03.10.2025 Issue No: 1170 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Year 7 Induction /Meet the Tutor
It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and students into school on Tuesday for our Year 7 “Meet the Tutor” event, which forms an important part of the induction process. Our new Year 7s are continuing to settle in well, with the majority adapting confidently to secondary school life. The Year 7 team will continue to provide guidance and support as they progress through this important first year.

Theatre in Education – A Lesson in Mental Resilience
On Thursday, our Year 8 students had the opportunity to experience a powerful Theatre in Education performance. The high-quality drama explored the lives of teenage characters navigating a range of complex social situations. At its heart was a strong and clear message about the importance of mental resilience.
The performance not only engaged students but also equipped them with strategies, suggestions, and advice for managing challenges in their own lives. It was an excellent example of how drama can be both thought-provoking and educational.
A huge thank you to Ms Currie for organising this valuable opportunity for our students.

Black History Month at Charles Darwin School
This Wednesday marked the start of Black History Month. Over the next few weeks, subjects across the school will be highlighting the important role that Black people have played in shaping the world we live in today. Alongside this, students will experience themed assemblies, displays, film clubs and posters that further recognise these contributions.
This focus follows on from our hugely successful Culture Day in the summer, where we celebrated the many cultures within our school community, not least through the wonderful food that was created and shared.
At Charles Darwin School, we are proud to be a comprehensive where everyone, regardless of their background, is welcomed and valued. Black History Month gives us another opportunity to reflect, celebrate and learn from the rich diversity that strengthens our school and our society.

Year 10 Information Evening
On Thursday evening we welcomed year 10 parents and students to our GCSE Information Evening. Mr Jones and Miss Gillespie shared practical advice on how parents can support their child at home, including establishing routines, effective revision strategies, and approaches to managing wellbeing, all aimed at helping students make a strong and successful start to their GCSE journey.

Open Morning
Open event preparations are now well underway for our Open Morning on Saturday 11th October. It will be a very busy day and my thanks to those students who are helping with the preparations and to those who will be with us on the day itself. **There will be an early close on Friday 10th to allow for the Open Morning preparation and students will be dismissed at 12.20.**

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Year 11 Prefects

Year 11s were invited to apply for the role of a prefect a few weeks ago.
A prefect at Charles Darwin School is a role model for the entire school. They are expected to be honest, trustworthy, and reliable, always ready to take on any task.
Prefects will assist in managing parents evenings and represent the Charles Darwin School at public events throughout the year.
We are really proud that we were able to appoint the below students to this fantastic role.

Mrs Tsang
Head of Year 11

Robyn Ashkettle 11EKa/CAh
Phoebe Vincent 11JAl
Rylee Newall 11STi
Cailin Fleming 11EKa/CAh
Tom Fox 11EKa/CAh
Taylor Aling 11SAr
Claudia Lamont 11HBu
Sofia Raulinaitis 11DNu
Holly Coles 11JHd
Aoife Teehan 11DNu

Emmanuel Adebayo 11HBu
Beatrice Balogun 11JAl
Bethany McGonical 11SAr
Leo Currier 11HBu
Elizabeth Merredew 11EKa/CAh
Emmanuel Oluwatayo 11EKa/CAh
Evie Radford 11JHd
Chloe Everett 11JAl
Anoosha Fathi Ahadbegaloo 11JAl
Olivia Klin 11JAl

Black History Month

This month, the library is proud to celebrate **Black History Month**. On our Black History Month display board, students are encouraged to:

Dream like Martin Luther King Jr.
Lead like Harriet Tubman
Fight like Malcolm X
Think like Marcus Garvey
Write like Maya Angelou
Build like Madam C.J. Walker
Speak like Frederick Douglass
Educate like Thurgood Marshall
Challenge like Rosa Parks

Each of these messages reminds us of the power of courage, leadership, and education in shaping a better future.
Together, we celebrate Resilience and Endeavour and inspire the future.

Mrs Waite
Library Supervisor

Inktober Challenge

Each year we participate in Inktober, which is an international drawing challenge.

The students are asked to try to follow the prompts and do a drawing daily throughout the month of October.

Although it is called Inktober, we encourage students to use whichever media they prefer to complete their drawings.

Attached to this week's Link is a simple grid -best printed at A3- which students can use to fill in as a small daily drawing, but many students like to get their own sketchbooks to fill instead, doing whole page drawings.
There will be finalists from each school, (best individual image and best portfolio) and then overall winners across the Inicio trust!

Copies of the grid will be available from the main reception.

Mrs Broad
Head of Art & Textiles

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/e/qSR8ju6P5C

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

PTA Update

We have been delighted to welcome some new members to our PTA team which will definitely ease the load for the coming year and hopefully make our fairly ambitious plans even more possible.
We have two core objectives in the team:

- To maintain our charity fundraising to help fund projects and items that school budgets would simply not be able to afford, always benefitting our students.
- To maintain engagement within our local community, including parents, staff and carers.

Quiz Night - Friday 21st November
Our next quiz night will take place on Friday 21st November. If you would like to join us, teams can be from 2-8 people.
Quiz master Chris (one of our parents) has generously offered to return to maintain order at our competition, which is no easy challenge at such a competitive evening.

Tickets are still available for £10 per person via our online shop: https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/ Quizzers can bring their own refreshments and a raffle will be available.

If a local business would like to sponsor a quiz night or raffle prize, we can offer promotion of your business in return, starting at £50. If sponsorship might be an option for your business, please contact us at friends@cdarwin.com. Our Facebook pages regularly achieve 5500 views each month and we have 600 followers, so maybe we can help your local customer base to grow.

Open Morning - Saturday 11th October
We are delighted to be supporting the school open morning on Saturday 11th October, selling hot and cold refreshments. Please come and see us to say hello!

Easy-fundraising Update
Thanks to all our wonderful supporters who have helped us boost our funds in recent weeks via their shopping and travel, including:

Sule M, Ana B, Jason H, Caroline W, Gill B, Sarah H, Emma R, Jenny L, Helen H, Hazel C, Rebecca S, Deborah R, Nicola T, Sona D, Hannah B, Joanna C

Our purchases via 76 enrolled people in our community have helped us to raise £1876.52 which is a great boost to our funds.

Easy-fundraising is a low administration way for us to boost our funds, so we are very grateful to anyone who enrols using our link: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=304171&invite=graab1&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

Thinking Ahead
We are very keen to find some extra pairs of hands to help us in a variety of ways. You can offer as little or as much time as you like as there is truly no pressure and we believe we are a friendly group! If you think you might be able to contribute some time, ideas and/or support, please e-mail us at friends@cdarwin.com

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Nizar Bouchikh
Isla Mitchell
Emir Beklevic
Lily-Ray Gilder
Lylan Chapman
Millie Austin
Henry Hyland
Cienna Kentfield
Mia Dyer
Liam Trimmings

Student Services Duty Pupils

Angel Goksal
Ethan Houghton
Elsie Starrs Freeman
Ivy Bird
Jamie Lett

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

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 22 September 2025.

7SHe/KSa	99.3%
8LWr/OLo	95.7%
9SHu	92.2%
10GJo/OLo	96.6%
11JHd	95.9%
12JDa	98.7%
13DWa	99.4%

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

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 for students (12.20pm) preparation for Open Morning
11th October - Open Morning
13th-17th October - Open Week Tours (am)
17th October - End of term

November
3rd November - INSET DAY
5th November - Closing date for Christmas Card Competition
13th November - Sixth Form Open Evening
21st November - PTA Quiz Night, 7:30pm

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

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

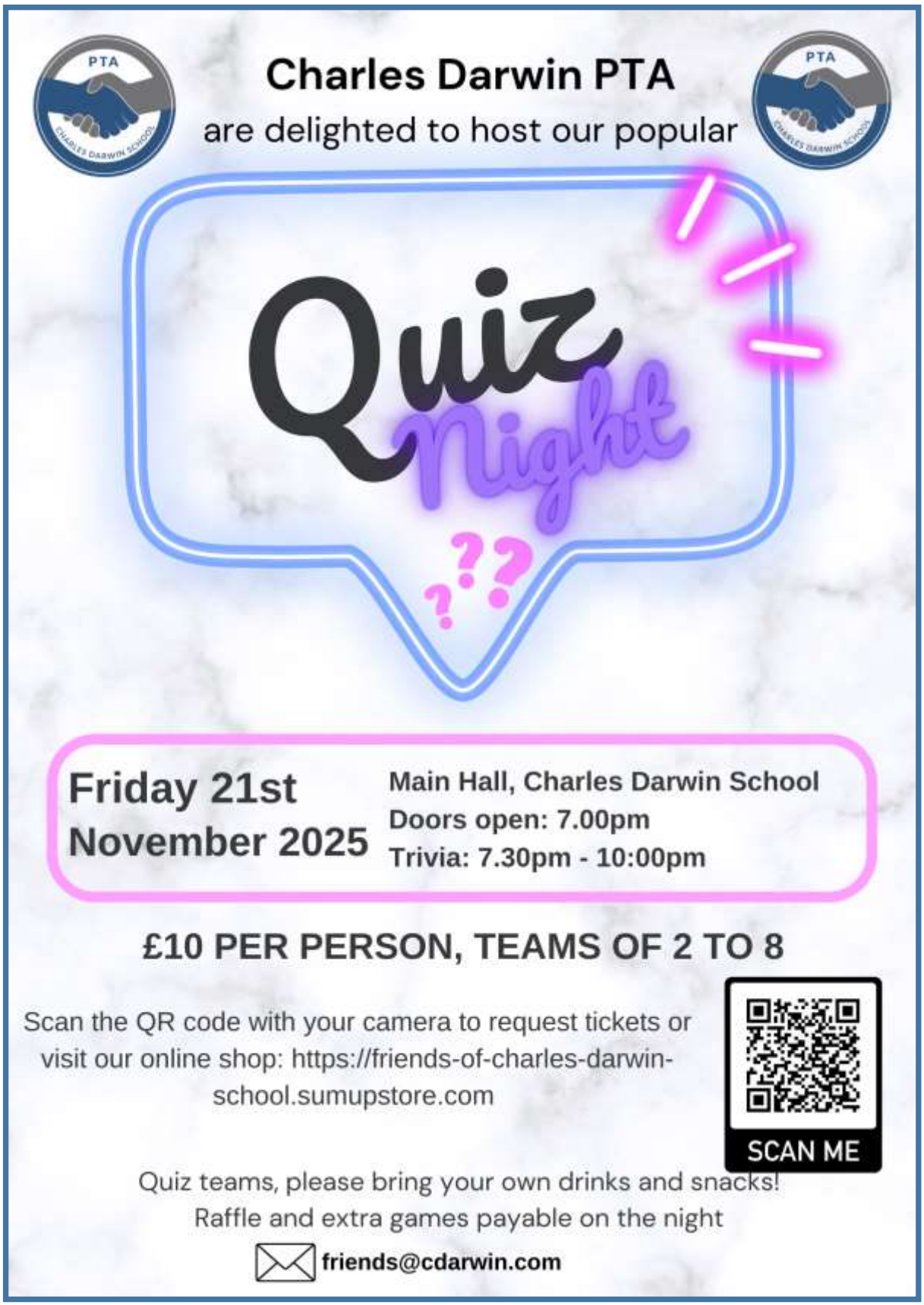
Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

World Mental Health Day 10th October

World Mental Health Day is coming up on Friday October 10th, so this is an ideal time to raise awareness of the wellbeing support available to young people across school community.
Please see below access link to Bromley Y introduction video:

Start of term short introduction to Bromley Y MHST



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

FREE EVENT

The SEND Local Offer Live TASTER SESSIONS!

BROMLEY SEND LOCAL OFFER
SEND Matters
LIVE!

Palace for Life Foundation
Access Sport
Dynamic Coaching
Diversity & Inclusion in Action
REMIX
magpie Dance
Kent Cricket
Sunflower Autism Consultancy
Supporting neurodiverse families to flourish
Pop Up Arcade
ORB
Bromley Adult Education College
Adapt Movement
SEN Sports

From dance, football, cricket, archery, art, to sensory songs, story time, face painting, virtual gaming, and even a silent disco! Come along and join in the fun!

Thursday 30 October, 10am to 2pm

Bishop Justus School,
Magpie Hall Lane,
Bromley,
BR2 8HZ

Register your interest in a taster session today! See you there!

Please note: parents and carers remain responsible for their children at all times.

Bromley
NHS South East London
Bromley Parent Carer Forum
yvhsc

Message from Bromley Food Bank

Bromley Borough Foodbank
Together with Trussell

As from Wednesday 1st October the **value of supermarket vouchers** given to Bromley residents referred to us will be changing. When the vouchers were initially introduced we had benefited from the community's generosity during COVID and wanted to pass this on to our clients. Now as we reach a more normal level of donations we need to make sure we stay sustainable. This means a reduction of voucher value.

Starting tomorrow **voucher values** will be:

Household size	1	2	3	4	5+
Voucher value	£1	£1	£2	£2	£3

Please **bring carrier bags, a trolley** or even wheely suitcase to collect your food. Our supply of donated carrier bags is very low currently.

Reminder: please **bring ID for all members of the family** - this allows us to allocate the correct value of supermarket vouchers. A Universal Credit letter (on a phone) with household size on it is fine.

GREEN GARDEN WASTE SITE:

Biggin Hill: Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane
Sundays 8am - 12noon, open 2 March to 26 October 2025.

Details

All green garden waste must be bagged and residents must bring their council tax bill, drivers licence or a form of identification that includes their address.

Please do not put your garden waste in builders' sacks, as these are too heavy to be lifted safely.
No commercial garden waste will be accepted.

Yes please	No thanks
Grass cuttings	Tree trunks and large branches
Prunings (no bigger than 2 inches round)	Soil and rubble
Dead plants	Garden furniture, flower pots and plastic debris

RUGBYFEST '25

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 10AM-12PM

RugbyFest 2025

THE ULTIMATE RUGBY WEEKEND!

Celebrate the culmination of an action packed summer of women's rugby at Bromley RFC at our RFU RugbyFest event.

- Welcoming school teams, individuals and existing players
- Introductory training for beginners
- Fun coached sessions and T1 Rugby
- Family BBQ, Pizza Van, Music and more

Plus special guest appearances by **RedRoses** Meg Jones and Abi Burton

For more information call Ross on **07515 712574**
or email **girlsrugby@bromleyrfc.org**

BROMLEY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
BARNET WOOD ROAD, HAYES, KENT BR2 7AA

RED ROSES England Rugby

tackle LONDON
Creating change for young Londoners

star

LONDON BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT