



## Headlines

Welcome back. I hope that our families and students had a restful and enjoyable break. The week got off to a busy start, and I have met with all year groups during assembly time where I set out the attitudes and behaviours that will help ensure a successful and harmonious half term.

I enjoyed break with a cake on Thursday with four Year 9 students - Connor Philip, Carlo Chatterton, Kian Evans, and Theo Skillern - who were featured in a letter from a member of the public for their exceptional kindness in the community over the half term break. Well done to each of them.



### Winner of the Christmas Card Competition

I am delighted to announce that the overall winner of this year's Christmas Card Competition is Pola Tokarska from Year 9! Pola's beautiful design captures the essence of Christmas and will be used as our official Charles Darwin 2024 Christmas Card.

With so many wonderful entries, it was a tough decision, and we're pleased to recognise four runners-up: Florence Jarred, Year 7, Genevieve Bonome, Year 8, Sydney Daniels, Year 8 and Adam Piechowka, Year 8.

The winner and runners-up will each receive an Amazon gift voucher. Congratulations to Pola and to everyone who participated for their creativity and effort!

Aston Smith, Headteacher



Christmas Card Competition Winner  
Pola Tokarska 9ADo



Christmas Card Competition Runner Up  
Adam Piechowka 8LMc



Christmas Card Competition Runner Up  
Florence Jarred 7SAs



Christmas Card Competition Runner Up  
Genevieve Bonome 8SHu



Christmas Card Competition Runner Up  
Sydney Daniels 8LMc

# Canteen Updates

All parents should have received an e-mail home this week explaining the situation with regard to the money students have spent during the time that the tills were working off-line due to the cyber attack. If you haven't had a chance to look at the e-mail yet, it outlines answers to the main questions that we have had from parents.

The catering manager has spoken to several parents to clarify issues with the spending of the students. A reminder that if you want to see how your son/daughter spent their money during the off-line period or you have any further queries about it, please e-mail [Charles.darwin@harrisoncatering.co.uk](mailto:Charles.darwin@harrisoncatering.co.uk) and we hope to have addressed all of the issues as soon as possible.

Below is a copy of the prices of food in the canteen. It always useful to explain to your son/daughter how to budget so they spend their lunch money wisely. In particular, the meal deals are very good value for money. We will continue to do this through form tutors to help the students to budget effectively.

Ms Kelly



The image shows a menu board for Charles Darwin Academy. The board has a dark blue background with white text. At the top, it says 'Charles Darwin Academy' and 'Tariff' in a large, bold font. Below this, there are four columns of food items and their prices, categorized into Breakfast, Morning Break, Lunch Menu, and Drinks. The prices are listed in pounds and pence. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'HARRISON food with thought'.

BREAKFAST		MORNING BREAK	
Pain au chocolate	£1.43	Panini half	£1.43
Croissant	£1.43	Panini whole	£2.62
Chocolate Twist	£1.49	Sausage or bacon roll	£1.78
Buttered toast	79p	Burrito	£2.50
Bacon roll	£1.78	Veggie/Meat Pizza (from)	£1.66
Yoghurt and granola pot	£1.44	Potato wedges	£1.95
Yoghurt and fruit pot	£1.44	Hash brown	69p
Selection of Sml fruit pots	86p	Sandwich (from)	£2.00
Fresh fruit	64p	Baguette (from)	£2.45
		Wrap (from)	£2.45
		Pastries	£1.43
		Yoghurt pot	£1.44
		Fruit pot	£1.26
		Fresh whole fruit	64p

LUNCH MENU		DRINKS	
Meal deal	£2.50	Water small	65p
One pot meal / Meal Only	£2.25	Water large	80p
Jacket potato + 1	£2.20	Radnor Fizz	£1.25
Jacket Potato +2	£2.50	Radnor Splash	£1.34
Hot dessert	£1.14	Aqua Juice	£1.25
Cold dessert pots	£1.14	Juice Burst	£1.55
Jelly pot	£1.26	Fresh juice carton	£1.14
Home bake	£1.23	Milkshakes	£1.37
Panini half	£1.43	Hot chocolate	£1.40
Panini whole	£2.62	Suso	£1.34
Sausage or bacon roll	£1.78		
Burrito's	£2.50		

HARRISON  
food with thought

# Anti Bullying

Next week, several year groups will have assemblies and focus on Anti Bullying.

As a result of the review in the spring term which took the views of parents, staff and students, we will also be launching the following during the month of November:

- ◆ A 'Place to talk' – A peer support room, supervised by members of the School Council and Senior prefects. This will run on Monday lunchtimes in EN7 and initially be just for Year 7. All students involved in leading this have had safeguarding training
- ◆ A new Anti Bullying charter – reviewed in the spring and summer term by the School Council
- ◆ A new online method to report bullying via the school website

These were all suggestions that came from the whole school review last academic year

**Mrs Rees**

## School Photographs - Wednesday 13th November

In order to update our school system which is an essential safeguarding measure, we will be updating our student photographs on Wednesday 13 November for the following year groups: Years 7, 9, 11 and 12. We will also be taking any individual photographs in Years 8,10 and 13 who missed this previously or are new to the school. A professional company will be taking these photographs, and also offering additional copies and items for parents to purchase. Every child photographed be given a copy of the image for you to see with further instructions should you wish to purchase anything.

**Mrs Rees**



### Remembrance Day Poppy Dress

KS3 Textiles club created poppies using mono printing and hand embroidery which were then attached to the red dress. The finished dress has pride of place in the Main Reception at School. Well done to all students who contributed!

**Miss Doughty**

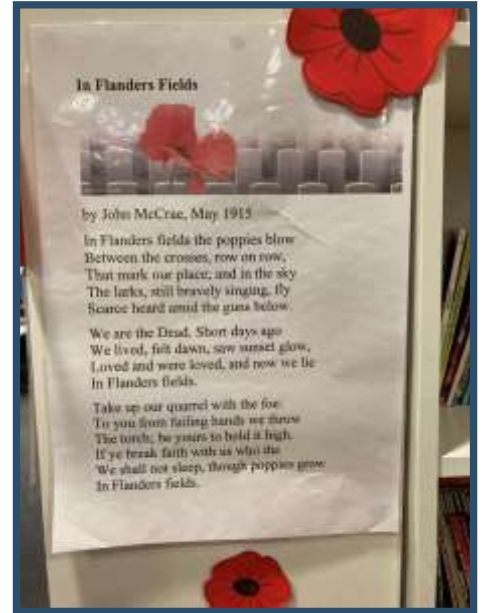
### Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence before 8.30am. Please clearly say your child's name and form he/she is in. 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.

# Library Display - Remembrance Day

Display in the school library in memory of all those lost in conflicts of war.  
**Lest we forget.**



Mrs Adams

# PE Charity Golf Day

**The PE charity golf day raised £1180.**

Thanks so much to Mr Roberts for organising this day. And thank you so much to the staff, parents, West Kent Golf club and students who were involved.

A huge thank you to our sponsors DIRECT HGV, LIMPSFIELD and AUTOFLAME. A fantastic day!

Overall team winners – Mr Roberts team

2<sup>nd</sup> place team winners – Darwin year 10 students

Closest to the pin – Zac Brooks

Miss Owen



# WELL DONE!



Mia Stathopoulos 9EOI took part in her first NSEA competition for Charles Darwin on Saturday 2nd November and came 1st on the 85cm and 2nd in the 95cm classes with one of her ponies Killea Tna.  
Well done Mia!

**Miss Gillespie**

Congratulations to Jack Johnson in Year 8 who continues to go from strength to strength with his darts. Following victory in a very tough field at the JDC Super 16 Knockout Day, Jack was able to book his place in the Final at the PDC Masters on the February 2nd next year, which will be broadcast live on ITV! We wish Jack well in this final and have no doubt that we will continue to read of his success in the darts.

**Mr Lamb**



Well done to 8XH11 - you smashed your creative homework on the empire, from cricket cakes to tea caskets, I was so impressed with your historical curiosity. Well done so many homework's made the best history board and lots kept for open day. One very proud teacher! Here is a small selection of some of the work.

**Ms Davies**

## Achievement Points Leader Board

### Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 02.09.2024 - 08.11.2024

Jamie Niblock	9PDg/MBa	79
Leo Currier	10HBu	67
Daniel Assemien	9SHo/LSw	53
Arabella Purdy	8JWi	53
Samuel Young	9LBr	53
Sophie Dilling	8CMo	52
Rebecca Dilling	10DNu	51
Chizara Agwu	7SDa/CZy	50
Evie Murphy	7APr	50
Charlie Coburn	10DNu	49



### Top highest achievers per each year for the period 02.09.2024 - 08.11.2024

Chizara Agwu	7SDa/CZy	50
Arabella Purdy	8JWi	53
Jamie Niblock	9PDg/MBa	79
Leo Currier	10HBu	67
Lucy Guy	11NKO	42
Henry Booth	12SMo	16
Pierreice Powell	13GQu	10



# Charles Darwin School Sixth Form Open Evening



No  
booking  
required

Thursday 14th November 2024  
6pm - 8pm

*Presentations in the Main Hall at 6pm and 7pm*

*Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve*

Email: [enquiries@cdarwin.com](mailto:enquiries@cdarwin.com)  
Web: [www.cdarwin.com](http://www.cdarwin.com)

Jail Lane, Biggin Hill,  
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Tel: 01959 574043

"Students in the Sixth Form benefit from an individualised approach and achieve well" Ofsted 2023



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

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

## **Darwin Leisure Centre – Leisure Assistants** **From £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: [www.cdarwin.com/key-information - vacancies](http://www.cdarwin.com/key-information-vacancies). 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.

Closing date: Friday 15 November 2024.

*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.*

# PTA Update

## Fundraising as you shop

We are expecting a payment of over £500 in November for all shopping that has taken place in the last 3 months via our 67 shoppers. Imagine the difference we can make to our students learning by getting involved!

Welcome to our new joiners who used our link:

Dee D                      Stacy W                      Thelma N

Our top shoppers in the last 30 days have been as follows:

1. Caroline W
2. Gill B
3. Deborah R
4. Jason H
5. Sule M

It takes 2 minutes to sign up using our link – friends and family can get involved too:

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

## Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Production

The PTA are delighted to support this year's production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

If you are able to help us in any way, we would be very grateful, as we are still a small team of parents and staff. So if you can consider any of the following:

1. Donate a raffle prize. If this is from your company, we can offer promotion via our social media channels as a thank you.
2. Give us a few hours of your time on the evenings of the 16-18 December to sell raffle tickets and refreshments.

Please pop us a message on social media or e-mail us at [friends@cdarwin.com](mailto:friends@cdarwin.com)

**Charles Darwin School is not responsible for the content from external websites.**

### Year 8 Duty Pupils

Vladimir Hristov  
Florence Adler  
Vidun Gammanavidanalage Don  
Kelsie Bryant

Connor Smith  
Emily German  
Harrison Gower  
Chloe Collins.

### Student Services Duty Pupils

Margaret McCarthy  
Maisie Connor  
Khyan Dixon  
Thomas Mullen-Walsh



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

# Attendance



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

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.

# 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**



## Dates for the Diary

### November:

13<sup>th</sup> November - School photo's  
13<sup>th</sup> November - A Level Physics Lectures - Emanuel Centre - 9.30am - 4pm  
14<sup>th</sup> November - Sixth Form Open Evening, 6pm  
20<sup>th</sup> November - Year 10 Information Evening, 6-7.30pm  
21<sup>st</sup> November - DofE Celebration Event

### December

4<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church  
4<sup>th</sup> December - Year 7-11, Flu vaccinations  
6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Market Trip  
11<sup>th</sup> December - Year 13 Parents' Evening  
13<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Jumper Day  
16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> December - School Production 7pm  
18<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas lunch  
20<sup>th</sup> December - End of Term, early finish  
23<sup>rd</sup> December - 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Christmas holiday

### January

6<sup>th</sup> January - Spring term starts

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### Autumn 2024

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October  
*Half term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November*  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
*Christmas Holiday: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January*

### 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*

#### Notes:

**Good Friday 18th April**  
**Easter Monday 21st 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

### INSET Days:

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
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

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