17.10.2025 Issue No: 1172 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Musicfest
On Wednesday evening, I had the pleasure of attending Musicfest. My thanks to Ms. Mace, Mr. Habberfield, Mr. Andrews, and Ms. Kearney for providing our students with the opportunity to showcase their wonderful musical talents to an audience. Thank you also to all the families who attended.

End of Term Message
As we reach the end of a busy half term, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support. It has been a great first half term, full of hard work, achievements, extra-curricular activities, sporting events, trips, rehearsals for the school production in full swing, and many more memorable moments across the school community.

Year 7 have settled brilliantly, showing fantastic attitudes to learning, working hard, and forming strong relationships with staff.

Year 11 PPEs are underway, and it is important that preparation continues over the half-term break using the skills learned in the recent MADE workshops. Parents – remember that our website has lots of useful resources to support revision and a successful year. Click the trophy icon in the top right corner of the website for Year 11 information.

The feedback from our recent Open Day and tours held this week has been overwhelmingly positive. I am so proud of our students who helped with preparations and guided our visitors, they were fantastic ambassadors for the school.

A reminder that there is still time over the half-term break for students to take part in our Design a Christmas Card Competition. The winning design will feature on our official school Christmas card, with prizes for the winner and runners-up. The closing date is 5th November.

I hope you all enjoy a relaxing half-term break, whether you are heading away or enjoying some time at home. We look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday, 4th November, at 8:15 a.m.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

"You Are Your Own Brand" Marketing Leader Matt Bushby Inspires Sixth Formers

Last week, our Year 12 students were fortunate to hear from Matt Bushby, Chief Marketing Officer at Rightmove and former UK&I Marketing Director, Just Eat. Matt delivered an inspiring talk on his career journey into marketing, the various paths to success, and the importance of personal branding – reminding students that *"you are your own brand."*

The session was lively and interactive, with students fully engaged and asking thoughtful, insightful questions. Matt later shared his reflections:

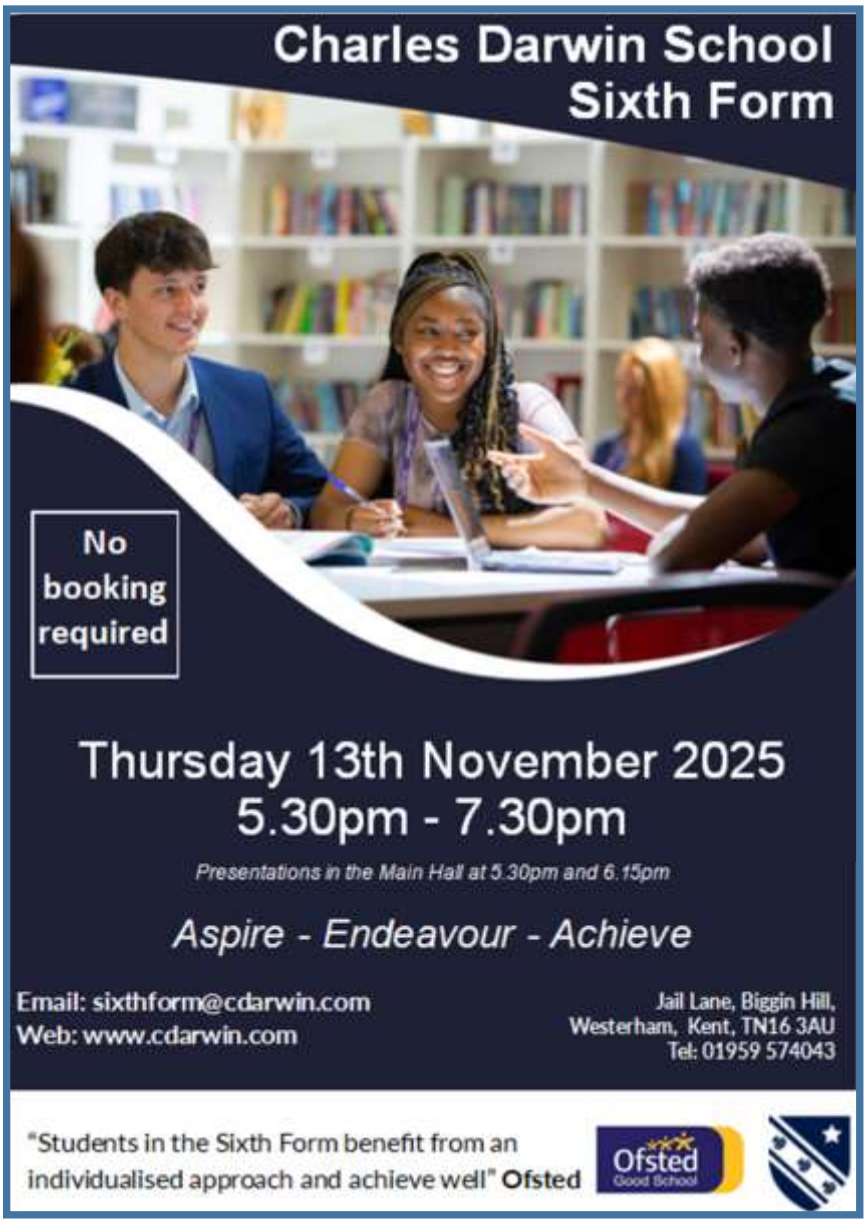
"I really enjoyed introducing the idea of a career in marketing and hopefully introducing some new people to a brilliant industry. It was a great audience, they welcomed me to their school and asked some brilliant and perceptive questions. They were a real credit to themselves and to the school."

He also encouraged students to take the next step in building their networks, adding:

"As I said in the session, reaching out and connecting is going to be a really important skill to develop. Connecting with people in jobs they're interested in is a great first step."

A huge thank you to Matt for his time and insights, we look forward to welcoming him back in the future!

Mrs Johnson



Please vote for CDS Cheerleading Club

Last academic year myself and the PTA applied for Tesco funding for new cheerleading equipment, for our Cheerleading Club. We are very excited that our application has been accepted for the in-store voting!
At Tesco's in and around the Bromley area, you can vote for our school so receive the money from the grant. The deadline is 31st December to vote!

Stores you can vote in:
2203 Bromley Express BR2 0TY Express BR2 0TY
2445 Elmers End Superstore BR3 4AA Superstore BR3 4AA
3068 High Street Penge Express SE20 7QB Express SE20 7QB
3148 St Pauls Cray Express BR5 3AQ Express BR5 3AQ
4564 Bromley Plaisow Express BR1 4DS Express BR1 4DS
4779 Beckenham Chinese Garage Express BR3 3LS Express BR3 3LS
5234 Crystal Palace Express SE19 2AH Express SE19 2AH
5311 Penge Croydon Road Express SE20 7TY Express SE20 7TY
5651 Bromley Superstore BR1 2UE Superstore BR1 2UE
5904 Orpington Extra BR6 0NH Extra BR6 0NH
6147 Biggin Hill Express TN16 3BB Express TN16 3BB
6224 Beckenham Express BR3 4EP Express BR3 4EP
6496 Penge High Street Express SE20 7HB Express SE20 7HB
6981 Bromley High Street Express BR1 1LF Express BR1 1LF"

Thank you, every vote counts!

Miss Porter

Crochet Club

Lunchtime Tues 4th- Fri 7th Nov Learn a new skill and create a remembrance poppy to display in school.

Join Mrs Broad in AR3

Don't forget to handy in your entries on the first day back after half term.

Art Department

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

Donations 2024-2025
We have finalised our financial records for 2024 - 2025 and wanted to take this opportunity to share information about how we have been spending our funds.
We spent £8,408 in the last school year on items that will all directly benefit our students.

Here are the projects we will able to support, thanks to your support:

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.

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.

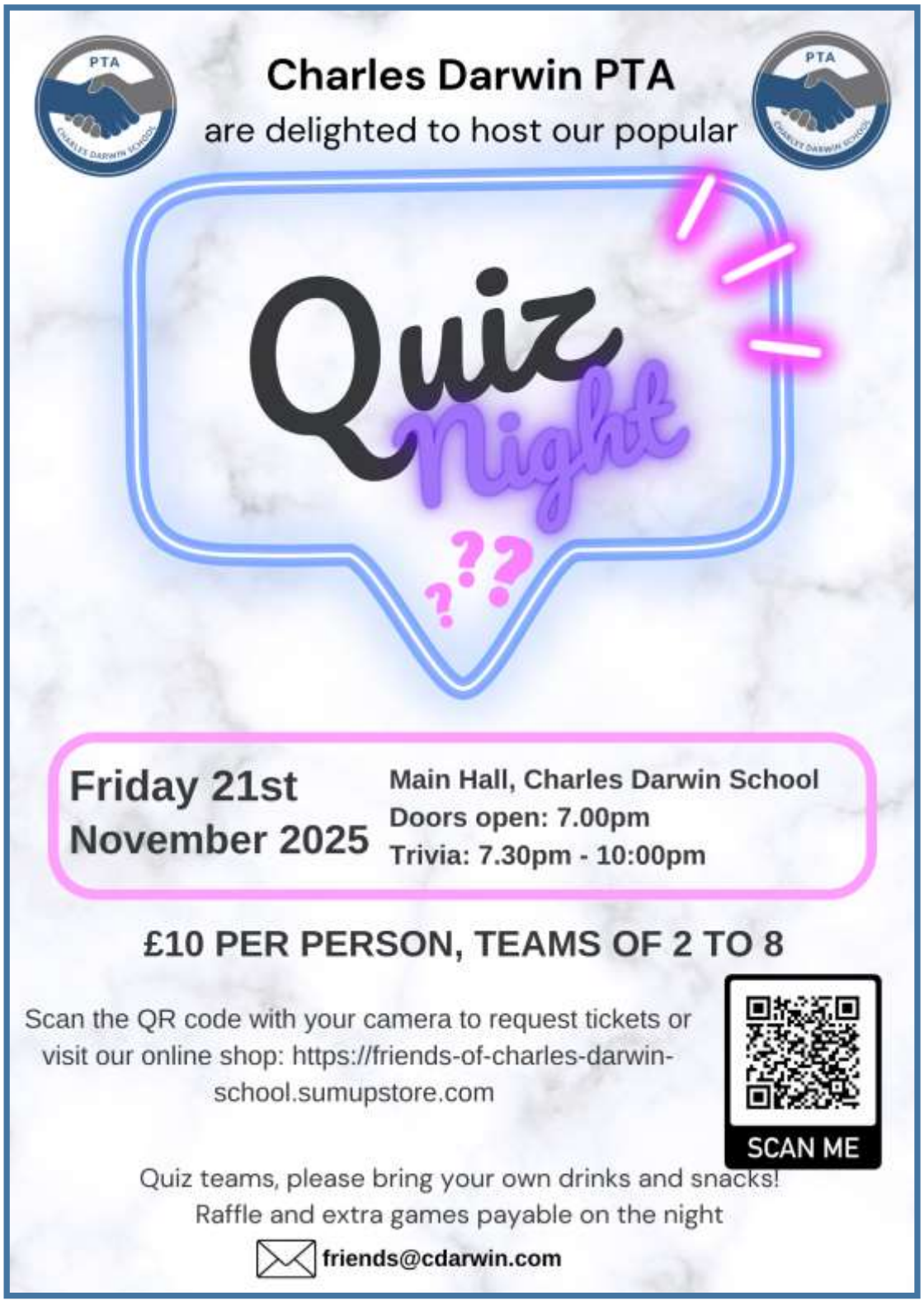
If you would like to join but don't have a team, we can help you if you contact us at friends@cdarwin.com

Open Morning - Saturday 11th October
We were delighted to support Open Morning on Saturday 11th October, selling hot and cold refreshments. Thanks to all the families and staff who came to say hello. Our thanks to our enthusiastic team of volunteers and extra special thanks to Lilyanna in Year 7 who is a first-class hot chocolate barrister!

Monthly Draw
Our monthly draw is a fabulous way to win a cash prize, while raising funds. Each ticket is £1 - 50% of the cash pot goes to the winner and 50% goes to funds.

Congratulations to our recent monthly draw winners: Lisa B and Lynn M who have won our recent draws.
If you would like to be in with the chance to win our monthly cash prize, you can join from a £1 contribution per month. You can purchase 12 months of tickets via https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com/ or you can contact us to set up a direct debit (friends@cdarwin.com)

Thinking Ahead
We are very keen to find some extra pairs of hands to help us expand our team. 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

Lily-Rae Barden
Jack Coburn
Chloe Ford
Alex Brown
Elsee Whitehead
Henry Lambert
Esmai Dance
John Lineker
Mia Graham
Reggie Ruggins

Student Services Duty Pupils

Franklin Eboigodin
Jed Addotey
Alfie Stevenson
Charlotte Bateman
Georgia Hall

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 10 October 2025.

7COn	99.1%
8GCu/CMe	95.2%
9SHu	96.8%
10HKe	92.7%
11DNu	95.9%
12JDa	98.5%
13DWa	96.1%

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
20th-31st October - half term

November
3rd November - INSET DAY
5th November - Closing date for Christmas Card Competition
7th November - Trip: Y7 & Y8 FC Cup Tournament - Finals, Bromley
11th November - Trip: Bromley FC Cup Tournament
13th November - Sixth Form Open Evening
14th November - Trip: Year 12 Photography Trip, London
17th November - Trip: The Old Operating Theatre & Impreial War Museum, London
18th November - Trip: Y12 History in Action Conference, London
20th November - DofE Celebration Evening
21st November - Trip: Y12/Y13 Physics in Action Conference, London
21st November - PTA Quiz Night, 7:30pm

December
2nd December - Trip: Y12/Y13 Design in Action Conference, London
9th December - Year 13 Parents' Evening
12th December - Christmas Jumper Day
12th December - Christmas Dinner
15th December - School Production
16th December - School Production
17th December - School Production

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

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

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	£10	£15	£20	£25	£30

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

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£8,100

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- Strong employment outcomes across London and the South-East
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