN16 3TN
CALL CENTRE FOR MORE INFO: 0195 957 1694