



31.01.2025

Issue No: 1145

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

It has been a busy week filled with so many learning experiences for our students. From the Maths Challenge for Years 9 and 10 to the impactful theatre session on drug education for Year 10, the Holocaust speaker for Year 9, and the motor vehicle safety session for Year 11. These are just a few of the many opportunities our students have had this week.

A huge thank you to the staff organising and facilitating this week's events, which continue to enrich and support our students' learning.

Thursday's Year 11 Parents' Evening was also very positive, with clear plans agreed upon to support students in the lead-up to their summer examinations. Thank you to all the families who attended - your involvement plays a crucial role in your child's success.

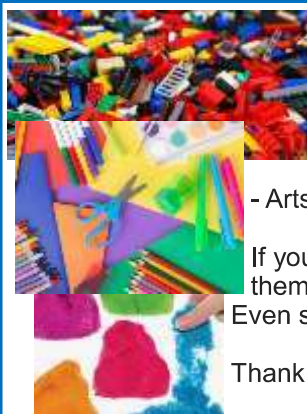
Aristotle (384 BC) wisely said: *"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."*

This is an important reminder for our Year 11 students - while the journey to success may feel particularly challenging right now, perseverance will lead to rewarding outcomes. Stay focused, keep working hard, and trust that your efforts will pay off.

Aston Smith, Headteacher



## The Finch Room



As we continue to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment in the Finch Room, we've identified a need for additional supplies.

We are currently in need of the following items:

- LEGO sets (any size or type)
- Kinetic sand
- Arts and crafts supplies (e.g., coloured paper, glue, markers, paint, beads)

If you have any of these items at home or know of any local sources where we could obtain them, we would greatly appreciate any donations or support. Even small contributions can make a big difference.

Thank you so much for your ongoing dedication and support.

**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



# February LGBT + History Month

February is LGBT+ History Month, and we will be marking this in school as part of the RSHE curriculum. Over the next month, during form time, students will take part in a session which looks at key changes in the law and the impact on equality.

Assemblies will focus on people who are considered trailblazers and celebrate the positive impact they have had on the LGBT+ community.

Finally, in Personal Development lessons, students will learn about Section 28 and what 'Activism' is and how to be a positive ally.

Miss Currie/Miss Hurding



## 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](http://www.cdarwin.com) – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: [www.cdarwin.com](http://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

Harry Woodley	George Davis-Crowther
Ava Ballard	Darcie Belle Bakewell
Ellie Dcosta	Jeremiah Kumitse
Corey Manley	Rosie Reed
Evelyn Ryman	Jay Ngyou

### Student Services Duty Pupils

Thomas Edmeads  
Lola Clarke  
Rosalina Cabrera  
Harry James  
Oliver Turner



**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 24 January 2025.**

7MHu/VKi	97.4%
8KMa	97.2%
9HKe	96.4%
10DNu	95.7%
11JLa/LWr	95.9%
12DWa	95.9%
13GQu	97.4%

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**

## Dates for the Diary

### February

**3rd February** - Trip: Year 12 & 13 Drama Theatre Trip 'The Little Foxes', The Young Vic

**7th February** - Trip: Year 10 Choreography Workshop, at Laban

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

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

**14th February** - Trip: Year 12 & 13 Art & Textiles Trip - The Saatchi Gallery, London

**14th February** - Year 9 vaccination

**16th-19th February** - Trip: A Level German Cultural Study Trip to Berlin

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

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

### March

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

**26th March** - Year 9 Options Evening

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Spring 2025

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

*Half term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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**

# 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

## 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



## EMERGENCY APPEAL

Hope **CANNOT** wait  
until the morning...

Help keep our life-saving  
helpline open, through the night.



For the first time in our 28-year history, PAPYRUS is launching an emergency appeal to keep HOPELINE247 running through the night. Without urgent support, we may be forced to make the devastating decision to cut back our services.

Every three minutes, a distressed young person contacts HOPELINE247, our suicide prevention helpline. These calls, texts, and messages come during their darkest hours—often in the middle of the night, when other services aren't available to them.

Since extending HOPELINE247 to a 24/7 service last year, demand has surged. In 2024 alone, we had 12,000 life-saving interactions during the night and saw a 66% increase in the number of young people seeking help through our webchat service. These numbers tell us how vital our work is, but rising costs and a sharp decline in donations across the charity sector have brought us to a critical moment.

Right now, someone is on the phone contacting one of our professional advisers. Your donations to our emergency appeal will directly fund HOPELINE247, ensuring we can answer calls, texts, and messages from a young person seeking hope, no matter what time it is.

Together, we can ensure that no young person feels alone with thoughts of suicide.

Please, give what you can and help us continue to be here for life.

Thank you

To donate please use the link below:

[PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide Emergency Appeal - JustGiving](#)



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## FEBRUARY HALF TERM JEWELLERY AND ART WORKSHOPS

Bromley & Croydon

women's  
aid

Join our workshops and create unique, handmade jewellery and unique artwork.

This programme is for young women aged 13-21 who have been impacted by domestic abuse, or who struggle with their mental health.



COTMANDENE  
CHILDREN'S  
CENTRE,  
ORPINGTON

WEDNESDAY 19TH:  
JEWELLERY

THURSDAY 20TH:  
ART

11AM - 3PM

Snacks provided  
but please bring  
your own lunch.

To sign up, email [training@bcwa.org.uk](mailto:training@bcwa.org.uk)  
with the subject FEBRUARY HALF TERM

# 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