



Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Welcome back

I hope all our families had an enjoyable half term break and are ready and refreshed for the term ahead.

Pre-Public Exams

The PPE's got off to a good start this week and student attitudes and conduct has been very good. Please be encouraging your child to revise in preparation for their PPE's and final exams.

You can find your child's revision and homework on the Satchel One App. Parents can download the App and check homework and completion of homework. If you need your parent login details please contact Lkelly@cdarwin.com. All our homework and Apps are there to support your child's learning and retention of knowledge.

Year 9 DofE Practice Walk

Good luck to all the Year 9's and staff taking part in the Bronze DofE Practice Expedition tomorrow. The weather forecast is looking sunny and dry, the perfect setting for trying out new walking boots before the qualifying expedition in May. Wishing everyone the best of luck - and I look forward to hearing how it went when we're back at school.

Attendance

We have had a very positive week with whole school attendance above typical national levels. Our aim for this half term is to stay above national levels and have as many students on 100% as possible.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Mindful March 2025

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness	2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world	3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive	4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words	5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them	6 If you find yourself rushing make an effort to slow down	7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day
8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food	9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others	10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face	11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee	12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying	13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today	14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do
15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly	16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity	17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant	18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels	19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today	20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today	21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else
22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult	23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them	24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do	25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted	26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today	27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are	28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible
29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice	30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling	31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**

Sixth Form raise over £230 for Charity

In the final week before half term, Year 12 form groups 12RPi and 12MCR hosted a cake sale to support the Sixth Form's chosen charities - Biggin Hill Community Care Association and Chartwell Cancer Trust. The event was a great success, raising an impressive £115 for these worthy causes.

To round off the week, Sixth Form staff and Prefects organised a Valentine's Tombola, bringing excitement to Student Services with plenty of prizes to be won. Thanks to the generosity of students and staff, the tombola raised an additional £117 - a fantastic contribution to these important charities!

Mrs Johnson
KS5 Pastoral Support Manager



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

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





Charles Darwin School

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

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

Exam Invigilators
£12.90 per hour
(£13.70 from April 2025)

We wish to appoint a number of Exam Invigilators to join our dedicated pool responsible for the invigilation of public and internal exams and tests. Invigilators will be present throughout the whole exam and may also undertake tasks such as checking registers against scripts and packing them at the end of the exams. All successful candidates will receive appropriate training.

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: Thursday 6th 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.

Year 8 Duty Pupils

Jacob Holden	Brooke Meloy
Lucie Kemster	Jimmy Johnson
Imogen Kirby	Cameron Revell
Jack Johnson	Safiya Onayemi

Student Services Duty Pupils

Finlay Hamilton
Gene Downer
Freddie Dodson
Zekay Gok



Special thanks to Holly Coles for helping First Aid with immunisations.

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

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 14 February 2025.

7HCo/VMa	93.1%
8LMc	96.6%
9LBr	94.6%
10JHd	93.8%
11JLa/LWr	98.6%
12DWa	96.4%
13JDa	94.6%

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

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**

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

We would also like to welcome Ms Whitehead who has joined our team of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs).

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

Dates for the Diary

March

1st March - Year 9 Bronze DofE Practise Expedition

6th March - World Book Day

6th March - Year 8 Parents' Evening

12th-14th March - Trip: Year 12 Silver DofE Practice Expedition, Heartsease

12th March - PTA Meeting, 7.30pm, The Crown

13th March - Trip: Year 10 Oxford University Pathways Careers Day, Mansfield College

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: Faraday Challenge - STEM, Darrick Wood School

29th April - Year 7 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:

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

Bromley Foodbank

Please see below a message from Bromley Foodbank:

As the cold weather continues we continue to see high levels of referrals to the foodbank, which leads to many clients facing challenging situations this winter. 2024 was our busiest ever year as a foodbank with more than 8000 food parcels being distributed and 2025 has again seen an increase in clients coming through our doors.

The charities have limited funds and have to make difficult decisions as a result of this. We also know how much clients appreciate receiving a supermarket voucher so they have some choice in their food. In order to keep the supermarket voucher available for the increased number of clients as from Monday 24th February the voucher value will be reducing for Bromley based clients. In addition, we will no longer be offering the choice of 7 days of food or 3 days of food and a voucher. All clients will receive 3 days food and those living in Bromley will receive a voucher as well.

Details of the vouchers are as follows.

Household size	1	2	3	4	5+
Until 21 st February	£25	£37	£65	£80	£95
From 24 th February	£15	£25	£40	£50	£60



Bromley Foodbank opening hours:

Tuesdays 11am - 1.15pm

Thursdays 12pm - 2.15pm

Both sessions will be ending 15 minutes earlier than at present.

The PTA logo is circular with a blue border and contains the letters 'PTA' at the top and 'PARENTS & TEACHERS ASSOCIATION' at the bottom, with a stylized figure in the center.

CASH PRIZE DRAW

WIN!

AVERAGE MONTHLY PRIZE £70

Enter our monthly prize draw from £1 per month and you could win!

BUY NOW

[PTA \(Friends\) of Charles Darwin School](#)

The advertisement features a woman with dark hair, wearing a black top, holding a red and white megaphone. The background is white with colorful confetti and streamers. A large red banner at the top left contains the text 'CASH PRIZE DRAW'. A red circular tag hanging from a string says 'AVERAGE MONTHLY PRIZE £70'. A yellow speech bubble with 'WIN!' is next to the megaphone. The PTA logo is in the top right corner. At the bottom, there is a 'BUY NOW' button and a link to the PTA (Friends) of Charles Darwin School.



Autism Parent and Carer Group 'drop-in'



The next meeting will be held as a drop-in session as part of the **Social Communication Needs Event** in collaboration with Bromley's All Age Autism Partnership at **Blenheim Children's Centre**.

Tuesday 4th March 10 to 12 pm.

Are you a parent or carer of a child, young person or adult and have concerns about their social communication and interaction? Do you think they are masking?

Does your child have a diagnosis of autism or waiting for an assessment?

Do you want to

- Find out more about autism.
- Share ideas to help improve your and others experiences with autism or for those that are yet to be diagnosed and have possibly been masking.
- Join a group of other parents who have similar experiences to you.

Drop in between 10 and 11am and meet Colette the SEND and Autism Project Officer or find her in the main event space between 11 to 12pm.

- For more information then please email sendmatters@bromley.gov.uk
- Scan the QR code for more details about the Social Communication Needs Event.



**BROMLEY
AUTISM
PARTNERSHIP**
...because Autism matters



South East London



'Autism' Parent and Carer Group



Teams meeting: Thursday 6 March 2025: 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

Please [Click here to join the meeting](#) or use QR code

Are you a parent or carer of an Autistic child, young person or adult or do you have concerns about your child's social communication? Are you waiting for a diagnosis or do you think your child is masking?

Do you want to

- Know more about Autism
- Find out how and where you can get support
- Talk to other parents
- Share ideas to help improve your experiences

Please join our evening teams meeting for our parent and carer groups, run as part of Bromley's All Age Autism Strategy Partnership. There is no need to book ahead just use the links or QR code to join.

If there are any specific areas, you'd like to have discussed, or would like to receive a link to the meeting then please contact: sendmatters@bromley.gov.uk



**BROMLEY
AUTISM
PARTNERSHIP**
...because Autism matters



South East London

Bromley
LOCAL
OFFER. *for*
YOUNG
PEOPLE.

SEND Matters Live for Young People



Are you aged 11-25? Do you have special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND)?



We want to hear your views about the SEND support and activities in Bromley. Come and meet senior leaders from the Bromley SEND Partnership from Education, Health and Care.

Come along

Date: Wednesday 2nd April
Time: 1pm - 3pm
Venue: Council Chambers,
Bromley Civic Centre,
2 Westmoreland Rd,
Bromley, BR1 1AS



Scan the QR code or email
sendmatters@bromley.gov.uk
to book your place



**Have your say!
Help us be better!**

Visit the new young people's
SEND Local Offer website at:
young-sendmatters.co.uk



Walking Football for Young People with SEND



- Walking Football sessions are for D/deaf and/or disabled and neurodivergent young people aged 16-25.
- Inclusive sessions delivered by a qualified coach called Mike.
- All abilities/disabilities welcome.



Where: The Warren, Croydon Rd, Bromley, BR2 7AL
When: Thursdays (term time only)
Time: 10:45am - 11:45am
Ages: 16-25
Cost: £5 (Your first session is FREE)

Register here:



<https://bit.ly/WalkingFootballTheWarren>

Or scan the QR code:



For more information, please contact:



07787 510631 (Mike - Coach)



hello@need2change.org

Supported by:  **Need 2 Change**



Access Sport

Are you a student with a passion for baking and looking for a fun, hands-on experience? Junior Bake Off give you a chance to gain confidence, improve your skills and make lasting memories in the kitchen!

For more detail please see the poster below:

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

JOIN THE CLASS OF 2025!

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES 9-14 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING SERIES!

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH

APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK