19.12.2025 Issue No: 1179 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding year at Charles Darwin School, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a genuinely impressive period for our community and to thank you for the role you continue to play in our shared success.

The recent production of Nativity the Musical was nothing short of stunning. It showcased not only the talent and confidence of our students but also the commitment, teamwork and pride that sit at the heart of our school. Performances like this do not happen by accident. They are the result of high expectations, hard work and a belief that young people rise to the standard set for them and our students delivered in abundance.

Across the year, we have seen success in many forms. Academic achievement continues to be a clear focus, but it has been equally encouraging to see students excel in sport, the arts and wider enrichment. From competitive fixtures to examinations, exhibitions and performances, our students have embraced opportunities and challenged themselves to achieve more.

I have also been particularly pleased to see a recent flurry of positive anecdotal stories shared about our students within the local community and on social media. Whether on public transport, in shops or representing the school at events, these moments of kindness, courtesy and maturity matter. They reflect the values we work hard to instil and show that our young people are setting the standard we want to see beyond the school gates.

My thanks, as always, go to you as parents and carers for your ongoing support and partnership. Education works best when school and home are aligned, and your encouragement, trust and engagement make a real difference.

I also want to recognise the dedication of our staff. Their commitment goes well beyond the classroom, providing an extraordinary range of trips, clubs and extra-curricular opportunities that enrich students' experiences and broaden horizons. These opportunities take time, energy and care, and they are offered because staff believe deeply in what our students can become.

This week's celebration assemblies have been a real highlight for me. Spending time recognising and applauding students' achievements, effort and character has been a powerful reminder of why this work matters. There is much to be proud of.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable Christmas break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back as we continue to build on this momentum in the year ahead.

With warmest regards,

Mr Smith, Headteacher

Christmas Card Competition

These are our final two runners up entries. Merry Christmas

Rebel Almeida Year 7

Sydney Daniels Year 9

Student Newsletter

In the first few weeks of the new year, we are launching a student newsletter, which is going to be a similar format to the LINK. This will be sent out every 2 weeks, through students email accounts. This is being launched to give students direct access to information about what is happening in school, as well as news and opinions from the student body.

The first issue will showcase some of the work from the Student Council as well as what is happening in the first few weeks of the spring term. We want to develop student independence to be able to access information rather than be reliant on others; to boost motivation by sharing what others are doing. The school council have suggested that eventually this might be split into a newsletter for each year group or key stage, so for example one idea is that year 11 might want to have regular revision strategies published to support their GCSE studies.

We hope that it will foster a deeper sense of pride and togetherness, whilst boosting student motivation through sharing successes, both in school and with the activities and sports students are involved with outside of school. This will be launching in the first half of the spring term along with some competitions so be on the look out for the launch.

Mr R Jones

Parent Forum

Parent Forum Feedback Thursday 4th December
Thank you to all parents who attended the Parent Forum on 4th December. In this meeting we discussed Praise and Rewards. The next meeting will be before Easter and the topic will be Barriers to attendance

Summary
Parents are happy with the basis of the achievement points, they also liked the range of rewards such as letters, emails, trips, certificates and awards. As well as this parents liked being able to view positive points on Satchel One. Parents who had received phone calls home to praise were pleased with this method of communication and said it had a big impact on their child.

Mrs Tsang

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

School Production

The school production of Nativity the Musical was a huge success. Over 85 students were involved with the show this year, many taking part for the first time. It was wonderful to see students taking responsibility with set painting and lighting, working backstage during the performances as stagehands as well as those taking on a part in the show.

The cast and students in the orchestra performed brilliantly every night showing such confidence and skill. They have been a truly wonderful group of students to work with and all of the Expressive Arts staff are very proud of what they produced and how well they worked together.

Thank you to everyone who came to support the show and a special thanks to parents of the cast for all their support at home learning lines and getting costumes together.

Miss Currie
Head of Expressive Arts

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

Inktober Competition

Thanks so much for fantastic entries for Inktober, there were some great drawing on show, and the stamina to stick with a project for that length of time.

Inktober results for Charles Darwin School internal and across the trust as below:

Overall, Charles Darwin Winner is: **Rose Greiff 11JHd**

KS3 winner is: **Genevieve Bonome 9Shu**

Runners up are:
Nathaniel Newberry 7LBR
Lila Harrison 10PDG
Rebel Almeida 7Con
Scott Conoway 8SDa

Congratulations to all**!**

Mrs Broad

History Competition

History Competition – Traditions of Christmas Past
What amazing ideas and entries from our students for this competition! We had a range of amazing artwork; water-colour painting of an old Christmas card scene, a modern take poster on Christmas in World War two, traditional green Father Christmas and entries that were just so imaginative: 3D stockings hanging above a fire scene, an actual traditional Christmas game made with treats and games, a gingerbread house and a timeline of Christmas card traditions. Well done to all those who took part!

Picking winners was not easy!!
Jack Delaney 7NKo – Christmas card timeline
Meila Darlington 8SDa/CZy – watercolour painting
Daniel Nemeth 8Sas – gingerbread house

Ms Quinn

We are pleased to announce that we have a British Champion in our midst Lizzy Merredew.

Last weekend she tested herself against the best in Britain and after four gruelling fights and four Ippon wins she was announced British Champion in the U52KG Category. Well done Lizzy!

What an amazing achievement. We are so proud of you. Good Luck in the Scottish Open in January,

Candy Cane Fundraiser 7LBR

7LBr have been busy being the 'Candy Cane Crew;' over the past few weeks.
On Festive Friday 12 December they delivered around 400 candy canes across the school community. It was wonderful to see not only students sending them to each other but also to staff.
They raised over £200 pounds for Cancer Research, the chosen Year 7 Charity.
Well done to 7LBr.

Mrs Broad

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Kacper Marchut
Scarlett Draper-Shearwood
Lilia Dyer
Maxwell Pearson
Keeley Everett
Tyler Salter
Lenny Stone
Amelia Hall

Student Services Duty Pupils

Jamie Nichols
Frankie Farrant
Riley Selman
Jeremiah Kumitse
Rosie Reed

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

PTA Update

We would like to wish all our school community a joyful and happy Christmas and a prosperous 2026.

School Production
We have had a wonderful 3 nights serving refreshments and selling raffle tickets at the production of 'Nativity The Musical' this week.
We sold 694 raffle tickets and all winners have now been notified - congratulations and we hope you enjoy your prizes if you were one of our lucky winners. Thanks to everyone who came to see us.

Own Clothes / Christmas Jumper Day
Thanks to everyone who supported our event on Friday 12th December.
The coins are still being counted as we speak but we know that we have raised at least £1800 which is far beyond our expectation and the most ever raised at our annual event! Thanks so much for your generosity! Every penny will benefit our students.

Funding requests
We have had a large number of funding requests from across our school, all requests that should benefit our students, which is our main objective. Hopefully our recent funds raised via quiz night, the production and own clothes day will enable us to provide funds for as many of these as possible.

Next Event: Bingo & Bubbles
Our next event will take place in February. We will provide more details soon and open ticket sales.

Easyfundraising
Thanks to our recent shoppers who have helped us to raise a cumulative total of £2151 to benefit our students, just by enrolling and shopping:

Gill B, Nicola T, Ana B, Sona D, Caroline W, Sule M, Jodie R,Rebecca S, Emma R,Deborah R, Mel L, Jason H, Hannah B, Sarah H, Helen H,

Please enrol if you can! You don't even need to download an app.
As long as you have enrolled and have the donation reminder switched on, you don't need to log in to anything separate to raise the funds:
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta/

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 **Graham P** for winning £61.50 in our November 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.

Dates for the Diary

December
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

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

Bromley Borough Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Unfortunately our **Bromley centre remains temporarily closed** and will not reopen before Christmas. Please see the opening times for other centres:

Our Christmas opening will be as follows:
Friday 19th December **Orpington Centre** 12.30pm - 2.30pm
Monday 22nd December **Penge Centre** 10.30am - 12.30pm
Monday 22nd December **St Mary Cray Centre** 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Centres will then be closed reopening:
Friday 2nd January Orpington Centre 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Please see the link below for centres locations:

https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/locations/

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