17.04.2026 Issue No: 1191 The Link

Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

Headlines

Hair colours
Unfortunately, some students have returned from the Easter break with coloured streaks in their hair. Please can I remind parents that this is not allowed in school.
We would appreciate your support in not allowing your child to get this done. This will avoid unnecessary conflict with school, sanctions, potential loss of learning etc which ultimately leads to unhappiness all round - we want to focus on teaching and learning and giving lots of enjoyable learning opportunities.
For your reference, the guidance is on page 5 of the student organiser (planner): "individual fashion statements such as extreme hairstyles e.g. Mohican haircuts or colours i.e. red, blue etc are not permitted."

How we communicate with you
We pride ourselves on clear, regular communication, whether through The Link newsletter (which you are reading), regular parents' evenings, the Satchel One app, phone calls, emails, and our shiny new website, where you can access a range of information, including our curriculum and, of course, our student-friendly fortnightly newsletter The Beagle.
Issue 5 of The Beagle will be shared today via student email and the Satchel One app. Inside, students will find key dates, exam advice and revision tips, details of upcoming assemblies, library updates, and links to a range of clubs and enrichment activities.
We encourage students to take a look at the newsletter and make full use of the resources and opportunities included.

Healthy Relationships Workshop
My thanks go to Ms Rees, Miss Currie and Miss Hurding for organising a highly successful two-day Healthy Relationships workshop with Tender this week. A group of Year 9 students took part and later shared their work with Year 7. More details can be found in this newsletter.

I had the opportunity to observe part of the workshop and was particularly impressed by the thoughtful and collaborative approach our students demonstrated. The facilitators spoke very highly of them, noting their engagement, maturity and the quality of work they produced throughout the sessions.

Thank you to all involved - this is such important work for our young people.

Aston Smith, Headteacher

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

A massive shout out to all Year 11 and 13 who came in to Easter School over the holidays.
This is a huge thank you from all of your teachers.

Mr Jones

A huge congratulations to Ronnie Oyston Year 7 who won another gold medal 🏅 at the Peterborough championship this Easter after winning 6 consecutive point fights.

Mrs Broad

Highlights of the Recent Iceland and Skiing Trip

On Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th April, 25 year 9 students took part in a relationship workshop. The workshop was run by the charity Tender, who have worked with Charles Darwin School for a number of years. Students explored qualities and behaviours they would want to see in their friendships before moving on to discuss romantic relationships.

Over the 2 days, students explored through drama how unhealthy relationships might start and discussed different types of abuse including, financial, online, physical and psychological. They created some excellent scenes showing the stages of an unhealthy relationship and also explored the support someone might need to leave.

The students presented key ideas from the 2 days to year 7's and were excellent relationship ambassadors. A huge well done to all the students who took part. You were amazing!

Miss Currie
Head of Expressive Arts

Poetry

The library is offering a fun activity called “Book Spine Poetry.” Using the titles of books, students are encouraged to stack words and phrases to create unique and meaningful poems.

Our Poetry board is filled with colourful examples and inspiration. Be sure to ask your child about their poem!

Mrs Waite

Charles Darwin School

Headteacher: Aston Smith, BA (Hons) MA NPQH

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

Darwin Leisure Centre – Leisure Assistants

£10.85 / £12.71 per hour

We are looking to appoint a number of Leisure Assistants for our busy Leisure Centre. Applicants should have good inter-personal skills, a professional attitude to work and be able to work both independently and as part of a team. Successful candidates will be required to work during the afternoon and evening, including some weekends. Previous experience of working in the leisure industry would be advantageous, although training will be given.

Further details of the post can be found on our website: www.cdarwin.com about us/ vacancies.

Completed applications should be sent to jhodgkinson@cdarwin.com.

Mrs. J. Hodgkinson, Personnel & Administration Manager, Charles Darwin School.

Interviews will take place as and when applications are received.

Please note: all applicants must complete the Lumero Educational Trust 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 and online checks.

Charles Darwin School is part of Lumero Educational Trust

Lumero
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Extra-Curricular at CDS - Summer Term

PE EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUMMER TERM 25/26

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1.10 – 1.50pm				GCSE Revision **Year 11** *IT1* CON/SHU/NDO	
After school 3.00-4.15pm	Athletics - TRACK Year 7/8/9/10 **(Boys and Girls)** *Sports hall/Field* SHU	Rounders Training Year 7/8 **(Girls)** *Field* LWR/CON	Athletics - FIELD Year 7/8/9/10 **(Boys and Girls)** *Sports hall/Field* PE STAFF	Cricket Training Year 9 and 10 **(Boys)** *Field/Sports hall* JBI/JAL	
	Cricket Fixtures Year 7/8/9/10 **(Boys and Girls)** *Field* JBI/JAL	Rounders Fixtures All years **(Girls)** Field LWR/CON	Rounders Fixtures All years **(Girls)** Field LWR/CON	Trampolining Year 7/8/9/10 **(Girls and boys)** 3:30-5 PAY ON PARENT PAY	FIXTURE CATCH UP DAY
	Rounders Fixtures All years **(Girls)** Field LWR/CON/NDO	Cricket Training Year 7 and 8 **(Boys and girls)** *Sports hall/Field* JBI/JAL		Cricket Fixtures Year 7/8/9/10 **(Boys and Girls)** *Field* JBI/JAL	
	ALL FIXTURES WILL BE ARRANGED ON A WEEK-BY-WEEK BASIS FOR ALL TEAMS. THIS COULD BE DIFFERENT EACH WEEK DUE TO THE DIFFERENT LEAGUE AND COMPETITIONS.			Rounders Training Year 9/10 **(Girls)** *Field* NDO/CON	

Track and Field Athletics Training - Started Monday 13th April 2026

Training is open to all students from Years 7,8,9,and 10 and will take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons after school (3:15-4:15pm). Monday sessions will be dedicated to track events (100m, 200m, 300m / 400m, 800m, 1500m, Relays), while Wednesdays will be dedicated to field events (long jump, triple jump, javelin, discus, shot put).

Our most talented (and dedicated) athletes will be selected to represent the school in the West Kent Championships and Bromley Minors Championships held in April and June.

Mr Huggins

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

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.

Hay Fever Season - Medication for Students
Hay Fever and the symptoms for children studying at school can be very uncomfortable, please ensure that if your child suffers with Hay Fever that they take any relevant medication/antihistamine before school. The school is unable to provide this medication to students.
Thank you

Mrs Booth
Health Care Lead

Dates for the Diary

April
23rd April - Year 7 Parents' Evening
24th April - Trip: Y 10 Geography Trip to Rottingdean
30th April– 1st May - Trip: Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition at Bewl Water

May
4th May - Bank Holiday
11th May - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
13th May - Year 10 Parents' Evening
15th May - Trip: Year 10 GCSE PE Kayaking Trip, Danson Park
18th-21st May - Trip: Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip, Bournemouth
21st-23rd May - Trip: Silver DofE Practice Expedition, Downe Activity Centre
22nd May - Inset Day
25th-29th May - Half term

June
1st June - Summer Term 2 starts

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

Emily Aldrich
Ellis Gordon
Kasiar-Monet Hewitt
Oliver Anderson
Lily-Ray Gilder
Archie Hartnup
Elizabeth Negus
Jakub Maciag
Bobby Osborne
Haleigh Hemple-Rest

Student Services Duty Pupils

Angel Goksal
Zack Adams
Sydney Still
Ellie-May Friend
Gracie Humphreys
Sadie Poole

They have been fantastic this week, and their help

Everything you need to support your mental health wellbeing during the exam season

Please use the link blow for selection of resources to help you to support your mental health wellbeing during the exam period:

[Easter and exams march 2026 - Kooth & Qwell Resources]

Term Dates 2025-2026

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

Term Dates 2026-2027

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

SEND MATTERS

SEND matters:

https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/NHYf79ycetBnX

Bromley Parent Voice Bulletin Spring 2026

Click on these links to SEND matters and the family newsletter from the Bromley Parenting Hub (Early Intervention & Family Services).

Mrs Thom

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

Biggin Hill Children and Family Centre will be hosting a Social Communication Needs Coffee Morning on Thursday **23rd of April from 10-11:30am**.

This will be a supportive space for Bromley parents of children (aged 0-25 years) with social communication needs, to meet other parents, and to bring questions for our SCAN co-ordinator Liana. This is a **drop-in session so there is no need for parents to book**.

KIDS FROM £1 - FILL THE STANDS AND WIN A £500 VOUCHER FOR YOUR SCHOOL

We're inviting schools across London and Kent to join us at The CopperJax Community Stadium for London City Lionesses vs Leicester City on Sunday 26th April, kick-off 12pm — with the chance to win a £500 voucher* for your school.

Bring your classmates, bring your friends, and be part of one of the biggest matchdays of the season.

- Kids tickets from just £1
- The school with the highest attendance wins a £500 voucher* towards PE or Kit costs.
- Accompanying Adults from just £2

** Winners will be chosen based on attendance, rather than just ticket purchases. Ticketing terms and conditions apply.*

[Win £500 for your school with London City Lionesses]