



01.09.2023

Issue No: 1092

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Welcome Back

I hope all students and their families had a good summer. After a very full Inset day to focus our work for the coming term and year, it was great to be able to welcome our students back into school. A highlight for me was seeing the new Year 7 arrive on Wednesday morning, surrounded by proud parents. Everyone looked very smart and it was very pleasing to see how quickly they are settling into Charles Darwin School life.

It really does feel great to be back and we are looking forward to putting plans into action for what will be another very successful year.

Ofsted

It was with the greatest pleasure that I was able to share with you our Ofsted report from our recent visit on 15th and 16th June 2023.

I encourage you to read this report in full and share this with friends and family. We have a school that we can all be proud of and we want to use this positive feedback to encourage us further on our journey to becoming Outstanding. The single area for further development on the use of assessment to drive retention of knowledge will be a focus of our teaching and learning plan.

Parking

A reminder that Jail Lane can become very congested at the start and end of school. It is greatly appreciated if parents can park away from the school site, rather than trying to park in the immediate vicinity. This will allow children to safely exit school and enable traffic to move freely.

Aston Smith



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Open Morning - Saturday 30th September 2023

Parents of prospective students are invited to visit our high performing school to view and sample the exciting opportunities we have to offer. Pre booking for a tour only (9am) or Headteacher's presentation followed by a tour (9am, 10am or 11am) is essential by lunchtime on Thursday 28th September. Priority will be given to Year 6 children. Presentations will start promptly at the advertised time so please leave sufficient time for parking. (There will be very limited on-site parking available).

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| Early Tour only 9.00am Email to book your place earlytour@cdarwin.com | Presentation & Tour 1 9.00am Email to book your place hallandtour1@cdarwin.com | Presentation & Tour 2 10.00am Email to book your place hallandtour2@cdarwin.com | Presentation & Tour 3 11.00am Email to book your place hallandtour3@cdarwin.com |
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Please email the relevant tour/presentation with your name, **your child's name, their current year group, their current school and the number of places required.**

Open Week - Tuesday 3rd - Friday 6th October

If you wish to attend one of our Open Week tours you can pre-book a tour at 8.45am or 9.00am. Open week tours offer the opportunity to see the school in operation and to observe teaching taking place. This will be followed by a short Q & A session with the Headteacher. Please leave time for parking (none available on site). Pre-booking essential by 12.00pm on Monday 2nd October.

Tuesday 3rd October - book via tuesdaytours@cdarwin.com

Wednesday 4th October - book via wednesdaytours@cdarwin.com

Thursday 5th October - book via thursdaytours@cdarwin.com

Friday 6th October - book via fridaytours@cdarwin.com

Please see our recent Ofsted Report



Jail Lane
Biggin Hill
Westerham, Kent
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Tel: 01959 574043
Email: enquiries@cdarwin.com
Website: www.cdarwin.com



Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

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Learning Support Assistant 25 hours per week Monday – Friday, term time only September 2023 (actual salary £14,424 – pay award pending)

We are looking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to join a well-established team supporting a range of students' needs in class, in small groups and/or specialised individual learning. Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT. Experience of working with secondary-aged students with a range of SEN and/or *experience of working with students with ASD would be advantageous.*

Further details and an application form are available on our website and should be sent to jho@cdarwin.com. Closing date: Friday 29th September 2023. Please note CVs alone cannot 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 a DBS Enhanced Disclosure and full background checks.

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

Please make sure you bring a reading book to school every day.

If you do not have a book, visit the school library either at lunch time or after school between 3 and 4pm. You can also visit your local library to borrow books.

I would love to be able to award students with some reading badges this year.

The average book contains approximately 300 pages. If you read one book each half term, you could be well on the way to reading over a thousand pages.

Can you join our Hundreds and Thousands Club?

Print the form below from our website or collect one from Mrs Pitt's office on the ground floor in the English corridor. When you reach 1000 pages bring your grid to Mrs Pitt and collect a reading badge.

| Book title | Author | No. of pages | Comments (Star rating out of 5 - What did you think of the book?) | Signature (from home or school) |
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Happy reading!

Mrs Pitt

Canteen Food Prices

Due to the increase in costs of food supplies over the last couple of years, our catering company, Harrison, have had to add a small increase to the cost of the food items in the canteen. A new tariff is attached for your information. Please ensure your son/daughter are aware of this if they usually buy school meals.

The meal deal, which is a main course and a dessert, remains a good value option at £2.45 and is available to all students. This will be the allowance available for students on free school meals.

Ms Kelly

Satchel One Parent Access

This is a reminder that from the start of term, we are adding behaviour points to the features that parents could see on Satchel One last year (homework, timetables and achievement points). All parents will need an account to be able to see this. The parent codes were sent out in a letter at the end of last term for parents who had not yet logged in. If you don't have this code and have not yet logged in, please e-mail LKe@cdarwin.com and we will send you another copy of the login code.

With thanks for your support.

Ms Kelly

Year 8 Duty Pupils:

Alfie Sayer
Olivia Rice
Isaiah Mensah
Summer Andrew

THANK YOU

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

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



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.

Dates for the Diary

September

13th September - Year 11 Parents' Information Evening

30th September - Open Morning

2023-24 Term Dates

Autumn 2023

Tuesday 29th August – Friday 13th October

Half Term: Monday 16th October – Friday 28th 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 29th March 2024

Easter Monday 1st April 2024

INSET Days - School closed to students

Tuesday 29th August 2023

Monday 30th October 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Friday 26th January 2024