14.11.2025 Issue No: 1174 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Remembrance Ceremonies
My thanks to Ms Mace for leading our school Remembrance Service on Tuesday. It was a poignant occasion which was well observed by the students. On Sunday, I along with Head Prefects, Seun Olawoyin and Jasmin O'Brien attended the Biggin Hill Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, to lay a wreath on behalf of the school. It was moving to see so many staff, students and their families supporting the various community organisations. Seun and Jasmin were both great ambassadors for our school.

Year 8 Information Evening
On Wednesday evening we welcomed year 8 parents and students to our year 8 Information Evening. My thanks to the families that attended and to Mr Simpson and Miss Campbell for organising the event. These evenings are important as they provide an opportunity to engage directly with parents, strengthening communication and partnership in supporting student learning and progress.

Peer Review Day
This week, we welcomed leaders from the other secondary schools in our Inicio Educational Trust as part of our culture of professional generosity. The cycle of peer reviews supports all our schools in self evaluation and future planning.

Condolences
I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Julian Benington this week. Julian served as a Governor at Charles Darwin from 2007 and later as a Trustee for the Charles Darwin Academy Trust until we joined Inicio Educational Trust. He was also a long-standing Biggin Hill councillor, served as Mayor of Bromley in 2014–15, and was a respected and well-known figure in our local community. Julian was a true gentleman and a kind person, whose presence and guidance will be greatly missed by many.

On behalf of the school community, I offer our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time.

Mr Smith, Headteacher

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

Remembrance at CDS

I wanted to say a huge well done to 9X3 for making a finger knitted poppy in lesson. I have been so impressed with the quality of the work and the outcomes created to remember our fallen soldiers on Remembrance Day.

Miss Stroud

Last week Year 7 and Year 10 made a poppy themed dress in Art. They used a variety of techniques, felt, paper, crochet to create their outfit to reflect on Remembrance Day. The dress is on display in Reception for the duration of next week.

Mrs Broad

Parent Forum

INVITATION TO PARENT FORUM - Year 7 Parents and New Parents

Dear Year 7 Parents (and any new parents)

Last year I set up a parent forum where we met as a group to discuss a topic relating to school so that we could get feedback and views from parents in a less formal way such as a survey or online form.

The parent forum is a meeting after school where the topic is shared prior to the date and then parents come along to meet with Mrs Tsang to discuss those topics so she can feed that back to the senior team.
Last year one of the topics was homework and the feedback from parents directly led to the policy change for homework which was implemented this academic year.

There will be a parent forum this half term - prior to Christmas. The date is yet to be confirmed.

If this is something that you would be interested in please email:
parentforum@cdarwin.com with your name and child's form and I will add you to the mailing list ready for the next meeting.

Mrs Tsang

Well done to our Year 9 students who were invited to the special Rewards Chinese Lunch! This event celebrated their hard work and positive attitude throughout the term, and tied in perfectly with their current topic on China. The lunch was a great success, with everyone appreciating the chance to connect their classroom learning to a real-world experience. Well done to all the students involved for making the event such an enjoyable and memorable occasion!

Miss Buckle

Achievement Points Leader Board

Top 10 achievers across the school for the period 03.09.2025 - 14.11.2025

Olivia	Earls	7MHu/AYo	114
Elizabeth	Adebayo	7HEm/KSa	108
Felicity	Evans	7COn	108
Elliott	Smith	7COn	106
Ellie	Downer	7COn	105
Bella	Cunliffe	7HEm/KSa	102
Bethany	Mears	7COn	100
Evie	Murphy	8LWr/OLo	99
Abigail	Young	8SAs	99
Ololade	Olawoyin	7COn	99

Top highest achievers per each year for the period 03.09.2025 - 14.11.2025

Olivia	Earls	7MHu/AYo	114
Evie	Murphy	8LWr/OLo	99
Cameron	Revell	9JWi	88
Jade	St John	10RBr/MEd	72
Leo	Currier	11HBu	62
Kacey	Joyce	12ACh	22
Henry	Booth	13SMe	25

PTA Update

Quiz Night - Friday 21st November
We would like to introduce Quiz Master Sean who will taking the seat for us at this quiz on Friday 21st November. If you would like to join us, teams can be from 2-8 people.

Tickets are 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. Just contact us at friends@cdarwin.com or via our social media.

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: Hannah B and A Milton.

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)

Fundraising as you shop
We are receiving a payment of over £150 from Easyfundraising direct to our funds later this month. You can now add a debit/credit card to your account to collect extra donations too when in-store.
A big thank you to our recent shoppers:
Deborah R, Sona D, Ana B, Sule M, Jason H, Hannah B, Gill B, Rebecca S, Hazel C, Caroline W, Helen H, Sarah H, Jenny L, Joanna C, Emma R, Nicola T & Jodie R

It takes 2 minutes to sign up using our link – friends and family can get involved too:
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta/

Coming soon to Charles Darwin …
See next week's Link for more information and how to buy the tickets for Nativity the Musical.

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Rocco Mackay
Faye Paton
Scarlett Kemp
Melissa Matei
Betsi Powley
Myron Papa Ayim
Chloe Ford
Blake Tubbritt
Dolcie Thompson
Jack Coburn

Student Services Duty Pupils

Chloe Priestley
Callum Wade
Harley Murphy
Jack Woolcott
Denis Calancia

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 7 November 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	100%
8HCo/VMa	94%
9LMc	97.1%
10PDg/JSt	95.7%
11DNu	94.4%
12ARu	98%
13MNo	98.6%

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
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

Introducing . . . Quiz Master Sean

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

Youth United for Good

Winter Coats Appeal 2025

We NEED your pre-loved Winter Coats, Scarves, Hats and Sleeping Bags!!!

Donations will support people in London's poorest borough, Tower Hamlets - which has a 47% child poverty rate.

Please hand your donations to your school.

Youth United For Good and Tower Hamlets Youth Council will distribute donations over the festive period.

Deadline: Thursday 27th November

If you have any questions please contact Eythan Soysa at youthunitedforgood@gmail.com.

Donated items must be clean and good, wearable condition, meaning no major damage, heavy stains, or broken zips.

Collection point Main Reception between 8.30am and 3.30pm.

NHS
South London Children and Young People's Community Immunisation Service

Missed your flu vaccine?

Live or attend school in the borough of Bromley? Aged 4 - 16?

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and protect yourself!

Saturday 8 November, 09:00 - 14:00
BCI Clinic, Chislehurst, BR7 5AJ

Saturday 22 November, 11:00 - 15:00
NHS One Bromley Health Hub, BR1 1DN

Saturday 29 November, 11:00 - 15:00
NHS One Bromley Health Hub, BR1 1DN

Saturday 6 December, 11:00 - 15:00
NHS One Bromley Health Hub, BR1 1DN

Call 020 3903 3375 or scan the QR code for more information or to book an appointment

November 2025

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