28.11.2025 Issue No: 1176 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Biggin Hill Christmas Lights Switch-on
My thanks to Miss Mace and Mr Haberfield for organising our students in the Choir to sing at the Biggin Hill Christmas Lights Switch-on last Saturday. Despite the wet weather the event went and our performers received some excellent praise from members of the public.

Christmas Card Competition Entries
As we count down to Christmas, each week's newsletter will showcase some of the wonderful entries from our Christmas Card Competition. We hope these festive creations bring a little seasonal cheer.

Mr Smith, Headteacher

Adam Piechowka 9LMc

Dylan Jones 7LBr

Tickets for School Production

Tickets for the school production of Nativity the Musical are now on sale to the wider school community. You are advised to book tickets quickly as we have a very large cast this year and we will sell out. Follow the links below for more information and to see ticket availability.

The evening performances will start at 7pm in the Main Hall and run over 3 evenings on 15th, 16th and 17th December. **This year, tickets will be sold online on Eventbrite and you will be able to select your seats on the seating plan.** Tickets are £8.83 each which includes an online booking fee. A paper ticket will then be provided and handed out to your child to pass to you to enable quick admission on the night.

The QR codes and links to purchase tickets is:

Monday 15th December, 7pm

https://cdsnativitymonday.eventbrite.com

Tuesday 16th December, 7pm

https://cdsnativitytuesday.eventbrite.com

Wednesday 17th December, 7pm

https://cdsnativitywednesday.eventbrite.com

Please note the following before purchasing tickets

- **No refunds will be offered, and it will not be possible to swap tickets purchased for a different date.** Please ensure you double check the dates/times before purchasing your tickets for the show to avoid disappointment.
- **If you require specific access arrangements due to a disability, please email boxoffice@cdarwin.com with your ticket requests first**. We have some reserved seating and will endeavour to allocate appropriate seats to you. You will be notified of this via email and then you will be sent a code to use and be able to make payment.
- When purchasing your tickets online, please ensure you add your son/daughter's full name to the order. This will enable paper tickets to be easily delivered to them in school.

Severe Weather Conditions

Charles Darwin School will stay open if at all possible when there is snow. The decision to close is not taken lightly and will be made with the health and safety of children and staff, many of whom do not live locally. We will try to make a decision by **7:30am** and communicate this through:

* **The school website - www.cdarwin.com (not the main school switchboard)**
* **X - x.com/CDarwinschool**
* **Instagram - www.instagram.com/CDarwinschool**

All students are expected to check Satchel One to complete school work from home

Otherwise - Students should wear appropriate clothing i.e. coat, hat, gloves and come to school. Suitable footwear to cope with pavements may be necessary if snow and /or ice are on the ground.
School shoes must be brought to change into.

Keep warm and safe on your journey

Transport
You are advised to check local transport information if you go to or from school by bus. The school will liaise with school bus companies to check whether the services are likely to be disrupted.

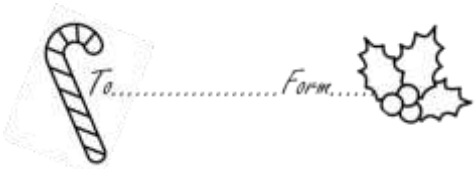
If weather conditions deteriorate whilst the school is in session, we will endeavour to contact parents via the website, social media and Call parent (txt).

There is a policy for users of the school minibus which parents/students concerned should be aware.

7LBr Candy Cane Fund Raiser

7LBr will be taking orders next week for secret (or not so secret) candy cane delivery. Each candy cane will cost 50p and will be delivered to forms by the 'Candy Cane Crew' from 1 December. Orders can be placed direct with 7LBr in Ar3 during lunchtime or when the crew come to visit forms. If you include a message it must be all you can be secret (or not so secret). Money raised will be going to school charity.

Mrs Broad



A huge well done to Mia Kennedy in Year 8 who is part of the community choir in the new movie Christmas Karma. The film is a modern retake of Dicken's A Christmas Carol with a Bollywood twist. It has lots of stars in it such as Kunal Nayyer, Danny Dyer, Eva Longoria, Hugh Bonneville, Billy Porter and Boy George to name a few.

The school is really proud of your achievements and commitment to your passion. Amazing!

Mrs Campbell

A huge well done to Frankie Allen in Year 9 who plays Rugby for u14s at Westcombe Rugby Club. He has received a Jack Petchey award for outstanding achievement and dedication to the sport. What an amazing achievement!
We are so proud of you.

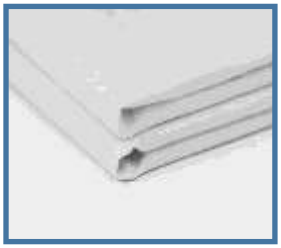
Mr Lamb

Thank you PTA

The Year 7 students and the English Department want to say a massive thank you to the Charles Darwin School PTA for funding the BookBuzz scheme again this year. Every Year 7 student chose a book to keep from a shortlist of 16.
The books arrived last week and the students were so excited to receive them, especially 7xEn3 who are pictured above!

Mrs Holloway
Teacher of English

ART Department Appeal



The Art department rely heavily on donations.
We currently have a shortage of the following, White cotton sheets/ bed linen. Magazines of all genres.
Please leave all donations at the main reception.
Thank you

Art Department

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Mia Kennedy
Jakub Maciag
Elizabeth Negus
Leo Martin
Jayden Martinson
Allannah Osman
Evie Rous
Bobby Osborne
Lily Sherdel
Antonio Dos Santos

Student Services Duty Pupils

Tyler Gregson
Ollie Jones
Jayson Mutagubya
Layla Marsh
Dani-Jo Kelly

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 21 November 2025.

7COn	97.2%
8HCo/VMa	97.2%
9KMa	93.8%
10PDg/JSt	95.4%
11JAl	99.3%
12ARu	97.4%
13DWa	95.9%

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.

Students Services Team

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.

Mrs Booth
Health Care Lead

Dates for the Diary

December
2nd December - Trip: Y12/Y13 Design in Action Conference, London
3rd December - Christmas Concert 6-7-45pm, St Mark's Church, Biggin Hill
3rd December - PTA Meeting,
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, Donations for PTA payable via ParentPay or cash on the day to form tutor, min £1
12th December - Christmas Lunch
15th December - School Production
16th December - School Production
17th December - School Production
19th December - End of term, early finish
Year 7-11 - 12pm
Sixth Form - from break time onwards

January
5th January - Spring Term starts
29th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

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

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:

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

Free Tickets

I have managed to secure some free tickets to the London City Lionesses vs Brighton and Hove Albion Women on Sunday 7th December 2025. It is a 12:00 o'clock KO at The CopperJax Community Stadium. This is more well known as Bromley FC at Hayes Lane.

The code is below; it can be used multiple times and has no ticket limit. Once applied at checkout, the basket will reset to £0 value. [Event Information Screen - eTickets]

Code: K3NTBHFC

Miss Owen
Head of PE

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)

foodbank

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

New Addington Foodbank

WE NEED YOU

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

PTA Update

Quiz Night
We had a wonderful quiz night on Friday 21st November with 65 staff and families joining us across 9 tables. Thanks to everyone for joining us for a really enjoyable evening. We raised a whopping £1100 for our funds and we all had lots of fun and laughs. We must extend our thanks to **Sean** who did an impressive job stepping in as our quizmaster. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next event: Bingo!

A round of applause to Miss Buckle and her team for taking home the most sought-after prize of the evening - the Quiz night trophy.

Thanks to our staff for their very generous raffle prize donations and to the following local businesses who also contributed:

- Choi-Pin Chinese Restaurant in Biggin Hill for their voucher.
- Waterstones for the book collection
- Farleigh Golf Club for their afternoon tea voucher
- The Landing at Biggin Hill for their afternoon tea voucher.

Social Media
Please follow us on Social Media if you use any of our platforms. It is a great opportunity for us to share our updates directly and grow our network.

Instagram: charles_darwin_pta
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/friendscharlesdarwinschool
X (formerly Twitter): PTA_Darwin
Linked In: www.linkedin.com/in/charles-darwin-pta

Monthly Draw
Our monthly draw continues and we would like to congratulate ticket 152 **Gillian S** for winning £63.00 in our October draw.
If you would like to participate from just £1 per month, please visit our PTA online shop: https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com

Half of the monthly draw money is donated to our PTA fund and half is added to the prize pot so it is a super opportunity to be in with a chance to win cash and support us, both at the same time!

- You can either pay for your tickets monthly or for a full year.
- One of our monthly draw volunteers will contact you with your numbers once you enter.

Easy-fundraising for Charles Darwin School
Easy-fundraising donates money to our funds quarterly, just by users shopping online or in-store! These funds really help towards projects that benefit the learning experience for our kids and this is why we love it!

Have you enrolled yet and joined our growing community of 80: **https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta**

Here are our top fundraisers for 2025 so far as we went to press:

1. Anonymous £50
2. Sule M £30.96
3. Emma R £27.00

Please see below a letter from Bromley Surfacing Team regarding a road closure (Church Road) in Biggin Hill from 8th - 10th December which might affect the school journey.

Bromley
THE LONDON BOROUGH
www.bromley.gov.uk

Riney

24-Nov

Resident/ Owner - Roadworks Notification

Church Road

from Old Tye Ave To A233

Dear Resident,

Riney will be resurfacing Church Road for 3 days from Mon 08 Dec. Due to road widths the works will need to be completed under a road closure. The works will take place between 09.00-17.00 , the road should be reopened at the end of each shift, however we can't guarantee this end time in case there are complications caused by bad weather or a machine breakdown.

Due to the nature of the works, we would advise that residents try to plan their journeys around the working times mentioned above. Limited access will be available but there could be up to a 30 minute delay in some circumstances while machinery is moved and material sets. If you need to use your vehicle during working times, we advise you speak to the traffic management operatives onsite before your journey and they will advise in more detail regarding access and egress, we would also recommend that residents relocate their vehicles before the crews start their works to minimise any delay to journeys.

Buses will be on diversion during working times. TFL will be updating information on bus stops in the area and more information on the bus diversion can be found on TFL's website.

If you have any further questions before the scheme starts, please contact Bromley Council on 0208 464 333, if you have any questions.

While the works are in progress, please contact the Riney Supervisor Luke Burlington 07494 439383

Yours Sincerely,

Bromley Surfacing Team

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 MUSIC KLUB
CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

HAF

WINTER PROGRAMME

WWW.THEMUSICKLUB.COM/HAF

OUR PROGRAMME

Our Winter HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) Programme offers young people aged 11–16 an inspiring space to learn, create, and connect through music and the arts.

WHERE

Holy Trinity Church
South Hall
Church Lane
Bromley
BR2 8LB

WHEN

Monday 22nd December
2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday 23rd December
2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Monday 29th December
2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday 30th December
2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Bromley
THE LONDON BOROUGH

FOR MORE INFO: 02079670833
INFO@THEMUSICKLUB.COM