12.09.2025 Issue No: 1167 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

It has been a fantastic first full week back. High levels of effort and working hard has been the theme for the week, and students and staff have certainly lived up to it!
A huge thank you and well done to the PE department, for providing such incredible extra-curricular opportunities. On Tuesday evening, I had the privilege of watching students taking part in netball, rugby and football. By my count, there were well over a hundred children involved, all fully engaged, focused, and clearly enjoying themselves. It was also wonderful to see so many parents gathered in the sunshine. They spoke with real appreciation for the time given, and the standard of sport on display looked excellent (not that I'm the expert!).

Meanwhile, the Performing Arts department had over a hundred students auditioning for the school production of The Nativity, which will be showcased at the end of Term 2. The buzz was electric, and it was fantastic to see such high levels of enthusiasm and engagement with the arts after school on both Tuesday and Thursday. A big thank you to all of the staff involved.

There are many more clubs and activities launching this term, and we hope there will be something for everyone. Please do encourage your child to get involved and try something new.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Charles Darwin School

Operated by the Inicio Educational Trust
Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Open Morning - Saturday 11th October 2025

Parents of prospective students are invited to visit our high performing school to view and sample the exciting opportunities we have to offer. Pre booking for a tour only (9am) or Headteacher's presentation followed by a tour (9am or 10:30am) is essential by midday on Thursday 9th October. Priority will be given to Year 6 children. Presentations will start promptly at the advertised time so please leave sufficient time for parking. There will be very limited on-site parking. Please email the relevant tour/presentation with **your name, your child's name, their current year group, their current school and the number of places required.**

Early Tour (No Presentation)	Presentation 1 & Tour	Presentation 2 & Tour
9:00am	9:00am	10:30am
Email to book your place	Email to book your place	Email to book your place
earlytour@cdarwin.com	hallandtour1@cdarwin.com	hallandtour2@cdarwin.com

Open Week Tours - Monday 13th to Friday 17th October

If you wish to attend one of our Open Week tours you can pre-book a tour for 8.45am or 9.00am (max. 2 people per booking). Open week tours offer the opportunity to see the school in operation and to observe teaching taking place. This will be followed by a short Q & A session. No parking available on site. Pre-booking essential by midday on Friday 10th October. Priority will be given to Year 6 children.

Monday 13th October - mondaytours@cdarwin.com
Tuesday 14th October - tuesdaytours@cdarwin.com
Wednesday 15th October - wednesdaytours@cdarwin.com
Thursday 16th October - thursdaytours@cdarwin.com
Friday 17th October - fridaytours@cdarwin.com

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

National Poetry Competition

Lots of Charles Darwin School students entered the ‘Grim Tales’ writing competition last school year. Winners haven’t been announced yet by the organisers, Young Writers, but watch this space!

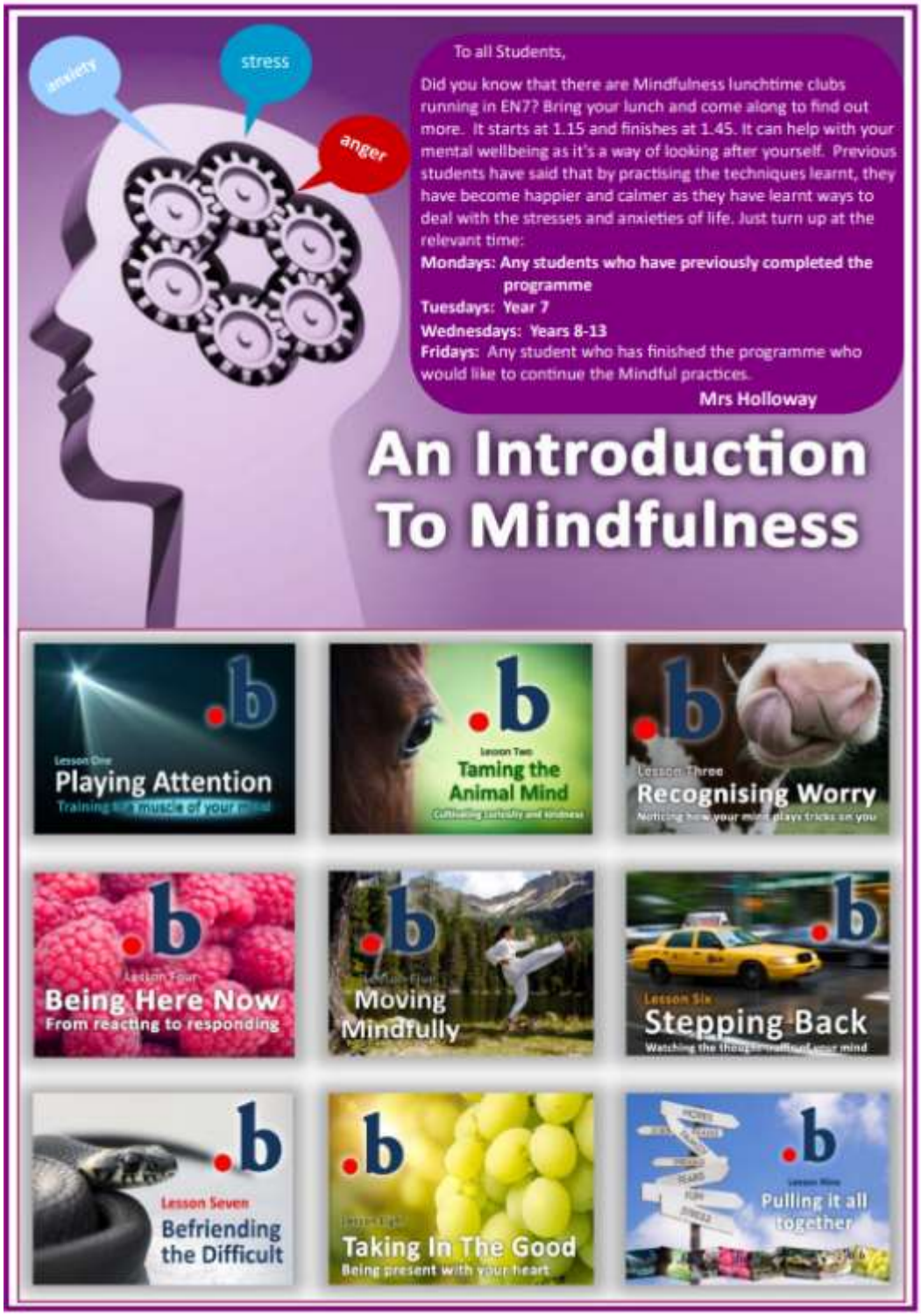
They are now running a poetry competition. Please ask your English teacher for further information, help and advice. Alternatively, see Mrs Holloway in En7.
Good luck!

Mrs Holloway
Head of KS3 English

Mindfulness at Charles Darwin

Please see the poster below regarding Mindfulness Clubs running at Charles Darwin.
All clubs start next week.

Mrs Holloway



BROMLEY Y
Building Strengths

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People

Please see below links to Bromley Y free webinars:
Stress & Worry Management
Helping your child or young person with fears and worries
Helping your child with sleep difficulties

PE Extra-Curricular Timetable Winter 25/26

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Monday</th><th>Tuesday</th><th>Wednesday</th><th>Thursday</th><th>Friday</th></tr>
<tr><td>Lunch
1.10 – 1.50pm</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Trampolining
Year 7 Only
(Boys/Girls)
Gym hall
PAID VIA PARENT PAY
TAB</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">After school
3.00 – 4/4.15pm</td><td>Football Training
Y9/Y10
(Boys)
Field/3G
JBI/JAL</td><td>Football Training
Y7/Y8
(Boys)
Field/3G
JBI/JAL</td><td>6th form Football
Y12/Y13
(Boys)
Field/3G
JBI</td><td>Football Training Y7/Y8/Y9/ Y10
(Girls)
Field/3G
CON</td><td rowspan="4">FIXTURE CATCH UP DAY</td></tr>
<tr><td>Rugby Training
Y7/Y8
(Boys and Girls)
Field/3G
SHU</td><td>Rugby Training
Y9/Y10
(Boys and Girls)
Field/3G
SHU</td><td>Cheerleading
Y7/Y8/Y9
(Girls/Boys)
Gym hall
APR</td><td>Trampolining
Year 8-13
(Boys/Girls)
Gym hall
PAID VIA PARENT PAY
TAB/APR</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sport Fixtures
All years
(Girls/Boys)
Home/Away
ALL STAFF</td><td>Netball Training
Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10
(Girls)
Courts/Sports hall
LWR</td><td>Sport Fixtures
All years
(Girls/Boys)
Home/Away
ALL STAFF</td><td>Sport Fixtures
All years
(Girls/Boys)
Home/Away
ALL STAFF</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">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.</td></tr>
</table>

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Charlie Evans
Isla Bishop
Harvey Broader
Gabriella Paluch
Malik Onayemi
Olivia Gammage
Luca Watson
Elvie Pender
Bailey Sleight
Lois Toop

Student Services Duty Pupils

Harrison Gower
Liam Delanie
Sydney Still
Florence Adler
David Harrii

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

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
25th September - Trip - A level Ecology, Beckenham Place Park
26th September - Trip - A level Ecology, Beckenham Place Park
30th September - Year 7 Meet the Tutor, 3.30pm

October

7th October - Trip **-** GCSE Fieldwork trip to Olympic Park, Stratford
8th October - Trip - 'Every Brilliant Thing', Drama, Soho Place Theatre
10th October - Early finish, preparation for Open Morning
11th October - Open Morning
13th-17th October - Open Week Tours (am)

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