06.02.2026 Issue No: 1184 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Year 13 PPEs
The Year 13 PPE exams began this week and will continue until the end of term. We encourage you to support your child by helping them stay focused, confident, and motivated during this important opportunity to demonstrate their progress. Over the February half-term break, please encourage your son or daughter to set aside some time for revision and study; while also ensuring they maintain a healthy balance of rest and wellbeing as they prepare for their formal exams in the summer term.

Year 9 Parents' Evening
Next week we look forward to welcoming year 9 families to Parents' Evening. This is a valuable opportunity to support both students and families be prepared ahead of option choices.

Easy Fundraising
You can make a real difference for the school at no cost to you. Simply sign up to Easy Fundraising using the link displayed below. It only takes a few moments, and for the next couple of weeks the school receives £2 just for registering. Thank you for your support.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta/

Aston Smith, Headteacher

CDS Library Update

The library has a new display celebrating books that made it to the big screen.

We are inviting students to come and take a look at the display and checkout a book to discover how some of their favourite stories began on the page.

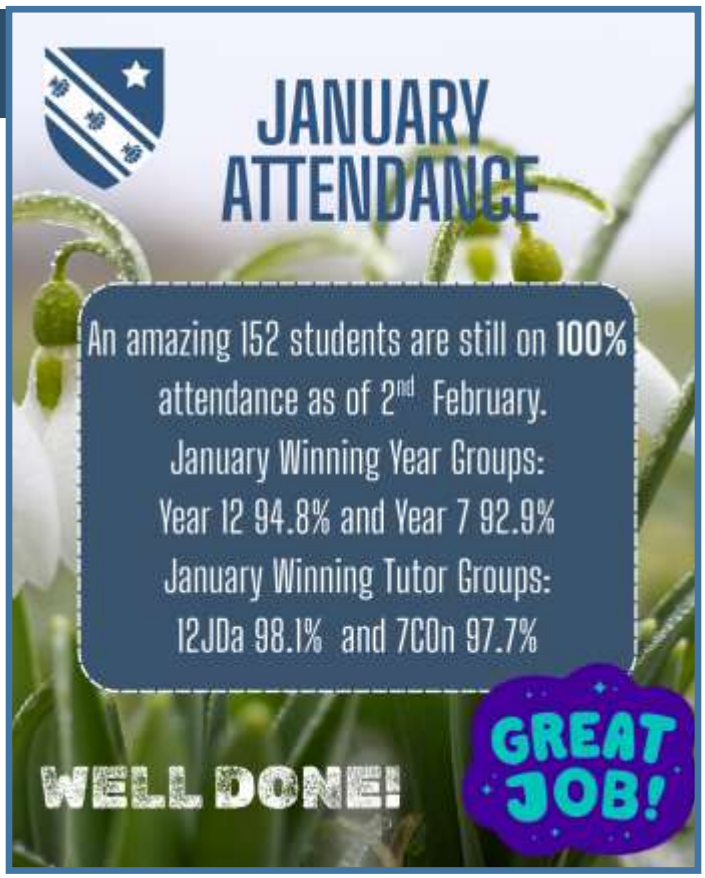
WARNING: Sometimes (okay, most of the time) the book is way better than the movie!

Mrs Waite
Library Supervisor

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

January Attendance



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 School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

Jail Lane
Biggin Hill
Westerham
Kent TN16 3AU
Tel: 01959 574043
enquiries@cdarwin.com

Exam Invigilators
£13.70 per hour

We wish to appoint a number of Exam Invigilators to join our dedicated pool responsible for the invigilation of public and internal exams and tests. Invigilators will be present throughout the whole exam and may also undertake tasks such as checking registers against scripts and packing them at the end of the exams. All successful candidates will receive appropriate training.

We are a "good" school (Ofsted 2023) with an ethos that encourages academic rigour, high expectations and a well-disciplined approach to learning.

Application Forms and further details are available on our website www.cdarwin.com – about us/ vacancies.

Closing date: Friday 6th March 2026

Please note: all applicants must complete the Charles Darwin School application form which is available on our website: www.cdarwin.com (about us/vacancies). CVs alone will not be considered.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Any offer of employment will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure with the Disclosure and Barring Service and full background checks.

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

Year 8 Duty Pupil

Isabella Jarred
Mike David Kyei-Gyamfi
Alesha Reid
Daisy Shier
La-Jaune Carrdice
Miah Keegan
Leanne Clark
Elizabeth Craggs
Geiste Kersyte
Harry Wilson

Student Services Duty Pupils

Maisie Cannon
Cameron Revell
Genevieve Bonome
Austyn Garrod
Leah Benwell

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

Dates for the Diary

February
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 - Trip: Year 12 Poetry Work Shop, Down House
4th March - Year 8 Parents' Evening
6th March - Trip: Year 7/Year 8 Science Live, London
7th Match - Bronze DofE Practice Walk
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
16th March - Trip: GCSE Cycling Trip - Cyclopark
20th March - Trip: GCSE Cycling Trip - Cyclopark
24th March - Trip: Year 12 UCAS conference
27th March - Ski Trip to Austria
27th March - Year 10/Year 11 Geography trip to Iceland
27th March - End of Term
30th March - 10th April - Easter Holiday

April
13th April - Summer Term starts

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

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

Notes:
Good Friday 3rd April 2026
Easter Monday 6th April 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 Friday 12th & 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
	**No inset Day this term*

Term 6

Start:	Monday 7th June 2027
Finish:	Wednesday 21st July 2027
	Staff Development Day Friday 25th June 2027

**Term 5 Staff Development Day – to be chosen by Headteacher*

There will be no inset day for CDS in Term 5 – we will hold our inset day on Friday 12th February

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EXCELLENCE THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Ever wondered what it feels like to shape someone's future? Training to become a teacher gives you the chance to inspire young minds, spark curiosity, and make a real, lasting impact every single day.

Recruitment for September 2026 is now open for:

- Primary trainees - ***reduced fee***
- Secondary trainees

We offer:

- QTS only
- QTS with PGCE

Why Choose Bromley Schools' Collegiate?

We are a well established provider of initial teacher training with over 30 years experience. During this time, we have trained and qualified over 2,500 teachers. We have built and nurtured partnerships with a variety of excellent local schools where trainees get hands on experience, receive expert mentoring paired with face-to-face, in-centre training at Hayes.

https://www.bscteach.co.uk/

administrator@gradteach.uk

0208 300 6566

#GETINTOTEACHING