06.11.2026 Issue: 1211 The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

Welcome back to all our families. I hope you had an enjoyable and restful half term break.

**Remembrance Ceremonies**
The Biggin Hill Act of Remembrance takes place at the War Memorial on Sunday 8th November from 10:50 am. I will be attending along with our Prefects, to lay a wreath on behalf of our students, staff, governors, and trustees. Many students and families are expected to attend, representing local community organisations.

On 11th November we will hold a short remembrance ceremony at school in the quad. Miss Mace will play The Last Post before a wreath is laid. My thanks to Miss Mace for leading this for us.

**Making Our Parent Communications More Accessible**
We have reviewed a range of communications with parents and carers and have taken the decision to adjust the language used to ensure accessibility. We want to make sure that all information we share with parents and carers is clear, easy to read and easy to understand. This is part of our commitment to making our school as inclusive as possible for all stakeholders.

We are looking at the language we use in our letters, messages and newsletters. We want to use clear, simple wording and avoid unnecessary abbreviations, acronyms or jargon (words that may not be familiar to everyone). These small changes will help us keep everyone informed and make sure that important school information is easy for all families to understand.

**Mr Beezy**
We welcomed Mr Beezy back to school this week. He gave an inspiring talk to our Year 10 students as they start to prepare for their end-of-year GCSE PPEs. Mr Beezy is an international motivational speaker who is known for his powerful messages, including “No Grind, No Glory” and “Year 10 is where GCSE success is built”. He encouraged students to take responsibility for their learning, build good study habits and stay focused on their goals. Our current Year 11 students will remember the inspiring talk he gave them in April.

**Dates for the Diary**
The “Dates for the Diary” section in each newsletter tells you about upcoming school events. This includes trips, activities and changes to the school day, such as INSET days. Please take a few moments to read this section each week so you know what is coming up.

**Christmas Card Competition**
There is still time to enter our Design a Christmas Card Competition!
The closing date has been extended to **9am on Monday 9th November**. The winning design will be used on our official school Christmas card. There will also be prizes for the winner and runners-up.

Aston Smith, Headteacher



# Charles Darwin School
# Sixth Form Open Evening



**No booking required**

## Thursday 12th November 2026
## 5.30pm - 7.30pm

*Subject departments will be available from 5.30pm - 7.30pm, with a presentation in the Main Hall at 6:00pm.*

*Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve*


Email: sixthform@cdarwin.com
Web: www.cdarwin.com

Jail Lane, Biggin Hill,
Westerham, Kent, TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043


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

Ofsted Good School

# Bromley FC visit Charles Darwin School

On Monday 12th October, our Year 9 and 10 football teams had a special visit from players at Bromley FC during one of their training sessions.

The visit was arranged with the help of Marc Hooper, a local businessman who has kindly sponsored our new Year 9 football kit. Marc also used his links with the club to arrange for four Bromley FC players to visit the school. The group included two regular first-team players and former Charles Darwin School student, Jedd Hobbs.

The visit started with a question-and-answer session. Students had the chance to ask the players about their football careers, how they got started in the game and what it is like to play in the Football League. The players shared stories and advice, giving our young footballers plenty of inspiration.

Next, students from the Year 9 and 10 teams chose the Bromley FC players to coach them during their training session. After a warm-up, everyone took part in a competitive football match. The players joined in, offering helpful tips and cheering on the students. There was a great atmosphere, with plenty of fun along the way! The players also enjoyed giving the referee, Mr Allen, some friendly advice from the sidelines!

At the end of the visit, Bromley FC gave the school a signed home shirt and match ball. These special gifts will be proudly displayed at Charles Darwin School.

A huge thank you to Marc Hooper and Bromley FC for making this visit possible. It was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 9 and 10 footballers to meet professional players, learn new skills and enjoy an unforgettable football experience.

**Mr Allen**



# Year 8 and 9 Extended Assemblies Wednesday 11th November

Year 10 and Year 8 students will take part in an extended assembly about challenging misogyny (negative attitudes and unfair treatment towards women and girls) and how to be an active bystander. This means learning how to safely speak up or take action when we see someone being treated unfairly.
The assembly will be led by Talk Consent. An email has been sent home to parents and carers with more information.

If you have any questions or would like to see the presentation slides or other materials before the assembly, please email Miss Currie at gcurrie@cds.lumero.org

**Miss Currie**




Closing date to hand in your Christmas cards entries extended to **9th November.**




Date to hand in your Inktober entries is
**Thursday 12th November**
Please hand in to Mrs Broad or the Art Office.




Want to enjoy FREE hot chocolate and a doughnut in December?
Fancy a tasty treat? All you need to do is get involved with our Library Award!

Borrow books from the library.

Return them on time.

Earn your library certificates.

It's that simple! The more you read, the closer you get to your December treat!

**Read. Return. Earn. Be Invited!**




Well done to the following form groups for being in the top three for scoring the highest number of points on Bedrock last week:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 8COn |
| 2 | 7SAr |
| 3 | 8LBr |

Bedrock Learning

Also, a massive shout out to the following top ten students for achieving the highest number of points across KS3:

| | |
|---|---|
| Jack Delaney | 502 |
| Antoni Wroblewski | 227 |
| Abigail Young | 217 |
| Lily-Rose McKinley | 194 |
| Evelyn Burroughs | 182 |
| Ethan Treasure | 174 |
| Evie Murphy | 162 |
| Alisia Muckle-Whyte | 159 |
| Jack Horgan | 155 |
| Logan Stevens | 153 |




**Mr Cornish**

# Medieval History Cake Competition – Winners!

What amazing cake entries! There were so many cakes the new Year 6 students were delighted and so impressed by all the cakes. Thank you for all your hard work and effort.

**Ms Quinn**













**The Winner! 1st Place: Poppi T 8LBr**
For her super gruesome Black Death victim – it even had exploding buboes! Gross!

**2nd Place:** Dylan J 8LBr

**Joint 3rd Place:**
Oscar M 7SGi
Jan M 7EKa/CAh



Mrs Stroud, Mrs Broad and our talented Year 10, 12 and 13 Textiles students have worked together to create a special waistcoat to mark Remembrance Day.
The waistcoat is a beautiful piece of work and a way to remember and thank the men and women of our Armed Forces for their service and the sacrifices they have made.

You can see the waistcoat on display in the school's main reception.

**Canteen menu from week 09.11.2026**

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 |

Salad Bar is available each day

HARRISON food with thought

### Year 8 Duty Pupils

Harley Harriott
Cruz Roberts
Archie Hyland
Eleanor Pole
Noah Ivaldi
Ruby Stribbling-Donnelly
Albie Tucker
Tommy Stevenson




### Students Services Duty Pupils

Scarlett Kemp
Fay Paton
Reggie Ruggins
Rebecca Harries

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

First aid

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**

# Attendance

**One week back, six to go, every day counts!**

Thank you to all our families for your support during our first week back. There are six weeks until the Christmas break. Every day in school is a chance to learn, see friends and make progress.

We ended last half term with rewards and celebrations across all year groups. It was lovely to celebrate students' hard work and effort. Let's keep that going this half term!

We know the mornings are colder and the weather is changing. Getting out of bed can feel harder! Packing bags, getting coats ready and checking travel plans the night before can help children arrive on time and ready to learn.

If transport problems or severe weather mean your child cannot get to school, please tell our attendance team as soon as possible. Explain what has happened so we can record it correctly. Some problems, such as school transport not running or an emergency causing major travel problems, may not count against your child's attendance. This depends on what has happened, so please contact us to check.

If your child is finding it hard to come to school for any reason, please get in touch early. We can work together to help.

Thank you for helping your child make every day count.

**Mr Holmes**
**Trust Attendance Lead**




Dear Parents/Carers,
Just a reminder that from this Monday, you **will no longer be able to reply to text** messages from school letting you know that your child is absent.

If your child is off school, please call the **main absence line: 01959 574 043 press option 1**, and leave a message for the Attendance Team.
Thank you for your help and support.

**The Attendance Team**

# Dates for the Diary

**November**
**9th November** -Trip: GCSE Choreography Day, Laban, London
**11th November** -In school Remembrance Day Service
**12th November** -Trip**:** A Level Chemistry Live, London
**12th November** -Sixth Form Open Evening, 5.30pm
**13th November** –World Kindness Day
**18th November** - Trip: Year 11 & Year 13 History in Action, London Emanuel Centre
**20th November** -The Utilita Girls Cup 2026/27 - CopperJax Community Stadium
**26th November** -Trip: Physics Live, London
**30th November** - Governors Meeting

**December**
**1st December** –Year 7 Award Trip to Winter Wonderland
**3rd December** -Trip: Design in Action, Emanuel Centre London

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 School**

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

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

**Temporary Learning Support Assistant**
**(to include personal care)**
**30 hours a week, 38 weeks a year**
**9am to 3pm Monday to Friday (term time only)**
**Actual salary £20993**

We wish to appoint a temporary Learning Support Assistant who is willing to provide personal care for a female student. The successful candidate will join a well-established team supporting a range of students' needs in class, in small groups and/or specialised individual learning. Applicants should ideally have experience of working with students with a range of Special Educational Needs. Applicants should have good English and Maths skills (GCSE equivalent grade C or above) and be confident working with IT.

We are a "good" school (Ofsted 2023) with an ethos that encourages academic rigour, high expectations and a well-disciplined approach to learning.

We wish to appoint as soon as possible and would welcome applications by Thursday 12th November. However, we reserve the right to interview and appoint to this position before the advertised closing date. Applications will therefore be considered as they are received, and interested candidates are encouraged to apply at the earliest opportunity.
Should an exceptional candidate be identified, the vacancy may be closed early.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – key information – vacancies.

**Please note: all applicants must complete the Lumero Educational Trust 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

Lumero
EDUCATIONAL TRUST