23.01.2026 Issue No: 1182 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

The Rotary Clubs of Bromley Youth Award Ceremony
Congratulations to our two Rotary Club Bromley Youth Award Ceremony winners, Lily Compton and Leanne Clark. They have been recognised for their outstanding contribution to the community.

Year 11 Parents' Evening
I look forward to welcoming our Year 11 parents into school next week as we discuss current progress and attainment and most importantly the plan to maximise outcomes ahead of exams.

Spring term clubs and activities
We have a variety of clubs and extra curriculum activities being run this term. Details can be found on our website or click the link Charles Darwin School - Clubs

Aston Smith, Headteacher

STEM Challenge

Further Darwin STEM challenge day success
Following on from their success in the Southeast regional round of the Bromley Science and Technology Challenge Day on 10th July 2025, Jamie Niblock and Sam Young (now in year 10) attended the Southern Challenge final, along with the winning teams of 10 other regions around London and the South of England, on 16th January 2026. The final took place at the Centre for Sustainability at the University of East London at the Royal Albert Dock.

In the final the teams of 4 pupils – Sam and Jamie from Darwin along with their 2 co-winners of the Southeast regional competition from Beths Grammar School in Bexley - worked together to programme a Lego mind storm robot to negotiate a 3D maze. The maze included numerous turns, obstacles that needed to be avoided and locations where special team-determined manoeuvres needed to be included. During the activity all teams were judged on both teamwork and successful completion of the activity.

Throughout the day Sam and Jamie were exceptional, using the skills they had developed through their science and technology classes to succeed in the task set them. Their hard work and outstanding ability to work in partnership with their teammates was rewarded by being awarded a fully deserved first place overall in the competition. Furthermore, the organiser of the event shared with me that the method by which our team approached the task was completely novel to him (and he had organised the event for over 20years)!
It was wonderful observing Jamie and Sam throughout the day: seeing how quickly they re-connected with their teammates from Beths Grammar; watching their enthusiasm to succeed and their resilience when faced with set-backs; and then recognising the different strengths they each brought to the challenge.

My thanks go to both Jamie and Sam for their outstanding contribution to the day and their amazing representation of the school; they are truly brilliant.

Dr R Piercy

Kent Cross-Country Championship

Kent Cross-Country Championships – Dartford – Saturday 17th January 2026

Charles Darwin School had 5 student representatives at last weekend Kent Schools Cross-Country Championships.

All athletes represented the school and the Bromley District with distinction and should be extremely proud of their achievements. In the Junior Boys race Cameron Revell (Year 9) placed 55th out of 122 runners, while Viktorija Domkova (Year 8) placed 35th out of 91 runners also bagging herself a team gold medal for being in the top 6 runners finishing for the district team. In the Year 7 boys race Oliver Pearson finished 30th out of 106 runners. In the Year 7 girls race Mollie Sedgewick placed 13th, and Zara Lett finished in 5th place out of 74 runners. Both Zara and Mollie, won team gold for the Bromley District and have now been selected to represent Kent Schools in the Southern Inter-counties match being held in March.

A massive well done to all runners!

Mr Huggins

CDS Library Update

New Books have landed in the library!

We have some brand-new titles – whether you love fantasy, thrillers, romance or graphic novels there's something waiting for you! Happy reading!

Mrs Waite
Library Supervisor

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

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

Evie Murphy
Bella Cook
Tamsin Chevalier
Archie Davis
Archie Mansell
Nathan Zolnowski
Tamsin Chevalier
Chaianne Brydon
Ela Oget
Poppy Rogers

Student Services Duty Pupils

Jack Johnson
Jimmy Johnson
Lucie Kempster
Imogen Kirby
Brooke Meloy

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 16 January 2026.

7COn	98.5%
8SAs	95.3%
9KMa	94%
10PDg/JSt	97.6%
11JAl	94%
12ARu	96.7%
13MNo	97.9%

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

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
28th January - Trip: Year 8 Reward Trip to Laser Quest Bromley
29th January - Year 11 Parents' Evening

February
4th February - PTA Meeting
6th February - Trip: Y 13 Photography Trip to Tate Modern, London
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
12th March - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Cycling Trip, Cyclopark Gravesend,

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

BIGGIN HILL CFC, SUNNINGVALE AVENUE, TN16 3TN

Thursday 26th February 10:00am - 11:30am

IASS Drop-in Session X

Would you like guidance on supporting a child or young person with special educational needs and/or a disability?

Join our drop-in session! It's the perfect chance to meet our fantastic team and dive into all things education, health and care.

For more details, contact centre staff on 01959 571 694, or reach out to the IASS team: iass@bromley.gov.uk or 020 8461 7630.

SCAN ME

IASS Bromley.