



11.09.2026

Issue No: 1205

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

It has been a fantastic first full week back! Students have demonstrated high levels of effort and a real readiness to learn each day, with excellent attendance across the school.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the Performing Arts department welcomed over 130 students from across all year groups to audition for our school production of Frozen, which will be showcased at the end of term. A huge thank you to all the staff involved in organising and supporting the auditions.

There are many more clubs and activities launching this term, and we hope there will be something for everyone. Please do encourage your child to get involved, try something new and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Finally, a reminder that we have a fully stocked pre-loved uniform shop. Further details can be found below.

Aston Smith, Headteacher



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.

[Charles Darwin Preloved uniform requests 2026-2027](#)



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



Canteen Food and Budgeting for Students

Please find enclosed with this newsletter a copy of the canteen tariff prices and the meal deals, which are a good choice for students to make their daily allowance go further. In particular, students can buy a main meal (e.g. a roast dinner) and a dessert or a main meal and a juice carton for £2.60. The weekly menus are on display in the canteen and attached to the Link each week.

Please note parents can request a daily limit for their children by contacting charles.darwin@harrisonvatering.co.uk. On ParentPay parents can also see what their children are buying each day to help them use their money wisely and buy food that is giving them the energy for a busy day. You can also set an alert to notify you when your ParentPay balance is getting below a certain amount so you are able to top up your account and your son/daughter can always get food.

Ms L Kelly

Charles Darwin Academy			
Tariff			
BREAKFAST		MORNING BREAK	
Pain au chocolate	£1.60	Panini half	£1.43
Croissant	£1.54	Panini whole	£2.50
Cinnamon Twist	£1.54	Sausage or bacon roll	£1.78
Buttered toast	68p	Burrito	£2.50
Bacon roll	£1.78	Veggie/Meat Pizza (from)	£1.66
Yoghurt and granola pot	£1.44	Potato wedges	£2.00
Yoghurt and fruit pot	£1.44	Hash brown	68p
Selection of Sml fruit pots	£ 1.35	Sandwich (from)	£2.00
Fresh fruit	70p	Baguette	£2.69
		Wrap (from)	£2.50
		Pastries	£1.54
		Yoghurt pot	£1.44
		Fruit pot	£1.35
		Fresh whole fruit	70p
LUNCH MENU		DRINKS	
Meal deal	£2.60	Water small	65p
One pot meal / Meal Only	£2.25	Water large	80p
Jacket potato + 1	£2.20	Radnor Fizz	£1.23
Jacket Potato +2	£2.50	Radnor Splash	£1.34
Hot dessert	£1.14	Aqua Juice	£1.14
Cold dessert pots	£1.14	Juice Burst	£1.55
Jelly pot	£1.26	Fresh juice carton	£1.14
Home bake	£1.46	Milkshakes	£1.37
Panini half	£1.43	Hot chocolate	£1.40
Panini whole	£2.50	Radnor fruit cans	£1.23
Sausage or bacon roll	£1.78		
Burritos	£2.50		
Prices from September 2026			
HARRISON food with thought			



WEEKLY MENU Charles Darwin - Week Two				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Curry served with Spiced Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Sausage & Mash served with Seasonal Vegetables & Onion Gravy	Roast Gammon served with Roast Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots & Gravy	Meatballs in a Rich Tomato Sauce served with Spaghetti	Traditional Fish & Chips served with Peas or Beans
Pea Protein Potato Korma	Sweet n Sour Noodles	Quorn Roast served with all the Trimmings	Sweet Potato Stew	Tofu Teriyaki Stir Fry served with Egg Noodles
Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	-
Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	-
Jam & Coconut Sponge served with Custard	Banoffee Pie	Apple & Cherry Crumble served with Custard	Jam Tart served with Cream	Dessert of the Day

Salad Bar is available each day

HARRISON
food with thought

Attendance

ATTENDANCE – BE HERE. BE PART OF IT.

What a start!

Thank you to our students, families and staff for such a positive first full week back at Charles Darwin.



Year 7 attendance: 98.59%



Year 13 attendance: 97.60%



KS3 attendance: 96.74%

A special congratulations to our leading tutor groups:

7JHd – 100% | 9SAs – 100% | 13ARu – 100%
11SHo/NDo – 99.63% | 7DLA/ADr – 99.48%

It has been particularly pleasing to see so many students establishing excellent attendance habits from the very beginning of the year. Every day in school matters, and every day is an opportunity to learn, achieve and be part of our school community.

Need some support with attendance?

We know that there can be times when attending school becomes more difficult. We want families to speak to us early so that we can work together to understand any barriers and provide the right support. Our new Attendance information for parents and carers brings together guidance on attendance, illness, reporting an absence, punctuality, term-time leave and the support available from Charles Darwin School.

Link here [Charles Darwin School - Attendance](#)

A quick reminder: If your child is absent, please contact the school before 8.30am on each day of absence, giving their name and form. If your child feels unwell during the school day, they should report to Student Services rather than contacting home directly.

Thank you for helping us make such a positive start.

Be here. Be part of it.

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043

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.

Mrs Booth
Health Care Lead



Class 7Y3/Sc3

'Year 7s love Science This week in Mr Gibson's class they were working towards achieving their Bunsen burner license. Well done to them !'

Mr Gibson's Year 13 Physicists were learning about circular motion in the best way possible ... by experiencing it ! Their enthusiasm was noticeable, that is what Physics is all about !'

Class 8Y/Sc4

'Mr Gibson's Year 8 Science class have got off to a great start this year. They were demonstrating antagonistic muscles outside in the quad - they had great fun learning how our bodies move.'

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Eliza Horsey
Chloe Blackburn
Arther Henn
Ben Smith
Zissel Laryea
Maisie Winters
Amelia Marchut
Elizabeth Adebayo
James Powley
Harrison Cavey

Student Services Duty Pupils

Bobby Shipp
Finlay Pender
Gabriella Rodrigues
Leanne Clark
Preston Roddy



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

Dates for the Diary

September

15th September - UCAS Evening

22nd September - Year 11 Parents' Information Evening

24th September - Year 10 Introduction to GCSE Parents' Information Evening

29th September - Trip: Sixth Form History Trip to Hampton Court

29th September - Year 7 Meet the Tutor, Hall

October

1st October - Sports Award Evening

9th October - Early close due to Open day

10th October - Open Day

12th-16th October - Open Morning Tours

20th-30th October - Half term

November

2nd November - Inset Day

Term dates for **2026/27** can be found by clicking on the link below:

[Charles Darwin School - Term Dates](#)

Start September on a Positive Note!

A new month is a fresh opportunity to **set goals, look after yourself, and focus on the positives.** Be kind to yourself, take things one step at a time, and remember that every small step forward is something to be proud of.

Make September a month to feel good, grow, and thrive!

Self-Care September 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 1 Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential	2 Notice the things you do well, however small	3 Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly	4 Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it	5 Forgive yourself when things go wrong. Everyone makes mistakes	6 Focus on the basics: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time	
7 Give yourself permission to say 'no'	8 Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed	9 Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect	10 When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok	11 Make time to do something you really enjoy	12 Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost	13 Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one
14 If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break	15 Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low	16 Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly	17 No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself	18 Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you	19 Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement	20 Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories
21 Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside	22 Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still	23 Let go of other people's expectations of you	24 Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love	25 Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing	26 Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents	27 Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans
 28 Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn	29 Write down three things you appreciate about yourself	30 Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**

THRIVE DANCE CO

AUDITIONS:
TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER
607 (DANCE STUDIO)
BRING KIT AND WATER

SUCCESSFUL AUDITIONS:
START DATE: MONDAY
21ST SEPTEMBER
RUNNING EVERY
MONDAY

Thrive dance company is back!

Please come and see Miss Winter if you have any questions or want to sign up to audition.

Sign up sheet is on the dance notice board.



Charles Darwin School

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

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

**Lead First Aider
One day a week (Wednesday), 38 weeks a year
£15.25 per hour (pay award pending)**

We wish to appoint a suitably qualified person to join our committed and hardworking Pastoral Team as Lead First Aider as soon as possible. The post is for one day a week –Wednesday – and we are looking for an enthusiastic and empathetic individual to deal with all aspects of First Aid for staff and students and also for named students with specific medical needs. Ideally, we would like someone to work from 8.30am to 2.30pm but there may be some flexibility for the right candidate. The successful candidate will work closely with the school's Pastoral Team and our Health Care 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 are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 18th September 2026

Please note: all applicants must complete the Lumero Educational Trust support staff application form which is available on our website: www.cdarwin.com about us/vacancies. CVs alone will not be considered.

The Trust 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 and online checks.

Charles Darwin School is part of Lumero Educational Trust

