



17.01.2025

Issue No: 1143

The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

We are proud to offer such a wide range of school trips to help students build cultural capital and re-enforce their learning. Last year, we provided over 90 trips across the school, providing invaluable opportunities for our students.

It was a great pleasure to accompany Ms Currie, Ms Sutton and Mr Andrews on a theatre visit Wednesday night to see *The Play That Goes Wrong*. The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It was wonderful to hear about students experiencing things for the first time and to receive positive feedback from the public about how mature and inquisitive they were. One gentleman remarked to me that it was a pleasure to be seated near them, noting how engaged they were in discussing their theatrical and London experience during the interval.

We continue to focus on ensuring our students excel in their education. During our inset day on Wednesday, staff participated in sessions on cyber security, safeguarding, and strategies to further support our Year 11 and 13 students as they prepare for their final exams. With the PPEs (mock exams) now complete, we are focusing on responsive teaching. This has also been discussed with students as we work together in the big push to help them achieve that all-important grade 5 (a Good Pass) or higher, unlocking the next stages of their learning journey.

We always value your feedback and would like to hear from you. If there is anything you would like us to focus on in future editions of *The Link*, please share your thoughts by emailing us at dro@cdarwin.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

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

PTA Update

Funding Requests

Recent successes with our Christmas Raffle, Quiz Nights, Easy-Fundraising, Production Refreshments, Festive Friday and the Monthly Draw has enabled us to donate a whopping £5000 towards a list of projects, requested by staff. We will therefore be helping with the purchase of the following items:

- New composite benches for external areas (£2568)
- A set of 30 calculators for Maths (£405)
- A contribution to a set of 130 atlases for Geography, replacing the current set that was 10 years old (£743)
- Kettles and stop clocks for Science (£208)
- A mini revamp in the sixth form hub (£303)
- A book for each new year 7 student to receive and keep (approximately 224 students) (£773)



All requests have been carefully considered by the PTA team and staff to ensure they meet our objectives to enhance learning and student life.

Quiz Night Friday January 31st @ 7.30pm

Tickets are on sale for our quiz night which takes place in our Sixth Form hub. So far, 11 tables will be participating so it will be a great evening out!

Tickets are £10 each and quiz teams can be up to 8 people. Quizzers can join up with other teams if they would like to. Quizzers can also bring their own drink and snacks,

Buy your tickets now: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

Fundraise as you shop, book holidays or renew your insurance

With 68 people enrolled, our highest shopping donations in the last 90 days are below:

Gill B Ana B Oliver W Sule M Samantha K Jason H

Overall, our shoppers have raised an astonishing £1464 since we joined - WOW!

Please note, we cannot see any details about where you have shopped or what you have spent money on. Today, we are appealing for you to join them too, just by enrolling and enabling the donation reminder.

It takes 2 minutes:

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

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Asiyah Moustapha	Elsie Starrs-Freeman
Jamie Lett	Shaniah Delanbanque
Joshua Mansell	Emily Lynch
Megan Gale	Megan Gale

Student Services Duty Pupils

Jayden Edward-Hanns
Teddy Ellis-Bartholomew
Dylan Rooke
Jake Kirkby



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.

Many thanks for your support.

**Mrs Booth
Lead First Aid**

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 10 January 2025.

7HCo/VMa	97.3%
8NYe	95.6%
9PDg/MBa	99.3%
10JAI	96%
11JLa/LWr	99.1%
12RPi	96.2%
13JDa	94%

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



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS
But every **minute** is equally important!

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.

WE HEAR YOU



Parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are invited to a confidential session to share your experiences, insights and suggestions about SEND provision within Bromley.

Bromley Parent Carer Forum (BPCF) and Your Voice in Health & Social Care (YVHSC) are members of the SEND Partnership - this means we work in partnership with the Local Authority and health organisations to improve local services for children and young people with SEND. It is the role of both organisations to identify what is working well and what could be better by listening to parent / carers who live in Bromley.

Key themes from this event will be shared (anonymously) with the SEND Partnership to help them to evaluate the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND in Bromley.

Refreshments will be provided, and little ones are welcome.

When: Monday 3rd February **between 10:30-12:30**

Where: United Reformed Church, 20 Widmore Rd, Bromley BR1 1RY

Book: email events@bromleypcf.co.uk to book your space (places are limited)



**Bromley Parent
Carer Forum**



yvhsc
— SEND SERVICES —
Engaging communities, shaping services.

Turtle Opera is a **FREE music and drama project** for **Autistic 11 to 15 year olds**.
The project will run at the **V&A Museum, South Kensington** from **Tuesday 18th – Friday 21st February 2025**,
11am – 3:30pm.

The four days of workshops will involve participants creating their own stories and music for an informal performance, with a professional composer and director. A specialist team from Turtle Key Arts and the V&A will support the group, to help enable fun and friendships.

To sign-up please use the link: [application form](#)



“It was amazing and I didn't want it to end!”

Aaron
Turtle Opera participant
2023

JOIN OUR FREE MUSIC & DRAMA PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

Four days of workshops with a professional composer and director, creating your own stories and music for an informal performance. A specialist team from Turtle Key Arts will support the group, enabling fun and friendships!

 FOR **11 TO 15** YEAR OLDS

 Dates **Tue 18 - Fri 21 Feb**

 Time **11:00am til 3:30pm**

 V&A Museum
South Kensington
London SW7 2RL


APPLY NOW! Free
Limited spaces available

COMPLETE
THE STEPS
TO JOIN.



Scan the **QR code** to reach the registration page.

Submit the **online form** and we'll send you a reply.

 Call us on **020 8964 5060**

 Email **ellie@turtlekeyarts.org.uk**



**Autism Adults Group
Social Opportunity**

Tuesday 4th February 2025, 8.00pm – 10.00pm.
The Partridge Pub, 194 High St, Bromley BR1 1HE.

Do you relate to any of the following?

- Late to diagnosis or considering that you may be autistic?
- Are you a parent of children or young people who are autistic, masking or going through the diagnosis pathway?

If so and if you would welcome meeting others who may have similar experiences to you then please join us for our very first meeting.
(Hosted as part of Bromley's All-age Autism Strategy Partnership)

If there are any specifics that you would like to gain from this social group, please contact: sendmatters@bromley.gov.uk

Please email to indicate that you would like to attend and be sent more details nearer the time. sendmatters@bromley.gov.uk

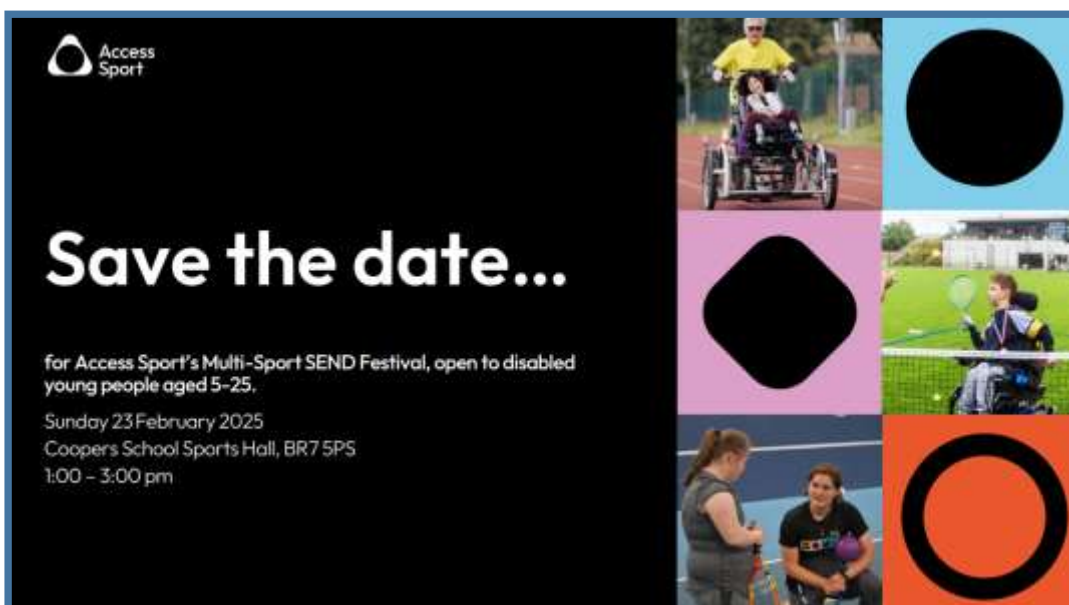
NHS
South East London

Bromley
THE LONDON BOROUGH

BROMLEY SEND LOCAL OFFER
SEND Matters
Special educational needs and disability provision website for years 0-25

BROMLEY AUTISM PARTNERSHIP
...because Autism matters

SEND matters
Bromley





Access Sport

Save the date...

for Access Sport's Multi-Sport SEND Festival, open to disabled young people aged 5-25.


Sunday 23 February 2025
Coopers School Sports Hall, BR7 5PS
1:00 – 3:00 pm



Join Access Sport's National Youth Board

Now recruiting for 2025 National Youth Board and London, Bristol and Manchester Youth Voice Groups. Applications are open for young people aged 14 – 25 year old who are passionate about sport and making a difference. They would love to engage and reach as many young people from different backgrounds and communities as possible. For more information please refer to Youth Board Strategy 2024-27 attached to this week's Link.

To apply please click on the link below:
[Application Form: Youth Board | Access Sport](#)



Bromley's SEND Local Offer website has recently undergone some changes, and we'd love to hear from parents and carers about their experiences with the updated platform.

Your input will help to ensure the SEND Local Offer meets your needs and continues to improve.

Please click the link below to access the feedback form:
<https://forms.office.com/e/G6eMKK8etv>

Thank you for your time and support!

Dates for the Diary

January

20th January - Trip: Year 10 & 11 GCSE Science Lectures (Science in Action), Emmanuel Centre, London

22nd January - Year 9 Drama Trip to National Theatre & Lion King, Lyceum Theatre

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 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 Days:

Monday 24th February 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th June 2025



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