19.09.2025 Issue No: 1168 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Y11 Celebration of Success Assembly
On Monday I had the pleasure of attending the Y11 celebration of success assembly. It is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the students' achievements and progress from year 10 and a really positive way to start the new academic year for our Year 11 students.

Good News
It's always great to end the week with something positive. I'm delighted to share that our attendance for Years 7–11 was 0.6% above the national figure at 94.8% (National: 94.2%).

Good attendance makes a real difference. Every day in school helps students to learn more and build the habits that will prepare them for future success. With your support, we want to keep this momentum going and aim even higher.

Christmas Card Competition
I know it might feel early, but with Christmas only 97 days away, I'm delighted to launch the Charles Darwin Christmas Card Competition 2025. Last year's entries were fantastic, and I can't wait to see the creativity and talent our students bring again this year. Please do encourage your child to take part.
There will be two winning designs, one from KS3 and one from KS4/5, which will become our official school Christmas cards. Prizes will also be awarded to the winners and runners-up. Deadline for entries: Wednesday 5th November. Further details can be found on the poster below.

Early Close
School will close early on Friday 10th October, with students dismissed at 12:20pm. This is to allow staff to prepare for our Open Morning on Saturday 11th October. School buses will depart at the earlier time. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Revised Homework Policy

Many thanks to those parents, students, staff and governors who worked with us last term on revising our Homework Policy.

Educational research has shown that the setting of meaningful homework fosters educational curiosity in learners and can make the difference of half a grade or more at GCSE as well as encouraging independence, accountability and the development of effective time management, all crucial life skills for our students.

We have revised our Homework policy, taking on board the views and valued input of those parties mentioned above and will see this launched in the coming weeks with students. Please do take time to read this. The roles of all stakeholders have been outlined, and we really appreciate your continued support here.

Mrs R Kearney

Grims Tales Competition

Dear parents/carers,

Some of our students entered the Grims Tales writing competition last year and lots have now been published in a book. If you ordered your own copy of the book, please ask your child to visit me in teaching room En7 as they have arrived! There are copies of these books in our library so everyone can have a look at our wonderful students' stories.

Mrs S Holloway
Head of KS3 English

Charles Darwin School

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

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

Charles Darwin Pre-loved Uniform Requests 2025/2026 school year onwards

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/e/qSR8ju6P5C

Jack Petchey Foundation mission is to provide opportunities for young people to build their skills, their confidence and their voice, so they can fulfil their potential and have a positive impact on society.
This survey is their chance to use your voice to positively impact society and shape the conversation around how young people are perceived. Jack Petchey Foundation want to amplify the voices of young people. They will present the data to key decision makers in governments and local councils to illustrate the importance of listening to young people's voices.

The survey takes 15 minutes to complete and is open to everyone aged 11-25 in the London and Essex area.
The survey closes 11:59pm on Sunday 2nd November 2025.

Each young person who fills out the survey will be entered into a prize draw for the chance to **win £200**!
If 12 or more young people from your school or youth group complete the survey, you could also win a **£500 grant for your organisation**.

Please see the link below to access the survey:
Home | Jack Petchey Foundation

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

PTA Update

We would like to welcome all families back after the summer break and of course an extra warm welcome to our new Y7s and their families. We are delighted to be back for a fresh new year and have already welcomed some new members to our team.

We look forward to bringing you more detailed updates in the coming weeks so please note the following for now:

- Next Quiz Night: Friday 21st November
- Bingo re-scheduled to February (please contact us if you booked tickets already for the prior date)

Tickets will be on sale soon via our PTA Online shop, where you can also sign up for our monthly prize draw: https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com

Please note, you can follow us on social media:

Facebook @friendscharlesdarwinschool

Instagram charles_darwin_PTA

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Mia Przeslawski
Oliver Lambert
Harry Ioannou
Lauren Stacey
Kai Brown Blackeley
Sophia Bakewell
Elsie Ramsey
Edward Bellhouse-Smith
Layla Gardener
Pari Ali Qazalbash

Student Services Duty Pupils

Vidun Gammanavidanelage Don
Alexander Matei
Ciena-Lucia Scarciglia
Arthur Vowles
Bobby Spinks

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

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 19 September 2025.

7HEm/KSa	100%
7COn	100%
8VKi	97.1%
9CMo	97.9%
10GJo/OLo	98.3%
11HBu	98.5%
12MMe	100%
12ZPa	100%
13MCr	98.3%

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

24th September - Trip: Y11/Y13 Drama Trip to see '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
29th September - Flu Immunisations Year 7-11
30th September - Trip: Y12/Y13 DT Trip - Design Workshop at Blue Garage, Lewisham
30th September - Trip: Y12/Y13 DT Trip to see 'Punch' at the Apollo Theatre, London
30th September - Year 7 Meet the Tutor, 3.30-6pm

October

2nd October - Year 10 Information Evening
7th October - Trip **-** GCSE Fieldwork trip to Olympic Park, Stratford
8th October - Trip - 'Every Brilliant Thing', Drama, Soho Place Theatre
8th October - Trip: Y10/Y12/Y13 DT Trip - Design Workshop at Blue Garage, Lewisham
10th October - Early finish (12.20pm) 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 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

HOW WE HELP CHILDREN MAKE IT

Every child can **MAKE IT**. From making new friends, to confidence to football skills, we're here to help them grow - here's what's packed into every session:

Skill, character & confidence development

- Technical skill
- Speed & agility
- Fitness & focus
- Confidence & decision-making

From first-timers to future pros.

We welcome girls aged 4–16 of all abilities. Every session is fun, inclusive, and tailored to help each child improve at their own pace.

Fun 1v1 contests for real match skills

We run 1-on-1 games to develop quick thinking, creativity and confidence - while keeping things fun and competitive.

WHAT YOU'LL GET AT EVERY SESSION

- 500+ touches of the football
- New drills every session
- Small-sided games
- Ability based classes

GET IN TOUCH

bromleygirls@wemakefootballers.com

07771 146 473

WE MAKE FOOTBALLERS

BROMLEY GIRLS

GIRLS ONLY

SKILL BASED FOOTBALL COACHING FOR 4-16 YEAR OLDS

Girls only sessions built around our proven coaching method, designed to help every player improve - whatever their level.

SCHEDULE & PRICE

EVERY MONDAY

5.30pm - 6.30pm

WHERE WE TRAIN

Harris Academy Beckenham,
Manor Way, Beckenham BR3 3SJ

£88 for 8 weekly sessions

ALL YEAR TRAINING

TOP FACILITIES!

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

FOR EVERY JOURNEY

CLAIM YOUR FREE SESSION

SCAN ME

Trustpilot

★★★★★

TRUSTED BY OVER 100,000 PARENTS