16.01.2026 Issue No: 1181 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

As we reach the end of week two of the new term, it has already been a remarkably busy and exciting start for our students. Classrooms are full of energy and focus, and it has been good to see pupils settling back into routines so positively.

Alongside their learning in school, many students have already taken part in a wide range of trips and visits that enrich and extend the curriculum. From inspiring theatre visits to exploring engineering and climate protection at the Thames Barrier, these experiences play a vital role in bringing learning to life beyond the classroom.

Such opportunities are central to building our students' cultural capital. They broaden knowledge of the world, spark curiosity, and help young people make meaningful connections between their studies and real-life contexts. We are proud to be able to offer such a diverse programme and I am grateful to the staff who give their time and expertise to organise these trips.

It was also fantastic to welcome England international and Chelsea Women's footballer Aggie Beever-Jones into school Tuesday evening, where she met CDS students who play for Westerham, alongside our Head Girl and a number of staff. It was a genuinely inspiring opportunity and a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through hard work, resilience and belief.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

Visit from Aggie Beever-Jones

This week, a group of girl students who play for Westerham FC had the exciting opportunity to meet professional footballer Aggie Beever-Jones (Chelsea FC / England) during a special meet-and-greet session, delivered in partnership with Westerham FC and Panini.

Aggie shared her journey and showed the students what is possible through hard work, belief, and a love for the game - a brilliant opportunity to motivate the next generation of footballers!

My thanks to David Liebscher and Westerham FC for leading on this, and to Aggie for giving her time.

Miss Owen
Head of PE

Drama Trip

On Wednesday 14th January, the Drama department took 50 students to the Churchill Theatre in Bromley to see the musical Blood Brothers.
This was an opportunity for GCSE Drama students in year 10 and 11 to see design elements in action and to look at how the scenes had been directed. The production was brilliant with many engaging performances by the actors.

Our students were fantastic members of the audience and I look forward to taking them on another theatre trip soon.

Miss Currie
Head of Expressive Arts

PE Extra-Curricular Activities Timetable

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR WINTER/SPRING TERM 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1.10 – 1.50pm					Trampolining Year 7 Only **(Boys/Girls)** PAID VIA PARENT PAY TAB
After school 3-4/4.15pm	Basketball Training Y9/10 **(Boys)** *Sportshall* JBI/JAL	Netball Training Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 **(Girls)** *Courts* LWR	Basketball Games All years **(Boys)** *Sportshall* JBI/JAL	Football Training Y7/Y8/Y9/Y10 **(Girls)** *Field/3G* CON	FIXTURE CATCH UP DAY
	Rugby Training Y7/Y8 **(Boys)** *Field/3G* SHU	Rugby Training Y9/Y10 **(Boys)** *Field/3G* SHU	Bromley Cup Football Games All years **(Girls/Boys)** Home/Away ALL STAFF	Basketball Training Y7/8 **(Boys)** *Sportshall* JBI/JAL	
	ALL FIXTURES WILL BE ARRANGED ON A WEEK BY WEEK BASIS FOR ALL TEAMS. THIS COULD BE DIFFERENT EACH WEEK DUE TO THE DIFFERENT LEAGUE AND COMPETITIONS.				
		Basketball Games All years **(Boys)** *Sportshall* JBI/JAL		Trampolining Year 8-13 **(Boys/Girls)** PAID VIA PARENT PAY TAB	

MOPAC Youth Survey

Help needed in Bromley - London Mayor and MOPAC Youth Survey
The Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime are aiming to gather the views of as many young people aged 11 to 16 (school year groups 7 to 11) as possible via the London Mayor and MOPAC's new Youth Survey for London. Responses to questions about a wide range of crime and safety issues will be used to drive important improvements in the way that the police and other criminal justice agencies work with and deliver services to young people. They would like to hear from more young people in Bromley, to ensure they are capturing the voices of young people from all areas of the capital.

The survey will be closing on **30th January 2026** and can be accessed at the following link: https://www.londonvoice.org.uk/whatdoYOUTHink

Thames Water - Jail Lane - Road Closure

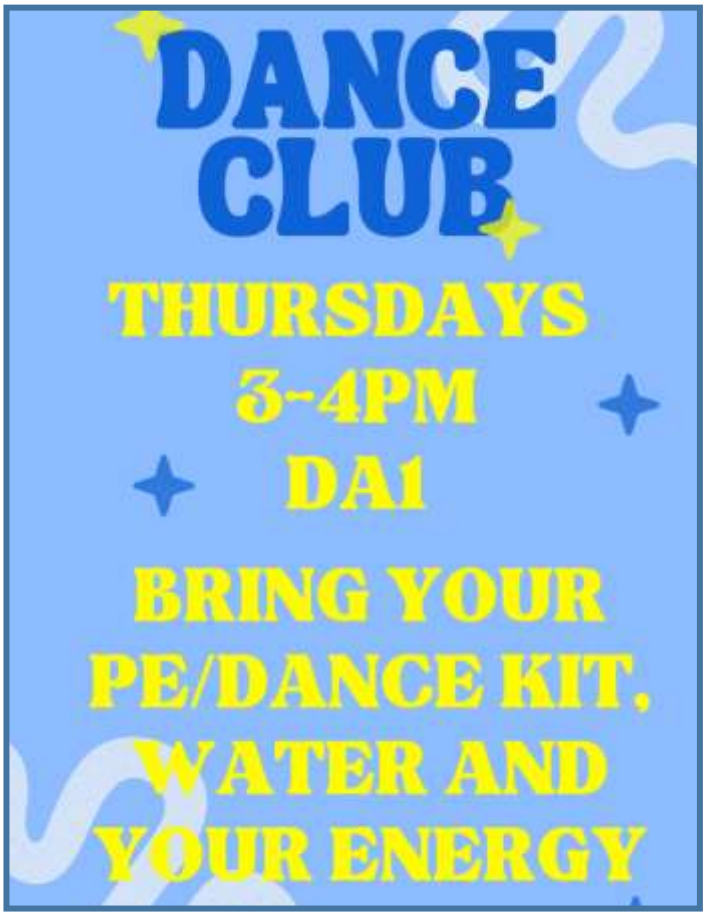
Thames Water will be returning to Jail Lane, from Monday 19 January to repair the water leak they were previously unable to repair.

The road will be closed outside Parkfield Farm, which falls in between Cudham Primary School and Charles Darwin School. The road is expected to be closed for up to five days due to the complexity of the repair required.

Traffic will be diverted via Main Road, Leaves Green Road, Downe Road, New Road Hill, Rookery Road, Downe High Street, Luxted Road and Single Street in both directions.

Thames Water will place advance warning signs to pre warn motorists of the upcoming closure, these should be in place over the next couple of days.

For further information please contact Thames Water directly: 0800 316 9800



Year 8 Duty Pupil

Daisy Ferguson
Freya Chandler
Rebecca Jermacz
Amie Collins
Joshua Ivaldi
Lorenzo Burrows
James McQueen
Riven Oakes

Student Services Duty Pupils

Paiton Bird
Douglas Grace
Mason Heath
Rodney Cains

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

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.

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

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 9 January 2026.

7SCu	98.7%
8LWr/OLo	96.8%
9JWi	94.2%
10PDg/JSt	95%
11DNu	93.1%
12JDa	98.7%
13DWa	95.3%

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

CHARLES DARWIN PTA ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THEIR NEXT EVENT...

Bingo!

Friday 6th February.

Eyes down @ 7.30pm

Music from our DJ after the Bingo concludes!

Tickets £10 per person which includes one book of tickets

Bring your own food and drink.

Extra games and dabbers will be available.

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

Dates for the Diary

January
22nd January- Immunisations - Year 9
23rd January - Trip: Year 10/Year 11 Science Live, London
29th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

February
4th February - PTA Meeting
6th February - PTA BINGO Night
11th February - Year 9 Parents' Evening
16th-20th February - Half term
23rd February - INSET DAY

March
3rd March - Trip: Year 13 Spectroscopy Masterclass, University of Reading
4th March - Year 8 Parents' Evening
6th March - Trip: Year 7/Year 8 Science Live, London
10th March - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Cycling Trip, Cyclopark Gravesend,
11th March - Year 9 Options 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

RAPE PRODUCTIONS
YOUTH THEATRE GROUP
01767 681 049

OPEN AUDITIONS

JOSEPH

AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR® DREAMCOAT

YOUTH GROUP PRODUCTION

LYRICS BY TIM RICE

MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

SUNDAY 25th JANUARY

THE STAG, LONDON RD,
SEVENOAKS, TN13 1ZZ
2.00-3.30pm 7-12yrs old
3.30-5.00pm 13-18yrs old

TUESDAY 27th JANUARY

THE STAG, LONDON RD,
SEVENOAKS, TN13 1ZZ
5.00-6.00pm 7-12yrs old
6.00-7.00pm 13-18yrs old

You only need to attend one audition
All auditionees must be 8 years old by the time of the show

TO BE PERFORMED AT THE STAG THEATRE 7TH-9TH MAY 2026

NOTHING TO PREPARE

JUST ARRIVE, BOOK IN AND AUDITION

A show fee is payable by all successful applicants