



Headlines

Year 13 Leavers Day

It was a privilege to deliver a farewell speech at the Year 13 leavers' day today. I wish our Year 13 students all the best with their exams and the next exciting chapter of their lives. I look forward to celebrating with them in August on results day.

End of Term Message

It has been an extremely busy half term. The year now seems to be flying by and when we return there are just seven weeks until the end of this school year. I know many students will be coming into school for revision sessions next week and my thanks to those staff who are giving up their time to support our examination students. So we can have a positive and smart start to our final half term can I ask for your support in checking uniform fits, badges are sewn on, school shoes fit and where needed take the half term break to replace. Blazers need to be worn into school every day, jumpers are optional. The final half term is my personal favourite when we can look forward to some warmer weather (fingers crossed) and some truly incredible learning experiences that will stay with your child for the rest of their life.

I would like to wish all families a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

KS3 Exam reminder

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 have had it explained to them in the last few weeks leading up to half term how best to prepare for these exams. Techniques on how best to revise were covered during tutorial time in school and further support was given during assemblies leading up to the exam period.

In the last two weeks class teachers were telling their classes when their class exams will be so that this should 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 the date and 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. Any exams missed will therefore need to be completed.

Many thanks.

Mrs Rees

Personal Development/Enrichment Week

Letters have gone out via students and email regarding the booking of trips for the end of term. Please make sure that you have your ParentPay account ready to book. Once the trips are full, they will disappear from ParentPay.

The date for the trips to go live will be **4pm 14th June 2024**.

Detailed letters to follow after half term break.

We will also send out a text/email reminder the first week back.

Mr Jones

Rising Stars

Well done to the following Year 7 Rising Stars:

George Addison
Christopher Browning
Lacie Clarke
Sydney Daniels
Liam Delaney
Emily German
Elliott Johnson
Lucie Kempster
Jeremiah Kunitse
Sam Mitchell
Nyah Newberry
Jay Ngyou
Pallika Ramnath
Noah Rawlins



for achieving their Silver badge for attendance to Rising Stars after school each week. This shows their dedication and commitment to school and progressing in their studies by attending these extra sessions to enrich their experiences at school. Fabulous!!!!

Ms Quinn (KS3 HPA coordinator)

Reading Ambassadors



Today, the English Department hosted an event to thank our 39 Year 7 Reading Ambassadors for all of their hard work this year. They all love reading and have been helping to encourage other students in their classes and around the school to develop their enjoyment of reading for pleasure. They gave us amazing feedback as to how we can make even more improvements next year!

If any students would like to become Reading Ambassadors next year, please see Mrs Holloway. It would be lovely to have you on our team.

Mrs Sharon Holloway
English Teacher & Head of KS3 English

kooth

You're not alone

In June, we will be hosting **Kooth info sessions for parents & carers** to find out how [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) can support their child or young person's mental health.

These will be virtual sessions delivered via Google Meet on various dates and times in June. To sign up to one of the sessions, please complete [this form](#).



**Charles Darwin School,
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3AU**

**Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
Tel: 01959 574043
www.cdarwin.com**

Darwin Leisure Centre – Leisure Assistants £9.73 per hour

We are looking to appoint a number of Leisure Assistants for our busy Leisure Centre. Applicants should have good inter-personal skills, a professional attitude to work and be able to work both independently and as part of a team. Successful candidates will be required to work during the afternoon and evening, including some weekends. Previous experience of working in the leisure industry would be advantageous, although training will be given.

Application forms and details of the post can be found on our website:
[Charles Darwin School - Vacancies \(cdarwin.com\)](http://www.cdarwin.com)

Please note all applications must be made on the Charles Darwin Academy Trust application form – CVs alone will not be considered. Please return completed application forms to Mrs. J. Hodgkinson, Personnel & Administration Manager, Charles Darwin School.

Interviews will take place as and when applications are received.

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.

School Cleaners (£13.77 per hour)

We are looking to appoint a number of school cleaners to join our committed Site Team. Actual hours are negotiable but are likely to be between 3.00pm – 7.30pm Monday – Friday during term time. Some additional hours may be available during school holidays. Applicants should complete the non-teaching staff application form on our website (www.cdarwin.com) and return this to Julie Hodgkinson, Personnel & Administration Manager.

*Charles Darwin 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 a DBS Enhanced Disclosure and full background checks.*



School Uniform Grant

Please see the link below for more information:

[School Uniform Grant | There for You \(UNISON Welfare\) | UNISON National](#)

Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence before 8.30am. This ensures we know your child is safe and their absence is authorised where possible. Our Attendance Officer is having to spend an increased amount of time each day chasing for responses.

Thank you for your support.

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





SUMMER SCHOOL

Monday 22nd July
and Tuesday 23rd July

THIS IS AN EXCLUSIVE, TWO DAY TRANSITION
EVENT ONLY OPEN TO NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS
STARTING CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL IN
SEPTEMBER 2024

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF ACTIVITIES:
TEAMBUILDING ACTIVITIES/SPORTS
INCLUDING LITERACY AND NUMERACY AND MUCH MORE

COST: £50 FOR BOTH DAYS



Charles Darwin School
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent TN16 3AU
t: 01959 574043
e: enquiries@cdarwin.com

PTA Update

EasyFundraising

Thanks to the following who have raised money for us this month, just by shopping with up to 7000 retailers. Here is the league table for May so far, which keeps changing:

1. Sue M
2. Kayleigh B
3. Chrissie P
4. Deborah R
5. Jason H
6. Georgie S
7. Caroline W

Please enrol in Easyfundraising and encourage your family and friends to help us too. You only need your name and e-mail address to enrol and it takes a couple of minutes. Easyfundraising costs you absolutely nothing and makes a big difference to our fundraising.



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



Monthly Draw

There are 150 tickets in the draw from May, meaning a £75 cash prize for the winner!

Welcome to our new joiner: D Rogers

If you would also like the chance to win our prize draw each month, please make your purchase via our PTA website, where you can use your card or Apple Pay: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

The monthly draw costs from £1 per month. Half your ticket price goes to the cash prize pot and half to our school.

May PTA Meeting

During our May meeting, we started planning our activities for the next school year.

For next year, we hope to arrange:

- Our first BINGO night
- Quiz nights
- Non-uniform/Christmas Jumper day

Our next gathering is on **Thursday 13th June at 7.30pm at The Crown Inn, Keston.**

New Year 7 cohort for September

If you have a student joining Year 7 in September, we will be joining the welcome evening on Wednesday 5th June so please come and say hello and join our mailing list.

PTA Vacancy

We have a vacancy for someone with book-keeping skills to help maintain our accounts. We anticipate this would require around a maximum of 1 hour per month.

We would e-mail the details of any transactions to our book-keeper and they would then update our accounts in Microsoft XL. We don't have this skillset in the team at the moment so would be very grateful if anyone could help. Please e-mail our Chair if you might be able to help: cparker76.305@cdarwin.com

Wellbeing Dance

Fusion

Starting Wednesday 5th June

Darwin Leisure centre -Dance studio

5-5:45pm- Years 7-9

5:45-6:30pm Years 10-13

Discover an array of enjoyable dance routines set to lively music in a stress-free and supportive atmosphere.

Conclude the session with soothing guided relaxation, prioritising your personal wellness.

Contact @abbott_movement
or email abbottdance5@gmail.com for more information
and to book in!



Qualified Secondary Dance teacher and certified Health and Wellbeing coach , Full DBS , First aid and insured.

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 17 May 2024.



7CMo	98.9%
8PDg	96.8%
9HBu	97.1%
10SFe	91.9%
11NDy	100%
12ACh	100%
13DWa	97.3%

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

Daisy Brady
Freya Hartnup
Jocelyn Osei
Acacia Henry
Jacob Johns

George Murphy
Owen Asemota
Charlotte Silver
George Murphy
Daniel Assemien



Student Services Duty Pupils

Jenson Witt-Morris
Charlie Coburn
Amy Jo-Hanlon
Beau Sims
Ella Longhurst

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

Dates for the Diary

May

27th-31st May - Half term

30th May - Trip: Geography Field Trip to Rottingdean

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

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

17th -18th June - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE kayaking trip, Danson Park

27th-28th June - DofE Silver Y10 qualifying expedition

28th June - **INICIO DAY, Students home learning**



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 medical emergencies only.



Thank you

Student Services Team

2023-24 Term Dates

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

Term Dates 2024-2025

Autumn 2024

Friday 30th August – Friday 18th October

Half term: Monday 21st October – Friday 1st November

Monday 4th November – Friday 20th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January

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

Notes:

Good Friday 18th April
Easter 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

INSET Days:

Friday 30th August 2024

Friday 18th October 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Monday 24th February 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27th June 2025



Foodbank in Bromley is able to offer clients a choice of 3 days worth of food along with a supermarket voucher or 7 days worth of food. This is for **Bromley Borough residents only**. For out of borough residents they are able to offer 3 days worth of food. Please remember you can get help by contacting them directly on ifo@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk.