



02.10.2026

Issue No: 1208

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Year 7 Induction / Meet the Tutor

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and students to school on Tuesday for our Year 7 Meet the Tutor event, an important part of the transition and induction process. The evening provided a valuable opportunity for families to meet tutors, build relationships and learn more about life at the school. My thanks go to the Year 7 team for organising the event, to the form tutors who attended and to all staff who supported the evening.

Driven by Consequences

On Tuesday, our Year 12 & 13 students attended Driven by Consequences, an award winning, impactful interactive event targeted at young drivers and passengers. The thought-provoking road safety event delivered by the London Borough of Bromley Road Safety Team in partnership with a range of organisations, including London Air Ambulance, London Fire Brigade, the Metropolitan Police and families of local victims.

The programme featured a hard-hitting Coroner's Inquest workshop, designed to explore how human factors influence driving behaviour and decision-making, helping students make informed choices about their own safety and the safety of others on the road. The programme also included *Lillian's Law*, which provided a powerful insight into the devastating impact that drug driving can have on individuals, families, and communities.

We are incredibly grateful to the many professionals who generously gave their time and expertise to support this event. The real impact of the day may never be fully known, but it has undoubtedly provided our students with valuable lessons that could help save lives in the future.

Special thanks go to Mrs Johnson, KS5 Pastoral Support Manager for organising this exceptional event and to the Sixth Form Team for their support in making it such a success.



Sports Award

Our Sports Awards Evening took place on Thursday and was a wonderful celebration of the resilience, commitment and achievements of our talented young athletes. We were delighted to welcome Susie Appleby, former England Women's Rugby player whose inspiring speech was a highlight of the evening along with Maxine Edwards who received an MBE in 2010 for services to Women's Rugby and was also a teacher at our school for over 20 years.

A huge thank you to Miss Owen and the PE Department for their hard work in making the event such a success. Their continued passion and commitment to promoting and championing sport across the school provide invaluable opportunities for our students to thrive and succeed.



Attendance

As we move into the colder months, seasonal illnesses can have an impact on attendance. Whilst students should remain at home when they are genuinely unwell, regular school attendance is vital for maintaining progress, routines and friendships. Building the resilience to overcome minor setbacks and be present each day is an important life skill that supports both academic success and personal growth. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging excellent attendance and helping every student make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Early Close Friday 9th October

A reminder that next Friday is an early close for students to allow staff time to prepare for Open Day on Saturday 10 October. Students will be dismissed at 12.20.

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

Calling all creative students!

Christmas Card Competition

*Design the Charles Darwin School
Christmas Card*



There will be 2 winners one
from KS3 and one from KS4/5



Submit your A5 size festive design
with your name and form on the back
to Reception



Winners will get an Amazon voucher
and their card professionally produced
as our official Christmas card, plus
prizes for runners up

Closing date 5th November



ASPIRE – ENDEAVOUR – ACHIEVE

History Cake Competition

Theme: Medieval

Are you a budding baker? Or do you just love cake and history – this is the competition for you!

Bake a cake and enter our competition!

When: 8th/9th October – Winners announced on 10th October (cakes will be eaten at the Open Morning)

Where: drop the cakes to the **history department on the 8th/9th October.** – Winner's will be chosen on our Open Morning event on 10th October

What: Make a cake that is set in the **Medieval era** – the gruesome the better – exploding buboes, a plague rat, stinky Thames, the possibilities are endless!!!

Who: ALL year groups are welcome to enter Year 7 to Year 13!

Why: Why not! We love cake and we love history!



Inktober Competition 2026

Each year we participate in Inktober, which is an international drawing challenge. **All schools across our trust will be competing!**

Using the prompts create a drawing everyday for the month of October.

Although it is called Inktober, you can enter in any medium, drawn or digital.

You can print the grid on the next slide or create your own.

There will be finalists for best individual image, best portfolio and overall winners.

Inktober
2026

OFFICIAL 2026 PROMPT LIST

APPLE	TOSS	DAPPER
RELIC	FLIMSY	BAKE
MINIATURE	LADY	FRACTURE
CACTUS	HOORAY	ZIP
SMACK	GANGLY	DUMB
OGRE	CONTRAPTION	TROPHY
PANIC	FLIGHTLESS	TUSK
STINKY	CONFUSED	COOKIE
RAM	LOUNGE	FLEX
MYSTICAL	HERO	
RESCUE	BEACON	



Examples from last year

You can create your own grid or pick up one from the main reception.

Have fun drawing!

Mrs Broad

Make a difference = at our school = Parent Governor Vacancy



Charles Darwin
School

Your voice
matters

A vacancy has arisen for a **Parent Governor** to join our committed Local Governing Body.



No special qualifications

You do not need any specific qualifications.



No prior experience needed

Just an interest in supporting our school and students.



Meetings

We hold 5 meetings a year, which take place at the school on a Monday evening.



A specific responsibility

Every Governor has a specific responsibility area.

We would like to actively encourage
our new parents to join us!



A formal election will take place
in the next few weeks.



In the meantime, anyone interested in applying should contact either Helen Hartley, Chair of Governors, (hhartley@CDS.lumero.org) or Julie Hodgkinson, Clerk to the Governors (jhodgkinson@lumero.org) for further details.

Menu for the week 05.10.2026

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

Sealed for is available each day

HARRISON[®]
food with thought



A big well done to the Relationship Ambassadors who performed in the year 7 assembly this week.

They performed a devised piece of drama which focused on online relationships and in particular how trolling and AI can be used to hurt and humiliate.

They all performed with confidence and commitment and clearly communicated the serious message of the performance.

Well done to the following students for being such brilliant role models-Lily May Smith, Lucie Kempster, Emily Lynch. Sydney Daniels, Matilda O'Sullivan, Jamie Lett, Sophie Dilling and Freya Chandler.

Miss Currie
Head of Drama



In June Layla Mai in Year 8, took part in the Junior Premier League Warriors National Finals at The University of Warwick, Coventry. She represented Millwall FC Academy as goalkeeper after her team having won the U12 Premier League, The London Cup and having been in the JPL Cup Final too.

She also had been awarded as an individual for conceding the least amount of goals in her league with the most 'clean sheets' kept.

Her team went on to win the Nationals and gained the accolade of best U12 girls JPL Warrior team in the UK for last season.

She is an advocate for neurodiversity and SEN children playing sports as has ADHD and dyslexia.

She uses her football to skills acquired to represent the Year 8 girl's football team as Captain and play up with Year 9 in goal for the upcoming Cup games.

Congratulations Layla Mai what an amazing achievement!

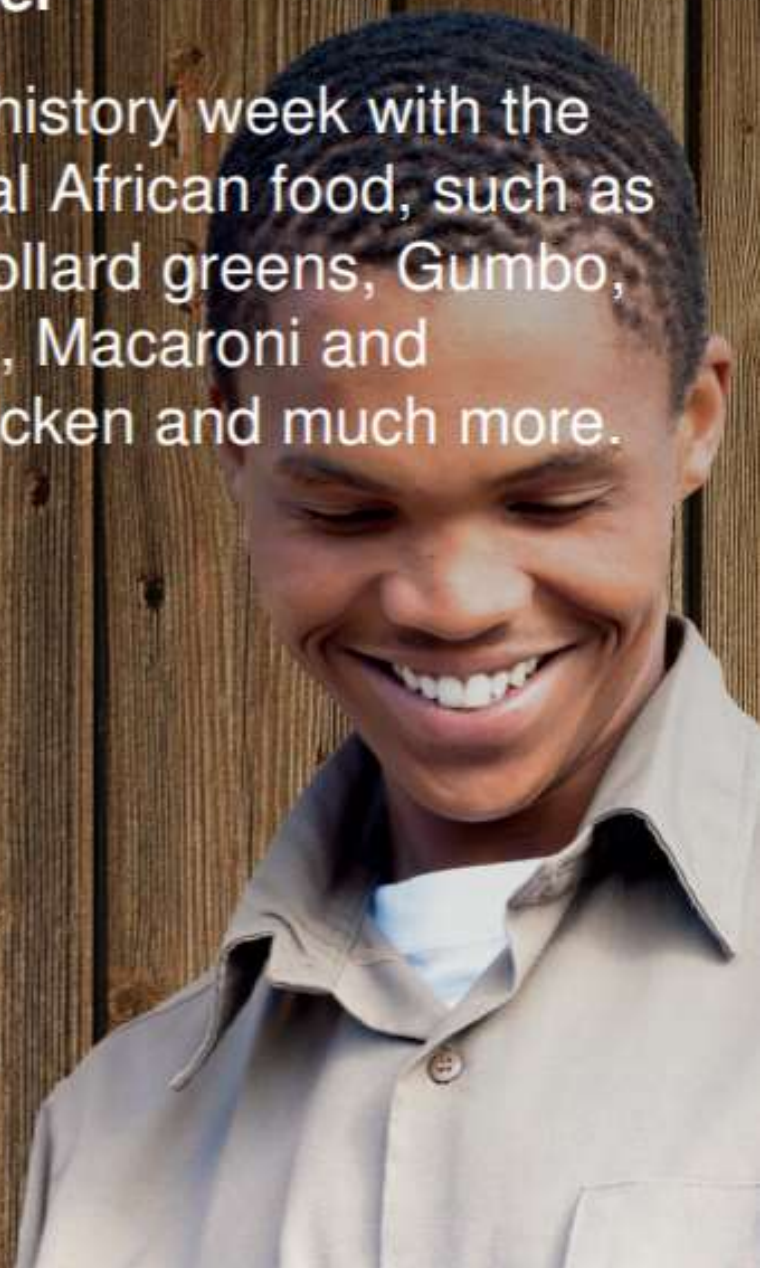
Miss Davies
Year 8 Achievement Co-ordinator

Celebrate

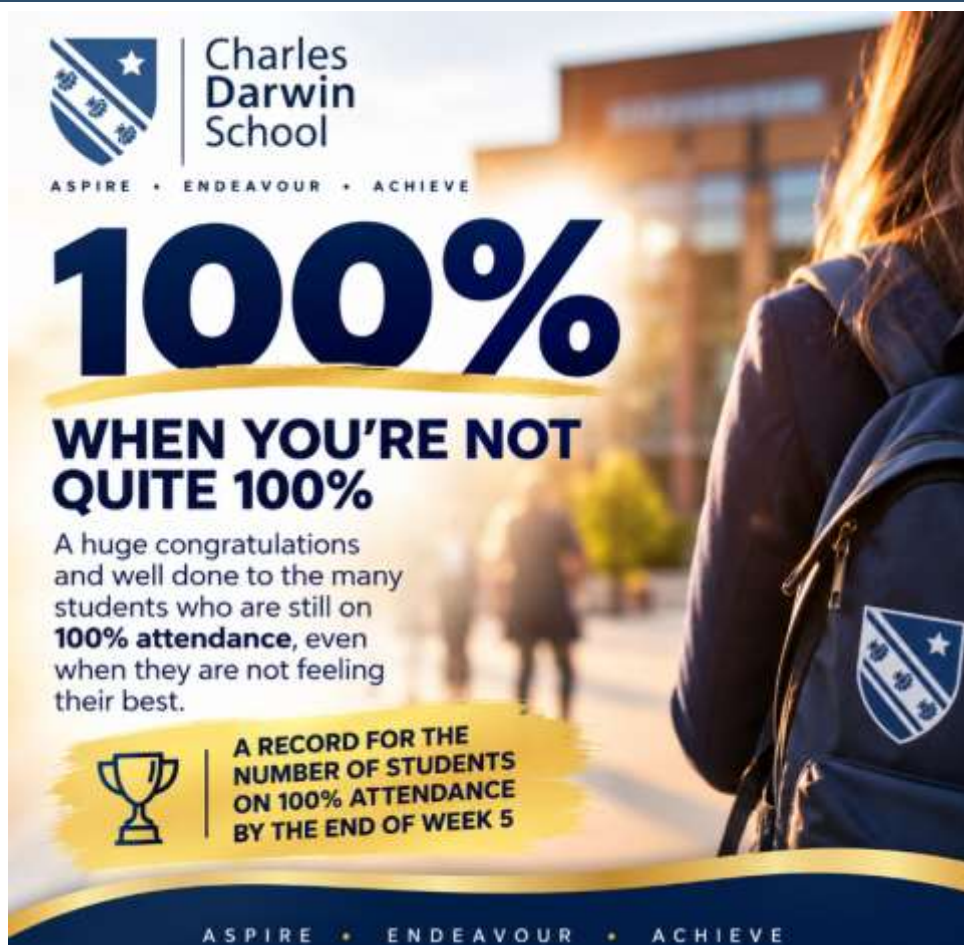
Black History Week

5th to 9th October

Join us for black history week with the taste of traditional African food, such as Fried Chicken, Collard greens, Gumbo, Sweet Potato Pie, Macaroni and Cheese, Jerk Chicken and much more.



Attendance



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

**THIS SCHOOL
IS NUT FREE**



Several students and staff members live with **severe life-threatening nut allergies**. Even trace amounts resulting from minor contact or airborne exposure can potentially trigger a serious anaphylactic reaction.

Please ensure that no nuts or products containing nuts are brought into school.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Mrs Booth
Health Care Lead

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Bethany Mears	Santana McDonald
Ellie Graham	Izzy Young
Zlat Hristov	Izzy Bakewell
Vinnie Gornall	Joey Sadler
Rebel Almeida	Seb Bella



Student Services Duty Pupils

Daisy Shier
Isabella Jarred
Elizabeth Cragg
Sophia Bailey
Miah Keegan

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

Dates for the Diary

October

9th October - Early close due to Open day, students dismissed at 12.20

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](#)

Term dates for 2027/28 can be found by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.lumero.org/LET-Term-Dates/>

CHARLES DARWIN PTA INVITE YOU TO OUR...

B I N G O

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>

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.

PTA

Please see below the advice from Metropolitan Police about anti-theft protection on phones. Please look through some helpful tips to keep your phone safe in regards with the new iPhone coming out soon.

For more information please visit the link below:

[Be Switched On | Metropolitan Police](#)

BE SWITCHED ON

Keep your phone safe in under 30 seconds!

Your phone contains lots of personal information. If it's stolen, criminals could try to access your messages, photos, accounts and money.



1 TURN ON ANTI-THEFT PROTECTION



iPhone:
Stolen Device Protection



Android:
Theft Detection Lock

These features can help protect your phone if someone steals it.

2 LOCK IT!



- Use Face ID, fingerprint or a strong passcode.
- Set your phone to auto-lock quickly.
- Keep your software up to date.



3 WATCH WHO'S WATCHING



- Be careful when entering your PIN or password in public.
- Don't let strangers borrow your phone.



4 PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFO



- Don't keep photos of your passport, driving licence or other ID on your phone.
- Use different passwords for important accounts.
- Don't save passwords or PINs in your Notes app.
- Use Secure Folder on Android or protect/hide sensitive apps and photos on iPhone.



5 HIDE MESSAGE PREVIEWS



- Turn off notifications showing message contents on your lock screen.

This can stop someone seeing banking or login codes.



6 KNOW YOUR IMEI



Dial ***#06#** to find your phone's IMEI number.

Keep it somewhere safe and away from your phone.



! IF YOUR PHONE IS STOLEN

1 LOCK IT REMOTELY



Use **Lost Mode** on iPhone or **Remote Lock** on Android.

2 CONTACT YOUR BANK



Tell them your phone has been stolen and check your accounts.

3 CONTACT YOUR MOBILE PROVIDER



Ask them to protect your number/SIM.

4 CHANGE IMPORTANT PASSWORDS



Start with email, banking and social media.

5 REPORT IT



If you're in danger or theft has just happened, call **999**. Otherwise, report it via **101** or online.

BE SMART. BE AWARE. BE SWITCHED ON.

A few seconds of preparation could save you a lot of trouble later.



Charles Darwin School

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

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

Senior Learning Support Assistant NJC Scale 3 – 36 hours a week, 40 weeks a year £26,727 (actual salary)

We wish to appoint a Senior Learning Support Assistant to lead and supervise the work of our team of Learning Support Assistants. The successful candidate will ensure that students with Special Educational Needs and groups of students who require additional support receive the highest possible standards of care and education, ensuring that they are safe, secure and successful. Experience of a similar role in another school would be advantageous.

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 Tuesday 13th 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

