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Issue No: 1144

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### The Rotary Clubs of Bromley Youth Award

Congratulations to our Rotary Club Community Service Award winners: Charlotte Weller, Layla Allen, Pierriecce Powell and Precious Shaumba.

Each year, the Bromley Rotary Club invites local schools to nominate students who go above and beyond to support their families and the local community, both inside and outside school. We are delighted to celebrate our very deserving winners this year.

A special well done to Samson Smith, who received a certificate highly commending his contributions.

### Parent views

Parent views are important to us and we have a new opportunity for parents to share their thoughts and shape our school. Please look out for a separate mail on this, that will be sent next week.

### Term Dates 2025-2026

Term dates 2025-26 are included in this week's Link.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

## Personal Development Days (18th and 21st July 2025)

We are excited to inform you about our upcoming **Personal Development Days** for Year 7, 8, and 9, which will take place on **Friday, 18th July** and **Monday, 21st July**. During these days, we will be offering a variety of exciting trips and activities designed to enrich our students' learning experiences.

**For Year 10 students**, these days will be dedicated to **careers and communication skills development**, ensuring they receive valuable guidance to support their future pathways.

Our goal this year is to encourage as many students as possible to participate in visits and trips. We will write to parents to notify which trips will be available for which year groups later in the term. The following are some of the fantastic opportunities we are offering:

- **Disneyland Paris Trip** (departure on the evening of Thursday, 17th July)
- **Munich** (Germany)
- **Chessington World of Adventures** (4 coaches available per day)
- **Ice Skating at Planet Ice**
- **Chatham Ski Centre**
- **Paintballing**
- **Natural History Museum** (free entry)
- **Science Museum** (free entry)
- **Hyde Park**
- Various **local trips** to nearby attractions

**Trips are payable via ParentPay.** Please be aware that there will be limited activities available within the school during these days.

In order to give all families an equal opportunity to access trips, **all trips, with the exception of the overseas trip, will be released on the same day and will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.** This release will occur later in the day to allow working parents time to access ParentPay. We aim to ensure that as many students as possible are able to enjoy these exciting experiences, and we look forward to sharing more detailed information with you as the term progresses.

**Further details including costs, departure and arrival times as well as availability will follow via parent letter later in the spring term.**

Mr R Jones

# Speak Out Challenge

Jack Petchey's  
**"SPEAK OUT"**  
Challenge!

Our annual 'Speak Out Challenge' interactive workshops will be enjoyed by some of our Year 10 students this coming week. Run by the Speakers Trust in association with Jack Petchey, it provides students with the strategies and techniques to build their communication skills and increase their confidence when speaking publicly. With the help of public speaking experts, the students will get to share their opinions and gain empathy with the views of others.

After taking part in the workshop, selected students can enter a competition programme – sharing their speeches on school, regional and national stages.

Ms Ollier

## Thank you

Thank you to Harrison Burch and his family for donating cricket equipment to Charles Darwin PE Department.

Harrison has made this donation in the memory of his Grandad.  
Your generous gesture is very much appreciated.

### Year 8 Duty Pupils

Corey Manley	Archie Meah
Isla Brown	Darcey-moon Longman
Labella Milliner	Sam Mitichell
Riley Selman	Darcey Manning
Maisie Cannon	Joshua Clarke



### Student Services Duty Pupils

Ben Lamb  
Pola Tokarska  
Milly Rogers  
Jason Panzi  
Emily Whitby

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

### School jumpers and PE hoodies needed!

Parents/Carers

We need your help! We are specifically short of school jumpers and red and black PE hoodies. 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

# Attendance

**Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 17 January 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

7SDa/CZy	95.2%
8LMc	97.2%
9HKe	97.3%
10JAI	94.5%
11JLa/LWr	97.7%
12MNo	96.4%
13JDa	97.5%

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**

# Congratulations!



On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 3 students competed in the Schools Southern Zonal Trampoline Competition. These students qualified at London Schools back in November.

Congratulations to Keighlee Giff (Year13) placing 7th/26 in her category, Robyn Ashkettle (Year 10) placing 5th/38 in her category and James Shanks (Year 12) for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in his category. Robyn & James have qualified for National Schools competition, so we look forward to seeing them compete again in March.

Well done!

**Miss Porter**

## Dance/Drama Trip

On Wednesday 22nd January, 30 year 9 students attended a Drama/Dance trip to the National Theatre on the South Bank. Here they experienced a backstage tour, which took them behind the scenes to see the various components involved in creating a live performance. They saw the different theatre spaces, including a sneak peek into a technical check for one of the matinee performances. This involved them seeing stage crew and stage management in action, as well as experiencing some of the sound/lighting checks. Students then went backstage to see a glimpse of the other departments that help make live performance possible. This included the scenic arts department where flooring was being painted for a new show, a carpentry workshop, a huge prop and set storage area, prop making tables as well walking past the dressing rooms for the actors. The tour ended with students handling some props that had been made for specific National Theatre shows including a very realistic looking meat pie!

The day finished with a walk across the river to the Lyceum theatre to watch a performance of The Lion King. The year 9's were delightful throughout and asked many brilliant questions during the day. We hope the trip broadened their knowledge of the variety of arts careers that exist and inspire them to continue to develop their skills and appreciation of live performance.



**Miss Currie**

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



CDarwinSchool



**Mr R Jones**



# PTA Update

## Quiz Night Friday 31st January @ 7.30pm

We are looking forward to welcoming 80 quizzers to our next quiz night. If you would like to join us, please book by Monday 27th January: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>



Our next event will hopefully be BINGO!

## Monthly Draw

Congratulations to Helen H, the winner of our December draw winning £70.50 cash and donating the same value to our funds.

If you would like to try to be lucky like Helen, you can join from £1 per month by visiting our online shop: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

## Meeting and Catch up

If you would like to join us, we have our next monthly meeting at The Crown in Keston on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February @ 7.30pm. All are very welcome!

**Charles Darwin PTA**  
are delighted to host our popular

# Quiz Night

**Friday 31st  
January 2025**

Sixth Form Hub (by front gate),  
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>

Quiz teams, please bring your own drinks and snacks!

[friends@cdarwin.com](mailto:friends@cdarwin.com)

## Dates for the Diary

### January

**30th January** - Year 11 Parents' Evening

**31st January** - Trip: Year 7-10 Dance Competition at Langley Park School for Boys

**31st January** - Quiz Night

### February

**12th February** - Year 9 Parents' Evening

**13th February** - Trip: Year 13 Photography Trip

**14th February** - Year 9 vaccination

**17th February– 21st February** - Half term

**24th February** - INSET DAY (school closed to students)

### March

**6th March** - Year 8 Parents' Evening

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Spring 2025

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

*Half term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February*

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

*Easter Holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April*

### Summer 2025

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

*[Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday]*

*Half term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May*

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

#### Notes:

**Good Friday 18th April**

**Easter Monday 21st April**

### INSET Days:

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## 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

# Term Dates 2025-2026

## **Autumn 2025**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

*Half term: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October*

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

*Christmas Holiday: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January*

## **Spring 2026**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

*Half term: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February*

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

*Easter Holiday: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April*

### **Notes:**

**Good Friday 3rd April 2026**

**Easter Monday 6th April 2026**

## **Summer 2026**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

*[Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday]*

*Half term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May*

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

## **INSET Days:**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026



We wanted to let you know about a slight change to operating hours at our Bromley URC Centre in 2025.

New opening hours are:

**Tuesdays 11am - 1.15pm**

**Thursdays 12pm - 2.15pm**

# SHOWTIME

[www.showtime.london](http://www.showtime.london)

## Welcome to Showtime Performing Arts Holiday Clubs

Bookings are now open for the following:

Half Term - 18th to 20th FEBRUARY £110

Easter - 7th to 11th APRIL £175

Summer - 11th to 15th AUGUST £175

9am to 4pm For Children and Teenagers of all ages, BOYS and GIRLS  
£175 a Week, £110 for 3 days or £40 for individual days  
Early pick up to suit younger ones

Book Now at: [www.showtime.london/store](http://www.showtime.london/store)

**ALL Holiday Clubs are at:  
Churchill School, Rysted Lane, Westerham TN16 1EZ**

By all means share this information with friends and other parents, our Holiday Clubs are not exclusive to our Showtime students. Booking is easy by "clicking" on the store button on our website [www.showtime.london](http://www.showtime.london). Once you have paid your booking is confirmed. Remember to bring plenty to drink and non messy snacks (no peanuts) and wear suitable clothing.

Our experienced teachers have all worked in the industry and are DBS enhanced. In addition to having lots of fun and learning new skills, your children will make new friends.

Contact Melinda if you have any questions about any of the above, or about joining Showtime on a regular basis at a venue near you.

**Melinda Cherrett**

[hello@showtime.london](mailto:hello@showtime.london)

07753571696