30.01.2026 Issue No: 1183 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

It has been another busy week, filled with a wide range of valuable learning experiences for our students. From the National Maths Challenge for Years 9 and 10 to a week of Holocaust assemblies, which will concluded with an external speaker for Year 9 on Monday. These are just a few of the many opportunities our students have taken part in. A huge thank you to the staff who organised and facilitated these events, which support our students' learning.

Thursday's Year 11 Parents' Evening was very positive, with clear plans agreed to support students in the lead-up to their summer examinations. Family involvement plays a crucial role in your child's success and we encourage you to keep communicating with teachers on how revision and learning is going on at home over the remaining months.

I would also like to wish our Year 13 students the very best of luck as they sit their PPEs over the coming weeks.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

The Beagle - Students' Newsletter

Friday 30th January will see the very first issue of the Student newsletter - The Beagle. This will be sent out every 2 weeks via email to all students. Why is it called the Beagle? The Beagle was the ship that Charles Darwin used to travel around the world on his voyage of discovery and in particular, to the Galapagos Islands where most of his field studies took place.

The Beagle will contain student news, written by staff and students. It will feature contributions from the school council, student voice and students achievements both in and out of school. The newsletter will also contain information for students, so that they increase awareness of what is happening in school. There will be features on revision tips, praise from staff for excellent work as well as reports of trips and visits as well as regular surveys, so that students' voice is heard and shared with staff. We want students to become more independent and use their email more, to get them ready for their world of work or dealing with their personal administration. The Beagle provides lots of opportunity for students to contribute and improve their own Personal Development.

Mr R Jones

Jack Petchey - Speak Out Challenge

Last Friday, our school hosted the Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge workshop for some of our Year 10 students. The students had a fantastic experience, enhancing their communication and presentation skills and gaining confidence through the writing and delivery of their speeches.

Following the workshop, seven students were selected to present their speeches on the 6th of February to members of our department staff. From these presentations, one finalist will be chosen to represent the school at the regional stage of this national competition.

Well done to all students who took part — everyone demonstrated creativity, composure, and strong speaking skills. A special congratulations goes to Millie Ford, Magnus Malcomson, Edie Plinston, Catherine Seidler, Niamh Paton, Daisy Pointer and Emily Whitby who have progressed to the second round.

We will keep you updated on how our finalist progresses at the regional competition. Thank you to all staff and students involved for making the event such a success.

Mrs Ollier
Teacher of English

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Amos Kumitse
Ciaran Duffy
Charlie Wooldridge
Poppy Pratt
Roman Fazzini
Jackson Fish
Buddy Jeffreys
Nathan Zolnowski
Poppy Rodgers
Evie Murphy

Student Services Duty Pupils

Matilda O'Sullivan
Cameron Revell
Heidi Seymour
Flynn Teehan
Paiton Bird

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 23 January 2026.

7COn	100%
8LBy	96.8%
9ARo/SFe	93%
10PDg/JSt	97.7%
11JAl	94.1
12ZPa	97.4%
13MCr	92.7%

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

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 – Secondary 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
	Staff Development Day Tuesday & Wednesday 1st & 2nd September 2026

Term 2

Start:	Monday 2nd November 2026
Finish:	Friday 18th December 2026
Christmas break:	Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027
	Staff Development Day Monday 2nd November 2026

Term 3

Start:	Monday 4th January 2027
Finish:	Friday 12th February 2027
February break:	Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027
	Staff Development Day Wednesday 13th January 2027

Term 4

Start:	Monday 22nd February 2027
Finish:	Thursday 25th March 2027
Spring break:	Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 9th April 2027
	Staff Development Day Monday 22nd February 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
	Staff Development Day Friday 25th June 2027

Bromley Well

YOUNG CARERS

How can we help?

- Opportunities to meet with other young carers, have fun, discuss any worries & try out new activities
- Emotional support
- Support to access counselling
- Training courses
- Workshops
- Online support
- Peer support groups
- Leisure activities
- A Young Carers Forum
- Support for preparing for adulthood

We have a Young Carers App and newsletter to help bring Young Carers together and learn more about activities available.

For queries about the service, contact our Young Carers team on 020 8466 0790 or email youngcarers@bromleywell.org.uk

Freephone

0808 278 7898

www.bromleywell.org.uk/refer

Once we receive your referral, our Young Carers Team will contact you to arrange a meeting.

@bromleywellyoungcarers
@bromleywell_YC
@bromleywellyoungcarers

Service delivered by: Bromley mencap, Incorporating Bromley Scope

Funded by: Bromley

EXCELLENCE FOR CARERS
Carers Trust Quality Award

NHS
South East London