



03.05.2024

Issue No: 1120

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

PTA Quiz Night

A big thank you to our PTA for organising a successful quiz night on Friday and to the parents that attended. A great time was had by all whilst raising vital funds for the school.

Praise and Reward

The school aims to promote high standards of behaviour, self-discipline and learning through positive encouragement and rewards. Particular effort or achievement is rewarded in a number of ways throughout the year at Charles Darwin. These include progress pens, achievement points, reward trips, Jack Petchey Achievement Awards, as well as termly achievement assemblies and end of year celebration of success assemblies.

As a Jack Petchey Awards Gold school we are able to make nine awards during the school year to recognise students' outstanding effort or achievement both in and out of school.

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. Well done to Chloe McGonigal, year 12, who recently won. Exciting, adventurous and mature – just some of the words used by Chloe's teachers when describing her work. Her focus on high standards and achieving excellent outcomes has meant she is a real pleasure to teach this year.

Go to the school website for a full list of this year's winners along with further information on our praise and reward schemes: <https://www.cdarwin.com/page/?title=2023%2D2024+Jack+Petchey+Winners&pid=626>

Parent Survey

There is still time to complete the parent survey before it closes on Tuesday 7th May. Your feedback is really important to us. Here is the link to the parent survey <https://forms.office.com/e/wJbNG3MEWq>

I hope you have an enjoyable bank holiday weekend and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday at 8.15 am.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Reminder - Key Stage 3 Exams

Parents/Carers should have received an email from the school on Thursday 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

Junior Maths Challenge

I want to commend all of the students who took part in the Junior Maths Challenge last week. Your behaviour was exemplary and students were polite and mature in the way they conducted themselves throughout.

I look forward to finding out how you all did in a few weeks! I have included the last and most difficult three questions for you to try at home. Can you figure them out?

Mr Brown

23. The area of a square is six times the area of a rectangle with a length half that of the square and a width 6 cm less than the width of the square. What is the perimeter of the square?

A 24 cm B 28 cm C 32 cm D 36 cm E 40 cm

24. Rovers, United, City and Wanderers played against each other once in a hockey tournament. The results table is shown on the right:

Team	Win	Draw	Loss	Goals for	Goals against
Rovers	3	0	0	5	0
United	0	2	1	3	6
City	1	1	1	4	4
Wanderers	0	1	2	0	2

What was the score in the match between Rovers and United?

A 3 - 1 B 3 - 0 C 2 - 1 D 2 - 0 E 1 - 0

25. In a school, one fifth of the students have blue eyes. One tenth of the left-handed students have blue eyes. One quarter of the right-handed students have blue eyes. What fraction of the students are left-handed?

A $\frac{1}{3}$ B $\frac{1}{4}$ C $\frac{1}{5}$ D $\frac{1}{8}$ E $\frac{1}{10}$

New Bromley Y Webinars Summer Term 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

The Summer Term is with us and many of our young people are preparing for imminent exams whilst others will be transitioning to secondary schools, so we attach links to our emotional wellbeing webinars which are there to support young people and parents through these difficult months.

These webinars are facilitated by our practitioners live on Teams. Participants' cameras and microphones are off, but attendees are encouraged to participate through the chat function.

Joining our webinars is easy – just click on the links below, **scan the QR code in the posters or visit our website calendar. They will take you to Eventbrite where you can book your place. Alternatively, you can book via our [website](#) calendar.**

Topics this term for young people include:

For young people

- Managing anxiety
- Low mood, motivation & depression
- Anxious thoughts & worries
- Academic stress & healthy study habits

Click [HERE](#) for posters about young people's webinars with QR codes for easy access to booking on Eventbrite.

Topics this term for parents and carers include:

For parents

- Helping your child with anxiety (primary & secondary versions available)
- Supporting transition to secondary school
- Emotionally based school avoidance
- Helping Your Child with Sleep Difficulties

Click [HERE](#) for posters about parents' and carers' webinars with QR codes for easy access to booking on Eventbrite.

Bromley Y Team

Inspiring Careers Programme



Please use the link below to access the platform:

[Sway \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)

Super Stars



English and Humanity's super stars:

Ashleigh Chilcraft, Phoebe Vincent, Zak Brooks, Lacie John, Leila Wilson and Jolyon Coombes have all been recognised for their fantastic efforts across their lessons last week. Keep shining and working hard.

Mr Ayling- Jones

Achievement Points Leader Board

Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 01.09.2023 - 03.05.2024

Ivy Bird	7LMc	260
Milly Rogers	8ZHa	220
Pallika Ramnath	7SMa	219
Jimmy Johnson	7JWi	210
James Azzopardi	8ZHa	206
Sydney Daniels	7LMc	206
Leah Benwell	7SHu/CHt	204
Samuel Young	8LBr	200
Daniel Assemien	8SHo	199
Jade St John	8RSi/RBr	197



Top highest achievers per each year for the period 01.09.2023 - 03.05.2024

Ivy Bird	7LMc	260
Milly Rogers	8ZHa	220
Phoebe Vincent	9RMo	186
Jessica Dorsett	10ZPa	156
Khushi Sinha	11ADo	141
Scarlett Towersey	12JDa	109
Harry Burch	13DWa	77



PTA Update



Quiz Night

Thanks to everyone who was able to join our Quiz Night last Friday night. There was some serious competition in our Sixth Form hub with the trophy eventually being awarded to 'The Cunning Linguists' which was a team formed of CDS staff. We did note that Mr Lamb was on the winning team for the second time so he is definitely someone to entice into your team for our next quiz night!

It was a fun night and we were all entertained by an unexpected session of intriguing magic at the end of the evening.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to ticket sales, our game of heads and tails, refreshments and our raffle which in total raised over £950 to benefit our school. Thanks also to quizmaster Chris who donated his time to our event.

Our sincere thanks also to Miss Buckle who was key to the success of the evening and Mrs Mackay for the generous and spontaneous raffle prize contribution.

We look forward to spending another quiz night with staff, families, friends and our PTA team in the near future.

Monthly Draw

Congratulations to our winner of the monthly draw for March 2024 who won £74.50.

If you would like the chance to win our prize draw each month, please visit our PTA website:

<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.

Thanks to the following for joining us in the last week, all of which have grown the prize grand total for the following draw:

L. Smyth C. Weedon G. Addison

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUMMER TERM 23/24

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1.10 – 1.50					
After school 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	Trampolining All years 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 Games All years (Boys) Sportshall JBI/ORO		Cricket Games Year 8-13 (Boys) JBI/ORO	

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





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 26 April 2024.



7LMc	97.8%
8PDg	93.4%
9SAr	97.4%
10Nko	92.4%
11SDa	95%
12ACh	98.8%
13SMe	95.6%

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

Connor Philip
Holly Meheux
Franky Daubney
Olivia Rice
Luke James

Jai Harper
Harry Clarke
Bonnie Bayntun-Dudbridge
Terence Friend
Drew Laws

Rocco Chipchase
Jenson Ladd-Talbot



Student Services Duty Pupils

Jack Wilson
Ryaan Sheraz
Florence Spencer
Nehemiah Mensah

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

Dates for the Diary

May

6th May - BANK HOLIDAY

8th May - Year 9 Reward Trip

9th May - Year 10 Parents' Evening

10th May - Year 10 Reward Trip

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 for students who forgot a water bottle.

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

Meaningful May 2024

MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

1 Do something kind for someone you really care about

2 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do

3 Take a step towards an important goal, however small

4 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together

5 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why

6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful

7 Make a list of what matters most to you and why

8 Set yourself a kindness mission to help others today

9 What values are important to you? Find ways to use them today

10 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times

11 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder

12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you

13 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture

14 Get outside and notice the beauty in nature

15 Do something to contribute to your local community

16 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better

17 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful

18 Send a handwritten note to someone you care about

19 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful

20 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable

21 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger

22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about

23 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of

24 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today

25 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why

26 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful

27 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others

28 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight

29 Today do something to care for the natural world

30 Share a quote you find inspiring to give others a boost

31 Find three reasons to be hopeful about the future



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together