06.03.2026 Issue No: 1187 The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

**Governors' Day**
Our Governors spent the day in school on Tuesday. During their visit, they saw classrooms in action, joined the Year 7 assembly, engaged in discussions with a student panel and joined by staff governors attended the Finch Room one year after its formal opening.

**Year 8 Parents' Evening**
Thank you to all the families that came along on Wednesday evening. It was a well attended event with lots of valuable conversation to support everyone being able to achieve their best over the second half of the year.

**World Book Day**
On Thursday, World Book Day provided a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the joy of books, inspire creativity, and encourage a passion for reading. To celebrate World Book Day, students can collect a book token from the school library or main reception. Each token entitles a student to exchange it for a book selected for World Book Day or to get £1 off a book of their choice. Please encourage your child to collect a token and make reading a regular part of their daily life.

**Options Evening**
We warmly invite all Year 9 families to attend our Options Evening on Wednesday 11th March. This is an important opportunity for you and your child to explore the subjects available, speak with teachers, and gain guidance before making their final option choices.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

## Personal Development Days 15-16th July 2026

The last few days of the school year are a time of enrichment and personal development activities.

We want these days to be memorable moments in the year so have planned a range of trips for years 7-9. Year 10 have a careers focus, with a mock interview from a local business leader as well as English speaking exam for the GCSE.

After Easter, a range of enrichment activities will be communicated with students and parents. These will have plenty of notice before they are released on ParentPay. Most visits are released on the same day, but staggered per year group so parents don't have to worry about booking siblings onto trips at the same time. There are some exceptions to this, where larger deposits have to be covered in advance, such as the Drama Theatre trip or the France day trip. Information and booking will come out next week about the Boulogne trip for year 7 and 8. There are a wide range of trips and visits, by coach or by train into London. There are planned trips to support SEND students.

Students who do not book onto trips would normally be in school for activities. This year the plan is different for some year groups on either day and all students will be off-site for the day....details to follow soon but the focus is on problem-solving and team building.

These memorable experiences require a lot of planning. It goes without saying that there is a cost element to all of the trips, but this has been planned to accommodate a range of affordability. Just make sure that your ParentPay is set up.

Further details to follow!

**Mr R Jones**

Year 8 girls delivered a fantastic football tournament filled with energy, teamwork, and determination. The girls represented the school with pride, resilience, and positivity, making the tournament an enjoyable and memorable experience for everyone involved. A huge well done to all players for their effort and enthusiasm!

**Miss Owen**

Congratulations to Maisie Sewell Year 11, who won a gold medal in her first professional Jiu-Jitsu competition. This impressive accomplishment reflects the hard work, discipline, and commitment in her training. Well done, an amazing achievement!

**Miss Owen**

## Extra-Curricular Clubs

**Spring term clubs and activities**
We have a variety of clubs and extra curriculum activities being run this term.

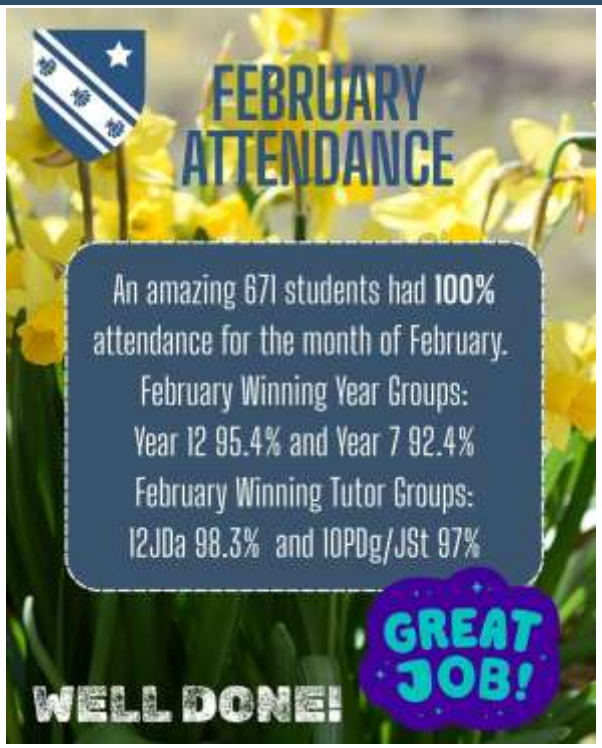
Details can be found on our website or click the link
Charles Darwin School - Clubs

The Art Department has had a busy and very productive week with the ceramics club creating some beautiful Mother's Day plates.

**There are still 6 places left for the Easter ceramics club starting next week Mon 9th 10th March.**

Sign up is on ParentPay.

# 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**

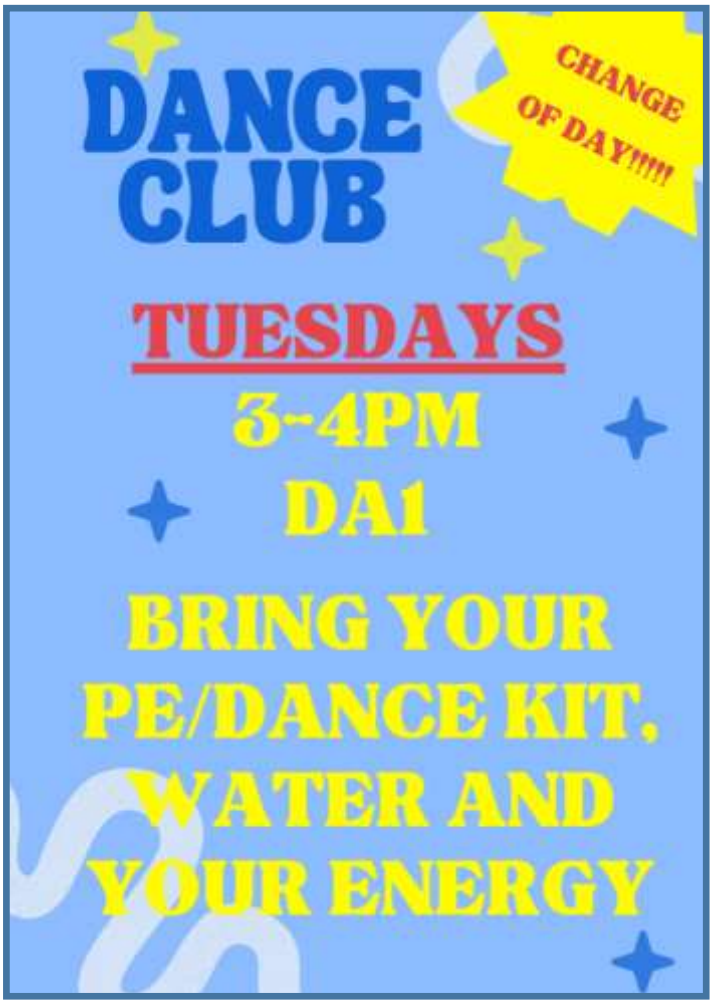
**Pupil absence line: 01959 574043**

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**




## 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

Charles Darwin Pre-loved Uniform Requests 2025/2026 school year onwards

### Year 8 Duty Pupil

Leni Dungate
Ellee Allen
Oliver Ridley
Chizara Agwu
Bertie Powell
Lia Vardill
Rosie Kinahan
Charlie Crawley
Willa Rosewhite

### Student Services Duty Pupils

Layla Wattie
Jack Roberts
Tiana Torrance
Joel Jackson
Alexander Mack

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

# Dates for the Diary

**March**
**7th March** - 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
**14th March** - Bronze DofE Practice Walk
**16th March** - Trip: GCSE Cycling Trip - Cyclopark
**17th March** - Year 9 Immunisation
**19th March** - Year 12/13 Parents' Evening
**20th March** - Trip: GCSE Cycling Trip - Cyclopark
**23rd March -** Trip: GCSE Business Booster Grade Workshops, Vue Westfields
**24th March** - Trip: Year 12 UCAS Conference
**25th March** - Trip: A Level Business Booster Workshops; Vue Westfields
**27th March-4th April** - Ski Trip to Austria
**27th March-31st March** - Year 10/Year 11 Geography trip to Iceland
**27th March** - End of Term
**30th March - 10th April** - Easter Revision School for Year 11 and 13
**30th March - 10th April** - Easter Holiday

**April**
**13th April** - Summer Term starts

# 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:**

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

***Notes:***
***Good Friday 3rd April 2026***
***Easter Monday 6th April 2026***

**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 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*

# Younger Teens Reading Group

## at Orpington Library

Aged 11-13 and love reading? Join our monthly book group for exciting reads, great chats, and plenty of fun.

**Day:** Third Monday of the month
**Time:** 5.30-6.30pm

For more information please speak to a member of staff or contact orpington.library@gll.org

@BromleyLibraries @BromLibraries

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BETTER

Bromley
THE LONDON BOROUGH

## SENDAT Parent Workshops

## Summer Term 2026

# Supporting Parents & Carers of Neurodivergent Young People

SENDAT will be running a series of supportive, informative workshops for parents and carers of school-aged neurodivergent children and young people. A formal diagnosis is not required; children should have identified differences through paediatric referral in Bromley or a specific assessment

**Parents/carers need to attend all three sessions:**

They will take place from **6-8pm** at the **Phoenix Children's Resource Centre**, 40 - 42 Masons Hill, Bromley, BR2 9JG on:

- Tuesday 10 June 2026
- Tuesday 17 June 2026
- Tuesday 24 June 2026

**What to expect:**

- A safe, supportive environment
- Practical advice and guidance
- Space to explore your young person's strengths, motivators, and areas for development

**Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided**

**Please note:**

- These are adult-only sessions. There are no crèche facilities available.
- For any further information please contact Emma Donovan-Brown at Emma.Donovan-brown@bromley.gov.uk

***They are well received by families and provide support, advice and a safe space to talk about their young people's strengths, motivators and areas of development.***