12.12.2025 Issue No: 1178 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Year 13 Parents' Evening
I would like to thank all our families for their continued commitment to attending these important events. Our students' success is built on strong home/school partnerships, and your involvement makes a real difference. On Tuesday evening, there were many productive conversations to prepare students for their formal exams next year.

Achievement Assemblies
Achievement assemblies commenced this week with Years 9 and 10 and will continue until the end of term. It has been great to attend and hear about the many excellent achievements of the students. My congratulations to them all.

School Production
I am very much looking forward to next week's school production of Nativity, The Musical!
A special thank you goes to the cast, staff, and orchestra, who will be giving up their Saturday to perfect the final dress rehearsal. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, and I am sure it will make for a truly memorable performance.

Thank you also to all the parents who have supported line learning, costumes, and transport to and from rehearsals. Your contributions have been invaluable in bringing this production to life.

Festive Friday
Today was Festive Friday, and it was fantastic to see so many students and staff dressed up to raise money for our PTA. There is still time to make your donations via parent pay.

Christmas Card Competition Entries
Here are two more entries from our Christmas card competition.

Frank Sullivan Year 7

Pola Tokarska Year 10

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

Year 8 Geography Reward

A huge well done to our fantastic Year 8 Geographers this term, who were selected by their teachers for a special reward! This time, we enjoyed watching *Ice Age*, perfectly linked to the glaciers unit we're currently studying.
Year 7, you're up next! Your teacher could nominate you for the chance to explore exciting computer, based climate, change games.
Keep up the great work, everyone!

Malik Onayemi
Cynthia Lamont
Poppy Rogers
Archie Mansell
Frankie Johns
Gabriela Paluch
Jackson Fish
Scarlett Howes
James MacQueen
Riven Oakes
Lyla Chapman
Abigail Young
Preston Roddy
Miah Keegan
Kasiar Hewitt
Scarlett Kemp
Emily Warner
Daniel Nemeth

Miss Buckle

CDS Library at Christmas

The library is looking wonderfully festive as we get ready for the Christmas season, and we're excited to share that we have some lovely new titles on our shelves for students to enjoy.
If you feel able to purchase an extra gift this Christmas, we would be incredibly grateful. Your generosity helps us continue to grow our collection and keep our library a vibrant, inspiring space for all our learners. Our Wishlist can be found by scanning the code below.

Scan Me

Thank you, as always, for your support and kindness.

Wishing you a joyful and restful festive season.

Mrs Waite
Library Supervisor

Year 8 HPA - Super Challenge

Well done to all the Year 8 students who took part in the HPA Super challenge.

The students had to design a future city incorporating ideas from several subjects like Design and Technology, Geography and Science, as well as carrying out research to then decide what would be best for their new city. They looked at how their city would be powered, how the citizens move around the city, how they would protect nature and reduce pollution, and the most imaginative bit, they had to try and think of future innovations that would make life for future generations be better.

The Winners of the Challenge are:
Malik Onayemi
Joshua Ivaldi
Scott Conway

Super effort and great ideas!!

Mrs Quinn

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

WIN great prizes and fundraise for our students at Charles Darwin School..

PTA

RAFFLE

CHARLES DARWIN SCHOOL

A Christmas Hamper
3 x Formula One Limited Edition caps/hats
Afternoon Tea for Two at The Landing, Biggin Hill
£20 Voucher for Coolings Garden Centre
Waterstones Book Set
And many other great prizes!

BUY RAFFLE TICKETS ONLINE FOR £5 PER STRIP OF 5 TICKETS:

https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com

Raffle drawn at school production interval on Wednesday 17th December 2025

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

Jazmine Bakewell
Logan Ashton
Freya Belsham
James Baptiste
Rosie Cookman
Ava Clements
Harry Bolton
Matilda Corr
Savio Joseph Chakkalakkal
Lyannii Da Silva

Student Services Duty Pupils

Ellie D'Costa
Cory Manly
Darcey Manning
Rosie Reed
Joshua Clarke

They have been fantastic this week, and their help has been invalua-

Achievement Points December 2025

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

Chess Club - Donations Appeal

We are hoping to set up a Chess Club in response to pupil interest and feedback. To support this, we would be very grateful for any donations of chess boards or chess sets that parents may be willing to offer.
If you have a chess board in good condition that you no longer use and would be happy to donate, please leave them at the Main Reception.
Thank you for your support in helping us provide opportunities that reflect our pupils' interests.

Mr Mooney

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 5 December 2025.

7COn	94.4%
8LWr/OLo	88.8%
9SHu	93.8%
10GJo/OLo	88.3%
11EKa/CAh	90%
12JDa	98.7%
13MCr	96.4%

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
15th December - School Production
16th December - Trip: Year 11 Business Studies Trip
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
7th January - Drama Trip Back Stage Tour and Performance of Ballet Shoes, London
7th January - PTA Meeting
8th January - Year 13 Geography Trip to the Thames Barrier, Greenwich
14th January - INSET DAY
14th January - Trip: Year 10/Year 11 Drama Trip to see Blood Brothers, Churchill Theatre
16th January - Trip: Science & Technology Challenge Day Final - University of East London
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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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