20.03.2026 Issue No: 1189 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Congratulations

We are incredibly proud to announce that Millie Ford, Year 10 has made Charles Darwin School history! After winning the Charles Darwin School Speak Out Challenge, she went on to represent our school at the Bromley Regional Finals on Tuesday night where she achieved an outstanding third place finish.

Out of 12 finalists from schools across Bromley, Millie's performance stood out for her confidence, passion, and originality. This is a truly historic moment for Charles Darwin School, the first time ever one of our students has placed in the top three at the regional level. Congratulations, Millie, on this remarkable achievement. Mrs Holloway attended the event and she is incredibly proud of Millie.

Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening

On Thursday I attended the Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening. I would like to thank our families for their continued commitment to attend these important events. The students success is underpinned by strong home/school partnership. As our students take their final steps in secondary education and prepare for life beyond Charles Darwin School, their hard work and determination are evident. It is always a pleasure to share in their progress and future aspirations.

Achievement Assemblies

It has been wonderful to attend our Achievement Assemblies, which began this week with Years 10 and 8 and will continue through to the end of term. These assemblies recognise far more than academic attainment alone. We are proud to celebrate students for their endeavour, effort, resilience, positive attitudes to learning, and attendance.

These achievements are a wonderful reminder that hard work pays off, and your children should be very proud of themselves, as we are of them.

Visit to BHPS

Today, as part of our Theatre in Education programme, I had the pleasure of visiting Biggin Hill Primary School with Miss Currie, Head of Expressive Arts, and a group of Year 8 drama students, including some I teach. The students performed a variety of age-appropriate drama pieces with educational messages or morals, and it was wonderful to see them engaging creatively and representing our school so positively.

Aston Smith

Personal Development Days 15-16th July 2026

Many families will be aware that the last few days of the summer term are devoted to personal development and a wide range of school trips. For year 7-9 and a careers focused end to the year for year 10.

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. Year 10 come into school in smart business dress and then work experience on the following day.

Year 7-9 will receive a letter/email home at the very start of May outlining all of the trips available to students. We are just finalising these at the moment and will send out a list of the trips including meeting points, start and finish times as well as costs.

There are free trips as well as paid for trips. All trips will be posted on ParentPay and we will communicate to you via email and CallParent the date and times that the trips open.

- Spaces are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis so unfortunately we are not able to reserve places for friendship groups.
- Please do not book 2 trips on the same day. Check carefully on the date of the trip. Mistakes cannot be refunded
- When the trip is full, it will disappear from parent pay.
- There will be specific provision for SEND students
- As we have to pay for most tickets in advance, making changes cannot be refunded.
- We have listened to parents who have siblings in different year groups and so the trips for year 7,8 and 9 will be released at lease an hour apart. Whilst we understand that some parents are working at that time, we try to open the trips up as late as possible in the day.

We have a really exciting opportunity to take 2 year groups on different days to a local activity centre for some intense teambuilding and problem solving, rather than being in school. There will be a small voluntary cost to this which we hope all parents are able to contribute to, to make this happen. We always encourage trying something new or different. More to follow soon!

Mr R Jones

The Geography department would like to make a big shout out to the **Year 11** students for the recent effort in their 2nd PPE.
We appreciate them staying after school to complete it.
It shows great dedication to their success.

Geography Department

Congratulations to Millie Ford Year 10 for winning the Charles Darwin School Speak Out Challenge.

She went on to represent our school at the Bromley Regional Finals on Tuesday night — where she achieved an outstanding third place finish.

Congratulations Millie!

Congratulation to Ronnie Oyston Year 7 who has returned home as **Italian World Cup Winne**r after winning a Gold medal and Trophy for his Point Fighting section, he also won 2 bronze medals in Light Con and Kick Light sections.

We are super proud of his dedication and commitment that are now paying off on the world stage.
Well done, an amazing achievement!

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

Mrs Broad hosted a Mothers day ceramics club for a small group of students to create and make a Mothers Day plate.

The group consisted of mostly year 7 students of whom really embraced the challenge and learnt some new skills along the way.

Their final pieces were fired in the kiln and the outcomes were beautiful.

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]

Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 13 March 2026.

7SCu	96.3%
8LWr/OLo	96.3%
9ARo/SFe	96.7%
10GJo/OLo	94.5%
11EKa/CAh	95.8%
12JDa	100%
13MNo	95%

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

March
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
14th April - Trip: Y9 Geography Reward Trip to Natural History Museum, London
15th April - PTA Meeting
17th April - Trip: YR 12 Sociology conference at Chislehurst Girls
17th April - PTA Quiz Night
23rd April - Year 7 Parents' Evening

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

Isabelle Scott
Ollie ridley
Scott Conway
Chizara Agwu
Max Colyer
Willa-Rose White
Ollie Ridley
Grace Whiting
Poppy Pointer

Student Services Duty Pupils

Sophie Dilling
Licia Hales
Kayla Lockwood
Samuel Smith
Lily-May Smith

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

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:

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 26th June 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

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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

Please use the links below:

Webinars for Young People:

Stress and Worry Management for Young People

These webinars cover all aspects of emotional wellbeing difficulties **with a different focus each month** on the difficulties young people may be facing at that time in their academic lives. For example, focusing on preparation for exams and exam stress at certain times of the year or adapting to change when starting at a new school and making new friends in the early Autumn term.

Developing Healthy Study Habits

This webinar aims to help you understand **academic stress** better and help you to create healthy study habits which makes this stress easier to manage. This webinar will also offer options for the 'next steps' should you want further support. Parents/Carers are welcome to join the webinar too.

Webinars for Parents:

Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Helping Children and Young People with Anxiety, Fears and Worries

Helping Children with Sleep Difficulties

Understanding Eating Disorders in Teens

Please use the link below for more information:

[Transformative Creative Arts Education | Join The Music Klub HAF Programme]

Please use the link below for more information:

[Holiday activities and food programme]

SENDAT Parent Workshops

Summer Term 2026

Supporting Parents & Carers of Children Transitioning into Year 7

SENDAT will be running a series of supportive, informative workshops for parents and carers of children transitioning into Year 7 with a range of needs including those with an individual EHCP.

These will take place on the following dates and times:

Year 6-7 transition face to face workshop

on either the **22.04.26** or **29.04.26**

6.00 - 7.30pm at the Phoenix Children's Resource Centre

40 - 42 Masons Hill, Bromley, BR2 9JG

Parking is not available for attendees, but the centre is well served by bus routes and parking is available in side streets.

We are also offering a Year 6 – 7 Virtual transition workshop (on line)

on **12.05.26,** from 10.00 - 11.30am

What to expect: we will be offering practical advice for supporting your child's transition into Year 7 including a pack of information for you to access via email.

This will include:

- visual clarity to support the reduction of anxiety for physical transitions
- ideas to support development of independent learning
- ways to work in collaboration with your child's educational provision
- strategies to support development of executive functioning skills
- how to support development of independent practical skills in year 7 and beyond.

For any further information please contact Emma Donovan-Brown at Emma.Donovan-brown@bromley.gov.uk

Please note: For the virtual meeting you will be sent an invite to the Microsoft Teams meeting once you express an interest in attending.

SENDAT Parent Workshops

Summer Term 2026

Supporting Parents & Carers of Student's Transitioning into Year 12

SENDAT will be running a series of supportive, informative workshops for parents and carers of student's transitioning into Year 12 with a range of needs including those with an individual EHCP.

These will take place on the following dates and times:

IN PERSON Year 11-12 Transition Workshop

Either 13.05.26 or 20.05.26

6.00 - 7.30pm at the Phoenix children's resource centre,

40 - 42 Masons Hill, Bromley, BR2 9JG

There is no available parking on site, but the area is well served by bus routes and parking is available in side streets.

VIRTUAL Year 11-12 Transition Workshop

09.06.25, 10.00 - 11.30am ONLINE

What to expect: we will be offering practical advice for supporting your student's transition into year 12 including a pack of information for you to access via email. This will include:

- visual clarity to support the reduction of anxiety for physical transitions
- ideas to support development of independent learning
- ways to work in collaboration with your child's educational provision
- strategies to support development of executive functioning skills
- post year 11 ideas regarding how to prepare for the next stage of education, employment or training
- how to support development of independent practical skills in year 12

For any further information please contact Emma Donovan-Brown at Emma.Donovan-brown@bromley.gov.uk

Please note: For the virtual meeting you will be sent an invite to the Microsoft Teams meeting once you express an interest in attending.

From Monday 30th March families visiting any Morrisons' 343 Cafes across the country during school holidays will be able to request a free 'Kellogg's Breakfast'. This includes a bowl of Kellogg's cereal (Rice Krispies or Corn Flakes), milk or a milk alternative, and an apple or banana.

The offer is universally accessible, requires no signup, and meets school food standards.