07.11.2025 Issue No: 1173 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Welcome back after the half-term break. I hope you all had a chance to relax and enjoy some well-deserved rest.

As we move into the half term leading up to Christmas, it is a particularly busy and important time for our GCSE and A Level students, who are undertaking practice examinations. I encourage everyone to stay focused and give their best during this crucial period. Please remember the recent MADE training workshops for effective revision techniques.

Excitement is building as rehearsals continue for this year's production of The Nativity and the annual Christmas concert. I look forward to celebrating the creativity and hard work of our students and staff during these festive events.

Jack Petchey Award Event
It was with great pride that I attended the annual Jack Petchey Award Event, held on Tuesday evening at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley, along with our school lead, Mrs Rees.
The event celebrated the achievements of our young people, who had been nominated by their teachers and peers for a variety of accomplishments, not just academic ones, such as overcoming personal challenges or demonstrating outstanding teamwork.

Rising Stars
It was wonderful to meet so many parents and celebrate our Rising Stars on Thursday afternoon. Thank you to all the parents for supporting and encouraging your children. It was great to hear of the exciting projects that lay ahead this year and lovely to see some our students awarded for achievements in clubs and organisations they attend outside of school. My thanks go to Mrs Quinn for organising this event for our students and their families.

Remembrance Ceremonies
On Tuesday 11th November at 11:30 am, we will hold a short remembrance ceremony in the quad. Miss Mace, Head of Music, will play The Last Post before a wreath is laid.

The Biggin Hill Act of Remembrance takes place at the War Memorial on Sunday 9th November at 11:00 am. I will be attending along with Senior Prefects, to lay a wreath on behalf of our students, staff, governors, and trustees. Many students and families are expected to attend, representing local community organisations.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Charles Darwin School
Sixth Form

No booking required

Thursday 13th November 2025
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Presentations in the Main Hall at 5.30pm and 6.15pm

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Email: sixthform@cdarwin.com
Web: www.cdarwin.com

Jail Lane, Biggin Hill,
Westerham, Kent, TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043

"Students in the Sixth Form benefit from an individualised approach and achieve well" **Ofsted**

Ofsted Good School

Visit from ex Expressive Arts Students

The Expressive Arts faculty welcomed back 5 ex-students on Wednesday. They came in to discuss careers with our current Year 10 Drama, Dance, Music and Vocational Music students and invited Year 9s.
They shared the pathway they took to further study after Charles Darwin and the exciting career paths they are currently all pursuing within the arts. These include song writing, choreographing, touring in theatre shows across the UK, working in the West End as a sound engineer and performing in the musical Mean Girls.
Students had the opportunity to ask questions, get advice on next steps and think about transferable skills developed through the arts subjects.

A big thank you to Georgia, Mel, James, Lillie and Rachel for coming back to Darwin to share their experiences.

Miss Currie
Head of Expressive Arts

A huge well done to Year 7 student Pandora who received a **Jack Petchey Award** for her achievement in judo.
An amazing achievement, we are so proud of you.

Mrs Broad

As part of our commemoration of **Armistice Day (11th November)**, the school library has a **Remembrance Display.** Pupils will have the opportunity to visit the display during their library sessions at lunchtime and after school during Homework Club. We hope this display encourages thoughtful reflections honouring those who served and sacrificed during times of conflict. It also includes a selection of books to help students learn more about the importance of remembrance and peace.

Mrs Waite
Library Supervisor

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Connie Dangerfield
Rahil Serwanja
Rebecca Harries
Blake Tubbritt
Dolcie Thompson
Pixie Plummer
Ruby Hunter
Jude Lynch

Student Services Duty Pupils

Sidney Still
Franklin Eboigbodin
Ronnie Kent
Valour Martins

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 17 October 2025.

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

7HEm/KSa	97%
8LWr/OLo	93.9%
9KMa	94.6%
10PDg/JSt	95.4%
11JAl	94.2%
12JDa	97.3%
13MNo	92.2%

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

November
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 & Imperial War Museum, London
18th November - Trip: Y12 History in Action Conference, London
19th November - Trip: Winter Wonderland, Y7 Reward Trip, Hyde Park, London
20th November - DofE Celebration Evening
21st November - Trip: Y12/Y13 Physics in Action Conference, London
21st November - Trip: Y12/Y13 History in Action Conference, London
21st November - PTA Quiz Night, 7:30pm
22nd November - Christmas Light Switch on event - Year 7 choir 4-5pm, New Life Church, Biggin Hill
28th November - Trip: A Level PE Revision at Bromley High School

December
2nd December - Trip: Y12/Y13 Design in Action Conference, London
3rd December - Christmas Concert 6-7-45pm, St Mark's Church, Biggin Hill
5th December - CDS Choir singing Christmas songs in Waitrose, Biggin Hill, 11-12pm
8th December - Trip: Y12/13 Chemistry Live, London
9th December - Year 13 Parents' Evening
12th December - Own Clothes Christmas Jumper Day, £1 donations for PTA
12th December - Christmas Lunch
15th December - School Production
16th December - School Production
17th December - School Production
19th December - End of term, early finish

The SEN team at Charles Darwin:

Mrs L Thom, SENDCo
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

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

Notes:
Good Friday 3rd April 2026
Easter Monday 6th April 2026

INSET Days:

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

PE FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER 2025

This Christmas, Miss Owen is appealing for donations to support our local food bank.

Rather than donate money, students have been asked to donate items to our appeal.

Each year group have been allocated a recommended list of items to donate, listed as urgently needed by the food bank.

Please can students' hand in donations to Miss Owen in PE **before Friday 5th December 2025.**

Thank you for your support!

Recommended donations

Year 7

Treats (chocolate/sweets, hot chocolate, pringles, sponge puddings, desserts and Xmas goodies)

Year 8

Essentials (sanitary products, toilet paper, baby's nappies, long life milk and household items)

Year 9

Essentials (tinned foods, sauces - ketchup, jars of sauces, biscuits and tinned soups)

Year 10

Toiletries and Cleaning Products (cloths, foil and cling film, washing up liquid, washing up powder, shampoo and conditioner)

Year 11

Tinned items (tinned fruit, long life juice, tinned vegetables, tinned ham/salmon and jars)

6th Form

Toiletries and Cleaning Products (tinned items, washing up liquid, washing up powder, shampoo and conditioner)

Donations will be donated to a local food bank that serve our community:

New Addington Foodbank

ALL FOODBANK DONATIONS TO BE HANDED INTO MISS OWEN IN PE BY THE 5TH OF DECEMBER!

Charles Darwin PTA

are delighted to host our popular

Quiz Night

Friday 21st November 2025

Main Hall, Charles Darwin School
Doors open: 7.00pm
Trivia: 7.30pm - 10:00pm

£10 PER PERSON, TEAMS OF 2 TO 8

Scan the QR code with your camera to request tickets or visit our online shop: https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com

SCAN ME

Quiz teams, please bring your own drinks and snacks!
Raffle and extra games payable on the night

friends@cdarwin.com

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

The aim is to inform parents about the AFS initiative and also provide them with some education about managing their children's asthma.

SEN

CAROL SERVICE

- PECS available
- Words available in Dyslexic friendly font
- Words also on big screen
- Music via video format (not live music)
- Seated around tables
- Sensory bags available
- Movement and noise is welcome
- Colouring in and sticker activities available
- Makaton sheets and signing
- Hot chocolate and refreshments (GF, DF)
- Social Story available beforehand upon request
- Visits to the hall beforehand available upon request.
- All ages welcome. The whole family are welcome.

If you have any other requests please contact on the email below

All are welcome

3pm Carols singing and signing & 3:30 Resfreshments

Sunday, 14th December 2025

Christ Church Beckenham Main Hall. Entrance via ramp on Fairfield Rd

If you require parking facilities, please email below.

More information: kirstyn@ccb.org.uk

CHRIST CHURCH
BECKENHAM