



03.11.2023

Issue No: 1099

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to all students following the two-week half term break. I do hope that all students and their families had an enjoyable and restful time and have returned refreshed for the remainder of this term. This term looks set to be very busy with Year 11 students taking their pre public examinations and with rehearsals well underway for this year's production of The Little Mermaid and the annual Christmas concert.

Remembrance Ceremony

On Friday 10th November we will be holding a short remembrance ceremony in the quad at 11.30am. As in previous years, this will be led by Miss Mace, Head of Music, who will play The Last Post prior to the laying of a wreath.

The Biggin Hill Act of Remembrance takes place at the War Memorial at the top of Jail Lane at 11.00am on Sunday 12th November. I will be attending, together with Senior Prefects, to lay a wreath on behalf of our students, staff, governors and trustees. This is a very special event within the community and I know that many students and their families will be in attendance representing various community organisations.

Uniform Reminders

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that hoodies are not part of the school uniform and will be confiscated. As we move towards the winter months, students may wear a school jumper in addition to, but not instead of, a blazer. Fake eyelashes are not allowed and students will be asked to remove them. Jewellery will be confiscated until the end of term unless collected by parents.

Parents will have received a letter today reminding them of our uniform expectations.

Thank you for your support.

Aston Smith

GCSE POD

Students in year 10 and 11 have had their usernames and passwords changed so that they are the same as logging in to SatchelOne and Tassomai. This makes the 'single sign on' process easier.

GCSE POD is a programme that we subscribe to that enables students to work independently outside of the lesson time on exam-board specific learning in preparation for their final exams. The PODS are bitesize instructional videos that students can watch. From this, teachers can set 'assignments' or 'check and challenge' learning pathways to enable independent revision. Students can also work independently on topics that they need to. Feedback goes to students and teachers, including identifying any gaps in knowledge.

There are instructional videos and guidance for parents on the website, in addition to how to download the app for android or iPhone. GCSE POD provide plenty of evidence and research that shows regular use improves GCSE grades. Each month, there will be a prize draw for the highest users in each year group which will be Amazon vouchers.

Mr Jones

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.



Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Sixth Form Open Evening

Tuesday 14th November 2023

6pm - 8pm

Presentations in the Main Hall at 6pm and 7pm



No
booking
required

Prospective students and parents are welcome to meet current subject staff and students to discuss the exciting opportunities our Sixth Form has to offer between 6pm and 8pm.

"Students in the Sixth Form benefit from an individualised approach and achieve well"



SCAN ME



Tel: 01959 574043

Email: sixthform@cdarwin.com

Website: www.cdarwin.com

Charles Darwin School,
Jail Lane,
Biggin Hill,
Kent,
TN16 3AU

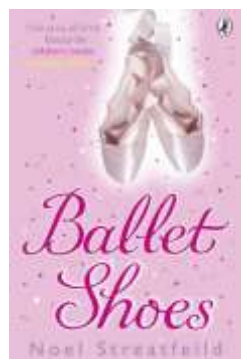
100% of students wishing to attend university gained a place.

Reading Corner at Charles Darwin

Congratulations to Nyah Newberry 7Shu/WCa who has achieved their Bronze Reading badge for the Hundreds and Thousands Reading Club.

Since September, Nyah has read over 1000 pages. Nyah particularly recommends this book:

Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild



Ballet Shoes is a fictional children's book about three sisters by adoption who each have their own special talent. Pauline, the eldest, is rescued from a sinking ship by Great Uncle Matthew who gives her to Sylvia, the girls' guardian as a gift. Pauline is a very talented actress. Petrova, the next Fossil child, is adopted because her father is dying in hospital and her mother is no longer around. Petrova has no wish to perform on stage like her sisters, but instead is passionate about mechanics and cars. Posy, the youngest, has no father and her mother has no time for babies so she too becomes a Fossil sister. Posy's mother is a dancer and gives her the gift of beautiful ballet shoes. Posy is a perfect ballerina.

Great Uncle Matthew goes on a voyage and doesn't return for years and years. Instead, he leaves Sylvia money to look after and care for Pauline, Petrova and Posy. But when money begins to run out, the three Fossil sisters are determined to earn their keep on stage...

I really enjoyed this book and, as a ballet dancer myself, I can really relate to Posy in particular. I give Ballet Shoes a 5/5!

Please check out the 'Whole School Reading' link on the school website or see Mrs Pitt for more information about The Hundreds and Thousands Reading Club – it would be great to see even more students clocking up their reading miles and receiving bronze, silver and gold reading badges!

Mrs Pitt

The Chartwell Charities
Presents
STRICTLY 2023
Saturday 2nd December
Tatfield Village Hall

£60 Per Person
Inclusion of: Free Reception
Two course meal & drinks
Raffle & Auction

TO BOOK:
Call 01959 570322 / Scan QR code
E: info@chartwellcancertrust.co.uk

"People cannot wait help improve the lives of cancer and long-term patients and oncology communities by making a real difference to cancer care."

The Chartwell Cancer Trust, Alton Millage Building, Westmore Green, Tatfield, TN16 2AG
chartwellcancertrust.co.uk Reg Charity No 1109784

Charles Darwin PTA....
fundraising for our school

Quiz Night

**FRIDAY
17TH
NOVEMBER
2023**

**SIXTH FORM HUB,
CHARLES DARWIN
SCHOOL, TN16 3AU
DOORS OPEN: 7.00PM
TRIVIA 7.30PM - 10.00PM**

£10 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF UP TO 8

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH
YOUR DEVICE CAMERA TO
BUY TICKETS:

Please bring your own food and drink (corkage included in ticket price).
Please bring cash and change for our raffle and other activities.

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 13 October 2023.



7SHu/WCa	96.9%
8LBr	94%
9RMo	95.8%
10SFe	94.1%
11SDa	90.4%
12TJo	99.4%
13DWa	96.4%

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:

Phoebe Gourley-Hedges
Ava Newton
Alice Boyd
James Barcroft

Kacey Chilcraft
Harvey Childs
Amelie Clark
Frankie Fenech

Student Services Duty Pupils

Freddie Terry
Poppy Shilling
Zayne Smith
Alexia Wells



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 1st 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)

6th 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!**

Please see below a link to PTA online store:

<https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/>

Want a chance to win great prizes
AND fundraise 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:



- £50 voucher for Napoli Westerham
- £20 voucher for Cooling's Garden Centre
- Paradox Parlours – Escape room for 2
- 1 x Albie's Valet (full valet worth £120)
- 1 x Adult haircut from H1 Barbers
- 1 x Free trampolining lesson from Revolve
- 1 x £20 voucher for Benjamin's Dry Cleaners
- 1 x Family Swim from Biggin Hill Pool
- 1 x Canvas from ThinkPad, Biggin Hill
- 1 x Coffee mug and biscuits from Costa Coffee
- Coffee and Cocktails – Bottle of Whispering Angel and 2 cocktails each
- PLUS** meal vouchers from Salisbury's fish and chips, Caffe Isabella, Biggin Hill Fish & Chips, Flames Kebab and The Orpington.

Raffle drawn during quiz night on Friday 17th November 2023

friends@charlesdarwin.com

Singing Lessons

Singing lessons available at Charles Darwin. Please use the link below to apply.

<https://ukbromley.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=738#/Course/113/0/0>

In partnership with...



Biggin Hill's longest established resident company, Falcon Flying Group who has supported the community since 1977.



AUCTION LOT: ONE HOUR FLYING LESSON

Our generous partners at Falcon Flying Group are offering a one hour introductory flying lesson with EFG Flying School, based at Biggin Hill Airport.

The lucky top bidder of this incredible donation will experience a typical first lesson format with the emphasis on the winner taking the controls and flying!

To place your bid for a one hour flying lesson, please e-mail friends@cdarwin.com
Auction closes @ 20:00 on Friday 17th November 2023

(Some flying lesson restrictions may apply)



Dates for the Diary

November

14th November - Sixth Form Open Evening

17th November - Quiz Night, 7pm

17th November - Trip: Chemistry in Action Lectures at the Emmanuel Centre

21st November - Trip: Science Live (Physics), Emmanuel Centre, London, Yr12 & 13,

22nd November - Year 13 Parents' evening

24th November - Trip: Art & Textiles Alexander McQueen and V&A Trip, Yr12 & Y13

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

December

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

1st December - Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations

11th December - School Production

12th December - School Production

13th December - School Production

15th December - End of Term

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

INSET Days - School closed to students

Monday 30th October 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Friday 26th January 2024

Note:

Good Friday 29th March 2024

Easter Monday 1st April 2024

Harrison Catering

Please see attached separately MENU Week 2 and Mid Morning Break Menu for the week commencing 6 November 2023.