



18.09.2026

Issue No: 1206

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Celebration of Success Assemblies

On Monday, I had the pleasure of attending the Year 11 Celebration of Success assembly. It is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the students' achievements and progress from Year 10 and a really positive way to start the new academic year for our Year 11 students.

Thursday, we also celebrated the achievements of our Year 12 and Year 13 students recognising their hard work, progress and commitment throughout the year. These assemblies are an important opportunity to celebrate not only academic success, but also the wider contributions and achievements of our students.

A huge well done to all of our students who were recognised and thank you to the staff who have supported and encouraged them along the way.

Mobile Phones

A reminder to parents and carers that students' mobile phones must be switched off and put away in their blazers or school bags from the time they arrive at the school gate until they leave. This is in response to the new law that came into force in July 2026, banning phones being used in schools by students.

Please do not message or call your child while they are at school, as this will result in them receiving a sanction if they then take their phone out. In the event of an emergency where you need to contact your child, please call enquiries on 01959 574043.

We appreciate your support in helping us to reinforce this expectation, which forms part of the Department for Education's statutory guidance on mobile phones in schools.

Policies and Procedures

Charles Darwin School and Lumero Trust policies and procedures can be found on our school website www.cdarwin.com

Early Close Friday 9th October

School will close early on Friday 9th October, with students dismissed at 12:20pm. This is to allow staff to prepare for our Open Morning on Saturday 10th October. School buses will depart at the earlier time. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Aston Smith, Headteacher



Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Lumero Educational Trust
Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Open Morning - Saturday 10th October 2026

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 or 10:30am) is essential by midday on Thursday 8th October. 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. 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.**

Early Tour (No Presentation) 9:00am Email to book your place earlytour@cdarwin.com	Presentation 1 & Tour 9:00am Email to book your place hallandtour1@cdarwin.com	Presentation 2 & Tour 10:30am Email to book your place hallandtour2@cdarwin.com
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Open Week Tours - Monday 12th to Friday 16th October

If you wish to attend one of our Open Week tours you can pre-book a tour for 8.45am or 9.00am (max. 2 people per booking). 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. No parking available on site. Pre-booking essential by midday on Friday 9th October. Priority will be given to Year 6 children.

Monday 12th October - mondaytours@cdarwin.com
Tuesday 13th October - tuesdaytours@cdarwin.com
Wednesday 14th October - wednesdaytours@cdarwin.com
Thursday 15th October - thursdaytours@cdarwin.com
Friday 16th October - fridaytours@cdarwin.com



Jail Lane Biggin Hill Westerham Kent TN16 3AU Tel: 01959 574043 Email: enquiries@cds.lumero.org Website: www.cdarwin.com

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 Three				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Schwinn Chicken Noodles	Lasagne served with Garlic Bread & a Side Salad	Roast Turkey served with Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken Tagine	Traditional Fish & Chips served with Peas or Beans
Protein Chilli Noodles	Vegetable Lasagne served with Garlic Bread & a Side Salad	Cheese & Leek Pie with all the Trimmings	Quorn Mince & Aubergine Moussaka	Vegetarian Sausage Roll served with Chips, Peas or Beans
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	-
Toffee & Vanilla sponge	Jam Roly Poly served with Custard	Apple & Cinnamon Pie served with Custard	Chocolate & Orange Sponge served with Chocolate Sauce	Dessert of the day

Available daily

Fresh Salad Bar is Available

HARRISON
food with thought



During Year 11 Celebration of Success Assembly which took place on Monday 14 September 70 students received an award and 87 students were recognised for positive progress.



What a great start to Year 11!

Miss Gillespie
Year 11 Achievement Co-ordinator



On the 29th August, Zara in Year 8, took part in the British Triathlon National championships at Mallory Park, Leicestershire. She had been selected to compete in the event following her success in the South East regional events this year, having secured her ranking as number 1 in the region.

In the individual race, whilst competing against the top triathletes in her age group from across England, Wales and Scotland, Zara secured a fantastic silver medal position.

The following day, in the team event, Zara led her mixed relay team of 4 to a win over all of the other regions, securing 1st place and gold medal position for the South East region.

Congratulations Zara what an amazing achievement!

Miss Davies
Year 8 Achievement Co-ordinator

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR (SEPTEMBER TO JANUARY 26/27)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1.10 – 1.50pm					Trampolining Year 7 Only (Boys/Girls) Gym hall <u>PAID VIA PARENT PAY</u> TAB
After school 3.00 – 4/4.15pm	Football Training Y9/Y10 (Boys) Field/3G JBI/JAL	Football Training Y7/Y8 (Boys) Field/3G JBI/JAL	6 th form Football Y12/Y13 (Boys) Field/3G JBI	Football Training Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 (Girls) Field/3G CON	FIXTURE CATCH UP DAY
	Rugby Training Y7/Y8 (Boys) AND Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 (Girls) Field/3G SHU	Rugby Training Y9/Y10 (Boys) Field/3G SHU	Gymnastics Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 (Girls/Boys) Gym hall APR	Trampolining Year 8-13 (Boys/Girls) Gym hall <u>PAID VIA PARENT PAY</u> TAB/APR	
	Sport Fixtures All years (Girls/Boys) Home/Away ALL STAFF	Netball Training Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 (Girls) Courts/Sports hall LWR/NDO	Sport Fixtures All years (Girls/Boys) Home/Away ALL STAFF	Sport Fixtures All years (Girls/Boys) Home/Away ALL STAFF	
	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.				

Attendance

A Strong Start to the Year

Thank you to all students, parents and carers for your continued support with attendance. Attendance remains one of the biggest factors in student success, and we have seen some excellent figures during the opening weeks of the academic year

Whole School Attendance

Our overall attendance across Years 7-11 last week was **95.1%**

Highest Attending Year Group

 **Year 7** led the way with an impressive attendance figure of **98.1%**.

Tutor Group Champions

Congratulations to our highest-attending tutor groups:

9GCu/CMe - **99.7%** attendance

7DLa/ADr - **99.4%** attendance

7EKa/CAh - **99.4%** attendance

7JHd - **99.4%** attendance

7JAI - **99.3%** attendance

Why Attendance Matters

Every lesson counts. Excellent attendance helps students to:

- Build positive routines and habits.
- Develop confidence and resilience.
- Achieve their full academic potential.
- Maintain strong friendships and wellbeing.

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring students are in school, on time and ready to learn each day. Together, we can make every lesson count.

When school feels hard

Sometimes worry about school can begin to make mornings, attendance or particular parts of the day feel difficult.

We have created a short **When School Feels Hard** guide for families, with practical advice on what you can do at home and the support we can put in place at school.

If you are beginning to notice a pattern, please talk to us early. Contact your child's Head of Year or pastoral team so that we can work together on the next step. Small steps. Calm support. Back to belonging.

Full Guide here [CDS attendance support.pdf](#)

Mr Holmes
Trust Attendance Lead

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.

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Sofia Liccardo
Madison Icoz
Logan Ferrige
Theo Marsh
Isla Atkins
Zissel Laryea
Billy Farrant
Brodie Hayter
Bella Cunliffe
Madison Icoz



Student Services Duty Pupils

Emily Bugden
Eason Vince
La-Jaune Carrdice
Faith Cooling
Joshua Latter

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

Dates for the Diary

September

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](#)



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

Wellbeing Webinars

For Young People

Stress & Worry Management

Mon 13 July @ 5:00pm
Mon 28 Sept @ 5:00pm
Sat 14 Nov @ 10:00am
Fri 11 Dec @ 5:00pm



Managing Academic Stress: Developing Healthy Study Habits

Fri 18 Sept @ 5:00pm
Sat 17 Oct @ 10:00am
Mon 9 Nov @ 5:00pm

For Parents & Carers

Helping Your Child With Fears & Worries (Primary)

Fri 31 July @ 10:00 am
Fri 25 Sept @ 12:00pm
Fri 20 Nov @ 10:00am

Helping Your Child with Fears & Worries (Secondary)

Fri 17 July @ 10:00am
Fri 23 Oct @ 10:00am
Mon 14 Dec @ 10:00am

Changing from Primary to Secondary School

Fri 3 July @ 10:00am
Mon 20 July @ 10:00am
Mon 3 Aug @ 10:00am
Fri 14 Aug @ 10:00am
Sat 5 Sept @ 10:00am

Helping Your Child With Sleep (Primary)

Mon 6 July @ 12:00pm
Fri 11 Sept @ 12:00pm
Mon 26 Oct @ 12:00pm
Sat 5 Dec @ 10:00am



Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Fri 28 Aug @ 10:00am
Mon 14 Sept @ 10:00am
Fri 6 Nov @ 10:00am

Visit our [Eventbrite page](#) to book your place



bromley-y.org



[ebromley_y_](https://www.instagram.com/ebromley_y_)



[ebromley_y_](https://twitter.com/ebromley_y_)



[ebromleyywellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/ebromleyywellbeing)

Webinars for young people

Stress and Worry Management for Young People

These webinars cover all aspects of emotional wellbeing difficulties **with a different focus each month** on the difficulties young people may be facing at that time in their academic lives. For example, focusing on preparation for exams and exam stress at certain times of the year or adapting to change when starting at a new school and making new friends in the early Autumn term.

Developing Healthy Study Habits

This webinar aims to help you understand **academic stress** better and help you to create healthy study habits which makes this stress easier to manage. This webinar will also offer options for the 'next steps' should you want further support. Parents/Carers are welcome to join the webinar too.

Webinars for parents

Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Helping Children and Young People with Anxiety, Fears and Worries

Helping Children with Sleep Difficulties

CHARLES DARWIN PTA INVITE YOU TO OUR...



To win some BIG cash prizes!

Introducing extra games
including : " Play your
Cards Right"

**Book
Now!**



**Tickets purchased before 13th Oct
only £8 instead of £10.**



Friday 13th November

★ **Eyes down @ 7.30pm** ★



Tickets £10 per person which includes entry and one set of
game tickets



Bring your own food and drink (we will be selling soft drinks
and snacks)



Extra games, bonus round and dabbers will be available to
purchase



Book Now:

**[https://friends-of-charles-darwin-
school.sumupstore.com](https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com)**

Early Bird tickets, before 13th October are just £8: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/> or £10 per ticket nearer the time.

We are introducing a new game "Play your Cards Right' as a teaser for a future event.

Hope to see you there.



Charles Darwin School

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

**Jail Lane
Biggin Hill
Westerham
Kent TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043
enquiries@cds.lumero.org**

**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 to provide First Aid one day a week (Wednesday). The successful candidate should be an enthusiastic and empathetic individual who will 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.

Whilst ideally we are looking for someone with first aid skills, we are able to provide training where necessary.

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 2nd October 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

