05.09.2025 Issue No: 1166 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 Wednesday 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 explored the importance of endeavour, striving to do our best, even when things feel challenging. We discussed how nothing worth having comes easy, we have to work hard. I didn't think I would quote Jimmy Carr in a newsletter but as he says, "everyone wants the view, but no one wants the climb" We will be working hard to build resilience and endeavour this year.

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

Welcome Back from the School Library

We're so excited to welcome everyone back after a well-deserved summer break! The library is open and ready for another year of reading, learning, and discovering. Come check out the new cozy reading corner.
Whether you're researching a project or just looking for your next favourite story, the library is here for you.
See you soon!

Mrs Waite
Library Supervisor

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

School Uniform Reminder

To help everyone start the year smoothly, please ensure the following items are not worn in school:

- Jewellery (watches are fine) – piercings are not allowed to be worn, even if they have just been done.
- Make-up (Years 10 and 11 may wear discreet make-up, but fake tan is not permitted in any year group)
- Nail varnish or false nails/extensions
- False eyelashes
- Sweatshirts or hoodies
- Bandanas, hats, or caps

Students wearing any of the above will be asked to remove them in line with our policy and detentions will be set.

You can find full details of our uniform policy on the school website. Uniform can be purchased from https://ozschoolwear.co.uk

Labelling items with your child's name will also help us return any misplaced belongings.

Thank you for your continued support.

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.

https://forms.office.com/r/EYNuVcZpsa

Parent & Carer Alert: 'The Salt & Ice Challenge'

A dangerous online trend is resurfacing where children put salt on their skin and press ice on top.

- This causes serious cold burns (like frostbite).
- Injuries can need hospital treatment and even skin grafts.
- Young people may not realise the damage until it's too late.

FIRST AID HOW TO TREAT A BURN

1. Treat the burn immediately by running under lukewarm water for 10 plus minutes
2. X Do not use ice, gels, creams or fluffy dressings
3. One the burn has cooled, covered it with clean kitchen cling film
4. If the burn is on the face, hands ,feet or larger than the size of a person's hand, seek further medical advice.

Information shared by: Dr Giles Armstrong giles.armstrong@nhs.net Kath Evans kath.evans3@nhs.net of Barts Health

PE Extra-Curricular Timetable Winter 25/26

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1.10 – 1.50pm					Trampolining Year 7 Only **(Boys/Girls)** *Gym hall* PAID VIA PARENT PAY **TAB**
After school 3.00 – 4/4.15pm	Football Training Y9/Y10 **(Boys)** *Field/3G* **JBI/JAL**	Football Training Y7/Y8 **(Boys)** *Field/3G* **JBI/JAL**	6th form Football Y12/Y13 **(Boys)** Field/3G **JBI**	Football Training Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 **(Girls)** *Field/3G* **CON**	**FIXTURE CATCH UP DAY**
	Rugby Training Y7/Y8 **(Boys and Girls)** *Field/3G* **SHU**	Rugby Training Y9/Y10 **(Boys and Girls)** *Field/3G* **SHU**	Cheerleading Y7/Y8/Y9 **(Girls/Boys)** *Gym hall* **APR**	Trampolining Year 8-13 **(Boys/Girls)** *Gym hall* PAID VIA PARENT PAY **TAB/APR**	
	Sport Fixtures All years **(Girls/Boys)** Home/Away **ALL STAFF**	Netball Training Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 **(Girls)** *Courts/Sports hall* **LWR**	Sport Fixtures All years **(Girls/Boys)** Home/Away **ALL STAFF**	Sport Fixtures All years **(Girls/Boys)** Home/Away **ALL STAFF**	
	ALL FIXTURES WILL BE ARRANGED ON A WEEK BY WEEK BASIS FOR ALL TEAMS. THIS COULD BE DIFFERENT EACH WEEK DUE TO THE DIFFERENT LEAGUE AND COMPETITIONS.				

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Max Rayner
Cynthia Lamont
Olivia Cook
Charlie Scott

Student Services Duty Pupils

Sadie Poole

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

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

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

BROMLEY Y
Building Strengths

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People

Please use the link below to access Bromley Y webinar posters:
General Webinar Posters YP & Parent Autumn 2025.pdf - Google Drive

Attendance

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES Per day =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATENDANCE
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.

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.
Thank you

Mrs Booth
Health Care Lead

Dates for the Diary

September

16th September - Whole School Photographs
16th September - UCAS Evening
24th September - Trip – ''Punch' at the Apollo Theatre, London
24th September - Year 11 Parents' GCSE Information Evening, 6pm
30th September - Year 7 Meet the Tutor, 3.30pm

October

10th October - Early finish, preparation for Open Morning
11th October - Open Morning
13th-17th October - Open Week Tours

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 17thJuly

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

Term Dates 2026-2027

Inicio Educational Trust Schools

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term 1

Start:	Tuesday 1st September 2026
Finish:	Friday 16th October 2026
Autumn break:	Monday 19th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026

Term 2

Start:	Monday 2nd November 2026
Finish:	Friday 18th December 2026
Christmas break:	Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2026

Term 3

Start:	Monday 4th January 2027
Finish:	Friday 12th February 2027
February break:	Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027

Term 4

Start:	Monday 22nd February 2027
Finish:	Thursday 25th March 2027
Spring break:	Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 9th April 2027

Term 5

Start:	Monday 12th April 2027
Finish:	Friday 28th May 2027
Early May Bank Holiday:	*Monday 3rd May 2027*
May break:	Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027

Term 6

Start:	Monday 7th June 2027
Finish:	Wednesday 21st July 2027

Professional Development days will be allocated through the academic year