04.09.2026 Issue No: 1204 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Welcome back
Welcome back to everyone, and a very warm welcome to our new students in Years 7 and 12.

It was wonderful to greet our new Year 7s on Thursday morning, full of energy and excitement, accompanied by proud parents. They looked incredibly smart, and it was lovely to see how quickly they are already beginning to settle into life at Charles Darwin School.

The summer seems to have flown by, and I hope families found time to relax and enjoy some quality moments together.

The start of a new school year is always a great opportunity to reflect and set intentions. In assemblies this week, I asked our students the question: What do you want to change this year? I also reminded them what it means to be a Charles Darwin student.

We have a few changes to our systems and processes, including further tightening of our rules around mobile phones, following the new legislation regarding their use in schools.

We recognise the reassurance that having a phone can provide to some parents, particularly when their child is travelling to and from school. Our expectation remains that phones are off and away at the school gate and are not used or accessed again until students have left the school site.

We would appreciate your support in not calling or texting your child during the school day. If you need to contact your child urgently, please do so via the school office.

We welcome three new members to our SLT: Mrs Hamilton, Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion); Mr Stamato, Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour); and Mr Holmes, Attendance Lead, who all look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

We celebrate three members of staff who have reached an incredible 30 years of service at Charles Darwin School: Mr Doig, Head of Science; Mr Tilley, Science and Personal Development; and Mrs Tsang, Year 10 Achievement Coordinator and Design Technology.

They join the large number of staff who have given 20, 30 and even 40+ years of service to Charles Darwin School, demonstrating the outstanding commitment, dedication and loyalty of our staff community.

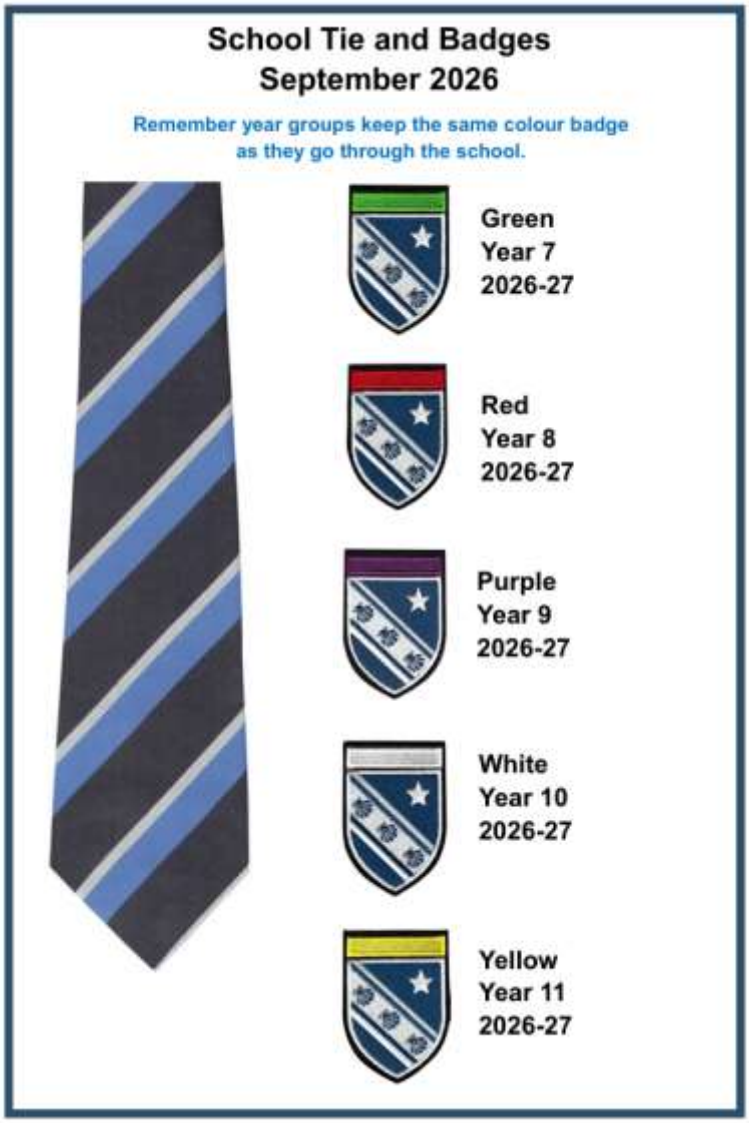
I look forward to working closely with families as we support our students through the year ahead. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our young people to thrive.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Reminder School Uniform 2026-27

Please find a link to Oz Schoolwear website:

Charles Darwin School | School Uniforms - Oz Schoolwear



Charles Darwin School

Preloved Uniform Shop
Promoting a positive eco-friendly culture of reusing

Did you know we have a preloved uniform shop with a variety of nearly new school uniform and PE kits?

If you are interested in checking stock, please send an email with your requirements (size, gender, specific item) to preloveduniform@cdarwin.com

you can also use the link below or scan the QR code.

Charles Darwin Preloved uniform requests 2026-2027

Start September on a Positive Note!

A new month is a fresh opportunity to **set goals, look after yourself, and focus on the positives**. Be kind to yourself, take things one step at a time, and remember that every small step forward is something to be proud of.

Make September a month to feel good, grow, and thrive!

Thrive dance company is back!

Please come and see Miss Winter if you have any questions or want to sign up to audition.

Sign up sheet is on the dance notice board.

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.

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.

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.

Mrs Booth
Health Care Lead

Canteen - Menus September 2026

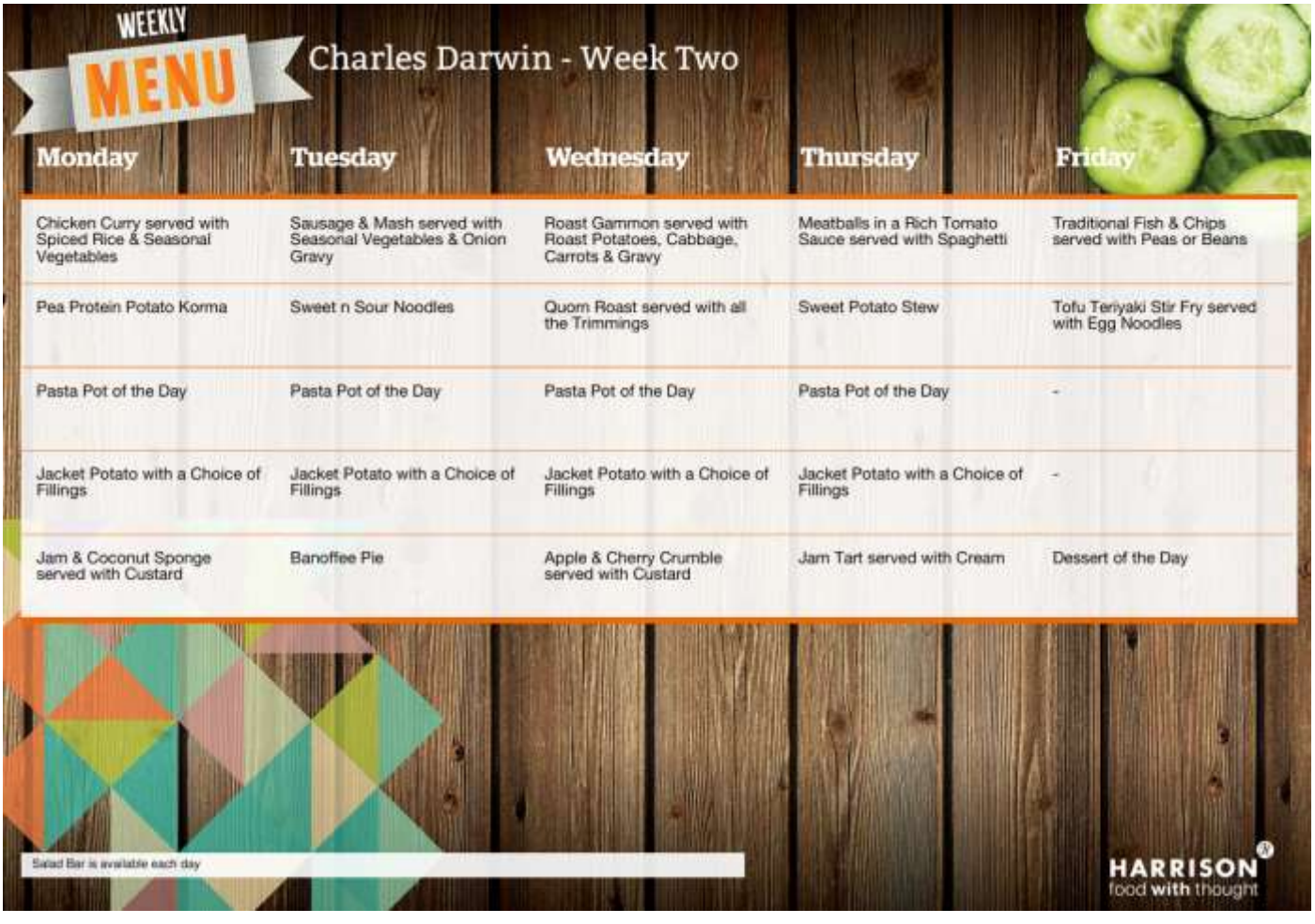
WEEKLY MENU

Charles Darwin - Week One

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chilli Con Carne served with Steamed Rice or Jacket Potato	Creamy Mushroom or Vegetable Pie	Roast Pork served with Roast Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots & Gravy	Cottage Pie served with Seasonal Vegetables	Traditional Fish & Chips served with Chunky Chips, Peas or Beans
5 Bean Chill served with Rice	-	Vegetable Balti with Pea Protein	Quorn Mince Cottage Pie	Vegetarian Pasty
Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	-
Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	-
Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Sauce	Vanilla Sponge served with Pink Custard	Treacle Sponge with Custard	Apple Crumble with Cream	Dessert of the day

Salad Bar is Available daily

HARRISON food with thought



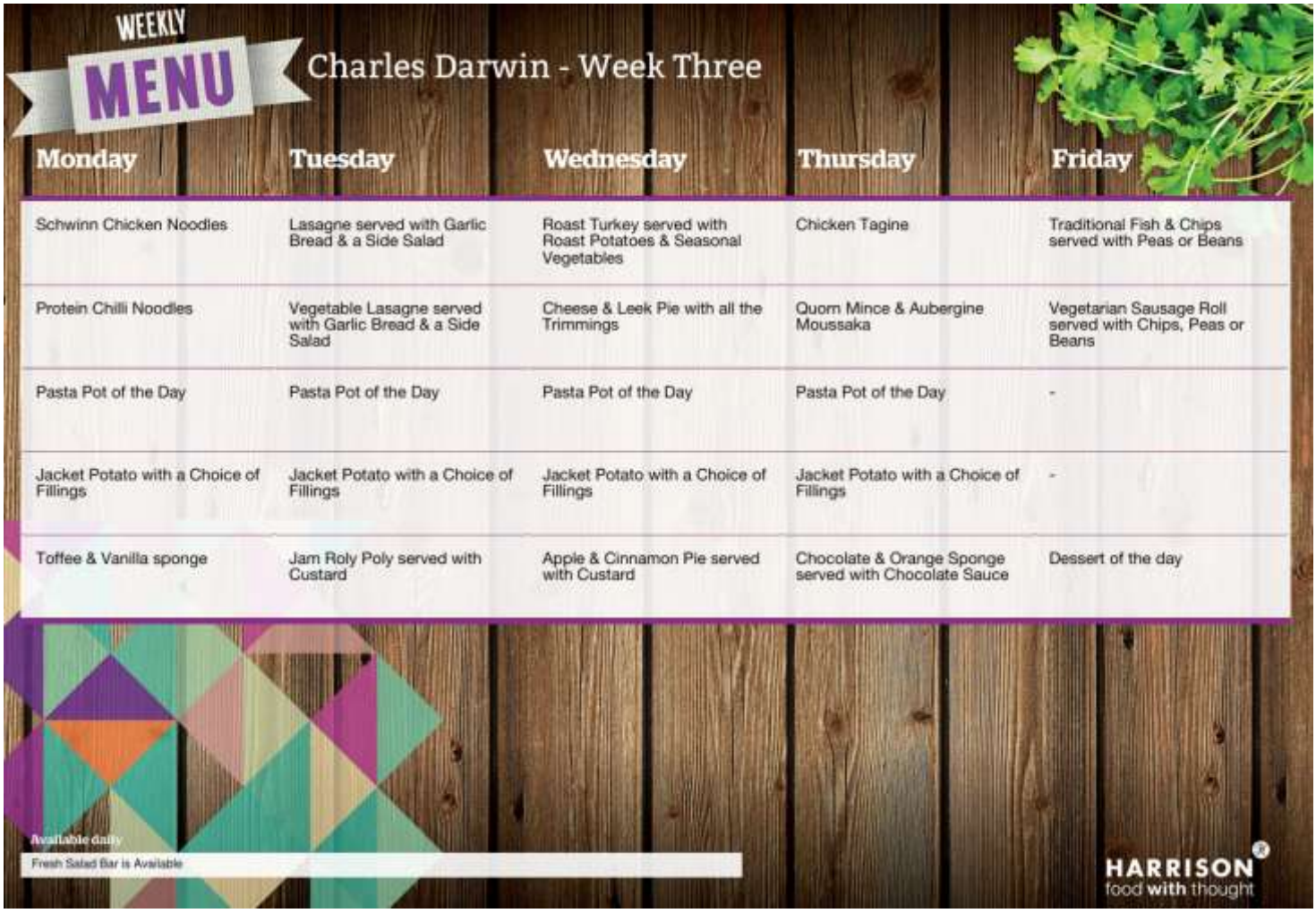
WEEKLY MENU

Charles Darwin - Week Two

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Curry served with Spiced Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Sausage & Mash served with Seasonal Vegetables & Onion Gravy	Roast Gammon served with Roast Potatoes, Cabbage, Carrots & Gravy	Meatballs in a Rich Tomato Sauce served with Spaghetti	Traditional Fish & Chips served with Peas or Beans
Pea Protein Potato Korma	Sweet n Sour Noodles	Quorn Roast served with all the Trimmings	Sweet Potato Stew	Tofu Teriyaki Stir Fry served with Egg Noodles
Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	Pasta Pot of the Day	-
Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Choice of Fillings	-
Jam & Coconut Sponge served with Custard	Banoffee Pie	Apple & Cherry Crumble served with Custard	Jam Tart served with Cream	Dessert of the Day

Salad Bar is available each day

HARRISON food with thought



Dates for the Diary

September
15th September - UCAS Evening
22nd September - Staff Meeting Literacy
22nd September - Year 11 Parents' Information Evening
24th September - Year 10 Introduction to GCSE Parents' Information Evening
29th September - Trip: Sixth Form History Trip to Hampton Court
29th September - Year 7 Meet the Tutor, Hall

October
1st October - Sports Award Evening
10th October - Open Day
12th-16th October - Open Morning Tours
20th-30th October - Half term

November
2nd November - Inset Day

Term dates for **2026/27** can be found by clicking on the link below:

Charles Darwin School - Term Dates

Charles Darwin School

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

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

Lead First Aider
One day a week (Wednesday), 38 weeks a year
£15.25 per hour (pay award pending)

We wish to appoint a suitably qualified person to join our committed and hardworking Pastoral Team as Lead First Aider as soon as possible. The post is for one day a week –Wednesday – and we are looking for an enthusiastic and empathetic individual to deal with all aspects of First Aid for staff and students and also for named students with specific medical needs. Ideally, we would like someone to work from 8.30am to 2.30pm but there may be some flexibility for the right candidate. The successful candidate will work closely with the school's Pastoral Team and our Health Care Lead.

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 are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – key information – vacancies.

Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 18th September 2026

Please note: all applicants must complete the Lumero Educational Trust support staff application form which is available on our website: www.cdarwin.com about us/vacancies. CVs alone will not be considered.

The Trust 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 and online checks.

Charles Darwin School is part of Lumero Educational Trust

Lumero
EDUCATIONAL TRUST