



10.05.2024

Issue No: 1121

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### Year 10 Parents' Evening

As we approach the halfway point of courses the focus of conversation was around being GCSE ready, which included developing the right habits for success. It was pleasing to see such a busy evening, focussed on how we can work together to support our children to achieve their potential.

### Reward Trips

Congratulations to all 80 of the year 9 students that made it onto the Ninja Warrior Trip as part of our rewards program recognising a range of positive aspects including behaviour, effort, attendance and our Aspire, Endeavour and Achieve values. Also congratulations to the 30 year 10 students who are doing Go Ape at Battersea Park as I write this newsletter!

### Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the parent survey. We received a total of 322 responses, and we will share the results with you later this term.

### Uniform

Please take note of the following uniform reminders ahead of a series of whole school uniform checks:

- Jumpers are optional, but blazers are compulsory and must be worn every day
- Trainers are not part of the school uniform. If a student has a medical need for trainers, they should have a note explaining the medical reason
- Hoodies are not acceptable as coats
- Students are not allowed to wear any jewellery (watches permitted)

For a full reminder of the school uniform please refer to page 5 in the school planner.

### Examinations

To all students beginning their examinations this week, I would like to wish you good luck. Remember that your teachers are here to support you throughout this journey. You can do it! My top tips right now are good sleep, healthy eating, exercise and open conversations with friends, family and teachers with how well students are managing the exam period. Try to find some time this week to take a break from work and revision and have some fun as a family when you can and enjoy the warmer weather over the weekend.

*Aston Smith, Headteacher*

## Reminder - Key Stage 3 Exams

Parents/Carers should have received an email from the school last week regarding KS3 exams after half term:

Year 7 and 8 exams - Monday 3 June to Friday 14 June

Year 9 exams – Monday 10 June to Friday 21 June

These assessments will take a variety of forms depending on the subject. Children will have it explained to them in the next few weeks leading up to half term how best to prepare for these exams. Some lesson time will be given to support this, but the expectation is that revision and preparation will also be needed at home. Techniques on how best to revise are being covered during tutorial time in school and further support will be given during assemblies leading up to the exam period.

From Monday 13 May in the 2 weeks leading up to half term, class teachers will be telling their classes when their class exams will be so that this can be recorded in the blank timetable in their planners (page 98 and 99). This will allow organisation of revision before the relevant exam. Satchel One will also be used by teachers to confirm areas to revise and prepare before sitting exams alongside helpful resources.

Please can I ask parents/carers to encourage preparation for these exams in the next weeks, including supporting revision over half term and with having all necessary equipment in advance. The results of these exams will be shared in the final report sent home this academic year and may inform settings and groupings from September 2024.

Many thanks.

**Mrs Rees**

# Personal Development Curriculum in Tutor time

Each morning, students have a 20 minutes registration/ Tutorial period with their form tutor. Once a week during this same time, an assembly is also held for each year group.

	Autumn 1		Autumn 2		Spring 1	Spring 2		Summer 1		Summer 2
<b>Year 7</b>	SLANT/ SPACE/ STEPS  Our behaviour for learning	Making Friends (healthy relationships)	Anti- Bullying  (kindness and mutual respect)	Attendance	Confidence and Self Esteem	Careers	Tolerance and Diversity	Safety Online	Revision Techniq ues	Big questions (reasoning and debating skills)
<b>Year 8</b>	Role Models and Aspirations		E-Safety		Self Esteem	The Darwin Way		Revision, study skills and Growth Mind-set		Tolerance and Diversity
<b>Year 9</b>	Physical and mental wellbeing		Career and options		Careers and options	Diversity and tolerance		E-safety and exam prep		Exam revision and attitude to learning
<b>Year 10</b>	Healthy relationships and consent		The Big Debate		Nation Building	Careers		PPE Exam Prep		Prep for Y11
<b>Year 11</b>	RSE		Revision & resilience		Post 16 pathways (careers)	Power & prepare to perform		Power & prepare to perform		N/A
<b>Year 12</b>	How to be a sixth form student – organisation including effective use of study time and folder		Reflection on Week 6 Assessments The Art of independent learning		Next steps – your future / your career.	Employability Skills and CV's		Effective revision strategies		Summer exams, end of year reflection preparation for work placements, uni open day research  Sixth form prefect applications
<b>Year 13</b>	Reflection of Year 12 Organisation and independent study recap Next steps – UCAS / Apprenticeships CV's		Next steps – UCAS / Apprenticeships/ CV's		Reflection on Term 1, goals and aspirations for PPE2	Effective revision strategies		End of year exam preparation		Summer exams

The themes of work covered during tutor time this year have been as above:

It is essential that your son/daughter is in school every morning before 8.30am so that they don't miss this important part of their Personal Development curriculum

Mrs Rees



**THANK YOU!**

The English Department would like to say a massive thank you to the Charles Darwin School PTA for providing funds for mini whiteboards.

Each English classroom now has a full set. The students are enjoying using them and it's helping students to gain more confidence in getting involved interactively in lessons. Thank you so much.

Mrs Sharon Holloway  
English Teacher & Head of KS3 English



## School Uniform Grant

Please see the link below for more information:

[School Uniform Grant | There for You \(UNISON Welfare\) | UNISON National](#)



As you will be aware, Charles Darwin School is part of the Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards scheme: a reward and recognition initiative which enables schools and youth organisations to celebrate the achievements of their young people as well as receive additional funding.

As a Jack Petchey Foundation Gold school we are able to make a total of 12 awards throughout the year to recognise students' outstanding effort or achievement both in and out of school; nine awards for Years 7 to 11 and 3 awards under the Sixth Form scheme.

Each month students and staff are invited to nominate a pupil from a designated year group and then have the opportunity to vote for one of the nominations in the ballot.

"The Jack Petchey Award is open to all year groups and across all subjects at Charles Darwin School," explains Mrs Rees, Deputy Headteacher and Co-ordinator of the award. "We see this as a valuable way of recognising the efforts and achievements of pupils as well as inspiring them and developing their self-confidence. It is always a pleasure to see how many committed and motivated young people there are at the Borough Award ceremony each year."

Please see below our list of award winners for Autumn term 2023 and Spring term 2024:

Autumn term 2023:

September 2023 Max Parish – Year 10  
 October 2023 Taliyah-Rae Dwyer-Waite Year 11  
 October 2023 Harry Burch – Year 13  
 November 2023 Owen Asemota – Year 8

Spring term 2024:

January 2024 David Vizitiu – Year 9  
 February 2024 Pallika Ramanth – Year 7  
 February 2024 Sophia Kenward – Year 12  
 March 2024 Chloe McGonigal – Year 12  
 March 2024 Tillie Bansel – Year 11

Summer term 2024: To be confirmed

Mrs Rees

**PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUMMER TERM 23/24**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunch</b> 1.10 – 1.50					
<b>After school</b> 3-4.15	Cricket Training Y7/8 (Boys and Girls) Sportshall ORO/JBI	Rounders All years (Girls) Field NDO/LWR/CON	Athletics All years (Boys and Girls) Sportshall SHU/JHE	Cricket Training Y9/Y10 (Boys and Girls) Field/3G JBI/ORO	GCSE/BTEC Revision Year 11 RE2/RE1 CON/JBI/NDO/ORO
		Rounders Games All years (Girls) Field NDO/LWR/CON	Rounders Games All years (Girls) Field NDO/LWR/CON	Trampolineing All years 3:30-5 PAY ON PARENT PAY	<b>FIXTURE CATCH UP DAY</b>
	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.				
		Cricket Games All years (Boys) Sportshall JBI/ORO		Cricket Games Year 8-13 (Boys) JBI/ORO	

## KS3 Art

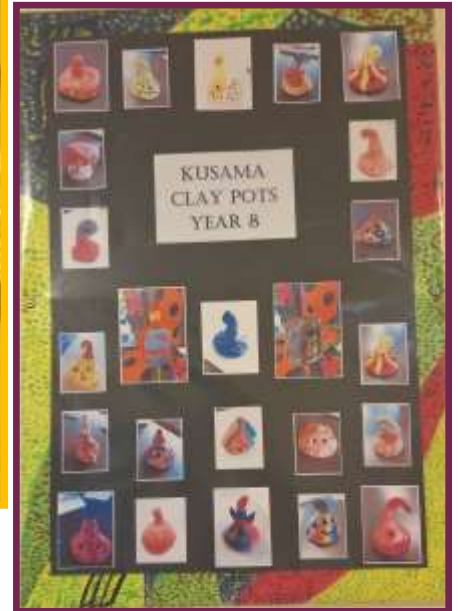
Key stage three have been busy working on various Art projects this year and have produced some amazing work that is now on display around the school.

Year 7 have been looking at the formal elements including the use of colour, line, shape, pattern and tone.

Year 8 have been studying Yayoi Kusama creating clay pots, and have moved onto Expressionism and created expressive A3 portraits using charcoal.

Year 9 looked at Consumerism and Great British Values alongside the work of Peter Blake and created their own interpretation of this to produce a group waistcoat.

Miss Doughty



### School Cleaners (£13.77 per hour)

We are looking to appoint a number of school cleaners to join our committed Site Team. Actual hours are negotiable but are likely to be between 3.00pm – 7.30pm Monday – Friday during term time. Some additional hours may be available during school holidays. Applicants should complete the non-teaching staff application form on our website ([www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com)) and return this to Julie Hodgkinson, Personnel & Administration Manager.

*Charles Darwin School 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 a DBS Enhanced Disclosure and full background checks.*

## **School jumpers, PE kits and school bags needed!**

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of navy school jumpers, red and black PE hoodies, white polo shirts, red socks and school bags. If you have any lying around that your daughter/son has outgrown, we would greatly accept donation of these. We also welcome any other parts of school uniform like school and football shoes.



All donations can be left at **Main Reception**.

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

**Preloved Uniform Shop Team**

## **PE Department Appeal**

We are in need of football shoes and trainers for our spare PE kits. If you have any lying around that your child has outgrown, we would gladly take them off your hands.



All donations can be left at **Main Reception**.

Thank you in advance for your kindness.

**PE Department Team**



All students are requested to leave the school site promptly unless taking part in supervised activities after school. For safety and security reasons no casual or recreational activities should take place without direct supervision from staff.

The Darwin Leisure Centre fitness gym is open to student paying members only between 3.15-4.30pm who must then leave the premises as quickly as possible; from 4.30-6.00pm only School/Club bookings are allowed on the 3G.

**For students booking the astro pitch, bookings must be made in advance (no walk-ins) and a parent must be present on arrival. A limit of 16 students per booking applies.**

The mathematics department are holding revision classes after school on the following days from 3.15 to 4.15:

### **Higher Tier**

Monday MA7 Mr Yerassimou  
Wednesday MA2 Mr Watson

### **Foundation Tier**

Monday GE2 Ms Harris





# SUMMER SCHOOL

Monday 22nd July  
and Tuesday 23rd July

THIS IS AN EXCLUSIVE, TWO DAY TRANSITION  
EVENT ONLY OPEN TO NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS  
STARTING CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL IN  
SEPTEMBER 2024

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF ACTIVITIES:

TEAMBUILDING ACTIVITIES/SPORTS  
INCLUDING LITERACY AND NUMERACY  
AND MUCH MORE

COST: £50 FOR BOTH DAYS



**Charles Darwin School**

Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent TN16 3AU

t: 01959 574043

e: [enquiries@cdarwin.com](mailto:enquiries@cdarwin.com)

# PTA Update

## PTA Update

Our next update meeting is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at The Crown on Leaves Green Road, BR2 6DQ where we will:

- Start to plan our events calendar for our next school year
- Review our April quiz night (visit our Facebook page to join our events poll: <https://www.facebook.com/friendscharlesdarwinsschool>)
- Discuss how we can increase family, staff and community engagement with EasyFundraising and our Monthly Cash Prize Draw.

If you can't join our meetings but would like to help us or give us some ideas, please contact us at [friends@cdarwin.com](mailto:friends@cdarwin.com) - we would be delighted to hear from you.

## EasyFundraising

Thanks to the following who have raised money for us already this month, just by shopping. Here is the league table for May so far:

1. Sule M
2. Kayleigh B
3. Chrissie P
4. Georgie S
5. Deborah R

Please enrol in Easyfundraising and encourage your family and friends to help us too. It takes a couple of minutes and will cost you absolutely nothing.



<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta>



## Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our winner (D Richardson) of the monthly draw for April 2024 winning £76.00 and raising the same value for our funds.

If you would also like the chance to win our prize draw each month, please make your purchase via our PTA website, where you can use your card, Apple Pay or Paypal: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

The monthly draw costs from £1 per month. Half your ticket price goes to the cash pot and half to our school.



To all Students,

Did you know that there are Mindfulness lunchtime clubs running in En7?

Bring your lunch and come along to find out more. It starts at 1.15 and finishes at 1.45. It can help with your mental wellbeing as it's a way of looking after yourself. Previous students have said that by practising the techniques learnt, they have become happier and calmer as they have learnt ways to deal with the stresses and anxieties of life. Just turn up at the relevant time:

Tuesdays: Years 7 and 8

Wednesdays: Years 9 and 10

Thursdays: Year 11 and Sixth Form

Mrs Holloway

# An Introduction To Mindfulness

Lesson One  
**Playing Attention**  
Training the muscle of your mind

Lesson Two  
**Taming the Animal Mind**  
Cultivating curiosity and kindness

Lesson Three  
**Recognising Worry**  
Noticing how your mind plays tricks on you

Lesson Four  
**Being Here Now**  
From reacting to responding

Lesson Five  
**Moving Mindfully**

Lesson Six  
**Stepping Back**  
Watching the thought traffic of your mind

Lesson Seven  
**Befriending the Difficult**

Lesson Eight  
**Taking In The Good**  
Being present with your heart

Lesson Nine  
**Pulling it all together**



# Attendance

**Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 3 May 2024.**



7SMa	95.7
8PDg	98.2
9RMo	96.5
10COh	90
11SDa	94.6
12JDa	98.7
13MNo	98.6

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.**

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Students Services Team**

# First Aid

## Hay Fever Season - Medication for Students

Hay Fever and the symptoms for children studying at school can be very uncomfortable, please ensure that if your child suffers with Hay Fever that they take any relevant medication/antihistamine before school. The school is unable to provide this medication to students.

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

Poppy Mason  
Elsie Welfare-Lee  
Reggie Miller  
Aaron Lock

James Annett  
Daniel Assemien  
Freya Hartnup  
Elise Shotton



## Student Services Duty Pupils

James Reid  
Alan Ioannou  
Chloe Everett

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

## Dates for the Diary

### May

**16th-17th May** - DofE Year 9 Qualifying Expedition

**27th-31st May** - Half term

**30th May** - Trip: Geography Field Trip to Rottingdean

### June

**4th-7th June** - Trip: NEA Geography Field Trip, Dorset, Year 12

**5th June** - New Year 7 Induction Evening

**6th June** - New Year 7 Induction Day 1

**7th June** - Year 8 HPV1 vaccinations

**11th June** - New Year 7 Induction Day 2

#### KS3 Exams dates:

**Year 7 and 8 exams** - Monday 3 June to Friday 14 June

**Year 9 exams** – Monday 10 June to Friday 21 June



As the weather is getting warmer please can all students bring in a reusable water bottle to school each day. The water bottles can be refilled at the canteen and near to Students Services at break time and lunchtime. We only have a limited supply of plastic cups for First Aid and medical emergencies only.

Thank you

**Student Services Team**

## 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 – Friday 19th July

**INSET Days** - School closed to students

**Friday 28th June 2024** - INICIO Day (home learning for students)

**Monday 22nd July 2024**

# DANCE CLUB

3:15 - 4:15

Da1

WEDNESDAY



Open to all  
students  
Bring a drink and  
your PE kit



SEE MISS WINTER FOR  
MORE INFORMATION



# Biggin Hill FC



## U13 HAWKS PLAYERS WANTED

Our Club continues to grow, and we are pleased to announce a new team for next season, our U13 Hawks

If your son or daughter is in year 7, moving to year 8 in September then we need you!

Regular training from UEFA qualified, DBS checked coaches with playing experience. Games at the weekend. All abilities and experience welcome.

We are a not-for-profit community club, keeping costs down and making football affordable for all

Contact Andy - [andyfurphy@gmail.com](mailto:andyfurphy@gmail.com)

### ORPINGTON ROVERS FC

# EXPERIENCED PLAYERS WANTED

For 24/25 U14 girls team  
(currently school year 7&8)

- *FA QUALIFIED COACHES*
- *FUN, COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT*
- *EXCELLENT FACILITIES*



For more information, please contact Danny on 07411315318