



08.12.2023

Issue No: 1104

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Choir

It was fantastic to receive the following feedback from a member of the public about the school choir singing Christmas carols on Monday at Waitrose in Biggin Hill.

I just wanted to say thank you for the lovely choir you have in Waitrose today. The group of young people were so happy & sang with so much joy & energy. It literally has shoppers walking round singing in the aisles & smiling at everyone & talking. Thank you to you & your students for putting everyone in the Christmas spirit & blessing everyone's day :)

Thank you to Mrs Mace, Mr Haberfield and Mr Andrews who organised the event and to all the students who took part.



Uniform

As we approach the end of term this is a good time to check that your son/daughters uniform still fits them, their blazer badge is attached and any new uniform or school shoes are purchased ready for the January start of term. We have a PRE-LOVED Uniform shop based in school for all sizes of uniform. Please contact Miss Clark in Student services via the link on the school website. Blazer badges and ties can be purchased from the main reception or via ParentPay. Thank you for your support with this.

Achievement Assemblies

Achievement assemblies commenced this week with Years 11,12 & 13 and will continue until the end of term. It has been great to attend and hear about the many excellent achievements of the students. My congratulations to you all!

Inicio Day

As parents will be aware, we have been exploring a merger with Inicio Educational Trust. The proposed merger is planned to take place on 1st April 2024. Inicio have invited us to join their "Inicio Day" on 28th June when staff will be able to meet colleagues in the other schools in the new Trust and work together on various topics. As we have already set our Inset days for the year, Trustees have agreed that students can work remotely on that day. I would therefore like to give parents early notice that on 28th June the school will be closed to students. Teachers will set work for students to work at home on that day.

Aston Smith

Satchel One parent account

Satchel One have recently deleted some parent accounts where they had sent a verification e-mail and there was no response. They have done this for GDPR reasons but it unfortunately has meant that quite a few parent accounts have been deleted. If this has affected you, please e-mail Ms Russell on ARI@cdarwin.com to ask for your parent code so you can set your account up again. This only takes a couple of minutes.

Ms Kelly

Kooth



Helpful resources:

- **Support guides for students:** Share our [6 new support guides for students](#), which offer helpful advice and information on social anxiety, eating difficulties, self-injury, suicidal thoughts, and safety plans, in addition to a young person's experience on Kooth.
- **National Grief Awareness Week (2-8 December):** Keep an eye on our [Instagram](#) during grief awareness week. We'll be sharing a series of videos to support young people struggling with grief.

Webinar for parents and carers:

- **Support for young people experiencing anxiety or stress this winter:** [Thurs 14 Dec, 6-7pm](#)



A big thank you to the Friends of Charles Darwin School who have supported the Drama department in the purchasing of materials so that more set could be made. Students have made use of wooden staging frames for several years as part of their set design and devised work. However through constant use over time, many had been repaired multiple times and re-painted frequently. With more students taking the design option at GCSE and A-Level, more were also required so could be used in pieces of Drama. We were donated a sum of money to purchase the wood and Mr Dunn in Design and Technology, kindly constructed and painted them. They are a fantastic addition to the Drama classrooms and students have been making excellent use of them this term in rehearsals. They have already featured in GCSE and A-Level exam work. Thank you again to the Friends of Charles Darwin School for supporting this project.

Miss Currie

Christmas Dinner Wednesday 13th December 2023

Christmas dinner will be served in the Canteen on all the hot counters including the Food Pod on **Wednesday 13th December**. There will be a roast turkey main course with a pudding for £2.45 (as well as vegan and vegetarian alternatives).

On that day due to the volume of Christmas dinners being prepared and purchased, there will not be the usual hot snacks available but there will be sandwiches and cold snacks available on the Deli counter. The timings have been adjusted to allow the kitchen staff to be able to serve everyone.

A copy of the menu is attached.



Ms Kelly

PTA Update

Christmas Raffle

Last call for Christmas raffle tickets sales! The draw will take place at the production of The Little Mermaid on Wednesday 13th December. Our local businesses have donated some wonderful prizes so we would like to pass on a big thanks to them.

We will be serving refreshments and selling raffle tickets at the production on all three nights next week. We hope to see you there!

Vacancy

We are currently seeking a treasurer to join our team and help us manage our finances.

The role mainly includes maintaining our accounts spreadsheets. We believe this role would be most suited to someone with a bit of finance/accounting experience.

Please contact Chrissie if you can dedicate an hour or two per month to help us: 07711 132 121 or friends@cdarwin.com

**Want a chance to win great prizes
AND fundraising for Charles Darwin School?**



BUY YOUR TICKET/S VIA OUR ONLINE PTA SHOP NOW:
<https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/>

FABULOUS PRIZES FROM OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR £5 PER STRIP

- 1 x Christmas lights package from H Lilley, Biggin Hill
- £40, £25 & £15 Voucher from Charcoal Grill, Biggin Hill
- £55 Voucher from Shampian Restaurant, Westerham Hill
- 1 x £25 Bluewater Shopping Voucher
- 1 x Magnum of prosecco from Waitrose, Biggin Hill
- 1 x Family Swim at Biggin Hill Pool
- 1 x Trampolining Lesson from Revolve
- 1 x Haircut from Sam's Barbers
- 1 x Sandwich Toaster from The Original Factory Shop, Biggin Hill
- 1 x £20 voucher from Jacob's Ladder Butchers, Biggin Hill
- 1 x Prosecco and sweets from Tesco, Biggin Hill
- Pet food from Pet's Corner, Biggin Hill
- Wine from the The Kings Arms in Westerham
- Books from Waterstones
- 1 x Large Pizza from Domino's Biggin Hill
- 1 x Doggy Christmas Hamper, from The Saddlery & Gunroom
- 1 x Biggin Hill Salisbury's Fish and Chips Meal
- 1 x 10% off voucher from Occasions, Biggin Hill



Raffle drawn at school production interval – Wednesday 13th December 2023
friends@charlesdarwin.com

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 out-grown, 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

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

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

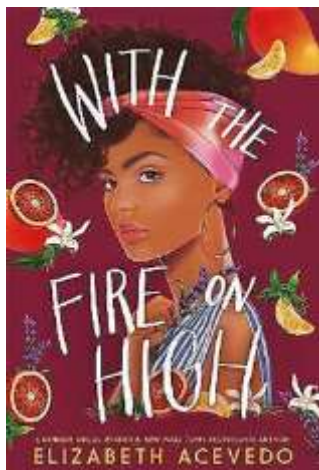
To achieve the bronze badge, students read 1000 pages and write one book review on the book they've enjoyed most.

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.

Here is a recommendation from silver badge winner, Safiye Onayemi in 7JWI.

Mrs Pitt



'With the Fire on High' by Elizabeth Acevedo

I give this book a 5/5 because I thought that the main character, Emoni, was a different type of character and I liked reading from her perspective. I also think the fact that Emoni is struggling but is a very strong character helps build a story that is very different and unique.

Miss Stroud and the Art department would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Well done to everyone who contributed to the construction of the snowflake dress.



Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 1 December 2023.



7LMc	94.6%
8PDg	98.3%
9EKa/CAh	96.2%
10JLa	94.4%
11SDa	95%
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

Kian Evans
Isaac Kilsby-Harvey
Finley Hamilton
Joshua Clarke
Jade St. John

Charlotte Duncombe
George Booth
Zekay Gok
Alice Mason
Zachary Horton

Student Services Duty Pupils

Maddie Lee
Eden Oaks
Alfie Hayter
Jack Penny



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](https://twitter.com/CDarwinSchool)
- ❖ Instagram – [www.instagram.com /CDarwinSchool](https://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.

Harrison Catering

Please see below MENU Week 1 for the week commencing 11 December 2023

WEEKLY MENU Charles Darwin Week 1				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Korma with Rice	Lasagne & Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken Pie & Mashed Potato	Fish & Chips
Vegetable Curry with Rice	Vegetable Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Shepherdess Pie	Chilli Bean Wrap & Salads	Vegan Sausage Roll with Chips
Mac'n'Cheese	Tomato & Basil Penne Pasta	Vegan Jambalaya	Tuscan Style Tomato & Bean Pasta	Vegetable Samosa with Chips
Green Beans or Sweetcorn	Carrots or Broccoli	Cauliflower or Green Beans	Peas or Carrots	Beans or Peas
Apple Pie & Crumble with Custard	Chocolate Brownie with Chocolate Sauce	Jam & Coconut Sponge	Fruit Sponge	Apple & Berry Gel Bar with Custard

Visit to Rose exhibition at the Alexander McQueen

Year 12 and 13 Art and Textiles students visited the Roses exhibition at the Alexander McQueen flag ship store in London. We had a talk from the fashion house explaining the design process and saw how one of the iconic dresses was made from 35m of fabric. Students then spent time looking at the design boards and other catwalk pieces in the rest of the exhibition. It was a very inspiring day.

Miss Doughty



◆ TEACHING INFORMATION WEBINARS ◆

DATE
12th January 2024
26th January 2024
9th February 2024

TIME
4:00 PM - 5:00 AM

LOCATION
Online

**Do you know someone
that would make a great
teacher?**

**Book your place by emailing
administrator@gradteach.uk**

✓ Information on the
application process,
funding, salaries and
bursaries

✓ Discuss routes
into teaching

✓ Learn more about our
approach to providing
professional training.



Dates for the Diary

December

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

25th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

26th January - **INSET DAY**

31st January - Year 9 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

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Friday 26th January 2024

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