



14.03.2025

Issue No: 1150

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Extra-Curricular Activities at Charles Darwin School

At Charles Darwin School, we take pride in offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities to our students. We firmly believe that participating in these activities enriches their educational experience, builds confidence, and fosters friendships. We encourage every student to explore new interests and make the most of the opportunities available throughout their time at school.

This week marks the start of our pre-season athletics training, open to all year groups and abilities. Whether your child is an experienced athlete or trying a new sport for the first time, we welcome everyone to come along and give it a go.

We value input from students and parents on activities they would like to see introduced. If your child has yet to join a club or team, we encourage them to take that first step and get involved. More information on activities available can be found via the Link and on our school website.

Literacy Book Week: Building a Habit for Life

Last week, we celebrated Literacy Book Week, but our goal extends beyond just one week - we aim to instil a lifelong love of reading in all our students. Reading is not only a source of enjoyment but also a vital skill that supports learning across all subjects and we encourage all students to always have a book on the go. Whether it's a novel, a biography, or a subject-related text, regular reading strengthens comprehension and academic performance. Why not encourage your child to visit your local library or set up a book swap with a group of friends to discover new stories and perspectives.

Let's make reading a daily habit and unlock the endless possibilities it offers. Keep turning those pages!

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Ducklings are coming to Charles Darwin



Exciting News! Ducklings are Coming to Our School!

We are thrilled to announce that next week, our school will be partnering with **Incredible Eggs** to hatch ducklings right here at CDS! This hands-on experience will be an exciting and educational opportunity for our students to observe the incredible journey of life as they watch the ducklings hatch and grow.

The process will take place over several days, and our students will have the chance to learn about the stages of development and the care required to help these little ones thrive. It's a wonderful chance for our community to experience the magic of nature firsthand!

Pupils can spend time with the ducklings by earning duck tokens and they will be allocated a slot. We invite you to follow along with the hatching process through updates and photos on our social media pages.

Mrs FitzGerald

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



SEN Coffee Morning 17th March

SEN Information, Advice and Support Service - coffee morning on Monday 17th March

Bromley Information Advice & Support Service will be at the **Biggin Hill Children & Families centre (Sunningvale Ave, Biggin Hill, Westerham TN16 3TN) from 10:00 to 11:30 on Monday 17th March** for a coffee morning to answer questions and offer free, impartial and confidential advice for parents and carers of children and young adults from 0-25 years on useful topics such as:

- School refusal
- Choosing the right school for your child
- SEND Assessment needs
- Health and care for young people with additional needs
- Mental Health Support and Information
- SEND young children moving into post 18 support
- School Transport
- SEND Children & School Exclusions
- EHCP support

Mr B Frost
Assistant SENCo

Neurodiversity Week at Charles Darwin

Next week is Neurodiversity Week!

Look out for more information and activities in your form times next week.

Mrs Thom, Mr Frost and LD Department



The SEN team at Charles Darwin:

Mrs L Thom, SENCo
Mr B Frost, Assistant SENCo
Mrs J Patten, Senior Learning Support Assistant
Miss R Higgins, SEN Administrator

Should you need to make contact with us, please use the inbox below:
send@cdarwin.com

School Canteen



School Canteen-Hygiene Excellence

This week the school canteen team were visited by the London Borough of Bromley's Environmental health inspector for their regular no-notice inspection.

We are very pleased to share that they were awarded the highest hygiene rating of a 5, which is classified as very good.

Ms Kelly

PTA Charles Darwin School

Charles Darwin PTA
are delighted to host our popular

Quiz Night

Friday 25th
April 2025

Main Hall, Charles Darwin School
Doors open: 7.00pm
Trivia: 7.30pm - 10:00pm

£10 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF UP TO 8

Scan the QR code with your camera to request tickets or visit our online shop: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

SCAN ME

Quiz teams, please bring your own drinks and snacks!

friends@cdarwin.com



Pre-Season athletics training on Wednesday's after school

- This club is aimed at getting students prepared for the upcoming track and field athletics season which starts straight after the Easter holiday
- All students are welcome (regardless of ability / experience)
- Training will be a combination of indoor and outdoor events and students will have the opportunity to experience a range of running, jumping, and throwing events.
- If you have any questions, please find Mr Huggins in the PE Department office.

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUMMER TERM 24/25

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1.10 – 1.50pm					Darts Club See rota in PE for year group, schedule and who is selected per term Sportshall IBI/SHU/IAL
After school 3.00-4.15pm	Cricket Fixtures Year 7/8/9/10 (Boys and Girls) Field IBI/JAL/SHU	Rounders Training Year 7/8/9/10 (Girls) Field LWR/CON	Athletics Year 7/8/9/10 (Boys and Girls) Sportshall/Field SHU/APR	Cricket Training Year 9 and 10 (Boys) Field/Sportshall IBI/JAL/SHU	GCSE REVISION Year 11 LA1 CON/IBI/NDO
		Rounders Fixtures All years (Girls) Field LWR/CON	Rounders Fixtures All years (Girls) Field LWR/CON	Trampolining Year 7/8/9/10 (Girls and boys) 3:30-5 PAY ON PARENT PAY	FIXTURE CATCH UP DAY
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 Training Year 7 and 8 <u>3.30-5PM ONLY</u> (Boys and girls) Sportshall/Field EXTERNAL COACH		Cricket Fixtures Year 7/8/9/10 (Boys and Girls) Field IBI/JAL/SHU	

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 7 March 2025.

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES Per day =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES Per day =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES Per day =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES Per day =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES Per day =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE

7APr	96.4%
8NYe	92.6%
9LBr	97.9%
10DNu	97.5%
11JLa/LWr	100%
12DWa	98.2%
13GQu	96.3%

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 clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do 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.

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence **before 8.30am**, clearly stating your child's name and form. Please do not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.

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.
Many thanks for your support.

**Mrs Booth
Lead First Aid**



Charles Darwin School

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

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

School Caretaker
Monday – Friday (6.30 am – 2.30pm)
£28,929

We wish to appoint a full-time Caretaker to join our committed and hardworking Site Team from June 2025. We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who can display a conscientious and logical approach to a variety of tasks necessary to contribute to the smooth running of the school. Good practical skills and a flexible approach to work are essential for this post.

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

Closing date: Friday 28th March 2025

Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: www.cdarwin.com (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not be considered.

The 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 an Enhanced Disclosure with the Disclosure and Barring Service and full background checks.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974. It is an offence to apply for this role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

Learning Support Assistant
36 hours a week, 38 weeks a year
8am to 4pm Monday to Friday
Actual salary £23,631

We wish to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to 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 and experience of working with students with ASD and ADHD would be an advantage. 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.

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

Closing date: 28th March 2025 (interviews to be held the following week)

Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: www.cdarwin.com (information/job vacancies). CVs alone will not be considered.

The 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 an Enhanced Disclosure with the Disclosure and Barring Service and full background checks.

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Year 8 Duty Pupils

Kayla Lockwood Jasmine Lowther
Zoe Ritchie Alex Pavlov
Poppy Garland Ella Hall
Lacie Clarke Nathan Raszga
Tobi Ulman Sophie Dilling

Student Services Duty Pupils

Poppy Hemple
Hollie Hudson
Maya-Rose Kelly-Johnson
Kilsby-Harvey Isaac
Nathan Law



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

Dates for the Diary

March

17th March - Trip: Step into Dance Day of Dance, Laban Theatre
19th March - Trip: Year 8 Reward Trip to London Dungeons
25th March - Year 12 UCAS Fair - EXCde
26th March - Year 9 Options Evening
28th March - Trip: A Level Booster Revision - Business

April

3rd April - Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening
4th - 12th April - Trip: Austria, Ski Trip: ADo Yrs/8/9/10/12 (via coach)
4th April - End of Spring term
7th - 21st April - Easter Holiday
21st April - Easter Monday (school closed)
22nd April - Summer term starts
24th April - Trip: Farraday Challenge - STEM, Darrick Wood School
29th April - Year 7 Parents' Evening

May

1st May - Trip: Year 10 Geography Trip to Rottingdean
2nd- 3rd May - Trip: Y9 Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition, Wadhurst/Bewl Water

Term Dates 2024-2025

Spring 2025

Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February

Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April

Easter Holiday: Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April

Summer 2025

Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

[Monday 5th May Bank Holiday]

Half term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Monday 2nd June – Tuesday 22nd July

Notes:

Good Friday 18th April
Easter Monday 21st April

INSET ays:

Friday 23rd May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th June 2025

Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn 2025

Monday 1st September – Friday 17th October

Half term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October

Monday 3rd November – Friday 19th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January

Spring 2026

Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February

Half term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

Notes:

Good Friday 3rd April 2026

Easter Monday 6th April 2026

Summer 2026

Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May

[Monday 4th May Bank Holiday]

Half term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July

INSET Days:

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Monday 3rd November 2025

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

GREEN GARDEN WASTE SITE:

Biggin Hill: Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane
Sundays 8am - 12noon, open 2 March to 26 October 2025.

Details

All green garden waste must be bagged and residents must bring their council tax bill, drivers licence or a form of identification that includes their address.

Please do not put your garden waste in builders' sacks, as these are too heavy to be lifted safely. No commercial garden waste will be accepted.

Yes please	No thanks
Grass cuttings	Tree trunks and large branches
Prunings (no bigger than 2 inches round)	Soil and rubble
Dead plants	Garden furniture, flower pots and plastic debris

Claim your first **free** session at:
ADDINGTON JUDO CLUB

Boasting 170sqM of mats and an internal membership of 85+ students we can cater for all ages and abilities,
Come and see what you could achieve and unlock your potential to work your way toward the coveted Black Belt!



Founded in 1954, Addington Judo Club is Registered with the BJC (British Judo Council) and is a Non-Profit community club,
We encourage Fun, social interaction and Learning of all levels and aspects of Judo, from in-club practice to international level competition.



TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
AT THE NEW ADDINGTON LEISURE CENTRE,
Pay monthly from £15-£20. **First session free!!!**

Email:
Addingtonjudoclub@yahoo.co.uk
Facebook:
Addington Judo Club

Training times
5-9 Yrs, 19:15 - 20:10
10-16 Yrs, 20:10 - 21:15
14 and over, 20:15 - 21:45

Call Gareth Merredew, 4th Dan, Head Coach: 07415236083.
Or Steve Merredew B.E.M, 6th Dan, Technical Officer: 07889762818.

WHAT ARE THE TOP ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE
IN BROMLEY TODAY? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE
BROMLEY YOUTH COUNCIL TO TAKE ACTION ON?

Bromley Youth COUNCIL

UR vote will decide BYC
Campaigns 2025

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VOTE BY
20TH MARCH 2025



#YourVoteBromleyYouthCouncil



BYC@bromley.gov.uk