05.12.2025 Issue No: 1177 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Christmas Concert
On Wednesday evening I had the pleasure of attending our annual Christmas music concert which took place at St. Mark's Church. It was a delightful event with some outstanding performances from the students. I would like to thank all families and staff who supported the occasion and particularly the students who took part.

Uniform
As we approach the end of term, this is a good time to check that your son's/daughter's uniform still fits, that their blazer badge is attached, and that any new uniform or school shoes are purchased ready for the January start of term. Blazer badges and ties can be purchased via ParentPay. We also have a pre-loved uniform shop based in school; further details can be found on the school website.

A reminder that jewellery is not allowed to be worn, and we will be having a drive on this over the coming weeks. We do not want to confiscate items, so your support in discussing this with your child will be appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

Festive Friday - 12th December
Please don't forget to support Festive Friday by donating as much as you can to our PTA. In return, students can come to school wearing festive/casual dress. All proceeds go directly to benefit our school.

Christmas Card Competition Entries

We hope you are enjoying seeing some of the wonderful entries from our Christmas Card Competition. Here are a few more from our talented students to spread some festive cheer.

Daisy Chikezie 7MHu/AYo

Nathaniel Newberry 7LBr

Mr Smith, Headteacher

Jewellery Reminder

As a polite reminder to all families, jewellery should not be worn by children in school in Years 7-11. Expectations are made very clear regarding this at all interviews in Year 7 and any casual admissions that join us after Year 7. Frequent reminders are given by teachers and tutors and The Student Organiser (planner) also makes this expectation very clear.

Leading up to Christmas and on return in the new year, we will continue to confiscate jewellery unless it is a named own clothes day i.e. Festive Friday 12 December. Jewellery can only then be collected by a parent by prior arrangement or by the student at the end of the relevant half term.

We do not want to have to confiscate any new jewellery in January so please do not allow any new piercings to happen during the Christmas holiday.

Thank you for your support in this.

Mrs Rees

Youth Led Coats Appeal for the Homeless

A huge thank you to the school community and their generous donations to our coats appeal

Over the last 3 weeks I have delivered 28 bags of coats, sleeping bags etc to St Olaves school who will be supporting the distribution of these items to the homeless in Tower Hamlets next weekend. This equates to approximately 140 coats plus sleeping bags, the greatest contribution from any individual school in Bromley.

Thank you so much for everyone's generosity towards this appeal.

Mrs Rees

Last week, we ran an inter-form football event for Year 8. This was a mixed competition for girls and boys which was very well attended. The students represented their form groups with pride and games were played in a great spirit. We also managed to raise some funds for the PE Department, which will be put to good use in the near future.

Congratulations to the winning form group which was **8VKi!**

Mr Allen

Help Year 8 Raise Money for Charity

On **Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th** Year 8 will be selling baked goods at lunchtime by student services. The money raised will go to the charities supported by year 8 including Foal Farm, Chartwell Cancer Trust, Cancer Research and St Christopher's Hospice.

All items will be sold for 50p.
Thank you for supporting.

Mrs Campbell
Year 8 Achievement Co-ordinator

Christmas Dinner 12th December-Festive Friday

Please see a copy of the Christmas Dinner menu for students which will be served on **Friday 12th December.** The lunch will have 2 courses of a traditional Christmas dinner and a choice of festive desserts for **£2.60.** If your son/daughter would like to have the special menu that day, please make sure they have £2.60 on their ParentPay account. Students on free school meals will be able to buy the Christmas dinner with their usual meal allowance provided they haven't spent some of it earlier in the day.

Ms Kelly

Calling all Year 7,8 and 9 Historians

Traditions of Christmas past – Competition

Calling all Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 Historians!

Hello historians – your festive competition is to create a **piece of work** that helps explain different Christmas traditions throughout the ages. For example, Father Christmas traditionally wore green not red – when did that change and why? Christmas cards didn't always have nice jolly pictures on them – what did they have? Oliver Cromwell cancelled Christmas one year – why? Plus many more traditions for you to find.

You could create a poster showing the traditions, create an example of an old-style Christmas card, write a story about Christmas carol, make a 3D model showing Father Christmas in his old green coat, bake old style traditional Christmas cakes the possibilities are endless!!!

All entries please hand into Ms Quinn in Hi2 by Tuesday 16th December

The history team will be giving prizes for the top 3 most ingenious ideas!!

Make sure you name and form are on the entries

Good Luck!!

Mrs Quinn

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

Tickets for School Production

There are single tickets left for school Production. 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.

Year 8 Duty Pupil

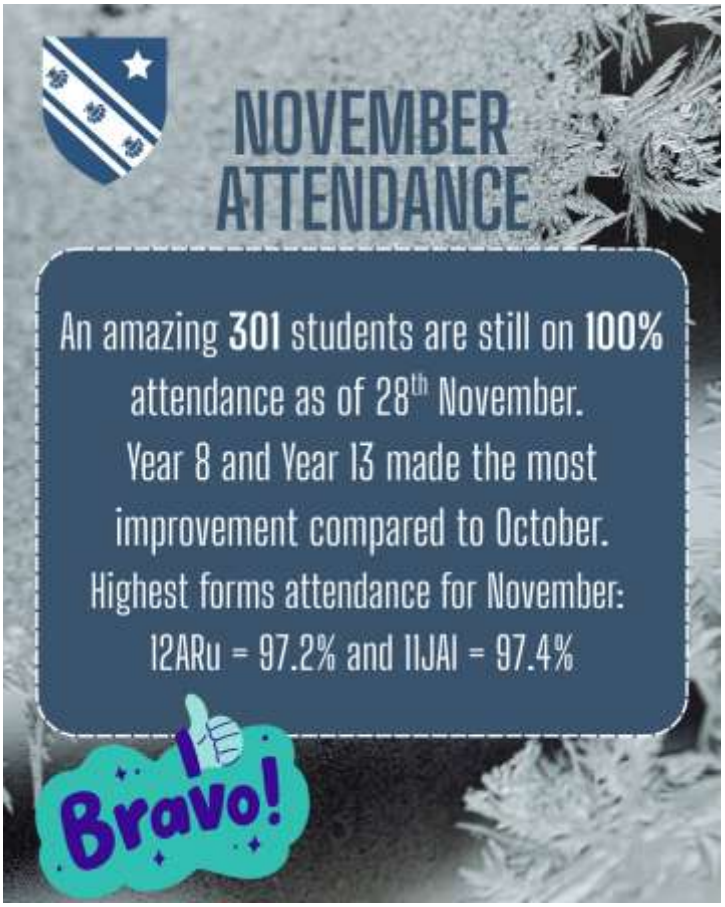
Kristen Stander
Jessica Stenson-Stagg
Nicole Tobiasz
Emily Warner
Oliver Alexander
Annalise Williams
Emily Aldrich
Ellis Gordon
Bella Cook
James Coley

Student Services Duty Pupils

Sophie Strange
Freya Castle
Danielle Scally
Ivy Bird
Kelsie Bryant

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

Attendance



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
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
22nd December-2nd January - Christmas Holiday

January
5th January - Spring Term starts
14th January - INSET DAY
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

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

Winter Fun - Filled Family Sports

at Biggin Hill Children & Family Centre

Saturday 6th, 13th & 20th December

Come and join our FREE INDOOR Family Sports Sessions where you and your children will take part in sporting games and fun challenges.

These sessions will help to improve communication, interaction and confidence.

Session 1: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Session 2: 11:00 - 12:00 pm

Call the centre now on 01959 571 694 to book your space and find out more

Department for Education

Bromley

Winter Holiday Fun

Bromley's Holiday Activities and Food programme

Bromley is running a holiday club programme for eligible children and young people.

To find out more and to book
Scan the QR code or go to the Bromley website

www.bromley.gov.uk/HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme

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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